

North of Paris, a beleaguered Jewish community dares to seder

BY CNAAN LIPSHIZ

SAINT-DENIS, France (JTA) – After three firebombs hit the synagogue in this poor and heavily Muslim suburb of Paris, municipal authorities advised the local Jewish community to lower its profile.

Like dozens of attacks on French synagogues since 2000, the January 2009 incident at the Chabad House of Saint-Denis, which did not result in any injuries, was believed to have been Islamist extremists' retaliation for Israel's actions – that year against Hamas in Gaza.

"We were told by the mayor from the Communist Party that it would be prudent if we tone down our activities at least until things calm down in the Middle East," recalled Yisroel Belinow, who runs the Chabad House here with his wife, Rivky, and his brother, Mendel.

"We had absolutely no intention of complying," he said.

Instead of laying low, the Belinows that year produced Saint-Denis' first public community Passover seder, starting an annual tradition. Members of this besieged congregation say it succeeded because it reflects their unity in the face of rising anti-Semitic violence.

Each year since 2009, the Beth Chabad of Saint-Denis – a small building under constant army protection – welcomes about 100 congregants for a group seder. It is led by Belinow, an introverted and soft-spoken man,

PARIS | 26



Community greetings.

Raising a tent and bridging cultures at Torat Yisrael

BY FRAN OSTENDORF

fostendorf@jewishallianceri.org

EAST GREENWICH – There was a lot of activity at Temple Torat Yisrael on Sunday as the greater community built "Abraham's Tent." The event was a shared celebration between neighbors, including an even mix of Jews and Muslims, and a few Christians.

More than 100 people of all ages

TENT | 36



PHOTOS | FRAN OSTENDORF

Making rugelach.

Baseball's back – with 8 Jewish major leaguers and a manager

BY HILLEL KUTTNER

JTA – Will Joc Pederson rebound from his second-half struggles of last season? Can Kevin Pillar build on his strong 2015 campaign? Will injuries derail onetime MVP Ryan Braun?

These are some of the questions to be answered as these Jewish players and others take the field for the Major League Baseball season.

Outfielders Pederson (Los Angeles Dodgers), Pillar (Toronto Blue Jays) and Braun (Milwaukee Brewers) will all start for their teams. They will be joined by second baseman Ian Kinsler, of the Detroit Tigers, which also has a Jewish manager, Brad Ausmus. And Danny Valencia, a solid hitter, appears to be the starter at third base for the rebuilding Oakland Athletics.

Among pitchers, right-hander Scott Feldman will be part of the Houston Astros' starting rotation. And the Miami Marlins' bullpen will include Craig Breslow, who for 10 years has mostly made his living as a lefty specialist, the last three with Boston. With the Red Sox, he earned a World Series championship ring in 2013, then last year achieved a first: He started

a game after making 522 appearances in relief.

In Oakland, outfielder Sam Fuld joins Valencia to make the Athletics the only team with multiple Jewish players. Fuld is injured and will start the season on the disabled list.

Boston had been "the" Jewish address of late: The Red Sox had Breslow, catcher Ryan



Craig Breslow

BASEBALL | 33

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THIS ISSUE'S QUOTABLE QUOTE

“A balanced and fair view of both sides ... is always necessary ...”



Preparing for Passover

Old and young alike kicked off the season with celebration. Rabbi Yehoshua Laufer and the David C. Isenberg Family Early Childhood Center students made matzot, left. Seniors at the Kosher Café at Temple Sinai held an early seder, right.



PHOTOS | STEVE SHAPIRO



PHOTOS | FRAN OSTENDORF



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PHOTO | HILLARY SCHULMAN

Marcia Kaunfer with Rosh Hodesh committee members Judy Levitt, Judy Robbins, Sherry Cohen and Kit Haspel. Not pictured: Maybeth Lichaa, chair, Cheryl Greenfeld Teverow, Toby London, Marcia Hirsch and Barbara Sheer.

The life of Miriam examined at Rosh Hodesh program

BY HILLARY SCHULMAN
Hschulman@jewishallianceri.org

We all know the biblical Miriam as the woman dancing with the timbrel, but what can we learn from her? This is the question Marcia Kaunfer posed at the Women's Alliance Spring Rosh Hodesh program, held on March 31 at Temple Emanu-El, in Providence.

The program began with remarks from Rosh Hodesh Committee member Cheryl Greenfeld Teverow, who spoke about the impact the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island has in the community. She highlighted Jewish Family Service as one of the many agencies that the Alliance helps support, and spoke about a few of their programs.

She then introduced the program's keynote speaker, Jewish educator Marcia Kaunfer, by praising her accomplishments and demonstrating Kaunfer's influence in the community with quotes from her former students.

Kaunfer, of Providence, reviewed texts from the Torah that mention Miriam, from when she was a young girl to when she was an old woman. She also gave out photos depicting Miriam in different ways, most portraying her as the vibrant songstress and dancer who most people know. In addition, she included photos of leprous hands and a well, which both describe Miriam in ways that are lesser known. The text discussion was based on how

Miriam was represented, and why.

At the conclusion of the program, Kaunfer had attendees write a cinquain, a type of poem, about Miriam to read at their Passover seders. At many seders, Miriam has a strong presence, just as Elijah traditionally does.

The Alliance hosts two Rosh Hodesh programs every year. For more information about these programs, contact Danielle Germanowski at dgermanowski@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 109.

HILLARY SCHULMAN is a development associate at the Jewish Alliance.

Grant money for Holocaust education

Educators are invited to apply for a grant from the Henry and Pepi Silverstein Memorial Endowment Fund of up to \$500 for any program or project that will allow them to become more effective in teaching the history, literature and stories of the Nazi Holocaust.

The intent of the endowment is to carry forward the mission of the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center: To teach the history of the Holocaust in order to promote hu-

man dignity and justice, and serve as a memorial to its victims.

The grant money may be used for improving personal Holocaust education or for developing classroom projects/lessons/materials for teaching Holocaust education during the 2016-2017 school year. Proposals should indicate approximately when during the school year the unit or project is to take place. The full application and additional information

may be found at sbhec.org.

Applications must be completed and received by May 13. Grant recipients will be notified by June 13 and will receive a check on June 22 at the annual meeting of the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center.

For questions about the process or eligibility, call Paula Olivieri at SBHEC, 401-453-7860 or email paula@bornsteinholocaustcenter.org.

Sunday film series back for a fifth year

The fifth annual Sunday film series at Temple Habonim features three award-winning films. All will be shown at the temple, 165 New Meadow Road in Barrington.

Sunday, May 1 at 3 p.m., "Aftermath"

One of the most controversial Polish films ever made, "Aftermath" is a harrowing mystery thriller. Franek & Jozek Kalina, sons of a poor farmer, are brothers from a small village in central Poland. Franek immigrates to the United States in the 1980s, without explanation, and cuts all ties with his family. Only when Jozek's wife unexpectedly arrives in the U.S. does Franek finally return to his homeland. As Franek and Jozek struggle to rebuild their relationship, they are drawn into a gothic tale of intrigue. The two brothers eventually uncover a dark

secret that forces them to confront the history of their family and their hometown.

Sunday, May 15 at 3 p.m., "As Seen Through These Eyes"

As Maya Angelou narrates this powerful documentary, she reveals the story of a brave group of people who fought Hitler with the only weapons they had: charcoal, pencil stubs, shreds of paper and memories etched in their minds. These artists took their fate into their own hands to make a compelling statement about the human spirit, enduring against unimaginable odds.

Sunday, May 22 at 3 p.m., To Be Announced

All films are free, including popcorn, and open to the community. For further information go to templehabonim.org or call the office at 401-245-6536.



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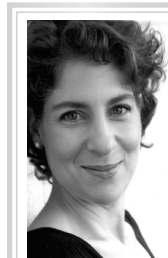


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My Fitness Journey: I reach the place I'm going

Part five of a series

Keeping a diary throughout this fitness journey has kept me accountable. It also has chronicled



KARA
MARZIALI

my daily activities, experiences, thoughts, conclusions, evaluations ... and, yes, even my complaints!

Day 29

I feel myself getting stronger. (I think.) Eddie said that he has seen an improvement in me since the first few weeks of this journey. Each session, he adds something new to increase the duration or intensity. So gradually I am building upon what I did the week before. He calls them

“progressions.” Today during upper body strength training, we increased the amount of weight I am using. Eddie told me I have a well-defined bicep, and I felt somewhat athletic based on his comment. (Until I caught a glimpse of my sagging underarm skin. *C'est la vie!*)

Day 31

Yesterday was my birthday. It was not a milestone birthday that ends in a five or a zero, but it was significant to me because I'm older than I ever planned to be. You see, when I was younger, I made up my mind that I would “live fast and die young” just like 1950s cinema idol James Dean, and I assumed (erroneously) that the best of my years would be over once I turned 24. Now that I am decades older than my miscalculated, projected life expectancy, I hope to add another 20 or so years to my life.

Unless you've been living under a rock, you know that research links physical activity to better health and quality of life. That is the real reason for taking this fitness journey. I am not setting out to achieve the “perfect body” (if such a thing exists). I simply hope I can improve my chances of longevity. I am looking to feel good about the body I am in and get a few more miles out of it.

Day 33

I woke up late and knew I had a hectic day ahead of me. I decided that in order to get in all my exercise, I needed to break up my physical activity into 10- to 15-minute sessions throughout the day. So I started with a few stretches and squats before I got ready for work. When I arrived at the Dwares JCC, I did my customary jaunt on the treadmill, but because of time constraints,

I was only able to get in 15 minutes of walking. “So be it,” I thought. “I'll manage to incorporate other forms of exercise throughout my day.” And so I did. If I needed to call or send an email to Alliance colleagues, I chose to walk over to their desks

instead. I stretched a little before taking my lunch break and took the longest route to get to my car when it was time to leave.

When I got home, I found a generous pile of mail on the table, an empty yogurt container on the

FITNESS | 10

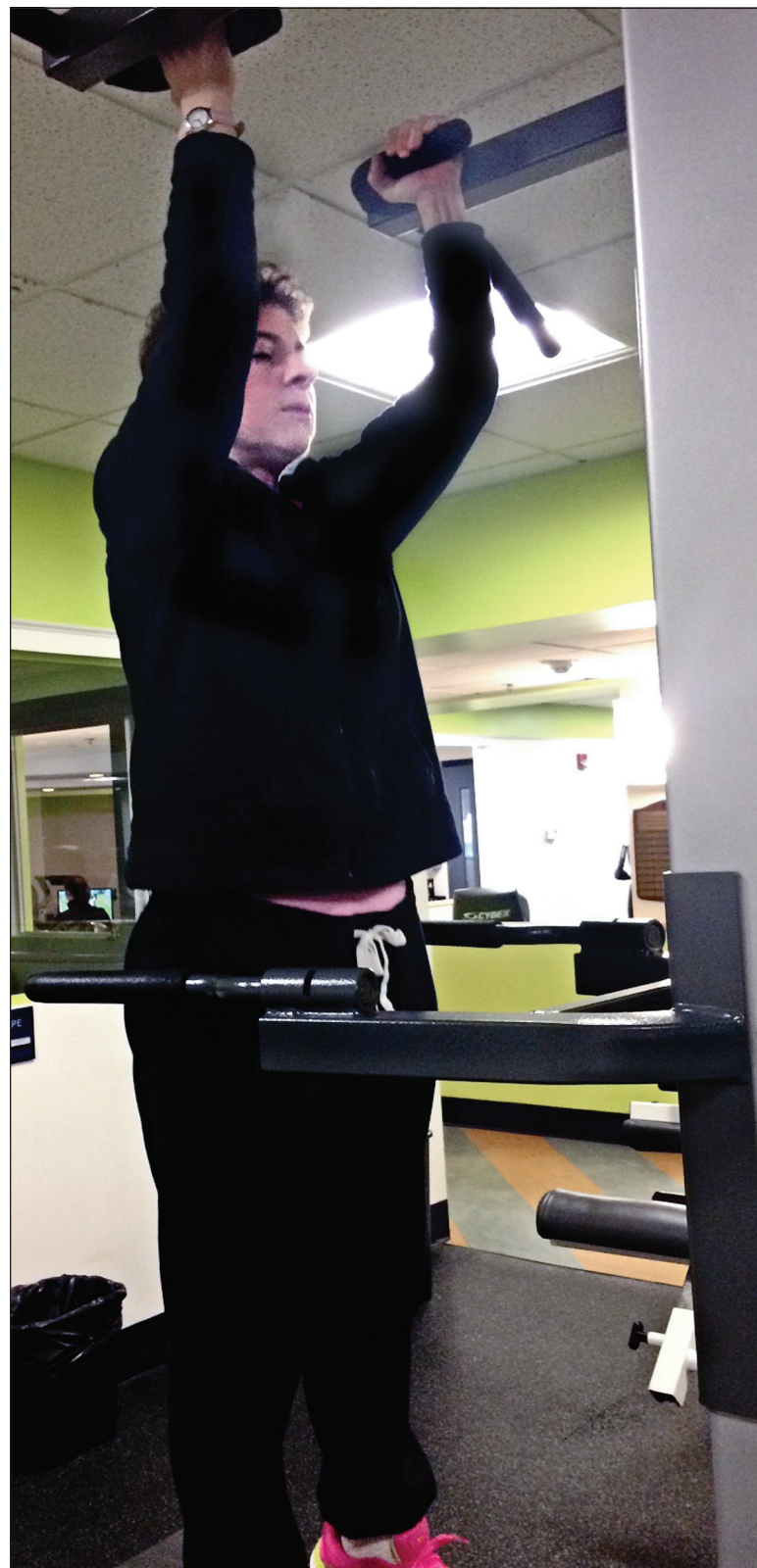


PHOTO | EDDIE FLEURY

I would have never used this contraption on my own, but with Eddie's reassurance and guidance, I gave it a try!

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Discussion, studies, images, stories suggest media bias against Israel

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

PROVIDENCE – Gary Kenzer, executive director of the North American office of media watchdog Honest Reporting, discussed mass media’s depictions of – and bias against – Israel during a talk on March 30 at Temple Emanu-El.

According to its website, Honest Reporting “monitors the news for bias, inaccuracy, or other breach of journalistic standards in coverage of the Arab-Israeli conflict. It also facilitates accurate reporting for foreign journalists covering the region.”

The presentation-discussion held at the East Side temple supported this statement with a series of studies, images and stories that provided compelling evidence that the Israeli-Arab conflict is in fact portrayed inaccurately in the media. Kenzer, after affirming that Honest Reporting by no means views Israel as perfect, put the organizational mission into more colloquial terms at the beginning of the evening:

“The concept of our organization is simple,” he began. “We believe that Israel should be treated the same way as any other country in the world, which is innocent until proven guilty.”

The event was presented by StandWithUs Rhode Island and jointly sponsored by Temple Emanu-El and the Jewish Alliance. The first in a series of communitywide events on numerous aspects of the Middle East conflict, it was attended by almost 100 people.

Kenzer invited the audience to contribute during the presentation, and asked them questions throughout the evening. His first point was even in the form of a question: “How do you get a point across that everyone will remember?” Responses were plentiful and included photos, humor, headlines, and emotions – especially those elicited by stories or images having

to do with children – and memorable punchlines. The answer Kenzer seemed to be looking for, however, was “the concept of repeat.” That is, being exposed to the same tone and theme of subject matter repetitively.

Examples of anti-Israel media reports punctuated the evening, including one from a Chicago news channel that wished Jewish viewers a Happy Yom Kippur with an image of a yellow star bearing the word “Jude,” which European Jews were required to wear during World War II. Kenzer, after showing these images, asked the audience to consider the motivation behind such mistakes ... or so-called mistakes.

“Sloppy work? Intentional? You have to decide for yourself,” he said.

Audience members reacted to such examples with noises of disgust. Many, it seemed, were not convinced that such reckless and offensive errors are accidental.

Another topic of the evening was the power of Photoshop. Kenzer showed the audience an image of a boy throwing a rock, which looked like a candid photo. In popular media, Kenzer said, this image has circulated widely. He then showed the uncropped version of the photo, which revealed some 20 photographers snapping images of the boy as he threw, suggesting the photo might not have been so candid after all.

The current image-driven bias in media reporting, he said, is partially because many newspapers have laid off their photographers, and now reporters are expected to take photos despite perhaps having little or no training in news photography. He said such untrained photographers can create bias in their images, which can lead to severe distortions.

“When we sat back and did nothing, it didn’t go real well for us,” he said.

The evening ended with a study that Honest Reporting



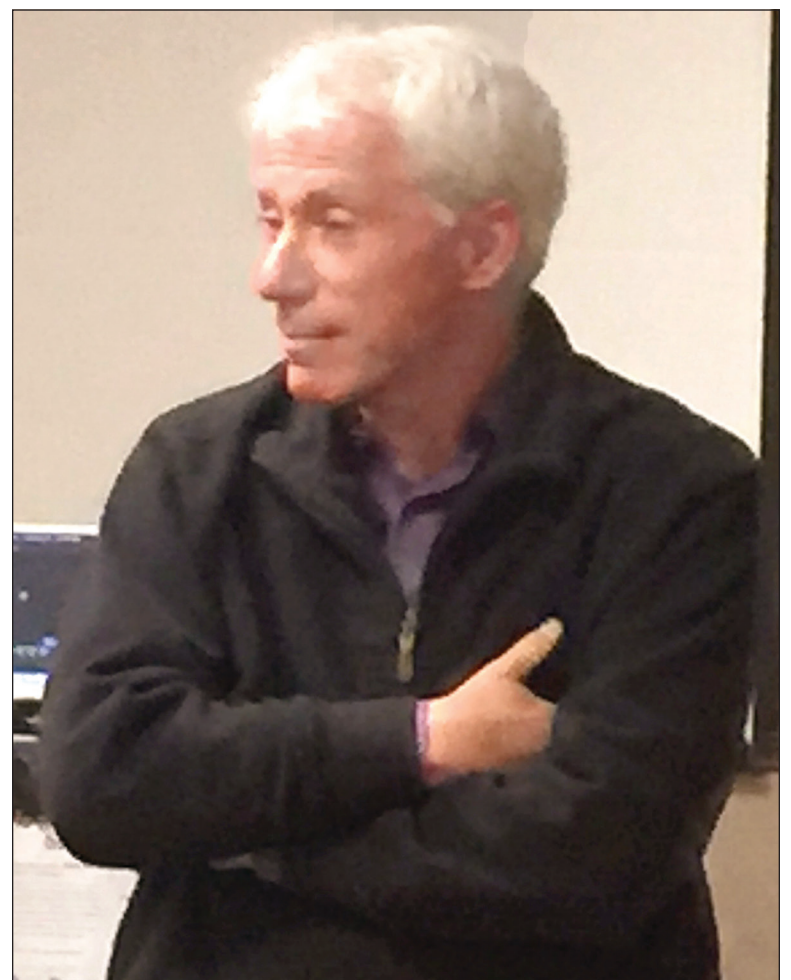
Bracha Stuart speaks.

had conducted wherein it created two Facebook pages: one advocating for Israel, one advocating for Palestine. The exact same language was used on both pages, with only the subject line of the posts changing – for example, posting “Long live Israel!” on the Israeli page, and “Long live Palestine!” on the Palestinian page.

After several posts were made, the Israel page was taken down by Facebook moderators because of alleged violations of community standards. The Palestinian page remains active to this day. According to Kenzer, no explanation was ever given.

Kenzer reminded the audience that a balanced and fair view of both sides of the story is always necessary to get an informed understanding of a given situation – and urged readers to be skeptical of information that is presented as fact.

ARIEL BROTHMAN is a freelance writer who lives in Wrentham, Massachusetts.



Gary Kenzer during his presentation.

It’s not manna from heaven, but this Passover, provide something just as crucial to the survival of the Israeli people.

In a country where knifings and other terrorist attacks are an all-too-frequent occurrence, your gift to Magen David Adom ensures Israel’s national paramedic organization has the medical supplies and blood it needs to save lives. So this year, while you recount the story of the Jews’ redemption from slavery, your gift will help modern-day Israelis survive the threats they face today.

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Mixed Message Matzah: *Chag Hamatzot*

Most people, it seems, are quite familiar with one the Torah's basic explanations for the obligation to eat matzah, unleavened bread made from one of five species of grain (wheat, barley, spelt, oat or rye), on Passover, also termed *Chag Hamatzot*, the Festival of Unleavened Breads: as our ancient ancestors were hastily leaving Egypt, the dough they had with them did not have sufficient time to rise and baked quickly in the hot desert sun (Exodus 12:39).

For many, this is the end of the story. Well and good, but rabbinic understanding posits a much richer and more nuanced symbolism and meaning to the holiday's namesake food that can add depth and meaning to the entire festival.

