

# The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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February 3, 2006

## Inside...



BRIDAL SHOWCASE 2006 special supplement.



OLYMPIC HOPEFULS, see page 11.

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## JFS exec returns to N. Orleans

By Mary Korr  
mkorr@jfri.org

PROVIDENCE — John Shalett left his position as executive director of Jewish Family Service (JFS) last week to return to his native New Orleans and help the city rebuild in the wakes of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

He has taken the job of director of recovery services for Volunteers of America (VOA) in New Orleans. The organization is redistributing \$40 million through four non-profit social service organizations and Shalett will serve as liaison; he will also supervise the team of social workers at VOA in this effort, and develop a new disaster emergency plan for the organization.

He said he feels pulled back to the city where his two sons and their families live — one of his son's home was destroyed in Hurricane Katrina. When he and his wife, Ellen Rae, returned after Katrina, they saw the world they grew up in gone. She described it as "septic tone."

"I felt anger, sadness, shock, depression and a sense of helplessness, of not being able to help from a distance," Shalett said.

Once settled in, he also plans to do what he can to help rebuild the Jewish community there, which he says is a close-knit one; for example, he said, it is not uncommon for families to be members of two synagogues of different denominations. He will volunteer his time and expertise to the Jewish Federation there, as well as to Jewish family services and his temple, Gates of Prayer.

Shalett came to Rhode Island in 2003. At that time the JFS board, with the services of a consultant, "looked inward" at governance and streamlined committees, which resulted in effectiveness and efficiency, he said. In an organization, there has to be a "clear understanding of roles and relationships."

See JFS Exec., page 7

## AFTERSHOCKS: The Hamas challenge



A PALESTINIAN MAN casts his vote at a polling station Jan. 25 in the West Bank village of Anata north of Jerusalem.



PALESTINIAN CHILDREN stand with Hamas and Palestinian flags near the Central Election Committee buildings in Ramallah, Jan. 24. Hamas emerged victorious in the Palestinian parliamentary elections, winning enough seats to form a government.

## Hamas' sweeping win continues to reverberate

By Yehuda Lev

Now that the surprise Hamas tsunami has washed over an amazed world, let us try to forecast what may happen when the dust settles.

If that seems to you like the mother of all mixed metaphors, you are in good company, but it does testify the confusion and uncertainty that the world has felt ever since one million Arab Palestinians cast their votes on Jan. 25 and elected 76 candidates of Hamas to the 132-seat Palestinian Legislative Council. The one thing that can be said for certain is that whatever happened on the 25th, by the morning of the 26th a well-worn political adage had been proven once again: Victory has a thousand fathers, defeat is an orphan.

How did this surprising result come to be? Let's divide our inquiry into three parts. First, what did the world expect from the Palestinians? Second, what actually happened? Finally, where will it lead?

### I. WHAT DID THE WORLD EXPECT?

The polls and the predictions were virtually unanimous: Fatah, the party that developed from the military wing of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), was going to be hand pressed by Hamas, a terrorist group which, for the first time, was involving itself in a political process. Yasser Arafat founded the PLO after the disastrous (by Palestinian accounts) debacle of 1948 and 1967, which ended with Israel in possession of all of Palestine and in control of

### BACKGROUNDER & NEWS ANALYSIS

several million Palestinians. The PLO was an umbrella organization in which Fatah was the largest member and it had provided Palestinian leadership for the past 40 years. Hamas was not a member (it did not come into existence until 1988) but a number of smaller Palestinian groups, some of them highly prone to anti-Israel violence, were allied within the PLO.

1948 and 1967 also demonstrated to the Arab states that Israel was in their midst to stay. All of the high-blown anti-Israel rhetoric about Zionism equaling racism, the boycotts, the omissions on maps and the propagandized classroom textbooks were not about to change that. It would take a military conquest to rid their neighborhood of this embodiment of western imperialism. Egypt and Syria threatened again in 1973 and failed a third time.

The Palestinians also learned from the bitter experiences of 1948 and 1967. In 1968 Arafat and his supporters created the PLO to free the homeland by force as the only viable response to the Israeli occupation. Without going into all of the details, the resistance was a great public relations success and a military failure. Israel began settling its citizens in the Palestinian area, a

See HAMAS, page 16

## Community Calendar

### ONGOING:

Kollel presents: "Tools for Living"

**MON., FEB. 6, 13, 20**  
7:45 - 8:30 p.m. Character development with Rabbi David Schwartz. "Climb the Ladder of

Positive Personality Traits." Necessary to register; call 383-2786 or [www.providencekollel.org](http://www.providencekollel.org)

**WED., FEB. 8, 15, 22**  
8 - 8:45 p.m. Business ethics with Rabbi Jonathan Beck. "Contemporary legal issues in Jewish Law." See above to register.

### SUN., FEB. 5

Judaism for Parents & Kids at Torat Yisrael

10 a.m. Judaism for Parents & kids; a workshop with Colman Reaboi on Shabbat home rituals, including traditional blessings and challah baking. Children

are invited. The temple is at 330 Park Ave., Cranston. For more information, call 785-1800.

### FRI., FEB. 10

**Yiddish shmooz group**  
10 - 11:30 a.m. Jewish Community Center, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Regular Yid-

dish program will also include a member's "Show & Tell" with members reminiscing. All are invited as guests. For more information, call Sue Robbio at 861-8800.

### Torat Yisrael Simchat Shabbat

6 p.m. Simchat Shabbat, a program for young families, with a kid-friendly Shabbat dinner followed by an interactive service with stories, songs and prayers led by the children. Open to the community. \$10 per family. RSVP by Feb. 7 to Temple Torat Yisrael, 785-1800. 330 Park Avenue, Cranston.

### SAT., FEB. 11

#### Author appearance on 'happily married men'

3 to 4:30 p.m. Borders. Providence Place Mall. Barrington author, Dr. Scott Haltzman, book signing, "The Secrets of Happily Married Men." See Bridal section, p. 17.

#### Jewish film festival

7:30 p.m. "Exodus" with Paul Newman & Eva Marie Saint. Touro Synagogue (Levi Gale House), Newport. Sponsored by Temple Shalom of Middletown. For more information, call Leslie Saunders at 846-3099.

### SUN., FEB. 12

#### Author appearance on 'happily married men'

1 to 3 p.m. At Imagine gift and gallery, Main St., Warren. See information Feb. 11 above.

#### Winter barbecue at Torat Yisrael

5 p.m. For family and friends to shake off those winter blues with fun for everyone. \$5 per adult; \$3 children age 10 and under. RSVP by Feb. 7 to the Temple office, 785-1800. The temple is at 330 Park Ave., Cranston.

### MON., FEB. 13

#### Emanu-El Leisure Club

10 - 10:50 a.m. "New Family Structures and the Law," Steve Gordon, Esq.

11:10 a.m. - noon. "Israel and the Protestant Movement," Rev. John Holt.

Both sessions at the temple, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. For more information, call 331-1616.

#### Day School dialogue

7 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. Facilitated by Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer, Dani Steiner and Bill McCarthy. Sponsored by the Committee for Educational Excellence. For more information, call Andrea Katzman, 272-8666 or [info@jeds.org](mailto:info@jeds.org).

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Visit [www.bjeri.org](http://www.bjeri.org) to download your B'nai Tzedek brochure and application



B'nai Tzedek: Teen Philanthropy Rhode Island is funded by the Endowment of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and operates in partnership with the Federation and the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island

## The Jewish Voice & Herald

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### CANDLE LIGHTING For greater Rhode Island

Feb. 3 4:44  
Feb. 10 4:53  
Feb. 17 5:02  
Feb. 24 5:10

# Foundation to match Camp JORI gifts

Program to give camp 50 percent match in funds, up to 200K

By Mary Korr  
mkorr@jfri.org

WAKEFIELD—A Jewish philanthropic organization will provide a 50 percent match for first-time gifts from \$10,000 to \$50,000 made to Camp JORI — up to \$200,000 total.

