the JEWISH VOICE

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Weddings

Facing inauguration and women's march, DC synagogues split on entering the fray

BY BEN SALES

(JTA) – On Friday, the United States inaugurates a new president and ushers in an era of new policies and rhetoric. But at the Sixth and I synagogue in Washington, D.C., eyes are on the day after, when some 200,000 marchers will gather to reassert support for policies they think will be threatened under President Donald Trump.

The synagogue, named for the intersection where it has stood for more than a century, is hosting a Shabbat of programming surrounding the Women's March on Washington. The march sets out from downtown D.C. on Saturday morning and advocates for women and minorities, including support for reproductive and civil rights, environmental regulation, and protections for immigrants and the LGBT community.

"We assumed that most of the Jews would be coming in for the march and not for the inauguration itself, so we wanted to have a space, especially for Shabbat itself, that was open to everybody," said Sixth and I Rabbi Shira Stutman. (Nationwide, 74 percent of Jews voted for Hillary Clinton; in the District of Columbia, more than 90 percent of residents chose Clinton over Trump.)

The march's agenda, Stutman said, "felt like values that were important to us."

Washington synagogues split on how to approach a fraught weekend that will move from a moment of triumph for Trump supporters to a show of numerical strength from his opponents. Some, like Sixth and I, embrace the march and integrate their Sabbath activities with it. Others hope to carry on as usual and remain out of the fray. None of the city's major synagogues is celebrating or commemorating Trump's inauguration with special programming.

MARCH | 7



Miriam (Mim) and Al Feinstein.

Couples share the secrets of their long and happy marriages

BY SUSAN ADLER AND JENNIFER FELDMAN

WARWICK – A ceremonial *Huppah* stands strong and proud on the grounds of The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence in Warwick. The *Huppah*, or wedding canopy, is symbolic of a couple's first home together.

At Tamarisk, there are six couples, who have been married for 30 to 70 years. Recently, we asked them to share their secrets to a long and happy union.

"Don't think about it" is the advice Gertrude (Gert) Stein-Nelson gave when asked for the secret to her 30-year marriage to Sam.

Al and Miriam (Mim) Feinstein said their secret is simple: "Mutual respect." It must work because they have been living happily ever after for 72 years!

Seena Dittelman stated about her marriage: "Take it a day at

WEDDING | 17

Scholarships and service on MLK Day

CRANSTON – The 34th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Breakfast was held on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Jan. 16, at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet. Hundreds of area government and faith leaders gathered to honor Rev. King and his ideals at the annual event that included the awarding of scholarships. Speakers included Gov. Gina Raimondo as well as Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza, Cranston Mayor Allan Fung and Central Falls Mayor James Diossa along with members of the Rhode Island congressional delegation.

This year's keynote speaker was the Rev. Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins, III, executive director emeritus of the American Baptist Home Mission Society. He called for unity in our country. He said there should be no "Red" or "Blue" churches or "Red" or "Blue" states, referring to the political divide in the country. He also called for freedom for all regardless of race, gender or gender preference.

Elsewhere on Jan. 16, Rhode Island for Community and Justice offered a workshop on civil rights. The program featured discussion on "Criminal Justice/Parole and Probation Reform," "Community Diversion for Juveniles of Color," "Reporting Hate Crimes," "Healthcare," "Bus Fares," "Driving Privilege License," "Law Enforcement Training," and "Voting Reform."

The Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence "We Have a Dream" program honored King, and Sister Ann Keefe who passed away in 2015.

In addition, Ebenezer Baptist Church in Providence held its annual service dedicated to the memory of King.

– Marty Cooper



PHOTO | MARTY COOPER

Rabbi Sarah Mack speaks Jan. 16 during the MLK Day breakfast.



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THIS ISSUE'S QUOTABLE QUOTE

"Let the moral courage of the midwives guide us in our quest to stand up for the most vulnerable."

Faith leaders come together to fight poverty at annual vigil

BY MARTY COOPER

Faith and advocacy leaders from across the state gathered in the Rhode Island State House rotunda Jan. 4 for the "Fighting Poverty with Faith" vigil. More than 60 clergy joined hundreds of people for the annual event, sponsored by the RI Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty.

They gathered to ask elected officials to govern with care, compassion and wisdom.

Rabbi Jeffrey Goldwasser of Temple Sinai, Cranston, and chair of the Jewish Alliance's Community Relations Council Social Justice Committee, delivered the keynote address. Gov. Gina Raimondo and Senate Pres. Teresa Paiva Weed offered greetings.

As at previous vigils, a shofar was blown as a call for the community to assemble. This year Abigail Sherwood and Doug Emanuel of Temple Beth-El, Providence; Max Jellinek Knight and Jared Silverman of Temple Habonim, Barrington; and Yasha Kanig, Samuel Gidron, Zoe Tyrrell and Nathan Tyrrell, of the Jewish Community Day School of RI, stood on the second floor of the State House to announce the vigil.

Maxine Richman, co-chair of the Coalition, called on Raimondo and Paiva Weed to provide the means for all children in the state to be able to succeed.

Both the governor and the senate president spoke of last year's government successes, including an increase in the Earned Income Tax Credit. They also agreed that more needs to be done, such as an increase in the minimum wage.

Goldwasser called attention to four priorities of the Coalition: Protecting the no-fare bus pass for low-income seniors and people with disabilities; helping

VIGIL | 7



Rabbi Jeffrey Goldwasser speaks at the annual Fighting Poverty with Faith vigil held in the Rhode Island State House rotunda



PHOTOS | JUAN ESPINOZA

Vigil attendees gather Jan. 4 in the State House rotunda.

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Our community's Czech Memorial Scroll

BY LEV POPLOW

Jews have lived in what is now the Czech Republic for more than 1,000 years, and over that time a rich Jewish culture developed. It was centered in Prague and spread throughout the region. But after the Nazi invasion in 1939, historic congregations were shut down and their synagogues destroyed or deserted.

In 1942, members of Prague's Jewish community devised a way to bring the religious treasures from those deserted communities and destroyed synagogues to the comparative safety of the city. The Nazis were persuaded to accept the plan, and more than 100,000 artifacts were saved. Among them were about 1,800 Torahs. Each Torah was meticulously documented with a description of the scroll and its place of origin.

After World War II, a devout band of Jews from Prague worked to bring artifacts of all kinds to what had become the Central Jewish Museum in Prague. At the museum, they labored under appalling conditions to preserve what little remained of Jewish communities.

Some 50 congregations reestablished themselves in Czechoslovakia and were provided with religious artifacts. It was hoped that all these treasures would be protected and might one day be returned to their original homes. But after the war, the Czech Jewish community was too depleted to be able to care for the artifacts.

In 1963, Eric Estorick, a London art dealer, was offered an opportunity to purchase 1,564 scrolls from the Communist government. He contacted Ralph Yablon, who had connections to the Westminster Synagogue, in London, who in turn approached the synagogue's rabbi, Harold Reinhart. They asked Chimen Abramsky, a Hebrew scholar, to go to Prague and examine the scrolls.

Through the generosity of Yablon, the scrolls were bought and transported to the synagogue, where they were restored and sent to synagogues and organizations around the world.

To those who were entrusted with the scrolls, they became a symbol of hope after a time of sorrow, and an intimate link with those synagogues and their congregations that were destroyed by the Nazis.

When Providence resident Lynn Glick's grandfather, Max Huterer, passed away about 35 years ago, she and her husband, Richard, wanted to do something more than put a plaque on a wall to memorialize him. As an only grandchild, Lynn Glick was especially close to her grandparents, traveling with them to Europe in the summers.

Huterer was a Holocaust survivor who grew up in Auschwitz, Poland, and a practicing dentist. In the wake of Kristallnacht, he was taken to the Dachau Concentration Camp. Luckily, it was early in the war and the "Final Solution" had not begun. As Richard Glick explains, "Moxie [Max] wasn't in the camp very long because Lynn's grandmother [Irma] managed to get the necessary paperwork in place so they could emigrate to the United States in 1938."

At the age of 50, Huterer received his dental degree for the second time, this time from the University of Pittsburgh, so he could practice here. Like many immigrants, his favorite song was "God Bless America."

Richard Glick said, "Lynn's grandfather was something else. We used to call him Moxie. He looked like Arthur Fiedler, was laid-back yet sophisticated, and always open to telling his story."

When the Glicks learned about the Memorial Scrolls Trust in London, they made arrangements for a scroll to come to Rhode Island to commemorate Max Huterer's life. Richard Glick commissioned a special case so that the Torah could be properly displayed, and it was dedicated at Torat Yisrael (then in Cranston) in 1987.

To give our community more access to the scroll, it was transferred from Torat Yisrael to the Holocaust Education Center, rededicated, and put on display when the center opened in 1995.

When the renovations to the Dwares Jewish Community Center are complete, and the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center opens in its beautiful new location, the Czech Memorial Scroll will be on display once again, serving as a reminder of the past and a look toward our future.



The Czech Memorial Scroll.

LEV POPLOW is a communications and development consultant. He can be reached at levpoplow@gmail.com.

Don't miss 'mitzvah and a movie' at Temple Beth-El

On Feb. 5, from 1-3 p.m., the Sisterhood of Temple Beth-El in Providence will host it's annual family event, "Mitzvah and a Movie." Families will make party favor bags for Birthday Wishes, a local organization that provides birthday parties for homeless children. Afterward, there will be a special screening of "Toy Story 2." A pizza lunch will be provided by the Brotherhood of Temple Beth-El, starting at 12:30 p.m. Light snacks and drinks will also be provided.

Admission is a package of 12 party favors per person. Favors should be sets of the same item, gender neutral – not food or candy. Party favors can also be purchased at the door. The event is open to the community and will take place in the Temple Beth-El Meeting Hall at 70 Orchard Ave.

– Submitted by Temple Beth-El Sisterhood

Singing the dream honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

On Jan. 29, the community will have an opportunity to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at an open sing.

Singing the Dream - Open Sing will take place at Central Congregational Church, 296 Angell St., Providence, from 2-5 p.m.

Singing the Dream, conducted by music directors Cantor Dr. Brian J. Mayer and Patrick Aiken, invites choral singers of all levels to experience the thrill of an afternoon of community, song and fellowship with singers from all over Rhode Island. The program includes "Dreams," by Langston Hughes, and "We Are The World," by Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie, along with songs loved by Dr. King.

The program is produced by Temple Emanu-El and Central Congregational Church with the generous support of the Bliss, Gross, Horowitz Fund at The Rhode Island Foundation.

"The collaboration with churches, community singing groups, synagogues and faith communities celebrates the power of music and triumph of the human spirit inspired by Dr. King's vision for equality," says Cantor Dr. Brian Mayer, *hazzan* at Temple Emanu-El. "Singing The Dream is an ecumenical program and cultural event shared by our diverse communities, in song and fellowship."

Tickets are $5 and available at www.singingthedream@eventbrite.com.



Cantor Dr. Brian J. Mayer

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A strong start for Double Chai Society in 2017

BY STEPHANIE HAGUE
shague@jewishallianceri.org

On Jan. 5, the Double Chai Society started the year off with cocktails and conversation at 1149 Restaurant in East Greenwich. Chaired by Bethany and Rich Sutton, the Double Chai Society is a giving circle for emerging and new leadership of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, who also make a minimum gift of $360 to the annual campaign.

"We give because it is important to help our people and our community locally and globally, we give because we live in this amazing Jewish community and we have seen the daily needs of our members, and we give in the hopes that our children will follow our lead and recognize the importance of giving," Bethany told event attendees.

For more information about the Double Chai Society, contact Stephanie Hague by email at shague@jewishallianceri.org or by calling 401-421-4111, ext. 127.

STEPHANIE HAGUE is the philanthropy officer at the Jewish Alliance.



(Left to right) Miriam Karp, Noach Karp, Jeffrey Isaacs, Jason Golditch.



PHOTOS | JEWISH ALLIANCE

(Left to right) Robyn Goldstein, Marisa Garber, Mindy Stone, Rachel Mersky Woda, Wendy Joering.



(Left to right) Sarah Levy, Michelle Cicchitelli, Susan Gertsacov, Bethany Sutton.

Providence Hebrew Day School to host *melaveh malkah*

Walk into Providence Hebrew Day School these days and you'll notice constant activity. Yes, the children are busy learning and playing, but since the summer, the school has been abuzz at all hours with contractors – electricians, carpenters, plumbers and other workers who have been tirelessly working to update the close-to-50-year-old building. All this work, which includes a new heating/air conditioning system as well as environmentally friendly lighting improvements, is part of Phase 1 of PHDS's Capital Campaign and is expected to be complete by the end of January.

To mark the completion of the first phase, the school will be hosting a *melaveh malkah* (post-Shabbat light meal) on Jan. 28 at 8 p.m. This is an opportunity for current parents, the board and friends of the PHDS community to join together in celebrating these much-needed upgrades and learn about the plans for Phase 2.

In addition to thanking donors and sharing plans for the next phase, attendees will have the op-portunity to enjoy an upscale dairy meal and be inspired by the words of Rabbi Simon Taylor. Rabbi Taylor is the regional director of New England National Council of Synagogue Youth. Prior to moving to New England, Rabbi Taylor worked for Aish UK and also served as a chaplain in the British Armed Forces.

There is no cost to attend this event and all are welcome. Sponsorship opportunities are available. To learn more, contact Elaine Saklad at elaine_saklad@brown.edu.

– Submitted by Providence Hebrew Day School

Open house at Tamarisk

Nestled in tranquil gardens, Tamarisk offers a close-knit community and a home-like ambiance where everyone is greeted with smiles and friendly faces. In a community like this, everyone is important and each face is familiar. On Feb. 12, the public will have an opportunity to tour the beautiful grounds, view one of the apartments and see why residents are fulfilled, and love living at the Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk, Assisted Living Residence.

Tours will take place from 1-4 p.m. Executive chef Deb Blazer will offer a healthy hot soup cooking demonstration from 1-2 p.m. Please RSVP for the cooking demonstration by Feb. 5 to Susan at 401-732-0037.

Tamarisk is at 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick. Call Susan Adler, marketing and outreach director at 401-732-0037 or email at SusanA@tamariskri.org if you have any questions or would like to arrange a personal tour.



PHOTO | TAMARISK

Tamarisk in winter.

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Acclaimed performer Robbie Gringras brings 'Four Hatikvah Questions' to Providence

BY LARRY KATZ
lkatz@jewishallianceri.org

On Feb. 8, a unique performer, Robbie Gringras, will introduce the Rhode Island Jewish community to the "Four Hatikvah Questions," a method for understanding controversies.

Gringras is an international theater artist whose Jewish plays have been performed globally, including in London's West End. He is also a respected educational consultant.

Gringras was born and bred in the Jewish community of Britain, but has been living and creating in Israel for the past 20 years. As such, his work, both educational and theatrical, bridges the Israel-Diaspora connection with empathy and insight.

I was among a score of local teachers who saw Gringras on stage while we were on a visit to Israel in 1999. He was fantastic! In his one-act play "Shabbes!," he empathetically performed the roles of eight people as they relate to Shabbat in Israel, exploring the conflicts that Shabbat observance and non-observance engenders in various communities – especially when one community believes others are trampling on its rights.

The show was both provocative and disturbing. Gringras lives in the secular world, while his knowledge base and research specialties are deeply religious. His thoughtful shows shed light on the complexities of Israel.

In addition to being a world-renowned solo performer, Gringras is also an inspirational speaker and a charismatic, challenging and original teacher. Most importantly, Gringras is the creative director of Makom, the education lab of the Jewish Agency, which recently developed a way of examining controversies without taking sides.

Too often it seems that our conversations about Israel are either too cerebral to be meaningful or too passionate to be intelligent. We need to be able to bring both our heads and our hearts to bear. Those who join Gringras on Feb. 8 will leave with a new way to examine issues, especially those related to Israel.

The "Four Hatikvah Questions" (4HQ) is a method for understanding controversies; it does not promote one viewpoint over another, so it is useful to those along any political spectrum.

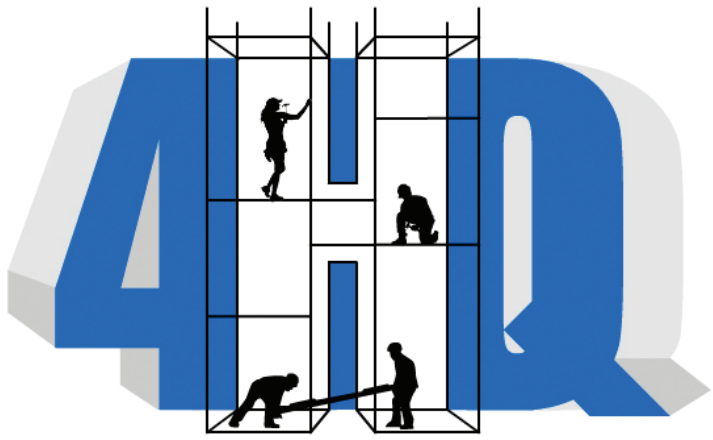
Often, the most burning issues (Black Lives Matter, Syria, climate change, refugees, etc.) draw on four questions. These questions can be signified by four words in Israel's national anthem, the "Hatikvah."

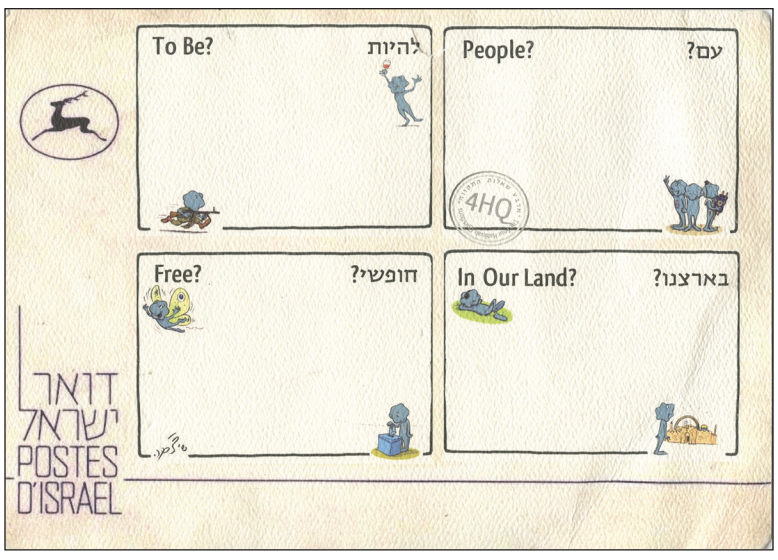
While we can't expect everyone to agree or to reach consensus on the answers to the questions, 4HQ enables people to speak far more constructively with others who do not share their views.

4HQ is a simple way to approach the complexity that is Israel. It is both universal and particular to Israel. Gringras' presentation will enthrall you while you master this way of looking at issues.

Robbie Gringras presents "Four Hatikvah Questions" on Wednesday, Feb. 8, at 7 p.m. at the Dwares Jewish Community Center, in Providence. This event is sponsored by the Israel Desk and the Community Relations Council. RSVP at IsraelDesk@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111.