At the very start of the Passover seder, the passage beginning "*ha lachma anya*" is chanted aloud. "This is the bread of affliction which our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt ..." In the Torah, matzah is also described as "*lechem oni*," literally "poor man's bread" or the "bread of affliction." But matzah had nothing to do with socioeconomic status in the Torah's account! Several commentaries, bothered by this question, explained that matzah was also the food the Israelites were given as slaves. It is among the cheapest, simplest foods imaginable, and perfect feed to keep slaves alive. Without taste and of marginal nutritional value, matzah represents the devaluation of the slave's life, offered in an effort to keep the slave alive so that he might continue to be of productive value. This

really is the bread of affliction eaten in Egypt, not only on the way out.

I dare say that most people think the middle matzah is broken so that some can be hidden as the *afikoman*. While it's true that half is in fact hidden away as the *afiko-*

"Passover is plainly about the telling of stories, in this case, the fundamental story of our people throughout the ages."

man, this is not the reason for the custom to break the middle matzah. It's worth noting that *yachatz*, the breaking of the middle matzah, is one of the 15 essential named components of the Passover seder. So what is the reason it is broken? The Talmud explains that since matzah is poor man's bread, we ought not eat from a whole loaf, as this is not the way of someone living in poverty. "Just as the path of the poor is to eat only a piece of a loaf, so too matzah must be a piece of the bread" (Babylonian Talmud Pesachim 115b).

Eating matzah, then, on some level, represents an attempt at the reenactment of slavery. "In each and every generation, a person is ob-

ligated to demonstrate to themselves that it is as if they themselves left Egypt" (Maimonides). By eating matzah, we are experiencing/reliving slavery using the sense of taste.

Of course, matzah represents freedom as well. Ironically, the same bread fed to slaves was the choice food of the free. Though it seems this was a matter of happenstance (the bread didn't have sufficient time to rise), there's great symbolism in this seeming coincidence. Rabbi Yitz Greenberg explains that true freedom is more a state of mind than a quality of the bread. Different narratives regarding the same unleavened bread, one of slavery and one of redemption, co-exist in mixed message matzah. An important aspect of freedom lies in the ability to reflect and see thick layers of meaning in the lives that we lead. Passover is plainly about the telling of stories, in this case, the fundamental story of our people throughout the ages. Matzah reminds us that the narratives we tell have the power to shape our experience and frame of being.

BARRY DOLINGER is rabbi of Congregation Beth Shalom in Providence. He is vice president of the Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island.



RABBI BARRY DOLINGER

Candle Lighting Times

Greater Rhode Island

April 15	7:07
April 22	7:15
April 29	7:22
May 6	7:30

Passover prayers and candle lighting times pg. 27



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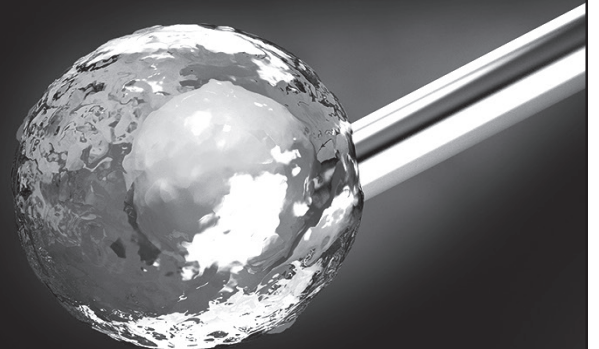
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No lack of community here!

We have so much going on in our community! As many of you have noticed, there's often too much for our small staff to cover. And lately there's been so many interesting events that you, our readers, may have had to choose between several activities on any given day. This is a sign of a vital, vibrant community. No complaints here.

The week of April 4, hundreds of community members attended two separate events, for a little information and interaction.

These were important, multicultural events, bringing together diverse groups from the greater community.

From Thursday through Saturday evening, at four separate venues, people turned out to hear the powerful stories of Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger and Ali Abu Awwad. U.S.-born Schlesinger is an Israeli settler; Awwad is a Palestinian activist. Together they travel through the U.S. and Europe, bringing a message of hope for peace in Israel.

They spoke of living separate lives within miles of each other and how they came together with other Palestinians and settlers to build an organization, Roots, that fosters reconciliation and helps Israelis and Palestinians learn about each other and work toward peace and understanding.

As Schlesinger told me in an interview several weeks ago, "We are trying to bring people together who live in the heart of the conflict." He explained that Roots is not a political group.

"We are neither rightist or leftist," he said. "The only future is to talk to each other and understand each other."

In Rhode Island, Schlesinger and Awwad made stops at Brown University, Temple Beth-El and Temple Beth Shalom, in Providence, and Masjid al-Islam, in North Smithfield. In each venue they attracted crowds of more than 100 people, who were impressed by their stories. The people I heard from were all moved by what they had heard.

At a different but equally powerful event Sunday, about 120 Rhode Islanders from the Jewish and Muslim communities in the East Greenwich area got to know each other a little better as they built and raised

a symbolic Abraham's Tent at Temple Torat Yisrael. Singing, dancing, teen discussions, cooking and a food-laden table all brought this community a little closer. Friendships were made and renewed, and plans are in the works for more events like this.

You read about Roots in the last issue of The Voice. You can read more about Abraham's Tent and other events you might have missed elsewhere in The Voice.

This week's paper is so loaded with articles and advertising that many of the good photos we had from events like the Kosher Café seder and Abraham's Tent didn't make it in. However, beginning this week, you'll be able to easily find this extra material, as well as the content of the newspaper, on our newly revamped website.

That's right! We've been working for months to bring you a website that is easy to navigate, provides news updates as they occur, and displays photos that don't make it into the paper. We expect to publish much more material online than we have been able to in the past, including photo galleries, We Are Read, and more of those events that are happening throughout the community. We'll also be bringing you news from other Jewish publications around the world in our newest feature, The Jewish Reader.

Plus, you'll be able to send us your news electronically and post to our community calendar online. We're hoping our readers will become more active in helping us showcase the photos and stories that make our community special. And the new site (at the same address, jvhri.org) also will open up more opportunities to advertise with us and reach our growing audience. We'll publish a how-to guide to the new website in our next issue.

These are exciting times, and we want you to know what we are working on. We're committed to helping build a stronger Jewish community here in Rhode Island and we believe our new site is a step in that direction.

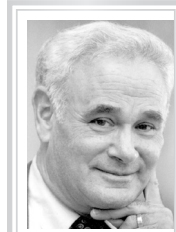
This week is also the start of our annual Patron Campaign – an important cog in the wheel of support at The Voice. There's an envelope in the paper for your convenience. Or, try out the website, where you can donate electronically. Either way, we hope you'll continue to support The Voice. We appreciate it – and the whole community benefits from a strong Jewish newspaper and website.



EDITOR

FRAN
OSTENDORF

As most of you know, Donald Trump, the front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination, spoke at the annual Policy Conference of AIPAC,



IT SEEMS
TO ME

RABBI JIM
ROSENBERG

front-runner, Hillary Clinton.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, Clinton's rival for the Democrats' nomination, did not attend because of campaign commitments elsewhere, but did issue a written statement of his views on Israel and the Mideast.

Not surprisingly, AIPAC's decision to invite Trump to its annual gathering angered many American Jews. The leadership of both the Reconstructionist movement and T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, among others, urged AIPAC to rescind its invitation, given Trump's repeated bigoted statements, especially with regard to Mexicans and Muslims, as well as his blatant misogyny, all of which repudiate long-established Jewish values.

These values, enshrined in Israel's Declaration of Independence, declare: "The state of Israel will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisioned by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all the inhabitants irrespective of religion, race, or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture"

Other groups, while mind-

Trump at AIPAC

ful of Trump's character flaws, acknowledge that AIPAC is the only Jewish organization that, every four years, as a matter of principle, invites all viable presidential candidates of both parties to its annual conference. Thus, the Union for Reform Judaism and the Central Conference of American Rabbis, while issuing a joint statement stating, "At every turn, Mr. Trump has chosen to take the low road, sowing seeds of hatred and division in the body politic," nevertheless affirmed the appropriateness of AIPAC's invitation:

"We respect completely its decision to invite all the viable candidates to speak at the forthcoming Policy Conference. By inviting the candidates to speak, AIPAC does not support or oppose their candidacies, nor does it condone nor condemn their policies. AIPAC has, as it must, a single focus: the US/Israel relationship"

I agree with those who have held that it was in keeping with AIPAC's mission to extend an invitation to Trump, but I am appalled at the standing ovation given to him by large numbers of AIPAC supporters who witnessed his pandering presentation. I find it particularly galling to learn that many of the attendees stood and applauded when Trump disparaged President Barack Obama with "in his final year ... yea! ... He may be the worst thing to ever happen to Israel, believe me, believe me."

For decades AIPAC has defined itself as nonpartisan, but Trump's center-stage sniping at Obama has only furthered the mounting suspicion that it is losing its nonpartisan identity. I am happy to report that the very next morning after Trump's speech, AIPAC's new president, Lillian Pinkus, issued a public apology from the podium: "There are people in our AIPAC family who were deeply hurt last night, and for

that we are deeply sorry. We are deeply disappointed that so many people applauded a sentiment that we neither agree with or condone.

"We say, unequivocally, that we do not countenance ad hominem attacks, and we take great offense to those that were levied against the president of the United States of America from our stage."

Pinkus underscored AIPAC's position by adding, "While we may have policy differences, we deeply respect the office of the president of the United States and our president, Barack Obama."

In her opinion piece in the April 1 issue of the Forward, Editor-in-Chief Jane Eisner gave voice to what many of us consider to be the defining issue of our American Jewish community: "We could be the community that gives a thoughtful reception to a diversity of voices but doesn't fail to stand up to bigots or bullies.

"Or we could cheer what fits into only a narrow prism of self-interest, and disregard how our values shape our interactions with the rest of the world."

That is to ask: Is our understandable and necessary loyalty to our fellow Jews balanced by an equally necessary and compelling loyalty to the larger circle of communities of which we are a vital part?

Balance. Finding a proper balance of loyalties is the key to survival. More than 2,000 years ago, our great sage Hillel put this need for finding a healthy balance between competing loyalties in the form of the well-known questions: "If I am not for myself, then who is for me? But when I am only for myself, then what am I?"

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

Biden to address J Street on heels of AIPAC

WASHINGTON (JTA) – Vice President Joe Biden will address J Street, the liberal Jewish Middle East policy group announced April 11.

The April 18 event comes a month after Biden, the Obama administration senior figure closest to the pro-Israel community, addressed the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, a prominent Israel lobby-

ing group often at odds with J Street.

Biden will speak to the group as media speculation increases over whether President Barack Obama will outline the parameters of a two-state solution before he leaves office in January. J Street since its inception has backed an assertive U.S. role in advancing peace talks, while AIPAC counsels greater U.S.

deference to Israel on whether and how to initiate peace talks.

The 2013-14 peace talks spurred by the Obama administration collapsed in mutual recriminations; officials on both sides are wary of what Obama would include in his vision for a permanent peace deal.

Biden last spoke to J Street in 2013, months after he had addressed AIPAC.

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).

'Embrace of the Jewish community' helps during parent's death

BY NOEL RUBINTON

The phrase "the embrace of the Jewish community" has always sounded warm and fuzzy to me, and also a bit abstract. But when you personally feel that embrace, as I have recently, it can be positively breathtaking.

My experience happened in North Carolina, not Rhode Island, but everyday wonders like this occur here, too. In this case, you could easily substitute the heroic work of Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island for Jewish Family Services in Charlotte.

My father, Noel, a lifelong New Yorker, moved to Charlotte last June to live in a care community better suited for him at age 92. One of the things I quickly noticed was that the community had a Shabbat service every Friday at 4 p.m. On one of my visits, I suggested that we attend, and my father – never a big synagogue-goer but connected through his widespread

volunteer activity in Jewish services – was glad to go.

The small chapel in the clubhouse was packed with about 25 people. Wheelchairs and walkers were all over the aisles. No one minded. These people could not travel to a synagogue, so services came to them. The leader was a volunteer from Jewish Family Services and, afterward, he joined us for dinner.

We went to services again a month later. A particularly touching moment came at the end, when an elderly man came in looking dazed. He said he had overslept and was there to say Kaddish for his wife's yahrzeit. We had already recited Kaddish and were finishing the service, but the leader, like it was the most natural thing in the world, said, "Let's say the Kaddish again." Which we did, in a great example of being attuned to the needs of others.

Unfortunately, my father's

health began to deteriorate rapidly after that Shabbat, and he soon moved from his apartment to assisted living. His mobility was impaired and a trip to the chapel for the Friday service was no longer possible.

But the same Jewish Family Services organized a Shabbat service once a month at the assisted living facility, again coming to where the need existed. This one was organized by Natalie Tunney, the charming, smart person in charge of the agency's senior outreach.

I had written to Tunney with some questions and gotten to know her through email exchanges, even hearing about a Rhode Island connection – she was married in Roger Williams Park when she lived in Boston. I also learned that her parents were from Flatbush, New York, the same place where my father was so proud to have grown up.

Soon after my father moved into assisted living, Tunney came to say hello and see if there was anything he needed. She caught him at a time when

he was tired. But I got a chance to walk and talk with her, and was calmed by her bright smile and easy manner.

A few weeks later, she came to visit again, and cheerily asked my father if he wanted to come down the hall for the Shabbat service. He looked interested but didn't have enough energy. I decided to go with her to the service. Attending were Tunney, me, a man in a wheelchair whose wife had recently died, and a woman who had left her hearing aids in her room. Still, it was a beautiful, intimate service and I was near tears throughout. Judaism had come to us in an unexpected place, in a generous way. At least I was able to tell my father about it.

A few weeks later, a series of strokes landed my father in a hospital, and two days later, he died peacefully.

When I wrote Tunney the next morning to tell her of my father's death, there was a surprise for me: She said on the previous Friday, just a day before he was taken to the hospi-

tal, she spent an hour with my father, talking about New York, his life, art and books – things he loved dearly. She told me he was smiling throughout, enjoying the conversation.

In his final weeks, it had become hard for my father to speak. It turned out that one of his last extended conversations was with someone he barely knew but who represented the Jewish world that was so important to him. He had spent a lifetime helping, and now he was being helped. I was stunned hearing about the conversation and cried tears of gladness.

Experiencing so directly the help Jewish people and organizations can bring has been profound. My encounters were intense and personal, and the impact of the help to my father and me was huge. It showed me the power of the Jewish world more clearly than ever, and made me want to be even more involved.

NOEL RUBINTON is a consultant and writer based in Providence.

LETTERS

Re: Pew findings (March 18)

In the opinion article by Daniel Sokatch, CEO of the New Israel Fund, it was more important what he left out about his NGO.

– They fund "Breaking the Silence" by collecting IDF classified information that Moshe Ya'alon, Defense Secretary of Israel, stated recently "that's treason."

– Funded "Ehud Shem Tov," supporting their petition to warn soldiers not to serve in the 2014 Gaza War.

– Funded "Adala" which maligned Israel for fighting the Gaza War.

– In February 2015, petitioned European countries as to boycott products manufactured in the settlements as well as academics who do not adhere to international law.

And on and on.

This is an organization that demeans Israel. At a time when we need to bind together and support the Jewish State, we must turn away from the NIF whose dangerous message is at odds with the Israeli people.

Sy Dill
Providence

Re: Anti-Semitism at area campuses (April 1)

Thank you for reporting on the most recent expression of Jew-hatred at Brown University, this time committed at Marcy House, a predominately Jewish residence hall whose walls were defaced with slogans such as "Holocaust 2.0."

Your article noted that this incident, and the one involving the strong-arming of transgender "icon" Janet Mock by Brown's chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine that resulted in her cancellation of a talk because of Hillel's sponsorship, brought "national attention" to Brown.

Why, then, was a story of such national prominence buried on Page 29 of The Voice's 32-page issue, rather than receiving front-page treatment? Why no editorial denouncing these events, and rallying your readers to express their outrage to Brown's administration?

Despite President Paxson's statement that "there is no place for acts like this one on the Brown campus," she is

clearly wrong. An academic and social culture of anti-Jewish, anti-Israel agitation and intimidation flourishes openly at Brown, as well as at many other college campuses. This is exemplified by the activities of Students for Justice in Palestine, whose goal is embodied in its oft-chanted slogan, "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free." The river is the Jordan River, and the sea is the Mediterranean. So, the "justice" this group seeks is the complete destruction of the State of Israel. What would become of Israel's Jews, you ask? I think that's fairly encapsulated in the words scrawled on the walls of Marcy House: Holocaust 2.0.

How long do you think it would take for Brown to sever ties with a student organization whose goal was the eradication of the Muslim population of Gaza? Not long, I can guarantee you that.

Michael Mellion
Pawtucket, R.I.

Sanders supporters say he is the candidate of their Jewish values

BY URIEL HEILMAN

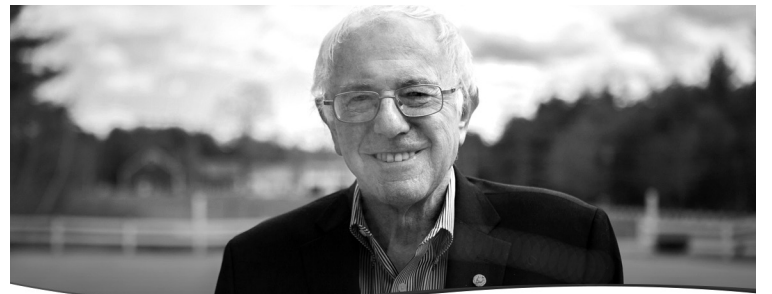
NEW YORK (JTA) – Phil Aroneanu is a second-generation American Jew whose parents came to America as immigrants seeking refuge from an oppressive Communist regime in Eastern Europe. Aroneanu himself was born in New York City and later moved to Vermont.

It's a biography that to some extent mirrors that of Bernie Sanders. And it's partly why Aroneanu, who now works as the Sanders campaign's New York state director, decided to join the campaign.

"Bernie speaks to my Jewish values in a pretty significant way, especially with Pesach coming up," Aroneanu, 32, told JTA in an interview. "We were once enslaved and now we're free. We have an innate desire and now responsibility to free others from oppression, whether racial oppression, religious oppression or refugees coming into this country or economic injustice. That's what prompted me to jump on his campaign."

Aroneanu is one of many Jews backing Sanders who say the candidate embodies their Jewish values. It's not because Sanders is Jewish, they say; it's because of the social justice values he champions.

"He embodies justice, integrity and hope," said Iris Richman, a Conservative rabbi in New York who has established a grassroots group called Rabbis for Bernie that aims to



help the Sanders presidential bid. "So many of his values are Jewish values. We were strangers in the land of Egypt. We were once at the bottom of society, and now we have a responsibility to the least privileged to make sure they're able to strive and function."

The fact that Sanders is also Jewish is a nice bonus, Richman told JTA.

"It's a very positive thing given the history of Jews in America that there's a Jewish candidate for president who has advanced to this point, and his Judaism doesn't seem to be a negative in his campaign," she noted.

Richman was among several speakers at a Sanders campaign event in Manhattan on April 10 organized by the grassroots group Jews for Bernie ahead of New York's April 19 primary. Richman delivered a pro-Sanders *D'var Torah*.

"The Torah tells us 36 times – the most repeated and emphasized value in the Torah – that we must always remember that Jews were once strangers

in Egypt and we must protect the stranger," Richman said in her speech. "We need to hear that call of the afflicted and we need to respond. Which candidate do we know who, for his entire adult life, has been willing to take the lonely road as an outsider when necessary and consistently and always stand for the poor? Stand for free college? Stand for health care for all as a right and not a privilege? Stand against the war in Iraq?"

The pro-Sanders audience cheered.

Susan Cohen, 60, a lifelong Orthodox Jew from Brooklyn, says she, too, sees Sanders as championing Jewish ethics – and her own political values.

"The Democratic principles I hold so dear are the same principles Bernie Sanders talks about: being a voice for the disenfranchised, the poor, the homeless, women, minorities, economic justice," she told JTA in a telephone interview. "These are not just Jewish values but religious, Torah-based values, and having all of that I

SANDERS | 29

FROM PAGE 4

FITNESS

counter and a sink filled with dirty dishes. Instinctively I flew into “tidy-up mode” and chose to clean with determination so that I could count it as a form of daily exercise. I turned on the radio and went to work: dancing with the dishes as I loaded the dishwasher, swaying with the broom as I swept the floor

and skipping to the recycle bin outside to deposit the junk mail and the plastic yogurt container. The minutes added up fast while I was moving during this clean-up time. Did I look foolish? Probably, but I was having fun. (And my house was in much better order than when I first arrived home.)