The camp is one of about 20 Jewish non-profit overnight camps selected in the "Meet Your Match" program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation ([www.hgf.org](http://www.hgf.org)). The philanthropic organization, based in western Massachusetts, has twin goals — to improve overnight Jewish camp facilities and encourage new donors. It has committed \$2 million to the program.

Michael H. Schuster, president of the board of Camp JORI, is thrilled. Support for camps like JORI are important, he said, because "Jewish camps build strong Jewish identities."

On April 1, Grinspoon will make its first disbursements. As of Jan. 12, eight of the camps involved in the match program have raised

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SPLISH SPLASH at Camp JORI last summer

\$672,000 for a matching fund amount of \$246,000.

Donors are stepping up to meet their match — one donor sent a \$100,000 check to a Jewish camp in Madison, Conn., Camp Young Judaea-Tel Yehudah in New York has raised \$280,000 (\$180,000 from one donor) and Camp Ramah in Palmer, Mass., has raised \$110,000.

#### Expansion

During Camp JORI's ongoing capital campaign, \$6 million has been raised, with a goal of an additional \$3 million to complete its facilities by 2009. JORI's new location, situated on a 72-acre waterfront site on Wordens Pond in Wakefield, was acquired several years ago.

Schuster envisions the camp expanding (its membership is currently 300), and being open year round for multiple uses, conferences, family and vacation camps and organization events. Weddings — albeit rustic ones — are not out of the picture.

"We have the largest kosher kitchen south of Boston," Schuster said. The multi-purpose room can be used as a sanctuary with a roll-in Ark, and accommodate 500.

The camp is a legacy with humble origins — that of the Jewish Orphanage of R.I. (JORI).

According to an article written by Seebert J. Goldowsky, M.D., which appeared in the "R.I. Jewish Historical Notes" of Oct. 1959, during the summer the orphanage children would be taken in small groups to Barington beach to swim.

In 1936, the orphanage's board of directors decided to form a camp, which was held on a rental site near Scarborough Beach on Pt. Judith Road. A permanent site was secured the following year. The article states: "Benjamin Brier, chairman of the camp committee, announced the selection of an attractive site at Point Judith, Rhode Island, and early in 1937 acquired this property at a cost of \$4,250. With an additional \$11,355 raised the camp opened its doors July 15, 1937."

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Climb the ladder of positive personality traits

Wednesday nights, Feb 8, 15, & 22 at 8:00 - 8:45 PM

Business ethics with Rabbi Jonathan Beck  
Contemporary legal issues in Jewish Law

In the JCC - 401 Elm Grove Ave

Registration necessary for these classes

To register call 401.383.2786  
or register online at [www.providencekollel.org](http://www.providencekollel.org)



Kollel  
The Providence Kollel

## Opinion

## A MAJORITY OF ONE

## Secrets of Jewish survival revealed!

In a long lifetime of indifference toward Jewish ritual, I have come to the conclusion that the one aspect of Jewish life that I was foolish to reject was *Shabbat*. Not the religious observance of *Shabbat* but the wonderful idea that one day a week should be devoted to family and personal interests. The rest of it, prayers, strict adherence to rules of personal and communal behavior, enforced separation of Jew from gentile through *kashrut* and other laws, all hold no attraction for me.



Yehuda Lev

And what about God? I have my doubts on the subject but I can't prove God's existence neither, it is my belief, can anyone else.

What I can say is that if God is responsible for many of the atrocities I have witnessed or heard about in my life, then God has a great deal to answer for.

As I said, I'm sorry about not picking up on the idea of *Shabbat* but I am too busy worrying about Israel's future

to take on any additional Jewish responsibilities at the moment.

The sure-footed certainty exhibited above came a cropper one day in Los Angeles when, as an editor of the local Jewish newspaper and writer of this column, I received a letter of complaint from a 17 year old student at a women's Orthodox high school. In very polite but forceful terms she refuted a column I had written that included much of the above. We published her letter of course, and in my response I offered to meet with her classmates. To my amazement the offer was accepted.

To put it bluntly, they strung me up and left me turning in the wind. It took a while; the class was scheduled for 50 minutes but two hours later we were still discussing the matter, only now in the dining room before additional faculty and students. The central issue revolved around my daughter, then ten and a student at a Solomon Schechter day school. The question they raised, and which I could not answer even to my own satisfaction, was how do I intend to transmit to my children any reason for wanting to remain within the Jewish community?

I proposed Zionism, love for Israel, and while the class shared that sentiment they didn't think it would appeal to many of their peers. I suggested that there is a sense of community uniting Jews based on a shared history, shared interests and shared values. They agreed but raised the same objection. I tried an end run. "Jews help each other and accept responsibility for one another, much like a family." Yes, they agreed, but so do Mormons and fundamentalists and cult followers.

Then I struck back. "If Judaism meets your needs so well, why are so many of your generation walking away from it?" They had answers: Young people face many temptations in this society, parents are indifferent, being Jewish requires effort and study, youth do not know their history and more. Studying where they do, all of these objections are met but then the considerable cost of being Jewish becomes a factor. I departed the school in a chastened mood and wrote a full report in the next column.

That topic, those questions, are the most existential issues in American Jewish life today. Some are satisfied if

the future Jewish community is limited to those who live the Orthodox life style and see Judaism as the small flame that keeps Judaism alive until the Messiah appears. But many a small, if devout sect has disappeared into the void and Jews cannot always claim exemption from the laws of nature.

If Judaism is to survive as anything more than the remnants of an exotic sect, it will have to open its doors wide to those who wish to join us. The Reform Movement is already accepting either Jewish parent as the determinant of the Jewishness of a child. The Conservatives will invariably be next. If the Orthodox rabbinate continues to set difficult standards for conversion, the bright young women with whom I debated in Los Angeles will be increasingly isolated in their small but ideologically pure world.

My daughter, on the other hand, is preparing for her Jewish wedding to a Conservative convert. She will have plenty of company along the way.

*Yehuda Lev is a retired journalist who has worked in Israel, Europe and the United States. He lives in Providence.*

## The Miner's tragedy and the Orthodox silence

By Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz

An Edah resource, a modern Orthodox organization

The dual tragedies of the Sago mine explosion and the Alma mine fire, which left 14 dead, had a powerful impact on public opinion. Immediately after these disasters, there were calls for reexamining mining procedures, and finding new ways to upgrade mine safety.

As might be expected, however, Jewish organizations stayed silent. Mine safety is not considered a "Jewish" issue. This parochialism is perhaps forgivable in secular Jewish organizations whose entire purpose is to protect specifically Jewish interests. But I find it disturbing that the religious organizations, particularly from my own community, the Orthodox, have not spoken up.

Mine safety is an important religious issue — safety is a religious obligation. The Bible requires that a roof be properly gated to prevent people from falling off it. The Talmud understands this commandment as a general directive to remove any safety hazard. The late chief Rabbi of Israel, Rabbi Ben Zion Uziel, included in this commandment the employer's responsibility to ensure occupational safety, and the late leader of the Edah HaHaredit, Rabbi Yitzchak Isaac Weiss, saw this commandment as an injunction against reckless driving.

So why are Orthodox Jews silent? Regrettably, the silence on mine safety can be traced to a false dichotomy between the ethical and the ritual held by some in the Orthodox community. They see ritual requirements, such as the kosher laws and the Sabbath, as "true" Judaism and underemphasize Judaism's ethical and humane requirements.