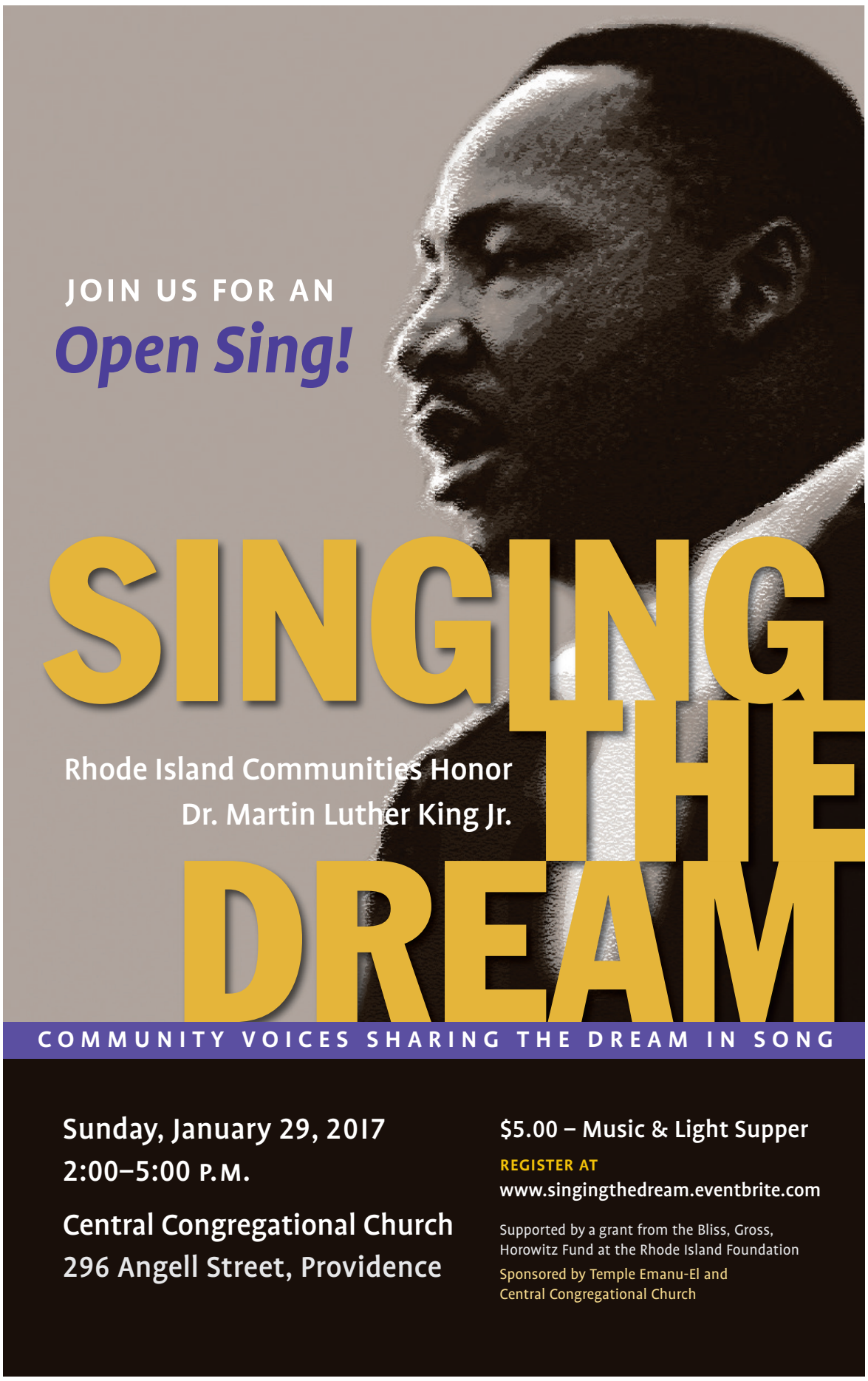
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Students compete in PHDS geography bee

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Jan. 16, Providence Hebrew Day School students participated in the National Geographic Bee for the first time. This is a national competition, sponsored by the National Geographic Society, in which fourth through eighth graders answer questions related to United States and world geography.

The participants from PHDS were fourth-graders Simcha Abrahim and Chaim Vito Pompili, fifth-graders Binyamin Cohen and Naftali Schochet, sixth-graders Gittel Golden and Yehoshua Hack, and seventh-graders Mordechai Bielory and Shmuel Yehuda Schochet. After a very difficult round of questions, the two students who moved to the championship round were Shmuel Yehuda Schochet and Mordechai Bielory. Mordechai Bielory came out on top.

He is now eligible to represent PHDS in the Rhode Island state competition in March. The winner of the state competition represents Rhode Island in the national competition in Washington, D.C., competing against the winners from other states.

All PHDS participants are not yet in eighth grade, so they are eligible to participate again next year. Mr. Stoloff was coordinator and judge of this bee. Ms. Cole and Rabbi Yudkowsky helped.

An audience of parents and grandparents enjoyed the competition.

– Submitted by Providence Hebrew Day School



PHOTO | PHDS

Mordechai Bielory was the winner of the recent geography competition.

Top five scams targeting college students

BY BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

College brings new challenges and opportunities, but it may also open the door to scammers looking to take advantage of unsuspecting young adults. Many students might not recognize when they come across a scam. The Better Business Bureau serving eastern Massachusetts, Maine, Rhode Island and Vermont (BBB) is warning the community of the top five scams affecting students.

"There's a reason so many college students fall victim to these scams, and it may surprise them to know that scammers use many of the same techniques as legitimate professionals," said Paula Fleming, chief marketing and sales officer for the local BBB. "Students need to be aware of the scams that directly target them."

According to BBB Scam Tracker, online purchases were the top scam affecting college students in 2016, with 2,341 total scams reported in the U.S. and Canada. The list was compiled based on more than 7,077 scam reports filed by consumers on bbb.org/scamtracker.

Online Purchases. Online shopping is a popular way for students to shop for college necessities, but it's also a popular way for scammers to steal personal information. Scammers create websites that claim to sell items that often look legitimate to the average shopper, but instead collect the victim's information and vanish from contact.

Employment. Students tend to search for part-time jobs on recruiting sites that allow them to work from their computer while still enrolled in school. While this new trend is a common tactic for job-seekers, BBB Scam Tracker has received reports of fake job offers sent to applicants' emails. These scammers claim to be responding to a submitted application or have viewed a resume on an online recruiting site.

Counterfeit Products. Counterfeit products are common at pop-up stores and markets – places where scammers can sell items that claim to be a certain brand without fear of getting caught. Shopping for brand-name products at these locations sounds like a better deal than purchasing from a reputable website or store, however it's only cheaper because they are manufactured differently, which could result in faulty products.

Fake Checks. Fake check scams often involve a check issuer "accidentally" sending a check with a higher amount of money than they actually owe you. They will ask you to deposit the check and then wire the difference back to them. The catch is that the check they sent you was a fake, but it takes days or even weeks for the check to bounce. By then, you've wired money over to the scammer that you can't get back and still haven't received the money owed to you.

Tech Support. Many students use a laptop and scammers are aware of this. A popular scam appears as a call or a pop-up on your computer claiming to be from a reputable tech support source such as Microsoft or Apple, alerting you to a problem or security breach. To fix the "problem" you must give remote access to the caller. Don't be fooled by this – THEY are the security breach. Once given access, they can install malware on your computer and steal personal information.



Courage of midwives offers inspiration to do 'the right thing'



RABBI SARAH MACK

This week's *parashah* begins in Egypt, just as a new pharaoh, despotic and hard-hearted, rises to power. Threatened by the growth of the Israelite population, Pharaoh condemns a formerly vibrant and privileged community to a life of slavery. It is a dark moment in our collective history. Into this seemingly hopeless scene emerge the heroines of our story.

In the shadow of this evil, two simple midwives plant the seeds of redemption that lead to freedom and justice. Pharaoh speaks to the Hebrew midwives, whom the text mentions by name: Shifrah and Puah. He orders, "When you deliver the Hebrew women, look at the birth-stool: If it is a boy, kill him. If it is a girl, let her live."

The midwives had every reason to fear Pharaoh, every reason to capitulate to his brutal command. Yet, they do not. The text continues, "The midwives, fearing God, did not do as the king of Egypt had told them; they let the boys live."

The midwives possess a reverence for human life and dignity that opposes Pharaoh's genocidal impulse. Shifrah and Puah, through their audacious act of defiance, teach us that there are moral limits to power. They school us in what may very well be the first recorded act of civil disobedience. Their stance is an act of resistance. They gracefully and without drama step forward in a firm refusal to succumb to brutality and violence.

The text does not tell us that Shifrah and Puah feared Pharaoh or the consequences that might follow from this act of disobedience. Their reverence for the Divine impels them to do what is right and just. The rabbis of the Mishnah could have been talking about their holy work when they wrote: "in a place where there is no one to do what is right, strive to be that person." (Pirke Avot 5:2)

Shifrah and Puah have much to teach us about spiritual resistance. Their protest comes within the realm of their expertise. They don't try to use military force or magic (as Moses and Aaron do later). They fight tyranny with the skills they have at hand: midwifery. We learn that each of us has a unique voice that we can use to fight injustice.

When the midwives respond to Pharaoh's anger, they cleverly make use of his own bias toward the Israelite women. They tell Pharaoh that the Hebrew women are virile and give birth quickly (like animals) before they can arrive to deliver. We see firsthand how Pharaoh's prejudice is the source of his downfall. We learn not to let racism and bias cloud our own vision as we work to repair the world.

Shifrah and Puah teach us that when respect for human dignity does not come from those in power, we can still uphold this value. It is our refusal to stand for prejudice and hatred that ultimately prevents unkindness and cruelty more than any law. We learn that if evil legislation is transmitted from leadership we need not relinquish our commitment to compassion and love.

Pharaoh ultimately realizes that the midwives won't do his bidding and orders all in the kingdom to throw Jewish male babies into the Nile. Amazingly, other brave women rise to resist. Jochebed, Moses' mother, puts her infant in a basket in the river to hide him from certain death. Pharaoh's daughter discovers the baby and raises him. Through their reverence for human life and refusal to give in to Pharaoh's decree, these revolutionaries ensure that Moses is able to lead the Israelites to freedom. We learn that our small personal acts of resistance matter both individually and as part of a larger trajectory of justice.

Earlier this week, we commemorated the birthday of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Even as we celebrate his leadership and accomplishments, we are reminded that preserving human dignity requires our constant vigilance. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, a vocal advocate for civil rights who marched in Selma with King wrote, "Daily we should take account and ask: What have I done today to alleviate the anguish, to mitigate the evil, to prevent humiliation?"

Let the moral courage of the midwives guide us in our quest to stand up for the most vulnerable. May the courageous civil disobedience of Shifrah and Puah inspire us to champion human dignity and uphold justice, mercy and compassion wherever they are absent.

SARAH MACK, rabbi of Temple Beth-El, Providence, is president of the Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island.

FROM PAGE 1

MARCH

"It's going to be a very intense week," said Rabbi Gil Steinlauf of the Conservative Adas Israel Congregation, which is not participating in the march. "Just the act of being together, [congregants] knowing they have their Jewish community together taking care of them, that's all we're going to do."

Synagogues and their rabbis have been grappling with the question of how to respond to Trump since the beginning of the presidential campaign. A group of rabbis protested Trump at the annual policy conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee in March, citing his remarks and policies targeting Muslims, Mexicans and others. Before the High Holidays in September, rabbis in swing states told JTA that they planned to avoid discussing politics from the pulpit.

Trump, for his part, says clergy should have more latitude to express political views. He has proposed repealing a law that prohibits religious institutions from endorsing or opposing candidates.

Stutman said Sixth and I plans activities around the march not as a stand against Trump but because it supports the marchers' goals. Along with Jews United for Justice and T'ruah, a rabbis' human rights group, the nondenominational synagogue will host meals, as well as a program of reflection and song before the march begins Saturday morning. In the afternoon it will offer meditation, yoga and lectures on women's rights and social justice.

More than 800 people are slated to attend the morning program.

"That is our opportunity to have a moment of quiet during what is going to be a very emotionally intense weekend," Stutman said. "I recognize for many, if not most, people this is also a protest march, but what Sixth and I is signing on to is not the protest but instead the possibility of standing with other Americans."

The area's Reform synagogues are also organizing around Jewish marchers. Congregations and groups are co-hosting a morning prayer service before the march near its starting point with worship tailored to its themes. Readings are planned to include quotes from the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, while attendees will sing folk songs such as "This Land Is Your Land" and "If I Had a Hammer."

"It is important to us to give Reform Jews the opportunity to observe Shabbat" at the march, said Rabbi Amy Schwartzman of Temple Rodef Shalom in the Washington suburb of Falls Church, Virginia, who is one of the service's organizers. "The intersection of Judaism, Shabbat and social justice – that's where we're headed."

Rodef Shalom is not endorsing the march as a synagogue, though its women's association is chartering a bus there and Schwartzman's family is participating. Schwartzman also intends to address Trump's inauguration in a sermon Friday night, but she said Reform congregations need to be careful to distinguish between Jewish values and liberal politics.

"I'm very worried about how Jewish values are going to be compromised in the new administration," she said. "I want him [Trump] to know about our commitment to social justice, whether it's refugees, immigrants, hunger, poverty, LGBT, the long history we have with civil rights as a movement."

Adas Israel also is not endorsing the march, but it is hosting a Friday night dinner for out-of-towners in the city for the weekend's events. Kesher Israel, an Orthodox synagogue, has a Shabbat dinner for guests, too, while not commenting on the march or the inauguration. The Orthodox Ohev Sholom-The National Synagogue is holding services as usual. (Its rabbi, Shmuel Hertzfeld, staged a one-man protest of Trump during the AIPAC conference.)

Adas Israel's Steinlauf was one of 58 Washington-area rabbis to sign a letter last week urging Trump to "revisit your campaign rhetoric and the hate crimes it may have unleashed." Steinlauf said he may join the women's march after Saturday morning services. But he also said his congregation must refrain from political statements so it remains welcoming to all comers.

"As a major congregation in Washington, D.C., we understand we will be playing a central role locally and nationally in terms of moral leadership during this administration," Steinlauf said.

"But we also understand that this is Washington, D.C. We're not going to be checking people's political affiliations before they walk in the door."

FROM PAGE 2

VIGIL

struggling working families by raising the minimum wage and increasing the state earned income tax credit; supporting safe roads by allowing undocumented Rhode Islanders to obtain driver's licenses; and expanding access to high-quality early childhood care and education.

He called on Rhode Islanders to be the "Storm of Change."

"We should not think storms can only bring injustice and grief." Goldwasser said. "We," he went on, "who uphold the classical values of biblical righteousness – shelter for the homeless, food for the hungry, care for the sick, freedom for the captive, dignity for the orphan and widow, comfort for the oppressed, love for the despised – we can be the storm and not just hapless victims to be blown about by somebody else's ill winds. We can speak up, and speak out, to make righteousness the standard measure by which we weigh our laws and our direction as a state and as a nation. This is what we are fighting for, and we can only do it together."

Throughout the keynote address, he stressed that it was imperative there be "liberty and justice for all," not just a few.

"Liberty and justice for all means that your suffering is part of my suffering. My suffering is part of your suffering. It means that your freedom is my freedom, and my freedom is your freedom."

To add a human face to the issues, Goldwasser told stories of three Rhode Islanders. Christine Tate, a low-income Rhode Islander with disabilities who relies on RIPTA's no-fare bus pass. The no-fare bus pass that has been available for decades is set to end on Feb. 1, forcing Christine and many others in her situation to pay money that they don't have for transportation needs. Rodrigo Pimentel, whose "family moved to the United States when he was 10 months old," a current DACA recipient and a URI student with "a promising future ahead of him" who "worries constantly about his status and whether he will be allowed to stay in the U.S." Ricky Mercado, a food service worker from Providence for whom "increasing the minimum wage would mean…that [his] girlfriend and [he] could save and move out of our basement apartment at her father's place into a place we could call our own."

MARTY COOPER is community relations director of the Jewish Alliance.

Candle Lighting Times

Greater Rhode Island

January 20	**4:28**
January 27	**4:37**
February 3	**4:46**
February 10	**4:55**



Musings of a news junkie



EDITOR

FRAN OSTENDORF

For those of us who are news and history junkies, today marks the zenith of a four-year cycle. I'm talking about Inauguration Day.

The influence of my formative years living in the Washington, D.C., area (inside the Beltway, as they say) adds to my excitement at this time in the political cycle.

It just doesn't get any better than this: Pomp, circumstance, parades, nonstop news coverage, political celebrities, history in the making. No matter your political leaning, the period leading up to Inauguration Day and the day itself is so steeped in history that you can't help but feel patriotic pride. It almost sends shivers up my spine.

But this is not a political column. We can talk national pride, patriotic pride, without talking politics or getting into partisan issues. The day itself, with its parade and festivities, is not usually about partisan politics.

This year marks our nation's 58th inaugural ceremony. For more than 200 years, Americans have witnessed the peaceful transfer of power in our democracy, though the dates and locations have changed over the years.

George Washington was sworn in on April 30, 1789. Then the date moved to March 4, until Franklin D. Roosevelt's second term (38th inauguration, in 1937), when it switched to Jan. 20, where it has remained ever since. That change was mandated by the 20th Amendment to the Constitution. When the date falls on a Sunday, the public ceremonies are often moved to the next day, although the president may be sworn in privately.

Many of the events taking place on Inauguration Day have deep roots.

Thomas Jefferson was the first president inaugurated in Washington, D.C. The Marine Band played at his inauguration, and it has continued to play at inaugurations ever since. Jefferson's second inauguration, in 1805, marked the first parade.

James Madison held the first Inaugural Ball (tickets were $4). James Monroe has the distinction of being the first president to take the oath of office and deliver his inaugural address outdoors.

Franklin Roosevelt started the tradition of a morning worship service.

Harry S Truman had the first televised inaugural ceremony. Ronald Reagan moved the inauguration from the East Portico to the West Front of the Capitol, facing the National Mall.

Memorable moments are key to this historic day. In addition to the pomp and circumstance, the inauguration speeches themselves have often been memorable – from John F. Kennedy to Ronald Reagan to Barack Obama – and they are all historic, no matter which party you favor.

So it is with a certain amount of dismay that I watch many around me make plans to be anywhere but in Washington or in front of a screen on Jan. 20, purposely tuning out the changing of the guard in Washington.

Just for a moment, this should not be about taking sides. Can't we take a one-day time-out to revel in all that makes us the United States of America?

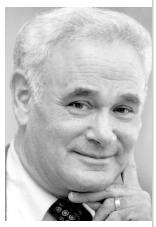
Traditions are important to all of us, not just at home or on holidays, but also for our nation. We could all use a little togetherness now.

AROUND TOWN

Editor Fran Ostendorf will read at PJ Library Story Time Jan. 27. Bring a child age 5 or under to hear about trees and make a craft in honor of Tu b'Shevat. We'll be gathering at the Dwares JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence.

If you see an event in greater Rhode Island, let us know. We may join you and write about it. Or perhaps we'll come and take a photo. We always appreciate our readers who submit stories and photos about events in our area. Post online at jvhri.org. It's easy. You can also send us an email at editor@jewishallianceri.org or mail to Editor, Jewish Voice, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence RI 02906.