Day 34

I hate to *kvetch*, but I need to express my frustration about

some things that have really been bothering me....

I know I am a bit of a neat-freak and a stickler for rules, but, putting those idiosyncrasies aside, I simply do not understand why some people can't (or won't) follow protocol in the Fitness Center. They seem to lack the common courtesies with which the rest of us are naturally graced. Today was the day I reached my limit with other members' disregard for procedure and etiquette. These are my top five pet peeves:

1. Put yourself in someone else's shoes. (And I mean this literally!) Please do not wear the same footwear that is your “street shoes” even if they are sneakers. No one wants the grit from the salt, sand or soil that you've just tracked in on the exercise equipment. I have a pair of (inexpensive) sneakers that I keep in my locker at the Dwares JCC that I use exclusively at the Fitness Center. This way, when I get on the treadmill, there is no “sole soot” on the bottom, and the machine remains relatively dirt-free.

2. And speaking of cleanliness, whether you sweat, perspire



PHOTO | RACHEL KOCH

Gaining upper body strength and self-confidence.

or “glisten,” it's still gross and slimy. So please wipe down any machine, mat, dumbbell or other piece of equipment you might have shpritzed on.

3. Put away the crap! The other day there was a woman's pocketbook, a string backpack, two water bottles, a heavy winter coat, a kettlebell and two magazines on the floor of the workout areas. My fitness training suddenly turned into an obstacle course! I always say: A tidy fitness space is a happy fitness space.

4. However, my penchant for cleanliness does not stop in the fitness area; it extends to the locker room. Why, in a room full of lockers, would you not utilize them? Must you carelessly dump your personal belongings on the floor? Did you choose to toss your things in front of my locker on purpose?

5. And while I am still discussing the locker rooms, let me voice my displeasure regarding toiletries. Please do not leave a greasy ring of gunk on the benches, a dusting of powder on the floor or a cloud of fragrance in the air. My day was off to a bad start because for the second time this month, I sat in a puddle of baby oil because someone neglected to wipe up the mess. I spent the entire day explaining to coworkers that I was not incontinent.

Day 35

Today marked the beginning of Week 5, and I was ready to try another piece of fitness equipment thanks to Eddie's encouragement. The Cybex assisted pull-up machine was the behemoth that generated post-traumatic stress every time I looked at it. I got flashbacks of a younger, chubby Kara in junior high gym class trying desperately to succeed at the President's Fitness Challenge, a seemingly

impossible battery of callisthenic exercises designed to keep the youth of my generation physically fit. While the overall goal was a good one, apparently my P.E. teacher believed that embarrassment and shame built muscles. For me, the only thing it built was resentment and anxiety. I was ridiculed because I could not do a single pull up or chin up. So you can only imagine my delight when Eddie suggested I try a piece of equipment engineered to take the tough punishment out of pull-ups.

The machine has a weight-stack that offsets one's body weight and allowed me to practically float when I reached for the bar. Of course, I still had to use my upper body strength to perform the task, but it was made easier because I had some assistance in the “lift.” Eventually I may be able to do a pull up unaided. But for now, this felt like success.

I was proud of myself – really proud! It was a breakthrough for me today because for the first time in more than a month, I felt capable, courageous and strong – not just physically, but mentally, too.

While I only use these machines on the days when I am with Eddie – I don't feel comfortable using the apparatus in the gym when he's not around – at home, several days a week, I've continued to do the core exercises that he designed for me, increasing the repetitions and the intensity. In addition, I've been on the treadmill consistently each weekday. I have paced nearly 25 miles since I started – that's like walking from Providence to Newport!

KARA MARZIALI is the director of Communications for the Jewish Alliance.

Happy Passover!

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As a Jewish community, it is our responsibility to come to the aid of fellow Jews who struggle with life's basic needs. Please support this mitzvah by participating in our Passover food drive.

4th Annual Chametz ChallengeBenefiting the Louis and Goldie Chester
Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry

April 18 - April 21, 2016

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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- Cooking oil
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- Kasha / Rice
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Wishing the joy of the Passover holiday to you and your loved ones!

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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. THIS IS A NEW VENUE AND PHONE NUMBER.

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 May 5

Spring Mixed Show. Gallery at Temple Habonim. Encaustics and oils by Nancy Whitcomb; underwater photography by Neil Greenspan; and a mural by Religious School students. Hours are Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and by appointment. 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington. For information, call 401-245-6536. gallery@templehabonim.org.

Friday | April 15

PJ Library Story and Play Time with "Bubbie Sara." 10-11 a.m. Dwares JCC. Spend some time with us twice a month to hear stories, play games and make new friends! We will read various PJ Library books and sing songs about different Jewish holidays throughout the year. Children will also be able to make a craft. All children ages 5 and under are welcome. For more information, contact Sara Foster at 401-421-4111, ext. 130, or sfoster@jewishallianceri.org.

StandWithUs Israeli Soldiers Tour. 2 p.m. Laurelmead Cooperative. 355 Blackstone Blvd., Providence. Learn the facts on the ground in Israel and the real-life experiences from young reserve duty soldiers who offer a message of peace and hope for a future where their service will no longer be necessary. For more information, contact Brachas@standwithus.com

Saturday | April 16

Tot Shabbat at Temple Habonim. 9:30 a.m. "What's that whole Passover thing about anyway?" Lively music, a craft and lots of fun!! 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington

StandWithUs Israeli Soldiers Tour. Noon. Providence Hebrew Day School. 450 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Kiddush luncheon. Ilana and Itai will share their stories that demonstrate how the IDF employs standards while facing an enemy that hides behind civilians. They offer a message of peace and hope for a future where their service will no longer be necessary. Luncheon is \$15/person, \$60/family maximum. For more information, contact Brachas@standwithus.com.

Kids' Night Out: Flat Fun. 5-10 p.m. Dwares JCC. Kids' Night Out is a chance for children to spend the evening with their friends in a fun and safe environment and a great opportunity for parents to have a night out "kid free!" Once a month on Saturday evening, children are entertained with a variety of themed activities including sports, crafts, swimming and more. A pizza dinner and

snacks will be served, and the evening ends with a movie. Ages: 5-12. Price: \$35 | Members: \$25 | Siblings: \$15. For more information or to register, contact Shannon Kochanek at 401-421-4111, ext. 147, or skochanek@jewishallianceri.org.

Sunday | April 17

Jewish Culture through Film: "The Age of Love." 2 p.m. The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence, 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick. An alternately poignant and funny look at the search for love among the senior set, follows 70- to 90-year-old speed daters – recently widowed, long divorced or never-married – as they prepare for the big day, endure a rush of encounters, then anxiously receive their results. Fearlessly candid about themselves and what they're seeking, these WWII babies are forced to take stock of life-worn bodies and still-hopeful hearts. Then, as they head out on dates that result, comic and bittersweet moments reveal how worries over physical appearance, romance and rejection, loss and new beginnings change – or don't change – from first love to the far reaches of life. Running time: 78 minutes. A discussion led by the film's director, Steven Loring, follows. This event is free, and all are welcome. Space is limited; pre-registration is encouraged. For more information or to pre-register, contact Erin Moseley, director of Arts & Culture, at emoseley@jewishallianceri.org, or 401-421-4111, ext. 108.

StandWithUs Israeli Soldiers Tour. 9 a.m. Temple Torat Yisrael. 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Breakfast and talk with IDF reservists Ilana and Itai and hear their stories of peace and hope. Cost for breakfast \$10. Talk is free and begins at 9:45 a.m. For more information, contact Brachas@standwithus.com.

Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association Annual Meeting. 2-4 p.m. Temple Beth-El. Rachael Rosner speaks on "Illuminating the 'Golden Ghetto': The Beck and Temkin families and the Early History of the Jewish East Side of Providence." Free, with light refreshments following the speaker. For more information contact Joshua Jasper at 401-331-1360.

Tuesday | April 19

PJ Library Story and Play Time with "Bubbie Sara." 3-4 p.m. Dwares JCC. Spend some time with us twice a month to hear stories, play games and make new friends! We will read various PJ Library books and sing songs about different Jewish holidays throughout the year. Children will also be able to make a craft. All children ages 5 and under are welcome. For more information, contact Sara Foster at 401-421-4111, ext. 130, or sfoster@jewishallianceri.org.

DEPOSIT DUE. Cranston Senior Guild will attend a 2 p.m. matinee performance of Cole Porter's Tony award-winning musical "Anything Goes" May 19 at the Ocean State Theatre, 1245 Jefferson Blvd, Warwick. Cost per person is \$34. Deadline to reserve is April 19. For more information call Sunny at 401-785-0748.

Wednesday | April 20

Touro Fraternal Open House. 6:30 p.m. Bryan Morry, executive director of the Patriots Hall of Fame will speak. Learn

about Touro's trademark Harmony, Friendship and Benevolence. Reservations, 401-785-0066 or info@tourofraternal.org.

Tuesday | April 26

"A Lively Experiment:" A Conversation with RI Faith Leaders. 7 p.m. Congregation Beth David. 102 Kingstown Road, Narragansett. An interfaith program with featured speakers: Rev. Dr. Donald Anderson, Imam Farid Ansari and Rabbi Sarah Mack. RSVP to info at cbdri.org.

Friday | April 29

Friday Night Services. 7:30 p.m. Temple Sinai. 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Shireinu, the community chorus of the temple, will participate. The chorus will include several Israeli-themed songs for this special Israel Shabbat service.

Sunday | May 1

West Bay Havurah at the RISD Museum of Art & Greggs. 11 a.m.- 3 p.m., 20 N. Main St., Providence. Have you seen the recently renovated RISD Museum of Art yet? If not, you should. The West Bay Havurah will tour the galleries and exhibits of this award-winning museum at no cost. Afterward, an optional lunch will be enjoyed at Gregg's Restaurant in Providence. Bring your friends and family, and enjoy the company of a friendly group of people, as we explore yet another Providence jewel. Contact Mark Sweberg at 401 248-5010 to register, and for more information.

Tuesday | May 3

Should We Take Our Money and Run? Putting Today's Market Volatility into Context. Noon-2 p.m. Home of Michael Nulman. Jewish Federation Foundation of Greater Rhode Island special presentation featuring Jeffrey R. Croteau, managing principal of Prime Buchholz & Associates, Inc. Open to Dor L'Dor Society members, donor advised fund holders and donors to the 2016 Alliance Annual Campaign. Lunch will be served. Space is limited. Please RSVP by April 21 to Danielle Germanowski at 401-421-4111, ext. 109, or dgermanowski@jewishallianceri.org.

Wednesday | May 4

Phoenix from the Ashes: Terezin in Words and Music. 7 p.m. Temple

Emanu-El. 99 Taft Ave., Providence. Communitywide interfaith Holocaust commemoration, composed by Judith Lynn Stillman, honors the memory of the six million Jewish victims and millions of others who perished in the darkness of the Shoah. Based upon the poems by teenage boys from Terezin Concentration Camp, "Phoenix from the Ashes: Terezin in Words and Music," celebrates the triumph of the human spirit over adversity.

Tuesday | May 10

Yom Ha'Zikaron (Israel's Day of Remembrance) Ceremony. 7-8:30 p.m. Dwares JCC. Keynote speaker: Major Amichai Shikli, general manager at Tavor Academy for Leadership in Israel. Special ceremony honoring the memories of the soldiers who have died in defense of the State of Israel. For more information or to RSVP, contact Gilor Meshulam at 401-421-4111, ext. 121, or gmeshulam@jewishallianceri.org. RSVP by May 5.

Thursday | May 12

SHUFFLE Concert. 7 p.m. Sapinsley Hall, Rhode Island College, 600 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Providence. Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebration in honor of Israel Independence Day. Inspiring and energetic, New York-based chamber music ensemble's SHUFFLE concert changes the rules of performance as we know it. The audience is invited to actively participate in the selection of works to be performed by choosing from a menu of over 30 works derived from 15 different styles, ranging from solos and duos, to trios, quartets, quintets and sextets. Genres vary from classical, baroque and romantic, to jazz, pop and Broadway. The result is a highly engaged audience and a high-energy performance. Price: \$36 | Members: \$30 (Member pricing extends to Alliance Annual Campaign donors who give a household gift of \$1,000 or more.) Tickets may be purchased through the Rhode Island College Box Office. For more information, contact Erin Moseley at 401-421-4111, ext. 108, or emoseley@jewishallianceri.org.

Sunday | May 15

Breakfast and Lecture. 10 a.m. Temple Beth El, 385 High St., Fall River. Service begins at 9 a.m. Featured

speaker is Matan Zamir, Israel's Deputy Consul General to New England who will discuss current events in Israel. Zamir has led a decorated career in the Israeli Defense Forces. In 2003, Zamir was honored for his service and received the President's medal of excellence for Israel's 55th Independence Day. A question and answer period will follow. Reservations are required. Call Temple Beth El at 508-674-3529.

Friday | May 20

PJ Library Story and Play Time with "Bubbie Sara." 10-11 a.m. Dwares JCC. Spend some time with us twice a month to hear stories, play games and make new friends! We will read various PJ Library books and sing songs about different Jewish holidays throughout the year. Children will also be able to make a craft. All children ages 5 and under are welcome. For more information, contact Sara Foster at 401-421-4111, ext. 130, or sfoster@jewishallianceri.org.

Saturday | May 21

Kids' Night Out: Harry Potter. 5-10 p.m. Dwares JCC. Kids' Night Out is a chance for children to spend the evening with their friends in a fun and safe environment ... and a great opportunity for parents to have a night out "kid free!" Kids' Night Out runs once a month on Saturday evenings. Each month children will be entertained with a variety of themed activities including sports, crafts, swimming and more. A pizza dinner and snacks will be served, and the evening will end with a movie. Ages: 5-12. Price: \$35 | Members: \$25 | Siblings: \$15. For more information or to register, contact Shannon Kochanek at 401-421-4111, ext. 147, or skochanek@jewishallianceri.org.

Post to the online calendar

You can post your community calendar information to **The Voice calendar** online, accessible at jvhri.org or jewishallianceri.org.

It only take a few minutes to register and fill in the form. Your listing will appear both on the Jewish Voice site and the Alliance site and selected items will also be published in the Voice. Feel free to contact editor@jewishallianceri.org with any questions.

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Jewish agency's secret rescue of Yemenite Jews dovetails with local event

BY HILLARY SCHULMAN

Hschulman@jewishallianceri.org

Every year at Passover we gather around a table for our seders and talk about the Jewish exodus from Egypt thousands of years ago. We discuss the leader, Moses, who rallied the Jews and led them out of slavery. By eating certain foods, we remember the hardships that the Jews faced when they were slaves. We rejoice that we are no longer enslaved. What we don't usually realize is that Jewish exoduses from oppressive nations are still happening.

In 1949 and 1950, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) began Operation Magic Carpet, which brought almost all of the Jews in Yemen – some 51,000 – to Israel to start a new life. Yemenite Jews have long been oppressed and attacked, and, in recent years, the attacks have increased, starting with the murder of a Jewish teacher in the city of Raydah in 2008. Turbulence, especially in the capital city of Sanaa and the neighboring city of Raydah, has escalated into murders, abductions and forced marriages. The Houthi rebel military movement has taken over these cities. Its slogan is, "God is great. Death to America. Death to Israel. A curse on the Jews. Victory to Islam."

A few weeks ago, JAFI completed a clandestine mission to rescue the last few Yemenite Jews. Nineteen Jews, including a rabbi with a 500-year-old Torah scroll, secretly arrived in Israel. The group included 14 from Raydah, and a family of five from Sanaa. The chairman of the Jewish Agency, Natan Sharansky, remarked that "Yemenite Jewry's unique, 2,000-year-old contribution to the Jewish people will continue in the State of Israel."

The rescue mission dovetails with "Novel Conversations," an upcoming



PHOTOS | JDC ARCHIVES

A Yemenite family in a synagogue in the early 2000s.

Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island event. The program, co-chaired by Cara Mitnick and Jeanie Charness, will take place at 7 p.m. on May 24 at Temple Beth-El, in Providence, and features author Nomi Eve and her novel, "Henna House." According to Eve's website, the book tells the "enthraling story of a woman, her family, their community, and the rituals that bind them." It is described as "an evocative and stirring novel about a young woman living in the fascinating and rarely portrayed community of Yemenite Jews of the mid-twentieth century." "Henna House" also touches on the beginnings of Operation Magic Carpet, and the rescue of these Yemenite Jews.

The event will also feature a Middle Eastern spice tasting and a henna artist. Rick Hirschhaut, the senior director of

External Relations at the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, will also be on hand to share a few words about the recent rescue and about Jewry in Arab countries.

Both JAFI and the Joint Distribution Committee receive core funding from the Jewish Alliance Annual Campaign. These funds helped support this secret mission to bring the Yemenite Jews to safety.

The cost to attend the May 24 event is \$10, plus a gift of any amount to the Alliance. The \$10 cover charge will be used to assist the JDC's continuing efforts to ensure the rescue and safe passage of Jews living in Arab countries.

The Jewish Alliance will sell copies of "Henna House" at the event, and Eve will be available to sign them.

Co-chair Mitnick expressed excite-



Yemenite mother and her two children at a JDC transit camp in the 1950s

ment about the evening, saying, "This women's event will be artistic, enlightening and a great opportunity for us to come together and hear from an insightful author. Our speaker's focus on Yemen is especially timely, as refugees seek safety from many parts of the Middle East, including Yemen."

Co-chair Charness agreed, saying, "This yearly women's author's evening has become a much anticipated event on our community calendar. We look forward to greeting new faces and welcoming back past participants."

For more information about this event, or to RSVP, go to jewishallianceri.org, or contact Danielle Germanowski at dgermanowski@jewishallianceri.org, or 401-421-4111, ext. 109.

HILLARY SCHULMAN is a development associate at the Jewish Alliance.

2 NEAT students headed to Israel for math competition finals

As part of a desire to increase learning opportunities in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) subjects, the New England Academy of Torah (NEAT), the high-school division of the Providence Hebrew Day School, was one of hundreds of Orthodox Jewish high schools to participate in "Ulpaniada," an international math competition sponsored by the Michlala College of Jewish Studies for Women. The college, located in Bayit Vegan, Jerusalem, reached out to girls in grades 9-12, to compete in a series of math examinations that tested

their proficiency in math skills and logical reasoning.

In a school of approximately 30 girls, it was most impressive that seven students were eager to participate; even more impressive was the fact that four of those seven made it to the second round, and two students, sophomore Hadassa Twersky and senior Chana Devorah Peromsik, have reached the final round. NEAT was recognized as a finalist institution, given the average results of the tests, in comparison with other schools around the globe.

The final round of this prestigious competition will take

place in Israel, on the Michlala campus in Jerusalem. Students from around the globe will unite to experience a week of fun activities, culminating in the final round of competition to be administered on June 8. Following the final round, there will be a reception with the Israeli Minister of Education, where the winners will be announced and prizes will be distributed.

A big mazel tov to our students, and many thanks to Ilana Weissmann, General Studies Curriculum coordinator, and Rabbi Aaron Lapin, High School principal, for arranging for the girls to participate.

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Many ways to celebrate our freedom on Passover

An article by Rabbi Benjamin Blech, published on Aish.com, discusses how Passover offers Jews five major lessons in order to lead happy and fulfilling lives. Titled "The 5 Most Important Things to Know about Passover," it prompted a few insights.



PATRICIA RASKIN

1. **The importance of memory**
Rabbi Blech quotes, "Remember that you were strangers in the land of Egypt."

It is so important to never forget our freedom, our history and our heritage. That's why we have survived. By remembering and honoring the past, we learn from it and work to create a different future.

2. **The importance of optimism**

This is right up my alley, as my work in the media is all about finding solutions to problems and about hope. Rabbi Blech tells us that the hardest task that Moses had to complete was "not to get the Jews out of Egypt, but to get the Egypt out of the Jews." In slavery, the Jews were losing hope. But that was then and this is now, and we have moved on. This is a great lesson: do not get stuck in the past.

3. **The importance of faith**

Faith is the fuel that has kept us going throughout our history. We are proud to be Jews and that alone gives us faith. It is inside us. I actually feel that Judaism is in my DNA. I can't explain that but the feeling is strong and primal.

4. **The importance of family**

No matter which type of Judaism you follow, family is key. We watch and protect our children and each other. Part of the fabric of our lives is our family – children, grandchildren, parents, etc. Even if we do not have immediate family nearby – or at all – we can watch out for each other. There is a place to go among us.

5. **The importance of the responsibility to others**

Rabbi Blech states, "We begin the seder by inviting the hungry and the homeless to join with us. We conclude the seder by opening the door for Elijah."