In addition, we ignore what the late head of the Rabbinic Council of America, Rabbi Walter Wurzberger called "an ethic of responsibility," by which he meant the need for committed Jews to take responsibility for the world politically, ethically, and economically.

This false dichotomy between the ethical and ritual is not new. Amos and Isaiah react to unethical people who want to buy God's favor by performing the ritual of sacrifices. The prophets denounce this hypocrisy and explain that God despises the sacrifices of unethical people. Rather, according to the prophets, God asks man to "learn to do well, seek justice, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, and plead for the widow."

Unfortunately, we have internalized the Hollywood view of Judaism. Because we are obviously different than the rest of society, we imagine the primary purpose of Judaism is simply to be different. This is why mundane topics like safety and ethics are neglected; after all, being ethical isn't all that exotic.

Even influential Jewish thinkers are vulnerable to this misconception. In a recent article in *The Jerusalem Post*, an important Orthodox writer argued, "if Judaism was merely a good-deeds religion there would be nothing to differentiate us from many

secularists and people of other faiths...this is not what Judaism is primarily about. Our religion is about Torah and mitzvot, about obedience and limitations." Sadly, this writer unwittingly provides the recipe for a narrow Judaism more interested in being different than in being good.

As both Rabbi Akiva and Hillel emphasize, however, ethics are the foundation of Judaism. Yet this emphasis does not devalue the Torah's rituals. Instead, combined with ethics, these rituals become part of a powerful, meaningful whole. Judaism is not about being exotic — it's about being holy. Defining Judaism solely by being different puts us in danger of becoming caricatures of ourselves.

Indeed, many great Rabbis hold a broad view of Judaism. Rabbi Yehuda Amital, the former Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivat Har Etzion, was once asked what position he would seek if he were asked to join the Israeli cabinet. He explained he would want to be minister of Health, because Halacha demands one to be more stringent about health than any other religious requirement. The late Klausenberger Rebbe, Rabbi Yekusiel Halberstam, saw treating other human beings with great compassion as his legacy and made it his life's work to open a hospital in the city of Netanya. To these Rabbis, safety and ethics were not at all secular concerns.

*Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz is the spiritual leader of Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem in Montreal, Quebec, and is a member of Edah's editorial board.*

## Thanks from Judea Pearl

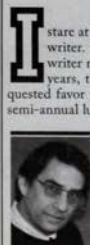
We are proud to share this update on the activities of the Daniel Pearl Foundation ([danielpearl.org](http://danielpearl.org)) and we'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest.

We welcome your suggestions and ideas.

Among the contents is the announcement of the awarding of the 2006 Daniel Pearl Fellowships. The Foundation has chosen Ghanshyam Ojha of Nepal and Shahid Shah of Pakistan. Ojha is currently a senior reporter at the Kathmandu Post in Nepal, covering politics and human rights. In his role as Daniel Pearl Fellow, he will be working at the North Adams Transcript/Berkshire Eagle newspapers, where Danny began his career as a reporter. Shah, business reporter for the News International in Karachi, will be based at the Washington, D.C., bureau of the Wall Street Journal.

With deep gratitude,  
Judes and Ruth Pearl

## Introducing new columnist (with old Olivetti)



**Josh  
Stein**

I stare at the beast that is the blank page in my Olivetti portable electric typewriter. On the day he closed shop for lack of business years ago, my typewriter repair man told me that I was the last of his customers, had been for years, though I'd not known it, that he had been hanging on, as an unrequited favor to me, his only customer, only to service my machine, to give it its semi-annual lube job, to change its platen, to supply me with ribbons. But now he could no longer do it. Rents were rising, the stock market crash (he had speculated heavily in the dot-com boom) had nearly bankrupted him. He was moving to Florida to be with his daughter and grandchildren. As a parting gift, he gave me his remaining stock of No. 5 black top/red bottom ribbons. After he locked up the shop for the last time, we walked to the ironically named "Last Chance Saloon," that old haunt of the freelance writer, now closed as well. There we toasted the typewriter and cursed the word processor on cheap bourbon.

And now, all these years later, the machine purrs, the keys under my fingers are awaiting the stimulus of neurons clicking, synapses connecting. I've been asked to write a regular column for the *Jewish Voice and Herald*, something like the weekly letters I've been sending to friends and relatives (not necessarily a mutually exclusive pairing) for the past couple of decades, and vanity being my chief (though not exclusive) vice, I've accepted the opportunity. Abe Rosenthal began his *New York Times* Op-Ed stint with the bold plea: "PLEASE READ THIS COLUMN!" I begin, not knowing what to say in my introduction. My wife, she who is the font of all my inspirations, suggests, "Why don't you tell them who you are and what you believe. Then, in weeks to come, they can judge the perspective." Smart woman. Here goes: Chronologically, though not in order of importance, I'm a history professor, a husband and a father. I've been living in Rhode Island since 1969 and am just beginning to be accepted by natives as a potential citizen. I must admit, though, that if ever I'm allowed to join the club, it will be under false pretenses. I never understood the magic of Salty Brine nor of the "No school, Foster-Gloecster," which will always mark me as an outsider; I've never been to the malls in Warwick without getting lost; and I don't even know where Burrillville is. I do, however, give directions using phrases such as, "Turn left where the Almax used to be."

In politics I'm a liberal, though I disagree with other liberals on abortion; this marks me as an outsider again. I'm ardently pro-Israel, but do not agree with all that the various governments of Israel have done. I agree with Samuel Johnson that "a decent provision for the poor is the true test of civilization." I believe with Adam Smith, that philosopher of capitalism, that value is given to a product by the labor that goes into it. I believe that the Enlightenment in France and in England were the high-water marks of western civilization. I believe in the idea of the United States of America though not always with its policies or constitutional procedures. I believe with Thomas Jefferson that the pursuit of happiness is an inalienable right of man, though its achievement is not guaranteed. I believe that the wall separating religion and secular society ought to be as high and as impenetrable as possible to protect each from the encroachments of the other.

So, that's who I am. I sit here with my Olivetti portable electric, that modern equivalent of a quill pen, and I write to you. I hope you will take another piece of Samuel Johnson's advice to heart when you read these essays — "If a man does not make new acquaintances as he advances through life, he will soon find himself left alone." I hope to be your new acquaintance. PLEASE READ THESE COLUMNS!

Oh, one more thing. In future columns when you read an expressed opinion, it is truly mine; when you read about a public person, I believe that what I write is true; when you read about me, it is true, but it may be coincidental. For instance, while I do own an Olivetti portable electric typewriter, I've not used it in a decade.

*Joshua Stein is a professor of history at Roger Williams University and is a member of the Jewish Voice & Herald editorial board and past chair.*

## Submission guidelines

Submissions must be signed and include city of residence and telephone number. Letters should be limited to 250 words, and Viewpoint pieces to 700 words. Submissions may be edited for length. Send submissions to: Jewish Voice & Herald, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906, or E-mail to: voiceherald@jfri.org.

## VIEWPOINT

# Judaism's real three 'Rs': Relevance, routine and return

By Anselm Strauss

In the Jan. 6 issue of the *Jewish Voice & Herald*, Yehuda Lev pointed out in his article that Conservative Judaism is slowly diminishing. Furthermore, he suggested that if Orthodox Judaism does not "accept and acknowledge" change there will develop an unbridgeable gap between Orthodox Jews and everyone else. This, he feels, can be avoided if Orthodoxy joins in with what the rest of American Judaism is doing: developing a revised form of Judaism relevant to life in the 21st century.

I grew up a Conservative Jew in Massachusetts. There were 17 students in my Hebrew School class, which we went to every day after public school.

