the JEWISH VOICE

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YEAR IN REVIEW

Women learn about happiness at Kollel conference

BY ELLY LEYMAN

PROVIDENCE – Close to 100 Jewish women from different parts of New England gathered Nov. 19 for a stimulating day of study, dialogue and reflection. The occasion was the annual Tichyeh Schochet Memorial Conference for Jewish Women, dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Schochet, a beloved educator for 20 years.

The women's division of the Providence Community Kollel arranged for speakers with both Jewish and secular expertise to discuss issues that play central roles in women's lives. The workshops, lectures, exercises and collaboration, all with the theme "A Happy You," took place at the Alliance's Dwares Jewish Community Center.

The conference began with a riveting keynote address by Yaffa Palti, titled "Happy Is the New Pretty." Elissa Felder introduced the charismatic speaker. Palti, a trained educator as well as a substance abuse professional and marriage counselor, concentrated on the pursuit of happiness. She used Torah wisdom to reiterate the need for us to be in control of our lives. The result is that you are in control, not someone else. She stated that happiness is not a destination ... it is a way of traveling, and it is not someone else's responsibility.



PHOTO | ELLY LEYMAN

Shoshanah Lapin holding the book "The Other Side of the Story."

Palti, a native New Yorker who now lives in San Diego, shared her personal stories and those of others both in her keynote address and in her

KOLLEL | 19



Just Like Nana's rugelach, one of many vendors.

Food was the star of Board of Rabbis event

BY FRAN OSTENDORF

The buzz was all about food Nov. 18 as the Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island served up Saturday Night Flavor.

Close to 200 people indulged in this evening of learning, with a liberal sprinkle of schmoozing, and topped off by a marketplace of vendors and information related to food, food justice and the general food economy. The biennial event took place at the

FLAVOR | 26

The 5 weirdest Kosher foods you'll be eating in 2018

BY JOSEFIN DOLSTEN

SECAUCUS, N.J. (JTA) – "Caution: Meat and dairy sampling on show floor," read a sign at the entrance to Meadowlands Exposition Center.

That may seem like an unusual warning outside a convention center, but to the crowd attending the food expo there on Tuesday [Nov. 14], it made sense: Kosherfest is the world's largest kosher food trade show, where the vast majority of those attending follow the Jewish prohibition against mixing meat and dairy.

More than 4,000 food industry professionals gathered for the annual two-day event, which featured more than 325 vendors showcasing an array of products, from candy to wine.

Naturally, there were lots of samples.

Reporting can be a tough job, but somebody had to taste everything. Amid the offerings of many obvious treats (lox varieties and bagel flavors, for example), there were some surprises. These are the five most unexpected foods and beverages JTA sampled at this year's Kosherfest.

Patterned matzah

Matzohgram, which was crowned by Kosherfest the best Kosher for Passover

KOSHERFEST | 11



Salted caramel frozen pizza



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THIS ISSUE'S QUOTABLE QUOTE

"We are not to wait for Thanksgiving Day each year to be grateful."

Holocaust Torah Scroll: A living breathing document

BY LEV POPLOW

This year, during the *Erev Simchat Torah* celebration, I had the honor of being the first person called to the bimah of Temple Emanu-El to cradle a rescued Czechoslovakian scroll and dance it around the main sanctuary during *Hakafot*. As someone who lost relatives during the Holocaust, I was grateful for the meaningful and emotional experience this connection to the past afforded me. The scroll's history goes back to Bohemia and Moravia, where Jews had lived for more than a thousand years. They developed a rich culture that was originally centered in Prague but later spread across a large number of communities in towns throughout the country. In 1939, the Nazis closed historical congregations, destroying their synagogues. In 1942, Prague's Jews saved religious treasures from the city's deserted communities.

In February 1964, through a series of transactions and transfers, 1,564 Czechoslovakian Torahs arrived at Westminster Synagogue in London. There, the newly created Memorial Scrolls Trust lovingly repaired and restored them

Over the decades, the scrolls have been sent out on permanent loan to be restored to their proper place in Jewish life. After all, the Torah is a living, breathing document that, in order to be kept alive, must be seen and used. Today, three of the Czech scrolls reside in our community.

Temple Emanu-El, through the kindness of Prof. and Mrs. Burton Fischman, and honoring Harris Fischman (z"l), received its Memorial Scroll in late 1986. The community welcomed it during the Interfaith Commemoration of the Holocaust in the spring of 1987. Due to some damage, this scroll is not Kosher and cannot be used to chant from during services.

According to Rabbi Wayne Franklin, the scroll can still serve as a tool for teaching the Holocaust in the Religious School. Students enter the main sanctuary, remove it from the ark, and open the scroll. They learn where it came from, how it came to be in Emanu-El's possession and what happened in Czechoslovakia during the Holocaust.

In 1967, the still young Temple Habonim in Barrington became the guardian of its first Torah. It brought in a *Sofer* to repair the scroll so that it could be used regularly. The process entailed five visits, over about a year and a half, to return the scroll to its Kosher status. The *Sofer* still comes every other year for maintenance.

According to Rabbi Andrew Klein, the scroll is used at various times throughout the year,



The scroll at the SBHEC.

including the High Holy Days and *Simchat Torah*. Habonim's adults and Bar and Bat Mitzvah students who have a connection to the Holocaust chant from it. To keep the memory of the scroll's origin alive, the story of its history is told whenever it is used.

As Klein observes, "When the *Sofer* wrote it, he had no idea what would eventually happen to it or to his community, but he would be delighted to know that, 250 years later, it was still being used. And, he would be shocked that, today, women are chanting from it."

The Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center (SBHEC) in Providence received its Memorial Scroll in 1995, the same year as the Holocaust Education and Resource Center of Rhode Island opened. It came via Richard and Lynn Glick to honor the memory of Lynn's grandparents, Max and Irma Huterer (z"l) who escaped Germany, immigrating to America after Kristallnacht.

Dr. Glick wanted SBHEC to house the scroll so that "there would be visual access to this learning tool." The scroll is prominently displayed in SBHEC's new location inside the Alliance's Dwares Jewish Community Center. It is used to educate Rhode Island students about the Holocaust.

The scrolls enable those who care for them to remember the past and to look ahead to the future, emphasizing that the terrible events that brought them to London can never be repeated. To those entrusted with the scrolls, they are a symbol of hope after a time of sorrow, and an intimate link with the synagogues and congregations that were destroyed by the Nazis. It is heartwarming to see how our community uses its scrolls to serve our people's mission of Never Again.

LEV POPLOW is a communications and development consultant, writing on behalf of the Bornstein Holocaust Education Center. He can be reached at levpoplow@gmail.com.

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Jewish Federation Foundation
OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

Large audience turns out for exhibit and panel on *aliyah* from Rhode Island

BY SHAI AFSAI AND ADAM MYERS

On Nov. 5, the Cranston Public Library hosted a panel discussion on *aliyah* (the Hebrew term for Jewish immigration to Israel) from Rhode Island. The discussion coincided with the opening of a photo-text exhibit by Shai Afsai, based on extensive interviews he conducted in Israel and America with Rhode Islanders who had made the decision to move to Israel.

The panel was moderated by Prof. Adam Myers of Providence College (who was born in Israel and moved to the U.S. at age 7), and included Afsai, local Jewish historian George Goodwin, Rabbi Barry Dolinger of Providence's Congregation Beth Sholom, and local Jewish educator Miriam Abrams-Stark (whose daughter made *aliyah*).

The event, made possible by a grant to Congregation Beth Sholom from the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, drew over 100 people. The panelists discussed numerous aspects of *aliyah* among Rhode Islanders, including the motivations for making *aliyah*, the challenges of settling in Israel, the difficulties of being far away from family and the impact of *aliyah* on the local Jewish community.

Dolinger articulated a strongly pro-*aliyah* perspective, mentioning that he has seriously considered moving to Israel, and confessing to wishing that he could also relocate his entire congregation there. Goodwin presented a more ambivalent point of view. While broadly supportive of *aliyah*, he indicated that he would like to see as much enthusiasm from the Orthodox Jewish community for the prospect of revitalizing Newport's historic Touro Synagogue as for the prospect of moving to Israel. Dolinger countered that American Jews have a misguided emphasis on maintaining buildings and historical legacies, and that efforts to breathe new life into the Touro congregation would, unlike *aliyah*, be an artificial move doomed to failure.

Afsai took issue with the notion that *aliyah* represents a loss for diaspora communities. He argued that American Jews often see themselves as sustaining Israel with their support, but that the reverse is true: diaspora communities are actually held together by the existence of the state of Israel, and most would not be able to sustain themselves today without the religious and national focus Israel provides. Abrams-Stark discussed her daughter's decision to move to Israel and the conflicted feelings she had about the matter. As a mother, Abrams-Stark wants her daughter nearby and to be able to see her as often as possible. But she and her husband provided their daughter with a strong Zionist upbringing, one that emphasized the importance of living in Israel, and they are proud and supportive of their daughter's move.

Myers provided a contrast to the stories of the people featured in the exhibit. As someone who came to the U.S. from Israel as a child and has chosen to remain in the U.S. as an adult, he simultaneously expressed his admiration for the idealism of the young emigrants from Rhode Island and with his concerns about the current state of Israeli society.

A spirited discussion followed the panelists' remarks, with attendees posing challenging questions and offering personal anecdotes. The hope is for more opportunities for productive communal dialogue around Jewish subjects in the future. The authors are currently collaborating on a follow-up project about Israelis who have settled in Rhode Island.

SHAI AFSAI lives in Providence. His photo-text exhibit "*Aliyah* from Rhode Island" opened at Cranston Public Library in November. Adam Myers teaches political science at Providence College. His political commentary has appeared on NPR, WJAR (Channel 10), and WPRO.

Uganda is 100th outpost for Chabad-Lubavitch

JTA – Uganda has become the 100th country to have a Chabad-Lubavitch outpost.

Rabbi Moishe and Yocheved Raskin established the Chabad of Uganda in the capital city of Kampala in October, it was announced Nov. 19 at the annual International Conference of Chabad-Lubavitch Emissaries in New York. The couple moved from Israel with their young son, Menachem Mendel.

Chabad has been in contact with the Jewish community of Uganda since 1999, including sending the organization's Roving Rabbis there in summers and for Jewish holidays.

At the weekend conference, which Chabad calls the largest Jewish gathering in North America, some 5,600 Chabad emissaries and communal leaders gathered from around the world.

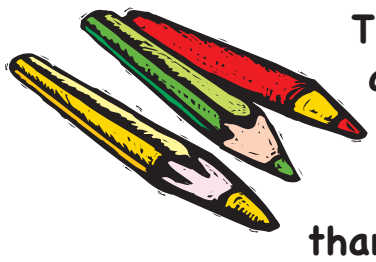
On Sunday morning, the emissaries, or *shluchim*, gathered for a group photo in Crown Heights, the Brooklyn neighborhood that is home to the movement's worldwide headquarters. At the dinner that, where the new Chabad outposts and emissaries are announced, had to be moved from New York to a larger venue in Bayonne, New Jersey.

Other countries where Chabad established a permanent presence this year include Montenegro, Nassau in the Bahamas and the Caribbean island of Curacao. These countries followed the recent opening of Chabad Houses in Laos and the Pacific island of New Caledonia.

The Chabad-Lubavitch Hasidic movement takes it as a mission to serve Jewish communities around the world.

The Jewish Voice announces its Annual

Hanukkah Art Contest



The Jewish Voice annual contest is a Hanukkah tradition. This year it's all about art. Get your art materials out and send us your most creative illustration of what Hanukkah means to you.

Entries must be two-dimensional and created on a piece of paper no larger than 10" x 16". The name, age, grade, address and phone number of the artist MUST appear on the back of every entry. If this information is not provided, the entry will be disqualified. Only one entry per child.

The DEADLINE for submission is December 6. Entries must be delivered to the front desk of the Dwares Jewish Community Center, marked Jewish Voice Hanukkah Contest, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, RI 02906. Entry form PDF is available online at jvhri.org.

First, second and third place prizes will be awarded in each category. Winners will be featured in the December 22 issue of The Jewish Voice.

Categories:
Grades K-2
Grades 3-5
Grades 6-8

For more information call 421-4111, ext. 168 or email editor@jewishallianceri.org

Yes, women played baseball

BY LARRY KATZ

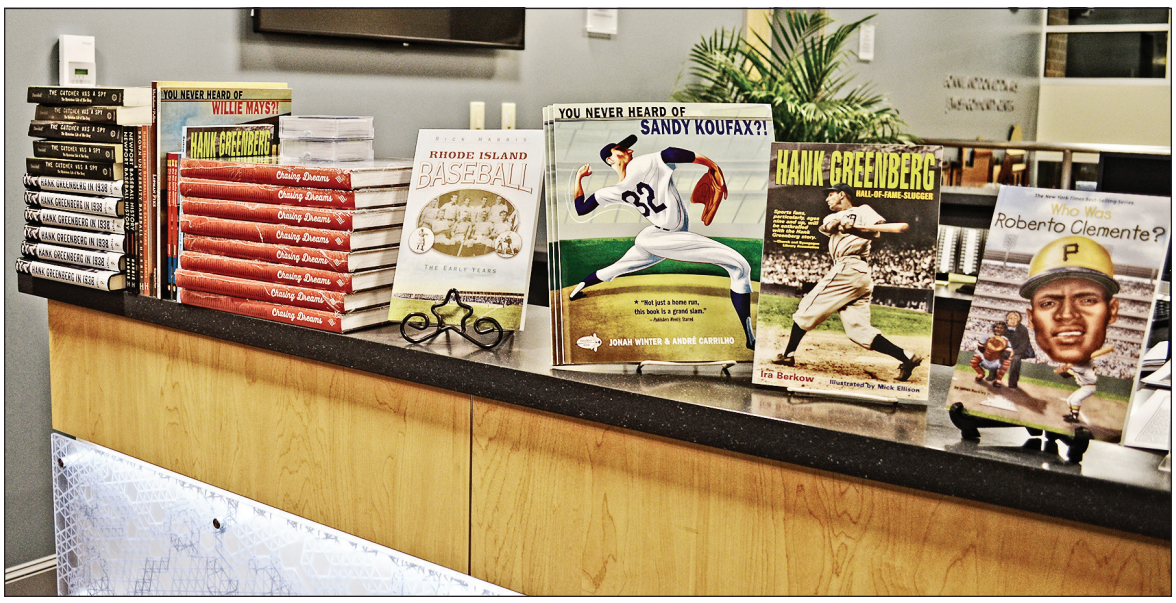
Women and baseball is the subject of the next program in the Chasing Dreams series. Richard Harris, a local baseball expert, will present, "Women and Baseball: A Short Story?! Nov. 27 at 7 p.m. at the Alliance's Dwares Jewish Community Center in Providence.

Harris is the author of three books that are available for sale at the exhibit, about baseball at Brown University, in Newport, and in Rhode Island. He is receiving acclaim for the late 19th century and early 20th century post cards that make up the supplement to the core exhibit.

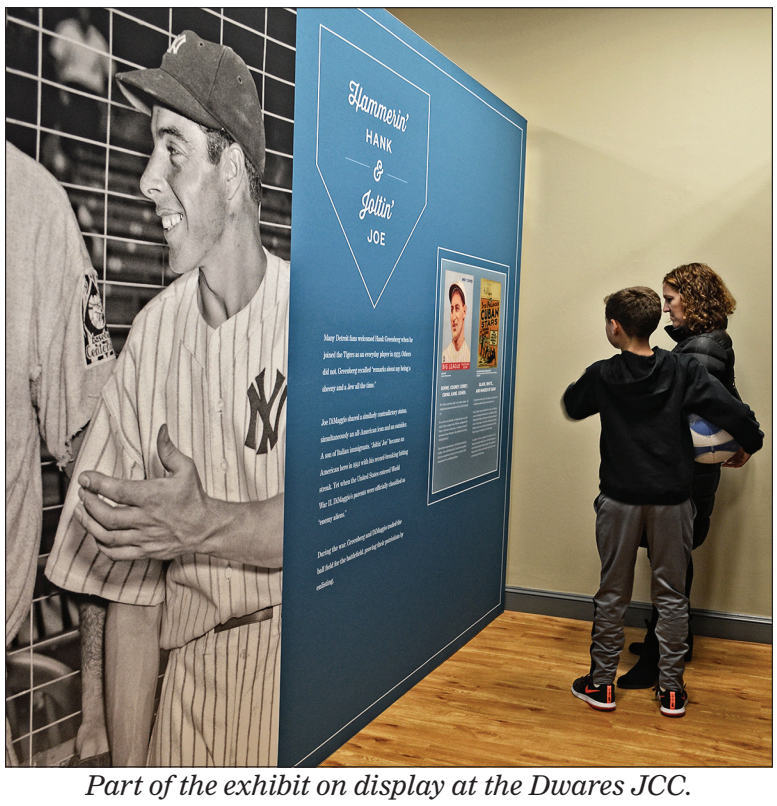
"Chasing Dreams: Baseball and Becoming American," continues through Dec. 15, along with Harris' supplement of post cards. The exhibit includes a database of Jewish baseball players, as well as a short video in which 20 fans, writers and baseball executives reminisce about baseball and discuss how they became baseball fanatics in their youth.