"It is our acceptance of responsibility to others that is the key to hastening the arrival of the Messiah." Helping others and doing *mitzvot* is a tenet of Judaism. We do not get to where we are going by ourselves. Even if we feel alone, Passover is a special time to connect and reconnect with others and give thanks that we have freedom.

of Passover is to release our chains of bondage, of blind prejudice, jealousy, greed and self-doubt that keeps us in bondage and prevents us from exercising our freedom.

This is a reminder to me that we Jews have the freedom to choose how we live and uphold *mitzvot*.

PATRICIA RASKIN hosts "The Patricia Raskin Show" on Saturday at 4 p.m. on WPRO, AM 630/99.7 FM. Raskin is a board member of Temple Emanu-El.

"I left feeling so proud to be part of the Jewish community here with its amazing leaders and teachers who bring us their knowledge, wisdom creativity and true passion for our teachings."

The concept of being able to exercise our freedom was expressed at a workshop I attended on April 5, called "Freedom and Flourishing: Leading a Mindful Passover Seder." Held at Brown RISD Hillel, it was presented by Rabbi Elan Babchuck, Rabbi Barry Dolinger and Nicole Jellinek, faculty at Thrive: The Center for Mindfulness and Well-Being (www.thrive-ri.org). Participants experienced some of the tastes of Passover and learned about the meaning behind them. We also wrote about our own goals and memories of the Passover seder.

I left feeling so proud to be part of the Jewish community here with its amazing leaders and teachers who bring us their knowledge, wisdom, creativity and true passion for our teachings.

Temple Beiteinu in Delaware had a great article on Passover in their newsletter which elaborates further that the message



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AARON REGUNBERG

State Representative | District 4

Jewish-Christian relations examined 50 years after *Nostra Aetate*

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

PROVIDENCE – Two scholars of interreligious studies discussed the *Nostra Aetate* and how it has affected modern relations between Jews and Christians – particularly Catholics – during a talk at Providence College on April 4.

The event, “Theological Reflections on Catholic-Jewish Relations Fifty Years After *Nostra Aetate*,” is part of a three-year series looking at the past, present and future of *Nostra Aetate*, the Declaration on the Relation of the Church with Non-Christian Religions of the Second Vatican Council. About 40 people attended, including staff, students, community members and donors.

Arthur Urbano Jr., chair of

the Jewish-Catholic Theological Exchange Committee at PC and a faculty member in the theology department, introduced the speakers:

Phil Cunningham, a professor of theology and director of the Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations at Saint Joseph’s University, in Philadelphia, and Rabbi Daniel Lehmann, president of Hebrew College, in Boston, and a professor of Pluralism and Jewish Education.

Cunningham began the discussion by focusing on two prominent historical art symbols of the two religions: Synagoga and Ecclesia. Using these symbols, he demonstrated the evolution of the relationship of the religions.

Cunningham said the Greek



PHOTO | ARIEL BROTHMAN

Rabbi Daniel Lehmann and Phil Cunningham, second and third from left, have a conversation with audience members after the event.

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words synagoga and ecclesia (church) are both “feminine” forms, so artists represented them as female figures. He showed several examples of the two women side by side: Ecclesia is always depicted as proud and upright, and with a crown firmly atop her head, whereas Synagoga is disheveled, often holding a broken staff, and with her crown falling off. These depictions, he said, spoke strongly of the perceptions of Judaism at the time the art was created.

St. Joseph’s recently unveiled a statue on its campus that depicts both women in the way that historically only Ecclesia is shown. The statue shows mutual curiosity and respect between the two women: Ecclesia is looking at a scroll held by Synagoga and Synagoga is looking at a book held by Ecclesia. The piece, called “*Nostra Aetate* In Our Time,” was commissioned to celebrate the 50th anniversary of *Nostra Aetate* and attracted a visit from two prominent religious figures

of Argentinian origin: Rabbi Abraham Skorka and his friend Pope Francis, who blessed the statue.

“We are on the threshold of being able to do something that we haven’t been able to do in 2,000 years,” said Cunningham: The past 50 years, he said, have put Catholicism and Judaism on a “path to mutuality.”

Lehmann used a different approach during his talk: rather than examining the connections between art and interreligious relations throughout history, he told of recent events that illustrate how religion obtains information about the other. One story was about a basketball game between Catholic Memorial School, of Dedham, Massachusetts, and Newton North High School, of Massachusetts, in March. As the usual taunting heated up, Catholic Memorial students chanted: “You killed Jesus!” to the mostly Jewish team from Newton. After the game, Catholic Memorial responded with

a series of disciplinary measures, including barring the team from attending its championship game.

Lehmann said that since the idea that Jews killed Jesus is no longer a part of mainstream Christian education, this idea must be embedded not in the education, but in the culture.

“The challenge before us is how do we translate [the changing relations between Catholics and Jews] into our community lives?” Lehmann said.

Cunningham’s and Lehmann’s presentations concluded with a discussion of questions to consider as the two religions move forward: How do we leverage the inextricably linked factors of these two religions to enrich a partnership? How can Jews incorporate Jesus into their identity? How do we address ideas that are embedded in culture rather than education?

Urbano proposed these theological discussions seven years ago as a means of integrating interreligious development that has taken place in intellectual circles into the mainstream ideology.

“The past 50 years have seen a lot of developments... between Christians and Jews,” he said, noting that these developments have been “quite revolutionary.” He continued, “It’s happened at intellectual levels, but it hasn’t really trickled down.”

Urbano said in an interview that Providence College has a close history with Judaism. The school was somewhat of a haven for Jews from the 1930s through the 1960s, a time when anti-Semitism was prevalent, with Jewish enrollment varying between 10 and 15 percent, he said.

ARIEL BROTHMAN is a freelance writer who lives in Wrentham, Massachusetts.

Gayle GOLDIN



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PHOTO | SUSAN ADLER

Preparing for Passover

The Louis and Goldie Chester Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry, a program of Jewish Seniors Agency, is getting ready for Passover.

Pantry Chairperson Ken Schneider, right, along with volunteer Steven Adler helped to pick up the necessary items to help those in need fill their plates for Passover.

The pantry is open year round and is located at 100 Ni-antic Ave., Providence. Hours are Tuesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information, contact Susan Adler at 401-621-5374. The pantry is partially funded by the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.

FUN AND FACTS FOR KIDS

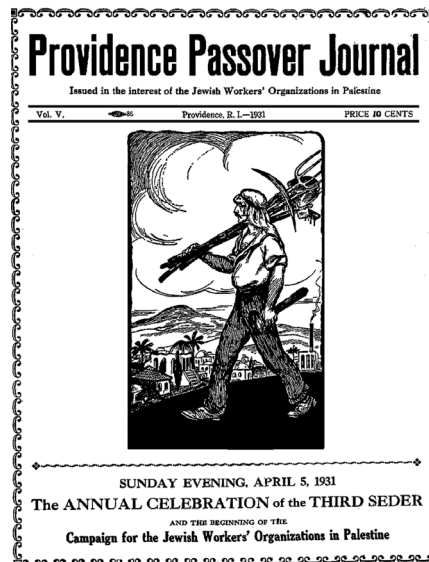
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DID YOU KNOW: THERE WAS ONCE A THIRD SEDER

In the late 1920s a group of Jews in Providence decided to support workers in Israel. They organized a third seder – on the third night of Passover. They thought that this night would be good, since the first two nights were probably celebrated with family and friends. This special seder was not for religious reasons, but a time for entertainment – songs, speakers and good snacks. Many people came to hear about the farms and life in Israel. Remember: this was before television, the Internet, computers and even good quality long distance phone calls, so people would listen to stories of life in Israel and get a chance to support the labor movement there. This was so successful that it was later repeated in New York, Chicago and Philadelphia; Rhode Island was there first. The Journal, produced for this occasion, had articles about workers in Israel, letters from a “friend” that made gentle fun of Jewish life in Providence, but also praising the various good works done in the city, among them the women’s groups, the Miriam Hospital and the Orphanage. Articles were written by local rabbis and authors. The final seder in Providence was in 1964.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ASHKENAZI AND SEPHARDI JEWS?

Ashkenazi Jews came from Europe and Eastern Europe: Germany, Russia, Poland, Romania and surrounding areas. Sephardi Jews came from Spain and Portugal and left during the Spanish Inquisition, going to the Americas, Greece, Turkey and the Near East.



Ashkenazi Haroset recipe

- 3 medium apples, peeled, cored, and finely diced
- 1 1/2 cups walnut halves, coarsely chopped
- 1/2 cup sweet red wine
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon

Mix all items together in a bowl. Or, put chopped apples and walnuts together in a wooden bowl and use a chopper until mixture is ground the way you like it. Add wine and cinnamon. Let stand at room temperature if to be used soon; otherwise, refrigerate.

Sephardi Haroset recipe

- 1/2 cup red wine
- 1 pound (2 1/2 cups) raisins
- 8 ounces (1 1/2 cups) dried dates, finely chopped
- 4 ounces (3/4 cup) dried apricots, finely chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 8 ounces (1 1/2 cups) roasted almonds

If raisins, dates and apricots are very dry, soak in hot water for about 10 minutes; discard water. Mix all ingredients together. Let stand at room temperature if to be used soon; otherwise, refrigerate.



In these recipes, you can see the differences in their food

1. Name three differences in the ingredients.
2. Why do you think there are these differences?
3. Name two similarities.
4. Why do you think there are these similarities?
5. Which recipe do you think is sweeter?
6. Which recipe is more similar to your family’s traditions?

Answers:

1. Apples and walnuts versus dates, apricots, raisins and almonds
2. Each group used the items that were around them; there are no apples or walnuts native to Israel, and apricots and dates do not grow easily in Europe.
3. Wine and cinnamon
4. Everyone had wine, and cinnamon was a spice that was traded all over the world and easy to find.



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Vegan Chopped Liver _____	\$9.99 lb.

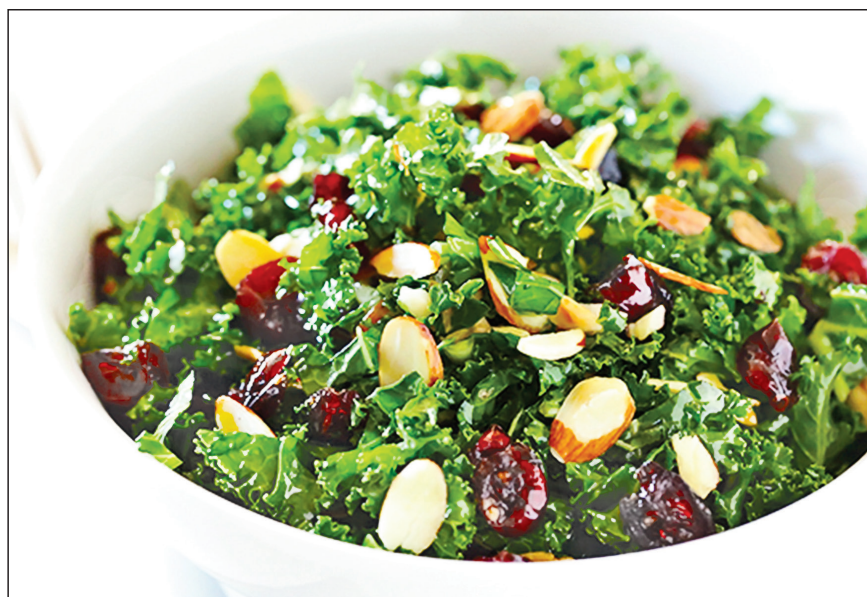
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A light Passover lunch that's good for you - and tasty, too!

BY MEGAN WOLF

JTA - Even during Jewish holidays, when food is so abundant, it is possible to make smart choices.

My cookbook, "Great Meals with Greens and Grains," features many of my favorite plant-based, vegetarian recipes that not only are healthy but are also delicious. And many of the recipes are kosher for Passover or can be easily modified by removing or substituting a single ingredient.

The following three recipes make a great light dairy lunch following a traditionally heavy seder. They are colorful, flavorful, and packed with good-for-you ingredients.



Broccoli and Parmesan Soup

Serves 4

Ingredients

2 heads broccoli
3 tablespoons (45 ml) olive oil, divided
Salt to taste
1 cup (240 ml) whole milk
1 large russet potato, peeled and cut into 1-inch (2.5-cm) pieces
1 tablespoon (14 g) butter
1 onion, thinly sliced
2 large cloves garlic, minced
1/2 cup (50 g) grated Parmesan cheese, plus more for garnish
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg, plus more for garnish
1 1/2 cups (355 ml) low-sodium vegetable stock (or more, depending on how thick you like your soup)

Directions

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees F (220 C).

Remove the bottom portion of the broccoli stalks and peel the thick outer layer with a vegetable peeler. Separate the florets from the bunch and chop the stalks so that you are using the entire broccoli. Although

the stalk is a bit fibrous for a salad, it is perfectly usable for this application.

Toss the broccoli with 2 tablespoons (30 ml) of the olive oil and salt to taste, spread on a baking sheet and roast until soft and golden brown, about 15 to 20 minutes. Heat the milk in a large, heavy-bottomed pan over medium-low heat - you want to gently heat the milk so it doesn't scald. Add the potato pieces to the milk and cook until tender, about 12 minutes. Once cooked, set the potato and milk mixture aside.

In a separate skillet, heat the remaining 1 tablespoon (15 ml) olive oil and the butter over medium heat, and cook the onion and garlic until translucent and fragrant, 8 to 10 minutes.

Place three-fourths of the onion mixture in a blender, and continue to cook the remaining portion until golden brown and more caramelized, another 10 to 12 minutes, then set aside for garnish.

Add the potatoes and milk, broccoli, Parmesan cheese and nutmeg to the blender or food processor with the onion; blend until combined.

Begin adding the stock until you have achieved your desired consistency, adding more if you need. Season to taste with more salt if necessary.

Divide the soup among 4 bowls, top with a spoonful of the caramelized onions, a pinch of nutmeg and a sprinkle of Parmesan cheese. Serve immediately.

Kale Salad with Candied Almonds, Apples and Maple Dressing

Serves 4

Ingredients

For the dressing
1/4 cup (60 ml) olive oil
2 tablespoons (30 ml) maple syrup
1/4 cup (60 ml) lemon juice
Salt to taste

For the candied almonds
1/2 cup (69 g) whole raw almonds
1 tablespoon (15 ml) olive oil
1 tablespoon (15 ml) maple syrup
1/2 teaspoon salt

For the salad
1 bunch kale, stems discarded and leaves roughly chopped

Freshen your seder menu with a delish potato dish

BY SAMANTHA MATTOX

(The Noshier via JTA) – Passover brings lots of cleaning, matzah eating, and potato peeling. I know, I know – potatoes get a bad rap during Passover because they're one of the seemingly few things we can eat, so they are eaten very frequently during these eight days. But I say don't fight the potatoes: Embrace them! They're cheap, they're easy, everybody likes them and they really are delicious.

Besides being a total crowd-pleaser, this dish also looks quite stunning, with layers of potatoes and carrots. If you make this Potato and Carrot Gratin, your family will definitely not be complaining about another potato dish. I promise.

And here's a quick tip: Since you will be spending some time peeling and cutting the potatoes and carrots, I recommend you make this task more pleasant by chatting with a friend on the phone or catching up on your favorite TV show at the same time.

Passover Potato and Carrot Gratin

Ingredients

- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 large onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons potato starch
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1 3/4 cups water mixed with 2 tablespoons chicken soup mix
- 1/4 teaspoon salt (plus more)
- 5-6 russet potatoes, peeled and sliced into 1/4-inch thick slices



- 1 pound carrots, peeled and sliced into 1/4-inch thick slices
- Black pepper
- Paprika
- 3/4 cup crushed potato chips
- Fresh dill (optional)

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Heat olive oil in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Add diced onion and sauté until onions are soft and transparent, around 8-9 minutes. Clear a small hole in the center of the pan and add the minced garlic. Cook garlic in the center until fragrant, stirring constantly to avoid burning (about 30-60 seconds).

Add potato starch to onions and mix well. Add mayonnaise, water and soup powder mix, and salt, and cook for 2-3 minutes, until thickened, stirring constantly. Remove from flame.

Pour a thin layer of sauce into an 8-by-8 baking dish, covering the bottom of the dish. Place a layer of overlapping potato slices in dish, then sprinkle with a layer of carrots. Top with a layer of sauce. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and paprika. Repeat twice for a total of 3 layers of potatoes, carrots, sauce and spices.

Bake uncovered for 1 hour at 350 degrees. Remove from oven, top with crushed potato chips, and bake for 30 minutes, or until potatoes and carrots are fork tender. Garnish with fresh dill, if desired.

SAMANTHA MATTOX is the recipe developer behind Pass the Challah, a food blog full of Kosher recipes. The Noshier food blog (www.TheNoshier.com) offers an array of Jewish recipes and food news from around the world.

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FROM PAGE 16
LUNCH

- 1/2 cup (75 g) crumbled feta cheese
- 4 scallions, thinly sliced
- 1 medium tart apple (Granny Smith, Northern Spy or Braeburn), halved, cored and thinly sliced.

Directions

Preheat the oven to 300 degrees F (148 C).

To make the dressing:

Combine all the ingredients in a bowl and whisk until well incorporated, then set aside.

To make the candied almonds:

In a bowl, toss the almonds with the olive oil, maple syrup and salt, spread in one flat layer on a parchment- or foil-lined cookie sheet and bake for 10 minutes.

To make the salad: In a large bowl, combine the kale, feta, scallions, apple and warm almonds, toss with the dressing and serve immediately.

Tip: If you don't have almonds, you can use any other nuts on hand - pecans or walnuts would be delicious.

Spice-Rubbed Eggplant with Quinoa and Cherries

Serves 4
Ingredients

- 2 large eggplants, halved, tops

left intact

For the spice rub:

- 4 teaspoons (8 g) ground cumin
- 2 teaspoons (4 g) smoked paprika
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons (30 ml) lemon juice
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) olive oil

For the quinoa

- 2/3 cup (140 g) uncooked quinoa (certified Kosher for Passover)
- 1 1/3 cups (320 ml) water
- 1/3 cup (53 g) unsweetened dried cherries or raisins
- 1/3 cup (20 g) chopped parsley, divided
- 1/3 cup (33 g) thinly sliced scallion (white and green parts), divided
- Salt to taste
- 2 tablespoons (30 ml) olive oil
- 2 tablespoons (30 ml) lemon juice

Directions

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F (200 C).

To make the eggplant and rub:

Place the eggplant halves cut-side up on a nonstick baking sheet. With a sharp knife, score the eggplant diagonally every 1/2 inch (1.3 cm), then run the knife down the center of the eggplant. Be sure to only score the flesh of the eggplant; do not pierce through the skin.

In a small bowl, combine all the ingredients for the spice rub. Massage the spice mixture evenly across each of the eggplant halves, being sure to rub it into the flesh. Turn the eggplants cut-side down and roast for 45 to 50 minutes, or until very soft and cooked through.

To make the quinoa: Combine the quinoa and water in a pot and bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce the heat to low, cover and continue to cook until the water has evaporated and the quinoa is fluffy, 10 to 12 minutes. Mix the cooked quinoa with the cherries or raisins and set aside.


When the eggplant is cooked, add half of the parsley and half of the scallions to the quinoa, stir to combine and season to taste with salt. Top each eggplant half with equal amounts of the quinoa mixture, then top with remaining parsley and scallion, drizzle with the olive oil and lemon juice and serve immediately.

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JEWISH VOICE STAFF

Need an Israeli and/or kosher wine for Passover? We've spoken to some Providence wine merchants to get their recommendations for the best bottles to celebrate the Exodus. And they're all KFP!

Richard Backer, founder of East Side Prescriptions on Hope Street, picked Emerald Riesling from Israel; Barkan Pinot Noir from Israel; and Butcher's Daughter from Bordeaux, France.

Most of the Emerald Riesling vineyards, says Backer, are in the southern Mount Carmel region or in the Central Coastal Plain. Backer describes the Emerald Riesling as nicely aromatic with juicy, exuberant pineapple, green apple and lime fruits. Off-dry to medium sweet with a touch of honeysuckle flower, the Emerald Riesling has a blowzy, flowery character and a slightly spicy finish. On the palate the wine is medium bodied with medium acidity.

The Barkan Classic Pinot Noir comes from the high desert vineyard of Mitzpeh-Ra-

mon, where the cool night air and poor soil – an ideal situation for the growth of grapevines – allows the delicate grapes to reach their full expressive maturity. With a pale garnet color and unmistakable Pinot Noir aromas of strawberry, black cherry, and mint, this has a bright acidity and a complex flavor profile. Light to medium-bodied, Backer says it pairs fantastically with veal schnitzel, roast duck or grilled salmon.