Our teachers were old, often foreign with thick accents and no idea of how to handle children. Needless to say, it was a disaster. Of the 17 students in my class there is only one who today does anything remotely Jewish. There is only one who regularly attends services. There is only one who keeps kosher. There is only one who is involved with Jewish community life. There is only one whose son moved to Israel. I am that one. In addition, my hometown synagogue was recently sold to Mormons who now use it as a church, so there is no longer a Conservative synagogue in my town and the people who used to go to shul, (a few walked) all now drive to another city if they want to attend services.

Why did this happen? The first "R" is Relevance. Judaism must be relevant to each child and adult. It has to matter; it can't be just a superficial ritual. If your only understanding of Hanukkah is potato latkes and lighting candles, you've missed the point. What about the concept relating to increasing or decreasing holiness that we learn from the menorah; or so many other important lessons from our traditions?

The second "R" is Routine. There is no such thing as a "weekend Jew." There has to be a daily Jewish routine. From the minute one wakes up in the morning there are customs, practices and prayers to be said. Not just on Saturday, not just one day — but every day and all day. And at night who is learning? Who is studying Talmud? Who is studying Torah?

The final "R" is Return. Rather than suggest we reform or retreat — that we blend in and become 21st century Jews — we need to do just the opposite. We need to return to our roots, to the ways of our ancestors. We need to return to the Almighty! The Pesach Hagadah says that we're distinguishable in Egypt and tradition explains that we kept our Hebrew names, we kept our language, and we kept our style of dress. A "revised form of Judaism" is the surest way to destroy our people. If you fill a bathtub with lukewarm water when you go to bathe, the most you can hope for is a lukewarm bath. If you fill the tub with steaming hot water, you'll get a steaming

hot bath. If we want Judaism to endure we must reach our children the ideas, lessons, examples and stories that are filled with the fire of true Judaism, not a lukewarm, convenient, made-up brand of our religion.

Maybe we should turn to the people who know, like Conservative Rabbi James Lebeau, the former rabbi of my home town. He helped build the Conservative yeshiva in Jerusalem called the Fuchsberg Center. Rabbi Lebeau realizes that learning is essential to all branches of Judaism. So my answer to the problems of the Conservative Jews is — instead of being American Jews, become Jewish Americans. It all depends on where you put your priorities.

*Anselm Strauss lives in East Providence.*

## Letters to the editor

### A plea for Shaare Tzedek

As a former resident and 72-year attendee at Shaare Tzedek, I read with great interest and deep sadness of the closing of my shul and that of my beloved parents, AH Isadore and Molly Cohen.

That synagogue has held many good memories for me as well as the rest of the South Providence community, so that when I read the "putting Shaare Tzedek to rest" headline, it brought to mind again the passing of my beloved parents who all of the community knew and loved so well. Even though I moved from Providence 43 years ago, I have come back each year to attend Rosh Hashanah services with my mother and, as of 23 years ago, with my son Joshua Abraham Cohen, who treasured the aliyahs given him by dear Mr. Margolis.

It seems sad that with so many active Jewish families, no one has come forward to save our beloved shul. I am sure that funds, even from those of us who have moved away, would be forthcoming to perform the necessary repairs to keep this magnificent and gracious house of God open. If we repair it and continue with open doors, "they will come and they will dawn."

This past Rosh Hashanah there were 14 men and four or five women in attendance. On the second day, there were 10 men, yes a minyan (my son the 10th man), and four women present. Shaare Tzedek is not forgotten, please don't let it crumble or fall into the hands of strangers! It deserves more for the joy and simchas which the congregation enjoyed when first we were five congregations, then when we merged into one.

Please, Jews of Rhode Island, no matter where you live, do not forsake our Shaare Tzedek.

Shalom and Laylatot,  
**Gloria Golda Cohen**  
South Providence

## Community

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Join us on  
February 3<sup>rd</sup>,  
and every  
first Friday  
monthly!



Photo by Jonathan Rubin

SUSAN ADLER, right, of the Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island, meets with Sydelle Rozbrach and Falco Deingenis about their Medicare plans.

## Making sense of today's Medicare madness

By Jonathan Rubin  
[jrubin@jfri.org](mailto:jrubin@jfri.org)

CRANSTON — Sydelle Rozbrach is a senior citizen who's done her homework on Medicare Part D. She's read books. She's watched TV news reports. She's been to seminars. But the piles of data kept getting higher and higher, and some information kept changing or seeming contradictory. Would she still be covered after May 15, and how much would she be getting? What's this "donut hole" everyone's talking about?

Susan Adler, director of Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island (JERI), has a suggestion for those in mental anguish over medicines:

"Stop reading all the information out there!" Then, take two deep breaths. Then stop running around and get your "medical information in one-stop-shopping," and for free, no less.

Adler and JERI will be giving seniors a hand and to make the myriad choices and potential penalties for lateness a little less harrowing. It's a program organized through the R.I. Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Elderly

(RIPAE), the state-sponsored drug plan for seniors.

Rozbrach spends more than \$1,000 a year on medical coverage. She currently doesn't take medications, but, as she puts it, "you don't know how your medical life will change in a year or two."

She and her friend, Falco Deingenis, heard about the program at Jewish Family Service's Kosher Meals at Temple Torat Yisrael. They meet with Adler at Torat one afternoon.

Adler was able to give them updated Medicare information — she receives training and reports regularly from the R.I. Department of Elderly Affairs. She took some information from them both — age, income, medical history — and talked about the pros and cons of the different plans.

In less than an hour, Adler had plans recommended for both of them. "Both of you will see a savings right off the bat," she said.

Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island, a program of Jewish Seniors Agency, will be holding office hours at various locations. Some home visits may be possible. For more information, call 621-5374.

The Women's Alliance of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island  
and the  
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present  
The 5766 Rosh Hodesh Series  
Women of Valor: How do they relate to our lives?

February 28 • March 30  
30 Shevat (Adar) • 1 Nisan

### FEBRUARY *Shevat (Adar)*

Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2006  
Time: Noon - 1:30 pm  
Location: Temple Am David  
40 Gardiner Street  
Warwick, RI  
Cost: \$14.00; lunch included  
Presenter: Frieda Soble, Executive Director  
R.I. Holocaust Museum

#### *Hannah Senesh: A Brave Soldier, A Talented Poet*

Many know Hannah Senesh as the poet who wrote "Eli, Eli, Shelo Yigamer Lolan" ("My God my God, I Pray That These Things Never End"). But she was also a heroine who sacrificed her life. Learn about this diarist, poet, playwright and parachutist in the Jewish resistance during World War II.

### MARCH *Nisan*

Date: Thursday, March 30, 2006  
Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm  
Location: Temple Emanuel-El  
99 Talt Avenue  
Providence, RI  
Cost: \$5.00; dessert included  
Presenter: Rabbi Serena Eisenberg,  
Executive Director,  
Brown Hillel Foundation

#### *The Daughters of Zelophehad: The Earliest Jewish Feminists?*

The book of Numbers describes a unique story of five daughters who petition Moses to request inheritance of their father's tribal territory. Moses seeks divine guidance, and God allows that the daughters of Zelophehad have a right and just cause to inherit. Together let us explore this story and celebrate the courage of these biblical sisters!

Please return the form below to RSVP

- Monday, January 30: "Gluck of Hameln" Noon - 1:30 p.m. at Temple Emanuel-El  
Cost: \$14 per person (lunch included)
- Tuesday, February 28: "Hannah Senesh" Noon - 1:30 p.m. at Temple Am David  
Cost: \$14 per person (lunch included)
- Thursday, March 30: "The Daughters of Zelophehad" 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Temple Emanuel-El  
Cost: \$5 per person (dessert included)
- Enclosed is my check payable to JFRI for \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the cost of the sessions I will attend.