In addition to Harris' books about local baseball, a well-illustrated catalog of the exhibit is available featuring a notable array of authors, sportswriters, former players and commentators who offer evocative, compelling and touching essays. There are books for adults and for children. Adult selections include books about Moe Berg, Hank Greenberg, and the participation of Jews in baseball. Children's books include biographies of Roberto Clemente, Hank Greenberg, Sandy Koufax, Willie Mays and Jackie Robinson, as well as a book about women in baseball. The exhibit is open during the Dwares JCC's regular business hours.

Chasing Dreams has received the endorsement of MLB Commissioner Emeritus Allan "Bud" Selig. Chasing Dreams: Baseball and Becoming American was created by the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia and made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment of the Humanities: Exploring the human endeavor. For more information, contact us at ChasingDreams@jewishallianceri.org.



A number of books are for sale.



Part of the exhibit on display at the Dwares JCC.



PHOTOS | FRAN OSENDORF

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Al Silverstein's journey: Holocaust survivor focuses on education

BY LEV POPLOW

Professor Al Silverstein's journey begins with an early childhood in Graz, Austria, and culminates with his retirement in Pawtucket. It is both a harrowing tale of survival and the story of a remarkable life. Silverstein is a longstanding member of the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center's (SBHEC) Survivor Speakers Bureau where he has an opportunity to tell his story.

An only child, Silverstein was born in Graz, the second largest city in Austria, where his father and uncle owned a clothing-and-dry-goods store that, along with their apartment, was expropriated in 1938 during the Anschluss. He explains, "Overnight the Jews of Austria were like the Jews in Germany, subject to all the same restrictions." Silverstein and his mother were evicted from their apartment and banned from Graz, along with all Jews.

His father began trying to find ways to get out – an enormously difficult feat. His father's older sister, who had lived in Queens, New York, since the early 1920s, wanted to sponsor them, but to no avail. The family even tried to sneak into Switzerland as tourists but were sent back.

When Kristallnacht happened, Silverstein's father was on the way to the Costa Rican Embassy in Vienna, attempting to secure safe passage. When that appointment never took place, he headed back to Graz, but was arrested on his way to the train station, and was held prisoner for the next six weeks.

Young Silverstein and his mother headed to visit their relatives in Vienna. There, "the application of the anti-Jewish laws weren't as severe as in the city of Graz [yet]." They lived in hiding because they "weren't legitimately in Austria anymore." His mother found the prison where his father was being held and managed to smuggle food and clothing to him. She was eventually able to get him released by obtaining forged papers that indicated he had an immigration visa to go to Shanghai. Afterward, his father hid in his brother's basement.

Silverstein's father applied for a program for young Jewish men with an agrarian background. Having grown up on a farm allowed him to escape to England in March 1939 to Kent's "agricultural work station, essentially a military installation." Once in England, his father's "primary goal" was to get his wife and son out as well.

The Kindertransport program made that possible. It took "many bribes, threats, and much cajoling," but Silverstein's mother was able to get him out after his father found a foster family to take him in. Because Silverstein was only 3 1/2 years old when he moved in with the Walsh family, he does not have many memories of that time. However, he clearly remembers getting on the train and always tells the transport story. He still has the little suitcase that his mother packed with some clothes and toys for the journey to England.

She was able to get to safety as well. Silverstein's father found his mother a position as a maid for a pair of elderly sisters in Sussex, England. She signed on as an adult chaperone on the last Kindertransport train so she did not have to go back. So, although they were not together, they all managed to get out of Austria.

Silverstein's parents had a very heartfelt relationship with the Walshes who were very good to him. When Silverstein married Myrna, the newlyweds took their honeymoon in England and spent time with the Walsh family. They remained in contact, and he saw them when he was in England.

It took 2 1/2 years, but his family's emigration was finally approved. They came to America in November 1940. After living in Queens with his father's sister, they eventually settled in Daytona Beach, Florida, a place with a small but active Jewish community. Silverstein loved growing up there although segregation made him uncomfortable. That's one of the reasons he thinks organizations like the SBHEC are so important for those who struggle against discrimination.

Silverstein left Florida to go to Cornell University. At that time, the Northeast was an intellectual center and "that's where all the pretty and smart Jewish girls were." He received a master's degree from Yale University and a Ph.D. from University of California, Berkley. The University of Rhode Island brought Silverstein to Rhode Island, where he served as a professor of psychology for 41 years.

Silverstein says he views Germany as "one of the moral nations in the world. What they do and have done in recent years is about as good it gets for national entities." He first visited Germany in the early 1990s.

Austria, on the other hand, was a very different matter. Silverstein says he felt "negative about Austria for a very long time" and wouldn't go back there because "with our collusion, they were able to sweep their involvement under the rug and act like they were victims of the Nazis. But around 2000, there was a real change and recognition of the truth."



Al Silverstein

After his father died in 2001, Silverstein found a file whose documents revealed that he was applying for restitution from the Austrian government. A program that started in the late 1990s offered "restitution to Jews and other victims of National Socialism." Austria was finally recognizing that the country had played a real part in the Nazi war machine. He had been "pursuing [the status] for the better part of two years and it was going nowhere."

So Silverstein wrote a letter to the Office of National Reconciliation and was contacted by a new officer in charge of his father's file. He was astonished to get a "helpful, cooperative, and convivial" response from Karen Tertinegg within a month. She facilitated his father's claim for restitution.

About a year later, Tertinegg informed Silverstein that being born in Austria affords him the right to make his own claim, which she also facilitated. This experience has led to an enduring friendship between Silverstein, his wife, Myrna, and Tertinegg. He feels that her assignment to that office was "emblematic of the way Austria has changed."

The funds that Silverstein received from both claims have been used to fund the Silverstein Family Trust, which annually awards grants to worthy Holocaust education programs in our community, and a fund at URI Hillel.

It was at the urging of his daughter Elisa Heath that Silverstein began sharing his story. Heath worked for the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (now Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island) for many years and was deeply impressed with the work of what was then known as the Holocaust Education Center of Rhode Island (now SBHEC). She arranged for a trip to the 50th anniversary of the Kindertransport. And it was she who persuaded Silverstein that he needed to be a part of Holocaust education.

Once Silverstein moved to Pawtucket, his involvement with the Federation (now Alliance) and Holocaust education flourished. During a presentation, Silverstein connects with students by being open. Helping students develop empathy and tolerance for those who are different gives him a deep satisfaction.

LEV POPLOW is a communications and development consultant writing on behalf of the Bornstein Holocaust Education Center. He can be reached at levpoplow@gmail.com.

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Jewish Alliance OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

Movement adds new meaning to *tefilah* at JCDSRI

BY HILLARY GUTTIN

Every Thursday at the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island (JCDSRI), third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students gather to join their voices in a rousing *Shacharit* (morning) service. A joyful time, this is an opportunity for students to practice and hone their leadership and *tefilah* (prayer) skills.

However, this year we have introduced something a bit different. While they are still engaged in skill building, students are also focusing on the ways that prayer can become a meaningful and personal experience – while learning that people can connect to Judaism and prayer in very different ways. The *tefilah* experience has been tweaked so that students are exposed to various ways to express themselves through music, drama, art, nature and even movement.

In late October, students for the first time experienced something we call "movement *tefilah*." This allows students to explore how they can connect to certain prayers through movement, inviting them to be physically active and spiritually activated. Children brought yoga mats and towels to our prayer space so that they could comfortably move while chanting prayers like *Birchot HaShachar* and the *Amidah*. Students created their own yoga pose for each blessing within the *Birchot HaShachar* after first reflecting on the blessing's meaning.

Students were challenged to do the poses in silence so they could fully concentrate on their movements. After completing the *Birchot HaShachar*, students were able to have a cooldown time after the "workout." This time of reflection led to a recitation of the *Shema* and *V'ahavta*, during which students closed their eyes while resting on their mats.

Students then discussed the choreography of the *Amidah* prayer. That choreography was then put into an aerobics routine set to Israeli pop music. After that, the students had a cooldown session on their mats with the lights off. They were offered the opportunity to have their own silent meditation to talk with God, an opportunity that the *Amidah* allows.

This *tefilah* seemed to really resonate with everyone. As fourth-grader Eli Woda reflected: "*Tefilah* was fun because we got to stretch our bodies, and I got to come up and sing two prayers with two other people. I liked this *tefilah* better than others because we did not sit in chairs, but got to use yoga mats instead. Plus … I was more into the experience. I hope we do this kind of *tefilah* again soon!" Many of the other participants expressed the same enthusiasm, finding joy in the ability to connect to praying, to prayers, and to their community.

HILLARY GUTTIN is a Pre-K and *tefilah* teacher at the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island of Rhode Island.



PHOTOS | SUSAN SUGARMAN

Students at the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island enjoy yoga and Amidah Aerobics.



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Finding blessing and wonder in our world



RABBI SARAH MACK

Imagine this: Jacob, fleeing from the wrath of his brother Esau, notices that it is getting dark and realizes he should camp for the night. Although it isn't the most comfortable location, he takes a stone, puts it under his head and falls asleep. Jacob has a fantastic dream, one familiar to man: a ladder appears, extending into the heavens with angels ascending and descending. God appears to Jacob in this dream and offers him a blessing. Jacob awakens from his sleep and exclaims "Surely God was in this place and I did not know it!"

Rashi suggests that Jacob's exclamation really means – If I had known that this was such a holy place, I never would have gone to sleep! Another commentator suggests that Jacob really learns about what it means to be awake. Experiencing God means being present where we are and paying attention.

Judaism teaches that we are not to wait for Thanksgiving Day each year to be grateful. Every morning when we open our eyes and consciousness is restored, Jews are taught to respond with words of gratitude: "*Modeh Ani l'fanecha* – I thank You for giving me this day to be alive."

We take time every time we pray to say "*Modim anachnu lach* ... We thank You for our lives, bound up in Your hand, for our souls which are in Your keeping, for Your miracles which are with us every day, morning, noon and night." And on the seventh day, on Shabbat, we sing the words of Psalm 92: "*Tov l'hodot l'Adonai* ... It is good to give thanks to the Most High."

Our prayers of thanksgiving enable us to appreciate and cherish what we've been given and open our eyes to the blessings in our lives.

In the book of Deuteronomy we read words that we also recite in the blessing after meals: "*veachalta ve savata uverachta et Adonai elohecha*, after you have eaten and are satisfied, bless *Adonai* your God." Why are we commanded to thank God after we have eaten? It is easy for us to remember the blessings before we eat. When we are hungry, we are reminded of our desire for food – to bless when we see it steaming before us is logical. But after we have eaten, when the urgency of our hunger has passed we are then commanded to offer thanksgiving. It is harder to appreciate what we have been given, when all that remains are the dirty dishes. And so that is when we offer our gratitude. We are commanded to give thanks both when we are hungry and when we are full.

Birkat Ha-mazon, the blessing after meals concludes with these words: "*Naar haiti gam zakanti ve lo raiti tzadik neezav vezaro mevakesh lechem*, I was young and I grew old and I have never seen a righteous person so forsaken that his children beg for bread." How can we say these words when we know they are not accurate? Some Jews even refuse to say them out loud, remaining silent for this phrase during a communal chanting of the blessing after meals. Every day, we do see righteous people who are lacking food, who are lonely, who are in need. Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman offers a beautiful understanding of this verse. He re-punctuates, adding a period in the middle.

Naar haiti gam zakanti ve lo raiti.

Tzadik neezav vezaro mevakesh lechem

I was young and I grew old and I have never seen. Even a righteous person so forsaken that his children beg for bread.

When we read the verse this way, we are lamenting our blindness to the suffering in our midst. We have been oblivious to our privilege and our good fortune. We have been myopic to the misfortune of others. Our tradition teaches that appreciation is the antidote to entitlement and gratitude the force that opens our eyes to the wonders that fill our world.

May we pause to appreciate our privilege and blessings with grace and humility so that we too can exclaim with wonder: God was in this place and I didn't know it!

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

Canada's new Holocaust memorial will stay open for winter

MONTREAL (JTA) – The Canadian government backed off a decision to close the newly opened National Holocaust Memorial for the winter, apparently relenting to complaints from the Jewish community.

"Canadians will be able to reflect on the horrors committed against 6 million Jewish victims and others while paying tribute to the survivors," Heritage Minister Melanie Joly said in a tweet Friday [Nov. 17].

It was the second incident to embarrass the ministry, which oversees the $7.2 million memorial since it opened only two months ago. At that time, a prominent plaque at its entrance omitted reference to the Holocaust's Jewish victims. In October, the National Capital Commission, in charge of caretaking for national monuments, said it had to close the memorial for the winter – as it does others – because of its open-air design and concern over possible damage from snow-removal machinery.

"[I]t's appropriate that Canadians have access to this site all year," it said in a tweet.

Candle Lighting Times

Greater Rhode Island

November 24	4:01
December 1	3:58
December 8	3:56
December 15	3:58



Synagogue Executive Director

Tifereth Israel Congregation, a 315-family Conservative congregation in New Bedford, Massachusetts, is seeking an **Executive Director** to oversee synagogue operations. The Executive Director should demonstrate a track record of successful organizational management, programming expertise and staff supervision in collaboration with clergy and staff. The successful candidate has excellent interpersonal skills; is flexible, diplomatic, enthusiastic, highly motivated, and efficient; and is skilled at prioritizing and problem solving to ensure that our established congregation continues to thrive and serve the needs of our membership. In addition, that person will have:

1. A solid foundation in fiscal and financial management
2. Experience in facility maintenance and management
3. Ability to enhance the synagogue's visibility, communications and media presence
4. Familiarity with Jewish ritual and traditions

For additional information and to submit your letter of interest and resume, please email search2017.ti@yahoo.com



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Let's talk about gratitude



EDITOR

FRAN OSTENDORF

Each Thanksgiving, my family uses our time around the dinner table to say a few words about gratitude. There are only a couple of times each year that the extended family comes together so it's a perfect opportunity to remind each other about how important everyone is to each other.

And it's one of the times that I think about how much I have to be thankful for: a family that's happy, healthy and in touch with one another; a job in my chosen career; friends I can count on and who can count on me.

Yes, that's right. Despite general and political turmoil in the United States and worldwide, when I reflect on my life in general, I'm pretty thankful for where it's taken me.

I'm grateful that I live in a country where I could choose to train as a journalist. Where I could go to school and learn about both sides of all the issues and where there's a vibrant dialogue surrounding those issues.

Do I wish that dialogue was more civil? Absolutely. But because we are a diverse country, we will always have diverse viewpoints. The key is respecting all viewpoints. I believe it falls to all of us to work on that no matter our passion.

Before you make accusations of your neighbor, remember that it could be different. You could live in a place where freedom of speech is not a right or valued. And accusing your neighbor of this thing or that would land you in jail.

Remember to treasure your words. And measure them a bit, too.

This is an exciting and challenging time to be in the news business. We all bristle at the mention of fake news and bias. Are the accusations true? What's fake and what's reality? We are blessed to be able to even consider these questions. And consider them we do, sometimes without even realizing it. No matter who you are, the news – and how it is reported – affects you every day.

To that end, The Voice is involved in an exciting new project in collaboration with The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, our publisher. Called Tribe Talk, we hope to hold public forums to discuss issues of the day through a Jewish lens. We'll have some expert guests and a moderator present their views and insights into news coverage. And the audience will have a chance to ask questions. Join us Dec. 10 from 10:30 a.m. to noon, as Alan Rosenberg, executive editor of the Providence Journal, and Elisabeth Harrison, news director of Rhode Island's Public Radio station WRNI, discuss freedom of speech and news coverage of anti-Semitism, Charlottesville and racism.

We hope you'll support this project, and that you'll learn a little more about how the news media works hard to offer fair and balanced coverage of the events of the day.

I'm thankful that we live in a place where it is possible to offer this kind of forum and where we can discuss how we accomplish news coverage.

In my nearly four years as editor of The Voice, I've thanked my colleagues a number of times but not nearly enough. It takes a village to produce a small newspaper and The Jewish Voice is no different. To everyone who helps produce a newspaper for the Jewish community, I say, "Thank You!" From advertising salespeople to designers to readers who contribute words and funds, you are all responsible for producing this paper. And let's not forget the businesses that buy the ads in the paper. Keep reading, keep writing and remember to mention The Jewish Voice to our advertisers.