Butcher's Daughter is the house wine of La Fille du Boucher, a trendy Parisian restaurant located a few blocks from the vintner's father's butcher shop. This is a Bordeaux bottle with tasting notes of black cherry and raspberry and an interesting vanilla and spice finish. The wine is medium-bodied with moderate tannins that do not overwhelm the palate and pairs well with brisket and steak. It is a delicious blend of cabernet, merlot and cabernet franc. Backer says this is a very nice Bordeaux that happens to be Kosher.

Eric Taylor, manager of Bottles Fine Wine on Pitman

Street, picked 2015 O'Dwyers Creek Sauvignon Blanc from Marlborough, New Zealand, 2012 Pacifica "Evan's Collection" Pinot Noir, Oregon, and 2013 Volcanus Rioja, Spain.

Taylor describes the O'Dwyers bottle as vibrant, with juicy tropical fruit flavors and aromas like grapefruit and mango that are light and zippy. He says this will go well with lighter dishes like appetizers and salads.

The 2012 Pacifica is classic, light and elegant. Taylor says it comes from one of the best growing areas for Pinot Noir. Ripe berry fruit with hints of black cherry along with mineral and earthy flavors like wet stone and black truffles characterize this wine.

With a word like "volcanus" in the name, you know you're in for some big flavor! Taylor describes the Volcanus Rioja as a big flavorful concentrated wine that will please both casual and serious wine drinkers. Full bodied with aromas of red fruits and licorice, this "stunning" wine is balanced, voluptuous and velvety with a long and persistent finish.

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Shmura matzah for Passover: The real reason it's so expensive

BY URIEL HEILMAN

NEW YORK (JTA) – It costs more per pound than filet mignon. It might be burnt or taste like cardboard. It's so delicate it often breaks in the box, rendering it unfit for Passover ritual use.

Yet every year, Jews from Brooklyn to Bnei Brak line up to fork over their hard-earned money to buy boxes and boxes of the stuff.

This isn't your regular box of Streit's matzah. We're talking, of course, about handmade *shmura* matzah: the artisanal, disc-shaped matzahs considered extra special because the ingredients are "guarded" against leavening, or *hametz*, not just from the time the wheat is ground into flour, but from before the wheat is even harvested. *Shmura* is Hebrew for guarded.

The extra level of scrutiny – and the labor-intensive process required to make handcrafted matzah – is largely what accounts for its high price: anywhere from \$20 to \$60 for a single pound.

"The amount of hours of labor going into this between me and my staff is incomparable," said Yisroel Bass, who runs a farm in Goshen, New York, that produces organically grown *shmura* matzah (\$34 per pound for regular *shmura*, \$37 for spelt).

"Renting out a bakery costs a lot of money – the space and the staff. Equipment breaks every year. Every farm has its expenses, and organic farms end up having more overhead. We can't buy the synthetic fertilizer; we have manure," Bass told JTA. "And God forbid I have a bad year and the rabbi comes and says the wheat is no good, I just spent a lot of time and money on a product nobody wants. The cost has to reflect that."

Despite its price – and, some say, its taste – there's a thriving market for handmade *shmura* matzah (there's also machine-made *shmura*, which is cheaper and usually square but more strictly scrutinized than regular matzah). Many observant Jews won't use anything other than handmade *shmura* matzah on their seder table. Some won't eat non-*shmura* anytime during Passover. The same Jews who light expensive olive oil menorahs on Hanukkah rather than wax candles or buy premium etrogs for Sukkot will lay out extra cash before Passover to buy handmade *shmura* matzah. (The practice of going above and beyond is known as "*hiddur mitzvah*," beautifying the commandment.)

"For the consumer, it is an opportunity to purchase the only

sacred food that we have today in our faith," said Rabbi Shmuel Herzfeld of Ohev Sholom synagogue in Washington, D.C. "It is a bargain. Buy less brisket and more *shmura* matzah."

Mitchell Weitzman, a lawyer from Baltimore, says *shmura* matzah has sentimental value.

"There is just a sense of authenticity about having *shmura* matzah on the table," Weitzman said. "It's a feeling more than anything else – certainly more than serving up Passover-style Fruit Loops the next morning."

Others say they like the taste and eat it year round, stocking up right after Passover when the price drops dramatically owing to reduced demand.

"I keep a box of *shmura* matzah in the trunk of my car," said Tali Aronsky, a public relations doyenne who lives in Israel. "Keeps crispy in all weather and great in a pinch."

Religious Jews consider *shmura* matzah baked after midday on the day before Passover – known as "*matzot mizvah*" – as meritorious to eat, and the matzah is priced accordingly. At the Satmar Bakery in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, a pound of the Passover eve-baked stuff retails for \$60. The line of customers at the Rutledge Street store usually snakes around the block.

The Satmar Bakery employs a number of stringencies rare even in the world of *shmura* matzah. It harvests its wheat in Arizona, where the dry climate helps guard against accidental leavening (moisture precipitates leavening).

Matzah farmers in the Northeast typically harvest their wheat crop in May or June – around the Shavuot holiday (also called *Hag Habikurim*, which means Festival of the First Fruits). The wheat is plucked after the kernels start to harden but before they sprout new shoots. Kosher supervisors monitor the grain even as it's growing to make sure the wheat isn't sprouting.

From the time it is picked until being milled months later, the wheat must be guarded and stored in a climate-controlled environment. Too moist, it could become *hametz*. Too dry, it will fail to bake properly. At the Yiddish Farm in upstate New York, Bass says he uses fans and computer monitoring to bring the moisture level down to the desired 11-12 percent level.

After the wheat is milled into flour – also under close supervision – the baking process may begin.

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3 items that say Passover: Which do you choose?

BY EDMON J. RODMAN

LOS ANGELES (JTA) – Can the essence of Passover fit into a box? Fans of Manischewitz and Streit’s will undoubtedly answer, “Yes, in a matzah box.”

But a successful Kickstarter campaign called Hello Mazel aims to reinvent that box, promising a package filled with Passover-related “Jewish awesomeness” that will be delivered to your door (or someone else’s).

The project was a smash on Kickstarter, to the tune of more than \$152,021 with 1,395 backers.

Investors who pledged a minimum of \$45 will receive a box in April containing “three twists on the tastes of Passover, a Haggadah like none you’ve ever used, and a seder plate that is not a seder plate,” says the enigmatic pitch.

Thinking inside the box, I wondered what would go into a box of my own creation. Perhaps a jar filled with the essence of full-strength *maror* to revive them to the awe of liberation. Also a seder clock; one that doesn’t mark the time but rather the steps of the seder, so that people who had wandered off could find their place. Also, something to clean wine stains from my shirt – that alone would be worth 45 bucks.

I already have plenty of packaged Passover foods that twist my insides, a box of haggadah I only use once a year and so many seder plates we have a “discussion” each Passover on which one to use. So I was curious about what Hello Mazel was really offering. Was it basically just a Jewish take on the trendy subscription boxes of artisanal what-have-you? Or was this a box that could also feed the soul?

Most of all, I wondered: What could a box filled with Passover stuff do to actually bring Jews together?

To get a better understanding of the Hello Mazel’s Passover box – one of four promised packages that Hello Mazel plans to deliver this year – I spoke with Yoav Schlesinger, executive director of The Kitchen, the San Francisco-based, rabbinically-led spiritual community that is putting the project together.

The Kitchen, which describes itself as “a religious startup,” says on its web site that Judaism is about “provoking awe and purpose.”

To that end, they had to “re-

think what might go in a box of Jewish stuff,” Schlesinger explained. As a goal, they wanted something that was “unexpected and inspirational,” he said.

For now, the item-by-item contents of this “highly designed” box remain known only to the Kitchen. However, speaking about the box’s mix of food, ritual object and text, Schlesinger says he hopes the food will provide an entry point to the Jewish content, and the Jewish content will provide a “framework in which to understand why the foods are relevant.”

Moving beyond “symbolic ethnicity” – a term coined by soci-

“Judaism – contrary to recent attempts to project it into virtual communities – has always been about the senses, the ‘tactile’ experience of ‘touch, feel and taste.’”

ologist Hebert Gans describing a nostalgic relationship with Judaism that relies on a “love for and pride in a tradition that can be felt without having to be incorporated in everyday behavior” – Schlesinger said one question driving the project was: “How do we get Torah to more people and into more people’s hands?”

As an answer, The Kitchen’s crew created a Haggadah, a prototype of which Schlesinger and others successfully tested at their own seders last year.

“We reinvented and re-engineered a way of telling the Passover story, which is what the seder and Haggadah are meant to do,” he said.

The Haggadah could serve as either a supplement or a replacement, Schlesinger added.

“For a seder newbie it certainly would be an appropriate first-level, Haggadah-like experience,” he said.

As for the seder plate, its design has them reaching creatively, looking for a way to present something that is “heavy, expensive and beautiful” in a box that’s 10 by 12 by 4 inches (and

also needs to contain the rest of the offerings).

Long accustomed to my table’s round seder plate, I began to picture how a new form might add difference to this night of distinctions. Would it be in the form of a hand? Would it come like a jigsaw puzzle for those seated at the table to solve?

The food items are “kosher style,” so Schlesinger acknowledges the box “is not going to be for everyone.” He also realizes its limitations. He isn’t sure, for instance, that the hope of opening the box at the seder table and “it releases magic” is a reasonable expectation, Schlesinger told me. What is reasonable, he said, is that it will create “some inspiration.”

“What about putting an inflatable rabbi in the box?” I asked, jokingly wondering what kind of magic I needed to keep everyone’s attention at my own seder table.

Unfazed, Schlesinger, whose father is a rabbi, liked the idea – he said it reminded him of the popular novelty known as “snakes in a can.”

Yet I still wondered how even a brilliant new Haggadah could hold everyone’s interest – especially that of a generation used to doing practically everything online.

Schlesinger responded that Judaism – contrary to recent attempts to project it into virtual communities – has always been

about the senses, the “tactile” experience of “touch, feel and taste.”

“What is a moment we can share?” he asked. “Not just a digital space”; how do we “recapture the experiential moment”?

Opening a box – whether filled with objects from Hello Mazel or from our own imaginations – might just be the way.

EDMON J. RODMAN is a JTA columnist. Contact him at edmo- jace@gmail.com.

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How to choose a Passover Haggadah

BY JULIE WIENER

(MyJewishLearning via JTA) – With thousands of published haggadot available for purchase, choosing the one that is best for your seder can be overwhelming. For an overview of the many possibilities, we recommend “How Is This Haggadah Different?”

Here are some things you might want to consider when selecting a Haggadah:

Cost

Remember, you'll need a copy of the Haggadah for each guest (or every two guests, if people are comfortable sharing). Unless you plan to buy one copy and then do some extensive photocopying – we should note, that's illegal for copyrighted publications – you'll have to multiply the book's price by the number of guests.

There are also many free downloadable PDF versions online, like at mezuzahstore.com and chabad.org, or you could choose to make your own.

Length

If your guests are expecting the traditional seder, complete with Hebrew, they might be uncomfortable with an abridged Haggadah, an LGBTQ Haggadah or one that emphasizes contemporary examples of oppression and slavery. On the other hand, if many are first-time seder-goers or lack the patience for a really long seder, something like “The 30-Minute Seder” or a book that relates the Exodus to modern social issues might be just the thing.

Children

Since children generally don't like sitting still at the table for long, we recommend an abbreviated or child-oriented Haggadah. There are many great children's and “family”

haggadot that engage adults as well as kids. Be sure to check out the list on Kveller for the best haggadot for kids. For the older kids, think about acting out skits from the seder.

Technology

The first two days of Passover are yom tov, days like Shabbat, when traditional Jewish observance forbids activities like writing and using electronics. If this is not an issue for you, however, a number of haggadot are now available as e-books and apps, usually at lower prices than printed versions (with the added advantage that you will not need to find a place to store them after the seder). While many are just digital versions of printed haggadot, others incorporate multimedia features.

A free one from JewishBoston.com has music and other materials in addition to the standard text. One on iTunes has text and music, plus interactive commentary and games.

Beauty

Haggadot come in an array of designs and styles, with art ranging from contemporary to ancient. The downside of a gorgeous tome, however, is that there's a good chance one of your guests will spill wine all over it. (That can happen with any Haggadah, but you probably won't mind so much if it's inexpensive or more about function than aesthetic.)

For a beautiful (and modern) Haggadah, check out the New American Haggadah and The Bronfman Haggadah. The Syzk Haggadah, created in the 1930s, features illustrations in the style of illuminated manuscripts.

JULIE WIENER is managing editor of MyJewishLearning.




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PERSONAL ESSAY

Making Grandma's *haroset* (or how I learned to love Passover)

BY EDGAR M. BRONFMAN

JTA – When I walked into the house through the back door one day as a young man, I was shocked to see my mother in the kitchen. To put it mildly, this was not one of her favorite places. When I asked her why she was there, a look of panic crossed her face.

“Now that Grandma’s gone,” she explained, “I have to make the *haroset*.”

Sensing her culinary discomfort, I volunteered to take over.

With a look of vast relief, she fled the scene. Guided by the memory of my grandmother’s *haroset* – the sweet, chunky, fruity mixture that symbolizes the mortar used by the Hebrew slaves to build Egypt’s real estate – I chopped up apples and walnuts and added raisins.

I mixed them together, then added a couple of spoonfuls of honey and a generous splash of port wine.

During the seder, my *haroset* received wild compliments all around.

“Who made this?” my father asked, clearly pleased. Without hesitation, my mother told him I had done so. When asked for my secret, I proudly answered, “Good port.”


I don’t think it’s a stretch to suggest that my hands-on involvement, combined with the warm, welcoming embrace of my efforts, contributes to my love of Passover, the holiday most deeply embedded in the Jewish consciousness.

Though its earliest origins may be as a spring festival, and, to be sure, many elements of the spring agricultural celebration remain, those elements gradually evolved into the eight-day holiday we celebrate during the month of April.

In celebrating Passover, we fulfill the injunction “Remember this day, on which you went free from Egypt, the house of bondage, how the Lord freed you from it with a mighty hand.” (Exodus 13:3)

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For more information, including a link to purchase tickets, visit jewishallianceri.org.

*Member pricing extends to Alliance Annual Campaign donors who give a household gift of \$1,000 or more.



How to make your own Passover Haggadah

BY JULIE WIENER

(MyJewishLearning via JTA) – Making your own Haggadah is not just a money saver, but also a great way to educate yourself about the Passover seder, add a unique twist to the festive meal and have a more meaningful and satisfying holiday.

For generations, enterprising seder leaders have been sticking Post-It notes in their favorite parts of existing haggadot, adding in photocopied readings, or even cutting and pasting from multiple haggadot and combining it all in a loose-leaf binder.

The Internet makes the project of creating a personalized Haggadah infinitely easier — and tidier, even if your tech and graphic design skills are minimal. Plus, you can do it with a clean conscience: Whereas the old-fashioned technique of photocopying pages from copy-righted, published haggadot is technically illegal, the websites we list below provide only material that is in the public domain.

While a seemingly infinite trove of Passover-related blessings, readings, songs and images are available online, don't forget (if you are so inclined) that you can also incorporate your own (or your guests')

writing, art and family photographs into the finished product.

Many DIY haggadot are copied and stapled, but you can make yours more durable (and spilled wine resistant) by laminating each page or putting them in a photo album, loose-leaf binder with plastic sleeves or art portfolio.

Or, if you are reasonably tech-savvy and want to go paperless — and your guests are OK with using electronics on Passover (when traditional prohibitions similar to the Shabbat rules apply), keep the whole text digital. You can email a PDF, PowerPoint or other document to your guests to download on their mobile devices, or even create a password-protected website. We can't promise no one will spill wine on your iPad, however.

Below are some resources for DIYers.

Haggadot.com

Haggadot.com is the most comprehensive and user-friendly resource for Haggadah makers — and it's free. After registering, you can choose from a constantly growing library of readings and images. The site guides you through the process with templates and an outline of all the steps/sections

of the seder. You can search by section, theme (i.e., social justice, history, family and education, different denominations/streams of Judaism) and media type (text, video, image). In addition to letting you search

done, you print it out as a PDF file and photocopy, or download to your guests' mobile devices.

DipTwice

DipTwice is not free, but it will print out a bound, official-looking book in hardcover or paperback, as opposed to something you need to staple and bind yourself. The site provides a template featuring standard Hebrew and English text (including translations and transliterations). You choose design and layout, and add your own images and other materials, or select from DipTwice's library.

PunkTorah.org

Go to "Make Your Own Haggadah for Kids" and print out this free (suggested donation of \$10) downloadable PDF and have your children fill in the spaces and blanks with words and pictures. While this somewhat irreverent Haggadah was originally designed for use in Hebrew schools, it is self-explanatory and can be used anywhere. Highlights in-

clude "The story of Passover: in comic book form" with panels where kids can put their own illustrations/comic; activities like puzzles and lyrics to original songs like "Take Me Out of Mitzrayim" (sung to the tune of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame") and "Passover Things" (to the tune of "My Favorite Things"). ("Mitzrayim" is Hebrew for Egypt.)

Sefaria.org

Sefaria, a growing online library with many major Jewish texts in Hebrew and English, offers everything from full haggadot to supplemental readings to sources/additional commentary. Not only can you print out these texts or cut and paste them into your Haggadah, but you can also embed them onto another website or digital document. Each selection is hyperlinked to the full text from which it was excerpted.

Looking for something a little simpler? You can download the Haggadah text in English as a Microsoft Word document at LivelySeders.com and add to it (or cut) as you see fit.

You also can download an array of Haggadah sections and readings free on JewishFreeWare.org.

JULIE WIENER is managing editor of MyJewishLearning.



by themes (including family/kids) the site also provides templates with recommendations for family-friendly and other specific needs/themes.

You can invite friends, or even all the seder guests, to log in and participate in the Haggadah-making. When you're



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Joseph Robert Paolino III
61 Prospect Street
Providence, RI 02906

Jacqueline M. Paolino
30 Orchard Avenue
Providence, RI 02906



FROM PAGE 23 | **HAROSET**

subjugation to freedom is at the heart of the Passover story, and there is a strong emphasis on repeating the liberation story every year and to each generation. This stern direction to remember our own story of liberation and keep it alive across generations lifts it into universal resonance.

The exodus from Egypt is not to be seen as a one-time historical occurrence with a beginning and an end: oppression, struggle, victory. It is not only those slaves, but all slaves, that concern us; not only that struggle, but all struggles. Each generation must learn anew how to overcome the wrongs of the world; the job will never be done. Children will not be born into a perfect world created for them by their parents. They can only continue to hold the torch, and their parents' role is to teach them how to carry on the fight for justice. That is why the

Passover ritual is central to Judaism. It is so crucial that whoever does not keep it, the Bible tells us, will be cast out and will no longer be considered a part of Israel.

In other words, this is the premise of Judaism: If you are to be a part of the people, you must struggle to maintain or realize freedom all your life.

EDGAR M. BRONFMAN, a philanthropist and former CEO of the Seagram Company Ltd., was the foundation chairman of the international board of governors of Hillel and also president of the World Jewish Congress.

This is from the author's posthumously published book "Why Be Jewish: A Testament." Copyright (c) 2016 by WBJ Publications, LLC. Reprinted by permission of Twelve/Hachette Book Group, New York, NY. All rights reserved.

INTERFAITH CONVERSATIONS

Tuesday, April 26 | 7pm
 Congregation Beth David
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Join us for a panel discussion about pluralism in our state as it relates to the Christian, Muslim, and Jewish faiths, and how we can work more effectively as a community.

Rev. Dr. Donald Anderson
 Executive Minister, Rhode Island State Council of Churches

Imam Farid Ansari
 Rhode Island Council for Muslim Advancement

Rabbi Sarah Mack, Temple Beth-El
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For more information or to RSVP, contact Marty Cooper at 401.421.4111 ext. 171 or mcooper@jewishallianceri.org. Kindly RSVP by April 19.