'The Heart of Loneliness'



IT SEEMS TO ME

RABBI JIM ROSENBERG

In "The Heart of Loneliness" (Jewish Lights, an imprint of Turner Publishing Company, 2016), Rabbi Marc Katz addresses a fundamental human experience: Loneliness. Although all of us are lonely at one time or another, many of us are reluctant to confess our loneliness to others.

In this short book, Katz offers a comprehensive exploration of loneliness in its many forms, and helps readers bring their feelings of "nobody understands me" to the surface, where they can be dealt with in a constructive manner.

Katz has written an honest and courageous book – inspired, at least in part, by his divorce from his first wife. As he says in his introduction, "At the time I began to examine the topic [loneliness], I was in the midst of a divorce. In one single season, as I moved from one session to the next of marriage counseling, I suddenly faced, for the first time ever, true loneliness."

While Katz is not afraid to talk about his divorce, he does not dwell on it; he is grateful that "[m]y story was different from many others. Because I got divorced so young, I was able to fully start again."

One of the many strengths of Katz's book is his calling attention to sources of loneliness that fall below the radar for many of us. Nowhere is he more perceptive than in his discussion of the loneliness and frustration of infertile couples. For individuals who have tried for months and then years to conceive a child, "menstruation or a miscarriage signals not just a loss but a death of...their dream." Katz tells of a young woman who "used to love coming to our synagogue, but now that she is dealing with infertility, she finds it too painful to be in a community that celebrates the children she so desperately wants."

In his introduction to "The Heart of Loneliness," Katz writes: "Our ancestors are our companions in pain." Again and again he draws upon our biblical and rabbinic forbears to serve as role models for how to cope with isolating loneliness. Katz takes comfort, for example, in the story of Hagar, Abraham's concubine and the mother of Ishmael, who is "emblematic of the complexity of divorce.... Hagar is a model for all those suffering, a quiet voice from afar who whispers, 'It's okay. I've been there too'."

At first glance, it seems odd that Katz considers the Witch of En-dor (I Samuel:28) to be an exemplar of compassion, for Jewish tradition has long condemned witchcraft in any form. Nevertheless, we learn that at the request of King Saul, this woman uses her magical powers to summon from the dead the prophet Samuel, who warns Saul that on the very next day his army will go down in defeat and he and his sons will die in battle.

> **"The Jewish people are forever looking for a part of God they will not see and settling for a part of God they did not ask for. "**

Katz argues that in her response to Saul's crippling fear and loneliness, the Witch of En-dor demonstrates "her incredible humanity and love." She is unsparing in her efforts to bring some measure of comfort to the doomed king – preparing a meal for him, offering words of encouragement and consolation.

Katz shrewdly observes: "Perhaps the most important part of the Witch of En-dor's response is what is not said. At no point does she blame Saul for his downfall."

The theological chapters – "Our Lonely God" and "Israel, the Lonely People" – are at once the most problematic and most richly suggestive of the 10 chapters in Katz's book: problematic, because Katz will need to devote an entire book to the ideas that appear in embryonic form in these two chapters; richly suggestive, because there is something explosively powerful in the notion of the lonely God in covenantal relationship with the lonely Jewish people.

Let a single example suggest what Katz is up to in these chapters. Commenting on those verses in Exodus where God tells Moses, "You cannot see My face, for no one may see My face and live," but "you will see My back," (Ex. 33:20, 23), Katz writes: "The Jewish people are forever looking for a part of God they will not see and settling for a part of God they did not ask for." I wait for Katz's book-length unpacking of this most provocative sentence.

Katz, 32, is a young rabbi, yet his book shows the erudition of a considerably older man. In addition to filling his book with the wisdom of the Hebrew Bible and the ancient rabbis, he has included the latest findings of social scientists and psychologists. Moreover, his writing is enriched by a host of literary allusions, aptly chosen to spotlight dimensions of loneliness: passages from such classics as "Moby Dick," "The Death of Ivan Ilych," "Lady Chatterley's Lover" and "The Great Gatsby," as well as from such contemporary bestsellers as Ta-Nehisi Coates' "Between the World and Me."

Marc Katz is the only student from Temple Habonim's religious school whom I have had the privilege of mentoring on his journey to rabbinical ordination; he currently serves as associate rabbi at Congregation Beth Elohim in Park Slope, Brooklyn, New York.

On Dec. 18, Katz returned to his home synagogue to engage with Rabbi Andrew Klein in a structured dialogue on "The Heart of Loneliness," followed by an animated discussion with a large and enthusiastic audience.

Katz's book represents a first flowering of his mind, heart and soul – a book filled with the seeds of the rich harvest yet to come.

JAMES B. ROSENBERG is rabbi emeritus at Temple Habonim in Barrington. Contact him at rabbiemeritus@templehabonim.org.

OUR MISSION

The mission of The Jewish Voice is to communicate Jewish news, ideas and ideals by connecting and giving voice to the diverse views of the Jewish community in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts, while adhering to Jewish values and the professional standards of journalism.

COLUMNS | LETTERS POLICY

The Jewish Voice publishes thoughtful and informative contributors' columns (op-eds of 500 – 800 words) and letters to the editor (300 words, maximum) on issues of interest to our Jewish community. At our discretion, we may edit pieces for publication or refuse publication. Letters and columns, whether from our regular contributors or from guest columnists, represent the views of the authors; they do not represent the views of The Jewish Voice or the Alliance.

Send letters and op-eds to: The Jewish Voice, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, RI 02906 or editor@jewishallianceri.org. Include name, city of residence and a contact phone number or email (not for publication).

TRIBUTE

Eleanor Lewis: A wise, insightful, pragmatic Jewish leader who will be missed

BY RABBI ALVAN KAUNFER

I had the honor of being on The Voice-Herald Editorial Board for several years as a representative of the Rhode Island Board of Rabbis. Eleanor Lewis served as Editorial Board chair during a number of those years. The entire board greatly respected her work because she was always fair, reasoned and even-handed – and she would also inject her dry sense of humor.

Lewis, who died Dec. 24, performed her role admirably even when tense, delicate and difficult issues arose. She, along with her dear friend and Editorial Board chair predecessor, Joshua Stein, of blessed memory, wanted to make The Voice the "newspaper of record" for the Rhode Island Jewish community. That meant that Elly and Josh solicited columns from diverse writers, including professors and thinkers, who were interesting and provocative, as well as thoughtful and honest.

Elly invited writers to express a wide variety of opinions and viewpoints, which were not necessarily those of the "organized Jewish community," on such controversial topics as Israeli politics and intermarriage.

I recall the board dealing with questions of whether to accept paid advertisements from non-Kosher establishments or those offering intermarriage ceremonies. Those discussions were fascinating, and often heated, but respectful, due to Elly's calm and rational approach.

Even after she retired as chair, she would correspond privately with the editors of The Voice, expressing her ideas, and sometimes critiquing articles, honestly and respectfully.

I knew Elly in other contexts as well. When I was head of the Alperin-Schechter School (now the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island), Elly was the music teacher. Elly, who really loved music, thought deeply about everything in school related to music.

One time she wanted an alternative to the classic Thanksgiving song "We Gather Together" that had a little bit of a Jewish twist. She did some research and came up with a rather obscure Colonial tune to the 100th Psalm – the Thanksgiving Psalm – which she taught, and it became our traditional school Thanksgiving song.

But one of the most important roles Elly played in school was as the lead representative from the faculty to the board. Her even-tempered and level-headed approach to problems and issues was crucial and significant in maintaining a positive relationship between the board and the faculty.

Some of my best memories of Elly came in our *parashah* class on the weekly Torah portion. Elly loved the class, and she brought her intellectual approach to our group. She also presented a practical and rational point of view on the interpretation of the text. That was the way she approached life in general: pragmatic, down to earth, insightful.

Always in search of diverse opinions, Elly studied two translations and commentaries so she could get multiple perspectives on the story we were studying.

Whenever we came to the more challenging parts of the Bible, such as the details of sacrifices in Leviticus, Elly would roll her eyes a bit, but then when we discussed the deeper issues that were behind some of those rituals – spirituality, connections between life and death – she would jump right in to the discussion.

Personally, Elly was devoted to her family and often spoke about her children and grandchildren with great pride. Her son, Steven, relates this story, which typifies Elly's total honesty:

"As subscribers to Time Magazine, Time Life Books sent us a complimentary world atlas, and then the following week, sent us another atlas. We had a family meeting to decide on our response. By an overwhelming majority, three to one, over my mother's strenuous objections, we decided to keep both atlases.

"That, my father, sister and I thought, was the end of it, until we received a letter from Time Life Books: 'Dear Lewis Family, Thank you for informing us of our error in sending you an extra atlas. Please return the extra atlas to the following address…'. She wrote them a letter! I can just see her sitting at her desk writing it – sneaky and righteous. She betrayed the family! She just couldn't stand to live in a house with an erroneously acquired atlas!"

Elly was devoted to friends as well. When local journalist Yehuda Lev became ill and was confined to a nursing home, Elly visited him weekly. When her dear friend Liz Hollander became ill, she would study Bible with her. Elly traveled to the Midwest to see her longtime friend before she died. She did all of this quietly, without fanfare.

Toby London, who served on the Editorial Board for many years, and became its chair, recalled other aspects of Elly's personal life: "She was a fabulous hostess – whether it was a coffee, a dinner party, a political gathering or a Voice retreat. The food was always delicious – and I especially looked forward to sampling her homemade gravlax. She enjoyed using lovely dishes, flatware and glassware, and even the coffee mugs were beautiful. And she stimulated such interesting conversation among her guests.

"I'm very lucky that she was always there for me when I chaired The Voice, keeping me calm."

In thinking about Elly's impact on The Voice and on our community, I recall the rabbinic comment on the phrase "and Jacob departed from Beersheba": "The departure of a righteous person from a city leaves its mark – gone is its glow, gone is its honor, gone is its glory."

Certainly Elly Lewis's departure from this city and from this world has had an impact -– gone is some of the glory that she brought, gone is the honor and dignity that surrounded her demeanor, and gone is the glow of her light. But her legacy will always remain as a blessing.

ALVAN KAUNFER is rabbi emeritus of Temple Emanu-El in Providence.

Bomb threats won't derail the vital activity of JCCs

BY DAVID POSNER

(JTA) – A bomb threat is never an inconsequential thing. But 16 in one day is inconceivable – at least it was until Monday [Jan. 9]. That's when 16 Jewish community centers in nine states received calls threatening a bomb on site.

While the bombs turned out to be hoaxes, the calls themselves were not. They were designed to create a kind of disruptive terror in places that serve as visible community hubs of activity.

The JCCs affected stretch from Florida to New Jersey, where the temperature was 11 degrees and, once evacuated to ensure their safety, JCC participants had to wait outside in the frigid air. Everyone from the youngest souls to the frailest and elderly had to leave.

If there was a method to the callers' (or caller's – the FBI is now investigating these incidents) madness, it was one meant to strike at the heart of normalcy and everyday activities, to sow uncertainty and fear in places we love and feel most safe.

JCCs handled the situation professionally, taking the advice of security staff and local law enforcement and executing well-rehearsed safety plans. JCCs were able to do this seamlessly, working together with police and reopening by the end of the day. It is a testament to the professionals who work at these community institutions across the country, and the millions of people who walk through the doors of JCCs every day and depend on them as safe spaces to gather, learn, play and find meaning.

JCC Association of North America works closely with JCCs across the continent, encouraging them to develop security protocols, ones we hope they never have to use.

JCC | 10

LETTERS

CRC statement disagreement

We disagree with the recent Community Relations Council (CRC) statement on the U.N. resolution on Israeli settlements (Security Council resolution 2334.) The statement also included links to several articles about the resolution.

Neither the statement nor the links reflect the views of a substantial part of the American Jewish community (and most of the rest of the world) that the U.N. resolution was a reasonably good idea and that Israeli settlements are indeed a major obstacle to peace. We therefore ask the CRC to provide some additional articles we suggest below.

While Palestinian intransigence is obviously also an obstacle, the relentless settlement expansion is not only a short-term issue, it makes the prospects of ever finding a settlement to the conflict much more difficult. Thus we cannot agree with the CRC that the U.N. resolution calling attention to the settlements "does not take us closer to peace." Also, while the resolution may "infuriate" some who "may be critical of settlement policies but support Israel's right to exist," not everyone in that group is so infuriated. Indeed, many are very supportive and are furious at the extreme venom directed at President Obama and Secretary Kerry over this issue.

The Jewish community must face the fact that not just Obama and Kerry, but nearly the entire world, including allies such as Britain, France, the rest of the Europe, even New Zealand, not to speak of China, Russia, and Israel's peace partner Egypt, all think the settlements are wrong and are closing the door to peace for good. As the U.N. vote showed, not a single country on the UN Security Council shares Israel's view of settlements.

Barry Schiller and Nina Tannenwald
Providence, RI

Suggested articles:

• "The Last Act of Obama's Israel Drama may be His Best," by David Rothkopf, editor-in-chief of foreignpolicy.com, a leading mainstream foreign policy site.

• Ilan Goldenberg and Brent Sasely, "Why Israel's Settlement Construction Must be Stopped," in "The National Interest," the leading "realist" foreign policy journal.

Re: Speak out against bigotry (Dec. 23)

The anti-Israel, anti-Trump opinion article by the Brown student was deeply offensive to me.

I admit I am an old fogey, but I can remember when young men his age were being discharged after WWII, and rushing to help Israel fight – and die for – its independence, not echoing the anti-Israel party line of J-Street.

How can there be a two-state solution when the other party does not recognize Israel and wants to drive its people into the sea? Is there any doubt that the world is still ready to stand by if another Holocaust occurs?

Can anyone justify President Barack Obama using his personal pique with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to allow the U.N. votes against Israel, America's ally, and the only democracy in the Middle East?

I have voted in a good many elections and held my nose after some of them. But I have never seen such insulting reactions as we are seeing today, especially by these wet-behind-the-ears kids who have yet to experience the vicissitudes of life.

Please give Israel the support it needs in an anti-Semitic world. Put an end to all the vitriol, give our new president a chance and let us get on with our lives.

Jerrold Winer
Yarmouth Port, MA

Scavenger hunt gets into the nooks and crannies of Kiryat HaYovel



LETTERS HOME

DANIEL STIEGLITZ

A lot has happened in the last few weeks. An anti-Israel UN Security Council vote, a terrorist car ramming in Jerusalem, and a new president for the U.S. and what that means for Israel. Through it all, however, life in Israel goes on. Sometimes it's more refreshing to just focus on the positives, such as the wonders of Jerusalem and what it is like to live here.

In any city, there are numerous undiscovered "nooks and crannies" to visit and enjoy. They can be easily found, as long as we go looking for them. Jerusalem, a city with thousands of years of history, is no different. In the more than nine years that I have lived here, I sometimes feel that I've barely scratched the surface of what there is to see and do.



The writer with friends (left to right): Avi Narrow-Tilonsky, Dani Stieglitz and David Belkin.

A few months ago, a friend of mine told me about a scavenger hunt that would be taking place in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Kiryat HaYovel. This is an area of Jerusalem I had spent little to no time in. Most people might recognize it for one of its most iconic centerpieces, the *Mifletzet* (which means "monster" in Hebrew). The *Mifletzet* refers to a large structure that looks like a very deformed cow with three tongues in the forms of slides. Hence the scavenger hunt was called *HaMeirutz La-mifletzet* ("Race to the Monster").

The event was organized by a nonprofit organization called *Ruach Chadasha* ("New Spirit") whose goal is to make Jerusalem more culturally appealing to young people who are deciding whether or not to live here. One of these initiatives is *Salon-noded* (roughly translated as "Travel-Lounge") which runs events in the Kiryat HaYovel neighborhood. The annual scavenger hunt around the neighborhood is one of these events. Its purpose is to help people (such as me) get to know this amazing neighborhood by having an interactive learning and sightseeing experience.

Needing a team of five people, I asked some of my local friends to join me. The event was very well-organized. The price to participate was a mere 10 shekels (approximately $2.50) per person, so that anyone could take part in this activity. This price included team shirts, with each team receiving a shirt of a different color.

Each station along the scavenger hunt either led directly to the next one or participants received cards with QR codes that, when scanned, revealed a clue to locate the next station. Each card was a piece of a puzzle that together formed a picture of a uniformed soldier named Yochai Kleingol. Yochai had been killed a year earlier. Some of his friends ran the scavenger hunt, so it was decided to do this most recent scavenger hunt in his honor.

My friends and I were the only team consisting entirely of *olim* (immigrants to Israel). Despite the disadvantage of Hebrew (in which all of the clues were written) being our second language and not growing up with cultural facts about things like local sports teams, we still managed to decipher all of the clues. We ran around Kiryat HaYovel performing tasks and doing activities you wouldn't expect to find in the middle of a city neighborhood: zip-lining, a ropes course through the trees, and positioning one of our teammates in mid-air via a harness and pulley system so that they could grab and assemble scattered puzzle pieces. These were just a few of the many activities we did that day.

Along the way, via the clues provided at various locations, we learned things about the neighborhood. One of my personal highlights was passing a building that stopped me in my tracks – "The Rhode Island Community Project Renewal Partnership" – it read.



PHOTOS | ANDRE MALKOVSKI

On the slide (left to right): Dani Stieglitz, Miriam Lazear, Avital Chevern, Ilana Mann and Avi Narrow-Tilonsky. The sculpture was designed by Niki de Saint-Phalle.

I later found out that this building was one of the neighborhood's community centers and was named after the Hassenfeld family. Discovering a connection to my Rhode Island roots in my home of Jerusalem certainly fulfilled the personal educational experience that the organizers hoped to achieve.

At the end of the day, my friends and I didn't finish the scavenger hunt in first place. Far from it, actually. We didn't join this race to win, but rather to have fun in our city of Jerusalem. We achieved that goal and learned a lot about an area of Jerusalem, the city we now call home.

DANIEL STIEGLITZ (dstieglitz@gmail.com), a Providence native, made *aliyah* in 2007. He holds a master's degree in creative writing from Bar Ilan University; is a certified Life Coach; does freelance content writing; and lives in Jerusalem. He has had two short stories published in FictionMagazines.com publications.



PHOTO | DANI STIEGLITZ

The Rhode Island Building.

FROM PAGE 9 | **JCC**

But we live now in uncertain times, and expressions of anti-Semitism have been on the rise around the globe.

The safety of local JCC members is always the top priority. As the convening organization of JCCs across the continent, we work closely with the Secure Community Network (SCN), which was established in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks to address security concerns in the Jewish community. SCN has a close relationship with the Department of Homeland Security, and that partnership becomes critical in situations like the ones we dealt with this week.

Unfortunately, all Americans and faith-based groups, not just Jewish organizations, recognize that this is our reality – that today, any public space or gathering may be a target. Just this week, we are reminded of the 2015 massacre at a Charleston church that left nine dead with the sentencing of its perpetrator. And far too regularly Muslim communities in America confront threats, hate letters and other anti-Muslim bigotry, abuse and even violence. The FBI figures for 2015 showed an overall increase of 6 percent for hate crimes. According to the report, released in November, acts against Jews still top the list, comprising 51.3 percent of all hate crimes.