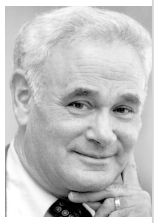
Errata

In the Nov. 10 issue of The Voice, on page 12 -13, the recipe for Chicken Stew with Walnuts and Pomegranate Sauce incorrectly lists butter as an ingredient. The recipe uses only oil; the amount is as printed. We apologize for the error.

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.

How 1666 helps explain 2017



IT SEEMS TO ME

RABBI JIM ROSENBERG

Sept. 16, 1666, was a dark day for the tens of thousands of Jews who considered Sabbatai Zevi (1626-1676) to be their Messiah; for on that day, in order to avoid the death sentence imposed upon him by the Turkish sultan, the Jewish Messiah converted to Islam. One would presume that at that moment his Jewish followers en masse would have abandoned him, casting him off as a charlatan who had cruelly preyed upon their emotional vulnerabilities. Despite his conversion, many thousands continued to consider Sabbatai Zevi to be their Messiah. Indeed, for 150 years or so following his conversion, groups of Sabbateans flourished in such far-flung Jewish communities as Palestine, Morocco, Egypt, most of Turkey and the Balkans, and later spread rapidly through Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Gershom Scholem (1897-1982), the pre-eminent scholar of Jewish mysticism in the 20th century, wrote in his 1935 essay (originally in Hebrew), "Redemption Through Sin": "'Heretical' Sabbatianism was born at the moment of Sabbatai Zevi's totally unexpected conversion, when for the first time a contradiction opened between two levels in the drama of redemption, that of the subjective experience of the individual on the one hand, and that of the objective historical facts on the other… 'Heretical' Sabbatianism was the result of the refusal of large segments of the Jewish people to submit to the sentence of history by admitting that their own personal experience had been false and untrustworthy."

That is to say, despite his conversion, many Jews remained inwardly certain that Sabbatai Zevi was indeed their Messiah; as a result, they had to reshape the historical facts to conform to the certainty of their inner experience. Many of these Sabbateans adopted the paradoxical notion of the necessary apostasy of the Messiah. Their "reasoning" – if you could call it that – is that only the Jewish Messiah could demonstrate his spiritual superiority by becoming a Muslim and thereby rescuing the "divine sparks" trapped within the husks of Islamic belief and practice; despite his descent into Islam, Sabbatai Zevi still maintains his Messianic Jewish integrity. Such are the intellectual contortions demanded of those whose inner certainty stands in opposition to external reality.

As Scholem puts it, "The essence of the Sabbatean's conviction… can be summarized in a sentence: it is inconceivable that all of God's people should inwardly err, and so, if their vital experience is contradicted by the facts, it is the facts that stand in need of explanation."

For the past several months I have been trying to demonstrate to myself that the confusion within a large segment of the collective soul of the Jewish people 350 years ago sheds light upon the divided soul of America today. In 1666, those who abandoned Sabbatai Zevi after his conversion to Islam could not comprehend how thousands upon thousands of their fellow Jews could still maintain that he was their long-awaited Messiah. Today, those of us who do not support our current president, who see in his actions and hear in his words clear evidence of a failed leader, find it almost impossible to fathom the depths of allegiance that our president still enjoys from tens of millions of our fellow Americans.

In attempting to understand those who maintained that Sabbatai Zevi was their Messiah after his conversion, Scholem writes, "Even more than the psychology of the leader, however, it's the psychology of the led that demands to be understood." In a similar vein, it is not particularly fruitful to try to "explain" our president. What is essential is to try to understand the inner world of his supporters. Our president continues to affirm in his supporters a painful-but-hopeful aspect of their inner lives that cannot be touched by external "facts;" he knows how to validate their dreams and to assuage their fears – giving them permission to think what they think, to feel what they feel. He has done nothing less than to liberate them, to enable them to become their true selves, to see themselves as great again.

America today is a divided self. To argue that those millions of men and women who continue to support the president are suffering from a collective delusion is both simplistic and antithetical to the prospect of bringing us together again. If we continue to view our current socio-political conflict as a war between the "Sons of Light" and the "Sons of Darkness," we will never again become what truly makes America great: a unity that celebrates our diversity. *E pluribus unum*. Out of many, one!

JAMES B. ROSENBERG is rabbi emeritus at Temple Habonim in Barrington. Contact him at rabbiemeritus@t4emplehabonim.org.

Letter

Re: The pull of the plaque (Nov. 10)

I just reread Charles Bakst's excellent article on growing up in Fall River, and would indeed be remiss if I didn't add a few comments. After all, similar to Proust's madeleine, his astute words brought back to life many good memories, akin to those of Mr. Bakst, as I, too, grew up in Fall River.

One of these vivid memories was attending a small, nondescript shul at the corner of Columbia Street, a few streets from downtown Fall River, when I was very young. Strange perhaps that I remember standing on a small stage in that building, when I was about 5 and, forgetting my lines in a play, I turned to my parents who could offer no help at all.

My father was born and grew up in Fall River. He attended the orthodox Pearl Street shul which Charlie mentions, and I recall the many times I, too, attended services with him where my mother was seated in the balcony above with the other women. None of those shuls exist any longer; in fact, the only synagogue that still exists in Fall River is Temple Beth El.

Thanks and kudos, Charlie, for detailing such a rich and vivid apercu of local, Jewish history.

Mel Yoken, Ph.D.
New Bedford, MA

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).



Dani Stieglitz with Rabbi Asher Oser, the former rabbi of Congregation Beth Sholom in Providence.

Summer with Golden Leaves: a Jewish experience in China

BY DANIEL STIEGLITZ

While the majority of my time and experiences in the last 10 years have taken place in Israel, this country has also been my springboard to other worldly adventures. The most recent one took place in China.



DANIEL STIEGLITZ

My friend and roommate, David Gedallovich, originally from Colombia and a recent *oleh* (immigrant) to Israel, told me about a six-week program he has been running in China since 2016. This year, he had a scheduling conflict and couldn't be there for the first two weeks of the program. If he gave me a free trip to China, I told him I would run the beginning of the program for him, and the deal was struck – I was going to China.

The program, called Golden Leaves, after a phrase from Chinese literature, was started in 2014 by Rabbi Shlomo Kassin and Rabbi Abraham Bitton. When Rabbi Bitton, a friend of David's, got married, he handed over the reins of the program to David in January 2016. The program allows young Jewish men, with an inclination toward a business career, to learn how to do business in China, which has become one of the business capitals of the world.

I arrived in the city of Guangzhou, where the program is based, a few days before the participants. This gave me time to acclimate myself to the city and its environment. I was able to secure a hotel apartment where we'd live, and buy pots and pans for cooking Kosher food in our apartment's kitchen.

The four participants who arrived during my time in charge were, Tsvi from Belgium, Neti from Mexico, and Haim and Allen from Brazil. They ranged in age from 19 to 22 years old. Three more men joined the program after David arrived. My only concern about this trip was that I'd have to spend my time as the disciplinarian. I was pleasantly surprised to find that David only selected top-quality people for Golden Leaves and had put me in charge of four exceptional young men.

We started each day by going to *Shacharit* (morning services) at the Meir Hahayim synagogue directly across the street from our hotel. The synagogue was started by Jewish entrepreneurs who wanted their own synagogue in Guangzhou, where many spend several months each year.

The entrepreneurs come from various countries and do business in a wide variety of fields. I met an American businessman who has been manufacturing jeans in China and importing them to the U.S. for more than 30 years. The Golden Leaves participants had the chance to get to know these entrepreneurs, and get their advice on how to start a successful business in China.

In addition to providing the participants with a once-in-a-lifetime business education, with the help of the synagogue and its members, Golden Leaves also emphasizes the centrality and importance of Jewish values to its participants, no matter where they find themselves in the world. In a country outside their normal comfort zone, via the synagogue, the participants still had access to delicious Kosher meals, daily prayer services, and time set aside for Jewish learning.

Each day, following breakfast in the synagogue, we had a one-hour Mandarin language class. These classes helped us communicate better with people in the streets. Additionally, these new language skills could help the participants with any future business dealings in China.

I took the participants to different marketplaces around Guangzhou where they could browse through a variety of products, and start getting a sense of what product they might want to base their business on. As a homework assignment, they were given a few hours to pick a product that interested them and do the necessary research on it; What were the copyright laws? Was someone else already importing the product to their home country? What kinds of taxes would they need to pay?



The participants with their Mandarin teacher.



Golden Leaves participants with Dani Stieglitz at the top of Baiyun Mountain in Guangzhou.



The participants looking at items in one of many marketplaces they visited.

As with any program, there was also time to enjoy the scenery. We spent our first Sunday together on the beautiful Baiyun Mountain in Guangzhou. As the only non-Asians on the mountain, we were treated like celebrities. People asked if they could take pictures with us, and invited us to play games with them, like the Chinese version of hacky sack.

As quickly as Golden Leaves began for me, it ended. After David arrived there was no need for me to stay on, so I spent a week exploring other parts of China before returning to Israel. While in Hong Kong, I got to spend some time with Rabbi Asher Oser, former rabbi of Providence's Congregation Beth Sholom. I also saw the Great Wall and the Forbidden City in Beijing. David spent the weeks after my departure taking the Golden Leaves participants to meet with entrepreneurs, visit factories, and travel around China seeing the other amazing places it had to offer.

Golden Leaves began as a free trip to China. But through the eyes of the participants, I had an incredible experience. My only regret was that I couldn't stay for all six weeks.

The next Golden Leaves program takes place in summer 2018. For information email davidgedallovich@gmail.com.

DANIEL STIEGLITZ (dstieglitz@gmail.com), is a certified Life Coach; freelance writer; and lives in Jerusalem. His collection of short stories, "Tavern of the Mind," was recently published.

Ongoing

Alliance Kosher Senior Café. Kosher lunch and program every weekday. Dwares JCC, 401 Elmgrove 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 November 30

Aliyah from Rhode Island. Exhibit by Shai Afsai featuring photographs and stories of Rhode Islanders who have moved to Israel. Cranston Public Library, Central Library,140 Sockanosset Cross Road. Information, contact Katy Dorchies, 401-943-9080. On display through Nov. 30.

Through January 4

World Views. Bunny Fain Gallery at Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington. Wednesday and Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and by appointment. Three artists and their views of the world around them are featured: Anne Kelsey Thacher mixed media; Susan Gallagher photographs; and Carol Beagan oils and pastels. Information, 401-245-6536 or gallery@templehabonim.org.

Friday | November 24

Kabbalat Shabbat Service. 7:30-9 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Kabbalat Shabbat Service followed by an Oneg. Information, Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Saturday | November 25

Taste of Shabbat. 9-11 a.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. 9 a.m. Torah Discussion and 9:45 a.m. Shabbat Service followed by a light Kiddush. Information, Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Children's Shabbat Program and Jr. Kiddush Club. 9:30-11:15 a.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Come and find out what all the "buzz" at CBS is about. Weekly Shabbat morning program and Jr. Kiddush Club for children. Morning activities include prayer, parsha, play time and a special Kiddush just for kids. Three age groups: tots, pre-K thru 1st grade and 2nd grade & up. Located in Kids Room, Social Hall and Chapel on the lower level. Big kids of all ages and backgrounds are encouraged to join in prayer services in the main sanctuary. Information, office@bethsholom-ri.org.

Sunday | November 26

Ocean State Clarinet Choir. 2-4 p.m. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. This 12-piece chamber ensemble consists of various types of clarinets. This free concert is open to the public. Refreshments

Monday | November 27

Women and Baseball: A Short Story?! 7 p.m. Dwares JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. In conjunction with "Chasing Dreams: Baseball & Becoming American," a national traveling exhibit that celebrates the history of baseball. Special presentation by Rick Harris, the source for most of the items in the supplementary exhibit. Information, Larry Katz at lkatz@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 179.

Canasta. 7-9 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Learn to play. Open to all; coed. Free. Information, Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Monday Night Meditation. 7:45-8:30 p.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Meditation instruction for all levels. If you are looking for accessible spiritual practices to help transform your life, consider this class. Series (thru 12/11) focuses on little-known classic and modern Jewish meditation techniques. Open to all. Free. Advance registration required. Information, rabbi@bethsholom-ri.org.

Tuesday | November 28

Yoga. 6-7 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Cost: $30 for 3 sessions paid in advance; $12 per session at the door. Open to all. Bring a mat. Information, Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Tuesday Night Talmud. 7:45-8:45 p.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Talmud study with Rabbi Barry Dolinger, finishing the fifth and fourth Chapters of Berachot. Free. No class 12/5. 12/12 Hanukkah Mesibah & Siyum. Information, office@bethsholom-ri.org.

Wednesday | November 29

Purposeful Play. 10-11 a.m. Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island, 85 Taft Ave., Providence. Weekly hands-on class for 3- to 4-year-olds and caregivers. Open exploration through senses with music, art and play with Ruth Horton, an early childhood educator with over 30 years of experience working with children and families. Each class is unique. Sign up for one or all seven weeks. Last class 12/20. $15 per class | $90 for all seven weeks. Information, Naomi Stein at nstein@jcdsri.org or 401-751-2470.

Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Howard Voss-Altman. Noon-1 p.m. Silverstein Meeting Hall, Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Explore Reform Judaism. Where have we been? Where are we going? Bring your lunch; coffee and tea available. Future dates: 12/5, 12/13. Live streaming available. Visit temple-beth-el.org for streaming details. To RSVP, call 401-331-6070 or email Jenn Thomas at jthomas@temple-beth-el.org.

Alzheimer's Care Training. 6:30-8 p.m. The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence, 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick. Alzheimer's Care Course taught by Master Trainer Robert E. P. Elmer III, "Understanding Alzheimer's – The Dos and Don'ts of Alzheimer's Care." Upon completion, participants will have a richer knowledge of this disease and will be armed with the best tools for assisting loved ones who are affected by it. Free. Information, Susan Adler at susana@tamariskri.org or 401-732-0037.

Mah Jongg. 7 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Open to members and non-members. Bring 2017 Mah Jongg card. Free. Information, Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Thursday | November 30

"Lighting up the Dark." The Jewish Alliance of Greater RI Rosh Hodesh Program. Noon-1:15 p.m. Dwares JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Featuring Rabbi Rachel Zerin of Temple Emanu-El. Rosh Hodesh, the marking of the new moon, was once celebrated by both Jewish men and women. Now, Rosh Hodesh is primarily a women's holiday – a day for women to be together to enjoy meaningful introspection, dialogue and study. Cost: $10 (includes lunch). Information, Danielle Germanowski at dgermanowski@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 109.

Friday | December 1

Shabbat Dinner and Presentation: "From Scared to Sacred: AIDs, Love and Staying Alive." 5:30 p.m. URI Hillel, 6 Fraternity Circle, Kingston. As part of World Aids Day, there will be a Shabbat dinner at URI Hillel with special guest Scott Fried. Start with a short Healing Service at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:15 p.m. and presentation by motivational speaker and activist Scott Fried at about 7 p.m. The talk will detail Scott's personal story – contacting HIV at age 24, surviving almost three decades and ultimately turning a curse into a blessing. Sponsored by URI Hillel and the Gender and Sexuality Center with additional support from URI Health Services and Greek Life. Other contributors include the URI Departments of Education, Gender and Women's Studies, Human Development and Family Studies, Sociology and Anthropology; the URI Women's Center; individual members of the URI Chaplains Association; and (401)j at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island. Information or to RSVP, Yaniv Havusha at yaniv_havusha@uri.edu or 401-874-2740 or visit www.urihillel.org.

Family Shabbat Dinner. 6 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Led by grade 5. Cost: $18/$10. Information, Temple Beth-El office at 401-331-6070.

Kabbalat Shabbat Service. 7:30-9 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Kabbalat Shabbat service followed by an Oneg. Information, Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Saturday | December 2

Taste of Shabbat Service and B'nai Mitzvah. 9-11 a.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. 9 a.m. Torah discussion and 9:45 a.m. Shabbat aervice followed by a light Kiddush. Information, Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Children's Shabbat Program and Jr. Kiddush Club. 9:30-11:15 a.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Shabbat morning program and Jr. Kiddush Club for children. Morning activities include prayer, parshah, play time and a special Kiddush just for kids. Three age groups: tots, pre-K thru 1st grade and 2nd grade & up. Located in Kids Room, Social Hall and Chapel on the lower level. Big kids of all ages and backgrounds are encouraged to join in prayer services in the main sanctuary. Information, office@bethsholom-ri.org.

Sunday | December 3

LimmudBoston. 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Temple Reyim, 1860 Washington St., Newton, Mass. Day-long "learning-fest." All-inclusive event not affiliated with any one specific branch of Judaism. It is non-sectarian and open to "anyone interested in Jewish learning." Information, www.limmudboston.org or Rona Trachtenberg at 508-971-9743 or ladywriter45@aol.com.

Israeli Life: Start-up Nation – Israeli Innovation. 9-10 a.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Part of the adult education series on Israeli life with Rabbi Aaron Philmus, Dr. Ohad Kott and Tslil Reichman. Information or to register, Torat Yisrael office at 401-885-6600.

