the JEWISH VOICE

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CAMP

Jeffrey Savit to leave Alliance this summer

BY FRAN OSTENDORF
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Jeffrey K. Savit, president and CEO of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, announced his resignation Feb. 15. He said he will remain in the position until mid-summer.

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 Initia-



Jeffrey Savit

SAVIT | 23

Jewish groups express dismay at remarks on one-state solution

JTA – Liberal and centrist American Jewish groups expressed dismay following remarks by President Donald Trump that he "can live with" a one-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Speaking Feb. 15 at a White House news conference prior to closed-door meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Trump was asked if he were "backing off" from the two-state solution, a pillar of U.S. policy under at least three former presidents.

"So, I'm looking at two-state and one-state and I like the one that both parties like," Trump replied, going on to refer to Netanyahu by his nickname. "I'm very happy with the one that both parties like. I can live with either one. I thought for a while the two-state looked like it may be the easier of the two but honestly, if Bibi and if the Palestinians – if Israel and the Palestinians are happy, I'm happy with the one they like the best."

NETANYAHU | 14

Ben Lipitz and Pumbaa have been together for a long time

BY SETH CHITWOOD

PROVIDENCE – If you've seen "The Lion King" on tour at the Providence Performing Arts Center (PPAC), chances are you've seen Ben Lipitz as Pumbaa. Lipitz recently celebrated his 5,000th performance as the famous warthog and returns to Providence later this month.

Aside from hogging around on stage, the New Jersey native uses some of his time off to work closely with Jewish organizations to teach master classes and outreach programs for teens.

If you're not familiar with the classic film or six-time Tony Award winning musical, the story revolves around Simba, a lion, in search of his identity before he's crowned king. He eventually meets Timon and Pumbaa, who educate him on "Hakuna Matata," which means "no worries."

"Pumbaa is a very special character, he's an everyman, and he kind of embodies Hakuna Matata, and we all secretly wish that we could be like that," the 51-year-old Cherry Hill native said in a recent interview. "I get to have the time of my life every time I step onto the stage."

Lipitz got the acting bug when he was in the third grade and played a Jewish reindeer. "It was a comic relief bit and once I heard the laughter, that was it – it bit," he said.

The youngest of three, he would do things to get attention. "I knew early what I wanted to do, and I've been very fortunate for that."



PHOTO | JOAN MARCUS

Nick Cordileone and Ben Lipitz in "The Lion King."

Lipitz was raised in a Jewish household and works hard to give back to his community. While on tour, he often reaches out to Jewish organizations to teach classes. He was very involved in USY while growing up, and wanted to offer the same opportunities he was privileged to experience – if not more.

But most importantly, he feels that his performance as Pumbaa embodies the concept of *tikkun olam*, which means "repairing the world." Each comedic performance is his way of healing the world. "Every night when I step onto the stage, that's my contribution," he said. "That's the biggest part of my heritage that I connect to every night."

Lipitz has been with the company since the tour started in 2002. He's been able to take a few breaks to perform in other productions, like "The Producers" and "God of Carnage," but for the majority of his career, he has played Pumbaa and sees no end in sight.

"I've come to a place where I take the stage every night as if it's the last time I'll ever do it," said Lipitz. "If that's the one show I'm going to remember, then that's the one I'm going to carry on for the rest of my life, then that's the performance I'm going to give."

Lipitz now calls the Poconos his home when he's not traveling with the show. He lives there with his wife, Rosalie, and their two children.

"The show has always been a large part of my family's life," he said.

PUMBAA | 26



INSIDE

Business 21-22
Calendar 11
Camp 15-20
Community 2-6, 12, 20, 23, 26
D'Var Torah 7
Food 13
Nation 7, 14, 21
Obituaries 25-26
Opinion 8-10, 26
Seniors 24
Simchas | We Are Read 27

THIS ISSUE'S QUOTABLE QUOTE

"When a stranger resides with you in your land, you should not wrong him."

Three different creative approaches on exhibit at Temple Habonim

The March/April show in the Gallery at Temple Habonim features three very different creative approaches. The show will open with a wine and cheese reception on Sunday, March 5 from 1 to 3 p.m. It continues through April 27.

Challenged by the complex process of printmaking, Bunny Fain's work explores an idea and stretches the boundaries of skills and perception. He mixes media, which may include pastel, intaglio and digitation, may be printed on mylar and may include chine-collé.

The photography of Barbara Grace DeCesare expands our view of the world. She sees things in a "greater way" which makes the viewer see that light that falls on a flower or the strength and beauty of a building. In her words, "Photography is not a destination for me, but a journey."

Mural 5777 is a creation of the religious school classes of Temple Habonim under the guidance of artist/educator Seymour Glantz and education director David Perolman. Through Hebrew letters and artistic representation, the students illustrated the concept of Kehillah Kedoshah, our holy community.

The Gallery at Temple Habonim was inspired by Bunny Fain. At the reception on March 5, the gallery will be renamed "The Bunny Fain Gallery" in his honor.

Temple Habonim is at 165 New Meadow Road in Barrington. Gallery hours are Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 4 p.m., Fridays from 9 to 1 p.m. and by appointment. For information, call 401-245-6536 or email gallery@templehabonim.org.

– Submitted by Temple Habonim



Bunny Fain, "Late Fall Landscape," mixed media, pastel, intaglio and digitation on mylar with chine-collé.



Barbara Grace DeCesare, "Boat at Rest."



Temple Habonim religious school, "Mural 5777: Kehillah Kedoshah, Our Holy Community."

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For more information on ways to leave your Jewish legacy, please contact Trine Lustig, Vice President of Philanthropy, at tlustig@jewishallianceri.org or 401.421.4111 ext. 223.

Jewish Federation Foundation
OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

BBYO teens come together to celebrate diversity

BY COURTNEY WEINER

BBYO's annual winter Kallah, held at the Hilton Hartford Hotel in Connecticut in late January, drew 85 New England Region teens and 240 from the Connecticut Valley Region for a weekend of celebrating Shabbat, learning about leadership, themselves and the world around them, becoming closer to their Jewish heritage and creating new friendships.

The theme for this year's Kallah, or convention, was "Free to Be You and Me." Activities began Friday night with peer-led interactive and educational programs on the current refugee crisis and the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Jenna Rachman, 18, who attends Acton-Boxborough Regional High School, in Massachusetts, and is the New England Region's *nazkirah-gizborit* (secretary-treasurer), is no stranger to conventions, but she said she found these programs particularly worthwhile.

Rachman said both programs gave her a better appreciation for and perspective on globalization, an important issue for BBYO, a pluralistic Jewish teen movement.

When asked about the refugee crisis program, she said, "I was able to learn so much about this global issue from the perspectives of other countries."

Saturday afternoon featured speakers and discussions based on the convention's theme. Victoria Berman, a freshman at Cranston High School West, attended a session with comedian Pamela Schuller and said she was inspired "to see how she turned her disadvantage into an advantage." Schuller has Tourette's Syndrome, and uses it to advocate for inclusion and as a basis for her stand-up comic act.

Schuller was just one of the many inspiring speakers on Saturday who emphasized diversity. Others included transgender LGBTQ activist and journalist Dawn Ennis, BBYO Grand *Aleph Godol* (President) Aaron Cooper, gospel singer Joshua Nelson and activist Emily Wyner. Teens left their sessions with more knowledge of the different ways to define diversity and how to be accepting of others.

Another first-time convention attendee, Fiona Traub, 16, of Natick High School, in Massachusetts, said she chose to attend the Kallah "because members of my chapter said that this would be the best weekend of my life" – and they were right. It was great, Traub said, to be surrounded by "such a supportive community."

When asked about the experience for a new convention attendee, Isaac Wolfson, 17, also from Natick High School, said the weekend was a game-changer for many.

"These kids will never be the same, but in the best possible way," he said.

COURTNEY WEINER attends Stoughton High School, in Massachusetts, and is a member of BBYO New England Region.



PHOTOS | BBYO

Enjoying the Winter Kallah are (left to right) Julia Keizler, Classical High School; Andrew Bikash, East Greenwich High School; Lauren Robinson, Franklin High School in Massachusetts.



Attending the Winter Kallah are (left to right) Victoria Berman, Providence; Sonia Richtor, Providence; Dora Elice, Rehoboth, Massachusetts; and Sarah Sidman, Cranston.

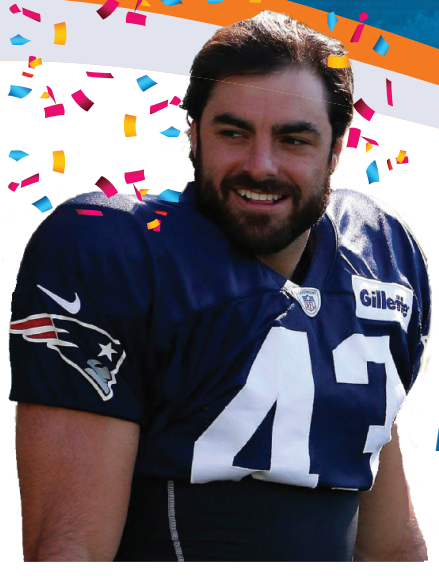
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Jewish Alliance OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

In World War II Poland, author Georgia Hunter's family were 'the lucky ones'

BY ANNE DIFFILY

When Georgia Hunter was 15, one of her teacher at the Moses Brown School, Ransom Griffin, assigned her class a family "I-Search" project.

Hunter chose to interview her grandmother. In the process, she learned that her recently deceased grandfather, Eddy Courts, had a history she never imagined. Eddy, born Addy Kurc, was one of five children raised in Radom, Poland, in a Jewish family that was profoundly affected by the Holocaust.

"Until that interview with my grandmother," Hunter says, "I had no idea that I was one-quarter Jewish or that my grandfather was raised in Poland. I assumed he was American through and through."

After graduating from college and marrying, Hunter returned to her family history, embarking on a nine-year journey to research and record the Kurcs' story of surviving the Holocaust. The result is her impressive debut novel, "We Were the Lucky Ones" (Viking, February 2017).

In Hunter's lightly fictionalized narrative, we meet her great-grandfather Sol and his wife Nechuma, their five adult children and a beloved baby granddaughter. It is spring 1939, and increasing anti-Jewish sentiment has the community on edge. The close-knit Kurcs want to believe the danger is slight.

"It will all be fine," insists Nechuma. In Paris, where he works as an engineer, Addy's friends laugh off the threat: "All this talk of war is just a fuss."

But it is only a matter of time before German forces invade and seize Radom. The family is forced into cramped ghettos and put to work in Nazi-run factories and workshops. Jews are shot in the streets of Radom and, chillingly, rounded up for relocation. Some of the Kurcs manage to flee the city, only to find there is no true sanctuary for them in Poland.

During seven harrowing years, the family scatters across Europe, Russia and South America, all the while wondering if they will survive to see one another again. And with good reason: Over the course of World War II, the number of Jews in Radom shrank from 30,000 to fewer than 300. Those who survived were indeed the lucky ones.

Turning history into fiction can be tricky, especially when using real names and details. Hunter finesses the challenge. Her novel brings the Kurcs to life in heart-pounding detail, from passionate young love and beloved traditions to narrow escapes, heartbreaking choices, starvation, imprisonment and torture. We come to care deeply about the fate of each of these resourceful, determined characters.

While writing, Hunter worried that the Kurcs' descendants, who now live in France, Brazil and the United States, might find fault in her depiction of their relatives.



The Kurc family of Radom, Poland, in the early 1930s.

"But so far everyone has reached out to tell me how moved they are by the story," she says.

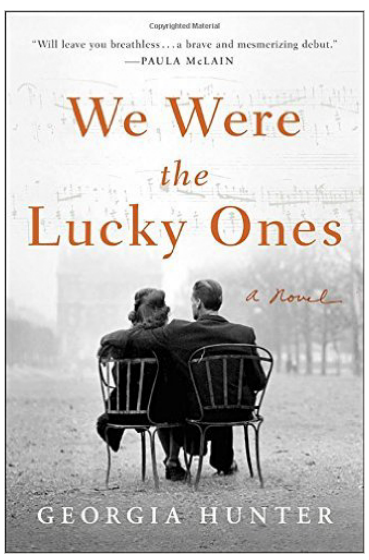
Her cousin Alain, grandson of Hunter's great-aunt Halina Kurc, wrote to thank her "for answering so many questions I never dared to ask. Your rendering of [the Kurcs'] daily struggle for life brought tears to my eyes."

"We Were the Lucky Ones" has been named by Harper's Bazaar "one of 14 books you need to read in February." It is available online and at Books on the Square in Providence.

ANNE DIFFILY, a former editor of the Brown Alumni Magazine, lives in Warwick.



Author and Moses Brown School alumna Georgia Hunter.



Reading and book signing

The public is invited to a reading and book signing with Georgia Hunter on Thursday, March 9, at 6:30 p.m. in The Miriam Hospital's Sopkin Auditorium, 164 Summit Ave., Providence. The event is sponsored by the hospital's Women's Association. RSVP by March 2 by calling 401-793-2520, or email MFerreira@Lifespan.org. Books on the Square will sell copies of "We Are the Lucky Ones" at the event.

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Rabbi Michelle Dardashti 'digs Moses,' Jewish poets and Brown and RISD students

BY SAM SERBY

Brown RISD Hillel Rabbi Michelle Dardashti was born in Los Angeles and grew up in Baltimore.

Dardashti was ordained and received an M.A. in Jewish education from the Jewish Theological Seminary. She came to campus life from the congregational world, first as the MTM Rabbinic Fellow at Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, in New York City, and then at Temple Beth El, in Stamford, Connecticut, where she cultivated those on the fringes of the community, such as young families and teens.

Prior to attending JTS, Dardashti lived in Israel, first studying under a Dorot Fellowship and later working for the Nesiya Institute. Later, she lived in Uruguay, where she taught at a Jewish day school, volunteered at Hillel Montevideo and wrote for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

During rabbinical school, Dardashti served as educator for the interfaith community, was a chaplain at Bellevue Hospital, and led JTS's High Holy Day services. She was also trained in congregation-based community organizing by Jewish Funds for Justice and traveled to El Salvador as part of an American Jewish World Service Rabbinical Student Delegation.

Dardashti, who is also associate chaplain at Brown University, lives in Providence with her husband and three children.

Q: Favorite Jewish food?
A: "Shabaty" Persian eggs [family recipe for Shabbat].

Q: Favorite Jewish holiday?
A: Pesach.

Q: Favorite Jewish song?
A: "*Ivdu et HaShem b'simha*" – "Serve God in Joy!" – from Psalm 100.

Q: Favorite Jewish movie(s)?
A: "The Prince of Egypt" and "Yentl."