And so, we are committed to continuing to support our JCCs, which play a vital role in the lives of their local communities and in Jewish life. And to help guide their missions as inclusive, engaging community gathering places that are safe for all, we will continue to help them liaise with local and federal law enforcement to develop thorough plans specific to their organizations, buildings and communities.

It is a harsh but wise reality that all JCCs have such structures and relationships in place, and are spending more time and money on security than ever before.

None of us wants to think of this as the new normal. And none of the JCCs targeted this week do. They are all back at work, doing what they do best – serving those who come looking for community.

Each JCC seeks to model within its walls the kind of community it wishes its wider ones – both Jewish and general – will be. Values we embrace such as welcoming guests, treating all with respect and dignity, doing right by people and understanding the communal responsibility in raising the next generation are universal. JCCs understand that the well-being of the Jewish people is based on interaction between diverse groups of Jews, and that we benefit, and benefit from, our larger communities. No threat of terror will change that.

The JCC movement was founded a century ago this year. The impetus was to support the needs of the Jewish community, many of whom were new immigrants and first generation Americans, who were learning just what that meant – to be an American. As Jews, they weren't always welcome in institutions designed broadly for the community, and JCCs were there to serve their cultural, social and recreational needs.

In the 100 years since, JCCs have evolved to meet not only Jewish needs, but to serve their communities more broadly. Informed by Jewish values, they are warm and welcoming to all.

And that's where we were Monday [Jan. 9], when the calls began. JCCs are places where people want to be. They are filled with joy, creativity, knowledge and the endless possibilities of doing something new. In hundreds of cities and towns across this continent, they are places where we still have face-to-face interactions in a social media universe.

And it's a loud and vibrant conversation, one that we won't allow any amount of threatening calls to disrupt.

DAVID POSNER is vice president for strategic performance at JCC Association of North America.

Ongoing

Alliance Kosher Senior Café. Kosher lunch and program every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. Noon lunch; 1 p.m. program. $3 lunch donation from individuals 60+ or under 60 with disabilities. Neal or Elaine, 401-338-3189.

West Bay Kosher Senior Café. Kosher lunch and program every weekday. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. 11:15 a.m. program; noon lunch. $3 lunch donation from individuals 60+ or under 60 with disabilities. Steve, 401-743-0009.

Through March 2

Plein Air Artists. Temple Habonim Gallery, 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington. Features works by members of the summer 2016 Lifelong Learning Collaborative Plein Air class. Gallery is open Wednesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and by appointment. Information, call 401-245-6536 or email gallery@templehabonim.org.

Friday | January 20

T.G.I.F. Thank G-D It's Friday. 5:45-7 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Shabbat songs and stories with Rabbi Aaron followed by a Kiddush and kid-friendly Shabbat dinner. Donations welcome. Open to all. RSVP, Torat Yisrael office at 401-885-6600 by Jan. 17.

Shabbat Shaboom. 6 p.m. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Program for families with preschool and kindergarten children includes a half-hour of Jewish songs, stories, crafts and snacks to celebrate Shabbat. Information, Dottie at Temple Sinai, 401-942-8350.

MLK Shabbat Service. 7:30-9 p.m. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Temple Sinai clergy, along with Shireinu, the chorus of Temple Sinai, will honor the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Members of the Woodridge Congregational Church and guest musicians collaborate. Information, Dottie at Temple Sinai, 401-942-8350.

Saturday | January 21

Saturday Morning Junior Kiddush Club. 9:30-11:15 a.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Shabbat morning activities include prayer, parashah, play time and a special Kiddush just for kids. Age groups: Tots, Pre-K-1st grade, 2nd grade and up. No fee. Information, office@bethsholom-ri.org, call 401-621-9393 or see Facebook page @BethSholom-RI.

Minyan Breakfast and Torah Study. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Weekly breakfast and Torah study in the downstairs chapel. Warm breakfast followed by study of the weekly Torah portion. All members of the community are welcome to participate. Information, Dottie at Temple Sinai, 401-942-8350.

Kids' Night Out: Outer Space. 5-10 p.m. Dwares JCC. Children participate in a variety of themed activities including sports, crafts, swimming and more. A pizza dinner and snacks are served, and the evening ends with a movie. Price: $35 | Members: $25 | Siblings: $15. Information or to register, Shannon Kochanek at 401-421-4111, ext. 147.

The Doctors of Music with Fishel Bresler. 7:30-9 p.m. Sandywoods Center for the Arts, 43 Muse Way, Tiverton. Original compositions by Fishel Bresler and Phil Edmonds include traditional Irish, Jewish and world music, with zany comedy, and an original puppet show. Information, E. Bresler at Breslersmusic@gmail.com.

Sunday | January 22

OROT Classes Winter & Spring 2017. 8:45-9:30 a.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Led by Rabbi Barry Dolinger. Continue the study of Rav Kook's revolutionary seminal work, a collection of challenging and moving essays that describe the religious significance of Zionism. Free. Dates: Jan. 22, Feb. 5, Feb. 12, March 5, March 26, April 2, April 23, April 30 and May 14 (Siyum/Season Finale). Information, rabbi@bethsholom-ri.org.

JCDS Sunday Funday presents Music and Rhythm! 10-11 a.m. Jewish Community Day School of RI, 85 Taft Ave., Providence. Spend a musical morning with music teacher Mike Murdock. Practice rhythm and drumming on various instruments and do a craft. Information, Naomi Stein at nstein@jcdsri.org or 401-751-2470.

"What is BDS?" 9:30-11 a.m. Temple Sinai social hall, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Nosh on a bagel and hear guest speaker, Josh Warhit of StandWithUs. A veteran of the IDF, Warhit will talk about countering misrepresentation of Israel. Information, Dottie at Temple Sinai, 401-942-8350.

Sunday Serenity. 9:45-10:30 a.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Meditation instruction for all levels. Engage in mindfulness practice to increase awareness, compassion and inner calm while reducing stress and anxiety. Jan. 15 to Feb. 12 and March 5 to April 2. Information, rabbi@bethsholom-ri.org.

PJ Library Story Time and More: Tu B'Shevat. 3-4 p.m. Barrington Books, 184 County Road, Barrington. Story time with the theme "new year of the trees." Children up to age 5 enjoy a special story with friends. Free. Information, Ruth Horton at rhorton@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 117.

Project Shoresh Partners in Torah Night. 7:45-8:45 p.m. Center for Jewish Studies, Providence Hebrew Day School, 450 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Free, lively, informal, partner-based study group, where you study your choice of texts together, English or Hebrew, ancient or modern, with on-site facilitators available to answer questions – and ask them, too. Let us know if you want to be a "study-buddy." There's a lively, positive energy in the room. Information, Noach Karp at rnoachkarp@gmail.com or 401-429-8244.

Tuesday | January 24

Adult Education: Israel, Our Homeland. 10-11 a.m. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. In this four-session course, students will learn about the religious and historical connection between modern Jews and the land of Israel. Topics include our relationship with Arabs living in Israel and the racial background of today's Jews. Information, Dottie at Temple Sinai, 401-942-8350.

Yoga. 6-7 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Rd., East Greenwich. Led by instructor Jeannine Margolis. Cost: $30 for 3 sessions in advance; $12 per session at the door. Beginner and intermediate. Bring your own mat. Information, Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Tuesday Night Talmud (TNT). 7:30-8:30 p.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Study the Fifth Chapter of Berachot with Rabbi Barry Dolinger. Future dates: Feb. 7, Feb. 14, Feb. 21, Feb. 28, March 7, March 14, March 21, March 28 and April 4 (semester siyum). Information, rabbi@bethsholom-ri.org.

Wednesday | January 25

Mah Jongg. 7 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. All are welcome. Free. Bring your card. Information, Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Friday | January 27

PJ Library Story Time: Tu B'Shevat. 10-11 a.m. Dwares JCC. Celebrate the "new year of the trees" with Fran Ostendorf, editor of The Jewish Voice. Children up to age 5 enjoy a special story, decorate trees and enjoy snacks with friends. Free. Information, Ruth Horton at rhorton@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 117.

URI Hillel Shabbat Services and Dinner. 5:30 p.m. URI Hillel, 6 Fraternity Circle, Kingston. Services begin at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:15 p.m. Free for URI students; $15 Community Members. Information, Yaniv Havusha at yaniv_havusha@uri.edu or 401-874-2740.

Saturday | January 28

Saturday Morning Junior Kiddush Club. 9:30-11:15 a.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Shabbat morning activities include prayer, parashah, play time and a special Kiddush just for kids. Age groups: Tots, Pre-K-1st grade, 2nd grade and up. No fee. Information, office@bethsholom-ri.org, call 401-621-9393 or see Facebook page @BethSholom-RI.

Minyan Breakfast and Torah Study. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Weekly breakfast and Torah study in the downstairs chapel. Warm breakfast followed by study of the weekly Torah portion. All members of the community are welcome to participate. Information, Dottie at Temple Sinai, 401-942-8350.

PHDS Melave Malke. 7-10 p.m. Providence Hebrew Day School, 450 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Delicious food, socializing and a guest speaker. Information, Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman at pscheinerman@phdschool.org or 401-331-5327.

Sunday | January 29

Sunday Serenity. 9:45-10:30 a.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Meditation instruction for all levels. Engage in mindfulness practice to increase awareness, compassion and inner calm while reducing stress and anxiety. Information, rabbi@bethsholom-ri.org.

David C. Isenberg Family Early Childhood Center Open House. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. See the space, meet the teachers and learn about the curriculum and what makes the Early Childhood Center different. Information, Jo-Anne Petrie at 401-421-4111, ext. 180 or jpetrie@jewishallianceri.org.

Glōga. 1-2 p.m. Dwares JCC. Yoga meets the dazzle and fun of glow sticks in a one-time event. All ages welcome, but children under age 11 must be accompanied by a parent. Light-filled, fun and relaxing time for all. Information or to sign up, Dori Venditti at 401-421-4111, ext. 210.

Singing the Dream Open Sing. 2-5 p.m. Central Congregational Church, 296 Angell St., Providence. Choral singers of all levels are invited to experience the thrill of an afternoon of community, song and fellowship with singers from all around Rhode Island. Produced by Temple Emanu-El and Central Congregational Church with the generous support of Bliss, Gross, Horowitz Fund at The Rhode Island Foundation. Cost: $5. Information, Miriam Ross at mrosslegal@gmail.com or 401-270-9449.

Project Shoresh Partners in Torah Night. 7:45-8:45 p.m. Center for Jewish Studies, Providence Hebrew Day School, 450 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Free, lively, informal, partner-based study group, where you study your choice of texts together, English or Hebrew, ancient or modern, with on-site facilitators available to answer questions – and ask them, too. Let us know if you want to be a "study-buddy." There's a lively, positive energy in the room. Information, Noach Karp at rnoachkarp@gmail.com or 401-429-8244.

Tuesday | January 31

Adult Education: Israel, Our Homeland. 10-11 a.m. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. In this four-session course, students will learn about the religious and historical connection between modern Jews and the land of Israel. Topics include our relationship with Arabs living in Israel and the racial background of today's Jews. Information, Dottie at Temple Sinai, 401-942-8350.

Yoga. 6-7 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Rd., East Greenwich. Led by instructor Jeannine Margolis. Cost: $30 for 3 sessions in advance; $12 per session at the door. Beginner and intermediate. Bring your own mat. Information, Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Thursday | February 2

Winter Open House. 7-9 p.m. Touro Fraternal Hall, 45 Rolfe Square, Cranston. Prospective Touro Fraternal Association members (any Jewish male 18 or older) can visit the newly renovated hall and learn about the organization from current members. Snacks and coffee. Incentives for joining that day. Information, Barry Ackerman at bjackerman@cox.net.

Friday | February 3

Shabbat Chai. 6-8:30 p.m. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. Shabbat Chai combines musical instruments with both traditional and spirited Kabbalat Shabbat melodies. After the service, stay for Shabbat dinner. All ages welcome, with children's activities available throughout the evening. Free although contributions are welcome before or after Shabbat. Information, Paul Stouber at pstouber@teprov.org or 401-331-1616.

Saturday | February 4

Saturday Morning Junior Kiddush Club. 9:30-11:15 a.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Shabbat morning activities include prayer, parashah, play time and a special Kiddush just for kids. Age groups: Tots, Pre-K-1st grade, 2nd grade and up. No fee. Information, office@bethsholom-ri.org, call 401-621-9393 or see Facebook page @BethSholom-RI.

Minyan Breakfast and Torah Study. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Weekly breakfast and Torah study in the downstairs chapel. Warm breakfast followed by study of the weekly Torah portion. All members of the community are welcome to participate. Information, Dottie at Temple Sinai, 401-942-8350.

Musical Bingo Night. 6-9 p.m. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Family-friendly event hosted by WRIK Entertainment. Listen to clips of songs from many decades and mark bingo cards according to directions. Six games will be played, and prizes will be awarded to the winners. The cost for the evening is $10 per person, maximum of $30 per family. Includes dinner, drinks and dessert. Sign up, call temple office at 401-942-8350. Deadline is Jan. 27. Information, Ina Land at riland1@cox.net.

PHDS Melave Malke. 7-10 p.m. Providence Hebrew Day School, 450 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Delicious food, socializing and a guest speaker. Information, Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman at pscheinerman@phdschool.org or 401-331-5327.

Sunday | February 5

OROT Classes Winter & Spring 2017. 8:45-9:30 a.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Led by Rabbi Barry Dolinger. Continue the study of Rav Kook's revolutionary seminal work, a collection of challenging and moving essays that describe the religious significance of Zionism. Free. Information, rabbi@bethsholom-ri.org.

Sunday Serenity. 9:45-10:30 a.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Meditation instruction for all levels. Engage in mindfulness practice to increase awareness, compassion and inner calm while reducing stress and anxiety. Information, rabbi@bethsholom-ri.org.

URI Hillel Super Bowl Brunch. Noon-1 p.m. URI Hillel, 6 Fraternity Circle, Kingston. Get into the football spirit at our Super Bowl brunch. Free for students. $15 for community members. Information, Yaniv Havusha at yaniv_havusha@uri.edu or 401-874-2740.

PJ Library Stories and More. 3-4 p.m. Barrington Books Retold, Garden City Center, 176 Hillside Road, Cranston. Purim storytime for children up to age 5. Free. Information, Ruth Horton at rhorton@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 117.

CALENDAR | 24

You can post your community calendar information to **The Voice calendar** online, accessible at jvhri.org or jewishallianceri.org.
It only takes a few minutes to register and fill in the form. Your listing will appear both on The Jewish Voice website and the Alliance website and selected items will also be published in the Voice.
Contact editor@jewishallianceri.org with any questions.

Snacking on popcorn? Try something new

BY FRAN OSTENDORF
fostendorf@jewishallianceri.org



Looking for a fun snack on a cold winter's day? Need something to munch on during your next movie night?

Popcorn is a good option. Filled with fiber, but with little fat unless you add it, air-popped popcorn has only 30 calories per cup. Oil-popped has about 35 calories per cup. Did you know that the number one use for our microwave oven is to make popcorn?

Americans consume 14 billion quarts of popcorn each year, according to the Popcorn Board. The peak period for popcorn sales is in the fall. But National Popcorn Day is Jan. 19. So celebrate with a bowl of popcorn. Or, if you want to try something different with your next bowl of popcorn, here are a few recipes from the Popcorn Board. There are plenty more on their website, popcorn.org, along with fun facts and activities for all ages.

Chocolate Popcorn Biscotti

Ingredients

1 cup egg substitute
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla
1 cup + 3 tablespoons sugar, divided
3 cups air-popped popcorn, ground in food processor or blender
2 1/4-2 1/2 cups flour
3/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
4 teaspoons baking powder

Directions

Preheat oven to 300 degrees F. Line baking sheet with foil and spray with cooking spray.

Combine egg substitute, vanilla, and 1 cup sugar in large bowl; mix well. Add popcorn, flour, cocoa powder, and baking powder and mix well; dough will be stiff but continue mixing until all ingredients are well combined.

Sprinkle remaining sugar on work surface; divide dough into 3 equal pieces. Roll dough into 8 inch by 4 inch by 1/2 inch logs and roll in sugar lightly on all sides.Transfer logs to baking sheet, leaving a space between them.

Bake 25-30 minutes.

Remove from oven and allow "logs" to cool for 5 minutes. Cut logs diagonally into 1/2-inch slices. Arrange in a single layer on baking sheet.

Bake 10 minutes; turn cookies over and bake 5-10 minutes longer until lightly browned and crisp on both sides.

Cool cookies and store in airtight container.

Edible Popcorn Party Bowl

Ingredients

10 cups popped popcorn
1 1/3 cups sugar
1 cup water
1/3 cup light corn syrup
1/2 teaspoon vinegar
1/4 teaspoon salt
10 drops food color, optional

Directions

Spray the inside of a large, stainless steel bowl with cooking spray and the outside of a second large, stainless steel bowl; set aside.

These two bowls will be used to form popcorn bowl at end of cooking time. (Note: if one bowl is smaller than the other, spray the outside of the smaller bowl.)

Spray a third large bowl with cooking spray and place popped popcorn inside; set aside.

Stir sugar, water, corn syrup, vinegar and salt together in a medium saucepan. Bring mixture to a boil, cover, and boil for 3 minutes to allow steam to wash down sides of pan. Remove lid and attach candy thermometer to pan.

Allow mixture to boil, without stirring, until mixture reaches 290 degrees F. Stir in food color, if desired. Working quickly, pour syrup over popcorn and toss with a large spoon until popcorn is thoroughly coated.

Pour popcorn mixture into first prepared bowl and use a spoon to push mixture evenly up onto sides of bowl. Firmly press second prepared bowl onto popcorn to form popcorn bowl. Allow popcorn bowl to cool completely between stainless steel bowls.

To serve, tip popcorn bowl out and place on platter.

Fill with popcorn to serve.

Cinnamon Popcorn Crunch

Ingredients

3 quarts popped popcorn, unsalted
1 can (6 1/2 ounce) salted mixed nuts
1 pound light brown sugar
1 cup light corn or maple syrup
1/2 cup butter or margarine
1/2 cup water
2 teaspoons salt
1 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon

Directions

Mix popcorn and nuts in large buttered bowl.

Combine sugar, syrup, butter or margarine, water, salt and cinnamon in saucepan. Heat slowly to the boiling point, stirring until sugar melts. Cook to hard crack stage (290-295 degrees F). Pour syrup in a fine stream over popcorn and nuts. Stir until popcorn and nuts are evenly coated with syrup.

Spread out on large buttered surface or waxed paper. Separate into bite-size portions with forks. Cool.







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10 tips for brides-to-be for a smooth wedding day

BY HILLARY GUTTIN

Congratulations! You're engaged! This can be one of the most exciting times in your life – but it can also be one of the most stressful. A bride typically wants the day to go perfectly, and will do anything to make sure her vision comes true. As a new bride myself, I've compiled 10 tips to help ensure that your special day is happy and memorable.

1 ***Relax. You get to spend the rest of your life with the love of your life, and that's the most important thing.***
One of the first things my now-husband said to me during the planning process was, "the wedding is just a day – the marriage is the more important piece." This was a mantra that I repeated to myself whenever something didn't go the way I had envisioned it. Even though there were definitely things that went wrong, in the end it didn't matter.