Holiday Bazaar. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Come do some holiday shopping. Information, Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Breakfast and Concert with Flutist Mattan Klein. 11 a.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Information, Temple Beth-El office at 401-331-6070.

"Jewish Art Music: From St. Petersburg to Palestine & Beyond." 4-6 p.m. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. Concert features Cantor Lynn Torgove, Maayan Harel and Kol Arev, the Chamber Choir of Hebrew College. Tickets: $15 in advance, $20 at the door. Information, Paul Stouber at pstouber@teprov.org or 401-331-1616.

Monday | December 4

Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation Support Group. 11 a.m.-noon. The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence, 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick. Drop-in cancer support group at Tamarisk. It doesn't matter if you are in treatment, a survivor, man or woman. If you or a family member have or had cancer, this support group welcomes you. Free. Information or to sign up, Susan Adler at susana@tamariskri.org or 401-732-0037.

Canasta. 7-8:30 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Learn to play. Open to all; coed. Free. Information, Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Monday Night Meditation. 7:45-8:30 p.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Meditation instruction for all levels. If you are looking for accessible spiritual practices to help transform your life, consider this class. Series (thru 12/11) focuses on little-known classic and modern Jewish meditation techniques. Open to all. Free. Advance registration required. Information, rabbi@bethsholom-ri.org.

Tuesday | December 5

Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Howard Voss-Altman. Noon-1 p.m. Silverstein Meeting Hall, Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Explore Reform Judaism. Where have we been? Where are we going? Bring your lunch; coffee and tea available. Future date: 12/13. Live streaming available. Go to temple-beth-el.org for streaming details. To RSVP, call 401-331-6070 or email Jenn Thomas at jthomas@temple-beth-el.org.

Yoga. 6-7 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Cost: $30 for 3 sessions paid in advance; $12 per session at the door. Open to all. Bring a mat. Information, Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Wednesday | December 6

Purposeful Play. 10-11 a.m. Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island, 85 Taft Ave., Providence. Weekly hands-on class for 3- to 4-year-olds and caregivers. Open exploration through senses with music, art and play with Ruth Horton, an early childhood educator with over 30 years of experience working with children and families. Each class is unique. Participants are invited to sign up for one or all seven weeks. Last class: 12/20. $15 per class | $90 for all seven weeks. Information, Naomi Stein at nstein@jcdsri.org or 401-751-2470.

Israel at 70: "Above and Beyond." 7 p.m. Dwares JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. In 1948, a group of American World War II pilots volunteered to fight in Israel's War of Independence. This motley group of heroes helped prevent the destruction of Israel while establishing the framework for the Israeli Air Force. A feature-length documentary filled with heart, heroism and high-flying chutzpah by Nancy Spielberg. Free. Information, Tslil Reichman at treichman@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 121.

Mah Jongg. 7-8:30 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Open to members and non-members. Bring 2017 Mah Jongg card. Free. Information, Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Friday | December 8

Friday Night Live Celebrates Hanukkah. 6-9 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. A musical celebration of Shabbat followed by dinner. Cost: adults and children over 12 years $20; 12 years and younger free; family max. $60. Information, Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Saturday | December 9

Classic Shabbat Service and Bat Mitzvah. 9 a.m.-noon. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Classic Shabbat service and Bat Mitzvah followed by a Kiddush luncheon. Information, Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Children's Shabbat Program and Jr. Kiddush Club. 9:30-11:15 a.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Shabbat morning program and Jr. Kiddush Club for children. Morning activities include prayer, parshah, play time and a special Kiddush just for kids. Three age groups: tots, pre-K thru 1st grade and 2nd grade & up. Located in Kids Room, Social Hall and Chapel on the lower level. Big kids of all ages and backgrounds are encouraged to join in prayer services in the main sanctuary.



Rabbi-approved BBQ sauce



Ready-made shakshuka



PHOTOS | JOSEFIN DOLSTEN

Kosherfest is the world's largest kosher food trade show

FROM PAGE 1

KOSHERFEST

product, is matzah printed with Jewish-themed patterns, such as Stars of David and Passover greetings. The manufacturer, Independent Ink, uses colorful, edible ink that is Kosher for Passover.

Customers placing large orders can also customize matzahs with any image they desire.

"It gives you the ability to be creative for your seder plate," said NK Ranganathan, Independent Ink's chief operating officer. "You can have a variety of designs, and it becomes very interesting for the kids."

Customers can buy Matzohgram online beginning Nov. 20: It's $10 for a box of mini-matzahs and $16 for the regular size.

Oxygen-infused water

If Oxigen's claims about its water – that it improves both post-workout or post-hangover recovery time and mental clarity – are true, then Gatorade may have some serious competition.

A bottle of the oxygen-infused beverage contains 1,000 parts per million of stabilized oxygen, compared to 5 to 40 parts per million in regular water, according to its manufacturer. Those in need of even more O's can take an Oxigen shot, which contains 5,000 parts per million.

"When you drink the water, the oxygen gets into your bloodstream and goes to work immediately to aid in focus, recovery, endurance and stamina," Max Lewis, director of sales for Formula Four Beverages, told JTA.

The oxygen is not in gas form, meaning it won't escape the bottle when it's opened, Lewis added.

Oxigen bottles retail at stores nationwide for $1.69 to $1.99, while the shots sell for $2.79 to $2.99.

Salted caramel frozen pizza

It's a pizza, it's a frozen dessert – it's a Frizza!

The Salted Caramel Frizza from Elegant Desserts won the trade show's award for best dessert. The dairy-free treat consists of a cookie bottom, salted caramel ice cream and caramel sauce.

"Everybody, when they come over, they go crazy about it because it's entertaining, it's fun, it's different," said Benjamin Weisz, president of Elegant Desserts based in Brooklyn.

At Kosherfest, the frizzas were cut into bite-sized squares, but they are meant to be served by the slice, like a pizza. Each pie contains eight to 16 servings, depending on how it's sliced.

Elegant Desserts, which sells frizzas online for $36.50 each, also sells the pies in flavors such as cookies and cream and strawberry.

Ready-made shakshuka

Craving shakshuka but short on time?

This sauce is perfect for any busy person who loves this Israeli breakfast food, which consists of eggs cooked with spices in tomato sauce. To make this version of the hearty dish, one only needs to open a jar, crack a few eggs and cook the delicious mess on the stovetop or in the oven.

"It makes it very quick," said Tami Bezborodko, vice president of marketing for Iron Chef. "In seven minutes you can have a nice, hot breakfast."

The sauce contains tomatoes and spices and comes in mild and medium spicy varieties. A 24-ounce jar retails in stores nationwide for around $4.50.

Rabbi-approved BBQ sauce

Want a barbecue with a rabbinic seal of approval? Look no further. Rabbi Mendel Segal, who founded the Kansas City Kosher BBQ Festival, now offers three varieties of his RaBBi-Q sauce. Since launching in 2015, Segal has expanded his line of sauces to include flavors that draw on both his Jewish and Southern roots — the pomegranate honey barbecue sauce, which Segal came up with when making brisket for Rosh Hashanah, is a favorite.

"It sells really well in the non-Jewish market, too, because nobody has a barbecue sauce that flavor yet," he told JTA. "But Jews catch onto it right away."

An 18-ounce jar of sauce retails at select Kosher markets nationwide for $4.99.

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Nothing better than a warm bowl of soup

BY SUSAN ADLER

"Food choices matter because they are the most consistent ethical decision we make throughout our day." Rabbi Shmuly Yanklowitz

Nothing says comfort like a warm bowl of soup on a cold day. As winter approaches, we look to make food choices that matter. Like the other "good book" says chicken soup is good for our soul.

According to Maimonides, boiled chicken soup also played a role in curing leprosy and asthma, and – as a Jewish grandmother might put it – "putting some meat on your bones."

In "Jewish Food: The World at Table," Matthew Goodman reports on a 1978 study conducted at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach that confirmed at least part of Maimonides' prescription: "chicken soup proved more effective than simple hot or cold water in clearing congested nasal passages."

Soups clearly are not only tasty but quite healing. At The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence, Executive Chef Deb Blazer and her team create soups that the residents find comfort in. Just like in your home, our mealtime is a wonderful opportunity for residents to gather around the table and talk about family, what went on during the day and to anticipate what is being served.

With a variety of soup choices our bowls and hearts are full. Here are a few of our soups for you to try in your kitchen.

Chicken Soup

Serves 10

Ingredients

2 1/2 pounds boneless skinless chicken breasts (see note)
2 onions, diced
2 carrots, diced
4 stalks celery, diced
1 bunch of parsley
2 tablespoons chicken soup base
2 tablespoons margarine
Salt and pepper to taste

Directions

Heat the margarine in a stock pot. Add onions, carrots and celery and sauté until softened. Add the chicken and 2 tablespoons of chicken soup base. Add enough water to cover. Simmer for an hour or more.

Remove parsley and discard. Remove chicken, dice and return to pot. Salt and pepper to taste. Add your favorite pasta or matzo balls and enjoy!

NOTE: By using boneless skinless breasts you can serve the soup right away without having to remove any of the fat.

New England Fish Chowder

Serves 8-10

Ingredients

1 medium Spanish onion, diced
2 stalks celery, diced
1 teaspoon garlic, minced
1 teaspoon fresh thyme, finely chopped
2 cups white wine
2 cups Idaho potatoes, diced
2 cups white fish (cod or sole), diced
1/2 cup margarine, melted
1/2 cup flour
1 cup half-and-half
4 cups fish stock
Salt and pepper, to taste

Directions

Boil potatoes until tender. Drain and set aside.

Saute onions and celery in margarine until translucent.

Add minced garlic and thyme; cook 1 minute until garlic is softened.

Deglaze with white wine, cook until all wine is evaporated.

Add flour. Cook 2 minutes more, stirring often.

Whisk in fish stock and heavy cream. Cook until it begins to thicken, stirring often.

Gently fold in fish and potatoes.

Simmer 2-3 minutes until fish is cooked.

Ladle into bowls and garnish with fresh thyme.



PHOTO | TAMARISK

Left: Chef Phyllis Araffa holds a bowl of New England Fish Chowder. Center: Deb Blazer, executive chef, holds a bowl of chicken soup. Right: Chef Tom Wilcox holds a bowl of split pea soup.

Split Pea Soup

Serves 10

Ingredients

1 onion, diced
1 carrot, diced
2 stalks celery, diced
1 (16 ounce) bag dried split peas
2 tablespoons vegetable soup base
2 tablespoons margarine
Salt and pepper to taste

Directions

Heat the margarine in a stock pot. Add onions, carrots and celery and sauté until softened.

Add the bag of split peas and 2 tablespoons of vegetable soup base. Add enough water just to cover the peas.

Cook until tender and thick, approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour.

SUSAN ADLER (susana@tamariskri.org) is the marketing and outreach director at The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence. Call her at 401-732-0037 if you would like to join the residents for a hot bowl of soup.

Memories of Mohn cookies

BY NEAL DROBNIS

One of my favorite childhood memories was arriving at my grandparent›s apartment to the smell of freshly baked Mohn Cookies. That smell reminds me of a wonderful time because it would fill the air and surround me like a warm blanket on a cold winter's night. None of my siblings or cousins recall those cookies the way I do. Perhaps that's because I was the youngest at the time. Sometimes my father and I would sit and enjoy the company of my *Bubbe* Sarah as she set out a plate of freshly baked cookies and hot tea. When thinking of what to do for the Kosher Senior Cafe's October cooking project, a favorite monthly activity, I always try to share experiences that bring back good memories.

On Oct. 17 in Cranston and Oct. 18 in Providence, our senior guests and I met an hour before lunch and whipped up some delicious Mohn Cookies, which called to mind good memories of spending time with our loving *bubbes*. I was surprised to find out that many of their mothers and grandmothers baked these same cookies as well. When your hands are busy forming cookies and mixing dough, the mind has a way of freeing itself from the troubles of everyday life.

At the Kosher Senior Café, we have been sharing memories and tastes from the past together. When visiting Florida in the last couple of years, my wife, Peggy, would send along a package of these cookies. My father would take a few bites and begin to reminisce about his youth and tell stories about his mom.

My wife likes this recipe which adds lemon taste to the original. Try it out at home and let us know what you think!

Mohn Cookies

Prep Time: 20 minutes
Baking Time: 12 minutes
Ready in 1 hour 17 minutes

Ingredients

3 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 cup poppy seeds
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 cup butter, softened
2/3 cup white sugar
1 egg, separated
2 tablespoons lemon zest
1/4 cup lemon juice
1/3 cup granulated sugar for decoration

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Line baking sheets with parchment paper.

Stir together the flour, poppy seeds, baking powder and salt.

In a medium bowl, cream the butter and sugar together until light; beat in the egg yolk, lemon zest and lemon juice. Fold in the flour mixture and mix well.

Divide dough in half and roll each half out on a lightly floured surface until 1/8 to 1/4 inch thick. Cut with cookie cutters and place cookies on the prepared baking sheet. Brush tops of cookies with beaten egg white and sprinkle with white sugar.

Bake at 350 degrees F for 12 to 15 minutes or until golden, the edges should be light brown.



NEAL DROBNIS (ndrobnis@jewishallianceri.org) is coordinator of Kosher nutrition at Jewish Family Service. If you have a favorite recipe you would like to share with the Kosher Senior Café contact Neal Drobnis. The senior guests are always interested in other recipes. All activities, including the monthly cooking activity, are free and open to the public. If you want to stay for lunch, reservations are required two days in advance.



Winter squash makes a rich dish

BY SHANNON SARNA

(The Nosher via JTA) – I recently fell in love with honey squash, a new variety of hearty winter squash bred specifically to be concentrated in flavor and adorable in appearance. OK, maybe it wasn't specifically grown to be adorable, but the result is the same.

I found honey squash at several New York- and New Jersey-area farms and farmers markets, and I know that Whole Foods has also been selling them. But if you cannot find this super sweet squash, you can substitute regular old (delicious) butternut squash, acorn squash or delicata squash.

Drizzling tahini over roasted vegetables just adds a richness to the dish and makes it feel a little extra-special, especially for a Friday-night dinner or Thanksgiving celebration. You might also add some pomegranate molasses for sweetness and tang, or some pomegranate seeds or chopped fresh herbs for color and brightness, or nothing at all.

Note: You will want to go easy on the olive oil, so that the squash develops a nice caramelized texture and isn't too oily.

Roasted Winter Squash with Tahini

Ingredients

2 honey squash (or 1 medium butternut squash)
1 tablespoon olive oil
Salt and pepper
3 tablespoons good quality tahini, at room temperature
Pomegranate molasses, pomegranate seeds, chopped fresh herbs (optional)

Directions

Preheat oven to 425 degrees F.

Peel the honey squash, cut off the ends and cut into 1/2-inch thick rings.

Spread squash out in a single layer on a baking sheet. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and olive oil, and using your hands, make sure squash is evenly coated.

Cook on first side for 10-15 minutes. Turn over the rings and cook another 10-15 minutes, until just caramelized.

Drizzle with tahini. Top with additional pomegranate molasses, pomegranate seeds or fresh herbs if desired. Serves 6.



SHANNON SARNA is the editor of The Nosher. The Nosher food blog offers a dazzling array of new and classic Jewish recipes and food news, from Europe to Yemen, from challah to shakshuka and beyond. Check it out at TheNosher.com.

Cookies for Thanksgiving



MAY-RONNY ZEIDMAN

In a few days, it will again be Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is a favorite holiday of mine. I have never "made" the holiday. I like to tell people, "I do not do American holidays."

Last year I decided to bake cookies to bring to my children's home for Thanksgiving. In the "old" days, I would begin baking cookies as soon as my children left for school and finish just a few minutes before they arrived home. I always made a double batch of each recipe. When I was finished, I had dozens and dozens of cookies.

I would put newspaper on all my counters and on the entire kitchen table. The cookies would cool on these papers until I put them in freezer bags and stored them in the freezer. (According to sources on the Web, it's safe to eat cookies cooled on newspaper. Ink is nontoxic.)

I loved surprising my family with thumbprint cookies, chocolate chip cookies, rum balls and oatmeal raisin cookies, to mention a few. However, everyone's favorite was "devil dogs." I was given this recipe by my friend Lillian Heiman Mendelowitz. As a very young woman Lillian was a great baker. Over the years she gave me several wonderful recipes.

Back to last year. I combed the web for new and different cookies to surprise the family. When I was done, I had chosen 12 different cookies to make. I prepared a shopping list and purchased the ingredients, put a day in my head that I wanted to bake and was ready to go.

Baking day arrived; I washed my face, brushed my hair and teeth, put on baking clothes and into the kitchen I went. Flour dust flying, measuring tools jingling and mixer whirring. Two hours into the project, I started to feel a little tired. But I pushed on. Another hour-and-a half, my feet began to ache. One more hour, and my lower back was in major stress.