Q: Favorite Jewish celebrity?
A: I'm not much into celebrities...I dig Moses.

Q: Favorite Israeli city to visit?
A: Tel Aviv. I like the beach there.

Q: Favorite Israeli city to live?
A: Jerusalem. I lived there for four years, and I can't ever get enough.

Q: Favorite Hebrew word?
A: *Meratek* [fascinating] because I learned it in a Hebrew University course and then fell in love with how intelligent I sounded when employing the word myself.

Q: Favorite Yiddish word?
A: *Shpatzir* [a stroll] because I learned it from my much more fully and proximately Ashkenazi husband – and there's really no substitute for it once it's in your vocabulary. "Going for a *shpatzir*" is much more exciting than going for a stroll....

Q: Best part of keeping Kosher, worst part of keeping Kosher?
A: Best part: You end up eating less junk food. Worst part: You can't eat everywhere. It's not so simple to have a nice meal anywhere you want.

Q: Favorite part of being Jewish?
A: It's countercultural. It's about being different and doing things differently, such that you are mindful and uplifting the mundane.

Q: Favorite part of being a rabbi at Brown?
A: Getting to work with incredible students and accompanying them on their Jewish journeys. I enjoy helping them figure out how and where Judaism intersects with all the different parts of their identity and life.

Q: Favorite Jewish memory from your life/childhood?
A: Performing with my family. I grew up performing Jewish music with my family. We were called "A Dash of Dardashti." We performed at Jewish music festivals around the country.

Q: Greatest advice someone has given you, and who gave it to you?
A: If people are making you feel uncomfortable about who you are, showing up as your full self, it's probably something about them. From my mother.

Q: If you could have three dinner guests, living or from history, who would they be and why?
A: Emma Lazarus, Hannah Senesh and Yehuda Amichai – I would be fascinated to hear these three bold Jewish poets (and fighters, each in their own right), reflect upon Jewish-American and Israeli identity today.

SAM SERBY is a native of East Greenwich and attended Temple Sinai, in Cranston, for many years. He is a recent graduate of Johnson & Wales University.



Rabbi Michelle Dardashti

Winners on trial

The New England Academy of Torah (NEAT) Mock Trial team recently beat the team from Portsmouth High School in the Rhode Island state playoffs. After winning two trials out of three on their way to the playoffs, the NEAT team was ranked ninth-best.

The prosecution team, with the judge (left to right): Rina Peromsik, Ayala Bielory, Chani Schochet, Ester Kapilevich, Shayna Rochel Twersky and Bracha Leah Rosenthal.



PHOTO | RABBI PERETZ SCHEINERMAN

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Arts Emanu-El hosts free visual arts series on 'Art, Memory and the Holocaust'

BY LINDA SHAMOON

Memory and art have been bound together since cave dwellers first drew primitive bison and horses on cave walls. From those prehistoric moments until today, artists' pictures and stories usually become the way we see the past, experience the present and envision the future. And for us Jews today, we who must "Never Forget," the linkage of memory and art is crucial.

The generations that directly experienced the Holocaust have almost passed from among us, while troubling current events threaten to dim our memories. It falls on post-Holocaust Jewish artists to use contemporary forms of artistic expression to help us viscerally explore our history, its impact on who we are and where we are headed.

Two of the most interesting artists in Rhode Island confronting this challenge of art and memory from a Jewish perspective are installation artist Jonathan Sharlin and art photographer Alexandra Broches. Both are accomplished, successful artists who use an array of fascinating photographic and artistic techniques to bring us traces and memories of the Holocaust.

Arts Emanu-El at Temple Emanu-El, in Providence, is proud to coordinate exhibitions of Sharlin's and Broches' work and to facilitate a related series of talks. In total, there are five events on the theme of art as memory keeper in March and April, all free and open to the public.

Beginning March 3 and continuing until April 30, Sharlin's powerful art installation, "Portrait Narratives," allows us to walk among larger-than-life photo portraits and word panels of Rhode Island Holocaust survivors. East-Siders will recognize many people – including Edward O. Adler, Ray Eichenbaum and Leah Eliash – whose lives, images and words were so dear to the beating heart of our Providence Jewish community.

Then, beginning March 14 and continuing until April 2, Broches' hauntingly beautiful digital collages in "Letters and Pictures from a Box" invite us to puzzle out the ways that suddenly discovered letters, photographs and documents from another time and place give clues and glimpses into one family's Holocaust narrative.

There will be an opening event for both exhibits, each with an artist's talk and reception. On Sunday, March 5, Sharlin will speak about his creative and personal journey toward "Portrait Narratives." On Thursday, March 22, Broches will tell of her discovery of a box containing family letters, photographs and documents, which initiated a personal and artistic project that continues to this day.

On April 19, the theme of this visual arts series, "Art as Memory Keeper," will be explored in a panel discussion led by Deborah Johnson, a professor of art history and women's studies at Providence College and cantor at Temple Sinai, in Cranston. The multitalented Johnson, who received a Ph.D. in Art History from Brown University, first specialized in European and Asian art, but while at Providence College she has focused on 20th- and 21st-century Western Art, Women's Studies and Black Studies. In 2013, Johnson earned a certificate in Jewish Sacred Music from Hebrew College. Her cross-cultural perspective on art as memory keeper promises to be fascinating.

Johnson will be joined by two panelists who are also engaged in exploring the links between memory and art: Sharlin, whose interest in the theme prompted his arts series, and visual artist Annu Palakunnathu Matthew, a professor of photography and director of the University of Rhode Island's Center for the Humanities. Matthew describes herself as "transcultural, living between cultures," with an expertise in photography that explores culture and identity. Born in England and raised in India, Matthew now makes Rhode Island her home.

Finally, during March and April, Sharlin, along with his wife, Olivia, will be reaching out to adult and teenage members of communities across Rhode Island, inviting them to visit "Portrait Narratives" in an effort to help all Rhode Islanders learn about the Holocaust by walking among the portraits and words of R.I. Holocaust survivors.

Sharlin and Temple Emanu-El received a grant from the Bliss, Gross, Horowitz Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation to support these activities.

The visual arts series is the penultimate event in Arts Emanu-El's Jewish arts and culture season for 2016-2017. On April 30, the public is invited to a joyous 69th birthday celebration of Israel's independence. Details are available at the Temple Emanu-El website, www.teprov.org, under the What's Happening-Arts Emanu-El link.

LINDA SHAMOON is co-chair of Arts Emanu-El at Temple Emanu-El.



PHOTO | ALEXANDRA BROCHES

From Alexandra Broches' "Letters and Pictures from a Box." The exhibit features haunting digital collages focused on a Dutch Jewish family's photos and messages to each other during World War II.



PHOTO | JONATHAN SHARLIN

From Jonathan Sharlin's "Portrait Narratives: A Photographic Installation of RI Holocaust Survivors." The exhibit features larger-than-life photo-portraits and word-panels of Rhode Island Holocaust survivors.

Art, Memory and the Holocaust series

All events are free and open to the public

***March 3 to April 30*: Jonathan Sharlin: "Portrait Narratives," photographic installation of R.I. Holocaust survivors. *Sunday, March 5*, at 2 p.m.: Artist's Talk and Reception. Art Gallery, Blackstone Valley Visitor's Center, 175 Main St., Pawtucket.**

***March 14 to April 2*: Alexandra Broches: "Letters and Pictures from a Box, Digital Collages." *Thursday, March 23*, at 6:30 p.m.: Artist's Talk and Reception. Bohnen Vestry of Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence.**

***April 19*: "Symposium on Art as Memory Keeper" by Deborah Johnson, professor of art history and women's studies at Providence College and cantor at Temple Sinai, Cranston; Annu Palakunnathu Matthew, professor of photography and director of the URI Center for the Humanities; and artist Jonathan Sharlin. 7 p.m., Blackstone Valley Visitor's Center auditorium, 175 Main St., Pawtucket.**

The stranger is me

Parashiyot Yitro & Mishpatim



RABBI ANDREW KLEIN

Recently we finished the Book of Genesis in our cycle of weekly Torah portions and began studying the Book of Exodus.

The Book of Genesis told us stories of our patriarchs and matriarchs; we learned about our ancestors, the beginning of the Israelites and how our people came to be living in the Land of Egypt.

The Book of Exodus teaches us about the enslavement of the Israelites when "A new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph." (Exodus 1:8) Being enslaved in the Land of Egypt is a cornerstone of our people's narrative. This story allows us to be open to God's saving and redemptive powers. It provides us with the opportunity to learn how to come together and coalesce into one strong people with free choice. Our experience of oppression provides us with the empathy and compassion to deal humanely with others who find themselves in similar situations.

We have experienced the *chen v'chesed*, the mercy and loving kindness of God, and so we are more able to offer it to others. In fact, the Hebrew Bible repeatedly commands us to open our hearts to the stranger because we know what it was like to not be welcomed.

"You shall not oppress a stranger, for you know the feelings of the stranger, having yourselves been strangers in the Land of Egypt." (Exodus 23:9)

"When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not wrong him. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I the Lord am your God." (Leviticus 19:33-34)

These are only two of the many times our Hebrew Bible commands us to remember the experience of being a stranger.

The following excerpt comes from a d'var Torah on the Torah portion, *Mishpatim*, written by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, a modern Orthodox Jew who served as the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth for 22 years. This teaching can be found in its entirety at http://rabbisacks.org/covenant-conversation-5768-mishpatim-loving-the-stranger/

"Why should you not hate the stranger? – asks the Torah. Because you once stood where he stands now. You know the heart of the stranger because you were once a stranger in the land of Egypt. If you are human, so is he. If he is less than human, so are you. You must fight the hatred in your heart as I once fought the greatest ruler and the strongest empire in the ancient world on your behalf. I made you into the world's archetypal strangers so that you would fight for the rights of strangers – for your own and those of others, wherever they are, whoever they are, whatever the colour of their skin or the nature of their culture, because though they are not in your image – says G-d – they are nonetheless in Mine. There is only one reply strong enough to answer the question: Why should I not hate the stranger? Because the stranger is me."

Jews know what it is like to be treated inhumanely by people who have looked upon us as "other." Time and time again throughout our history, we have overcome oppressive forces with the help of God, the strength and might of our will and determination, and the humane treatment that some have been willing to offer to people different from themselves.

In a very similar way, our American tradition teaches us the same lesson. There have been moments in our history when America has been afraid and closed our doors to those most in need of help and safe refuge. As Jews we know that only too well. How many Jews would have survived the Holocaust if America's doors had been more open in the 1930s and 1940s?

Today, once again, our country is faced with making crucial decisions about how willing we are to open our hearts and welcome the stranger. Drawing upon our tradition of leaving an empty seat at the Passover Seder table for the Prophet Elijah to come and help us usher in an era of peace and understanding, we at Temple Habonim have begun to leave one seat empty in the front row of our sanctuary. We have placed a sign on it saying "New Immigrants" as a reminder of our command to welcome the "other." This past week some of our *madrichim*, our high school students who come back and help with the younger students in our religious school, decorated the chair with paper chains so it would look inviting and welcoming for anyone who needs it and wants a safe place to rest.



As always, we look to the ancient wisdom of our Torah to help us inform decisions we make today.

Shabbat Shalom.

ANDREW KLEIN is rabbi of Temple Habonim in Barrington.

NY commuter who led cleanup of anti-Semitic graffiti receives ADL award

JTA – The New York commuter who led several others on a Manhattan subway to clean away anti-Semitic graffiti with hand sanitizer is being honored by the Anti-Defamation League.

Jared Nied, 37, will receive ADL's Stand Up New Yorker Award, which recognizes city residents for taking immediate action to help those being singled out for bigotry, or initiating efforts to denounce hate. Evan Bernstein, director of the ADL New York region, will presented Nied with the award Feb. 15.

Nied's actions went viral after one of the commuters described the scene from the night of Feb. 4 on Facebook.

"The train was silent as everyone stared at each other, uncomfortable and unsure what to do," Gregory Locke wrote in his post. "One guy got up and said, 'Hand sanitizer gets rid of Sharpie. We need alcohol.' He found some tissues and got to work."

Nied, who works as a sous chef in New York, also posted about the incident on Facebook that night.

Candle Lighting Times

Daylight saving time resumes March 12

Greater Rhode Island

February 17	**5:03**
February 24	**5:11**
March 3	**5:20**
March 10	**5:28**





Summer dreams



EDITOR

FRAN OSTENDORF

As we put together the annual camp issue of the newspaper, it's snowing outside. I'm not too fond of snow. Rather than building snow forts, sledding or skiing, I obsess about clearing driveways and sidewalks, and driving on icy roads.

I've written a number of snow-related columns during my tenure as editor – most of them the year before last, when I spent many days in my home office working on The Voice. That was the winter of parking bans, robust snowfalls and badly plowed East Side roads. Remember?

We haven't had nearly as much snow this year, but this issue still always provides a nice break from winter.

It is nice to sit under a blanket, laptop open, a mug of tea by my side, and look through the photos of summer. You just can't help but feel warm and happy when you see all those pictures of campers having fun in the sun. Like baseball's annual rite of spring training, our camp issue is our first reminder that summer isn't that far away; a nice boost in the dregs of winter.

It's not too early to start planning for this summer. The best camps fill up fast and it's a good idea to make camp plans before summer's other plans get in the way.

For many families, camp is an important part of every summer. I went to a local day camp and then graduated to a month of overnight camp. Then I spent five summers at a two-month sleepaway camp in Maine. That experience helped shape the future me. I worked on the camp newspaper and, during my last summer, I was one of three editors. One thing led to another and I chose a career in journalism based on the spark that was ignited at camp.

In my family, camp was a tradition through the generations. But by the time it was my turn, the camp of my mother's summer memories was no more.

For today's JORI campers, that's not a problem. JORI has been around since 1909, when the Jewish Orphanage of Rhode Island was established and those in charge decided the children needed a place to get outdoors during the summer.

The partnership between Camp JORI and the Rhode Island Jewish community has continued through the years. This year, I hear there's a youngster starting at day camp who will mark the fifth generation of his family's involvement with JORI. I look forward to catching up with the family during the summer.

You can read John Landry's article, on page 17, about a partnership JORI has embarked on at its location on the edge of Wordon's Pond.

As I mentioned in a column last year, these camp articles aren't just for our readers with children of camp age. They offer a glimpse into today's summer activities, whether or not you have children or grandchildren. Not only are there general, "traditional" camps, but now there are many special interest camps.