Mail check and form to: Jewish Federation of RI, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906 Attn: Rosh Hodesh Series.

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

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## Community

### JFS EXEC.

From page 1



Photo by Mary Korr

ERIN MINIOR confers with John Shalett, who has left his post as executive director at Jewish Family Service. Minior has been named interim exec.

He said the endowment is in sound order (about \$2.5 million), and in growth mode. A child and family therapist, and a director of development, are now on staff. In addition, delivery of home care services has been enhanced, in collaboration with the Jewish Seniors Agency (82 percent of their clients are Jewish).

"JFS is in a healthy place," he said and foresees a smooth transition. Erin Minior, director of placement services, will serve as interim director.

Last week, at one of Shalett's final meetings, a task force was established by the Federation to study further collaborative possibilities among the JCC, JFS and JSA, all now headed by interim executives.

### Collaborative brunch and learn

NARRAGANSETT — On Sunday, Feb. 12, the Jewish Collaborative of Southern RI, presents Dr. Norm Zucker, who will discuss "A Small Courtyard and a Long Whip: Roma Life in the Post-Communist Era." A dairy brunch begins at 10 a.m. For directions, call 783-7453.

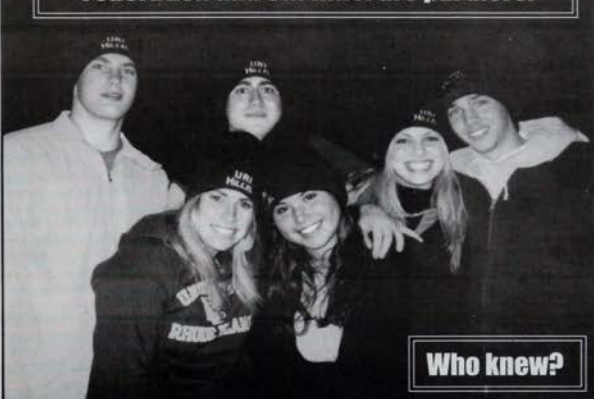
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Give generously to the 2006 JFRI campaign and invest in your future and the future of our Jewish community. You can give directly and immediately through a gift to the campaign, or you can ensure that you continue to build a strong community after you are gone through an annual campaign endowment that funds your annual campaign pledge in perpetuity.

To volunteer or learn about community programs, visit our web site at [www.jfri.org](http://www.jfri.org) or call 401.421.4111.



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**TEMPLE EMANU-EL**, Providence, RI, ([www.teprov.org](http://www.teprov.org)) seeks Executive Director to start July 1, 2006. The Executive Director works closely with lay leadership, Officers, Board of Trustees, and clergy. Serves as chief administrative officer of congregation.

**RESPONSIBLE** for overseeing programs, resources, policies, and procedures necessary to the spiritual, financial and organizational well-being of the synagogue. Provides day-to-day management of the temple's fiscal and administrative affairs, and supervises all administrative, clerical and building maintenance personnel. Must be highly visible, maintain a strong community presence, and promote growth, vibrancy and essential character of the synagogue.

**TEMPLE EMANU-EL** is a traditional, egalitarian congregation with over 1,000 households, is affiliated with the Conservative movement (USCJ) and its New England Region, has an unusually large endowment, a large facility and a \$2 million annual budget.

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## Community

# Touro to complete restoration with gift from Bazarsky family

NEWPORT — Touro Synagogue has raised the remaining funds to completely restore the country's oldest synagogue thanks to a major donation from the Bazarsky family of Newport. The donation essentially completes the \$2.8 million needed for the synagogue restoration, which is part of a \$10 million project to add a world-class education center and visitors center to the property, creating a campus-like setting for the Touro Street gem.

A lifelong member of Touro, David Bazarsky became president of the congregation in 1992, and helped foster the vision of a completely restored synagogue. Dedicated in 1763, the Georgian synagogue that was designed by Peter Harrison, America's foremost colonial architect, had fallen into drastic disrepair.

"We had a goal to totally restore and endow the synagogue," said Bazarsky, who served as president for 12 years. "That would be the legacy of our generation."

The goal was actively shared by Donna Pimental, vice president and chairman of the Touro Building and Grounds Committee. The synagogue, which has been a construction site since May 2005, suffered from an eroding foundation, moisture and mold within the walls and foundation,

**"And this generous gift was really the light at the end of the tunnel."**

deteriorating brick joints, and failing mechanical systems.

"It's been an incredible journey," Pimental said of the 12 years she has worked with Bazarsky to restore the 242-year-old landmark, which will be rededicated Memorial Day weekend. "And this generous gift was really the light at the end of the tunnel."

What was unique about the Bazarsky gift was that in addition to the donation, the family provided abundant leadership, according to Dr. Alan Feinberg of Newport. Feinberg reiterated that it was under Bazarsky's leadership that the plan was launched to restore the synagogue, build separate education and visitors centers, and redesign Patriots Park.

"With his family's gift we're able to see this restoration through to fruition," said Dr. Feinberg. "We are proud that our local community has been able to restore the synagogue."

For many at Touro, this gift has special meaning because it comes from a local family of

the congregation. The Bazarsky family's bond with Touro dates back more than a century when Bazarsky's grandfather, Samuel Berman, served as president. David's father, Samuel Z. Bazarsky, was past president of the Touro Foundation. His mother, Beatrice Berman Bazarsky, of Middletown, R.I., and Sarasota, Fla., has been a lifelong member and contributor.

A worldwide symbol of freedom standing vigilant against intolerance, Touro Synagogue is the oldest synagogue in North America and the destination for more than 30,000 visitors every year. The synagogue attracts a diversity of people from around the globe, a testament to its ageless beauty and a remarkable history steeped in religious freedom.

Touro Synagogue was designated a National Historic Site in 1946, the first religious structure so honored. It was added to the collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 2001, again, it was the first religious structure so honored. Save America's Treasures has selected Touro Synagogue as an official project.

For more information, contact Michael Balaban, executive director, 401.847.4794, ext. 31.



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Immigrants, and their Recollections at the  
Turn of the Twentieth Century"**

\*"Darkest Russia" refers to a London-based periodical devoted to Russia and the persecution of Jews.

MONDAY, February 13, 2006

Time: 8:00 P.M.

Place: Hillel House  
80 Brown Street

(on the corner of Brown and Angell Streets)

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**Nation****Brandeis backs Palestinian scholar**

WASHINGTON (JTA) — A Palestinian academic affiliated with Brandeis University dismissed allegations that he is linked to Islamic Jihad, and says he's not worried about attempts to persuade Jewish groups to cut him off.

Khalil Shikaki's employment at the Boston-area, Jewish-sponsored university came under fire from the Zionist Organization of America, which called on donors to reconsider their relationship with Brandeis. ZOA alleged that Shikaki distributed funds on behalf of figures associated with Islamic Jihad.

Shikaki flatly denied this. "There was no transfer of funds," he told JTA on Jan. 19. Shikaki, who heads the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research in Ramallah in the West Bank, co-teaches a course at Brandeis on peacemaking with an Israeli and an Egyptian academic.

He told JTA that the FBI interviewed him in 2003, showing him transcripts of 1995 conversations with Sameeh Hammoudeh, who was acquitted Dec. 6 in a Florida court of charges that he helped fund the Palestinian terrorist group.

Shikaki said the conversations, secretly recorded by the FBI, concerned funds for an orphanage in the West Bank city of Nablus run by his in-laws. The

FBI never contacted him again, he said. His efforts to fund the orphanage came from "a personal desire to help people," Shikaki said. The government argued in its case against Hammoudeh and three others that "orphaneages" was a codeword for Islamic Jihad, an organization led by Shikaki's brother Fathi until he was slain by Israeli agents in Malta in 1995.