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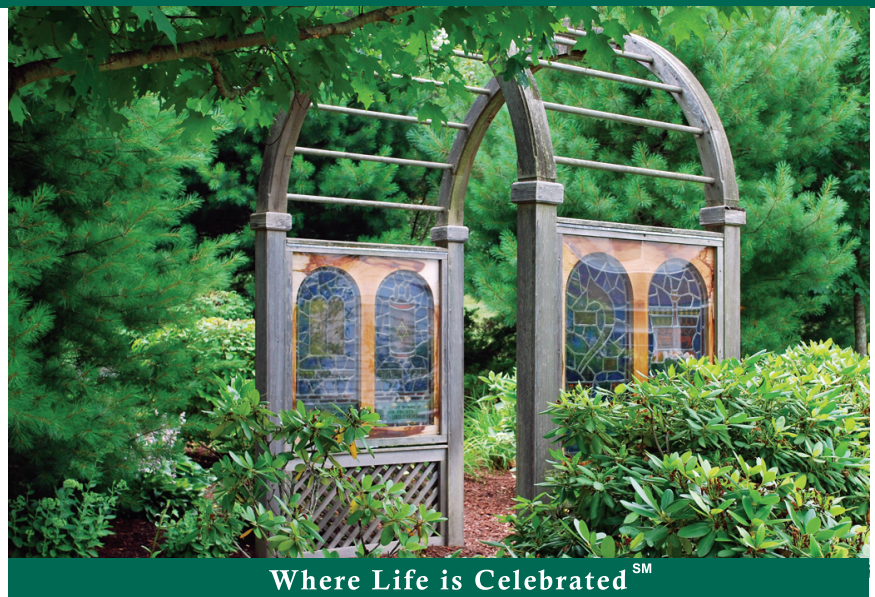
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FROM PAGE 1

PARIS

and his more outgoing and older brother.

"It's the best answer we could come up with to the attack," Belinow said.

On the evening of Jan. 11, 2009, assailants ignited and hurled firebombs into the Chabad House kitchen. The fire charred the dining area but failed to catch because of the quick intervention by Mendel Belinow, who was inside the building. Belinow said police found 15 unignited firebombs in parts of the building, including a children's play corner.

"The attack lasted an instant and made an impression for a few weeks. But the seders – they're now an annual event that's part of the definition of this community," Belinow told JTA during a community event last month in Saint-Denis.

Saint-Denis' 15,000 Jews are all that remains of a community that was halved after the 1980s, when many left for more affluent and safer areas. Jewish emigration from Saint-Denis increased in 2000 amid a surge in anti-Semitic attacks. Gradually estranged from areas where it became unsafe to wear a kippah, the Jews here joined a quiet exodus that has depleted Jewish communities north of Paris.

With 100 guests, attendance at public seders in this drab suburb is relatively high for France. The Chabad House of Toulouse, where 23,000 Jews live, gets similar and even lower attendance, which sometimes leads to the event's cancellation. And in Nice, where 20,000 Jews live, some 120 Jews attend the local Chabad House's public seder, which is being prepared for the fifth consecutive year.

Group seders are less popular in France than elsewhere in Europe because it has a predominantly Sephardic community with "close family ties and a tradition of hospitality," said Avraham Weill, a Chabad emissary and chief rabbi of Toulouse. "People get invited to family seders, lowering demand for a public one."

Some of the Saint-Denis seder guests are poor Jews with no family in France, including Mordechai Elbaz, a 60-year-old former dope dealer who lives in a moldy two-room apartment. He plans to attend the seder this year with his only relative – a sister, who is on a visit from Israel.

Other Saint-Denis congregants choose the public seder over a family setting. Caroline Wildbaum, 47, a regular at the Mendels' Chabad House, has attended Saint-Denis seders with her four children, now aged 15 to 22, since the first year.

"I have a rather large family, so it's not like I come here not to feel alone," said Wildbaum, who lives in the nearby suburb of Sarcelles, a municipality known as

"little Jerusalem" for its Jewish community of 60,000. "Having a seder here doesn't subtract from the family atmosphere, it amplifies it."

The Chabad House is now the only synagogue in Saint-Denis, which once boasted four. Drugs are sold openly at a local train station. Young, jobless gang members loiter there. In November, two suspected terrorists were killed here in a police raid on alleged perpetrators and accomplices tied to the terrorist attacks that month in Paris, which killed 130 people.

During the raid, the Jewish community of Saint-Denis went into lockdown for a few days. But true to his institution's ethos, Mendel Belinow vowed activities would only "increase in volume," starting with a public lighting of Hanukkah candles the following month.

At the Chabad House, congregants exchange hugs, kisses and back slaps. They call each other by their first names and address one another, including the rabbi, with the less formal pronoun "tu."

Many credit the Belinows with generating this atmosphere.

"Mendel, with his fiery speeches and warm hugs, sets the tone," said Ascher Bouaziz, a physician in his 60s who has worked his whole professional life in Saint-Denis. "Yisroel is more reserved. His administrative skills keep the place ticking. And Rivky, her charm and sweetness just melts everyone who meets her. That's the secret to this place."

Yet some connect the social cohesion also to the external threats, which are "making Jews seek comfort in a community where members have exceptionally strong ties to one another," according to Irene Benhamou, a 59-year-old mother of two. "When you are surrounded by people who want to kill you, you find less time for bickering and formalities."

Her youngest son was threatened with a knife on the street last year in what she said was an anti-Semitic incident. It made her decide to move four months ago to Noisy-le-Grand, an affluent eastern suburb, but she still comes to Saint-Denis for community events.

For Bouaziz, this year's Saint-Denis seder may be his last. Next year he is planning to join the 20,000 French Jews who have immigrated to Israel since 2014.

"I don't feel safe here," he said. "When I retire I want to live where I can wear my kippah without inviting attack and army protection."

But Yisroel Belinow wryly jokes about the security arrangements at his synagogue.

"At every seder, there's one extra on top of the guest list," he said of the prophet Elijah, for whom room is traditionally left at the seder table. "The only difference here is that we have Elijah plus four French Legion soldiers."



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Community seder calendar

Community seders are planned at the following temples and community centers in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts. Please contact individual sites for more information.

Conservative Temple Beth-El of Fall River:
PASSOVER SEDER
 385 High St.,
 Fall River, Mass.
 April 29
 508-674-3529

Temple Shalom:
FIRST SEDER
 223 Valley Road, Middletown
 April 22,
 time and location TBD
 Adults \$36, children 12 and under, \$25
 401-846-9002

Temple Torat Yisrael:
SECOND SEDER
 1251 Middle Road,
 East Greenwich
 April 23, 6 p.m.
 Adults and children over 12

\$20, children 12 and under free.
 RSVP online at www.toratyisrael.org or call 401-885-6600 by April 15. No late reservations or walk-ins can be accepted.

West Bay Community Jewish Center (WBCJC):
SECOND SEDER
 2 Brenda Drive, Coventry
 April 23, 6:30-9 p.m.
 Ticket prices TBD
 401-392-8452

Reform Temple Sinai:
SECOND SEDER
 30 Hagen Ave.,
 Cranston
 April 23, 5:30 p.m.

Temple Beth-El:
SECOND SEDER
 70 Orchard Ave., Providence
 April 23, 6 p.m.
 401-331-6070

Non-denominational Brown RISD Hillel:
FIRST SEDER
 The Glenn and Darcy Weiner

Center
 80 Brown St., Providence
 April 22, Time TBD
 Free for students
 401-863-2733

Congregation Agudath Achim and the Jewish Community House:
COMMUNITY POTLUCK SEDER
 133 High St.,
 Taunton, Mass.
 April 27, 6 p.m.
 \$20, \$35 for a family up to 4,
 \$40 for a family of 5+
 Contact Mija Almeida at 508-880-3068 with the name of the dish you will bring to the potluck.

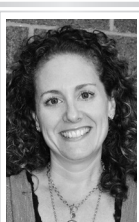
University of Rhode Island Hillel:
FIRST SEDER
 6 Fraternity Circle, Kingston
 April 22, 6 p.m.
 \$15 for students and children,
 \$25 for non-students
 RSVP by April 18.
www.urihillel.org
 or call 401-874-2740

Sorting out staff

Dear Wendy,
 I recently had the opportunity to meet with Robyn Goldstein. Is she the new community concierge?

Curious in Bristol

Dear Curious
 Thank you for your email! Robyn is our community navigator. I am still the community concierge. She and I work very closely together, connecting newcomers and longtime Rhode Islanders alike to syna-



ASK WENDY

WENDY JOERING

gogues, physicians, Realtors, information on kosher food and restaurants, programs and happenings in the greater Rhode Island area. Come to us for anything you may need. We work very closely with our com-

munity rabbis, Jewish Family Service and the Jewish Seniors Agency, as well as secular partners throughout the state. Robyn has been instrumental in launching our Senior Transportation Program and working with volunteers in the community.

So, if there is anything we can help you with, please send an email or give us a call! Who knows – you may even see an “Ask Robyn” column in the future.

Deadline nears for Cranston seniors theater trip

The Cranston Senior Guild has a full slate of activities planned for the coming months.

On May 19, the group will attend a matinee performance of Cole Porter’s Tony award-winning musical “Anything Goes” at the Ocean State Theatre, 1245 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick. The show is at 2 p.m. The cost per person is \$34. Deadline for reservations is April 19. No refund after April 20. For more information call Sunny at 401-785-0748.

The monthly meeting will take place Wednesday, May 4, at 1 p.m. at Tamarisk Assisted Living, 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick.

The meeting will be followed by bingo, refreshments and a raffle. All men and women age 55 years plus are welcome to join. You do not have to live in Cranston.

Save the date – June 1 – for the installation luncheon.

The Holocaust Education & Resource Center of Rhode Island

Wishes the Jewish Community



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A Kosher & Happy Passover^{B'H} 2016 Holiday Schedule 5776 Remember

Search for Chometz – Thursday night, April 21
 Fast or Siyum of first-born – Friday, April 22

Friday, April 22 Providence time only

Eating of Chometz: until 10:20 a.m.
 Burning of Chometz: until 11:30 a.m.
Passover begins: 7:15 p.m.
Seder begins at: 8:20 p.m.
Passover ends: Saturday night, April 30, 8:40 p.m.

Candle lighting times for Passover 2016

Providence time

Friday, April 22 7:15 p.m.
 Saturday, April 23 after 8:20 p.m.
 Thursday, April 28 7:21 p.m.
 Friday, April 29 7:22 p.m.

Blessings

	Blessing
April 22: First Eve of Passover.....	3 & 2
April 23: Second Eve of Passover.....	1 & 2
	FRIDAY – YOM TOV, ERUV TAVSHILIN
April 28: Seventh Eve of Passover.....	1
April 29: Eighth Eve of Passover	3

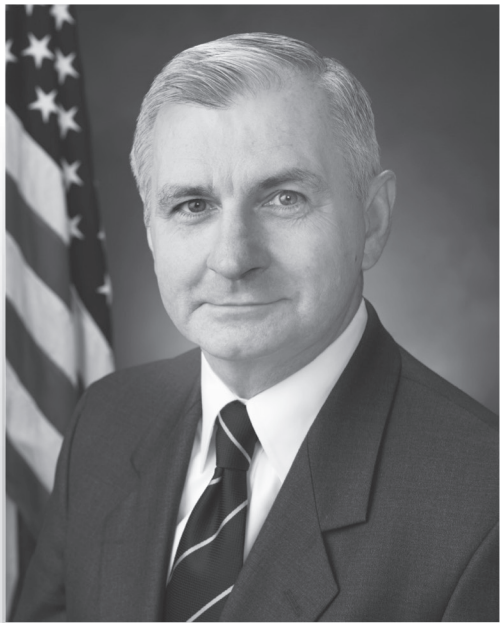
- #1 BO-RUH A-TOH ADO-NOI E-LO-HEI-NU ME-LECH HO-OLOM A-SHER KI-DE-SHA-NU BE-MITZ-VO-TOV VI-TZI-VO-NU LE-HAD-LIK NER SHEL YOM-TOV
- #2 BO-RUCH A-TOH ADO-NOI E-LO-HEI-NU ME-LECH HO-OLOM SHE-HEH-CHE-YOH-NU VI-KIYE-MONU VE-HE GE-O-NU LEZ-MAN HA-ZEH
- #3 BO-RUCH A-TOH ADO-NOI E-LO-HEI-NU ME-LECH HO-OLOM A-SHER KI-DE-SHA-NU BE-MITZ-VO-TOV VI-TZI-VO-NU LE-HAD-LIK NER SHEL SHA-BAT V'SHEL YOMTOV

Special instructions for holidays (but not Shabbat).

On holidays it is forbidden to create a new fire by striking a match, lighter, etc. However, it is permissible to use a flame already burning continuously since before the inception of the holiday, such as a pilot light, gas or candle flame.

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 Jennifer Kiddie, Treasurer



Do you know a Holocaust survivor who lives in Rhode Island?

BY HILLARY SCHULMAN
 Hschulman@jewishallianceri.org

As you have probably seen, the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, along with the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial committee, has built a Holocaust Memorial in downtown Providence. Prominently situated on the Providence River, this decade-long project is a symbol of an awful part of Jewish history, yet represents the future of the Jewish people and their vow to “never forget.”

To honor and remember those who survived this horrific time in history, the Jewish Alliance and the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center, with assistance from the communi-

ty, are adding a path at the memorial to recognize those who settled in Rhode Island after World War II.

We would like for our survivor path to include every name possible, and need your help to do so. Please contact May-Ronny Zeidman at info@bornsteinholocaustcenter.org if you know of someone who survived the Holocaust and built his or her life in Rhode Island, or to ensure we have someone in our records correctly.

The Jewish Alliance is also hosting a Yom HaShoah (Day of Remembrance) program at the memorial on the morning of May 5. Join our Jewish community in never forgetting this

important part of our history and ensuring that it will never happen again. More details will be available soon.

For more information about the memorial, contact Michelle Cicchitelli at mcicchitelli@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111, ext. 178.

This program, as well as the other initiatives related to the memorial, is brought to the community by generous donors; if you would like to make a contribution, contact Hillary Schulman at hschulman@jewishallianceri.org, or 401-421-4111, ext. 127.

HILLARY SCHULMAN is a development associate at the Jewish Alliance of Greater R.I.



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R.I. Hall of Fame honors Robbins, 9 others

Arthur S. Robbins and nine other Rhode Islanders will be honored April 30 as they are inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame.

This year's induction ceremony will take place at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet. It is the 52nd such ceremony.

The Hall of Fame, now consisting of 747 Rhode Islanders, was created in 1965 to honor "any individual who has brought credit to Rhode Island, brought Rhode Island into prominence and contributed to the history and heritage of the state," according to board of directors president and 1995 inductee Patrick T. Conley. Such individuals must have been born in Rhode Island, lived, studied or worked in Rhode Island for a significant

time, or made his or her reputation here.

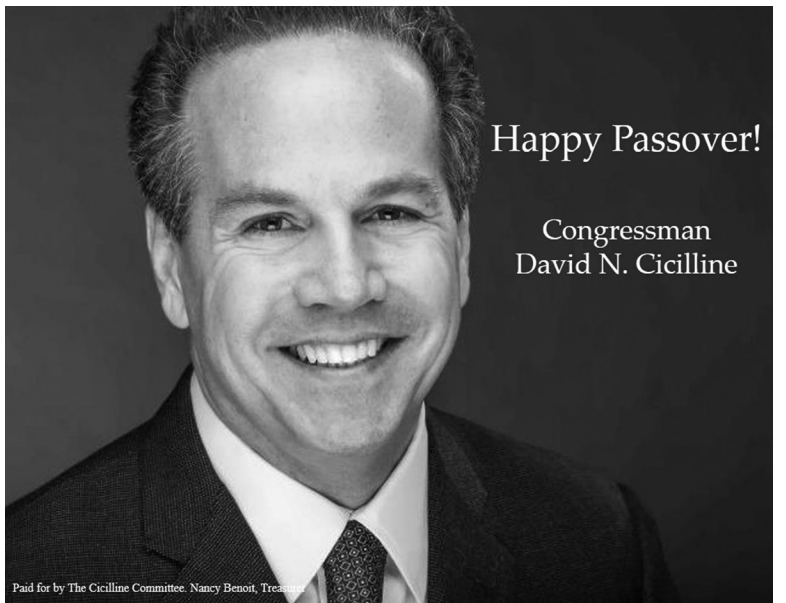
That certainly describes Robbins who has made his mark in Rhode Island as a successful hotel developer, businessman, civic leader and philanthropist. Born in Worcester, Massachusetts, he grew up in Woonsocket. He got his start as a hotel developer, building the Warwick Motor Inn across from T.F. Green Airport in 1959. He went on to develop the Providence Marriott and other hotels in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

He's been involved in the community at large, helping to found the Providence Convention and Visitor's Bureau, and he's been actively involved in the education and medical community.

He was involved in the founding of the R.I. Holocaust Museum and served on the boards of the Jewish Federation of R.I. (now the Jewish Alliance) and the Providence Hebrew Day School. He is a member of Temple Emanu-El. He and his wife Judy have three children and eight grandchildren.

In addition to Robbins, this year's inductees are Dr. Robert D. Billington, Richard A. "Dick" Ernst, Charlie Hall, Ralph A. Papitto, Dr. Piyush J. Patel, Dr. James T. Patterson, Dr. Patricia R. Recupero, Michael A. Tambarro and Dr. Betty R. Vohr.

Tickets for the Heritage Hall of Fame dinner event are \$85. Order by April 22 by calling 401-556-6174 or 401-640-5389.



Happy Passover!

Congressman
David N. Cicilline

Paid for by The Cicilline Committee. Nancy Benoit, Treasurer

New Bedford Yom HaShoah program dedicated to Mary Schwartz

Submitted by
The Jewish Federation
of Greater New Bedford

This year Yom HaShoah, the Holocaust Day of Remembrance, will be observed in New Bedford on May 1. With the death of Mary Schwartz this past November, the program will be dedicated to her memory.

Schwartz was the first chair of the Holocaust Education and Memorial Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Bedford, and encouraged Abe Landau to speak about his experiences in the 13 camps. She drove Landau to schools and helped him get started

speaking to local middle and high school students.

Schwartz was not only active in the Jewish Federation, but she also was a writer for the New Bedford Standard-Times, writing articles about her native Denmark and her travels around the world.

This year Dr. John Saunders will speak about his survival in Auschwitz-Birkenau and other camps, ending up at Mauthausen. A graduate of Tufts Dental School, Saunders also served as a captain in the U.S. Air Force in Korea. His story of survival is unique and one that all must hear. Seventy-one years after the liberation of the camps, the

remembrance will pay tribute to the liberators and the children at a memorial service at the Holocaust Monument at 6:15 p.m., followed by Saunders' talk at Tifereth Israel Congregation at 7 p.m.

An exhibit of student essays and artwork will be displayed along with articles that Schwartz wrote for the New Bedford Standard-Times. A reception will follow.

The Holocaust Monument is located in Buttonwood Park, Hawthorn Street and Rockdale Avenue, New Bedford. Tifereth Israel is located at 145 Brownell Ave., New Bedford.

From Our Jewish Seniors Agency Family to Yours



HAPPY PASSOVER

From the
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FROM PAGE 9 | SANDERS

choose to support Bernie Sanders for president."

A diehard Democrat, Cohen says she finds the shift among Orthodox Jews toward the Republican Party bewildering. She describes herself as a strong supporter of Israel and notes that her parents, two siblings and other relatives have immigrated to Israel. Cohen says she's sure that Sanders, if elected president, will do right by the Jewish state - though she allows that she wishes he were going to Israel this week instead of to a Vatican conference in Rome.

"If Bernie gets the nomination, he's going to approach Israel with the same careful consideration he applies to other things: learning the real issues, actually visiting Israel to see what it's like for Israel to live next door to enemies pledging to wipe Israel off the face of the earth," Cohen told JTA. "He's going to do the right thing, which is to continue to support Israel militarily, financially, morally. I don't think that Ber-

nie Sanders in any way, shape or form is going to betray us."

Sanders rarely expresses his politics in terms of "Jewish values" - when NPR asked him last year about what being a Jew meant to him, Sanders spoke of his relatives lost in the Holocaust and his subsequent efforts to combat "horrific racism or anti-Semitism." But others see him as an exemplar of a particular type of Jewish leftist. Rabbi and columnist Jay Michaelson, writing in the Daily Beast, described the model as the "basically secular, basically atheist Jewish Democratic Socialist, part of the erstwhile 20th-century American Jewish Left."

Whether or not Sanders wins in New York, where Jewish voters carry more sway than in any other state, Aroneanu says his time as a campaign staffer will be well spent. (As the campaign's state director, he will be out of a job after April 19.)

He says his own experience as a child of immigrants underscores the urgency of the Sanders candidacy. Aroneanu's

mother came to the United States in 1980 as a political asylum seeker fleeing the Communist Ceausescu regime in Romania. His father had come over as a non-refugee immigrant from Romania several years earlier. The two worked hard to make it in America, and Aroneanu, who was born in Manhattan in 1983, was raised largely by his grandparents in their Bergen County, New Jersey, home.

Aroneanu says he wants to make sure the American dream remains attainable for people like his parents.