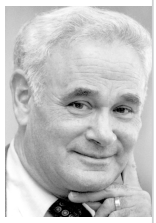
I am always amazed by the range of specialties offered by camps. If outdoor activities aren't your thing, you don't have to resort to old-fashioned arts and crafts: There's cooking camp, and dance, and computers, not to mention lots and lots of school enrichment camps. And for older children, there are precollege programs, counselor-in-training programs (CIT) and more. There's never a reason to be bored! While our articles don't offer a definitive list, perhaps they will start everyone thinking of warm sunny days to come.

Just take a look at the photos. It may be that they inspire you to switch from hot tea to iced tea for the day!

Traditions?

We love to feature our readers and their stories in The Voice. Upcoming issues will focus on the Passover and Mother's Day. What are your memories of these special days? What are your family traditions? Send us your stories. Post your photos to our website. You just might be featured in a future issue of The Jewish Voice. Email to editor@jewishallianceri.org. Post to jvhri.org. Send by traditional mail to Editor, The Jewish Voice, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, R.I. 02906.

The use and abuse of imagination



IT SEEMS TO ME

RABBI JIM ROSENBERG

In a Sept. 23, 2016, op-ed in The New York Times titled "Will the Left Survive Millennials?" novelist Lionel Shriver summarized his talk at the Brisbane (Australia) Writers Festival earlier last year: "Briefly, my address maintained that fiction writers should be allowed to write fiction – thus should not let our concerns about 'cultural appropriation' constrain our creation of characters from different backgrounds than our own.... If we have permission to write only about our own personal experience, there is no fiction, but only memoir."

Shriver goes on to say that he felt that his thesis "seemed so self-evident that I'd worried that the speech would be bland." As it turned out, the reaction to it was overwhelmingly negative.

"The festival immediately disavowed the address.... A 'Right to Reply' was hastily organized," Shriver wrote.

Not long after his talk in Brisbane, The New Republic published an article titled, "Lionel Shriver Shouldn't Write About Minorities."

Shriver's understanding of the argument against "cultural appropriation" appears to be that fiction writers should not write about people in different social, cultural or economic situations since such authors have not stood in the shoes of "the other." Thus, a white author imagining being black risks creating a fiction that not only distorts and misstates black reality but also, wittingly, or unwittingly, offends, insults and humiliates the black reader.

Shriver seems to make a strong case for fiction writers following their imagination wherever it leads. Shakespeare peopled his plays with men and women who were not of his social class, intellectual ability, religion, race or sex: Falstaff, Hamlet, King Lear, Cordelia, Shylock, Iago, Othello and Lady Macbeth are a few examples.

Should Shakespeare stand accused of "cultural appropriation"? In many ways, the men and women who strut and fret on the stage, breathing life into the product of Shakespeare's imagination, are more real to us than many of the living and breathing individuals in our daily lives.

Moving to the early 20th century, the Irish novelist James Joyce, a lapsed Catholic, chose as his modern-day Ulysses – be he hero or anti-hero – a non-observant Dublin Jew, Leopold Bloom. Moreover, Joyce chose to conclude his groundbreaking novel with the extended stream-of-consciousness monologue of Molly Bloom, Leopold's wife.

Should we disqualify Joyce, a man, from seeking to imagine the musings of a married woman in her 30s who has just hours ago committed adultery? Should we Jews condemn Joyce, born and raised a Catholic, for imagining what it would be like to be an Irish Jew in the Dublin of 1904?

> **"Should such authors alter their fiction works to minimize the possibility of inflicting inadvertent pain? Or are the demands of their art and their imaginations worth the risk of causing damaging personal and cultural pain?"**

Closer to our own day, William Styron, a white American Southerner, drew hostile criticism for "cultural appropriation" in his novel "The Confessions of Nat Turner" (1967), in which he presumes to enter into the heart and mind of the slave leader of a violent rebellion in 1831. Twelve years later, many in the American Jewish community criticized Styron for the alleged insensitivity the author displayed in his novel "Sophie's Choice" (1979) – daring to use fiction to explore the experience of the Holocaust. Particularly upsetting for some was the fact that the Jewish protagonist, Nathan Landau, is a diagnosed paranoid schizophrenic, while a flamboyant minor character, Leslie Lapides, is a caricature of a neurotic Jewish American Princess. The one character who experiences Auschwitz directly is not a Jew, but rather a Polish Catholic woman, the Sophie of the title.

Many literary critics praise Shakespeare and Joyce for their ability to imagine and to write compellingly about lives far different from their own - yet Styron and his fans are often chided for taking their fiction into imagined spaces into which they should not go. Why should this be?

In attempting to answer this question, I turned to an astute friend, a professor at Brown. Limiting his response to the American experience, he suggested that the particulars of our history, the evolving complexity of our social context, account – at least in part – for a heightened sensitivity to "cultural appropriation."

An African-American brings to his reading of "The Confessions of Nat Turner" a deep awareness of racial stereotypes and of an ugly record of racist oppression and discrimination. In his *cri de coeur* "Between the World and Me" (2015), Ta-Nehesi Coates argues that it is impossible for white Americans to comprehend what it means to grow up black in America since those who "believe themselves to be white" are blinded by an invented construct that keeps black people at the very bottom of the social barrel.

When fiction writers seek to expand their horizons by venturing into lands they do not know except in their imaginations, they need to tread with great care, understanding that their missteps could bring unintended pain to their readers.

Should such authors alter their fiction works to minimize the possibility of inflicting inadvertent pain? Or are the demands of their art and their imaginations worth the risk of causing damaging personal and cultural pain?

I cannot answer these questions; it is up to the fiction writers themselves to make such moral and aesthetic judgments. As is so often the case, our task is to learn how to live with many of our troubling questions unanswered.

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

OUR MISSION

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

COLUMNS | LETTERS POLICY

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

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

Now is the time to speak out

BY RUTH BREINDEL

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"
– Emma Lazarus (Nov. 2, 1883)

Emma Lazarus wrote this poem, "The New Colossus," which is engraved inside the Statue of Liberty's pedestal. At the time she wrote, many people were fleeing Europe due to economic and social disruptions

Lazarus was a Zionist before that was a term, and a social reformer working with Jewish Russian immigrants on the Lower East Side of New York City.

The opening of her poem echoes Shelley's "Ozymandias," in which the statue is broken and only the proud statement remains:

My name is Ozymandias,
King of Kings;
Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!
Nothing beside remains.
Round the decay
Of that colossal Wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away.

But unlike Shelley, Lazarus saw a vision of a new land that would stand forever as a protector of those in need of help, of those forced to leave their homelands.

We are all immigrants; humans did not originate on the North American continent. Some came here because they were pushed out of their homelands or brought as slaves, but most of our ancestors came here for the promise of freedom from religious and economic persecution: *pogroms*, the Inquisition, the ghetto.

Whether they came to Newport in the late 1600s or to Providence in the early 1800s, their goal was the same: freedom and safety. We were all strangers in a strange land when we came to America.

We as Jews are enjoined to take care of the stranger in our midst. Several years ago, I became a Bat Mitzvah, and my *parashah* was Deuteronomy 8:1-11:1.

I posed this question: Who is the stranger in Deuteronomy 10:18-19? He was a member of the lower class, without citizenship rights, who needed protection, just as did the orphan and the widow. Moses says that we are to give him bread and clothing, and to care for him since we were once strangers in the land of Egypt.

Exodus 2:22 says, "And she bore him a son, and Moses called his name Gershom: for he said, I have been a stranger in a strange land."

Because we have been strangers and suffered, we must now alleviate the suffering of others. This is the essence of humanity – to treat others as we would like to be treated.

How do we do this today? We work for human rights, believing that we must treat others well so that we are treated well. As Pastor Martin Niemoller famously said:

"First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out – because I was not a Socialist.

"Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out – because I was not a Trade Unionist.

"Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out – because I was not a Jew.

"Then they came for me – and there was no one left to speak for me."

Now is the time for us to speak out and get involved, remembering the credo of the United States: With liberty and justice for all.

RUTH BREINDEL is president of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association.

Speaking out in defense of immigrants

BY RABBI JEFFREY GOLDWASSER, RABBI SARAH MACK AND MARTY COOPER

To the Jews who came to America in the 19th and 20th century, America was the *goldene medina*, "the Golden Country." The passion Jewish immigrants had for America was based not only on the promise of American prosperity; it was based on American values that resonate deeply with Jewish values.

When Jewish immigrants heard that America was the land where "all men are created equal," they recognized the teachings of their own tradition. For Jewish immigrants, America was a place that strove toward the Torah's declaration that all human beings are created in the image of God and the commandment to pursue justice.

Many American Jews today are distressed by a shift in our government's attitude toward immigrants. A recent executive order temporarily banned immigration from seven predominantly Muslim nations. It is a sign that America is backtracking on the values that made us the *goldene medina*. Is America replacing its commitment to "liberty and justice for all" with a message of religious tests and racial profiling?

Most glaringly, our response to the horrifying refugee crisis in Syria is a betrayal of our nation's commitment to be a moral exemplar to the world. Why now do we question one of our greatest values that helped to shape our nation? After all, these refugees have already been thoroughly vetted.

To Jews, this should be disturbing as our nation turns a blind eye to Jewish values. Ours is the tradition that taught the world the commandment to love the stranger. That law should teach us that welcoming immigrants does not make us weak. It makes us great. That is why the State of Israel recently accepted 100 refugee orphans from Syria – at the same time that the United States is shutting them out.

Many in the community are fearful the executive orders already issued are a foretaste of even harsher measures to come. There is a real concern the administration will deport millions of undocumented immigrants. That would require an unprecedented escalation of police power. (Last week it was reported that over 600 undocumented immigrants were arrested by ICE, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.) At the same time, mass deportation would tear apart millions of families.

Facing this threat to our values, we cannot fail to act. Jewish communities in Rhode Island are preparing to defend immigrants from intimidation, harassment

IMMIGRANTS | 26

LETTERS

Why not form a community committee?

The JCC made an excellent decision when it changed its name to the Jewish Alliance of Rhode Island several years ago. The goal was to represent and reflect the entire Jewish community in Rhode Island.

However, on many vital Jewish and current political issues affecting both state and national concerns, only a few select people, either elected, appointed or staff actually are the "Deciders."

In the past, in another state, I was a member of what was called a Town-Wide Committee. Every organization in town sent a delegate (or the president) to represent it on this committee. It met several times a year and was consulted for recommendations when major town issues and decisions were being discussed.

To be a truly inclusive "Alliance," I would like to suggest the formation of a "State-Wide Jewish Committee" to collaborate and vote on any major "Alliance" pronouncement or proclamation. All recognized Jewish organizations would be invited to participate. This could truly be a democratic and effective way for reflecting the thinking of the "entire" community.

Judi Dill
Providence, RI

Trump and the Jewish vote

My Uncle Sam was an accountant by profession. He was an Orthodox Jewish man, strictly observant, who came of age along with Israel. He was famous for his letters to the editor of The New York Times. He wrote passionate letters...hundreds and hundreds...about Israel, and anti-Semitism, and racism, and every conceivable injustice that broke his heart.

As a child, I would read his letters, clipped out and tacked on his bulletin board in his small home office in Brooklyn. He had a big celebrity client, and the picture of them was there too!

I loved numbers, and I loved his adding machine. He used to give me huge columns of numbers to add up, and I loved every second, the long tape folding over and over onto itself to the carpet.

I asked his children if he would have voted for Donald Trump were he alive. (70% of Orthodox Jews did, according to a Yeshiva University poll, as compared to 23% of all Jewish people.)

They said, "He never in a million years would have voted for Trump. He was passionate about Israel. Always raised money for Israel and UJA. He was active in B'nai B'rith and was practically running a one-man referral agency for people needing social services. He davened every day until the last two years of his life, and was a member of a little Orthodox cooperative congregation because he didn't like the politics going on in the big Orthodox temple.

"I don't think he would have gotten past Trump's fascist and Nazi connections or the fact that he talked about the Holocaust without mentioning the Jews. Also I think he would have found Trump's bullying repugnant and the conflicts of interest would have bothered him. Dad had a strong sense of fairness."

Paul Hoffman
East Greenwich, RI

Re: Innovation grants (Feb. 3)

At Congregation Beth Sholom and beyond, many of us are excited about the Mean What You Pray: Theater *Techniques for Inspired Prayer* program and grateful to the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island for funding this effort with an Innovation grant. As one of the writers of the grant proposal, I wish to clarify that this program does not involves meditation, yoga, and dance, as reported in the recent *Voice* article. No doubt, these are other innovative approaches to prayer, but the focus of this program will be bringing in acting instructors to teach acting skills and the lessons of theater to enhance our prayer experience, to help us better understand and feel what we are saying when we pray.

Alan D. Krinsky
Providence, RI

In search of the next big thing

BY ARIELA KATZMAN-JACOBSON

The plane ride to Israel tells you almost everything. You don't even need to get off the plane to have a true Israeli experience.

First, you are lectured extensively about suspicious objects and persons (delaying the flight by at least an hour). Then, the older woman seated beside you spends half the flight trying to set you up with her grandson, and after only a few hours of sleep, you are awakened at sunrise to the shuffling of feet in prayer.

But when the plane lands, everyone claps and cheers and you find yourself joyfully embracing that woman beside you and agreeing to a Shabbat dinner invitation.

After spending the past two months on BINA's gap year program, which partners with Masa Israel Journey, The Jewish Agency for Israel and the government of Israel, to provide transformative long-term Israel experiences for young people across all areas of interest, I've learned that, in fact, the plane ride itself is emblematic of the Israel experience.

I've spent my days learning at BINA's South Tel Aviv-based secular yeshiva, applying ancient Jewish texts to our understanding of contemporary Israel. The gap year program attracts international students and Israelis alike, all interested in creating a rich relationship with Judaism outside of its traditional religious expressions. We then apply our studies in the classroom to our neighborhood of South Tel Aviv, working and learning alongside African refugees and immigrants.

I don't remember where I came across the quote "the next big thing will be a lot of small things," but this simple statement has become incredibly relevant during my past few months in Israel. The idea that life is simply a collection of moments is not an original one, but I've come to understand that the clichés you find as the catchphrases of quirky boutiques are often just as wise as the quotes you find in the classics.

"... the next big thing will be a lot of small things."

When selecting the right gap year for me, I found myself focusing on the "next big things" – the hours I would spend in the classroom poring over Jewish texts with which I'd never quite been able to connect, the volunteering experience in schools that need an extra hand and the effort I'd put into learning Hebrew.

Nevertheless, the cliché stands true. I've been lucky enough to find tremendous meaning in my classes, my preschool volunteer placement and Ulpan (Hebrew language study).