An FBI spokesman refused to comment on the matter. The revelation of the tapped conversations in the New York Sun this week led the ZOA and some individuals to call on Brandeis, a university with a strong Jewish donor base, to cut off Shikaki.

The ZOA urged donors to reconsider their support for Brandeis "unless the university responds appropriately," it said in a statement. Brandeis says it is standing by Shikaki, noting that U.S. law enforcement never pursued any action against him.

"We believe that we still live in a country where people are presumed innocent until proven guilty," Brandeis President Jehuda Reinharz said in a statement. "If we have any real evidence against this individual, then they should bring it forward. The university has complete faith in the United States' law enforcement agencies, and no charges have ever been brought against Professor Shikaki. Should

something arise in the future, the university will take that into account and act accordingly."

Morton Klein, ZOA's president, said the university's standard was too low. The standard shouldn't be "innocent until proven guilty." That's woefully inadequate, Klein told JTA.

"There should be no taint at all."

Stephen Flatow, whose daughter Alisa, a Brandeis alumna, was killed in a 1995 Islamic Jihad terrorist attack in the Gaza Strip, also criticized the university, the Forward reported, though he stopped short of endorsing a boycott.

Shikaki, whose polls have uncovered strains of moderation among Palestinian voters, say he often has been the target of such campaigns by supporters of Israel who oppose compromise with the Palestinians. Another such campaign did not prevent him from addressing the American Israel Public Affairs Committee policy conference in 2004, he said.

"I'm aware of people who have tried to prevent American Jewish groups from associating with me," he said. "In all cases, they have failed."

He suggested that such groups fear Palestinian moderation will hasten Israeli withdrawals from land the Palestinians claim.

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Weekday

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## Nation

## 2006 OLYMPICS

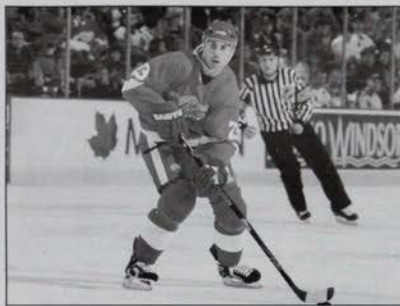
## Hockey star off to Olympics

NEW YORK (JTA) — Mathieu Schneider's father calls him "the Wandering Jew."

And while, historically speaking, most Jews haven't done their wandering on ice skates, it's not difficult to see how the term applies to Schneider. Over the course of his 17-year National Hockey League career, he's played in seven different cities, several of them more than once.

Currently a star defenseman for the Detroit Red Wings, Schneider, 36, told JTA. "I feel as though I've been a role model in each city that I've played in. There are very few Jewish hockey players, and it's been a nice role for me and I've really enjoyed it."

This month, Schneider will be suiting up for another trip this one to Turin, Italy, where the "Wandering Jew" will strap on his skates as a member of the U.S. Olympic Hockey Team. It's the second time Schneider will be representing the United States on Olympic ice — and this time, Schneider says, he's hoping to just enjoy the experience.



Credit: Detroit Red Wings

MATHIEU SCHNEIDER of the Detroit Red Wings and the U.S. Olympic Hockey Team.

## Jewish Olympic contenders

NEW YORK (JTA) — There are more Jewish athletes who compete in the Summer Olympics than the Winter Games, but there are still a number participating in the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy, which run from Feb. 10-Feb. 26. Among them are medal contenders Sasha Cohen, Ben Agosto and the ice-dancing team of Galit Chait and Sergei Sakhnovski. Here are some Jewish athletes expected to compete:

- Ben Agosto, U.S. (skating)
- Galit Chait and Sergei Sakhnovski, Israel (skating)
- Sasha Cohen (skating), U.S.
- Melissa Gregory, U.S. (ice dancing)
- Michael Renzin, Israel (skiing)
- Mathieu Schneider (hockey), U.S.
- Jamie Silverstein, U.S. (skating)
- Alexandra and Roman Zaretski, Israel (skating)

## Beth David, S.C. Hebrew to merge

NARRAGANSETT — Congregation Beth David and the South County Hebrew School have entered into discussions for the purpose of determining the manner in which a formal affiliation can best be developed. Both groups are working together to identify and resolve any legal, economic, and practical issues associated with this merger, all with a goal toward formalizing this relationship at the time in which a new synagogue is built on the center property. Issues include dues structure, budgeting, and resources.

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

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where would you go for help?**

The Domestic Violence Task Force of the National Council of Jewish Women, RI Section has created a safety net in synagogues throughout the state ready to help you with resources and referrals.

The staffs have been trained by the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

You can choose any in the following list.

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**Congregation B'nai Israel**  
224 Prospect Street, Woonsocket 762-3651

**Temple Am David** 46 Gardner Street, Warwick 463-7944  
Cantor Richard Perlman

**Temple Beth-El** 70 Orchard Avenue, Providence 331-6070  
Rabbi Leslie Y. Guterman, Rabbi Sarah Mack

**Temple Emanu-El** 99 Taft Avenue, Providence 331-1616  
Rabbi Wayne Franklin, Rabbi Alan Kaufner

**Temple Hahonim** 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington 245-6536  
Rabbi James B. Rosenberg

**Temple Sinai** 30 Hagen Avenue, Cranston 942-3260  
Rabbi Peter Stein

**Temple Torat Yisrael** 330 Park Avenue, Cranston 785-1800  
Rabbi Amy Levin

**And in case of emergency,  
call the hotline at 800-494-8100.**

**For counseling call  
Jewish Family Service at 401-331-1244**



**Your safety is important to us all.**

## CALENDAR

From page 2

### MON., FEB. 13

#### Brown Hillel lecture on leaving Russia

8 p.m. Arthur B. and David B. Jacobson annual lecture. Prof. Steven J. Zipperstein of Stanford University will speak: "On Leaving Darkest Russia: Jewish Immigrants and their Recollections at the Turn of the Twentieth Century." The lecture is free and open to the public. Hillel is at 80 Brown St., corner of Brown and Angell Sts., Providence.

### TUES., FEB. 14

#### East Greenwich Lunch & Learn

Noon to 1:30 p.m. Learn about contemporary issues in the light of Jewish sources while lunching with Rabbi Amy Levin at The Grille on Main, 50 Main St., East Greenwich. Study session on "How Should We Behave Toward Street Beggars?" is free of charge; lunch will be ordered individually. RSVP by Feb. 13 to Temple Torat Yisrael, 785-1800.

#### Blood drive at Hahonim

2 - 7 p.m. At the temple, 165 New Meadow Rd., Barrington. For more information, call the R.I. Blood Center, 1-800-283-8385 or www.ricb.org.

### THURS., FEB 16

#### Emanu-El Leisure Club

10 - 10:50 a.m. "Mars and Stars," Prof. Liz Bozyan or the URI Physics Dept. and Director of the URI Planetarium.

11:10 a.m. - noon "Yehuda Amichai's Poem: El Malei," Rabbi James Rosenberg of Temple Hahonim, Barrington.

### FRI., FEB. 17

#### Temple Sinai Seniors

Noon Lunch and movie: "Paper Clips," a documentary about students in rural Tennessee who responded to lessons about the Holocaust by collecting 6 million paper clips. Reservations a must by Fri, Feb. 10. Members, free, non-members, \$5. Call Baila at 461-6124 or Fran at 942-7796.

### SAT., FEB. 18

#### Agudas Achim special Shabbat

9 - 9:40 a.m. "Tor Shabbat" for children under six and parents. Stories, songs, Torah-time and snack. To be held on the 3rd Sat. of each month.