I now had to assess the situation. I had managed to make 10 of the 12 cookie recipes. I always clean as I cook so the kitchen was not as bad as it could have been. I cleaned up, and I was done!!!

As I limped into the living room and threw myself on the couch, Howie said, "What were you thinking?" To which I exhaustedly replied, "I was thinking I was 30 years old."

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



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Looking back: A journey thorough 2017

As 2017 draws to a close, it's time once again for a look back at the highs and lows of the past year, as covered in The Jewish Voice. What follows are a few of the highlights.

JANUARY 2017

Massive waves of wildfires in Israel caused an estimated $520 million in damage.

For eight days, firefighters battled 90 fires in 1,773 locations, with the largest blazes occurring in Haifa.



Wildfires are blazing across Israel for the fifth day

Faith leaders come together to fight poverty at annual vigil.

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

Refugee ban puts Jewish asylum seekers in limbo for now.

A year after submitting their application for asylum in the United States, Shahi and his mother expected to be let in. As Iranian Jews who applied for asylum through a federally recognized agency for refugee status, their case was expected to be simple. Shahi (not his real name) is in his late 20s. As of now, mother and son are in a third transit country. President Donald Trump signed an executive order suspending the admission of all refugees into the United States for four months. The order also imposes a 90-day ban on entry visas to all citizens of seven predominantly Muslim countries, including Iran.

Jeffrey Savit to leave Alliance this summer

Jeffrey K. Savit, president and CEO of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, announced his resignation. Savit, who has served as the first president and CEO of the Alliance, was hired in 2011, when the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, the Bureau of Jewish Education and the Jewish Community Center combined to form one organization. He has overseen the merged organization as it has evolved, including the establishment of the Living on the Edge Initiative and the renovation of the Dwares JCC.

FEBRUARY 2017

Dwares JCC target of bomb threat.

The bomb threats targeting Jewish organizations around the United States caught up with the Dwares Jewish Community Center on Feb. 27. According to reports, at least 29 JCCs, Jewish day schools, the Anti-Defamation League in San Francisco and seven additional targets were targeted by bomb threats on Feb. 27. This was the fifth wave of threats in the last two months.

MARCH 2017

50 years after Nostra Aetate, Jewish-Catholic relations have never been better.

On March 22, Providence College hosted a discussion titled "Theological Exchange Between Catholics and Jews. Nostra Aetate – Fifty Years Later," with Rabbi Gary Bretton-Granatoor, of Congregation Shirat Hayam in Nantucket, Massachusetts, and the Rev. Dennis McManus, of Georgetown University. The night concluded with the two leaders expressing optimism about the future relationship between the two faiths. "We [Catholics and Jews] know how to come together for the sake of healing the world," said Bretton-Granatoor.

Control over Touro Synagogue and its $7.4 million silver bells back in court.

Ownership of the country's oldest synagogue and its valuable religious and ritual objects is being decided by a federal appeals court. At stake is control of Newport's 250-year-old Touro Synagogue, the religious home of Congregation Jeshuat Israel and a pair of historically significant silver bells that are used to adorn Torah scrolls. The bells, called rimonim, are late 18th century filials handcrafted by Myer Myers, one of the most prominent silversmiths of the Colonial era. The rimonim are valued at $7.4 million.

APRIL 2017

Anti-Semitic incidents in US surging in '17, rose by a third in '16.

Anti-Semitic incidents in the United States soared 86 percent in the first three months of 2017 after rising by more than one-third in 2016, according to the Anti-Defamation League. There has been a massive increase in harassment of American Jews, largely since November, and at least 34 incidents linked to the presidential election that month, the ADL said April 24 in its annual audit of anti-Semitic incidents.

MAY 2017

Unity Shabbat focuses on American-Israeli Jews.

On April 28, Temple Habonim hosted a seasonal "Wine and Dine" Shabbat service, titled "Unity Shabbat," which focused on the relationship between American and Israeli Jews. The evening's special guest speaker was Tslil Reichman, Israeli emissary (*shlichah*). She spoke to congregants about the importance of this relationship as well as the significance and symbolism of three of Israel's most notable and recent holidays, *Yom ha-Shoah* (Holocaust Remembrance Day), *Yom ha-Zikaron* (Israeli Memorial Day), and *Yom ha-Atzmaut* (Israeli Independence Day).



March against poverty.

The world can be thankful for these 7 incredible new things from Israel.

To build a Jewish state in the Middle East, Israelis had to be innovators.

Some of what they've come up with has been used mostly by their fellow citizens – think Hebrew slang, Bamba snacks and the Iron Dome missile defense system – at least so far.

But many other Israeli creations have changed the world: drip irrigation, the USB flash drive and actress Natalie Portman, among them.

Some incredible things Israel gave the world this year, its 69th year of independence.

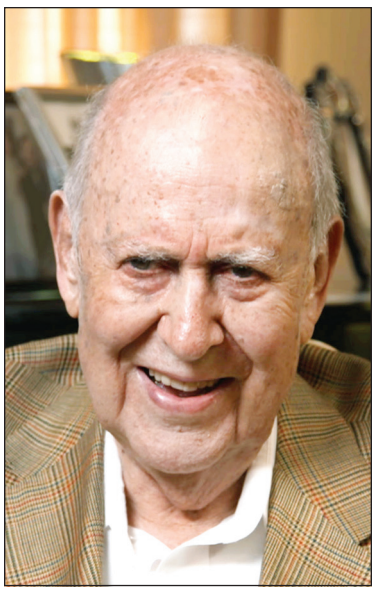
A weed inhaler, the Israeli pharmaceutical giant Teva announced it would begin marketing a medical cannabis inhaler in Israel that delivers precise doses of the drug. **A binge-worthy TV series**. The Israeli TV drama "Fauda" has given the world a compelling look inside the conflict at the heart of the Jewish state. **A popular sport for middle-aged**



Jeffrey Savit



Adam Greenman



Carl Reiner



Bomb threat at the Dwares JCC

FROM PAGE 14

LOOKING BACK

women. Popularized by Israeli moms in 2005, the women's sport of catchball has recently gone global. **Richard Gere playing a Jewish schlub.** Richard Gere, a famously suave gentile, stars as a schlubby Jewish schemer in "Norman: The Moderate Rise and Tragic Fall of a New York Fixer." **Self-driving cars** Your next car may very well come with an Israeli driver, though it won't be human. **A Wonder Woman with training** After first playing Wonder Woman in last year's "Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice," Israeli actress Gal Gadot will appear in her own DC Comics film this summer.

Community social service agencies to merge.

After nine months of planning and negotiations, Jewish Family Service of Rhode Island (JFSRI) and the Jewish Seniors Agency of Rhode Island (JSA) have agreed to merge into one comprehensive agency called Jewish Community Services of Greater Rhode Island.

R.I. Foundation offers $35,000 to Jewish groups.

Jewish community charitable organizations, synagogues and day schools from Barrington to East Greenwich have until June 9 to apply for more than $35,000 in grants through the Bliss, Gross, Horowitz Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation.

JUNE 2017

Large crowd turns out to celebrate Dwares JCC's reopening

It was a festive celebration for all ages as the Alliance's Dwares JCC officially reopened on May 24. Visitors streamed into the newly renovated building at 5 p.m., excitedly anticipating a talk by Nate Ebner, a special teams player on the New England Patriots and a U.S. Olympics rugby player. Upstairs, in the Sapinsley Family Gymnasium, a bounce house and games entertained young children.

Carl Reiner, 95, dishes his secrets to longevity.

The first thing Carl Reiner does every morning is pick up the paper and read the obituary section to check if he's named there.

"If I'm not, I'll have my breakfast"– or so he says in the charming and appropriately titled HBO documentary "If You're Not in the Obit, Eat Breakfast."

Then the 95-year-old actor, writer and director, the creator of the "Dick Van Dyke Show" – "my greatest achievement," he tells JTA – goes to his computer to work on his latest project, a book.

Adam Greenman appointed president, CEO of the Alliance.

Adam Greenman will be the next president and chief executive officer of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, it was announced on June 14.

Greenman comes from a nonprofit background, working most recently as executive vice president of United Way of Rhode Island and executive director of the Rhode Island Afterschool Plus Alliance.

Riding for Holocaust education.

On June 9, Jewish motorcyclists from as far away as California and Toronto roared into Rhode Island for the Jewish Motorcyclists Alliance's Ride2Remember 2017. This year's fundraising ride was to benefit the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center, in Providence.

AUGUST 2017

A new era for Holocaust education in Rhode Island.

At its annual meeting on June 22, the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center (SBHEC) marked the beginning of a new era: the SBHEC celebrated moving into its new space in the Alliance's Dwares Jewish Community Center, in Providence, and welcomed incoming president Edward H. Newman.

Touro Fraternal celebrates 100 years.

For 100 years, the Touro Fraternal Association has brought Jewish men together, offering a sense of community and belonging. Founded in 1917 and organized a year later, gatherings were social at first. Later, community service and philanthropy were added to the mix.

Today, its nearly 500 members are fathers and sons from all over Rhode Island.



The community celebrates the Dwares JCC's reopening.

Honoring survivors at the Holocaust Memorial.

Rhode Islanders gathered at the Holocaust Memorial on the River Walk in Providence twice in just six days to recognize another milestone in the establishment of the memorial. The names of Holocaust survivors who settled in Rhode Island have been engraved on stones surrounding the memorial pathway.

SEPTEMBER 2017

A few of the top 10 moments that mattered to Jews in 5777.

Bob Dylan is awarded the 2016 Nobel Prize in Literature.

In an unexpected move, the Swedish Academy bestowed the iconic Jewish American singer – born Robert Zimmerman – with the highly coveted Nobel prize in October. Trump takes office, bringing Ivanka and Jared with him. Trump took office in January after his unexpected victory over Hillary Clinton in November, pledging in his inaugural address to put "America first." Israel freezes pluralistic Western Wall agreement. A June decision by Netanyahu's Cabinet to put a hold on the creation of an egalitarian section of the Western Wall, a deal passed in 2016, drew the ire of American Jewish leaders. Neo-Nazis rally in Charlottesville. Neo-Nazis and white supremacists gathered in a Virginia park in August to protest the removal of a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. Hurricane Harvey floods Houston

Homes were flooded and lives were turned upside down as Hurricane Harvey hit Texas in August. Over 70 percent of the city's Jews live in areas that experienced high flooding, and synagogues, schools and other Jewish community buildings sustained significant damage.

From Poland to Jerusalem in time for Israel's 70th.

March of the Living offers a two-week once-in-a-lifetime experience for 10th to 12th graders. Starting the journey in Poland, the teens will arrive in Jerusalem in time for Israel's 70th birthday celebration.

OCTOBER 2017

School project to remember Holocaust victims surpasses goal.

A 9-year-old school project to commemorate Holocaust victims surpassed its unlikely goal to collect 11 million stamps – representing the lives of 6 million Jews and 5 million other victims of intolerance who perished. From its modest beginnings of collecting a few thousand stamps, the Holocaust Stamp Project has transformed into an all-volunteer community service component for the school's high school students.

Woonsocket congregation to meet Sunday to decide its future.

Congregation B'nai Israel, in Woonsocket, like many synagogues in Rhode Island, is facing some difficult challenges. The oldest Conservative synagogue in Rhode Island, B'nai Israel Now, the dwindling membership must care for an aging

LOOKING BACK | 16



Self-driving cars from an Israeli company.



The Holocaust Memorial on the River Walk in Providence

FROM PAGE 15

LOOKING BACK

building that needs constant upkeep and increasingly expensive capital repairs.

Inspiring Jews who died in 5777.

The number of Jews who left historic marks on their fields – and, more broadly, on Jewish culture – was remarkable. Some of them are: Carrie Fisher, 60: Leonard Cohen, 82; Simone Veil, 89; Jerry Lewis, 91; Zsa Zsa Gabor, 99; Don Rickles, 90; Henry Heimlich, 96;

NOVEMBER 2017

Jewish takeaways from Election Day.

The big post-Election Day headline is the stunning Democratic sweep in Virginia's gubernatorial and House elections, coupled with the predicted Democratic win of the governor's mansion in New Jersey. Virginia over the last couple of decades seems to have transitioned from Republican red to Democratic blue, with the Democrats close to taking the House of Delegates in a result no one anticipated. Virginia's Albermarle County was closely watched this election: It includes Charlottesville, the home to the University of Virginia and a liberal enclave in conservative central Virginia. Democrats are notoriously tough to get out in off-year elections, and Albermarle was seen as a bellwether of the party's get-out-the-vote operation. In Mea Shearim, a haredi Orthodox neighborhood in Jerusalem, the best way to take the political pulse is by looking up – at the stone walls, where densely written posters break down the issues in Yiddish. Jacob Frey, 36, a marathon runner, supposedly faced a hurdle in his bid to become mayor of Minneapolis because he wasn't born in Minnesota. New Jersey's first Sikh mayor. The popular Democratic mayor, Dawn Zimmer surprised her constituents by opting not to run again, saying she preferred to focus on climate change. Instead, she endorsed City Councilman Ravi Bhalla. Bhalla won, becoming the state's first Sikh mayor.

Medieval Jewish cemetery uncovered in Bologna, Italy.

Authorities in Bologna, Italy, have announced the discovery of the site of the city's medieval Jewish cemetery, which was destroyed in 1569. They said archeological excavations in 2012-14 uncovered 408 graves, making the cemetery the largest medieval Jewish cemetery known to date in Italy.

For more on any of these stories, got to jvhri.org and search for the article title.



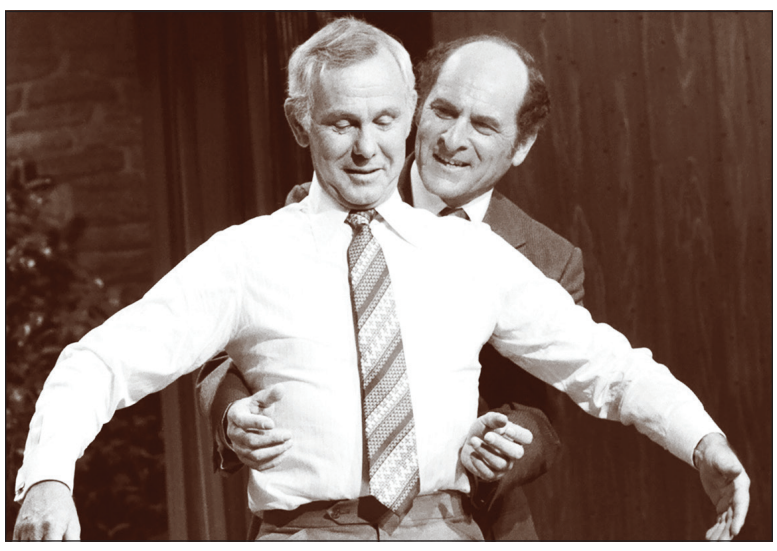
Riding for the Holocaust Education Center.



Devastation in Houston after Hurricane Harvey.



From Poland to Jerusalem in time for Israel's 70th



Henry Heimlich deomonstrating the Heimlich maneuver on the Johnny Carson show.



The Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center celebrated the move to its new space in the Alliance's Dwares Jewish Community Center.

Inspired travel



PATRICIA RASKIN

Elissa Felder, an active and vibrant Providence resident, organizes two women's trips to Israel each year. Momentum is an eight-day journey through Israel. It's offered in July and sponsored by the the Jewish Women's Renaissance Project (JWRP), whose mission is to empower women to change the world.

The idea is that they will do so through learning Jewish values, which will help them transform themselves, their families and their communities. Thousands of women from 21 countries have experienced this life-changing trip. The women pay only for airfare. The trip is funded by local organizations, the Israeli government, private philanthropy and donations from women who have gone on prior trips. Local organizations involved in funding this year's trip included the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, the Providence community Kollel and Project Shoresh.

The second trip, the Women's Reconnection Mission, runs in November. Elissa and her friend Dini Coopersmith organized this trip for women who don't meet the criteria for the JWRP trip. Participants pay the entire cost of this trip.

How did you get involved with the JWRP trips and why did you create a second trip?

The Jewish Women Renaissance Project is an organization that takes Jewish mothers to Israel for an inspiring, passionate and connecting trip. This organization was started in 2014 by a group of women, one of whom is a friend of mine. She suggested I get involved. My children were grown, and I found myself with more time. I wanted to get involved because I knew it would be a meaningful experience for local women. About 200 to 400 women from all over the world participate in the experience. The women must have children under the age of 18 who are being raised to identify as Jews. They must also live near a leader who will continue with follow-up programming after the trip.

In addition to taking women on the JWRP trip in the summer, my friend Dini Coopersmith and I (with some help from an Israeli travel coordinator who takes care of all the logistics) have created the Women's Reconnection Mission – a trip for women who are interested in the Israeli experience but do not fit the JWRP criteria. These women represent all ages, affiliations and parts of the world. I had a sense of what a trip would look like, so I created one that was more intimate with about 25-30 participants who would grow and learn together.