2 ***Choose your battles.***
This is crucial. When you're planning a wedding, you're dealing with a lot of personalities that can be very different from your own. Vendors, relatives and even your future spouse may all have their own visions, and feel strongly about them.

I knew I really didn't care what my flowers looked like, so I let my mother and the florist take over that part of the planning. However, I was dead set against wearing heels for any part of the day. My mother felt differently, and this required multiple conversations. Ultimately, I wore the shoes that I wanted to wear – and it was one of the best decisions that I made for the day.

3 ***Roll with the punches.***
This goes along with tip No. 1, but just know that, ultimately, something will not go according to plan. It's easier said than done, but give up control.

This is something I learned the day of my wedding, even though people told me this ahead of time. We had a major issue when the order for the bridesmaids' dresses got mixed up. I tried really hard to let it go, and that made me happier in the end. (My bridesmaids were easy-going as well, so they made it easier to let it go.)



The bride insisted on comfortable shoes.

4 ***Eat.***
Make sure you get to eat. Everyone is aware of the "hangry" phenomenon, so don't let that happen to you. I get "hangry" a lot, and I was ravenous by the time the ceremony ended. After the ceremony, my husband and I went to the bridal suite, where some of the appetizers from the cocktail hour were waiting, for which we were grateful.

People will tell you that the bride and groom do not eat at their own wedding. Aaron and I did – we made sure of it. We tag-teamed schmoozing and dancing, so we were able to get around to everyone and still eat. No regrets at all.

5 ***Hydrate.***
Drinking water is the most important thing you can possibly do during your big day. I know some people warn against hydrating because using the bathroom while in an elaborate wedding dress is incredibly difficult. But believe me when I tell you, if you don't drink enough water, you will regret it: You are wearing a wedding dress, which is not like any other dress, and you will be hot.

One of my bridesmaids actually bought Aaron and me "Mr. & Mrs." tumblers for the reception, which came in handy. I'm pretty sure I filled mine at least twice, and I drank at least two bottles of water before the ceremony. Being well-hydrated let me enjoy myself – and it calmed my nerves.



PHOTOS | MICHELLE LAWSON PHOTOGRAPHY

Aaron Guttin and Hillary Schulman on their wedding day.

6 ***Have an open mind – especially when dress shopping.***
One of the first things a bride generally does when she gets engaged is peruse magazines and websites for wedding dresses. It's a great idea to have styles in mind when you actually go shopping, but make sure you have an open mind. The people working in bridal salons know what they're doing. Most brides actually get a dress that is very different from what they had imagined.

I remember having my heart set on a trumpet dress that had off-the-shoulder, 3/4-length sleeves, but when I tried it on, I hated it. It looked dumpy on me, and I could not believe that it was so different from what I saw online. If I hadn't stayed flexible, and listened to the bridal specialists, I would have ended up with a dress I hated.

I ended up falling in love with a dress that was almost the opposite of what I had in my mind – an A-line gown with a long train.

7 ***Have a budget***
If you're like most brides, you'll probably have to pay some wedding expenses. It's important to set a budget. It is very easy to overspend, so it's incredibly important to set limits for yourself.

If you do overspend on something, like your dress or catering, then make sure to cut back on the budget for other things, such as the music or flowers.

Be non-negotiable with yourself: Stick to your budget! After all, overspending on a dress you're going to wear once is not going to be worth it when you need money to start your lives together.

My fiancé and I sat down and made a budget so we knew exactly what we could spend on each item. It saved us a headache in the long run and kept us on the same page.

8 ***Don't be afraid to ask for help.***
Many people believe that the bride is the one making all the decisions, as well as doing all the planning. In some cases this may be true, but understand that it does not have to all fall on you. That's what your family and your bridesmaids are there for. Also allow your future hubby to take a load off your shoulders.

Ask your bridesmaids to help you reach decisions. Talk to people who have recently married for their input. I relied on my sisters a lot – they truly were my go-to people. They helped alleviate a lot of my stress, helped me make decisions and were really great for brainstorming as they had an idea of what works and what doesn't.

9 ***Make lists.***
I'm a forgetful person. Leading up to the wedding, I had massive anxiety over the possibility of forgetting something for the ceremony. I made about 10 lists of the same things and put them in different places so I wouldn't forget anything.

As I was packing, I made sure to go through the list and put everything that I needed for the ceremony and reception into my bag, then I checked each item off the list.

You should also make a list, ordered by importance, for your photographer. This will help the photographer move quickly and help ensure you get the snaps you want.

10 ***Remember to have fun!***
After all, it is your wedding! Relish each step in the planning process as well as the big day. Take mental pictures and allow yourself to enjoy the process because, chances are, it's your one and only big wedding. Don't wish time away because it's hard or stressful in the moment. Smile because you're in the process of making a decision for your magical day.

On the day of my wedding, I was such an anxious mess, I forgot to have fun before the ceremony. I was trying so hard to keep everything under control instead of adhering to tip No.1 by relaxing and going with the flow.

Enjoy your time with your hubby, your family and your friends: It's likely to be a long time before every single person you love is gathered in the same room as you again.

HILLARY GUTTIN is a teacher at the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island. She was married on Nov. 13, 2016, in North Miami Beach, Florida.



The first dance should be memorable.

10 tips for creating a wedding website



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BY STEPHANIE ROSS

As we find ourselves smack dab in the middle of the digital age, more things have crossed into the internet space. For weddings, invitations can only hold so much information and with the rising cost of paper and postage, many engaged couples have joined the trend of creating "websites" (or wedding websites).

It may seem like a daunting task to create a customized website, but with the help of many apps and page builders, the task has gotten a lot easier. Bride-to-be and Waltham, Mass., Native Leena Kent said building her "wedsite" has proven to be easy and convenient.

"TheKnot.com is free and easy: it's extremely user-friendly," Kent said. "It provides much needed and readily-available resources like a 'budgeter,' vendor contacts (and vendor ratings), a checklist of things to do down to the day, and an RSVP and guest list tracker. Not to mention a countdown to the day! If I ever need help, the app provides a chat room with a Knot representative to help with any wedding planning questions."

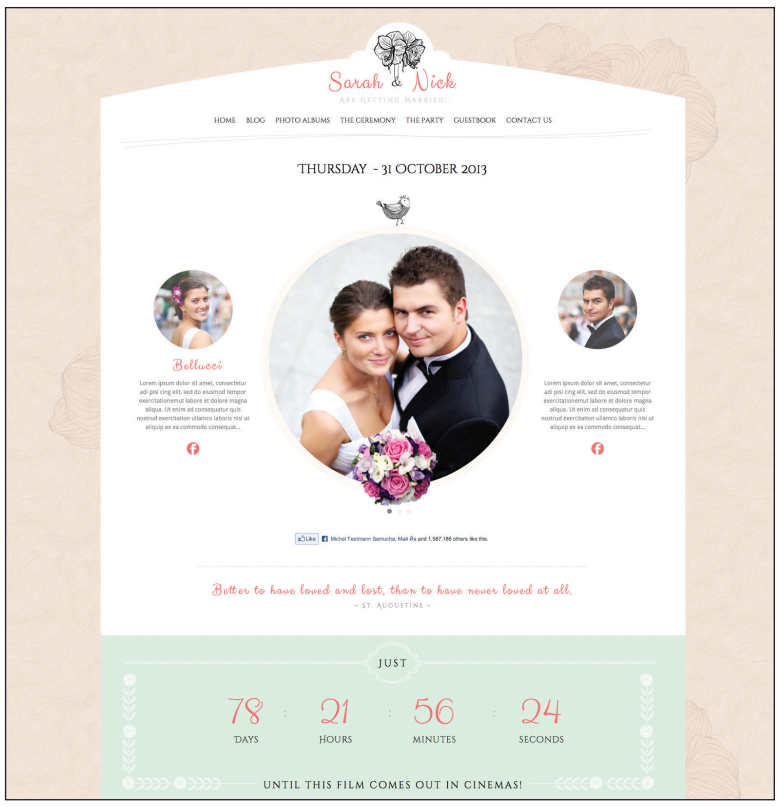
For those new to website design and creation, here are 10 tips to help you get started.

1. Create a simple URL
There are many website builders out there, but most will allow you to pay extra for a personalized URL. Keep in mind your wedding website address needs to be shareable – keep it memorable and simple. If you're sending out printed invitations, customized URLs make a big difference.

2. Focus on content
Content is the focal point of any website. Guests are ultimately visiting your wedding website to learn about your wedding and you as a couple. Start off by thanking your guests for being part of your special day. Then provide all the details of your wedding: dates, venue information, registries, dress code, etc. Finally, add a personal touch by telling your love story – how you met, how you got engaged, your first date story, favorite memories together and more. Also, include information on what you plan to do after you're married – where you plan to settle down, if you plan to buy a new home together, honeymoon plans, etc. – this helps guests figure out appropriate gifts.

3. Be a resource for your guests
Approach your content in your guests' shoes and act as their concierge. While your wedding may be local, some guests may be visiting from out of town or may want recommendations on what to do before and after the wedding. Provide ideas for accommodations, things to do and places to eat, but keep in mind your wedding site is not meant to be Expedia or TripAdvisor. Limit your options by adding personal elements, such as the restaurant you had your first date, to help your guest immerse themselves in your love story.

4. Get creative
While website builders such as The Knot and Wix offer a multitude of wedding templates, feel free to add creative elements to your website. Hire a designer, a friend, or use Squarespace's simple logo creator (logo.squarespace.com) to create a simple wedding logo. Add engagement photos, fun colors, or experiment with different templates for a memorable online experience.



5. Remember, less is more
Don't go overboard. Current website design trends favor a minimalist side. Features such as background music, funky cursors and animated page transitions can increase load time, causing your guests to immediately regret visiting your website.

6. Share it early
Ideally, you'd like to have your website ready when save-the-dates go out and at least six months before the big day. This allows guests to plan accordingly and helps your planning remain efficient.

7. Allow access after the wedding
Many wedding website packages can allow access for one year or longer. While it may seem as though you'd only need it before the wedding, after is also useful. This allows guests to share their photos from the wedding, as well as view any wedding photos that have been uploaded. They can relive the magic, while also having access to any registries (etiquette suggests guests have up to one year to send wedding gifts).

8. Add your wedding hashtag
Social media hashtags for weddings are a big trend right now, so why not share the hashtag feed? Adding a widget or live-feed of any tweets or Instagram posts can help boost activity and engagement. Finding a hashtag URL is simple: type in the hashtag you're searching for and copy the URL.

9. Don't forget that contact info
Technology fails us at times, so it's important to share your contact information for guests experiencing page load problems or those who are technologically-challenged. If you're uncomfortable with putting your personal contact information on a public website, create a free wedding email – just remember to check it!



10. Explore your options
While The Knot may have worked for one couple you know, it doesn't guarantee it's the best option for you. Test out other website builders and be sure to find the one that's provides the capabilities you need. Building a wedding website doesn't have to be very technical or take very long, so choose wisely.

STEPHANIE ROSS is a freelance writer and public relations professional in Boston.

Courtship, engagement and marriage: A Three Week Journey

BY MAY-RONNY ZEIDMAN

In 1939, my mother, Lulu Abrevaya, a New York City gal, spent the summer in Rhode Island visiting her married cousin Jean Sarenson (nee Benharris) and her husband, John. Within a few days of Lulu's arrival, John's younger brother, Nathan, showed up at the apartment with a record under his arm. He looked at Lulu and said, "If you can dance, maybe I will take you out." I guess she couldn't dance to his expectations because she didn't hear from him for the remainder of her stay in Rhode Island.

My mother often spoke of that summer. She had a wonderful time and met and dated many Rhode Island "boys." In 1939, my mother was 15 years old and Nathan was 18 years old. Years later when the story was told, my dad said it was not because she couldn't dance. It was because she was too young for him.

Lulu went home to New York City and eventually she became engaged to Henry Mason. In July of 1942, Lulu's sister, Hannah, told Lulu that cousin Jean, her husband, John, and John's brother, Nathan, were coming to the city for the weekend. Lulu and Hannah were expected to spend the weekend taking them around New York City. Lulu told Hannah to have a good time, because Lulu was going to Long Island to spend the weekend with Henry and his family.



PHOTO | MAY-RONNY ZEIDMAN

Nathan and Lulu Sarenson on their wedding day

On Friday afternoon, Lulu hopped on the elevator with her suitcase ready to head for "the Island." When the doors of the elevator opened, there were Jean, John and Nathan. For the rest of his life, whenever Nate told this story he would say, "She was the most beautiful girl I had ever seen." Following much begging and pleading, Lulu agreed to spend the weekend with the cousins. For two days, they wined and dined and danced. This was wartime… life was precarious.

On Sunday evening, Nathan asked Lulu to marry him. She said, "Are you crazy? We hardly know each other." His answer was, "In three weeks I will send you a bus ticket to come to Rhode Island, and we will elope."

Three weeks later, he sent the ticket, she got on the bus and together with my dad's mother, father, sisters and brothers, the couple "eloped" to Bellingham, Massachusetts, where they were married. I often wondered who they were eloping from. The only person I can think of is my mom's dad. Three weeks following the elopement, my grandfather Abrevaya came to Rhode Island, and my parents had a Jewish wedding.

I have no idea what makes a marriage work. I only know, in the summer of 1992, my parents, Lulu and Nathan Sarenson, celebrated their 50th anniversary at a party given by their children, Barry and Donna Sarenson and May-Ronny and Rubin Zeidman.

Something interesting to ponder: my mother's cousin Jean was my mom's first cousin and sister-in-law. My cousins Ronny and Jerry are my cousins on both sides of my family.

MAY-RONNY ZEIDMAN is executive director of the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center.

How a *mikveh* brings a mitzvah to a wedding

The *mikveh* is a Jewish ritual bath. Bathing in its water is part of a bride's preparation for a wedding, setting the tone for spiritual intimacy in her marriage. It is a purification process and it creates a sense of connection to God.



PATRICIA RASKIN

In his article "Spirituality and Intimacy," at mikvah.org, Rabbi Raphael Aron states, "Between woman and God, Family Purity represents a special connection, a private relationship with her Maker. *Mikveh* introduces a sense of intimacy into the woman-God relationship, a union and connection that has no other parallel in Jewish law or experience. Immersion in a *mikveh* creates a oneness with God; it is a spiritual intimacy which sets the tone for and precedes the intimacy she can only then enjoy with her husband."

Rabbi Yossi Laufer and his wife, Shoshanna Laufer, are co-directors of Chabad of West Bay – Chai Center, in Warwick, which has a new *mikveh*. Bringing a *mikveh* to Warwick was a community effort, with 100 families in the area making financial contributions.

Laufer said, "This was a West Bay community project. We all wanted to make it more accessible for people in our area to enrich their spirituality. But you don't have to be religious to use the *mikveh*. Going to a *mikveh* before one's wedding is for anybody at any level – an experience that belongs to everyone."

Laufer said that the *mikveh* figures in three areas of Judaism: law, spirituality and tradition, and immersion in its waters can be part of any of them, or all three.

He said, "When a woman goes to the *mikveh* before the wedding, she is bonding with God and is fully aware of the spirituality in marriage. It is a special mitzvah, and using the *mikveh* can help bring the relationship to a more spiritual level."



The reception area of the mikveh.

Shoshana Laufer said, "You are connecting yourself to women of all generations before that used the *mikveh* from the beginning of time. You are preparing to build a Jewish home, which is the most important place to practice Judaism.

"The *mikveh* is a foundational part of Judaism. Going to the *mikveh* before your wedding is like bringing it into the relationship, and brings a lot of blessings. Through the *mikveh*, you are affirming your spiritual foundation and connection to God."

The *mikveh* is sometimes called a spiritual spa, and on the website rabbiwarwick.com, it has this lovely tagline: "Transforming waters: Reawaken the soul, marital intimacy and connection with Judaism." Those three tie into the goals of a Jewish life; as Rabbi Laufer said, "We should have health, happiness and prosperity!"

PATRICIA RASKIN hosts "The Patricia Raskin Show" on Saturdays at 3 p.m. on WPRO, 630 AM/99.7 FM and on Mondays at 2 p.m. on voiceamerica.com. Raskin is a board member of Providence's Temple Emanu-El.



PHOTOS | CHABAD OF WEST BAY

The mikveh in Warwick was dedicated in the fall of 2016.

The language of flowers

BY CYNTHIA BENJAMIN

When Catherine, the Duchess of Cambridge – perhaps better known as Kate Middleton – got married in 2011, she didn't choose flowers based on their color, or shape, or pleasing aroma. She chose based on their meaning. In the Victorian era, "the language of flowers" was an enormously popular way to communicate, and each bridal bouquet was ripe with symbolism.

Princess Kate's bouquet included: lily of the valley, hyacinth, sweet william, myrtle and ivy – read on to discover the meanings behind these and other flowers.

10 popular bridal flowers and their symbolism

• Chrysanthemums: red, are a symbol of love, while white chrysanthemums mean loyal, devoted love. But don't choose yellow chrysanthemums, which symbolize sorrow in love.

• Lilies of the valley are most commonly defined as symbolizing a "return to happiness," but the tiny white bell-shaped flowers also have the closely associated meanings of sweetness, purity and luck in love. These flowers are expensive, but you don't need a lot of them in your bouquet – just enough to make your point.

• Hyacinths come in many colors, ranging from pure white to near red, and every color has its own meaning. If you want to show constancy or sincerity, choose blue hyacinth, but if your goal is loveliness, choose white. If you and your intended enjoy sports, or believe that the family that plays together stays together, pick pink or red hyacinths, which are both associated with sports and play. Definitely do not choose any shade of purple hyacinths, since they are all associated with sorrow, or yellow hyacinths, which mean jealousy. In addition to the beauty and symbolism of these star-shaped flowers, they are popular in bouquets for their intoxicating aroma.

• Hydrangeas are colorful, showy plants that are associated with bragging and vanity in the Victorian language of flowers. But in a parallel Japanese flower tradition, called Hanakotoba, hydrangeas symbolize an apology or deep gratitude. So, if you're partial to this striking and popular bridal flower, you could consider this a multicultural addition to your bouquet!



Hydrangea and ranunculus bouquet by Blooming Blossoms

• Ivy, while not strictly a flower, is sometimes part of the bouquet's greenery and is a wonderful addition for its message of friendship, fidelity, affection and marriage.

• Myrtle symbolizes love, pure and simple, but has a long history and special symbolism for Jews. This white, star-shaped flower grows wild on Mount Carmel and in the Upper Galilee. It is one of four plants used to decorate the *sukkah* and merits repeated references in the Torah. In Hebrew, myrtle is also a symbol of marriage, so it's hard to go wrong adding this fragrant bloom to the flower arrangements at your wedding.

• Ranunculus, whether white, pink, red, yellow or gold, means the same thing: I am dazzled by your charms. Small wonder it's a perennial favorite at weddings.

• Roses are a universal symbol of beauty, but that's just the start – these blooms come in hundreds of colors and shades and almost all have a specific meaning. For example, yellow roses with red tips mean falling in love, while blue roses symbolize the impossible, and thorn-less roses represent love at first sight. For brides, the following are good choices: Red roses mean love and romance; pink roses mean friendship, perfect happiness, appreciation and gratitude; white means marriage and new starts; orange means passion, desire and enthusiasm; yellow means friendship and joy; and purple/lavender means enchantment or love at first sight.