Ariela Katzman-Jacobson

But I have found that the heart of Israel is most present in my local *falafel* joint. And in the feeling I get every Saturday when my world reminds me to sleep in and take it slow. It's in the smell of sunblock, sunflower seeds and the Mediterranean. I find it in the bus ride to Jerusalem, and the graffiti of Tel Aviv. It's in Israel's national anthem, "Hatikvah," and in the Israeli radio show "*Galgalatz*."

And as I've come to develop a more complex and complete relationship with Israel, I also recognize that Israel's heart is sometimes present within my apartment's bomb shelter and at border control. It's in my friend's army uniform and the sound of a siren.

My time spent in Israel has not brought clarity, only more confusion. I often find myself defending and attacking Israel in the same sentence. I recognize the overwhelming beauty, and hurt, in the history and people of Israel. I realize that the Israeli flag can represent both pride and pain.

My confusing first two months in Israel have been illuminating. I initially came to Israel exploring and pursuing answers, but I now strive for improved questions. Israel has forced me to abandon my certainties and embrace ambiguity. The very things that make the Israeli experience difficult also make it enormously rewarding.

The true Israeli experience is made up of a collection of moments – moments that will challenge and change you. Moments that celebrate the color and complexity of life.

This place is special – you'll know it from the moment you step on the plane.

ARIELA KATZMAN-JACOBSON, a 2016 graduate of Classical High School in Providence, R.I., will be attending Bard College in fall 2017.

Tobruk and Mercedes: What makes a book or a car Jewish?

BY LARRY KATZ
lkatz@jewishallianceri.org

One of my sons chose to read a "Jewish book" titled "Operation Agreement" and subtitled "Jewish Commandos and the Raid on Tobruk." I vaguely recalled seeing the movie "Tobruk," starring Rock Hudson and George Peppard, when I was much younger. I recall it had something to do with Jewish commandos.

I read "Operation Agreement" while I was on vacation and was very disappointed in it from a Jewish standpoint. One chapter focused on the Jewish commandos, including brief descriptions of Nazi anti-Semitism and prewar Jewish military groups. The rest of the book is a blow-by-blow description of World War II's Libyan/Egyptian campaign through the first Battle of El Alamein, followed by a failure-by-failure description of the raid on Tobruk.

The book is a very exciting read for someone interested in military history, but I would not call it a "Jewish book."

I'm not sure I would necessarily even call a book about Israel's military a Jewish book. I have not yet read "The Weapon Wizards: How Israel Became a High-Tech Military Superpower," which has a 2017 publishing date. It will probably be a great way to learn about Israel's unique creativity, but I don't think drones, armor, satellites and cyber viruses are really a Jewish subject.

However, some may look at it otherwise. I know some people consider the Mercedes a Jewish car because it was named after Mercédès Adrienne Ramona Manuela Jellinek, the granddaughter of a chief rabbi of Vienna, a renowned orator and compiler of midrash. I doubt Hitler would have ridden in so many Mercedes if he were aware of the origin of the name.

Perhaps some people would consider anything with a Jewish or Israeli name to be Jewish.

Other people doubt the value of fiction, even historical fiction. They object to books by Saul Bellow or Philip Roth, some even saying they may at times be anti-Jewish. However, I think fictional works such as Milton Steinberg's "As a Driven Leaf," Abraham Cahan's "The Rise of David Levinsky" and Desmond Seward's "Jerusalem's Traitor" have much to teach us.

Steinberg's novel lets us eavesdrop on the arguments of the ancient rabbis, though it also deals with conflicts between tradition and modern culture. Cahan's book is a wonderful account of how Jewish immigrants became Americanized. And "Jerusalem's Traitor" helps us understand Josephus and the fall of Judea and Masada.



For that matter, much of Elie Wiesel's work is a fictionalized account of what he experienced, although it is universally accepted as truth.

Ultimately, what makes a "Jewish book" is subjective. I recommend that people who are concerned about this consult with a synagogue's librarian or clergy or with the Jewish Book Council. The latter just announced the winners of its 2016 National Jewish Book Awards.

Michael Chabon won the Literary Achievement Award for his books, which include "The Yiddish Policeman's Union" and "Moonglow." Daniel Gordis' "Israel: A Concise History of a Nation Reborn" was awarded Jewish Book of the Year.

Another winner, in American Jewish Studies, was "Kosher USA: How Coke Became Kosher and Other Tales of Modern Food," by Roger Horowitz. It is a fascinating account of why most of the foods you find in American supermarkets are now under Kosher supervision.

National Jewish Book Awards were also made in many other categories, including Children's Literature, Debut Fiction, Fiction, History, Poetry, Women's Studies and Young Adult. You can find the winners at www.JewishBookCouncil.org.

In addition to book news and lists of books by subjects and authors, the website also has book reviews.

As part of a new reading initiative, members of the Greater Rhode Island Jewish community are invited to read a book of their choice over the course of three months. The books should be nonfiction with Jewish content. This program is sponsored by the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, the Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island, Kollel: Center for Jewish Studies, PJ Library and Project Shoresh.

For recommendations of books, and to register, check out our website at www.jewishallianceri.org/read, or feel free to ask your rabbi or friends. Please sign up at this website, so we know how many are participating and to receive notices related to the reading program. We also plan to hold book conversations. A community that learns together grows together!

LARRY KATZ is director of Jewish life and learning at the Jewish Alliance of Greater R.I.

Ongoing

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

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

Through March 2

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

Friday | February 17

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

Saturday | February 18

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

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

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

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

Parlor Cinema: "The Band's Visit." 7-9 p.m. Congregation Agudas Achim, 901 N. Main St., Attleboro, Mass. In this award-winning Israeli film, members of an Egyptian ceremonial police-force band head to Israel to play at the inaugural ceremony of an Arab arts center only to end up lost in the wrong town. A gentle comedy-drama about little gestures of hospitality and understanding amid hostility, isolation, mistrust and misunderstanding. Donation (includes film and snacks): $5/person, $10/family. Information, Eileen Kravetz at eskrav1@verizon.net or 781-344-0252.

Sunday | February 19

New England Rabbinical College Annual Dinner. 4:30 p.m. hors d'oeuvres, 5 p.m. dinner. Brown RISD Hillel, 80 Brown St., Providence. Honorees are Rabbi Yosef and Mrs. Miriam Lipson as Pillars of Torah. Couvert: $65 per person. RSVP, Mrs. Elisheva Berlin at 401-714-4991 or berlins7@gmail.com. Information, Chana Twersky at cftwersky.nerc@gmail.com or 646-942-6388.

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

Tuesday | February 21

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

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. Beginner and intermediate levels. Open to all. Bring your own mat. Information, Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

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

Wednesday | February 22

Novel Conversations with Laurie Albanese: "Stolen Beauty." 9-10:30 a.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave. Providence. Impeccably researched and a "must-read," "Stolen Beauty" intertwines the tales of two remarkable women across more than 100 years. RSVP by Feb. 17 to Lynne Bell at lbell@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 156.

Mah Jongg. 7 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Open to members, non-members, men and women. Bring your friends and your 2016 Mah Jongg card. Free. Information, contact Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Thursday | February 23

Zumba. 7-7:45 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. $5 per person per class. Information, Stephanie Reinsant at stephanie@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Friday | February 24

PJ Library Story Time: Purim. 10-11 a.m. Dwares JCC. What could be more festive than learning about the feast of Purim with guest readers Jana Brenman and Robyn Goldstein? Children up to age 5 enjoy a special story, make puppets and enjoy snacks with friends. Costumes are encouraged. Free. Information, Ruth Horton at rhorton@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 117.

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

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

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

Saturday | February 25

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

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

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

StandWithUs Rhode Island Presents "Between the Lines: Voices of Israel, Stories Untold." Noon-1:30 p.m. Chabad of West Bay, 3871 Post Road, Warwick. Hear the stories of two inspiring young Israelis – their struggles, their successes, their military service, and their hopes and dreams. Free. Information, Bracha Stuart at brachas@standwithus.com

Kesher Lecture/Luncheon. Noon-1:30 p.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. First program in Kesher's Understanding Mental Health Series: A Shabbat Luncheon presentation by Dr. Farrel Klein, "Understanding Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder" following Shabbat services. Information, office@bethsholom-ri.org.

StandWithUs Rhode Island Presents "Between the Lines: Voices of Israel, Stories Untold." 7:30 p.m. Laurelmead Cooperative, 355 Blackstone Blvd., Providence. Come hear the stories of two inspiring young Israelis – their struggles, their successes, their military service, and their hopes and dreams. Free; donations accepted. Information, Bracha Stuart at brachas@standwithus.com.

Sunday | February 26

Day at the J! 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Dwares JCC. Programs for children and adults that differ slightly each month. This month's activities: Ageless Grace® Demo (11:30-11:50 a.m.): Try the newest fitness class at the Dwares JCC, and discover how brain and body health can be like child's play. Open gym for children and families (noon-4 p.m.): Expend some energy in the gymnasium while participating in games such as kickball or dodgeball. Open swim and tropical fun (1-2:30 p.m.): Swim, splash, float, lounge or play in our "tropically heated" indoor pool. Special games include coconut bowling with pineapple pins, water-pistol cup races, beach blanket balloon toss, water volleyball and more. Family Project: Israel through Paper Mache (3-4:30 p.m.): Design different sites in Israel with paper mache while discovering the unique, historic stories of each place and learn about Israeli winter activities. Price for Family Project: $5 | Members $3. Family Project RSVP, Lynne Bell at lbell@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 156.

Annual CBS Gala 2017. 4 p.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Honorees: Donny & Rena Jurkowitz, Michael & Ruth Forstadt, Eric Taylor from Bottles Fine Wine. Doors open at 4 p.m. Cocktail hour with live music at 4:30 p.m. Welcome, presentations, awards and dinner follow. The Non-Pareil Excelsior Ensemble will provide musical entertainment. Catering to Tradition will prepare and serve a gourmet dinner supervised by RI Kosher (formerly VAAD of RI). Valet parking provided. Attire: cocktail and dark suits. $80 per person. Information, Tammy Laforest at office@BethSholom-RI.org or 401-621-9393.

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

Monday | February 27

Jewish Culture Book Club: "The Plot Against America" by Philip Roth. Noon-1:30 p.m. Library 314, Center for Religious and Spiritual Life, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, 285 Old Westport Road, N. Dartmouth, Mass. "In an astonishing feat of narrative invention, our most ambitious novelist imagines an alternate version of American history. In 1940 Charles A. Lindbergh, heroic aviator and rabid isolationist, is elected president. Shortly thereafter, he negotiates a cordial 'understanding' with Adolf Hitler, while the new government embarks on a program of folksy anti-Semitism." Are there any eerie similarities to the current political climate in the U.S.? Lunch will be served. Information, Rabbi Jacqueline Romm Satlow at 508-910-6551 or jsatlow@umassd.edu.

Conversion Class. 7:30-8:45 p.m. Congregation Beth Sholom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Rabbi Barry Dolinger continues a broad-based exploration of the biggest topics in Judaism, designed to give an overarching but detailed appreciation for traditional Judaism. This semester focuses on increased personal study for additional breadth of information while delving deeper through discussions during classes. We continue our study of Shabbat. Free. Through May 22. No class: April 10, April 17, May 8. Information, rabbi@bethsholom-ri.org.

Tuesday | February 28

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

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

Wednesday | March 1

URI Hillel Israeli Fashion History with Liraz Cohen. 8 p.m. URI, 55 Lower College Road, Kingston. Israeli fashion designer and blogger Liraz Cohen presents a student-led fashion show highlighting different styles in Israeli fashion throughout the years. Information, Yaniv Havusha at yaniv_havusha@uri.edu or 401-874-2740.

Friday | March 3

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

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

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

The Jews of Martinique

BY MEL YOKEN

My wife, Cindy, and I have just returned from tropical, beautiful and vibrant Martinique, a French island of some 400,000 inhabitants who live in an eternal summer in the south Caribbean.

Being long-time French professors, Cindy and I wanted to experience the life and culture of a French-speaking locale where there was gorgeous landscape and lush vegetation everywhere, an exciting, welcoming people, history to explore (Josephine was born here and Aimé Césaire was born and lived here) and first-rate food. We wanted to relax and have fun. Succinctly, Martinique has all that, and more!

Officially part of France, Martinique is also home to some 350-400 Jews, and we were determined to meet some of them.

On our second day on the island, we took a 20-minute ferry ride on La Baie de Fort-de-France from Trois-Îlets to the capital and largest city, Fort-de-France. There, near the wharf, we met a taxi driver, Antoine, who, fortuitously, was friendly with Didier Levi, the president of the synagogue.

We were, of course, thrilled to hear this unexpected, fantastic news. Antoine drove us to the synagogue, in the village of Schoelcher, a bustling suburb about 10 minutes north of Fort-de-France. Upon arriving at a multilevel complex, we were warmly greeted by the affable French-speaking Simcha Nemni, who is the wife of Rabbi Nemni, and in charge of the Hebrew school. She told us to walk up a gently inclined slope to the synagogue, where the rabbi would welcome us.



PHOTO | THE YOKENS

Inside the synagogue in Martinique.

Rabbi Moshe Yehuda Nemni, 37, the father of six children and originally from London, is one of the most charming, gregarious and hospitable individuals one could hope to meet. He speaks French, Yiddish, Hebrew and English, and was sincerely delighted to meet us, and to hear about our work, careers and home.

Nemni said there was an enthusiastic turnout for all services in the synagogue, Chabad-Lubavitch of Martinique. And before I knew it, he took out tefillin and asked if it would be all right to place it on me. When I told him that, regrettably, I had not done this in years, he smiled and asked me to extend my left arm. He patiently placed the leather with the scrolls of parchment, and had me repeat the Hebrew prayers. When that was concluded, he asked if I would like to say a prayer at the ark. When I consented, he opened the curtains and I said a silent prayer at the Torah. It was indeed a most moving experience.

We talked quite a while, and he answered many of our questions. Before leaving, he invited us to a *bris* that would take place Friday morning in the synagogue, and which a great many Martinique Jews would attend.

Friday arrived, and we once again took the ferry from our hotel, La Pagerie, to Fort-de-France. Antoine was waiting for us at the wharf, and drove us swiftly to the synagogue in Schoelcher.

In the synagogue, the men greeted each other with two kisses, *à la française*, and congregated in the main sanctuary, while the women were in a rather small room at the back. I was welcomed warmly and enthusiastically.

Just before the *bris* began, there was a lot of singing, and most of the men gathered near the bimah, where the father was seated and holding the baby.

After the ceremony, there was a lot of jostling, hugging and socializing before we all descended into the main social hall/community center, where a convivial reception took place. All kinds of food were served, from breads and meats to eggs and lox, and the portions were copious.