"I'm not a very religious Jew, but I feel deeply connected to my roots as a Jew, as an immigrant, as a child of immigrants, as someone with a lot of history in Europe both with World War II and Communism," he said. "So does Bernie."

Besides, Aroneanu says, he believes Sanders has a shot at beating Hillary Clinton.

"We're definitely contesting New York. We've got a great operation here and the volunteer energy is incredible," he said. "It's diverse, it's energetic and I think we can build on it."

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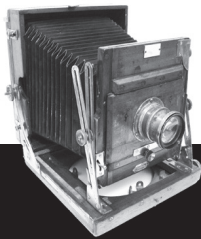
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Historic Boston-area synagogues vote to join forces on shared campus

BOSTON (JTA) – Two historic Boston-area Conservative synagogues are planning to join forces on a shared campus following votes by the leaders of both institutions.

In a joint meeting on April 6, the board of directors and trustees of Congregation Mishkan Tefila voted to sign a memorandum of understanding with Congregation Kehillath Israel, paving the way for Mishkan Tefila to move its congregation to Kehillath Israel's Brookline campus, some four miles east. The board of Kehillath Israel unanimously approved the move the following night.

The decision requires approval by two-thirds of Mishkan Tefila's 200-member congregation, who will vote on May 4. Congregation president Paul Gershkowitz expects the congregation will endorse the move, he told the Boston Globe.

Founded in 1858, Mishkan Tefila was the first Conservative congregation in Boston. Since 1955, it has been housed on a sprawling 24-acre campus in the suburb of Newton.

Mishkan Tefila decided in August to sell its 24-acre property, one of the largest synagogue sites in Massachusetts, to Boston College. The campus has been home to a vibrant congregation that in the 1970s boasted a membership of 1,000 families. But its aging facilities and smaller membership presented a challenge for the future, its leaders acknowledged.

"I am thrilled by the opportunities this move presents for our community," Gershkowitz said in a statement. "The way people relate to Judaism has shifted, and I believe that CMT has an important role to play in this new paradigm. The move will allow them to get out of the building management business and focus on their strengths."

David Williams, the president of Kehillath Israel, said: "We look forward to Congregation Mishkan Tefila's leadership in areas that will enrich the broader community. In particular their high-profile speaker programs and well-established brotherhood and sisterhood will be important additions to the campus."

The reaction has been overwhelmingly positive, Williams told JTA.

"We kept the congregation informed so there wasn't a huge surprise. The co-location concept fits very well with our existing strategy of partnering with other worship communities that maintain their independence on our campus," he said.

Nearing its centennial year, Congregation Kehillath Israel is a thriving urban synagogue on a bustling street in a neighborhood long known for its Jewish shops and residents. It is in the midst of a \$15-million renovation, reflecting in part its expanding mission that involves a partnership with some 30 Jewish organizations, including several independent minyanim. Among its ambitious projects is a partnership to build housing for the elderly.

Each congregation will have its own board, budget and clergy, according to Williams. The congregations expect to introduce a campus council for coordination.



Kehillath Israel's Brookline campus



Congregation Mishkan Tefila

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Mildred 'Milly' Bander, 86

WARWICK, R.I. – Mildred "Milly" Bander died April 4 at the Philip Hulitar Inpatient Center. She was the beloved wife of Sydney Bander for 65 years. Born in Fall River, Mass., a daughter of the late Samuel and Lena (Wishnefsky) Servita, she had lived in Florida for 16 years, previously living in West Warwick.

She was the owner of the former Mildred Bander Surveys, retiring in 2001. Milly was a member and past president of ORT, a life member of Hadassah, and a former member of Temple Sinai.

Devoted mother of Scott Bander and his wife, Susan, and Howard Bander, all of Warwick. Dear sister of Alvin Servita of Coral Springs, Fla., and the late Charlotte Litchman. Loving grandmother of Adam and his wife Yudy, and Gregory. Contributions in her

memory may be made to RISP-CA, 186 Amaral St., Riverside, R.I. 02915.

Ernestine Baruch, 90

EAST PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Ernestine Baruch passed away March 29. She was the wife of



Joseph Baruch; they were married for 63 years. She was born in Austria, the daughter of the late Heinrich and Anna.

Ernestine was a Holocaust survivor; she was sent to a forced labor camp during WWII. After the war she and Joseph lived in Israel, where they were married. They came to live in the United States in 1954. She has been a resident of Rhode Island since 1955.

Besides her husband, she is survived by her son Benjamin

Baruch and his wife Elizabeth and her son Michael Baruch; and grandchildren Jane and Caroline.

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

Violet B. Halpert, 93

EAST PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Violet B. Halpert passed away April 10. She was born in Providence, the daughter of the late Abram and Rose (Woleon) Halpert. She was a lifelong resident of Providence.

Violet was a professor of communication at Fairleigh Dickinson University (New Jersey). Afterward, she taught at Suffolk University (Boston) and eventually became a faculty member at Providence College in the English Department and in the Development of Western Civilization.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Brown University, Gift Cashier, Box 1877, Providence, R.I. 02912.

Bernice Lundy, 86

NARRAGANSETT, R.I. – Bernice Lundy passed away Feb. 20. She was the wife of the late Maurice Lundy; they were married for 58 years. She was born in Providence, the daughter of the late Max and Ada (Saunders) Genser.

Bernice graduated from Hope High School. Her father was the owner of Genser Manufacturing in Providence. She was a member of Temple Emanu-El.

She is survived by her daughters Sharlene Lundy and Susan Mason; grandchildren Arron, Tanika, and Elisha; and great-grandchildren Teriq, Jarod, Janaya, and Jerdan. She was the sister of the late Wallace and James Genser.

Lotte B. Povar, 93

BOCA RATON, FLA. – Lotte Povar, a longtime resident of Seekonk, Mass., and Bristol, R.I., died peacefully in her sleep in Boca Raton on March 30.

Born in Karlsruhe, Germany, she moved first to Amsterdam, then to the U.S. as the Nazi regime spread. Until 1945, when she married Morris Povar, she lived on and helped run a chicken



farm in Vineland, N.J.

Happily married to Dr. Povar until his death in 2013, she followed him to California, where she attended Stanford University, before moving back east and graduating from Pembroke College in 1948. In 1962 she completed a Masters of Arts in Teaching from Brown University, and went on to teach for several years. A committed alumna, she relished fundraising for Brown and attending reunions. Among her many volunteer activities, she led the Rhode Island chapter of Hadassah and served on the Women's Board of The Miriam Hospital.

Her love of travel not only took her and Morris around the world twice but also inspired a successful career as a travel agent. She enjoyed a house full of pets, including German shepherds and multiple cats. She is survived by her children, Gail and Tedd Povar, and their spouses; and by six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Donations may be made in her name to Hadassah or to Brown University.

Marilyn Salk, 85

EAST GREENWICH, R.I. – Marilyn Salk died March 29 at St. Elizabeth Home. She was the beloved wife of the late Burton Salk. Born in Boston. A daughter of the late David and Frances (Cohen) Altman, she had lived in Warwick since 1983, previously living in Cranston. She was a social worker for DCYF for 24 years, retiring in 1996. Marilyn was a former

member of Temple Torat Yisrael, a member of B'nai B'rith, and a past president and life member of Hadassah. She was also a member of the Cranston Senior Guild and a board member of the American Cancer Society. She was a graduate of Girls' Latin High School in Boston and Providence College, Class of 1977. Devoted mother of Dr. Robert Salk and his wife, Terri, of Jamestown and Nancy Salk of East Haven, Conn. Dear sister of Ruth Liberman of Tucson, Ariz. and the late Robert Altman. Loving grandmother of Katrina, Natalie, Gabriel, Mollie and Jason. The family would like to thank the staff of St. Elizabeth Home for the loving and compassionate care that she received while she stayed there. Contributions in her memory may be made to St. Elizabeth Home, 1 St. Elizabeth Way, East Greenwich, R.I. 02818.

Evelyn Shatkin

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Evelyn Shatkin passed away peacefully April 2, following a brief illness. The Rhode Island-based public relations consultant promoted campaigns for Trinity Repertory, Weight



Watchers, American Cancer Society, Providence Adult Education, United Way, Hearing and Speech, WJARTV,

Corporation for National Service/RI, and VISTA volunteers in AmeriCorps programs.

The Emerson College graduate launched a lifelong career in news media as host Evelyn Howe of the "Five O'Clock Follies" on Boston's CBS radio station in the mid-1940s, including exclusive interviews with "Satchmo" Armstrong, Oscar Hammerstein II, Victor

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FROM PAGE 1 | **BASEBALL**

Lavernway and outfielder Ryan Kalish in 2012, and infielder Kevin Youkilis and outfielder Adam Stern played together in 2005 and 2006. Only Breslow of that Boston bunch remains in the majors.

“It’s the first time in years the Red Sox don’t have a Jewish ballplayer,” said Ephraim Moxson, co-publisher of the Jewish Sports Review newsletter.

Several others who have played in the majors weren’t fortunate enough to make Opening Day rosters. They include infielders Nate Freiman, Ike Davis, Josh Satin and Cody Decker, as well as relief pitcher Josh Zeid.

Up-and-comers include shortstop Alex Bregman, the second

overall pick in last June’s collegiate draft by the Astros, and Zach Borenstein, an outfielder in the Arizona Diamondbacks system. Bregman hit .294 for two of the Astros’ A teams last season, while Borenstein hit .281 in spring training before being sent to the minors.

Pederson shouldn’t have worries about being sent down, but will look to avoid the second-half doldrums he suffered last season. The center fielder had started for the National League in last summer’s All-Star game as a rookie, one night after finishing second in the home-run-hitting contest. But his horrid second half, which included his benching as a starter, saw his batting average fall to .210, and he finished with a team-record-

tying 170 strikeouts. Still, he slugged 26 homers and played stellar defense.

Pillar could be the real deal. He was outstanding in the field last season, finishing second among all center fielders in defensive ratings. While lacking Pederson’s power, Pillar showed far better skills as an all-around hitter – so much so that he’s been elevated to leadoff in the batting order of the Blue Jays, one of the majors’ best offensive clubs. In 2015, his first full season in the majors, Pillar hit .278, socked 31 doubles and stole 25 bases.

“Pillar is probably the best of them all now” among Jewish major leaguers, Moxson said. “He’s got a good glove, a good bat and speed.”

Braun, a left fielder starting his 10th season, possesses

those tools, too, and remains the brightest light on a rebuilding Brewers team that finished last a season ago in the National League Central. But he’s coming back from postseason lower-back surgery that affected him even through spring training.

Last year, Braun made the All-Star team for the sixth time and is steadily building a Hall of Fame career – if his suspension in 2013 for using performance-enhancing drugs can be overlooked. Keep in mind that he’s just 31.

The Tigers are also looking to return to contention and will need Kinsler to have a typically solid season, as he did in 2015, batting .296, though driving in 19 fewer runs than in the previous campaign. A sharp falloff in pitching doomed the Tigers,

which finished with the American League’s second-worst record and last in the Central Division. The poor showing nearly cost Ausmus his job one year after winning the division in his managerial debut.

In Houston, Feldman provides veteran leadership to a young staff headlined by Cy Young Award winner Dallas Keuchel. Feldman missed half of 2015 with knee and shoulder injuries, making just 18 starts as the Astros emerged as a wild-card team. He could find himself pitching with much more at stake in October, as the Astros are favored by some to contend for the World Series this year. Pillar’s Blue Jays will provide stiff competition, as Toronto is the consensus pick to reclaim the A.L. East crown.

Borge, Cole Porter, Ella Fitzgerald, Glenn Miller and Arthur Godfrey, and appeared on Godfrey’s New York program. Evelyn co-produced programs for national “We The People” broadcasts and received a special award from Massachusetts Governor Tobin for helping to organize shows for armed forces throughout New England.

She was born in New York City, daughter of the late Edward and Mollie Bergman. She was married to the late Perry Shatkin, former chief legal counsel, Rhode Island Tax Division. She is survived by two daughters: Susan Shatkin of Bristol and Dr. Jo Anne Shatkin of Boston. She was the sister of Janet Dobrer of Hackensack, N.J., mother of the late Lenore Richardson Holze, and sister of the late Walter Bergman of Lancaster, Pa. She had two grandchildren, several nieces and nephews, and a great-grandson.

Evelyn established group sales for the Warwick Musical Theatre, and directed group

sales for Paramount Pictures in New York. She directed PR campaigns for the Women’s Advertising Club of RI. She and her husband helped organize the new Cranston city charter campaign, and the Cranston Committee for Better Schools. She was a member of Temple Beth-El, Providence, serving on the PR committee.

Contributions in her memory may be made to the Rabbi Leslie Yale Gutterman Religious School at Temple Beth-El, or one’s favorite charity.

Florence Spooner, 80

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Florence (Sloane) Spooner passed away April 7. She was the wife of the late Leonard Spooner. She was born in New York, the daughter of the late Nathan and Anne (Silver) Spooner.

Florence was a former member of Congregation Beth Shalom, United Brothers Synagogue and the Hope Chapter of B’nai B’rith Women. She was active at the Jewish Community Center and a member of its

Yiddish Club.

She is survived by her son Mark Spooner and his wife Cathi; daughter Bonnie St. Hilaire; and grandchildren Nathan and Jacob.

Contributions in her memory may be made to an animal charity of your choice.

Lillian Regina Weisz, 92

ATLANTA, GA. – Lillian Regina (Brown) Weisz, born in Montreal, Canada, on April 22, 1923, died peacefully on March 24 in Atlanta, where she had resided with her son and his family since 2006. She was the beloved wife of the late Paul B. Weisz, who died in 2005, and daughter of the late Moses A. Brown and late Sadie Freedman Brown of Montreal.

Lillian attended McGill University in Montreal, taught grade school there and worked



at Nelson & Douglas, the family store. She met Paul at McGill and they married in 1945. In 1947 Lillian and Paul moved to Providence, where he became a biology professor and author at Brown University and where they raised their three children. Lillian maintained a lifelong interest in teaching and spent much of her post-child-rearing years obtaining a master’s degree in special education and teaching underprivileged dyslexic children how to read and write. She developed an innovative system and program called “Think-a-Lings” and “Think-a-Links” and was known as the “Puter Lady” at the Rochambeau Library in Providence for her ahead-of-the-times interest in helping children gain computer skills.

She was a Girl Scout leader and was involved in creating puppet shows and making puppets. Lillian was a fearless proponent of equal rights and while she was very proud of her Jewish heritage and personal family background, she was open and embracing of all peoples and faiths...not just as a platitude, but as a lifestyle.

In 1997 Lillian and Paul moved to Laurelmead, in Providence, where they became active and involved residents. Together they established Laurelmead College as a community learning center. Both offered classes in their areas of expertise and enlisted others to do the same. Lillian ran classes that combined her background in teach-

ing with her artistic talents in stained glass. She created illustrations of folk tales from around the world in stained glass, as well as stained glass reliefs that she donated to several Providence locations, including Hasbro Children’s Hospital, Swan Point Cemetery Chapel, Temple Beth-El, Rochambeau Library as well as throughout Laurelmead. Lillian’s stained glass folk tale artworks are permanently installed in the windows along the connector between Laurelmead and Epoch.

Lillian spent a lifetime working her magic on all those who have known her. She was one of those people whom everyone just seemed to love. The kind twinkle in her eyes and her respect and love of all forms of life without qualification is part of her legacy. One of her most profound values, “whatever you do and wherever you are, leave things better than how you found them,” remains a simple yet powerful outlook.

Lillian is survived by her three children, Stephanie Weisz and her partner John Bean of North Attleboro, Mass., Sherye Weisz and her husband Edward Smith of Norton, Mass., Peter Weisz and his wife Pauline Weisz of Brooks, Ga.; her eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister, Elinor Cohen of Montreal and her nieces.

The family requests donations to an Alzheimer’s organization of your choosing.

Nazi-looted painting sequestered in Geneva

JTA – A Nazi-looted painting by the Jewish artist Amedeo Modigliani is being sequestered in Geneva after its ownership was revealed in the Panama Papers.

The ownership of the 1918 painting “Seated Man with a Cane” was disclosed earlier this month as part of the leak of the Panama Papers, some 11.5 million documents from the Panama-based law firm Mossack Fonseca dealing with offshore accounts that has caused scandals throughout the world.

Investigators discovered the painting, which is worth as much as \$25 million, during a search April 8 at the Geneva Free Ports, a storage facility for art and other valuables. The owner is a Jewish

art dealer, David Nahmad, and his International Art Center, a company established by Mossack Fonseca.

The painting was stolen by the Nazis from the gallery of art dealer Oscar Stettiner, its original owner, who fled Paris in 1938 to escape the Nazis. The painting was auctioned off by the Nazis in 1944, according to Bloomberg. Stettiner, who filed a claim to the painting in 1946, died in 1948 before he could recoup the artwork.

His grandson, Philippe Maestracci, has been attempting to recover the painting through courts in the United States. He hired Mondex Corp., a Toronto-based art recovery firm, to locate the artwork in 2011.

The Nahmad family reportedly told a New York court that it did not own the painting.

The International Art Center acquired the painting in 1996 at an auction at Christie’s in London, paying \$3.2 million. It was subsequently exhibited at the Helly Nahmad Gallery in New York in 2005, and later offered at auction at Sotheby’s, where it failed to sell, reportedly due to questions about its provenance.

Aaron Golub, a lawyer for David Nahmad and the International Art Center, told Bloomberg that the painting’s provenance had been researched by Christie’s and he does not believe Stettiner’s heir can prove it belonged to his family.

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SKETCHBOOK

MIKE FINK

contributed a fine and witty essay about how the names of perfumes change to reflect the mood of the times, and stayed here.

She had brought along her father's medical journal, a wartime diary, which she translated and published, among other works, including children's books.

And she wrote an account of the birthplace she and her mother had left behind.

Taussig, a gracious hostess and an elegant and eloquent woman, highlighted excerpts from her memoir, which was published in its entirety in the Jewish Spectator, for me to read to my RISD class titled "The Jewish Narrative." She summons up the aura of her girlhood with these recalled episodes about her quest for a Jewish identity.

I offer these paragraphs as an homage to Taussig and her fellow travelers in their pursuit of happiness and the American dream:

I learned that we were Jews from the grocer's little boy. There was a church on our street in Bucharest. I saw flickering candle lights through a half-open door. I heard the sound of chanting and the echo of steps on the stone floor. I saw a priest crossing the street. The wind parted his beard ...

The freckled son of our grocer said I was not to go inside his church. I took my doubts to my father. My father explained that we were Jews. But did we also have a church? Could I forbid the grocer's boy to enter it?

"We have a church but we are not religious," my father said. "We do not practice this nonsense."

While we talked, the white curtains of our living room made two little squares on his glasses, hid his eyes, their reassuring brown glow.

"It does not matter what you are," he added.

The subject seemed suddenly solemn and oppressive. "But why – why do people have different religions? How do you know what you should be?"

My father leaned back in his chair and thought again. "You are what your parents and their parents have been."

Ancestry presented itself like the nest of wooden toys I kept in the drawer of my night table: four small figures each coming out of the previous one. My forebears were Jews, and so

was I.

What was happening involved us on the side of the loser. An anti-Semitic street demonstration passed under our windows. We lived near the university. Students started the academic year with a routine performance. A few Jewish students were beaten, several pairs of glasses smashed, and, if the enthusiasm lasted, one or two shops in the poor Jewish section of town would get their windows broken. That day, a group of young men carrying flags marched down our street singing: "Thieves and Jews are sucking our blood."

When, in my first year of school, I stood in front of the class valiantly quoting my father's words in my high-pitched voice, Miss Polonu, our teacher, became scarlet as her blouse. With a display of "tolerance" practiced by anti-Semites, she asked me to "describe your church" and the class could sense the little distance you keep when you visit a friend with the flu.

I explained that I hadn't been inside our church because we "don't practice this nonsense."

She looked at me thunderstruck and accused me of being a pagan.

At noon, Sabina, my friend and schoolmate, did not wait for me outside. She denied our friendship and did not have the courage to side with the "pa-

gan."

I walked home alone.

Wrapped in a frowning silence preceding a storm, my father walked me to school next morning to talk to Miss Polonu, who later emerged from the teachers' room flushed and puffed up like an indignant hen. Both camps were left tense and suspicious. The kind of education my parents had had in mind needed an amendment. I was taken to visit a synagogue. The event alarmed and saddened me.

Maybe my mother chose the synagogue in the poor Jewish neighborhood because it was closer to what her parents had been part of: simple, strictly orthodox – or perhaps because it stood among the best delicatessens. We went there to purchase the king of carps, in a knight's armor of silver scales, wrapped in a coat of newspaper.