• Sweet william is a densely clustered flower that means gallantry and smiles – good characteristics to have in a mate (even if his name isn't William). Sweet william, which is also associated with smiles, grows in a wide variety of colors, from white to richest red, deepest purple and multicolored.

• Tulips in general symbolize a declaration of love, but specific colors, like roses, have specific meanings: Yellow tulips are probably not the right choice for a wedding since they mean hopeless or spurned love, but violet tulips are probably an excellent choice, since they mean faithful love. Red tulips mean you're deeply, passionately in love, while pink ones express happiness, affection and love that isn't romantic. Purple tulips are a symbol of royalty and the related sentiments of abundance and prosperity, while white expresses an apology or forgiveness.

For more information to help you choose blooms, google around the internet – there are plenty of websites on the language of flowers. The Language of Flowers website, at languageofflowers.com, is a good place to start, as are florist sites, many of which have information on flower symbolism. There are also many books on the topic, including the charming novel "The Language of Flowers," by Vanessa Diffenbaugh.

CYNTHIA BENJAMIN is an editor, writer and chef. She is a member of Congregation B'nai Israel, in Woonsocket.



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a time." She and her husband, Martin, have been married for 64 years, and Seena says that always being there for each other and understanding that marriage is "a work in progress" gets them through.

At a time when younger generations are challenged by working through difficult times, relationships such as these can be wonderful role models.

Maurice and Yetta Glicksman met when they were just 15 and 13, respectively, and Maurice offered this advice to young people: "It's about give and take. You have to talk about it." Maurice and Yetta Glicksman have been talking about it for 67 years.



Yetta and Maurice Glicksman.

In years past, couples often met in the course of their daily routines or by introduction. Claire Lane reminisced about meeting her husband, Howard, at their place of work, Rhode Island Hospital Trust Bank, in the 1950s. She said, "I knew right away I would marry him!" And she did! They are still very much in love 59 years later.



Howard and Claire Lane.

Ed and Fran Weinstein are another long-lasting couple: more than 60 years.

It is clear that these couples know how to combine support and compromise with respect, deep pride and love for each other. In addition, they share a belief that home is wherever they are - together.

As these elegant couples reminisced about their wedding day and years of marriage, it was evident that they all remember and continue to live by vows taken in the wedding ceremony and from Song of Solomon 6:3: "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine."

Mazal tov to these sterling members of our community!

SUSAN ADLER is the director of marketing and



Martin and Seena Dittelman.

JENNIFER FELDMAN is the project manager at The Phyllis Siperstein Assisted Living Residence in Warwick.

10 tips for a fabulous honeymoon

BY STEPHANIE ROSS

While you've been planning place settings, photography, flowers and decorations, have you thought about beaches, vineyard tours and hotel reservations?

"According to a recent survey conducted by The Knot, Rhode Island couples are 87 percent more likely to go on a honeymoon than any other couple in the U.S.," Alison Greene of Engaged Magazine wrote.

It's easy to get caught up in the details of your big day, but Greene suggests planning the honeymoon six to eight months ahead of time. So take a break from reception playlists and seating arrangements. Here are 10 tips to help you prepare for your romantic getaway.

Planning

1. Visit somewhere new

Start planning your honeymoon by choosing a place neither of you has been. This allows you to explore someplace new together and create new memories, while also having no expectations of what your destination is like. However, be realistic. Look at your budget and make sure it works within your limits.

2. Check rewards, discounts and offers

No matter the destination or budget, check with hotels and airlines on reward programs. Bride-to-be and Newton, Mass. resident, Lauren McGuire, created a summary of frequent flyer miles and hotel points for herself and her fiancé. They then checked into transferring points between partners. For example, United miles can be transferred to Marriott to get free nights. Being proactive with rewards can land you massive savings and perks, such as a free upgrade to first class, a free night at a hotel, or even a free flight.

3. Plan activities

Once you've selected your destination, take the time to map out a loose itinerary. Note all the must-see/must-do spots on your list, followed by the alternatives. Once you have your plan, book any tours or tickets well in advance, especially if it's a popular tourist destination. But, don't overwhelm and overbook yourselves, you will want a fine balance between relaxation and activity.

4. Keep timing in mind

There's always a sweet spot when it comes to traveling for a honeymoon. You don't want to leave right after the wedding, nor do you want to travel during peak season. Take a moment to catch your breath after the wedding before jetting off. If this means traveling during off-season, three months after your wedding, it could save you a significant amount of money. Just remember to come back with at least one full day between your honeymoon and your real life; nothing is worse than going to work exhausted from vacation.

5. Do your research

Whether it's a walking tour or a bed and breakfast, consult with review websites such as TripAdvisor to read about a venue or experience before you book. Hotels tend to put their best photography and testimonials on their websites, so be sure to do your research. If you plan on purchasing any packages, read the fine print. While a hostel may seem cheaper, breakfast each morning could end up costing you just as much as a full-service hotel. Take the time to compare rates.

6. Ask for help – hire a professional

Chances are, you are knee-deep in wedding planning or just exhausted from planning in general. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Consult with a travel agent on planning your dream getaway. They are full of good information, insider deals and know the ins-and-outs of travel, making your life easier.

During

7. Go on a digital cleanse

Make it a point to disconnect from the real world. Log off social media, put your phone on airplane mode or take a camera, and enjoy each other's company. All of it will be there when you get back home, but for now – relish the time off the grid.

8. Take photos

As long as your phone doesn't have service (see number 7), remember to take pictures together during your trip. These are memories in the making, and you'll want pictures to show your family and friends.

9. Plan surprises

Your honeymoon is a time of romance. Treat your new spouse to small surprises throughout your trip. These surprises can be as simple as scheduling a private tour of a site, sprinkling rose petals everywhere, or planning a candlelit dinner.

10. Treat yourself

Have one day of the honeymoon where you go all-out and treat yourselves. Get dressed up and go to a fancy dinner or splurge on an excursion that you've been dying to do. Even if your budget is tight, set aside one day where you treat yourselves like royalty.

If you're still feeling stuck, check out Real Simple's honeymoon planning checklist at realsimple.com/weddings/weddings-planning/honeymoon-planning-checklist.

STEPHANIE ROSS is a freelance writer and public relations professional in Boston.



DIY wedding trends

(Family Features) Pinboards are buzzing with endless inspiration, bringing clever and colorful projects to life. For brides-to-be, the hottest looks in wedding decor can be yours with just a bit of creativity.

The evolution of touch is underway. Fabrics and embellishments featuring texture and intrigue are becoming huge hits this bridal season. Take materials such as burlap, chalkboard finishes, monogram letters and Mason jars to the next level by mixing and matching with the season's colors.

Picture your big day with pretty petals adorned in lace, offset by rustic trimmings. This understated yet feminine look can be yours with these trending projects from the crafting experts at Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores. Take these ideas and gather your girlfriends for a pre-wedding craft session. You'll love unleashing your creativity as well as the extra bonding time with the girls, all in preparation for the big event.

Burlap Cone Floral Hanger

Crafting time: 1-2 hours

Skill level: No experience necessary

Supplies and Tools:

Cutting utensils
Thin wire
Wire or boutonniere pins
Panacea burlap garland
2 Styrofoam brand foam cones
Glue gun
Glue sticks
Ribbon of choice
Hydrangeas: 1 green and peach, 2 peach and cream
Green mini bundle

1. Cut wire into hairpin shaped pieces or use boutonniere pins.

2. Cut 1 yard of burlap per cone. Fold burlap in half and wrap cone from bottom to top. Pin burlap to cone. Not all of it will be covered. Run glue along seam; press to secure.

3. Attach ribbon to create hanger. Glue in place.

4. Trim hydrangea short. Glue to top of cone. Trim several clusters from hydrangea. Glue to cover exposed foam, creating a dripping ice cream effect.

5. Trim half of mini bundle and glue in center.

6. Trim blossoms of green hydrangea. Glue to both cones.

Note: Refer to photo for placement of items.



Burlap and Lace-Wrapped Floral Centerpiece

Crafting time: 1-2 hours

Skill level: Some experience necessary

Supplies and Tools:

Cutting utensils
Pink roses stem
White Queen Anne's Lace stem
White hydrangea bush
Light blue small bush
Pink small bush
Teal small bush
Teal tall bush
Cream wisteria garland
Panacea cloth-covered wire
Glue gun
Glue sticks
David Tutera burlap ribbon
Mason jar
David Tutera lace ribbon
Panacea crystal clear resin

1. Trim stems, removing lower foliage.

2. Form a hand-tied bouquet.

3. Tie off with wire.

4. Dribble glue around wire to secure. Let dry.

5. Wrap burlap ribbon around Mason jar, overlapping 1 inch. Glue seam.

6. Wrap lace around jar and tie in knot.

7. Pour resin in jar. Follow package instructions.

8. Insert bouquet. Allow to dry.

Note: Refer to photo for placement of items.





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The good, bad and ugliest wedding gifts ever

(StatePoint) For many couples, there's nothing more exciting than creating wedding wish lists. Almost half (45 percent) of U.S. adults who are or ever have been married or engaged have had a bridal registry, according to a recent Moen survey conducted online by Harris Poll.

Registries can help you avoid receiving disappointing gifts. Respondents to the Moen survey told tales of getting such gaffes as a meat griller for a vegetarian couple, and even "ball and chain underwear." Good gifts ranged from cookware to dream vacations.

However, even with a registry, many realize post-nuptials their list may have been less than ideal. If you're headed down the aisle, plan ahead to avoid these common registry mistakes:

• Including impractical items: Think twice before registering for large or specialty products that take up storage space but may never get used, like a panini press or ice cream maker.

• Aspirational registering: Register for pieces that fit who you really are, not who you want to be.

• Sticking too much to tradition: Don't register for traditional items, like silver flatware or formal china, unless you'll truly use them.

"Instead of registering for traditional items you'll rarely use, consider requesting gifts to make daily life better, like a kitchen faucet with a pull-down hose for easy clean-up, or a soothing rainshower showerhead to provide relaxation after a long day," suggests Andrea Maher, senior marketing communications specialist, Moen.

Key retirement and tax numbers for 2017



BARBARA KENERSON

Every year, the Internal Revenue Service announces cost-of-living adjustments that affect contribution limits for retirement plans, thresholds for deductions and credits, and standard deduction and personal exemption amounts. Here are a few of the key numbers for 2017: some are the same as in 2016 and some have changed.

Retirement plans

• Employees who participate in a 401(k), 403(b) and most 457 plans can defer up to $18,000 in compensation in 2017 (the same as in 2016); employees age 50 and older can defer up to an additional $6,000 in 2017 (the same as in 2016).

• Employees participating in a SIMPLE retirement plan can defer up to $12,500 in 2017 (the same as in 2016), and employees age 50 and older will be able to defer up to an additional $3,000 in 2017 (the same as in 2016).

IRAs

The limit on annual contributions to an IRA remains unchanged at $5,500 in 2017, with individuals age 50 and older able to contribute an additional $1,000. For individuals who are covered by a workplace retirement plan, the deduction for contributions to a traditional IRA is phased out for the following modified adjusted gross income (AGI) ranges:

	2016	2017
Single/head of household (HOH)	$61,000 - $71,000	$62,000 - $72,000
Married filing jointly (MFJ)	$98,000 - $118,000	$99,000 - $119,000
Married filing separately (MFS)	$0 - $10,000	$0 - $10,000

Note: The 2017 phase-out range is $186,000-$196,000 (up from $184,000-$194,000 in 2016) when the individual making the IRA contribution is not covered by a workplace retirement plan but is filing jointly with a spouse who is covered.

The modified AGI phase-out ranges for individuals making contributions to a Roth IRA are:

	2016	2017
Single/HOH	$117,000 - $132,000	$118,000 - $133,000
MFJ	$184,000 - $194,000	$186,000 - $196,000
MFS	$0 - $10,000	$0 - $10,000

Estate and gift tax

• The annual gift tax exclusion remains at $14,000.

• The gift and estate tax basic exclusion amount for 2017 is $5,490,000, up from $5,450,000 in 2016.

Personal exemption

The personal exemption amount remains at $4,050. For 2017, personal exemptions begin to phase out once AGI exceeds $261,500 (single), $287,650 (head of household, or HOH), $313,800 (married filing jointly, or MFJ), or $156,900 (married filing separately, or MFS).

Note: These same AGI thresholds apply in determining if itemized deductions may be limited. The corresponding 2016 threshold amounts were $259,400 (single), $285,350 (HOH), $311,300 (MFJ), and $155,650 (MFS).

Standard deduction

These amounts have been adjusted as follows:

	2016	2017
Single	$6,300	$6,350
HOH	$9,300	$9,350
MFJ	$12,600	$12,700
MFS	$6,300	$6,350

Note: The 2016 and 2017 additional standard deduction amount (age 65 or older, or blind) is $1,550 for single/HOH or $1,250 for all other filing statuses. Special rules apply if you can be claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer.

Alternative minimum tax (AMT)

AMT amounts have been adjusted as follows:

	2016	2017
Maximum AMT exemption amount		
Single/HOH	$53,900	$54,300
MFJ	$83,800	$84,500
MFS	$41,900	$42,250
Exemption phaseout threshold		
Single/HOH	$119,700	$120,700
MFJ	$159,700	$160,900
MFS	$79,850	$80,450
26% on AMTI* up to this amount, 28% on AMTI above this amount		
MFS	$93,150	$93,900
All others	$186,300	$187,800
*Alternative minimum taxable income		

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6 Israeli startups that want to change your everyday life

BY BEN SALES

(JTA) – As any pro-Israel activist will tell you, innovators from the Jewish state have invented products and technologies you use all the time, from instant-messaging technology to Waze, the crowdsourced traffic app.

Israel's tech scene is famously thriving, with about 5,000 startups across the country. Nearly 1,500 of those are in Tel Aviv alone – that's one startup for every 300 residents of the city, the highest ratio in the world.

A new wave of Israeli companies is inventing more technologies to improve day-to-day life, and 16 of these innovators were in Las Vegas recently to present at the Consumer Electronics Show, one of the world's premier technology trade shows, which draws more than 150,000 attendees.

From slouch-prevention technology to a device that turns any surface into a touchscreen, here are six remarkable Israeli innovations participating in the show.

Upright: Stop slouching, already!

It's a product perfect for concerned Jewish mothers everywhere: a wearable device that makes you sit up straight.

According to Upright Technologies, habitually bad posture can begin as early as age 12. And with our culture having us sitting and staring at screens all day, bad backs can be hard to avoid.

Upright aims to solve the problem with a small, white device that looks like a ball with a piece of sashimi on top. Place the "sashimi" – it's really a sensor – on the small of your back and connect it to your phone; it will provide a gentle buzz whenever you slouch too much. The app also guides users through a program to get them in the habit of using good posture.

Lexifone: Erasing the language barrier

In a global economy, not knowing English or another common language can be a barrier to doing business. Lexifone is an app that aims to solve the problem by making the "languages" section of your resume all but irrelevant.

Lexifone's function is simple: It instantly translates whatever you say into the language of whomever you're speaking to, and vice versa. So if you're on a call to an associate in Rome, you won't need to know anything more than "ciao" (actually you don't even need to know that). It's easy to understand why this would be especially useful in Israel, a country with a unique native language that few others speak. Lexifone works in 15 languages, from Arabic to Taiwanese Mandarin.

GreenIQ and Sensibo: Making your home more efficient

One of the most widespread Israeli innovations is drip irrigation, a technology that saves water by having it drip into the ground from pinpricks in a hose rather than from a sprinkler. GreenIQ aims to take watering efficiency in private homes to the next level with a product called the Smart Garden Hub. It adapts your sprinkler system to the weather forecast. That way, it can increase water volume on hot, dry days, but shut off the system when it's already raining.

Sensibo, another company, works to make home air conditioners more efficient. It's a small disc you stick on any remote-controlled air conditioner or heater: As long as the unit is on automatic mode, it will heat your house before you wake up or cool it down before you get home from work. Like many smart home devices, a phone app controls it. Sensibo claims it can reduce air-conditioning energy usage by up to 40 percent.

Bird: Turn any surface into a touchscreen

Sick of being glued to your phone, tablet or computer? Check out Bird. It's a wearable device — also somewhat sushi-like in appearance — that fits on the tip of your finger and turns any surface into a touchscreen — tables, walls, you name it. Made by the startup MUV Interactive, it lets wearers move objects and click on icons simply by touching. In the video, for example, a child plays a video game that is projected on the walls of a living room.

HearPhones: Making hearing aids fashionable and easy

As most people age, hearing loss occurs – yet Alango Technologies says only 15 percent of those with hearing loss use hearing aids. Why? Because they are often complicated to use and aren't particularly effective.

So Alango developed HearPhones, a hearing aid technology that can be adapted to a pair of headphones, a Bluetooth set or any other external device that people often wear on their ears. By merging hearing aids with everyday devices, Alango makes them easier to manage (from an app on your phone, natch). Bonus factors: HearPhones technology also allows the device to become a Bluetooth headset or slow down rapid speech to make it easier to understand.





BOOK REVIEW

An ordinary mother's letters and poems tell of the heartbreak of life under the Third Reich

"Dancing on a Powder Keg: The Intimate Voice of a Young Mother and Author, Her Letters Composed in the Lengthening Shadow of Hitler's Third Reich; Her Poems from the Theresienstadt Ghetto," *by Ilse Weber (translated from German by Michal Schwartz). Bunim & Bannigan. 340 pages. $34.95*

BY HILARY LEVEY FRIEDMAN

It is unlikely that you have ever heard of Ilse Weber. But once you know her story, her name will be seared into your heart.

"Dancing on a Powder Keg," released this month in English (released in 2008 in Israel), is Weber's story, told almost exclusively in her own words. Weber was a Czech woman – a wife, mother and musician who also wrote plays, books and poems. She was murdered in Auschwitz in 1944 along with her youngest son, Tommy; she insisted on being deported along with her husband (who survived) and the children she cared for in the children's sick-room in Theresienstadt (who did not survive).

The main focus of "Dancing on a Powder Keg" is letters Weber wrote between 1933 and 1944 to her childhood friend, Lilian von Lowenadler, and Lilian's mother, Gertrude. They reveal Weber's heart-break over sending her eldest son, Hanus, 8, to England (and subsequently Sweden) to protect him during the war – and, in fact, he did survive.

Weber's letters reveal an ordinary mother living in extraordinary times. In the years leading up to World War II, Weber and her friend corresponded about miscarriages, premature and stillborn babies, breast-feeding and childhood illnesses. The letters were found accidentally in a London attic in 1976. Hanus Weber received them in 1977, but they sat unread for over a decade as he struggled with reopening the deep wounds of his childhood.

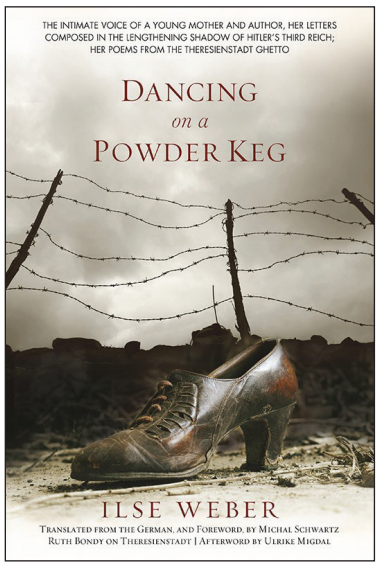
Thankfully, Hanus did find the courage to read them, and to share his mother's words with the world.