7 p.m. "Havdalah Happening." Christine Crowder will

describe her search for Romanian Jewish music. Bring a dessert to share. Third Sat. of each month with different programs. Both programs at the synagogue, 901 No. Main St., Attleboro. For more information, call (508) 222-2243 or rabbi@agudasma.org or website www.agudasma.org. See Community.

### Mon., Feb. 20

#### Holocaust program on Jewish resistance

9:30 a.m. - noon. Program/workshop on Jewish resistance, to be presented by museum director Frieda Soble at the R.I. Holocaust Museum, Jewish Community Center, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. \$5 donation suggested. Packet of materials and snacks provided. To register, call 453-7860. See Community.

**SEND US YOUR CALENDAR LISTINGS** — include time, date, location and telephone number. Notices must be received 2 weeks prior to publication date. E-mail to: [voiceherald@jfri.org](mailto:voiceherald@jfri.org); Fax to: 401-331-7961, or mail to: Jewish Voice & Herald, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906 — Attn: Calendar

### Correction

The obituary for Rabbi Philip Kaplan that was listed in our Jan. 20 issue accidentally omitted one of the listings where donations can be sent. They can also be sent to Congregation Ohawe Sholam, 671 East Avenue, Pawtucket RI 02860.

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## World Briefs



Coretta Scott King with Rabbi Marc Schneier.

## Jews remember King

Jewish leaders mourned the death of Coretta Scott King, who died Tuesday at age 78. King, the widow of Martin Luther King Jr., "continued her husband's legacy of strengthening Black-Jewish relations," said Rabbi Marc Schneier, president of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding. She "fought for the civil rights of Jews, and she supported issues and concerns of the Jewish community," particularly the State of Israel. Schneier said Leah Rabin, widow of the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, told him that the most comforting letter she got after her husband's assassination was from King.

## Playwright

## Wasserstein dies

Wendy Wasserstein, an award-winning playwright who wrote about women's challenges in contemporary life, died Monday at age 55. Wasserstein, who won a Pulitzer Prize in 1989 for "The Heidi Chronicles," had battled cancer.

U.N. marks  
Holocaust Day

The United Nations marked its first-ever Holocaust Remembrance Day last Friday. "We sound an alarm, a call to arms and a wake-up call to the world, a world in which a member state of this organization denies the Holocaust while it prepares the next one," Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Dan Gilerman, told a General Assembly hall packed with Holocaust survivors, Jewish and Israeli officials and other members of the Jewish community.

Bronfman  
laid to rest

Andrea Bronfman was laid to rest on Jerusalem's Mountain of Olives. Acting Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and former Prime Minister Shimon Peres joined mourners last Friday at the Gan Hashoshanim park in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Talbieh. The wife of Canadian billionaire Charles Bronfman,

she was killed last week in New York City when she was hit by a taxi while walking her dog. Widely known as Andy, Bronfman was described by friends and colleagues as a model for "active philanthropy" who dedicated herself to Israel, Jewish education and the arts. She was a founder of the birthright Israel program.

## 'Munich' nominated

Steven Spielberg's "Munich" was nominated for five Oscars, including best picture. "Munich," which tells the story of Israel's retribution for the massacre of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympic Games, also was nominated Tuesday in the editing, adapted screenplay and music categories, and Spielberg was nominated as best director. Jake Gyllenhaal was nominated for best supporting actor for his role in "Brokeback Mountain." In the best screenplay category, Woody Allen was nominated for "Match Point" and

Noah Baumbach was nominated for "The Squid and the Whale." Two films of interest to the Jewish community were nominated for best foreign-language film: "Paradise Now," which focuses on two Palestinian suicide bombers, and "Sophie Scholl: The Final Days," which depicts the only woman at the core of the underground German wartime resistance group known as the White Rose. Britain's Rachel Weisz, the daughter of wartime Jewish refugees, received a best supporting actress nomination for her role in "The Constant Gardener." The Oscars will be given out March 5.

## Alito confirmed

Samuel Alito was confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court. Alito was confirmed 58-42 by the U.S. Senate Tuesday, and was sworn in before President Bush's State of the Union address Tuesday evening. Alito was opposed by several American Jewish groups, including the Union for Reform Judaism and the National Council of Jewish Women, who believed his positions on abortion and the separation of church and state were too conservative. Alito received the endorsement of Agudath Israel of America. He replaces Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

## Settlers riot

Scores of settlers stormed an Israeli army base in the West Bank. No one was hurt in Tuesday's confrontation at the Ofra settlement's garrison, which appeared aimed at derailing the planned evacuation of Amona, an illegal outpost nearby.

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## ARTS &amp; CRAFTS

## TREE FEST TAKES ROOT

By Charlotte Sheer

Tu Bi-Sh'vat, the Jewish New Year for trees, occurs on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Sh'vat. Although it is mid-February in America, with planting and pruning season still several months away, in Israel it is early springtime. The almond trees begin to show their light pink blossoms and people of all ages celebrate the importance and beauty of planting trees.

It has become a tradition to donate tzedakah to the Jewish National Fund for the purpose of planting seedlings in Israel. In honor of Tu Bi-Sh'vat, youngsters will have fun making this special tree-friendly tzedakah box made entirely of recycled materials.

**Level: Easy**

What you'll need:

- cardboard canister with plastic lid (such as those used to pack age powdered drink mix, Chinese noodles, etc.)
- cardboard (paper towel or foil wrap) tube
- magazines (with garden or floral photos) or wallpaper sample book
- glue
- tape
- scissors

**What you'll do:**

1. Cut out large, color pictures or designs representing colors and patterns found in nature.



Tree-friendly Tu Bi-Sh'vat tzedakah box

See TZEDAKA TREE, page 27

**LGC&D** Top 10

## Tax Changes for 2006

- 1 Roth plans allowed in 401(k) programs
- 2 Maximum 401(k) contribution increased to \$15,000
- 3 Maximum IRA contribution for taxpayers 50 or older increased to \$5,000
- 4 Credit for energy efficient improvements/construction by businesses
- 5 Up to \$500 credit for energy efficient home improvements by individuals
- 6 New credit for qualified hybrid motor vehicles
- 7 Estate tax exemption increased to \$2,000,000
- 8 Annual gift tax exclusion increased to \$12,000
- 9 Personal exemption and itemized deduction phase-outs are reduced by one-third
- 10 Individual income subject to Social Security withholding increased to \$94,200

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From page 1

# Hamas' sweeping win in Palestinian

process that never ceased, even through extensive negotiations, two intifadas and the personal intercessions of American presidents and senior diplomats over the last 20 years. The Palestinian economy remains tied to that of Israel; Israeli institutions provide the Palestinians with electric power and control their water supply. Israel provides jobs and collects customs levies and taxes for the Palestinians, who have no airport or seaport. This money is transferred to the Palestinian leadership and accounts for a significant share of its income.

## 2. WHY DID IT HAPPEN?

Hamas was founded in 1988 and initially received quiet financial support from Israel which envisaged it as a counterweight to the PLO and Fatah. A rivalry between the two quickly developed with Hamas dropping its unofficial liaison with Israel in favor of support from Arab countries and later Iran. Most of the original leaders of Hamas are in Israeli prisons or have died as the result of Israel's targeted assassinations and it is led today by Khaled Maashal, who lives in exile in Damascus. It was Hamas that brought the technique of suicide bombing to the Middle East and became the principal force behind the second intifada. It also maintained links with the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and Hizbollah in Lebanon, both terrorist organizations. When Fatah agreed to recognize the existence of Israel and began negotiations with it, Hamas continued to demand the destruction of the Jewish state, a goal that, to this day, is written in its charter. But for the last year Hamas has maintained a truce agreed to by Israel and has demonstrated better control over its fighters than has Fatah.