We sat with a group of extremely well-coiffed, well-educated and winsome women who could have been from Paris or New York City; however, most have lived in Martinique for years. These ladies and other members of the congregation were originally from France and North African nations such as Morocco and Algeria. Others were born on the island. They all relish living in Martinique. Several said, "It's a relaxed way of life here, and we enjoy the warm climate."

The rabbi's wife, along with two of their daughters, asked us wholeheartedly to enjoy Shabbat dinner with their family - but, alas, we could not.

Most of the Martinique Jews live in and around Schoelcher, and thrive and prosper there. There is no anti-Semitism in Martinique, and all concurred that Jews, less than 1 percent of the population, live on the island in peace, calm and tranquility.

Anyone who travels to Martinique – only a 4 1/2-hour flight from Logan Airport – can expect an unforgettable experience, especially if they meet the extremely friendly and warm-hearted Jews of the island.

MEL YOKEN, Ph.D., is chancellor professor emeritus of French language and literature at the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth.

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Sharing culture and creating community

BY JOSEPHINE MAIDA

Shakshuka is a staple dish in Israel that can be made for breakfast, lunch or dinner. The meal is healthy and light, but somehow is also one of the greatest comfort foods in the world. This flavorful, easy-to-make dish has a tomato sauce base that can be tailored to any personal taste with eggs stewed right in the sauce. It can be topped with any mixture of cheeses, spices and fresh herbs, or just left plain. It should always be served with thick slices of fresh bread or pita for dipping. The flavorful sauce combines with the rich egg yolk to create a truly special dish.

Preparing *shakshuka* as a group made for the perfect event at the University of Rhode Island Hillel. The recent event began with the community Israeli emissary (*shilchah*), Tslil Reichman, sharing her favorite recipe for *shakshuka*, which included fresh onions, garlic, tomatoes and sweet red bell peppers combined with a mixture of spices, tomato paste and of course, eggs.

Right away, students jumped in and began chopping, sautéing, and cracking eggs to help out and create the meal we would all share. Jewish and non-Jewish students from all different walks of life came together in the Hillel kitchen to create something delicious to enjoy together. Everyone completed one small task that was vital to the success of the dish. Students who had never met before worked side by side and quickly became friends as they shared stories and laughed at their poor knife skills. Jokes were shared along with laughs and smiles.

Hillel is a place on campus where all students can feel safe, where they can enjoy new people, form new relationships and share cultures. Looking around the room, smelling the delicious *shakshuka* stewing away and listening to the sound of bubbly and excited conversation, my appreciation for Hillel and the community it fosters was once again renewed.

Everyone really enjoyed eating the finished product, but I think most of all, everyone enjoyed being a part of creating something with new people. New friendships were formed and students from different majors, pasts and backgrounds came together as a community to share and learn about the culture that brings us all together.

This is Tslil's recipe:

Shakshuka

Ingredients

2 tablespoons oil
1 onion, chopped
2 cloves garlic, chopped
2 tomatoes, chopped
½ cup water
1 can tomato paste
2 eggs
Basic spices (salt, pepper, cumin)
Hot sauce (optional)

Directions

Heat a medium pan with the oil in it.

Add the onion, chopped into very small pieces, to the hot pan along with the chopped garlic.

Add the chopped tomatoes to the onions, once the onions have turned golden. If you want the shakshuka to be spicy, add your favorite hot sauce or chili powder. Cook for 5 minutes.

Add the hot water, tomato paste and spices. Cover pan and cook between 10 and 20 minutes. Stir occasionally.

Add the eggs on top of the sauce and cover pan again. As soon as the egg whites turn white, the *shakshuka* is ready. Serve straight from the pan. You can add more ingredients for more people.

If you are interested in hosting a *shakshuka* evening in your home or for your organization, contact the Israeli emissary Tslil Reichman for more details at treichman@jewishallianceri.org

JOSEPHINE MAIDA a senior studying public relations and communication studies at the University of Rhode Island. The New Jersey native is the PR intern at Hillel.



PHOTO | FRAN OSTENDORF

Shakshuka cooking.



Marissa Weinstein and Eric Haglund enjoy their homemade shakshuka at URI Hillel.



PHOTOS | YANIV HAVUSHA

URI students (left to right) Michael Bonilla, Reuven Hoffman, Bridget Holte and Olivia Tagliaferri chop vegetables for the shakshuka before cooking begins.

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JV

Netanyahu: Trump administration now 'understands' Jewish meaning of Holocaust

WASHINGTON (JTA) – Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said it was his impression that President Donald Trump's administration now understands that the meaning of the Holocaust was the attempt to eradicate the Jews.

Netanyahu said he did not bring up the White House's controversial International Holocaust Remembrance Day statement in his meeting Feb. 15 with Trump, but that their teams had discussed it ahead of the summit. The statement omitted any mention of or allusion to the Jews.

"There is no doubt that they now understand the meaning of the Holocaust as a means to strike out the Jewish people," Netanyahu said in a briefing after the summit for Israeli reporters.

The Jan. 27 statement drew criticism from an array of Jewish groups, including several that otherwise back Trump, and Holocaust historians, who said that while tens of millions were murdered during the period and multiple groups were targeted, the bid to eradicate any trace of the Jews was unique and is the only phenomenon "Holocaust" describes.

Administration spokesmen said the statement was meant to be "inclusive" of other groups that suffered during World War II and derided objections as "asinine" and "pathetic."

JTA asked White House spokesmen to react to Netanyahu's contention that the administration now understood the centrality of Jews to the meaning of the Holocaust. There was no reply.

Netanyahu, speaking to Israeli reporters, repeated what he had said during a joint news conference with Trump earlier in the day, when an Israeli reporter asked about a spike in expressions of anti-Semitism since Trump's election, which the reporter linked to the xenophobic tone of Trump's rhetoric.

"There is no better friend" than Trump "to Israel and the Jewish people," Netanyahu said.

Asked to comment on expressions of concern by Jewish organizational leaders, Netanyahu insisted: "There is no basis for these worries."

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Jewish Voice goes to press Wednesday evening (Feb. 15). This news represents the latest available at press time.

FROM PAGE 1 | NETANYAHU

The Reform movement called Trump's response "potentially devastating to the prospects for peace and Israel's Jewish, democratic future."

"The question is: can Israelis and Palestinians live with it in a way that allows for a Jewish, democratic State of Israel and realization of the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Palestinians," Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president of the Union for Reform Judaism, said in a statement. "Only a two-state solution can achieve the goals of the Israelis and Palestinians."

The American Jewish Committee, while welcoming the "spirit of cooperation and friendship expressed at the news conference," also reaffirmed its support for a two-state solution. Its statement quoted from a policy issued by the AJC National Board of Governors in December reasserting that "a two-state solution is the only realistic resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as established through direct bilateral negotiations between the parties themselves."

Trump's comment came days after a senior White House official said a two-state solution was not a necessary outcome of peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians. If formalized, it would represent an official retreat from U.S. policy since 2002, when President George W. Bush said Palestinian statehood was a goal of peace talks. A two-state outcome was also the implied policy of Bush's predecessor, President Bill Clinton.

Israelis and Palestinians have different conceptions of – and fears about – a "one-state" solution. The pro-Palestinian movement has promoted the idea of a single binational state of Jewish and Palestinian citizens, which many Israelis warn would erase the Jewish majority in Israel. The right wing in Israel has spoken of annexing most or all of the West Bank, but without extending citizenship to the Palestinians living there.

"The only alternative to that [two-state] outcome is one binational state and increased violence, with tragic consequences similar to the recent war in Syria," Ami Ayalon, Gilead Sher and Orni Petruschka wrote in an op-ed in USA Today on Feb. 14. The authors are principals of the Israeli nonpartisan organization Blue White Future.

Rep. Nita M. Lowey, D-N.Y., the ranking Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee, also urged the president to reaffirm a policy that "secures two states for two peoples – a democratic, Jewish state of Israel and a democratic, Palestinian state."

"Today President Trump refused to lend his voice toward this goal. Not only were his remarks shameful, they were short-sighted," she said in a statement. "A two-state solution for Israelis and Palestinians is the only means to ensure Israel's long-term security and enable Palestinian aspirations for their own state. That is why Presidents from both parties, the vast majorities of the House and Senate, and the American people have consistently supported this objective, and why President Trump must as well."

In its statement on the Feb. 15 meeting, the Republican Jewish Coalition did not mention the president's remarks on one- or two-state solutions.

"Today's meeting between President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu is a welcome sign that a new era has arrived for United States-Israel relations," the RJC said. "It is in the interests of both our nations' securities that we recognize the fundamental challenges facing the region, and their root causes. Whether it's preventing a nuclear Iran, or the responsibilities of the Palestinians to come to the negotiating table in order to reach peace, we will only achieve our mutual goals if we stand united in the process. Thankfully, it's clear that going forward there will be no daylight between the U.S. and our closest ally in the Middle East."

World Jewish Congress President Ronald Lauder welcomed the meeting as "extremely positive" and called it "an encouraging sign that the historic alliance between Israel and the United States is back on strong footing."

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Summer camp: Friendship and fun with a healthy dose of life

BY SETH FINKLE
sfinkle@jewishallianceri.org

Did you know that summer camp is about more than fun? What are your plans for June, July and August? As I reflect upon my camp experience as a youngster at the Jewish Community Center in Gloversville, New York, I am reminded how my 11 years spent in camp during the summer months helped prepare me for adulthood.

Some of the most important things I took away from my summers at the J.C.C. David S. Van Santen Day Camp in Gloversville were the friendships and life skills I learned along the way. I made lifelong friends at camp. We do not need to see or talk to each other to pick up where we left off. Our shared camp experiences carry us through the years.

I discovered what could be accomplished through teamwork at summer camp, as well as the importance of unstructured play. These are important life skills.

Growing up I did not participate on any school sports team. During the summer, I played all kinds of team games. Was I best athlete? I would love to say yes, but I would be kidding myself. I did have fun and learned what it meant to be on a team. I learned that it was OK to lose and not be the best.

Our camp was in the woods by the Great Sacandaga Lake. Every summer we would spend hours creating forts. This was always a group effort. The entire group planned and created the fort. The design and execution always changed depending on the day, members of the group and how well we worked together.

This also taught me to be flexible. We may plan for something but sometimes life throws us a curveball. The more flexible we are, the easier these curveballs can be. I may not have been happy when the group was not doing what I wanted but we cannot always get our way. This simple idea is so important in our adult lives. We work in groups and on teams. We plan for what we think will create the best outcome. Sometimes, plans change or group dynamics are altered. My fort-building camp days taught me to be able to go with the flow when things happen.

As the director of Camp Haverim, I see these ideas come to life through our campers. It took me a long time to understand the importance of camp and the positive effect it has on us. It is my goal to help bring out these ideas and more in our campers. I have seen children learn to be adventurous in trying new foods, discover a love for new people and for Israel, come out of their shells and push past their comfort zones. All of these things and more can be accomplished during one summer at J-Camp at the Jewish Alliance's Dwares JCC.

After the end of 2016 camp, I received the following comments from a parent. They show how camp can have a positive impact on our children.

"I just wanted to 'thank you' for providing Henry with such a great summer! The fun, loving and family environment that you provided was just what Henry needed to help him move forward in his development. He gained a stronger sense of pride, responsibility and independence. He matured over the summer and grew not just in height but in personality. The program that you have put together is what all families desire when looking for a summer program for their children.

"Henry is diagnosed on the Autism Spectrum. He is on the higher functioning end and has made great progress in his development since his diagnosis. He still struggles. Although he has attended the JCC since 18 months I was still very worried with him attending the upstairs camp because it was new to him. I think after the first day or two and definitely after the first field trip I had total confidence in the staff including the wonderful CITs! I was concerned with the CITs being young and possibly not understanding Henry. Wow was I wrong! The CITs worked as if they were seasoned child care providers. This was a result of great training, direction, along with wonderful individuals.

"In the past Henry has regressed over the summer but this year he made progress. I feel that his summer experience played a big role in this! So from the bottom of my heart I will be forever grateful for all the work that you and your staff put in over the summer."

SETH FINKLE is director of Camp Haverim and teen programs at the Jewish Alliance. For more information about J-Camp, email him or contact him at 401-421-4111, ext. 146.



PHOTO | SETH FINKLE

One of the buildings at the J.C.C. David S. Van Santen Day Camp.



PHOTOS | JEWISH ALLIANCE

At J-Camp 2016, creepy crawlers were popular.



Making lasting friendships with children and counselors during the summer of 2016.



On "Wear It Wednesday," the campers dressed like their favorite characters from books.

Israeli emissary thrilled to be returning to Providence

BY NOAM SPECTOR

When I was accepted into the *shlichim* program, my first thought was: How am I going to do it? It would be my first time in the United States, in a place I had never heard of, and I would be the only *shlichah* (emissary) in the area.

While I faced a lot of challenges, I decided to come to Providence with an open mind and to try to enjoy the summer.

Fortunately, the summer of 2016 was beyond my expectations. My experience was more than fun: while I was teaching the campers at the Dwares Jewish Community Center, I was also learning.

It was hard to explain to family and friends back in Israel how I felt about my summer and why I love Providence.

I stayed with amazing families, who I cannot thank enough for making me feel at home, sharing their lives with me and showing me the beautiful state of Rhode Island.

Summer camp gave me an opportunity to meet smart, curious children. They were thirsty to learn, to ask, to hear about my life as an Israeli.

I was moved when I taught an Israeli story or song that I grew up with and saw the campers' pleasure.

I didn't know how fun and interesting a game about Israeli geography could be!

My campers inspired me, and I appreciate every one of them for letting me in and making me feel loved.

After more than three months away from home, the first thing I did when I got back to Israel was decide that I would return to Providence for a second summer.

The impact of being a *shliach* is huge. Today I'm working at the Jewish Agency For Israel, helping to find new *shlichim* for the summer of 2017 and guiding them through the process. I tell them about my experience and explain how meaningful this summer can be.

I would especially like to thank camp director Seth Finkle, who is now like family to me, for making my summer a success. He came to Israel especially to meet me, and guide and prepare me for camp. During the summer, Seth made sure that I was doing well, and on weekends he took me to see the sights and meet his family.

I am so excited that I'll be back in Providence for the summer, seeing all of the friends, campers and families who made me feel at home and teaching about Israel and my life there.

NOAM SPECTOR was the summer Israeli emissary (*shlichah*) at J-camp in 2016. She will return to J-camp for the 2017 camp season.



Noam Spector and friends during a J-Camp field trip.