This November was the second trip we have offered. The Reconnection Mission is very experiential and consists of all sorts of programming, including workshops, group discussions, visits to the Dead Sea and Tsfat, healthy cooking demonstrations and Shabbat in Jerusalem.



PHOTO | FRAN OSTENDORF

The women who went on the Momentum trip in summer 2017 with Elissa Felder, standing far right.

What are the comments you're getting from women who have experienced these trips to Israel?

Women come back from these trips and tell me that they feel like it was the best experience of their lives and that their Jewish roots have been watered in ways they didn't see possible.

In Israel, women are freed from the responsibilities of daily living so that they are fully able to concentrate on themselves and reflect on their lives and how they want to live them. They are empowered to reflect more on the concept of the Jewish woman and be more mindful of their roles as Jewish women. Locally, the JWRP women have become a sisterhood, and they realize they have a lot to contribute to the Jewish world around them.

How has this changed your life?

It's given me access to leaders, teachers and wisdom outside of the Rhode Island community. I have felt empowered to step outside my comfort zone. The trip we created in November was a direct result of that.

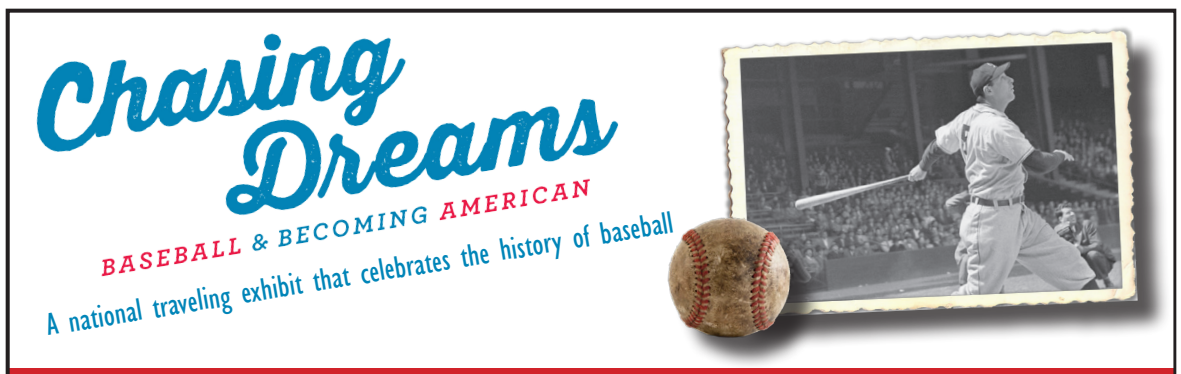
Anything else you'd want to say?

I encourage everyone to go to Israel. There is something very powerful about seeing it for yourself – the people, the history, the land. The diversity of the Jewish people is so humbling and amazing. It's a platform for inspiration.

For more information on the JWRP trips or the Women's Reconnection Mission, contact Elissa Felder at elissafelder@aol.com.

PATRICIA RASKIN is president of Raskin Resources Productions Inc., an award-winning radio producer and Rhode Island business owner. She is the host of "The Patricia Raskin" show, a radio and podcast coach, and a board member of Temple Emanu-El, in Providence.





Exploring a different Israel with the Merrin Fellowship

BY SETH FINKLE

A year ago, I began an 18-month professional development program called the Merrin Fellowship for Teen Engagement. Together with 12 other JCC teen professionals we are learning from each other and many JCC and non-JCC professionals about different innovations in teen programming. The program includes five group seminars, including a 10-day experience in Israel in October. We had all been to Israel before but the purpose of this trip was to see Israel in a different way, and especially to see how Israel values youth and teen programming.

In Israel, we visited three places most relevant to our work in the U.S.

Shanti House in the Negev is an intriguing program that helps youths who can no longer live at home for a variety of reasons. A youth is able to come to this oasis any time at any point regardless of time of day. He or she can stay for as long as needed, including years. The people of the Shanti House help with everything, including counseling, drug rehab, education etc. They help the residents get ready for their time in the IDF. The refrigerator is always stocked and the residents can always go to it. This is something we take for granted, but the residents have said that they were saved by this house and these details. One of the girls who lived there is now a high commander in the IDF. We talked with the staff about the Shanti House and learned that there is no other organization like this in Israel. Is there another like it in the world? I cannot help but ask myself why this type of organization does not exist in the US. What do we do in the US for at-risk youth? Would something like this work? Would our general population support this? Why does Israel feel this organization is important? These questions are still with me. And this is the kind of thinking that the Merrin Fellowship encourages.



The Merrin Fellows in Israel.

We also met with volunteers from Save a Child's Heart. I had visited this place while on a Birthright trip seven years ago, but this time it had a different impact on me. Save a Child's Heart is a non-profit that helps children who need heart operations. These children mostly come from Africa and everything is paid for. The Israeli doctors also train doctors from these countries. The thing that stands out is that they are treating children from ANY country, including Iraq and Iran. The Israeli doctors also travel to the countries in Africa to check on the children who they operated on. If a former patient needs another operation, they do it, no questions asked. The Jewish Alliance states "All are Welcome." If Israel can help children from countries that hate them, they truly are welcoming everyone because kids are kids. It makes me think about how can we use this idea in our own organization and truly mean "All are Welcome."

On any trip to Israel, a visit to the Holocaust Memorial, Yad Vashem, is important. I had been there before but this time we took a long look at the outside sculptures and their meanings. This visit really affected me when we went to the children's memorial. The statues on the outside are designed for a very specific reason. There is a statue of columns and trees on a hill near the entrance. The columns are unfinished and staggered in length to symbolize children's lives cut short by the Holocaust. The trees show that growth happens despite death. There is a statue to the right of the entrance with six candles that represent the six million Jewish lives taken. Inside the exhibit are five candles that are magnified more times than I can count. You are in a dark room and only hear the names, ages and countries of the children who died. I visited the memorial when I was 13. Now at 33, I walked out feeling emotional with tears in my eyes. I have a deeper appreciation and understanding of what we do at the Alliance and why. As we were walking to the memorial, a friend said, "being here is proof that the final solution was not final."

When I share with teens that the organizations I saw deal with kids their own age, it helps them connect to something so far away and helps them connect to Israel in a deeper way. Every time I visit, I come back more energized about Judaism. After this trip, I came back with a renewed excitement for the possibilities of what can be accomplished with teen programming.

SETH FINKLE (sfinkle@jewishallianceri.org) is director of Camp Haverim and teen programming at the Jewish Alliance.

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Some of those in attendance enjoy lunch.

PHOTOS | ELLY LEYMAN

FROM PAGE 1

KOLLEL

workshop, "The Evolution of Self ... Who Am I." This workshop was given both in morning and afternoon sessions. Her focus included quotes from Viktor Frankl, the discussion of "creating an identity" and the firm conviction that if there is something standing in between the "me of yesterday" and the "me of tomorrow," one needs to identify it and find a way to conquer it. She additionally spoke about internal and external identities.

She encourages others with her stand-by motto, "If I can't remove it, I'll improve it."

Morning workshop choices included "Nourishing the Body to Engage the Soul ... Engaging the Soul to Nourish the Body," presented by Miriam Lipson, an inspiring teaching professional for more than 30 years; "How to Start Finding Your Ancestors Without Leaving Your Kitchen Computer," presented by Marilyn Lipton Okonow; and "Have your Torah and Eat It, Too," with Kayla Hack, who has taught Jewish education in elementary schools in New York and Connecticut for almost 20 years and is currently teaching at Providence Hebrew Day School. Her passion is creating delicious weekly *parashah* desserts for her family.

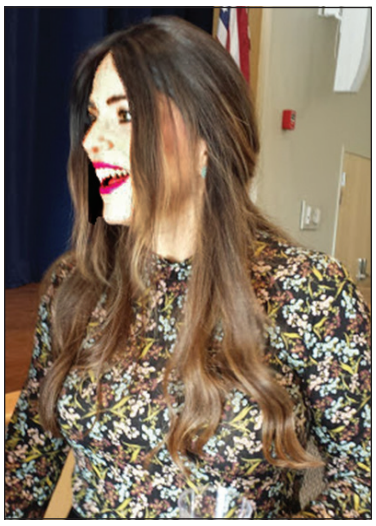
Chef Freda Baer and her team at Ahava Catering served a delicious buffet lunch in the Social Hall, and a special ice cream dessert buffet at the close of the program.

The after-lunch workshops included "The Original Jewish Wonder Woman: Her Legacy for the Present and Future," presented by Elisheva Bielory, a dynamic teacher who moved to Rhode Island as a founding member of the Providence Community Kollel.

"Identifying and Managing Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer Syndrome" was presented by the Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation and involved a discussion of involved hereditary cancer risk and what medical management changes one should consider.

"Be a Mentsch – Teaching Our Children How to Behave Without Lecturing" was presented by Miriam Esther Weiner, Providence Hebrew Day School's principal for the last 20 years. Weiner addressed individual scenarios regarding parenting children, and she emphasized that mothers do not have be "super women." She also discussed the important lessons of listening to your children and being honest with them. "You don't have to have guests every Shabbat," she said, noting that having Shabbat with your own family at times is a healthy and good choice as well. Weiner's expertise in parenting, along with humorous anecdotes, was greatly appreciated by all present.

A special presentation was made by Shoshanah Lapin encouraging women to read "The Other Side of the Story," in memory of Mrs. Schochet.



Keynote speaker Yaffa Palti.



Miriam Esther Weiner, principal of PHDS giving the parenting workshop, titled, "Be a Mentsch."

At the end of the day, all attending the conference left feeling inspired.

ELLY LEYMAN, of Providence, is a self-employed researcher and resource specialist. She can be reached at elly207@gmail.com.





PHOTOS | FRAN OSTENDORF

Story time at the J

Children enjoy the monthly Shababa Friday/PJ Library story hour Nov. 17 at the Dwares Jewish Community Center.



The Gloria Gemma Hope Bus was parked on Elmgrove Avenue during the conference. All were welcome to visit the bus, the community outreach arm of the Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

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You CAN put a wise head on young shoulders!

BY ERIN MINIOR



LIVING WELL

ERIN MINIOR

Here's a surprising fact: Researchers now consider baby boomers in their mid-70s to be middle-age. You could have fooled me! I can still recall how slowly and laboriously my grandparents climbed the stairs, unloaded groceries and performed other chores while they were in their mid-60s. Now, most folks in their 60s are as agile as ever. Since people are living longer and healthier lives, it's particularly important to ensure that their years are as fulfilling for them as they were when they were younger.

Baby boomers who want to continue to enjoy fine emotional, physical and mental health through middle age and beyond might consider the following pointers. While they might have heard these suggestions already, they bear repeating; after all, memories aren't what they once were.

• Get out there! Participate in social activities on a regular basis. My 87-year-old mother plays cards two to three times a week with friends. Since research and experience show that people with an active social life enjoy better health, her doctor heartily endorses this "prescription" for fun and excitement.

• Exercise your brain: Enroll in a philosophy class, read newspapers in a foreign language or play chess with friends – do something to "strain your brain."

• If your medical provider gives you the green light, follow a moderate physical exercise routine for the benefit of your brain and your body. Gardening and housecleaning may not be as exciting as downhill skiing or speed skating, but these activities still provide some cardiovascular benefits.

• Treat your body as you would a beloved and precious possession. That includes following such advice as, eat to live, don't live to eat. If you smoke, get help to quit.

• Give back. Meaningful volunteer work mutually benefits the givers and the receivers. After retiring, some people struggle with finding ways to continue to live fulfilling and meaningful lives. Often, they ask themselves, "What now? What's my value?" Struggle no more – contribute your time, your talent or your treasure to a cause for which you feel passion – be it Jewish history, climate change or women's rights. Before dedicating yourself, consider your preferences: Do you want to "roll up your sleeves" and be a hands-on volunteer, serve as a board member or raise money? Check with the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, Jewish Family Service and the Jewish Seniors Agency of Rhode Island – all these agencies need volunteers, as do many other Jewish and secular organizations. Stuck for ideas? Search State Farm's website, neighborhoodforgood.com, by zip code to view volunteer opportunities.

• Plan for the future: Living longer has its benefits, unless your money runs out. Meet with a reputable financial planner to evaluate your financial situation and plan, plan, plan.

• Ask for help: You might be overwhelmed by caring for an elderly parent, ill spouse or young grandchildren. Or, you could be worried about finances, or simply feeling blue. Contact Jewish Family Service for confidential help, resources and referrals. Call the agency at 401-331-1244.

ERIN MINIOR, LICSW, is CEO of Jewish Family Service.

Scott Fried to speak at URI on World AIDS Day

Scott Fried, an award-winning international public speaker, HIV/AIDS educator, and author, will be in residence at the University of Rhode Island on World AIDS Day, Friday, Dec. 1. Candidly addressing issues of sexual health, intimacy in the age of social media, and building resilience and self-esteem, he will conduct workshops at the Gender and Sexuality Center and at the Memorial Union. Fried will also speak Friday evening following dinner at URI Hillel.

For more than 25 years, he has lectured to more than a million teenagers and adults in nearly every U.S. state, as well as in other countries. Fried's work is based on a core belief that one must understand the value of one's own life and hold it sacred to refrain from dangerous behaviors that could lead to HIV infection and other crises. Sharing his own life story of contracting and dealing with HIV, he speaks on topics that include sexual responsibility and consent, transmission of HIV, eating disorders, body image, self-injury, suicide, alcohol and drug misuse, intimacy, and broken-heartedness.

In addition to the speech after the service of healing and a festive Shabbat dinner, Fried will lead workshops earlier in the day including "Social Media and True Intimacy" from noon to 1:30 p.m. and "Sexual Health and Safer Sex" from 2 to 4 p.m.

AIDS PROJECT RI will be conducting free and confidential HIV testing from 3 to 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1, in the URI Health Services Potter Building, 6 Quarry Rd., Kingston, in conjunction with Fried's visit.

Fried's visit is sponsored by URI Hillel and the Gender and Sexuality Center with additional support from URI Health Services and Greek Life. Other contributors at this time include the URI Departments of Education, Gender and Women's Studies, Human Development and Family Studies, Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology; the URI Women's Center; individual members of the URI Chaplains Association; and the (401)j Program of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island. For more information, please contact Amy Olson at URI Hillel at 401-874-2740 or amyolson@uri.edu or Annie M. Kosar at the URI Gender and Sexuality Center, 401-874-9277 or anniem@uri.edu.



Scott Fried

Women's Alliance
of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island

Rosh Hodesh

Tradition tells us that *Rosh Hodesh*, the marking of the new moon, was once celebrated by both Jewish men and women. In later years, *Rosh Hodesh* became primarily a women's holiday—a day for women to be together to enjoy meaningful introspection, dialogue and study.

Come celebrate with us!

Thursday, November 30, 2017 | 12 *Kislev* 5778
12:00 - 1:15pm

Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island
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Cost: $10 (includes lunch)
Featuring Rabbi Rachel Zerin, Temple Emanu-El
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For more information or to RSVP, contact Danielle Germanowski at 401.421.4111 ext. 109 or dgermanowski@jewishallianceri.org or visit jewishallianceri.org/rosh-hodesh

Kindly RSVP by November 10, 2017.

Jewish Alliance OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

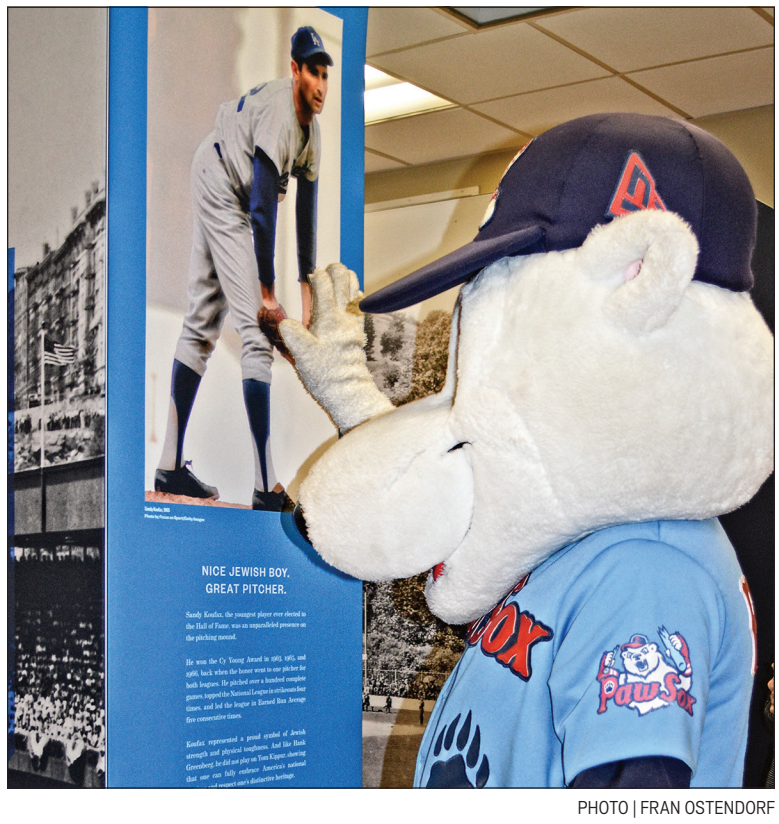


PHOTO | FRAN OSTENDORF

Paws, the Pawtucket Red Sox mascot, recently visited the children from the Eides Family J-Space and took a few minutes to view Chasing Dreams: Baseball and Becoming American at the Dwares Jewish Community Center.