If I missed a particular movie after it was shown at the big boulevard theatres, I would be sent to see it in the old movie houses of the Jewish section, where the sound track stuttered and the picture shivered and froze at the most exciting moment and could be called back to life only by stomping your feet and asking for your money back.

Beyond the necessities, the little luxuries of life included a photographer's studio with pictures of brides in the window and the autographed portrait of a Jewish philanthropist ... plus barber shops, newspaper and tobacco stands, and stores that sold exercise books for the Hebrew alphabet, that were to be opened backwards.

One summer a Yiddish theater group came to Bucharest from abroad. They played in the garden of the theater, a small enclosure with gravel and brightened by petunias, surrounded by the echo of trolleys and taxicabs. I sat between my parents, intimidated by the language I did not understand, yet knew that it concerned me in some curious way, that I belonged to it even if it didn't belong to me.

The dark alleys smelled of pee and of pumpkins baked in the public ovens. From small yards the pallor of a lilac bush might come suddenly to meet you.

The mezzotints of memory have fused now in my mind with the dark grays of later events I witnessed on the synagogue street. The terror of later years has spread and permeated with dread something I had sensed in the air, though I couldn't guess what it was. A thing dormant but ever ready to sprout.

Some years later, I sat on the fence of the Jewish high school among sobbing women. A morgue had been impro-

vised and people went in and out to claim their dead. For three days and nights we had locked ourselves in the apartment, surrounded by cries and shooting. The Jews had been "subjected to severe oppressive measures," as history has recorded. "But this looks like civil war," my father said while feverishly fingering the buttons of the radio choked between two pillows, vainly seeking a sign of hope across the world.

"When political parties argue, the Jewish issue is postponed ... it cannot be a pogrom!"

The third day at dawn the shooting stopped. When the telephones worked again and trolleys started running, we learned that most of the Jewish homes had been ransacked, people scooped out of their beds or hiding places, carted in trucks to the town outskirts to be shot.

The Jewish neighborhood had been destroyed.

I went with my father to look for his friend who had a printing shop behind the *shul*. In frozen, ashen groups of three or four, soldiers guarded the disarray. They paced the sidewalk to mask their uneasiness at the wailing and moaning.

The grocery store had been emptied, windows smashed.

"They rolled a gasoline tank, the murderers, and set fire," a woman told us through the corner of a black shawl she held to her mouth.

We rushed along a side alley to the printer's and a black hole confronted us in its place. "That's where it exploded."

At dawn, the corpses were collected and brought inside the high school. I sat on the fence and waited for my father, who went in. The sidewalk was swarming with women in black shawls. With soot around the paneless windows, the synagogue had acquired a human face, demented, with empty eye sockets. The door had been torn from its hinges. A blue velvet Torah cover lay on the steps.

My father came out of the morgue dumb, his muffler undone, looking green under his fur hat. When he nodded his head, the look of dread in his eyes wavered, and a rivulet rolled down his frozen cheek.

The prayer room was bare. Nothing from the paraphernalia of faith that can make ancestry desirable. No silver cups, no gilded incense box, no stone-studded pointer.

I was going to pursue with passion years later, through museums, just such treasures, entreating them to grant me a glimpse of our bygone glory.

MIKE FINK (mfink33@aol.com) teaches at the Rhode Island School of Design.

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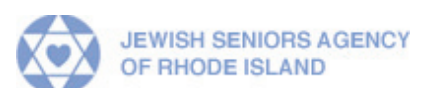
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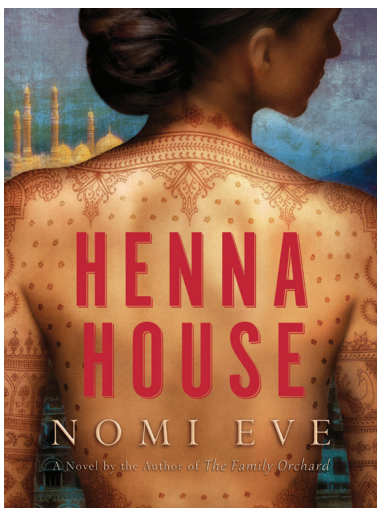
NOVEL

conversations
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Event Co-Chairs **Cara Mitnick & Jeanie Charness** invite you to join the women of Rhode Island's Jewish community for an evening with Nomi Eve, author of *Henna House*.



with
Nomi Eve



Tuesday, May 24, 2016 7:00pm
Temple Beth-El | 70 Orchard Avenue, Providence

Admission: \$10 plus a gift to the 2016 Jewish Alliance Annual Campaign
The admission charge will be used to assist the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's continuing efforts to ensure the rescue and safe passage of Jews living in Arab countries.

This special evening will include a Henna artist, Middle Eastern spice tasting, and desserts.

For more information or to RSVP, visit jewishallianceri.org or contact Danielle Germanowski at 401.421.4111 ext. 109 or dgermanowski@jewishallianceri.org. Kindly RSVP by May 13.



Jewish Alliance
OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND



PHOTO | FRAN OSTENDORF

The tent is up.

FROM PAGE 1 | TENT

filled the social hall at the synagogue for an afternoon of singing, dancing, cooking, eating, socializing and assembling the tent. Many new friendships started as well.

This was a continuation of a connection begun some months ago, according to Rabbi Aaron Philmus. Philmus said a diverse group of neighbors started exchanging traditions and became part of each other's stories, planting the seeds for Abraham's Tent.

"Our house is your house," Philmus said on Sunday as he welcomed the crowd. "We are all family."

"This is a great way to bridge our cultural gap," he said. "It's a great way to come together."

Philmus explained that one of the goals of the gathering was to reassemble the scattered remnants of Abraham's Tent.

"Religion can help us solve our problems. It doesn't have to be the source of our problems. We can have our own stories while we build one tent."

Philmus said, "we are all family; we are all part of the Abrahamic tradition."

He said that the way to build trust and connection is by inviting others into our homes to

eat our food, just as Abraham did with his open tent. And he referred to Roger Williams, who founded Rhode Island on the principles of religious tolerance: "If it can't happen here, where can it?"

Dr. Ehsun Mirza, a neighbor from Pakistan who helped make the original connections with others in the Torat Yisrael congregation, also welcomed the crowd.

Participants broke into groups for activities. The kitchen bustled. Dancing – both Israeli and Persian – was popular. The tent was assembled by pinning together fabric. It will eventually be sewn together and will be used at a future outdoor event.

Philmus, along with Torat Yisrael's president Andy Sholes, expressed the hope that get-togethers and dialogues with other faiths will continue.

"This is a first for us," said Sholes enthusiastically.

At the end of the day, Mirza reflected that he felt "very emotional." And he told the synagogue community, "this feels like home."

FRAN OSTENDORF is editor of The Jewish Voice.

The Two State Solution: Is it Still Viable?

Many analysts now believe the two-state solution is no longer possible. Is this true and if so what are the implications for Israel going forward? Is there another viable solution or are we facing a conflict with no end? Does Netanyahu intend to annex most or all of the West Bank? Or is there a way to revive the vision of two people sharing the land and living together in peace? J Street special adviser Alan Elsner explores these issues.



Alan Elsner has had a long career at the top ranks of American and international journalism prior to joining J Street. As State Department and later White House correspondent for Reuters News Agency, Elsner traveled the world with Secretaries of State and was on first name terms with presidents and vice presidents. His sharp questioning during the Rwanda genocide forced the United States to change its policy and was later highlighted in the Hollywood movie "Hotel Rwanda." As Reuters National Correspondent, Elsner was the agency's chief writer on 9/11/2001. Elsner is the author of two novels and two works of non-fiction.

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J Street Rhode Island

Temple Emanu-El and the Jewish Alliance are sponsoring this program as the second in a series of community wide programs dealing with numerous aspects of the Middle East conflict.

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Happy Passover!



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WE ARE READ – Seth Finkle, director of Camp Haverim and Teen Programming coordinator at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, was in Israel recently as part of Israel up Close through the JCCA. He spent time at the summer Shlichim training program, followed by a tour of Jerusalem and Tel-Aviv. He's pictured in Jaffa at the Nalaga'at center, which means "Please Touch" in Hebrew. The center is home to the Nalaga'at Theater and the "Blackout" dark restaurant. The center offers unique employment opportunities that assist deaf, blind and deaf-blind individuals in providing for themselves, while developing their unique talents, skills and abilities.



WE ARE READ – Sandy and Harry Finkelstein found time to read The Jewish Voice at "The Circus," a commemorative fountain in St. Kitts, while on a Caribbean cruise.

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The winner will be announced in the April 29 Mother's Day issue of The Jewish Voice.

*If you don't have access to email, please mail to: Editor, The Jewish Voice, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, RI 02906

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PHOTOS | ARIEL BROTHMAN

Tifereth Israel students at the Green Fair.

'Green Fair' participants meet Jane Goodall

BY ARIEL BROTHMAN

DARTMOUTH, MASS. – Tifereth Israel Congregation's Ziskind School was among 29 educational groups from around the region that participated in a Green Fair held at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth on April 7. Initially, around 200 people were expected, but that number quickly grew to about 1,650 when word got out that world-renowned primatologist Jane Goodall would attend.

The day started with a student exhibition and an opportunity for the students to explain to Goodall and others the concepts behind their projects.

The Ziskind School students had created "matzah strips," which are strips of recycled

paper where people can write down their good deeds. The individual strips were then woven into a chain as long as the Torah scroll.

"When you do good deeds, you get something good out of it. Now I get to share my good things with everyone here," said Ella Friedman, a student in the Ziskind School, in New Bedford. "We started small at the school, and presented something big to Jane Goodall."

It was easy to see the students' excitement at meeting Goodall. Not surprisingly, a buzz surrounded the environmentalist throughout the day – students, parents, educators and members of the media listened atten-

GREEN FAIR | 39



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Jewish Federation Foundation
OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND



The Ziskind School exhibit.

FROM PAGE 38

GREEN FAIR

tively to her story of how she got where she is today.

Ella was one of a handful of students selected to ask Goodall a question after her presentation. Another Ziskind student, Julia Rosenberg, wrote an essay that earned her one of eight student spots at the dinner table with Goodall. The students traded ideas with the scientist and helped her celebrate her birthday.

Joe Tatelbaum, a Dartmouth native, an organizer of the Green Fair, and a longtime friend of Goodall, said she gave up her rest period to spend more time with the students.

Tatelbaum mentioned that several groups planted trees in honor of the event, and three Roots & Shoots groups have been set up in the area. Roots & Shoots is a youth-led initiative that Goodall started to help youths give back to the world through community-based programs. There are Roots & Shoots groups in 141 countries. Goodall's presence at the

Green Fair acted as a springboard for environmental consciousness-raising, prompting those present to think critically about ways to carry out the crucial task of nature conservation.

"One of the things we talk about a lot is that not everybody needs to be Jane Goodall and change the whole world," Tatelbaum said. "Everyone should make a bunch of little decisions every day. If lots of people make lots of little decisions, that's what a movement is about, and things change very quickly."


Goodall said, "If we start thinking about the small choices we make – what we eat, what we wear, what we buy – then people can make better choices. "What we do matters. Every day."

The Green Fair was simulcast to UMASS Dartmouth's dorm rooms, and is now available for viewing on its website, www.umassd.edu/janegoodallevent/videoandsocialmedia.


ARIEL BROTHMAN is a freelance writer who lives in Wrentham, Massachusetts.



Wishing You and Your Family a Happy Passover!

"...as my parents planted for me before I was born, so do I plant for those who will come after me."
—Talmud



Jewish Federation Foundation
OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

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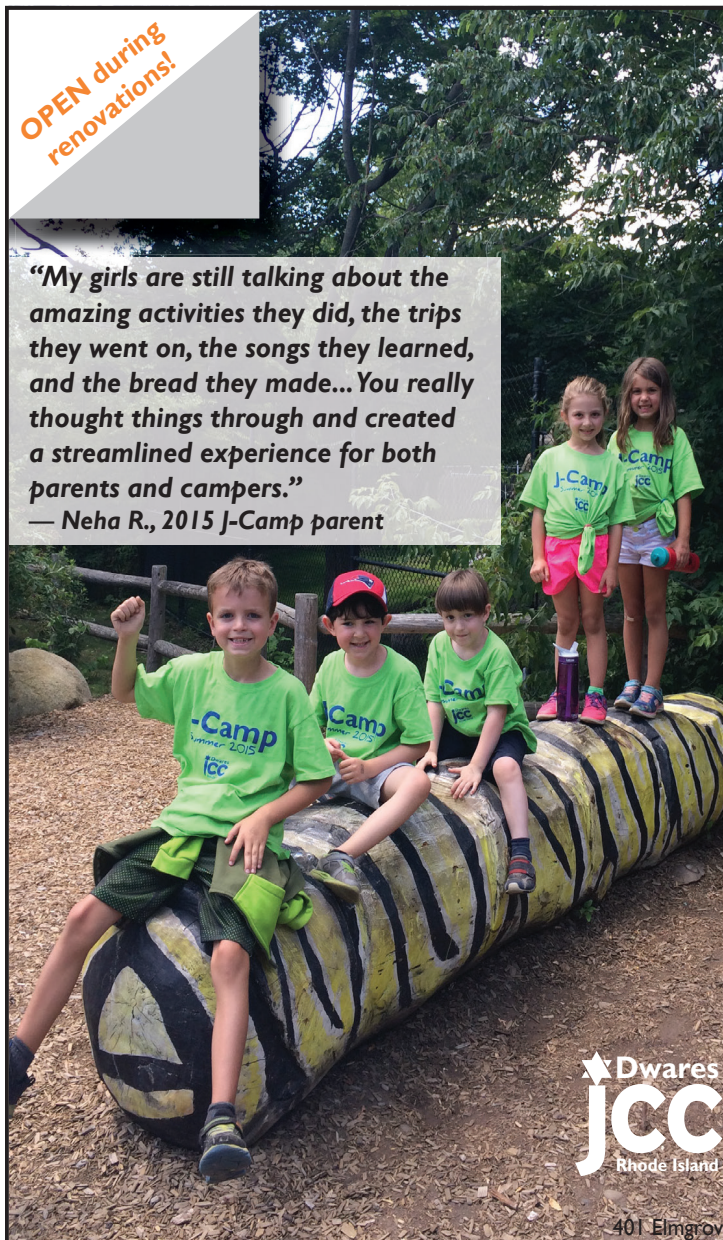

This program is open to Dor L' Dor Society members, donor advised fund holders, and donors to the 2016 Alliance Annual Campaign.

Lunch will be served. Space is limited.

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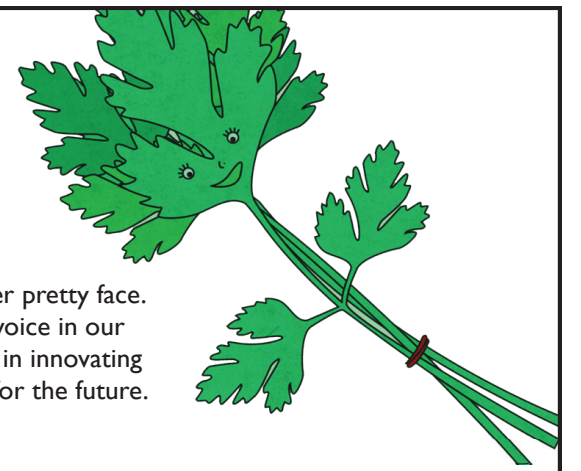
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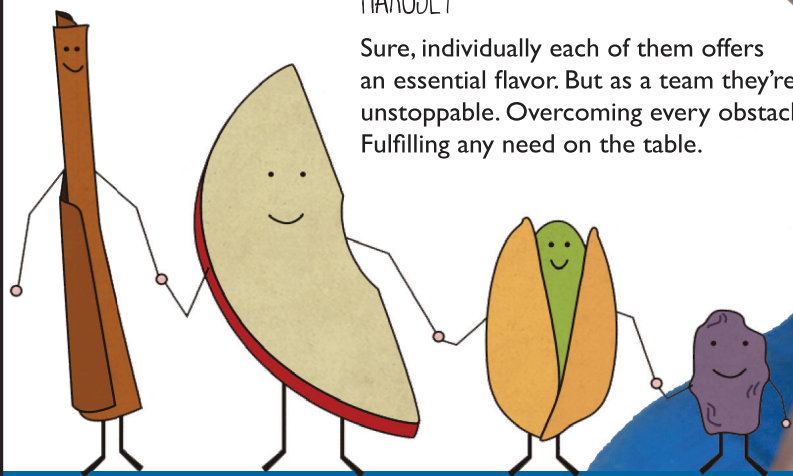
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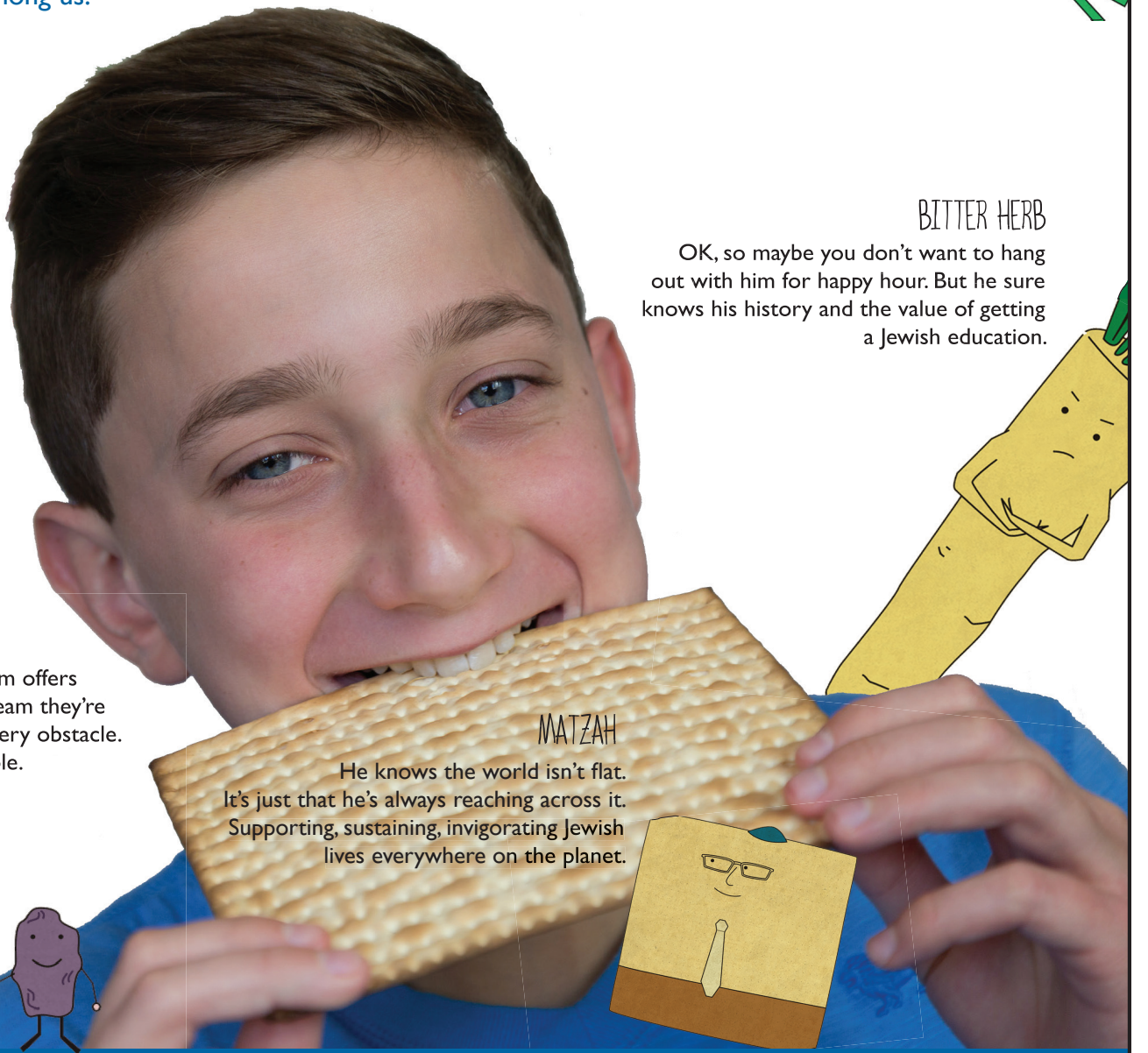
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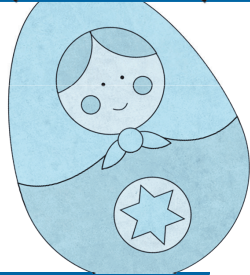


MATZAH

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