Camp Avoda: Planting the seeds of character in boys

BY RONNI SALTZMAN GUTTIN

May you grow up to be righteous
May you grow up to be true
May you always know the truth
And see the lights surrounding you
May you always be courageous
Stand upright and be strong
May you stay forever young.
– Bob Dylan

The words of this song remind us of our young men at Camp Avoda, a Jewish sports camp for boys in Middleboro, Massachusetts. Camp Avoda's values define the experience that Avodians have enjoyed since 1927. Boys learn to be righteous, true to themselves and their community, courageous and strong, and "upright" both physically and mentally.

At Camp Avoda, boys develop:

Lasting friendships. Sure, every camp can claim this. In fact, one of my colleagues frequently says that these words should never be part of a speech or print materials as they do not distinguish one camp from another. I agreed with her until I came to Camp Avoda. These alumni spend time together at camp, outside of camp, at ball games, bowling alleys, restaurants and family celebrations – often along with their wives, children and grandchildren!

Tradition. Beanies (known in most other Jewish camps as *kippot* or *yarmulkes*) and camp shirts; bunk writing; small, close, nurturing; Jewish; knishes every Friday night; alumni fundraising for scholarships so that no boy has to go without a Camp Avoda summer.

Brotherhood. I asked some campers and staff, "Why should someone choose an all-boys camp for their son?" Some of the answers: "Knowing that you have a friend who is like family." "You get to be totally yourself." "Free from having to impress anyone, or dressing a certain way." "Creating connections that help us understand each other." "We connect on a deeper level."

What is trending in social media? Avoda brothers meeting in a variety of cities, raising money to help the homeless, hungry kids and medical research, and supporting one another.

Leadership. Everyone at Avoda learns to be a man. Campers observe admirable qualities in their counselors. Older campers have "little brothers" in Bunks 1 and 2. Counselors in Training (CITs) learn to manage groups of campers, plan and implement activities, and develop skills and refine them through feedback and evaluation from experienced adults.

Counselors get real-life leadership opportunities, including leading all-camp and small-group activities, developing relationships with campers, and honing their skills under the leadership of senior staff members.

Spirit. Healthy, good-natured competition is an element of the spirit that is Camp Avoda. Learning to win graciously, and lose just as graciously, is an important part of the Avoda experience. Color War, complete with athletic competitions, plays written by staff and campers, camaraderie and team pride, is the ultimate display of spirit each summer. Jam sessions on the bunks' porches, dance parties before bed, early morning Ping-Pong, waterfront races, league championships, inter-camp games – it's all part of the spirited Camp Avoda experience.

At Camp Avoda, campers become CITs. CITs become staff members. Staff members become alumni. Alumni become leaders, family men, volunteers, fundraisers.

When we talk with our alumni, time and time again they articulate the lessons they learned at Camp Avoda.

RONNI SALTZMAN GUTTIN is the director of Camp Avoda. She can be reached by email ronni@campavoda.org.



PHOTOS | CAMP AVODA

Waterfront activities at Camp Avoda.



The boys at Camp Avoda make lasting friendships.

Step away from screens at Jewish summer camp



PATRICIA RASKIN

The camp experience has never been more important for our children, and even adults. In our technology-laden world, camps provide a much-needed opportunity to bond in person, share values and experiences face to face, and learn about Jewish traditions and customs in an interactive environment.

At the website jewishcamp.org, the Foundation for Jewish Camp addresses the question "Why Camp?"

"Jewish camp weaves Jewish values, culture, and traditions into the fabric of camp, helping campers to connect to their own identity and the larger Jewish community. Spirited and dynamic staff members use experiential learning to reveal what makes Jewish religion and culture so unique in today's world."

The article goes on to say that "Children with pivotal Jewish camp experiences are more likely to become adults who value their Jewish heritage, support Jewish causes, and take on leadership roles in their communities."

This is especially needed today when we are overloaded with technology and so many children and adults rely on it to communicate. Texting is replacing talking and emojis are replacing emotions. This has a negative impact on our lives and relationships because it removes in-person contact and the spontaneity of a shared group experience. We need to be sharing, collaborating, listening to each other and learning from each other, and what better way to do this than in camp?

Several years ago I attended two Jewish summer retreats, in very different settings. One was in a hotel, with lectures and meals in a central place. The other was on a college campus and featured outdoor activities. One camp was traditional and the other had added spiritual dimensions. Although the experiences were different, I felt bonded to my Jewish heritage, faith and traditions in both. I met Jews from different backgrounds and parts of the country and loved listening to different perspectives, as well as participating in prayers, chants and songs.

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



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JAFCO program returns Camp JORI to its roots

BY JOHN LANDRY

Judaism has always placed enormous emphasis on raising children. In one midrash, people who enter the world to come are asked five questions. One is, "What did you do to raise the next generation?" Even people who never have kids are expected to help nurture and educate our children.

That impulse was behind what eventually became Camp JORI, which began in 1909 as the Jewish Orphanage of Rhode Island, in Providence. To give its residents a summer vacation in the country, JORI's founders set up a small camp in Narragansett in 1937. With changes in government policy promoting foster care, JORI closed the orphanage in 1943. It sold the building to The Miriam Hospital and reorganized itself around the camp.

Now open to everyone in the Jewish community – while ensuring that no child is turned away because of inability to pay – Camp JORI has grown steadily. In 2003, it moved to its current, much larger, location on 72 acres in South Kingstown.

The drive to take care of the less fortunate has continued in the form of financial aid for needy campers, with substantial annual support from the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island. Every year, a significant number of families receive financial assistance, ranging from a few hundred dollars to thousands. These include struggling middle-income families, single-parent families, grandparents raising grandchildren, and the unemployed. But last year the camp took a much bolder step: taking on six kids from faraway South Florida.

The kids came from Jewish Adoption and Family Care Options (JAFCO), which started in 1992 to support abused or neglected children in South Florida. Instead of Jewish kids going into the state foster care system and being raised in non-Jewish homes, JAFCO gives them a Jewish environment and helps preserve and strengthen their Jewish identity.

The JORI-JAFCO partnership began in 2016, when the two organizations were introduced and recognized an opportunity based on their common heritage and goals.

JAFCO staff accompanied the children to Green Airport, while JORI provided full scholarships, partially offset by donors from both organizations. The children, ages 9 to 14, adapted well and seemed to have a good experience. JORI's supportive climate and philosophy of TACEO (Taking Care of Each Other) helped ensure success.

My own 13-year-old twin sons were at camp with the JAFCO youngsters, and didn't realize their special circumstances until late in the program. And coming from Miami was not as strange as it might seem: While the vast majority of the JORI 300 campers in 2016 were from Rhode Island or neighboring states, others came from as far away as California.

Some local campers got to know the JAFCO kids well. One parent said his child returned from camp with a new perspective on his own family situation.

The partnership worked so well that Camp JORI is repeating it this year. All six kids from last summer are coming back, and four more will be joining them. The camp is also considering hiring some JAFCO alumni as counselors or other staff members.

Michael Schuster, JORI's board president, underscored the importance of this effort for JORI.

"It reminds us of our responsibility to reach out and help whenever and wherever we can. We plan to continue to recruit children from diverse localities."

JAFCO's executive director, Sarah Franco, adds that her organization is grateful for the kids' "chance to get away from the stressors of family problems, therapy, courts and so many other issues that can bring childhood abruptly to an end. Now they can regain their childhood with a carefree summer filled with sunshine and happiness."

JOHN LANDRY lives in Providence with his wife and their two sons, who have attended Camp JORI for four summers.



JORI director Ricky Kodner with JAFCO executive director Sarah Franco.





PHOTOS | CAMP JORI

JORI is adjacent to Wordon's Pond in southern Rhode Island.

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Many summer options for high school students seeking to enhance their learning and lives

BY SAM SERBY

Don't "listen" to Punxsutawney Phil and his shadow: Summer really is just around the corner.

Now, while the wind is howling and snow is blowing, is the time for high school students to look into summer pre-college programs. Whether interested in sharpening their creativity, developing leadership skills, learning to design apps or exploring Judaism, there's something for every teen this summer. Here are some at Brandeis University, Brown University or the Union for Reform Judaism. More programs are available at other institutions.

Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts

All summer pre-college programs at Brandeis are residential and take place on campus.

App Design Boot Camp, July 9-20

Learn app design in a course that combines college-level work with field trips and social activities designed to provide students with an exciting and transformative summer experience. Students will learn what it takes to create their own groundbreaking web application using industry standard technologies such as HTML5, CSS and the Meteor Javascript Web Platform.

Students will also have an opportunity to meet and interact with professional app developers from companies such as Google and Cablevision.

Brandeis Institute for Music and Arts, July 3-31

Students develop their creative and artistic skills while exploring the relevance of Jewish tradition in their lives during a four-week summer arts institute. Students choose one area on which to focus: creative writing, dance, music (choral and instrumental), theater or visual arts.

Students will receive intensive one-on-one instruction in their chosen major, collaborate and create in small groups, and explore the community around them with new friends during this unique experience.

Genesis, July 3-31 or July 3-17

Established in 1997 through a grant from Steven Spielberg's Righteous Persons Foundation, Genesis offers in-depth sessions that engage students in hands-on study of an academic field through a Jewish lens. The program uses complex and compelling topics to teach what it means to build a diverse, international, pluralistic Jewish community.

Service Corps, July 9-20

In the Brandeis Service Corps, students combine their love of service with hands-on volunteer projects and deep intellectual exploration into the issues facing communities in the greater Boston area and throughout the country. Students can earn up to 45 hours of community service credit while honing their leadership skills, gaining deeper understanding of themselves and their ability to help those in need, and developing projects and ideas to bring change back home.

Young Leaders Conference on Israel Studies, June 25-30

The Brandeis Young Leaders Conference on Israel Studies convenes an elite group of high school students for an intensive academic conference that equips them with a critical knowledge base of history, politics, culture and Israeli society.

For more information on Brandeis' summer programs, call (781) 736-8416 or go to www.brandeis.edu/precollege.

Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island

Brown Leadership Institute

This unique two-week program combines the development of socially responsible leadership with focused study on academic topics such as health, global development, social entrepreneurship, conflict resolution and environmental justice. Students learn through course work, workshops on leadership styles, public speaking, active listening and the development of an "Action Plan" related to their school or home community. The Brown Leadership Institute is a residential program that runs three times during the summer.

STEM II

The STEM II program is for rising ninth- and 10th-grade students. Students can choose from a variety of two-week STEM II courses. Each course consists of rigorous academic content, laboratory or field exercises, and a personalized project that enhances academic learning.

In addition, students participate in inspiring research talks and co-curricular exercises, explore the foundations of one STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) discipline while living on campus, and participate in programs that promote social and academic growth and support students as they prepare for success in their lives and future careers.

Global programs

Brown Pre-College Global Programs offer rigorous academic work and a cultural immersion experience designed to prepare students for the increasingly complex challenges of the 21st century. High school students can choose to study this summer with Brown in Atlanta (Disease Control: Biotechnology versus Microbes); Rome (An Immersion in Roman Life and Culture); or Segovia, Spain (Global Business, Language and Culture).

Brown also offers several other summer programs for high school students, including sports camps, summer high school, pre-baccalaureate college credit courses and online courses.

For more information, contact Brown's pre-college advisers at (401) 863-7900 or www.brown.edu/academics/pre-college.

The Union for Reform Judaism

Six Points Sci-Tech Israel, June 28-July 19

In the URJ program, which takes place in Israel, students entering grades 10-12 will explore Israel as a living laboratory where science and technology meet the Jewish past, present and future. For more information, email scitech@urj.org.

SAM SERBY is a native of East Greenwich and attended Temple Sinai, in Cranston, for many years. He is a recent graduate of Johnson & Wales University.

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Jewish camping: Transforming lives around the world

BY STEPHANIE HAGUE
shague@jewishallianceri.org

Our Jewish values are borderless. The guiding principles that inform the work of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island are the same values that we prioritize in our support overseas. The transformational power of Jewish summer camps is one of these principles.

According to the Foundation for Jewish Camp, "The key to the Jewish future is Jewish camp. We know from research – and nearly two decades' experience – that this is where young people find Jewish role models and create enduring Jewish friendships. It's where they forge a vital, lifelong connection to their essential Jewishness."

Through support of the Alliance Annual Campaign, community members provide scholarship assistance for local children to attend J-Camp, Camp JORI and Camp Gan Israel. But did you know that at the same time, you are helping children who are thirsting for Jewish education and life-changing experiences to attend summer camp around the world?

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) are the Jewish Alliance's core overseas partners, allocating funds each year to their programs and services in Israel and around the world. The JDC's Jewish Renewal programs provide some youths' sole opportunity to explore their Jewish roots and create Jewish experiences.

This year, nearly 15,000 children and adults will participate in JDC's camp programs, which include more than 130 camps in 20 countries across Central and Eastern Europe and in the former Soviet Union.

Jewish camping has become a leading outreach activity of the JDC, bringing together youth and families eager to experience rich Jewish content and serving as the gateway into Jewish life year-round at the many Jewish community centers and Jewish centers across the former Soviet Union.

Pavel, a young Jewish camper from Belarus, is one of the thousands who have benefited from the JDC's transformative camps. Last year, Pavel and his parents participated in the Summer Family Retreat Camp operated by JCC Emunah in Minsk, the capital of Belarus. Prior to this experience, he and his family had no formal Jewish life.

Pavel enjoyed playing sports, learning about Jewish traditions and history, and making honeycomb Shabbat candles with his friends.



Young adults, children and families across central and Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union experience the transformative experience of Jewish summer camp every year.



At the end of the retreat, the family came together to participate in the camp-wide Shabbat celebration.

"Lighting the candles as a community was remarkable for us," said Pavel's mother, Natalia. "We want to continue the tradition so we have started attending other JCC programs. And this year again we are returning for another retreat with the families we've befriended in our community."

Stories such as these are proof positive that Jewish camping is effective and necessary in opening doors to other Jewish values-based experiences.

You can make a difference in a Jewish child's life by donating to the Alliance Annual Campaign.

For more information about the programs and services that the Alliance supports for youth and families locally and abroad, contact Stephanie Hague at shague@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111.

STEPHANIE HAGUE is the philanthropy officer at the Jewish Alliance.



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Awareness, education at forefront of Jewish Disability Advocacy Day

BY MARTY COOPER
mcooper@jewishallianceri.org

More than 180 members of the Jewish community, representing variety of organizations and institutions, converged on Washington, D.C., Feb. 2 for the seventh annual Jewish Disability Advocacy Day. The program featured briefings by leading experts on the today's disability issues and concerns, including information on two disability-related issues being reviewed in Congress. At the conclusion of the conference, advocates attended meetings with their congressional delegation to lobby on the issues. The program was sponsored by The Jewish Federations of North America and the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.