"Dancing on a Powder Keg" provides an unparalleled window into the ways in which anti-Semitism gradually, but systematically, boxed in people like Weber. She wrote to von Lowenadler in 1939, a month before sending Hanus to London, "I have never been ashamed of the fact that I am a Jew. But now, when we are being hunted down like animals, when we are robbed of our homeland where we've lived decently and honorably for centuries, when the biggest and most powerful countries indeed regret our fate with indignant words, but otherwise secure their gates against 'undesirable elements,' today I'm carrying my Jewishness as an honor."

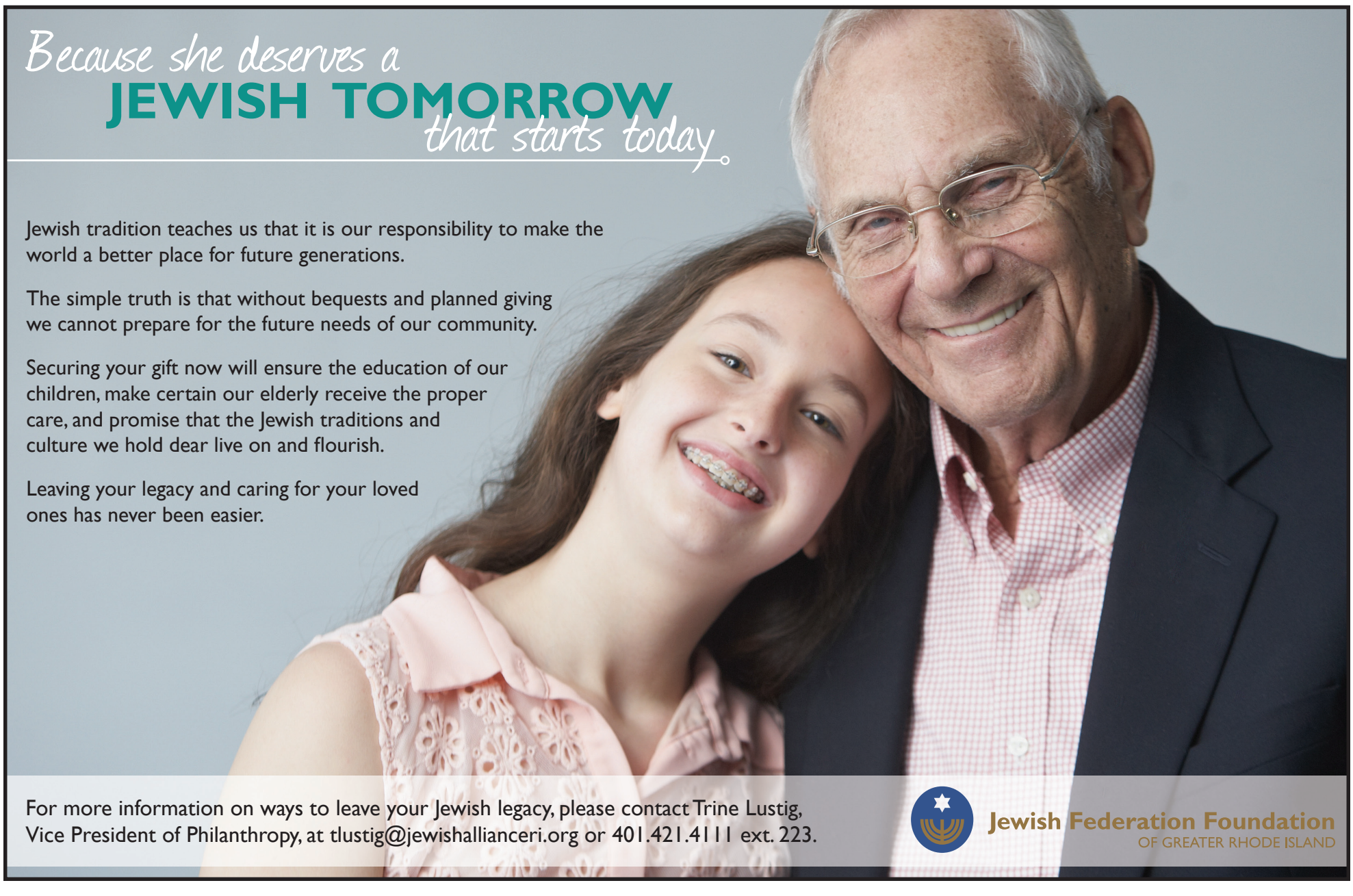
"Dancing on a Powder Keg" also brings together about 60 poems that Weber wrote while in Theresienstadt from 1942 to 1944. Her husband, Willi, buried the poems and then retrieved them after the war. Here is an excerpt from "Letter to My Child":

My dear son, it is three
years today
since you traveled, all alone,
far away.
I can still see you in the
Prague station, on that train,
in the compartment, shy and
tear-stained,
your curly-haired head lean-
ing toward me,
how you begged, "Let me stay
with you, Mommy."
That we sent you away seemed
to you cruel,
You were eight years old,
small and frail,
and as we walk home without
you, each step I take
is harder, it feels as if my
heart will break . …

Weber's story and words left me broken-hearted. While "Dancing on a Powder Keg" can be painful to read at times – and at points you wish you had more historical and personal context to understand some of the letters – it is certainly worthwhile.



HILARY LEVEY FRIEDMAN (hllf@brown.edu) is a sociologist who teaches in the Department of American Studies at Brown University, and a board member at Temple Torat Yisrael in East Greenwich.



Michael Chabon, Daniel Gordis win National Jewish Book Awards

JTA – Michael Chabon and Daniel Gordis were among the winners of the 2016 National Jewish Book Awards.

Gordis' book "Israel: A Concise History of a Nation Reborn" won the Jewish Book of the Year award, the Jewish Book Council announced Jan. 11.

Chabon was honored with a Modern Jewish Literary Achievement Award. His latest novel is "Moonglow," which chronicles semi-autobiographical conversations with his family.

Here are the other winners:

American Jewish Studies: "Kosher USA: How Coke Became Kosher and Other Tales of Modern Food," by Roger Horowitz

Anthologies and Collections: "Makers of Jewish Modernity: Thinkers, Artists, Leaders, and the World They Made," edited by Jacques Picard, Jacques Revel, Michael P. Steinberg and Idith Zertal

Biography, Autobiography and Memoir: "But You Did Not Come Back," by Marceline Loridan-Ivens

Book Club Award: "And After the Fire," by Lauren Belfer

Children's Literature: "I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark," by Debbie Levy, illustrated by Elizabeth Baddeley

Contemporary Jewish Life and Practice: "Changing the World from the Inside Out: A Jewish Approach to Personal and Social Change," by Rabbi David Jaffe

Debut Fiction: "Anna and the Swallow Man," by Gavriel Savit

Education and Jewish Identity: "Next Generation Judaism: How College Students and Hillel Can Help Reinvent Jewish Organizations," by Mike Uram

Fiction: "The Gustav Sonata," by Rose Tremain

History: "The Angel: The Egyptian Spy Who Saved Israel," by Uri Bar-Joseph

Holocaust: "Holocaust, Genocide, and the Law: A Quest for Justice in a Post-Holocaust World," by Michael Bazyler

Modern Jewish Thought and Experience: "Never Better!: The Modern Jewish Picaresque," by Miriam Udel

Poetry: "Almost Complete Poems," by Stanley Moss

Scholarship: "Anti-Jewish Riots in the Crown of Aragon and the Royal Response 1391-1392," by Benjamin R. Gampel

Sephardic Culture: "Extraterritorial Dreams: European Citizenship, Sephardi Jews, and the Ottoman Twentieth Century," by Sarah Abrevaya Stein

Writing Based on Archival Material: "Jewish Salonica: Between the Ottoman Empire and Modern Greece," by Devin E. Naar

Women's Studies: "The Sacred Calling: Four Decades of Women in the Rabbinate," edited by Rabbi Rebecca Einstein Schorr and Rabbi Alysa Mendelson Graf

Young Adult: "On Blackberry Hill," by Rachel Mann

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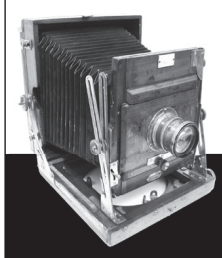
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Leonard J. Altman

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Leonard J. Altman, of Oak Hill Health and Rehabilitation Center, died Jan. 11 at home. He was the beloved husband of Myrna Altman for 67 years. Born in Providence, son of the late Samuel and Jennie (Salk) Altman, he was a lifelong resident of Providence.



He was a salesman for the Kent County Times and a radio announcer for W.E.A.N., retiring in 1975. Leonard was a WWII Army veteran, serving as a staff sergeant in the Pacific theater. Leonard was a former Mason in Overseas Lodge, Shriner, Scottish Rite, former member of Temple Emanu-El and a former member of the United Brothers Synagogue.

He was the devoted father of Stuart Altman of Providence and Franklin Scott Altman of Norton, Massachusetts. He was the dear brother of Rose Levine of Cranston and the late Morris and Nathan Altman.

Contributions in his memory may be made to your favorite charity.

Adam N. Berkowitz, 26

NORTON, MASS. – Adam N. Berkowitz passed away Jan. 7. He was born in Providence, a son of Eli and Heidi (Reef) Berkowitz.



Adam earned a bachelor's degree from Bentley University and was a financial analyst for Prudential.

Besides his parents, he is survived by siblings Courtney Cagliostro and her husband Vincent and Toby Berkowitz; grandparents Norman and Pat (Davidson) Reef and Miriam Berkowitz; aunt Grace Reef; uncles Ralph Berkowitz and David Berkowitz and his wife Gail; niece Juliette Cagliostro; and cousins Megan, Jamie, and Ryan Green and Sara and Elise Berkowitz.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the Emily Whitehead Foundation, 606 Pauline St., Philipsburg, Pa. 16866 or emilywhiteheadfoundation.org.

Herbert M. Kaplan, 81

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Business leader and philanthropist Herbert M. Kaplan died in his sleep Jan. 2 at his Providence home. The former chairman, CEO and president of Warren Equities, Inc. and president of The Warren Alpert Foundation was 81.



Kaplan served as president and CEO of Warren Equities, Inc. from 1993 to 2006. From 2007 to 2012, he served as chairman and CEO and from 2012 until the company's sale in 2015 to Global Partners LP, he remained as chairman.

Kaplan served on the Medical School Committee of the Corporation of Brown University and was a member of the Board of Fellows of the Harvard Medical School. He was a founding member of the Noble Deeds Society of the Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City and served as an honorary trustee of the Brookings Institute.

Born March 24, 1935, and raised in Newton, Massachusetts, by his parents Benjamin and Mary (Alpert) Kaplan, Kaplan was a longtime resident of Manhattan before relocating to Providence.

Kaplan graduated from Vermont Academy. He then earned a bachelor's degree at Hobart College, and earned an M.B.A. from Babson College. He was also awarded an honorary doctorate from Brown University.

He is survived by his wife, Alida (McFadden) Kaplan, daughter Bevin Kaplan Reifer, son-in-law Daniel Reifer and a grandson, William.

Contributions in his memory may be directed to: The Harvard Medical School Diabetes Research Fund. HMS Office of Resource Development, 401 Park Drive, Suite 22 West, Boston, Mass. 02215. Attention: Susan Carr.

Harold Leo Kerzner, 96

PAWTUCKET, R.I. – Harold Leo Kerzner died Jan. 11. He was the husband of Anita (Kalman) Kerzner and they were in their 75th year of marriage. Born in Malden, Massachusetts, he was a son of the late Jacob and Lillian (Baum) Kerzner.

For more than 30 years, Harold was the owner of the former Dynamic Auto Parts in Pawtucket. He served in the 8th Army Infantry during WWII, was a Mason for more than 50 years, and was a past commander of Jewish War Veterans Post 406. Through life's ups and downs, Harold could always be depended upon to find humor, which he joyfully shared with all who knew him.

In addition to his beloved wife, he is survived by his devoted son, Jay J. Kerzner and his husband Paul Colarik of San Diego, California; two grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. He was the father of the late Barry Mark Kerzner and brother of the late Alfred Max Kerzner and Ruth Glassman.

Contributions in his memory may be made to Jewish Family Service, 959 North Main St., Providence, RI 02904.

Harold Robinson, 91

WARWICK, R.I. – Harold Robinson died Jan. 12. He was the beloved husband of the late Norma (Goldis) Robinson. Born in Providence, a son of the late Ira and Celia (Hassen) Robinson, he had been a Warwick resident since 1954.

He was the owner of H&J Supply in East Greenwich, retiring in 2004. Harold was a WWII Navy veteran, serving in the Pacific theater. He was a member of the former Temple Beth Am.

He was the devoted father of Lisa Dowd and her husband, Patrick, of Durham, North Carolina, Jill Robinson of Warwick, and Jody Robinson of Narragansett. He was the dear brother of Mildred Field of Sarasota, Florida, and the late Albert Robinson. He was the loving grandfather of Mark, Shannon, Ryan, Zach, Sarah, Samira, Sajad, and the late Hedy. He was the cherished great-grandfather of Ry, Celia, Wolfie, Jack, Lilah, Elias, and Katherine.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the charity of your choice.

Louis M. Rusitzky, 87

NAPLES, FLA. – Louis M. Rusitzky, of Naples, formerly of Weston, Massachusetts and Marco Island, Florida, died Jan. 11 after a sudden illness. Lou was born on Sept. 14, 1929 in New Bedford, Massachusetts. He was the son of the late Samuel D. and Sadie (Feinberg) Rusitzky. He is survived by his wife, JoAnne (Logue) Rusitzky of Naples, his brother, Harris (Bud) Rusitzky and his wife Joan of Rochester, New York and many nieces and nephews.

Lou attended New Bedford schools before he proudly serving in the U.S. Navy, for total of eight years on active duty and as a reservist. In that time, he sailed twice around the world. Lou graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business. He worked as a certified financial analyst in Boston, Massachusetts before retiring to Marco Island.

Memorial contributions may be made to Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Fenno House 40, Woods Hole, Mass. 02543; Old Dartmouth Historical Society, New Bedford, Mass., or Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, Mich.

Louis Sugarman, 83

BRISTOL, R.I. – Louis Sugarman died Jan. 15. He was the partner of Paul Maraghy. Born in Providence, he was a son of the late Max and Estelle (Rubin) Sugarman. A graduate of the University of Rhode Island, Mr. Sugarman was the co-owner and founder of Alcraft Inc. of Pawtucket, retiring in 2005. He served as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army attached to the Quartermaster Corp.

In addition to his partner, he is survived by his brother, David Sugarman of Maine. He was the brother of the late Mitchel and Calvin Sugarman and Ray Spector.

Contributions in his memory may be made to Freedom Guide Dogs, 1210 Hardscrabble Road, Cassville, N.Y. 13318.

Helen Weinshel, 97

NEW BEDFORD, MASS. – Helen (Friedland) Weinshel died Jan. 10. She was the wife of the late Dr. Max Weinshel and the late Philip Bronspeigel. Born in New Bedford, she was the daughter of the late William and Annie (Edelstein) Friedland. Mrs. Weinshel worked as an LPN until her first marriage. She was a member of Tifereth Israel Congregation and its Sisterhood.

She is survived by her children; Mark Bronspiegel and Joan Bronspiegel (Stuart Dickman); her stepsons Dr. Alan Weinshel (Gale) and Dr. Eric Weinshel (Kathy); her siblings Sheldon Friedland and Miriam Levy; her sisters-in-law Barbara

OBITUARIES | 24

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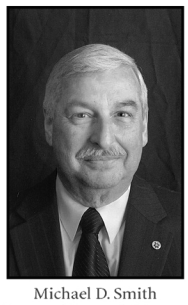
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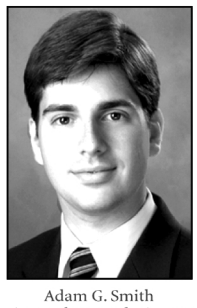
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FROM PAGE 23 |

OBITUARIES

Friedland and Mona Friedland; 12 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Harvey Friedland and Norman Friedland; and sister-in-law of the late Shulamith Friedland and Bernard Levy.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Tifereth Israel Congregation or the New Bedford Jewish Convalescent Home.

Yvette Zimmerman, 87

WARWICK, R.I. – Yvette Zimmerman, of Greenwich Farms, died Jan. 11 at Steere House. She was the beloved wife of the late Milton Zimmerman. Born in Chicago, Illinois, a daughter of the late Michael and Jean (Zuckerman) Solomon, she had lived in Warwick for four years, previously living in Boca Raton, Florida, and Brentwood, New York.

Yvette was a secretary at Brentwood High School for 30 years. She was the mother of Michael (Cheryl) Zimmerman of Providence and the late Eric Zimmerman. She was the sister of Sidney (Leona) Solomon of Monroe Township, New Jersey. She was the grandmother of Matthew (Katie) and Jessica. She was the great-grandmother of Charlotte and Kai. Funeral services will be private.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Anti-Defamation League, 40 Court St., Boston, Mass. 02108 or Planned Parenthood, P.O. Box 41059, Providence, RI 02903.

ASK THE DIRECTOR

BY MICHAEL D. SMITH F.D./R.E.
Shalom Memorial Chapel

Question: Can I visit a mourner on Shabbat?

M.V., Pawtucket

Dear P.C.,
Since Jewish law prohibits sitting shiva on Shabbat, it may appear that the mourning family would be violating *Halakha* (Jewish law) by receiving guests. Therefore, custom has effectively resulted in the general prohibition of shiva visits on Shabbat.

QUESTIONS ARE WELCOMED AND ENCOURAGED. Please send questions to: ShalomChapel@aol.com or by mail to Ask the Director, c/o Shalom Memorial Chapel, 1100 New London Ave., Cranston, R.I. 02920.

FROM PAGE 11 |

CALENDAR

(401)j NFL Super Bowl Party. 6 p.m. Dwares JCC. Watch the Super Bowl with (401)j. BYOB (beer and wine only). Dairy/vegetarian food at no charge with Kosher options available. To coordinate a ride, email Dayna Bailen with your town. Information or to RSVP (by Jan. 29), Dayna Bailen at dbailen@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 108.

Project Shoresh Partners in Torah Night. 7:45-8:45 p.m. Center for Jewish Studies, Providence Hebrew Day School, 450 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Free, lively, informal, partner-based study group, where you study your choice of texts together, English or Hebrew, ancient or modern, with on-site facilitators available to answer questions – and ask them, too. Let us know if you want to be a "study-buddy." There's a lively, positive energy in the room. Information, Noach Karp at rnoachkarp@gmail.com or 401-429-8244.

Monday | February 6

Conversion Class. 7:30-8:45 p.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Rabbi Barry Dolinger continues a broad-based exploration of the biggest topics in Judaism, designed to give an overarching but detailed appreciation for traditional Judaism. This semester will focus on increased personal study for additional breadth of information while delving deeper through discussions during classes. We will continue our study of Shabbat. Free. No class: Feb. 20, April 10, April 17, May 8. Information, rabbi@bethsholom-ri.org.