REMEMBER THE PAST

From the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association

The Providence pugilist

BY GERALDINE S. FOSTER

Rhode Island can claim two champion boxers – at least to my admittedly imperfect knowledge – George Araujo and Vinnie Paz. If I have slighted anyone, please let me know. Since boxing is not a sport of interest to me, or of which I know very much, you may ask why I am writing about champion boxers. The pugilist of the title was actually an "almost-champion," a Jewish bantamweight boxer who captured the hearts of boxing aficionados in our state. His name was Morris Billingkoff, professionally known as Young Montreal.

Morris Billingkoff was 7 years old when the family left Russia in 1904 and emigrated to Montreal. A year later, they moved again, this time settling in Providence's North End. After what was described by Benton Rosen (in a 1968 article in the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes) as a "limited education," Morris began selling newspapers downtown.

The young man's interest in boxing and a demonstrated flair caught the interest of Sam Feinberg, familiarly known as The Nose. Feinberg was described as quite knowledgeable about the fight scene in Rhode Island, and he became Morris's guide through the intricacies of the local pugilistic world. After a period of training, Young Montreal, at 5 feet 3 inches tall and 118 pounds, was ready for his first professional bout. It took place on Feb. 23, 1916, in the flyweight division. Three years later, he won the American flyweight championship, but vacated it the following year when he decided to fight as a bantamweight.

Young Montreal, or Monty as a local sportswriter called him, fought 106 professional bouts, winning 11 by knockouts and 46 by decision. During his career he was knocked out only once. Although he fought reigning champions, the bouts ended in stand-offs. To uncrown a champion, the contender needed to score a knockout. Early in his career, according to an article in the Providence Journal from Dec. 28, 1933, Monty was approached by a matchmaker at the New York Garden. The gentleman made a special trip to Providence to discuss a possible title bout. Based on Monty's past performance, he had confidence that Monty could easily win. Although he did not have a written contract with his local manager, Monty decided to honor that commitment.



Morris Billingkoff

Young Montreal often headed the boxing card at Infantry Hall in Providence and Marieville Gardens in North Providence. He was, by all accounts, a "scrappy" and "exciting" boxer who took on the best bantamweight fighter in the world. Young Montreal retired in 1929. After 16 years and 106 fights in the ring, the only outward sign he had been a boxer was his cauliflower left ear.

For years after his retirement, Young Montreal frequented the bouts at the old Rhode Island Auditorium. Whenever he was introduced, he was greeted with enthusiastic applause. In his later years he volunteered his services as a boxing coach to orphanages and the Catholic Youth Organization. They gratefully accepted.

Before his retirement, in 1927, he made a gift of a large quantity of gym and locker room equipment to the new Jewish Community Center. The gift was accepted by the Board, but the director of he JCC diluted any sense of gratitude when he said in a report in September 1927 that while not opposed to athletics, the primary object of the agency was to serve as a social and educational outlet.

One final question: why Young Montreal? Young because many bantamweight fighters used pseudonyms with the first word "young." Montreal, he once explained, because after his family moved from that city to the North End, the kids called him Montreal. That was probably due to the fact, he said, that they couldn't remember Billingkoff.

Morris Billingkoff died June 27, 1973. He was survived by his wife Lea (Bachrach). He is buried in Lincoln Park Cemetery.

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.

New Britain, Connecticut: The Rest of the Story

BY GEORGE M. GOODWIN

On Nov. 2, The New York Times ran a story, "Manafort Family Roots Run Deep in Connecticut City." Paul Manafort, President Donald Trump's former campaign manager, who was recently indicted for money laundering and other charges, grew up in New Britain, "the Hardware City of the World," only a few miles west of Hartford. Manafort's father, Paul Sr., had served as the Republican mayor from 1965 to 1971, and a street is named in his honor.

The article by Vivian Yee also mentioned other famous New Britain natives, such as Walter Camp, "the father of college football," and George Springer, the star of the Houston Astros' World Series-winning team. One reason I know about New Britain is because of its fine art museum, which includes an important group of paintings by Thomas Hart Benton that had once belonged to the Whitney Museum of American Art. I also happen to have met a young woman with ties to New Britain who was murdered.

I explored this faded industrial city on a few occasions when searching for clues about my father, Eugene's, upbringing there. Though he had been born in Hartford in 1915, he spent the first 16 years of his life with his parents, older sister and two younger brothers in New Britain. Both of my paternal grandparents, Sadie and Isadore, had been born in Eastern Europe; she came to America from Ukraine as an infant, but he did not emigrate from Romania until becoming eligible for the draft. Fortunately, upon arriving on the Lower East Side in 1902, he brought his skills as an engraver, so he quickly found work. Indeed, Isadore (who had Anglicized his name from Israel) and his older brother, Paul, moved to the Hartford area in order to become more deeply involved with its industrial production.

After establishing his own Main Street business, New Britain Stamp Works, in 1912, Isadore gradually prospered. Not only was he able to purchase a suburban home, but his young family spent several summers in a rented cottage in Branford, on Long Island Sound. These were the happiest days of Dad's childhood. In 1931, during the depths of the Depression, his family pulled up stakes in New Britain and drove to Los Angeles, where my grandmother's parents and five older siblings had already settled (and where I would be born and grow up).

My dad's mostly positive memories of New Britain, where Polish-Americans predominated, included walking to school, joining Boy Scouts, playing the violin and becoming a Bar Mitzvah at Temple B'nai Israel, a Conservative congregation. In his memoirs about growing up in Kansas City, Missouri, the prominent journalist, Calvin Trillin, mentioned his childhood rabbi, Gershon Hadas, who had been Dad's mentor in New Britain.

Regrettably, the recent New York Times article failed to mention one of New Britain's best-known natives, Abraham Ribicoff (1910-1998), who had a distinguished political career in Connecticut as a U.S. Representative, governor, and U.S. Senator. Ribicoff and President John F. Kennedy had become Congressional colleagues in 1948; Abraham nominated JFK to serve as Adlai Stevenson's vice president in 1956; and Abraham was JFK's floor manager at the 1960 convention in Los Angeles, which my parents attended and where they also met the future president. Abraham became JFK's first cabinet appointee, as secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Dad had been far friendlier with Abraham's younger brother, Irving, his exact contemporary. Not only did they attend New Britain High School together and belong to the same fraternity; the boyhood chums both became successful lawyers. They stayed in touch the rest of their lives. Dad also maintained some contact with Irving's widow, Belle, as he did with one of his New Britain sweethearts, Bea Saunders, who married an editor of Forbes magazine.

I remember meeting Irving and Belle's daughter, Sarai, a 1979 Phi Beta Kappa alumna of Yale, when she moved to Los Angeles, immediately following her graduation, to launch her career in journalism at the Hearst newspaper, The Los Angeles Herald Examiner. My younger sister, Betty, was already writing for that paper, and I attended a dinner for Sarai hosted by our parents.

Although I saw Sarai only a few times, I remain horrified by her fate. She was murdered outside of a Los Angeles restaurant, during an armed robbery, on the evening of Nov. 13, 1980. In another, never-predictable turn of events, Kenny Barshop, the deputy district attorney who prosecuted her murderer, was one of my Jewish buddies from junior high school.

The Ribicoff family's horror must have been unbearable for a second reason. Sarai had a cousin, Gail Rubin, who had been murdered in Israel in 1978 by a Palestinian terrorist.

Dad and his family had never regretted leaving New Britain. Indeed, they always harbored a bit of nostalgia for it. But the Ribicoff family's intertwined American, Jewish, and Israeli stories seem as wonderful as they are dreadful.

GEORGE M. GOODWIN, a member of Temple Beth-El, is editor of "Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes."

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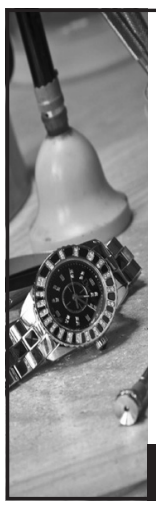
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LimmudBoston festival celebrates Jewish life

In Hebrew, the word "*Limmud*" means study. In New England, LimmudBoston is an all-day, volunteer-driven festival of everything Jewish. For eight years, LimmudBoston has educated and delighted beginners and scholars, young to young-at-heart, the not-very-attached and the very affiliated iin the Jewish world.

The 8th annual LimmudBoston conference will take place all day on Dec. 3. The festival kicks off on Dec. 2, with a *havdalah* service and a "Light up the Night Concert," featuring Julie Silver and Friends.

Other musicians include Jeff Klepper, Sue Horowitz, Anthony Russell, Dave Rothberg and Arnie Davidson. EJ Cohen will provide sign language interpretation.

Both the concert and conference take place at Temple Reyim in Newton, Massachusetts near the intersection of Route 95 and the Mass Pike.

Steffi Aronson Karp, founder of LimmudBoston, fondly remembers her teen experiences in a youth group. She considers LimmudBoston a youth group for everyone, that is, a meaningful way to participate in Jewish life, from serious text study to food demonstrations, with storytelling, music, social justice and family programs thrown into the mix." LimmudBoston is based on Limmud UK values and principles.

Among the activities: discover storyteller Judith Black, and the Jewish Storytelling Coalition; discuss health and nutrition and life issues and parenting, or engage with rabbis, like Leon Morris of Jerusalem's Pardes Institute, Danny Lehmann of Hebrew College, Paul Golin from the Society for Humanistic Judaism and Jill Cameron of Interfaith Family. Learn to keep a dream journal, expand your Kosher repertoire, practice a bisl Yiddish. Hanan Harchol, an educator/videographer will talk about his process for creating the poignant and pointed Jewish Food for Thought video series that teaches mussar to teens.

There is a silent auction and exhibitors.

More information is available at LimmudBoston.org.

Submitted by LimmudBoston

FROM PAGE 10

CALENDAR

Information, office@bethsholom-ri.org.

Community Hanukkah Celebration for Teens. 7-10 p.m. Dwares JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Come to our annual Hanukkah party those in grades 6-12. Hang out, make new friends, nosh on a latke, grab a warm drink at the hot chocolate bar and enjoy Israeli-inspired activities. Other activities include karaoke, boys & girls swim, the game Kahoot (so bring your cellphone) and an ugly holiday sweater contest. Cost: $15 | RSVP by 12/6 and pay only $10 | Be one of the first 10 teens to RSVP and pay only $5. Created for and by youth groups in greater Rhode Island, including USY, Junior USY, BBYO, NCSY, PROVTY, CRAFTY, Camp JORI and the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island. Information or to RSVP, Seth Finkle at sfinkle@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 146.

Sunday | December 10

Men's Club Breakfast with Guest Speaker Adam Greenman. 9-11 a.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Hear what the CEO and president of the Jewish Alliance of Greater RI has to say. All are welcome. Information, Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Torah Sprouts. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Children ages 3-5 sing songs, hear stories, create arts and crafts, and enjoy snacks. Parents must stay with their children. $10 per session. Information or to register, Torat Yisrael office at 401-885-6600.

Preschool Hanukkah Hoopla. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island, 85 Taft Ave., Providence. Hanukkah fun for kids 3- to 5-years-old. Includes crafts and activities, music and holiday treats. All activities facilitated by Pre-K staff. Open to the community. Information, Naomi Stein at nstein@jcdsri.com or 401-751-2470.

Tribe Talk. 10:30 a.m.-noon. Dwares JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. The first in a series of edgy, informative and engaging conversations on trending news topics through a Jewish lens. Panelists Elisabeth Harrison, news director of Rhode Island Public Radio, and Alan Rosenberg, executive editor of the Providence Journal, will discuss the topics of racism, terrorism and free speech in the media. Adam Greenman, president & CEO of the Jewish Alliance, will moderate. No cost to attend. Suggested donation of $5 to cover the cost of a light breakfast. RSVP (by 12/7) to Lynne Bell at lbell@jewishallianceri.org. Sponsored by The Jewish Voice and the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island. Information, Larry Katz at lkatz@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 179.

Romney-Wegner Brunch and Lecture: "Yours, Mine or Ours: Understanding Women's Authority Over Married Property." 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. What authority did Jewish women in medieval Europe have when it came to making financial decisions and owning property? Dr. Elisheva Baumgarten, professor of Jewish Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, will speak. Brunch at 10:30 a.m.; lecture at 11 a.m. Free. Information, Paul Stouber at pstouber@teprov.org or 401-331-1616.

Summer J-Camp Reunion. 4-6 p.m. Dwares JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Join your friends, former CITs and counselors at the J-Camp reunion. Swim in the pool, enjoy a pizza party, laugh, play games, dance and watch a camp slideshow. RSVP (before 12/7) required. Information or to RSVP, Seth Finkle at sfinkle@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 146.



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ASK THE DIRECTOR

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

QUESTION: During the mourning period of *shiva*, the children of the deceased wear the *k'riah* ribbon on the left side and other family members wear it on the right. Why the differentiation?

Dear T.J.,

The custom of tearing one's clothes while in mourning is called "*k'riah*," literally, "tearing." It used to be done on one's actual clothing and many people, especially in the orthodox community, still practice it this way. For practicality and symbolism, only in modern times have the funeral homes switched to using black ribbons.

Children in mourning for their parents wear a torn ribbon on the left side of the breast, directly over their heart to symbolize the loss of a parent and a direct bloodline down. The cut ribbon symbolizes the tear in our heart and is an outward sign of mourning as well.

Siblings, a spouse, or a parent wear the ribbon on the right side.

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.

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Hope Kagan, 85

JOHNSTON, R.I. – Hope Kagan died Nov. 17 at Cherry Hill Manor. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Edward and Eva (Broadman) Kagan, she had lived in Johnston for nine years, previously living in Warwick.

She was the devoted sister of Paula Meyerson and her husband, Larry, of Cranston, Enid Kagan of Warwick, and her late twin sister, Myrna Green. She was the dear aunt of several nieces and nephews. Contributions in her memory may be made to the charity of your choice.

Shirley Rappaport

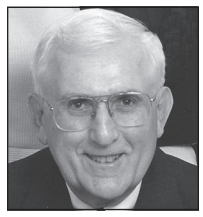
BRIDGEPORT, CONN. – Shirley Rappaport of Providence died Nov. 9 at the Sadie House of Jewish Senior Services of Fairfield County in Bridgeport. Born in Providence, she was the daughter of the late Anna Rachel (Rakatansky) Rappaport and the late Joseph Rappaport. Shirley was a graduate of Hope High School in Providence. She worked as a school clerk stenographer for the Providence Public Schools for many years. She was predeceased by her siblings Norman Rappaport of Providence, Mildred Seligman of Swansea, Massachusetts, and Kenneth Rappaport of Lake Bomoseen, Vermont.

She is survived by nephews Jerry Rappaport and his wife, Susan, of Wilton, Connecticut, David Rappaport (deceased) and his wife, Gail, of West Hartford, Connecticut, niece Ellen Rappaport and her wife, Dori Gottfried, of Lutherville, Maryland, and niece Gayle Hodosh and her husband, Lance, of Swansea. She is also survived by great nieces and nephews.

Contributions in her memory may be made to the Jewish Alliance of Greater RI or Jewish Family Service of Rhode Island.

David Slitt, 87

EAST GREENWICH, R.I. – David Slitt died Nov. 18 at Rhode Island Hospital. He was the beloved husband of the late



Catherine (Murphy) Slitt. Born in Hartford, Connecticut, a son of the late Harry and Martha (Weinchel) Slitt, he had lived in East Greenwich for 35 years, previously living in Simsbury, Connecticut.

He was an attorney for several insurance companies, including American Universal, where he met his wife, retiring in 1999. David was a Navy Airman, serving from 1948-49 aboard the USS Coral Sea in Mindoro and stateside. He was a graduate of University of Connecticut, Class of '53 and Boston University School of Law, Class of '57. David was a member of the former Temple Am David and the Rhode Island Bar Association.

He was the devoted father of Lieutenant Colonel Andrew J. Slitt, and his wife, Angela, of North Stonington, Connecticut, and Martha E. Slitt of Boston, Massachusetts. He was the dear brother of Rose Hyman of Oceanside, Californnia, and the late William and Aaron Slitt, Arline Wisnefsky and Bethany Monsiglio. He was the cherished grandfather of Allison, Noah, Benjamin and Sara. He was the loving uncle of many nieces and nephews, including Judy Koellmer.