Attendees also heard from a number of congressional leaders, including Rhode Island's Rep. James Langevin. Langevin has been a champion for the rights of individuals with disabilities. He co-founded and co-chairs the House Bipartisan Disabilities Caucus, which is dedicated to raising awareness of issues affecting people with disabilities. He has worked with his congressional colleagues to help pass critical legislation impacting people with disabilities, including the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2010, and the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act of 2013. At the conclusion of the congressman's speech, William Daroff, senior vice president and director of the Washington, D.C., office of the Jewish Federations of North America, thanked Langevin for his commitment and dedication to fight for people with disabilities, and for his leadership on the issue.



PHOTOS | RON SACHS/CONSOLIDATED NEWS PHOTOS

Jim Langevin

The one-day conference reviewed two major issues facing the 10 million people with disabilities who comprise 15 percent of Medicaid's total enrollees: Medicaid reform and preserving the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Medicaid assistance touches on daily living, including nursing, transportation, physical therapy, occupational therapy, personal care services, speech/language/hearing therapy, transportation, and targeted case management. As these services and others are deemed optional in traditional Medicaid, they likely would be among the first benefits to be cut due to the severe economic impact of a block grant or per capita cap, which are the changes being discussed in Medicaid reform. Transforming the Medicaid program into a block grant, or capping its funds, could jeopardize the access to needed services for millions of vulnerable Americans and their families.

If passed, H.R 620, the Americans with Disabilities Act Education and Reform Act, could undermine and weaken a key part of the ADA, leading to a less accessible society for people with disabilities. For example, the bill will potentially make it more difficult for people to enforce their legal rights when they encounter an architectural barrier when attempting to patronize a business.

"The Jewish community," said Daroff, "has and will continue to advocate for laws and policies that help people with disabilities lead healthier, more independent, and more productive lives. Jewish Disability Advocacy Day provides an opportunity for communities to learn more about the issues and to bring their concerns to our representatives in Congress."

MARTY COOPER is the community relations director for the Jewish Alliance.



Marty Cooper

Disney cuts ties to YouTube star PewDiePie over videos with anti-Semitic content

JTA – Disney has severed its relationship with the popular YouTube star known as PewDiePie after millions of people viewed his videos featuring anti-Semitic content.

In a Jan. 11 video PewDiePie – 27-year-old Swedish citizen Felix Kjellberg – covers his mouth and watches as two South Asian men dressed in green loincloths hold a sign reading "Death To All Jews." The video was part of PewDiePie's review of a since-closed website called Fiverr in which one pays $5 for others to heed their on-air requests.

"I don't feel too proud of this, I'm not going to lie," Kjellberg said on the video. "I'm not anti-Semitic or whatever it's called. It was a funny meme, and I didn't think it would work...I swear, I love Jews. I love them."

The video was viewed more than 6 million times before it was removed by Google, which owns YouTube.

The Wall Street Journal first reported the dropping of PewDiePie by Disney-owned Maker Studios on Feb. 13. The report said the YouTube star had posted nine videos with anti-Semitic content and Nazi references since August.

PewDiePie had more than 53 million subscribers to his video channel and garnered nearly 14.7 billion video views on his main channel, according to Variety.

"Although Felix has created a following by being provocative and irreverent, he clearly went too far in this case and the resulting videos are inappropriate," a Maker Studios spokesperson told Variety in a statement. "Maker Studios has made the decision to end our affiliation with him going forward."

Kjellberg defended his videos in a post Feb.12 on Tumblr.

"I was trying to show how crazy the modern world is, specifically some of the services available online," he said. "I picked something that seemed absurd to me – that people on Fiverr would say anything for $5.

"I make videos for my audience. I think of the content that I create as entertainment, and not a place for any serious political commentary. I know my audience understands that and that is why they come to my channel. Though this was not my intention, I understand that these jokes were ultimately offensive."

He also wrote that he does not support hate-based groups.

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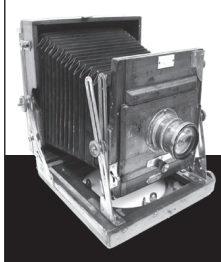
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FROM PAGE 1

SAVIT

tive and the renovation of the Dwares JCC.

For now, Savit says he will continue working "in order to complete all that we have begun together in earnest," according to his letter to the community. His future plans include spending more time with his family.

In a letter to the community, Alliance board chair Mitzi Berkelhammer said a search committee will be convened immediately. "We will all miss Jeffrey," she told The Voice, "but the Alliance will continue to serve all the needs of the community."

What follows are the letters from Berkelhammer and Savit to the community.

Letter from Mitzi Berkelhammer

Dear Friends:

It is with mixed feelings that I write to inform you that Jeffrey Savit has submitted his resignation as President and CEO of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island. He has made the difficult decision that it is time for him to consider a broad range of other professional opportunities. We are fortunate that Jeffrey has agreed to stay on until August in order to ensure a smooth transition.

It has been a privilege to work with Jeffrey these past 6 years as his passion and diligence helped to shape the new Alliance. During his tenure, he has worked tirelessly to ensure a vibrant Jewish community including the renovation of the Dwares JCC, the Living on the Edge (poverty) initiative and the new Holocaust Memorial. I am certain that you will join me in wishing Jeffrey only the best in his future endeavors and his well-deserved time with his family.

A search committee is being formed and the process of finding the next lead executive for the Alliance will begin immediately. In the meantime, it is full steam ahead for the Alliance.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at mitzib618@cox.net.

Sincerely,

Mitzi Berkelhammer
Chair of the Board

Letter from Jeffrey Savit

Dear Friends:

Six years ago I had the privilege of interviewing for the position as the first President and CEO of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island. Driving down and up Elmgrove and Sessions on that sunny and cold March winter day stirred up so many cherished memories for me. For indeed, I had travelled these roads so many times before as a young child with my father and brother to attend Brown football games. Returning to the East Side as an adult seemed quite simply "beshert"; being asked to lead the Jewish Alliance was and remains an honor that's quite simply heaven sent.

Since that spring day in 2011 when I accepted the position, I have passionately and energetically travelled to, from and across so many roads throughout Rhode Island, to do all that I could to fulfill and execute my professional and fiduciary responsibilities. Despite numerous bumps and challenges encountered on such roads, I am so proud with all that we have created and accomplished together. The Alliance has evolved into a smooth, vital and genuinely hamesh human services and community funding, planning, and programming entity. During these past several years, we have seen the solidification of our merger and our Alliance programming efforts; the growth of our annual fundraising and Endowment initiatives, the gorgeous renovation of our Dwares JCC; the implementation of our impactful Living on the Edge (anti-poverty) Initiative; the construction of the solemnly beautiful Holocaust Memorial; the launch of our Innovation Grants; and a renaissance of healthy partnerships with our synagogues and historic Jewish agencies. How grateful and blessed I am to have overseen all of these and other marvelous accomplishments, alongside our selfless and gifted Alliance officers and fiduciaries, including but not limited to my incomparable Board Chair and partner Mitzi Berkelhammer, community volunteers, fellow professional colleagues and Rabbis, and my magnificent senior managers and staff members, and my forever and always Gail Putnam.

But now I have come to a time in my life where my personal and professional roads have diverged, and unlike Robert Frost's famous traveler, I shall soon embark upon "The Road Not Taken" to channel my passions in new directions and spend more time with my family. As such, I shall be resigning from my position as President and CEO of the Alliance during the summer of 2017. Change, my friends, is healthy and good, for all of us, whether personally, operationally, or governance-wise, and provides great opportunities for future success. I have reached this tremendously difficult decision with my head held high and a smile on my face.

Please know that I will always stay connected to and support my Jewish Alliance family, let alone the myriad of dear friends I have made in Rhode Island during the last six years. I shall also revel from the sidelines not only in all Alliance and Dwares' future successes, but with all the wonderful milestones and prosperity that shall occur across the community. But now, I must go back to work in order to complete all that we have begun together in earnest, all the while happily glancing at the Brown football stadium from my windows of the elegantly renovated Myrna and Hershey Rosen office suite. Yes, six years later, I still feel my father has been watching over me with a smile on his face as well.

Thank you one and all for your trust, faith, friendship, support and wise counsel.

All my best wishes,

Jeffrey



the JEWISH VOICE



In America, someone turns 65 every eight seconds.

Many boomers who are becoming seniors have parents to care for. This "age wave" phenomenon presents many issues for our community including health, elder care technology and finances. The March 3rd issue provides an opportunity to **showcase your business and brand** to our readers and website visitors as we report and discuss aging in our community.

For more information contact:
Chris Westerkamp - (401) 477-0610 cell
cwesterkamp@jewishallianceri.org

Jenny Klein Memorial/Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Jewish Education

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Please contact Lawrence Katz at lkatz@jewishallianceri.org for the link to the nomination form or for more information.

For more information, visit
http://hgf.org/JEd-Awards

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OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

Elderly nutrition: challenges and resources



LIVING WELL

ERIN MINIOR

Caregivers and family members often tell me that they are concerned about the diet of their aging loved ones.

"They just don't seem to eat like they used to" is a common stated observation.

While proper nutrition is important at any age, there are many factors that interfere with older adults' ability to access nutritious food. Fortunately, there are some simple steps you can take to help your aging loved ones maintain proper nutrition.

Decreased sensitivity is a part of aging. The number of taste buds we have decreases as we age, and sensitivity to smell noticeably decreases in our 70s. Therefore, meals must be appetizing and visually appealing for an older person to enjoy them. Eating less can contribute to not getting enough nutrients to maintain good health.

Health issues can also impact a person's appetite. Medications can bring side effects, such as nausea, or change the taste of food, making it less appealing to eat. Furthermore, limited mobility can make it difficult to get around the kitchen. Even transferring food from the oven or refrigerator to the kitchen table can be difficult - and possibly even dangerous.

For seniors who are homebound and live with such mobility challenges, home-delivered meals may be an option. Jewish Family Service delivers Kosher meals to homes daily that provide one-third of the daily recommended nutritional requirements for most seniors. All homebound Jewish seniors in Providence, Pawtucket, Cranston and Warwick are eligible to receive Kosher Meals on Wheels regardless of their income. A $3 fee is requested of those who can afford it.

Financial factors may also influence the type of food that seniors purchase. Healthy whole foods can be costly. Seniors on a limited income sometimes must purchase less expensive processed foods so they can afford to pay for medications and other needs. Fortunately, SNAP benefits (food stamps) are available to help seniors with limited incomes.

For seniors who can safely leave their homes, Jewish Family Service operates two Kosher nutrition programs, called Senior Cafés. The JFS Senior Cafés are located at Temple Sinai, in Cranston, and at the Dwares Jewish Community Center, in Providence. An affordable donation is suggested for each meal and there are scheduled activities before or after lunch, which provide both social and intellectual stimulation. Arrangements can be made for transportation to the Senior Cafés.

Whether you plan to personally help your aging loved ones by providing them with visually appealing and nutritionally balanced foods, or you want to take advantage of the other options in Rhode Island, Jewish Family Service (401-331-1244) can help. The agency has professional staff with experience working with seniors who can talk with you about the best options for your loved ones and even about other resources available in the community.

ERIN GISHERMAN MINIOR is the CEO of Jewish Family Service of Rhode Island.

REMEMBER THE PAST

From the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association

The local Jewish community has long united when crises loomed

BY JOSHUA JASPER

Over the years, there have been many responses from American Jews to threats to the Jewish community and anti-Semitism, ranging from silence to a united front to destructive divisions.

On a national level, Jews as a group kept quiet during the rampant anti-Semitism in the Civil War years (written about at great length by Brandeis University's Jonathan Sarna). The Jewish response to Father Charles Coughlin and American Nazis in the early part of World War II was also largely muted. In fact, a united national front against anti-Semitism is a fairly recent phenomenon, based on the horror of the Holocaust and calls of "Never Again."

Locally, the small Rhode Island Jewish community has a long history of uniting in the face of a crisis. One example is the founding of the General Jewish Committee of Providence. (In 1970, the GJC was renamed the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, and in 2011 it was again renamed, as the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.)

The GJC, which was officially incorporated in 1945, held its first annual conference in January 1924. Archibald Silverman, a jewelry factory owner, and Alter Boyman, a peddler, conceived this group in 1923 to unite the Providence Jewish community against the Immigration Act of 1924, or Johnson-Reed Act, which sought to halve the number of Eastern European immigrants allowed under the quota system put in place in 1921.

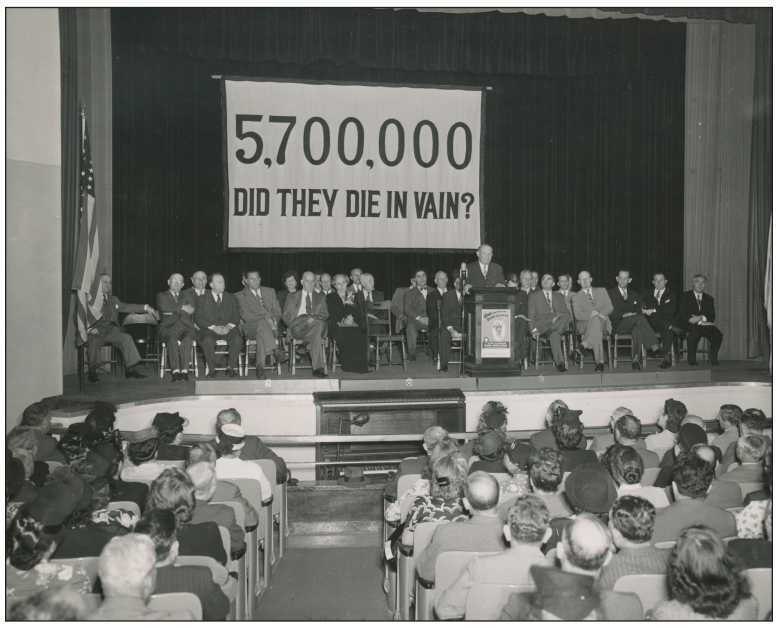
In addition to the conference, Rhode Island Jews held a mass protest in the Elks Auditorium in Providence in March 1923.

Despite their efforts, the Johnson-Reed Act passed, and the GJC fell silent.

In the summer of 1944, a group of local Jewish leaders came together to discuss the possibility of forming a central fundraising committee for the United Jewish Appeal. There were many fundraisers in Providence for the UJA between 1938 and 1944, but these were arranged fairly informally and were not under the auspices of any local group.



Discussing the 1947 campaign.



PHOTOS | JOSEPH R. MARCELLO FROM RIJHA COLLECTION

Mass rally for the 1948 campaign.