Tuesday | February 7

Adult Education: Israel, Our Homeland. 10-11 a.m. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. In this four-session course, students will learn about the religious and historical connection between modern Jews and the land of Israel. Topics include our relationship with Arabs living in Israel and the racial background of today's Jews. Information, Dottie at Temple Sinai, 401-942-8350.

Congregation Beth Sholom's Lunch & Learn. Noon-1 p.m. Offices of Rosenstein, Halper, & Maselli, 27 Dryden Lane, Unit #4, Providence. Engaging study, led by Rabbi Barry Dolinger, and great company for lunch. Study Mishpat Ivri – Jewish Civil Law – as it might be applied in the modern State of Israel in a special five-part series. Upcoming dates: Feb. 21, March 7 and 21. Cost: $15 per class, $72 for the semester. RSVP to Tammy Giusti at tgiusti@rhmllp.com. Information, rabbi@bethsholom-ri.org.

Tuesday Night Talmud (TNT). 7:30-8:30 p.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Study the Fifth Chapter of Berachot with Rabbi Barry Dolinger. Upcoming dates: Feb. 14, Feb. 21, Feb. 28, March 7, March 14, March 21, March 28 and April 4 (semester siyum). Information, rabbi@bethsholom-ri.org.

Wednesday | February 8

Israel in Real Life: Four Hatikvah Questions. 7 p.m. Dwares JCC. Led by Robbie Gringras, Creative Director, Makom: Jewish Agency for Israel's Education Lab. Four Hatikvah Questions, 4HQ, offers a constructive approach to understanding conversations about Israel and to dealing with the latest hot topic that comes burning across the media. Information or to RSVP, Jana Brenman at jbrenman@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 181.

Friday | February 10

Shabbat Shaboom. 6 p.m. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Program for families with preschool and kindergarten children includes a half-hour of Jewish songs, stories, crafts and snacks to celebrate Shabbat. Information, Dottie at Temple Sinai, 401-942-8350.

Woonsocket cemetery reorganizes

BY JEWISH VOICE STAFF

Friends of B'nai Israel Cemetery (FBIC) has taken over responsibility for Congregation B'nai Israel's cemetery in Woonsocket, and burial in the cemetery will no longer be restricted to members and relatives of the congregation.

"Friends of B'nai Israel Cemetery now offers both traditional and open (interfaith) [burial] areas to the greater Jewish community of northern Rhode Island as well as south-central Massachusetts," Stephan R. Bloch, president of Friends of B'nai Israel Cemetery, wrote in an email. "We also allow for burial of cremated remains."

To explain the need for transferring responsibility of the historical cemetery to FBIC, Bloch gave The Voice a letter that was sent to CBI's congregants in the fall: "This past April, the Board of Directors of Congregation B'nai Israel voted to begin the process of transferring ownership of its cemetery to Friends of B'nai Israel Cemetery. The increasing financial challenges of an aging building and decreasing membership necessitated this action."

Approval from the state of Rhode Island was required, and that came in the fall.

FBIC was founded in 2010 by congregants Bloch and Bernice Salzberg to protect the cemetery from the synagogue's "financial challenges."

FBIC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and has received donations and pledges from more than 125 people. In addition to Bloch and Salzberg, officers are Arthur Robbins, vice president, and Judy Schoenfeld, secretary.

The cemetery is situated off Mendon Road in Woonsocket. It was acquired in 1893 and dedicated in 1895.

For more information, go to FriendsofBIC.org, call 401-216-9588, or write to Friends of Congregation B'nai Israel Cemetery, P.O. Box 250, Slatersville, RI 02876.

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REMEMBER THE PAST

From the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association

In Paris, ORT school triggers R.I. memories

BY GERALDINE S. FOSTER

It was a lovely day in Paris as we made our way from our rental in the Marais to the Metro station at the Place de la Republique. Our destination: the Musée d'Orsay. The history of the Jews in Rhode Island was far from my mind, until I saw this sign: ORT école de travail (ORT vocational school). This was one of the ties that bind, a tie to a Rhode Island women's organization devoted to ORT's mission.

The word ORT is an acronym derived from the original Russian name of the agency. In 1880, Samuel Polyakov, Horace de Gunzberg and Nikolai Bakst petitioned Tsar Alexander II for permission to establish a fund to improve the lives of impoverished Jews crowded into the Pale of Settlement established by Catherine the Great. The fund would provide education and training in practical skills so that Jews, who were barred from many occupations, could



earn a livelihood. Permission granted, ORT came into being.

In 1920, after the Russian Revolution, the offices were moved to Berlin and the name changed to ORT International. ORT remained active in funding education and training in the Soviet Union, but it expanded to other countries.

From the outset, ORT schools and programs were designed to meet needs in the countries served and adapt to changing economies in Europe, the U.S., Africa and Israel.

The American ORT Society, originally a male-only organization, was established in 1922, with active support from the Workmen's Circle and segments of the Jewish labor movement.

The wives of two of ORT's board members and some of their friends decided women also had a role to play, and so this small group founded a women's auxiliary, later renamed Women's American ORT.

Their first meeting was held in the kitchen of a home in Brooklyn, New York, on Oct. 12, 1927. Their first major event, a gala concert held at New York City's Carnegie Hall, featuring violinist Efrem Zimbalist, came one year later and underscored their fundraising capabilities. The list of patrons included German-Jewish women and women originally from Eastern Europe, demonstrating their ability to bring together different sectors of the Jewish community for a common purpose.

Women's American ORT (WAO) became an independent organization in 1940.

My mother, Chaya Segal, was a contributor to ORT in the 1930s, but no women's affiliate existed in Rhode Island until late in the 1950s. At that time, according to Seena Dittleman, two women from WAO in Boston met with Rhode Island women at a home in Providence – and the Providence chapter came into being. The exact date and place are unknown as no minute books are available. A photo in the R.I. Jewish Historical Association's archives, dated March 7, 1958, shows then-Gov. Dennis Roberts signing a proclamation declaring March 5 ORT Day.

Seena Dittleman was one of the charter members of the Providence chapter. The idea behind the Organization for Rehabilitation through Training appealed to her in a very personal way. Dittleman's parents were very young when her grandparents immigrated and found opportunity in the U.S. Had they remained in Europe, her parents and perhaps even she might have attended ORT schools. Considering all the advantages that she and others of her generation of Americans had, Dittleman felt it was important that they work to assure opportunity for those in need.



Seena Dittleman

For many women in the organization, their days centered around their children. Like Dittleman, they needed an "adult" activity, a satisfying outlet for their talents, capabilities and desire to work for a larger purpose. For them, WAO provided that outlet.

In addition to the fundraising, there was a social component to WAO – interaction with other women and meeting people who had common interests.

Carolyn Salk was new to Rhode Island when she was invited to a WAO meeting. She liked the program, and she met women who became friends. Like Dittleman, Salk was heavily involved in planning events and leadership roles.

During the 1960s, WAO flourished. Donor luncheons, card parties, holiday bazaars – all helped meet the quotas determined by the national WAO.

There were chapters in Providence, Cranston, Warwick, Newport and Fall River, and later in the East Bay. Some groups met in the evening, others during the day. Together they formed Southeastern New England District 1.

On March 20, 1978, Rhode Island WAO hosted a District 1 convention at the Marriott in Providence. Dittleman was vice president of the district at the time, while Salk and Sylvia Strauss were in charge of arrangements.

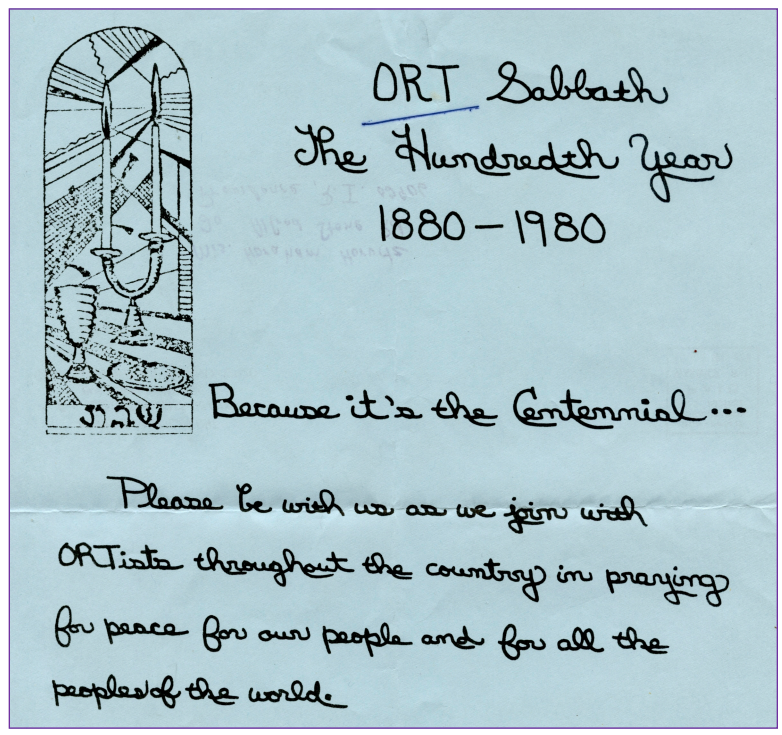
But by the end of the last century, attrition had taken a toll, and the once vibrant Women's American ORT, like most women-only organizations, faded into history. Many of its members, however, have gone on to support other groups with goals similar to the Organization for Rehabilitation through Training.

GERALDINE S. FOSTER is a past president of the R.I. Jewish Historical Association. To comment about this or any RIJHA article, contact the RIJHA office at info@rijha.org or 401-331-1360.



FROM THE FILES OF RIJHA

ORT Memorabilia from the 1960s through the 1990s.



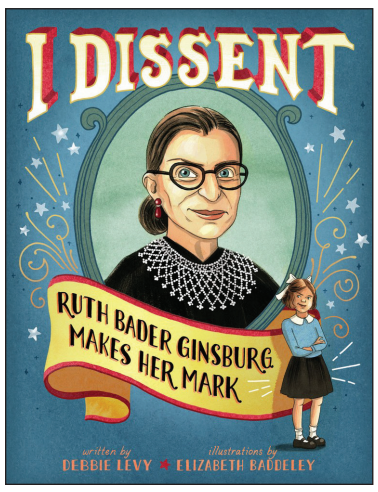


Ruth Bader Ginsburg picture bio takes a top honor in Jewish children's book awards

BOSTON (JTA) – A picture book biography about the trailblazing life of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was among the top three winners of the Sydney Taylor Book Awards for Jewish children's books.

The awards were announced last week by the Association of Jewish Libraries.

"I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark," the lively and boldly illustrated biography by Debbie Levy, with illustrations by Elizabeth Baddeley, won in the category for younger readers.



An illustrated medieval fantasy, "The Inquisitor's Tale" (Dutton/Penguin Random House), by Adam Gidwitz, with illustrations by Hatem Aly, won the top prize for older readers. "Anna and the Swallow Man" (Alfred A. Knopf/Penguin Random House), a Holocaust novel by debut author Gavriel Savit, was the top winner for older teens.

The award is named in memory of Sydney Taylor, author of the classic "All-of-a-Kind Family" series, and "recognizes books for children and teens that exemplify high literary standards while authentically portraying the Jewish experience," the Association of Jewish Libraries said in its announcement.

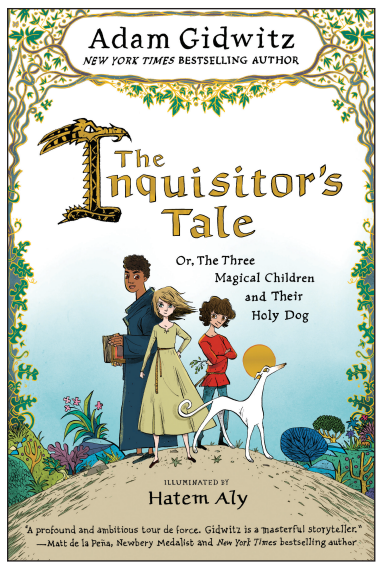
The Sydney Taylor awards committee was impressed by the array of books they considered, according to Ellen Tilman, chair of the awards committee.

In a masterful marriage of simple text and popping art, Levy and Baddeley chart the life of Ginsburg, known as the "Notorious R.B.G." through a unique lens of her affinity for dissent. Ginsburg was the first Jewish female Supreme Court justice and the second woman to serve on the high court.

"You could say that Ruth Bader Ginsburg's life has been one of disagreement after disagreement," the book begins. The double-page spread is filled with cartoon-like illustrations with large blocks of text proclaiming "Ruth has disagreed, disapproved and differed," with one drawing of her as a young girl and another wearing her black Supreme Court robe.

Readers learn of her early life in a Jewish family in a New York City neighborhood of immigrants, to her pursuit of college and law school, family life, legal career and eventual appointment to the Supreme Court. The book demonstrates "that dissent does not have to make a person disagreeable and can even change the world," according to the Sydney Taylor committee.

From its opening page, "The Inquisitor's Tale" is an irresistible page-turner for older readers and an epic adventure that follows three magical children and their dog on a quest to save thousands of volumes of the Talmud. A New York Times best-seller, the text by Gidwitz, who also wrote "A Tale Dark and Grimm," is embellished with exquisite black-and-white illuminations in the style of a medieval manuscript, including doodles in the borders.

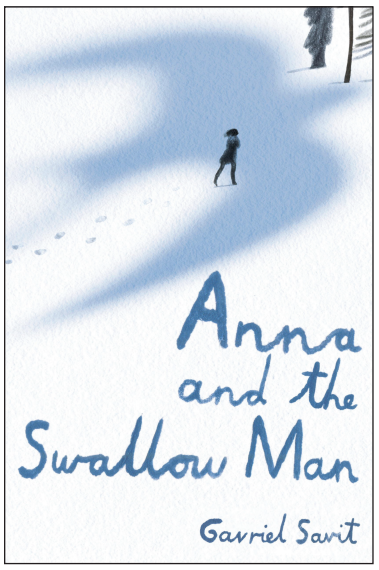


"Anna and the Swallow Man" is a captivating and haunting coming-of-age story set in 1939, in Krakow, when the professor father of a young girl is suddenly taken away by the Nazis. Anna follows a mysterious man as they travel through the forest eluding capture for four years, communicating through their own language. There are dark moments in this highly acclaimed allegorical novel of a loss of innocence.

Silver medals were awarded to a pair of books for younger readers including "Fascinating: The Life of Leonard Nimoy" by Richard Michelson, illustrated by Edel Rodriguez, and "A Hat for Mrs. Goldman: A Story about Knitting and Love," by Michelle Edwards, with illustrations by G. Brian Karas.

The silver medal for older readers went to "A Poem for Peter: The Story of Ezra Jack Keats and the Creation of The Snowy Day," by Andrea Davis Pinckney, with illustrations by Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher, and "Dreidels on the Brain," a Hanukkah tale by storyteller Joel ben Izzy.

Notable books include "Gabriel's Horn," a Rosh Hashanah story by master storyteller Eric A. Kimmel, illustrated by Maria Surducan, and "The Sundown Kid: A Southwestern Shabbat," by Barbara Bietz, with illustrations by John Kanzler.



Veteran Times of Israel culture journalist Jessica Steinberg also got a nod with a notable award for her debut children's book, "Not This Turkey," a lively Jewish immigrant tale for Thanksgiving, illustrated by Amanda Pike.



Wednesday, February 8 | 7pm
Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island
401 Elmgrove Avenue, Providence

Led by Robbie Gringras, Creative Director
Makom: Jewish Agency for Israel's Education Lab

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For more information, or to RSVP, contact Jana Brenman at jbrenman@jewishallianceri.org or 401.421.4111 ext. 181.

4HQ
CRC Community Relations Council Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island
Jewish Alliance OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

Rome road race to commemorate the Holocaust

ROME (JTA) – A road race passing sites of Holocaust and Jewish remembrance in Rome will highlight events in Italy marking International Holocaust Memorial Day.

The "Run for Mem" – short for Run for Remembrance: Looking Ahead – is scheduled for Jan. 22, five days before the observance of International Holocaust Memorial Day marking the anniversary of the 1945 liberation of Auschwitz. In some countries, including Italy, events take place in the days or even weeks surrounding the Jan. 27 date.

Sponsored by Italy's main Jewish organizations, The Run for Mem will start and end in Rome's historic Jewish ghetto, in a square now named for the deportation of Roman Jews to Auschwitz on Oct. 16, 1943. Billed as Europe's first sport race past sites meant "to commemorate the Shoah and determine future direction," the event has two routes – 10 kilometers for athletes, 3.5K for the general public. Both take participants past sites related to the Holocaust.

Participants will be encouraged to stop, read commemorative plaques and light candles. They will also meet with Shaul Ladany, an Israeli Holocaust survivor and champion race walker who survived the attack on Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics in 1972.

Organized by the umbrella Union of Italian Jewish Communities (UCEI), under the auspices of the government and in collaboration with the Rome Marathon and the Maccabi Italia Association, the event is supported by or partnered with more than two dozen other Jewish, civic, governmental and sports bodies and will be featured on national television.

"Sport as a means of coming together is a way to affirm life and dialogue," UCEI President Noemi Di Segni told a news conference Jan. 16.

Other initiatives around the country to mark Holocaust Memorial Day include exhibitions, cultural and educational events and commemorative ceremonies.



WE ARE READ – Recently, Seth Finkle, teen programming coordinator and Camp Haverim director, was in New York City for the first of five seminars in the Merrin Fellowship for Teen Engagement program. Pictured at the YM&YWHA (Young Men and Young Women's Hebrew Association) of Washington Heights are Finkle and the other 13 members of Cohort X along with two former fellows and Joy Brand-Richardson, vice president and director of training and professional development for the JCCA. The YM&YWHA and the JCCA are both celebrating their 100th anniversary.





PHOTOS | CHABAD OF WEST BAY

Lighting the menorah at Warwick Mall

During Hanukkah, a giant menorah built from Legos was on display at Warwick Mall. The person lighting the menorah on this night was Peter Leviten of Narragansett. The Lego menorah was built by Yossi and Shoshana Laufer's children with guidance from sister-in-law Ella Potash of Redwood City, California, according to Rabbi Laufer.



MAZEL TOV – Laura S. Bell, of Providence, is pleased to announce the birth on Jan. 2 of Clark David Murphy, son of her granddaughter Zoe E. Bell and Thomas Murphy, of San Francisco, California. Clark is Laura's first great-grandchild. Clark is dressed for his trip home from the hospital in the same sweater that his grandfather, Jonathan Bell, of Newport, wore when he came home from the hospital. The sweater was made by Laura's grandmother, Elizabeth Westcott.

SHARE YOUR JOYFUL EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

by submitting them for Simchas or We Are Read publication in The Jewish Voice. Email to: editor@jewishallianceri.org or mail to: The Jewish Voice, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, R.I. 02906

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The Isenberg Family Early Childhood Center is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), BrightStars (Rhode Island's tiered quality and rating service), and the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF).

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For more information, contact Jo-Anne Petrie at 401.421.4111 ext. 180 or jpetrie@jewishallianceri.org.

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