Contributions in his memory may be made to E. Greenwich Animal Protection League, 205 Hallene Road, Warwick, RI 02886 or The Prout School, 4640 Tower Hill Rd., Wakefield, RI 02879.

Warsaw Ghetto museum planned for hospital

WARSAW, Poland (JTA) – The Polish government wants to create a Warsaw Ghetto museum in a hospital that had its patients and workers sent to the Treblinka death camp.

"The creation of the Warsaw Ghetto museum is in the initial phase of preparation, both substantively and organizationally," the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage told JTA.

The museum planned for the former Bersohn and Bauman Hospital building in Warsaw will be developed in cooperation with the Jewish Historical Institute. In its statement, the ministry did not set a timetable for the opening.

"This is a very good initiative both for commemorating the Warsaw residents who were separated by the wall and the first Warsaw uprising," said Polish-Jewish activist Piotr Kadlcik, whose immediate family died in the Warsaw Ghetto.

Pazinski, the editor in chief of Midrasz magazine, said he was pleased the ghetto would be commemorated in Warsaw but wanted further details.

"I hope for a place devoted to the life and death of the Warsaw Ghetto from the inside, the voices of the people who lived and died in it," he said.

Bersohn and Bauman Hospital began operating in 1878. Janusz Korczak, the Polish-Jewish humanitarian who accompanied more than 190 orphaned children when they were transported to the Nazi camp Treblinka, worked there during the years 1905 to 1912.

In the interwar years, the hospital was taken over by the Society of Friends of Children, and its expansion was financed by the Jewish community and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. During World War II, the hospital was located within the ghetto before its location was changed twice.

In 1942, its patients and workers were taken to Treblinka, the Nazi death camp in occupied Poland where 700,000 to 900,000 people were killed. After the war, the Central Committee of Polish Jews took over the hospital building.

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5 amazing discoveries from a trove of documents hidden during the Holocaust

BY JOSEFIN DOLSTEN

NEW YORK (JTA) – Last month, the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research made an astonishing announcement: the discovery of 170,000 Jewish documents thought to have been destroyed during the Holocaust.

The papers, which date from the mid-18th century through World War II, survived destruction attempts by both the Nazis and the Soviets.

In 1941, as part of a program to loot Jewish museums and institutions, the Nazis raided YIVO, which is now based in New York but was then headquartered in Vilna. A group of Jewish slave laborers called the "Paper Brigade" smuggled some books, papers and artwork into the Vilna ghetto – risking their lives in the process. After World War II, a non-Jewish Lithuanian librarian, Antanas Ulpis, hid the collection in the basement of a church amid a campaign by the Soviet government to rid the country of religion.

In 1991, the Lithuanian government said it found 150,000 documents that Ulpis had kept in the church, but the new discovery appears to surpass that collection both in terms of size and the condition of the documents, said Jonathan Brent, YIVO's executive director.

Together the two discoveries make up "the largest collection of material about Jewish life in Eastern Europe that exists in the world," Brent told JTA earlier this month at YIVO's downtown headquarters here. Brent said the documents shed new light on the lives of Eastern European Jews, whose history is often told as a series of persecutions.

"It was nothing but pogroms," Brent recalled of being taught about Ashkenazi history as a child. "And what this opens up to is it was so much more than that, that indeed the Jews had a real civilization that flourished."

The Lithuanian government found the documents in 2016 and told YIVO about them earlier this year. Most of the material remains in Lithuania, but 10 items are being shown through January at YIVO, which is working with the Lithuanian government to archive and digitize the collection.

Here is a look at a handful of the documents displayed at YIVO and what they teach us about Jewish life in Eastern Europe.

1. Communal record book, Lazdijai, Lithuania, 1836

The book, called a Pinkas, was written for a Talmud study association and used to record information about its members, such as births, deaths and business transactions. It is decorated with ornate illustrations and states that in order to be a part of the group, members must study a full page of Talmud together.

"What you see here in the way it's decorated is the pride and the care that they felt about their life and their desire to memorialize it for generations," Brent said.

2. Letter written by Sholem Aleichem from a health resort, Badenweiler, Germany, 1910

The famed Yiddish author had health problems and would spend time in health resorts far away from friends and family. In this note, Sholem Aleichem ridicules Leon Neustadt, a leader in the Warsaw Jewish community, writing that a biblical verse referring to non-Kosher animals forbidden to Jews actually refers to Neustadt.

3. Agreement between a water carrier union and the Ramayles Yeshiva, Vilna, 1857

In the document, the group of carriers promises to donate a Torah scroll and raise money to purchase a Talmud set for the prominent yeshiva in exchange for using a room for religious services.

Water carriers, workers who ferried water to people's homes, were "the lowest economic rung of society, and the fact they had a contract with the yeshiva was significant," Brent said. "What this modest document shows us is that this community functioned in such a way that the very top of the community and the very bottom of the community communicated with each other and helped each other."

4. 10 poems by Avrom Sutzkever, Vilna, 1943

The prominent Yiddish poet wrote these on top of old documents, creating a makeshift book for his poems in the Vilna ghetto, where paper was scarce. These are the earliest-known versions of the poems Sutzkever wrote there, which he reproduced several times and knew by heart. He composed some of them while living in the woods as a partisan fighter. Writing the poems in the book helped give other ghetto residents greater access to them.

5. Autobiography of Bebe Epstein, Vilna, 1933-34

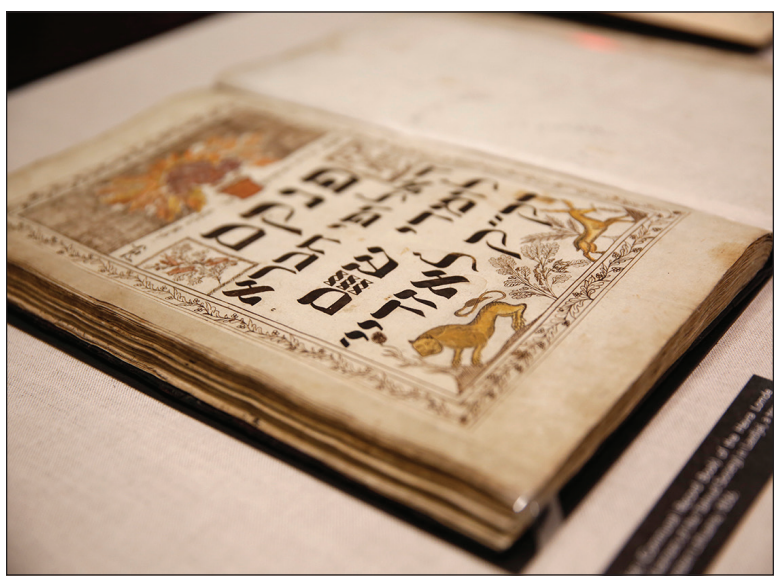
Epstein was 12 when she wrote this book and submitted it to YIVO for a youth autobiography contest. The fifth-grader writes about the day-to-day happenings of her childhood, such as dealing with a strict teacher: "At first, he was good to us. Later he got strict, and even stricter." Epstein also detailed various illnesses she suffered from. Epstein was later forced to live in the Vilna Ghetto and in concentration camps, but she survived the war and moved to the United States.



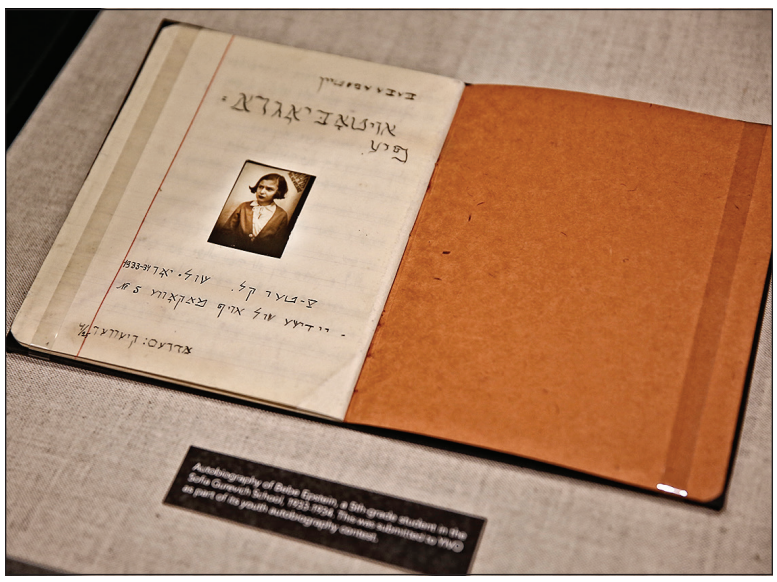
PHOTO | JOSEFIN DOLSTEN

Jonathan Brent, the executive director of YIVO.





This communal record book lists the regulations for being part of a Talmud study group in Lazdijai, Lithuanua.



Vilna resident Bebe Epstein was 12 when she wrote this autobiography.



PHOTOS | FRAN OSTENDORF



Panelists speak during discussion sessions (above and left).

FROM PAGE 1

FLAVOR

Alliance's Dwares Jewish Community Center in Providence.

If the open marketplace filled with tasty noshes – both for sample and sale – or the discussions about the role food plays in daily life didn't start the crowd thinking about food, the two keynote speeches did.

Rabbi Jonathan Blumberg-Kraus, professor of religion at Wheaton College, speaking about the role of Jewish food, used the term "gastronomic Judaism" to emphasize its importance. He would later participate in a panel on the rituals of dinner, where the topic of food as hospitality, community builder and shaper of culture was discussed. This panel followed his keynote.

Lisa Raiola, founder and president of Hope & Main and vice president of institutional advancement at Roger Williams University, talked about what led her to start Rhode Island's first food incubator, a place where food businesses could get a start, with help. She also discussed Rhode Island's food economy and its tremendous opportunity. Only one percent of what is caught or grown in Rhode Island stays in Rhode Island, she said. With local food businesses buying from Rhode Island growers, employing Rhode Islanders and selling to Rhode Islanders, that number will rise and more funds will stay in the state which is good for the economy.

Six separate panel discussions gave everyone in attendance an opportunity to meet Rhode Islanders who are involved in all aspects of the state's food economy and culture, from manufacturing to growing food to feeding residents and tackling the challenges of food inequality. Members of the Board of Rabbis led the discussions.

Rabbi Wayne Franklin led a group discussing "Rituals of Dinner" that included Blumberg-Kraus. Food access was facilitated by Rabbi Alan Flam, who put together the evening's program. Rabbi Howard Voss-Altman led the discussion on growing Rhode Island's food economy. Food justice including environmental concerns and worker treatment was the subject of Rabbi Barry Dolinger's panel. Rabbi Aaron Philmus led a discussion of local food movements and resources, and Rabbi Sarah Mack discussed the vegetarian diet with panelists.

Many of the panelists had a connection to the marketplace, and in some of the groups, there were spirited discussions about a wide range of topics – from the differences in Kashrut hekshers to how the food economy is grown in the expanding incubator program.

As Rabbi Alan Flam said after the event: "Saturday Night Flavor accomplished the goals of the Board of Rabbis to showcase both a celebration of local food and the wealth of community knowledge related to food and food justice."

He told of one friend who wrote to tell him, "the amount of community, friendship, information and warmth was unique."

Flam mentioned a headline in the Nov. 20 Providence Journal: "One in eight (RI) households cannot afford to buy enough food for their families, US data shows." He said, "As we count our many blessings on Thanksgiving, we must also resolve, as a Jewish community, to be active participants in the efforts to alleviate the poverty and hunger that exist all around us."

The Board of Rabbis partnered with the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, Hope & Main, Farm Fresh Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Food Bank on the event. The evening of learning is supported by the Rabbi William G. Braude Fund at the Jewish Federation Foundation.

FRAN OSTENDORF (fostendorf@jewishallianceri.org) is the editor of The Jewish Voice.









Scenes from the marketplace (clockwise from top left): Halvah Heaven, Like No Udder, Beautiful Day – Providence Granola Project and Ganei Beantown.



Some of the congregation gathers for a photo at the shabbaton.

Beth Sholom enjoys successful shabbaton

Congregation Beth Sholom (CBS) held its first annual shabbaton Nov. 3-5, and it was, by all accounts, a smashing success. More than 70 synagogue members and supporters gathered on the beautiful grounds of Camp Ramah in Palmer, Massachusetts, to enjoy a weekend full of prayer, learning, relaxation and, most of all, fun.

As the synagogue has grown in recent years, there was, according to CBS Rabbi Barry Dolinger, a greater need for people to get to know each other.

"This was the perfect opportunity," he noted. "Our hope was that everyone would meet a few people they didn't already know, and beyond that, people would better get to know people they already did know. And what better way to do that than through a retreat?"

A prayer service on Friday evening welcoming the Shabbat started the weekend. Then, a bit later, the adults gathered for a "*Tisch*," an event in which people come together to sing, tell stories and discuss some Torah, over quality refreshments.

"It was lovely," said synagogue president William Krieger, "to see everyone enjoying themselves, and each other. Some of the singing was just gorgeous, and soulful, and the two hours flew by."

The extensive childcare and children's programming were particularly valuable for the many families who attended. "The shabbaton committee was great in arranging for many teenagers to come," said CBS vice-president and parent Brauna Doidge. "Not only were the teens able to participate with their families and their community, but they also provided wonderful babysitting that allowed the adults to enjoy other activities, and ran all the children's programming. The kids all had a blast, all weekend long."

Saturday, after a morning prayer service and lunch, there was a three-hour "free slot." People played games, read, threw a football around, took walks through the beautiful grounds, or rested. At 4 p.m., there was a pair of one-hour classes (or conversations) to choose from, led by two CBS members. Shoshana Lew led a discussion of the land management and conservation issues raised by the Book of Genesis, while Andrew Pessin talked about the relationship between philosophy and religion.

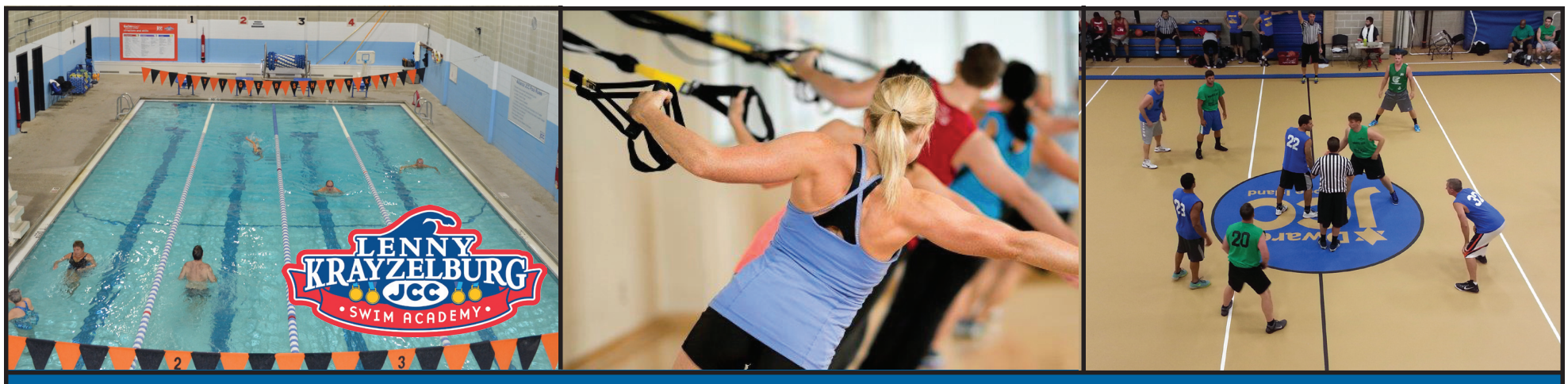
Stephanie Hague, co-chair of the planning committee for the shabbaton, noted how pleased the committee was that Lew and Pessin agreed to lead the sessions. "We have so much expertise, so many professionals, so much intellectual capital within our community, it was wonderful to have a chance to learn from each other."

For some, the highlight (among the many highlights) was the *havdalah* ceremony around the campfire Saturday night, followed by the mandatory s'mores along with singing accompanied by virtuouso guitarist and CBS member Steven Stein.

"It was beautiful," noted the other committee co-chair, Miriam Abrams-Stark, "music under the stars, around the campfire, out in nature. Happily the weather cooperated! We can't wait for next year!"

CBS is a modern orthodox congregation in Providence. Joining Hague and Abrams-Stark on the planning committee were Barbara Engler, Naomi Stein, Jess Larko and Bethany Slater. The shabbaton was partially funded by The Kallah Project, which has committed to providing funding for the annual shabbaton for the next two years.

Submitted by Congregation Beth Sholom



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