Hadassah Davis, who in 1995 wrote the definitive history of the Jewish Federation of R.I. in our journal, The Notes, states: "Beginning with the advent of the Nazi rule in Germany... the desperate plight of Jews in Europe and the uncertain situation in Palestine served as catalysts to centralize Jewish philanthropy [nationwide]."

During local annual campaigns for the UJA, individuals began to donate heavily because they felt that the group was helping Jews both locally and internationally where it was most needed.

On May 28, 1945, over 500 people, including representatives of 51 Jewish organizations, packed the Biltmore Hotel ballroom in Providence to vote to officially establish a "permanent Jewish communal organization." At the suggestion of Alter Boyman, it was named the General Jewish Committee of Providence.

The extent of the European Holocaust was not yet known, but local contributions were unusually generous. An old man at the time was quoted as saying, "But for the grace of God I might have been one of them."

JOSHUA JASPER is office manager and librarian/archivist at the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association.

Stephen F. Schiff, M.D., F.A.C.S.

MOHEL

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Cranston Senior Guild sets next meeting

Cranston Senior Guild's next meeting will take place Wednesday, March 1 at 1 p.m. at Tamarisk Assisted Living, 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick. There will be a short meeting, followed by bingo, refreshments and a raffle. All men and women age 55 years and over are welcome to join. Cranston residency is not required.

Sylvia Belle Rosen Brown, 90

WARWICK, R.I. – Sylvia Belle Rosen Brown passed away on Feb. 8. She was the beloved wife of the late Herbert Brown. Born January 6, 1927, the daughter of the late Helen and Herman Rosen, she was a lifelong resident of the Providence area, and a graduate of Hope High School and Green Mountain College.

She was active in many organizations including Jewish Seniors Agency of Rhode Island, The Miriam Hospital, National Council of Jewish Women, and Hadassah, and was a lifelong congregant of Temple Emanu-El.

She is survived by her daughters Andi, Ellen Effren (Jerry) and Heidi (Richard Moche), her grandchildren Sydney and Jack Zelinka; Jay Effren (Leigh); Hilary Effren; Isaac, Charlotte and Henry Moche; and great-granddaughter Hannah Effren.

Contributions may be made to Jewish Seniors Agency of Rhode Island, 100 Niantic Ave., Providence, RI 02907

Martin Dittelman, 89

WARWICK, R.I. – Martin Dittelman died peacefully and surrounded by family on Feb. 8. He was the beloved husband of Seena (Kovitch) Dittelman for 64 years. Born in Ossining, New York, he was the son of the late Lewis and Helen (Simmons) Dittelman and the youngest brother of the late Elliot and Harold Dittelman.



Martin and Seena had recently moved to the Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence, which he had an active role in helping to build with the Jewish Seniors Agency of Rhode Island. He had previously lived in Cranston for 54 years in a home that brought love, joy and great food to anyone who stepped through the door.

Martin had a long and successful career as an accountant and his work brought him around the world, most often with Seena by his side. Among his long list of accomplishments he was Navy Veteran, an active senior member of the Jewish community and commodore of the East Greenwich Yacht Club. His most beloved role was that of the patriarch of his family. He was a rock and a port in a storm and was always there with wise words, unconditional love and a good bottle of wine.



Besides his devoted wife Seena, he leaves behind son Jason Dittelman (Cathy Buchanan) and daughter Lori Gibson (Mark). He was the grandfather of Heather Dittelman Conover (spouse Ray), Max Dittelman (spouse Sarah), Ingrid Suprock and Jeremy Martini (spouse Daryl). He was especially proud that he also got to be (in his words) a "genuine great-grandfather" to Calvin Conover, Natalie Conover, Ellie Dittelman and Charlotte Dittelman.

Martin would have been 90 on June 26. The family is planning a celebration of his life that weekend.

Contributions in his memory may be made to Jewish Seniors Agency, 100 Niantic Ave., Providence, RI 02907 (or online at jsari.org/donate)

Irene Hershey, 93

NORTH PROVIDENCE, R.I. –Irene Hershey died Feb. 6 at Hopkins Manor. She was the beloved wife of the late Herman Hershey. Born in Bronx, New York, a daughter of the late Eugene and Mollie (Fettman) Schiller, she had lived in Providence for 19 years.

She was a clerk at Jewish Board of Family and Children Services in the Bronx for 17 years. Irene was a former member of the Odd Fellows. She was the devoted mother of Steven Hershey and his wife, Leslie, of Pawtucket, Joanne Hershey of Co-op City, New York, and the late Richard Hershey. She was the dear sister of the late Edward Schiller. She was the loving grandmother of Alex Hershey and Noah Hershey and his wife, Allie.

Contributions in her memory may be made to The Jimmy Fund Clinic, P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284.

Paul Mark Knopf

BARRINGTON, R.I. – Paul Mark Knopf, Ph.D. passed away on Jan. 31 from complications of Parkinson's disease. Paul is survived by his wife of 58 years, Carol Lois Harrison Knopf. Other surviving family members include the couple's three children, Jeffrey Knopf (and his partner, Christina Milburn), Steven Knopf (and his wife, Jennifer), daughter Rachel Yakubik (and her husband, Gary Yakubik) and three beloved grandsons, Jakob Yakubik, Andrew Knopf, and Cameron Knopf.



Born in Trenton, New Jersey, Paul received a B.Sc. from MIT in physics in 1958 and a doctorate in biophysics in 1962.

Knopf did a post-doctoral fellowship in Cambridge, England, at the Medical Research Council, working under Dr. Francis Crick, co-discoverer of the structure of DNA. Upon returning to the U.S., he went to work at the Salk Institute in La Jolla, California. After several years at the Salk Institute, Knopf found his passion while working with students. In 1972, he joined the faculty at Brown University, doing what he loved best – teaching. He ultimately became a full professor, and among his many honors, in 1992 he was named the first "Charles A. and Helen B. Stuart Professor of Medical Science" Chair. In 1998 he was honored as "Teacher of the Year" (Life Sciences, Brown University) for teaching undergraduate courses in Immunology.

Knopf loved traveling and was fortunate to be able to visit; and sometimes live and work in London, Berlin, Rome, Cairo and Melbourne.

Paul Knopf was loved with great affection by all of his family members, his and Carol's many friends, and by the hundreds of students that he taught.

Donations may be made in his memory to Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington, RI 02806; to the American Parkinson Disease Association, RI Chapter, website www.riapda.org; or to the Progeria Research Foundation website, progeriaresearch.org.

Nathan J. Lindenfeld, 67

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Nathan J. Lindenfeld passed away Feb. 6. He was born in Munich, Germany, a son of the late Abraham and Bessie (Flug) Lindenfeld.

Nathan was the former owner of Café at Brooks and had a longtime involvement in New Metal Box Mfg. and various real estate developments.

He is survived by his brother Jack Lindenfeld. He was the brother of the late Saul Lindenfeld.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 417005 Boston, MA 02241.

Selma C. Rappoport, 91

WARWICK, R.I. – Selma C. Rappoport died Feb. 11 at Miriam Hospital. She was the beloved wife of the late Norton "Nocky" Rappoport. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Max and Minnie (Fish) Pass, she had lived in Warwick for over 40 years, previously living in Providence.



OBITUARIES | 26

ASK THE DIRECTOR

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

Question: Can a funeral be done without any newspaper notices to inform the public?

N.L. Hope

Dear N.L.,

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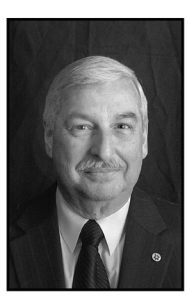
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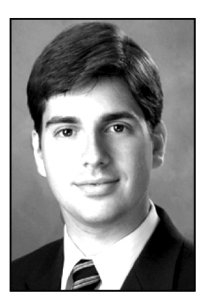
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FROM PAGE 1

PUMBAA

Both his children were born while Lipitz was on the road. "They've traveled with the company, too," he said.

"The Lion King" is still a huge success on Broadway and is currently the third longest running musical behind "The Phantom of the Opera" and "Chicago." It's also the highest-grossing Broadway show ever, having been seen by some 64 million people in 15 countries. This is the third time the show will play at PPAC.

Lipitz has performed the role on Broadway as well. The difference between performing it on Broadway: "I get to go home to my actual bed," he said with a laugh.

Lipitz said he believes the show continues to be such a success because it appeals to all ages; every night the audience falls in love with the story. "The representation of life takes your breath away," he said. "Disney's 'The Lion King' is a story that changes lives because of that grand vision and sense that anything is possible."

"The Lion King" will play in Providence Feb. 28-March 19. Tickets are available at the PPAC box office, 220 Weybosset St., Providence, online at www.ppacri.org or by calling 401-421-ARTS (2787).

SETH CHITWOOD is the co-founder and creative director of the award-winning production company Angelwood Pictures, angelwoodpictures.com. He is a Rhode Island College graduate.

FROM PAGE 25

OBITUARIES

She was a clerk at the former Snell's Bakery, worked at the former P&B Jewelry, and was an office manager for Dr. Harry Pass, an optometrist in Providence, for 17 years, retiring in 1994. Selma was a member of the Miriam Hospital Women's Association, Hadassah and the former Jewish Home for the Aged Women's Association.

She was the devoted mother of Ronald Rappoport and his wife, Gloria, of Exeter, Stephen Rappoport and his wife, Ellie, of Cranston, Harvey Rappoport and his wife, Lorraine, of Cranston, and Howard Rappoport and his wife, Wendy, of Johnston. She was the dear sister of Laurel Deluca of Warwick and the late Dr. Harry E. Pass. She was the loving grandmother of Marci and her husband, Ed; Stacy; Jonathan and his wife, Danielle; Adam and his wife, Jamie; Lauren and her husband, Mark; Joshua and his wife, Trina; Benjamin and his wife, Abby; Merredith and Brendan. She was the cherished great-grandmother of Ross, Paige, Drew, Noah, Liam, Ryan, twins, Reese and Mila, Jonah, Leo, Nathan, Matthew, Toby and Auggie.

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

Rosalind Sallinger, 74

WARREN, R.I. – Rosalind Nancy (Wayner) Sallinger, of Warren, formerly of Weston, Massachusetts, passed away on Feb. 10. For 52 years, she was the beloved wife of James R. Sallinger.

She was the devoted and loving mother of Robert (Elisabeth) of Portland, Oregon; Elizabeth (Michael) of Fairfield, Connecticut; and Lauren of Brooklyn, New York. She was the cherished nana of Sam, Peter, Annabel, Benjamin and Jedediah. Roz was adored by everyone she met, and she will be missed tremendously by family and friends.

Remembrances may be made to Amos House: www.amoshouse.com/MakeaDifference/GiveNow.aspx, or Saint Elizabeth Manor: www.stelizabethcommunity.org/Giving/Tributes-and-Memorials. A gathering celebrating her life will be held at a future date.

Judith Romney Wegner, 83

PROVIDENCE. R.I. – Judith Romney Wegner died Feb. 2. She was the wife of Peter Wegner. Born in London, a daughter of the late Joseph and Minnie (Marks) Romney, she had been a resident of Rhode Island since 1969.

A graduate of Cambridge University in England and Brown University, she was an attorney and professor of religious studies.

Mrs. Wegner was an active member of Temple Emanu-El.

Besides her husband, she is survived by her sons, Mark, of New York City; Jeremy, of Eugene, Oregon, and Michael of Athens, Georgia; her siblings Marion Rosenberg and Paul Romney; and her grandchildren Terra, Aaron, Miriam and Amelia. She was the mother of the late Simon Wegner.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Temple Emanu-El.

FROM PAGE 9

IMMIGRANTS

and assaults on their rights. We are joining with our partners in other faith communities to defeat anti-immigrant measures, such as a bill in the Rhode Island General Assembly that would turn each police officer and state official into an immigration agent required to turn in every undocumented immigrant, even those who arrived in the United States as children.

The Jewish community remembers the American values that allowed our ancestors to come to this *goldene medina*. Now that those values are under attack, we will defend today's huddled masses yearning to breathe free.

This was written on behalf of the Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island and the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Alliance.

JEFFREY GOLDWASSER is rabbi of Temple Sinai in Cranston and chair of the CRC Social Justice committee.

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

MARTY COOPER is community relations director for the Jewish Alliance.

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Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island and Event Co-Chairs Lisa Davis, Robin Engle & Barbara Feldstein present

Mind, Body & Spirit: A Day for Women to Join Together

Sunday, May 7, 2017 | 9:30am
Dwares JCC | 401 Elmgrove Avenue, Providence
$10 per person, *plus a gift of any amount to the 2017 Annual Campaign*

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Barbara Wasserman
Realizing Your Next Purpose



Dr. Mache Seibel
The Estrogen Window



Alicia Ybarbo & Mary Ann Zoellner
*Sh*tty Mom for All Seasons*

Register online at **jewishallianceri.org/mind-body-spirit** by April 26.
For more information, contact Danielle Germanowski at dgermanowski@jewishallianceri.org or 401.421.4111 ext. 109.

JEWISH BOOK COUNCIL

Jewish Alliance OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND



WE ARE READ IN CHILE – Candace Powning, of Providence, spent a semester abroad in Chile. A junior at Weslyan University, she is pictured in Zapallar, Chile in December.



PHOTO | MICHAEL SALERNO

MAZEL TOV – Hannah Rosoff of Attleboro (front row, wearing scarf), a member of Congregation Agudas Achim in Attleboro, Massachusetts, celebrated her 100th birthday with a party on Feb. 4 at Murray Unitarian Universalist Church. More than 50 friends and family attended. Here, Rosoff is surrounded by her three children, seven of her grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Rosoff, née Kosky, was born in the Bronx, New York; her parents emigrated separately from what is now Poland. She married Carl Rosoff in 1936 and spent much of her adult life in Rome, New York. She worked in the insurance trade and also served as president of Congregation Adas Israel in Rome. She retired in 1983; her husband passed away a year later. She remained in Rome until the 1990s and was active in many ways but especially as a member of the Happy Hoofers, a senior dance troupe. At the age of 80 she moved to Delray Beach, Florida, where she continued to dance and perform. She also traveled often to visit family in Alaska, New Mexico and Walpole, Massachusetts. In November she relocated to Massachusetts.



NO SUBSTITUTE FOR FRIENDSHIP – Friends for 80 years, Doris Reffkin and Miriam Snell enjoy reading The Jewish Voice when they get together for a visit.

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



WE ARE READ IN CAMBODIA – The Voice visits Angkor Wat, Cambodia with the Deluty family of Cranston in September 2016. Pictured are Karen Deluty, Ed Deluty, and Alana Deluty. Alana is currently living in Malaysia on a Fulbright Grant and teaching English in the town of Dungun.



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