As the second intifada progressed and economic conditions in the territories worsened, the Palestinians increasingly placed the blame on their rulers who bore the responsibility for their welfare. Forty years in power had weakened the moral fiber of Arafat's supporters, who were seen as susceptible to bribes and nepotism, taking money that foreign donors intended for the betterment of the poor and building "McMansions" in Gaza and Ramallah, flaunting their illegally-gotten wealth.

These things in particular added to the prestige of Hamas in the territories. The first was the development of social services; schools, clinics and other necessities that the Palestinian Authority, financially strapped and drained by corruption, failed



A PALESTINIAN ELECTION CANDIDATE flashes a victory sign as he is surrounded by supporters during the last day of Fatah rallying in the West Bank village of Dahiyat al-Barid. The ruling Fatah faction was stunned by Hamas' sweeping victory two days later.

to provide. Hamas was seen as incorruptible, its leaders led simple lives and increasingly, as Israel began a program of assassination of its leaders and the suicide bombers multiplied, Hamas took on a heroic image.

The other two events were

warn the Americans about the danger of permitting a terrorist organization to participate in a democratic election but in the words of one columnist writing in the *Jerusalem Times*, a Jordanian newspaper published in Jerusalem: "President Bush applauded

conclude that they regard themselves as Palestinians first and Israelis second.

Even exit polls at the voting booths on election day gave Fatah 55 percent of the vote but by nightfall Hamas had received 60 percent of the vote and a huge



PALESTINIAN CHILDREN stand at a polling station with Palestinian flags Jan. 25 in the West Bank village of Dahiyat al-Barid.

cally. They also suggest that Turkey has developed a secular, Muslim, democratic state that might serve as an example to Hamas, despite its religious orientation. Those who decry it point to Germany in 1932 or Iran after the ouster of the Shah as examples where extremists took power and promptly intensified the practice of what they preached. Pre-election statements made by Hamas leaders regarding their intentions on forming a new government were mixed. Some talked about negotiating with Israelis; some said that their rejection of Israel was firmly fixed. But none have yet offered to compromise on the critical issue of the return of the Palestinian refugees to their former homes. This, if nothing else, is a deal-breaker on which Israel cannot afford to give way if it hopes to survive.

### Economic deprivation

Israel and the west hold some important cards in this game, the first being financial. This month the PA must come up with \$65 million to pay up the monthly salaries of 150,000 employees, 30,000 of whom are PA security guards. It is currently \$600 million in debt on an annual budget of over \$1 billion, for which the United States and the European Union are the only outside sources of help. Together they give the PA \$60 million every month. Israel is also a player; it has the leverage of keeping in escrow the \$60 million it transfers from cus-

## ...the United States spent \$1.9 million in last-minute projects for Fatah.

Israeli actions, the evacuation of southern Lebanon and the later evacuation of the Gaza settlements. Both were viewed by Palestinians as victories by Hamas in Gaza and Hizbollah in Lebanon, proving to their followers that Israel was vulnerable to military and political pressure. Nothing else had worked to end or ease the occupation, certainly not the efforts of Fatah or the diplomatic forays by the PLO.

### Arafat's death

The death of Yasser Arafat further reduced popular support for the PLO. He was the man most responsible for the creation of a sense of Palestinian nationhood and even Hamas and the other, smaller terrorist organizations acknowledged his primacy. But it was the PLO and Fatah that suffered the most from his departure, once he was gone they were no longer granted the legitimacy that his presence assured.

Didn't the Americans, the Israelis, the Europeans, with their intelligence organizations, their Middle East experts, their extensive experience in the region, foresee what was about to occur? Shockingly, no. The Israelis did

the wonders of democracy and the competition of ideas."

Leaving aside the question of how Bush would have reacted had Al Qaeda fielded candidates in an American election, one word explains why everyone failed to see the growing tide of pro-Hamas sentiment. That word is complacency. Lulled by polls that uniformly showed an edge for Fatah and confident in the influence of their support for the Palestinian government (the United States spent \$1.9 million in last-minute projects for Fatah, among other forms of aid), everyone sat back and awaited the results.

Why were the pollsters so misled? For one thing, they failed to poll effectively in the rural districts, where voters are less inclined to vote against the government and may not have telephones. And people living in insecure lives are often afraid to tell a stranger what they really think. Finally, the Palestinians living in Jerusalem, who have both telephones and nerve, voted overwhelmingly for Hamas, defying expectations that they would support Fatah and compelling those who study Israeli Arabs to

majority in the Palestinian parliament. The votes of one million Palestinians, in a fair and free election (even Jimmy Carter, whose imprimatur is required in any third world election, said so) had caused the lights to stay on all night in the capitals of the Christian west and of the Muslim east.

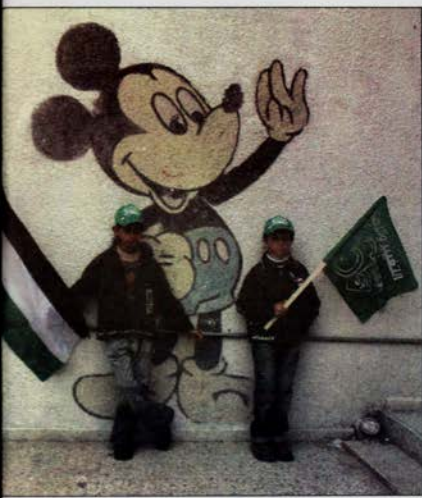
### 3. WHAT CAN WE EXPECT?

This, of course, is the key question. The immediate hope of many observers was what we might call the leveling effect of "the responsibility of power." Hamas, now given the responsibility for the lives and fortunes of the Palestinians in the territories, will have to provide them with the necessities of life. Therefore, it must act to appease the western powers and Israel or it will not be able to deliver what it promised the voters. And there are new elections scheduled in four years.

Those who hope for this point to Ireland, South Africa and Tanganyika as states in which former terrorists have seized power or share it and govern democrati-



# elections continues to reverberate



Photos by Brian Handwerger/TA

g station in front of a Mickey Mouse drawing, holding Hamas and Palestine of Hawara south of Nablus, on the Palestinian election day.

tom's duties to the Palestinians every month under an agreement with the PLO that Hamas does not consider legal. Israel has not hesitated to withhold these funds in the past when it felt threatened; it is probably the first step Jerusalem would take if it felt so in the future. Additionally, it could prevent traffic between Gaza and the West Bank, keep Palestinians locked up in their home towns with roadblocks and continue to target Hamas leaders, but this could cost Israel dearly in American and European support.

It would seem that Hamas has little choice but to cooperate with the west and even with Israel. But lurking in the shadows are two more players, the jokers in the deck, Iran and Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia is not looking for trouble from Islamic extremists and pays them off as a form of blackmail. Iran, awash in dollars with the price of oil approaching \$70 a barrel, has taken on the major responsibility for funding not only Hamas but also Hezbollah. This puts Israel in a vice, Hamas in the territories, Hezbollah on the Lebanese border to the north. There are problems for the Muslim; Saudi Arabia supports the Sunni version of Muslim fundamentalism, Iran the Shiite version. Both are heavily involved in Iraq and Afghanistan. But the barriers do not always hold. The Palestinians are mainly Sunni but Iran finds no problem in funding Hamas.

Last month Hamas leaders met in Tehran with Iranian officials. On the agenda was increased aid to the Palestinian rebellion.

Both Israel and the United States are adamant in their refusal to negotiate with terrorists and if you believe this you might also have an abiding passion for the tooth fairy. Governments always negotiate with people, however loathsome, when they need to gain something. Israel has done it; it traded hundreds of Palestinian prisoners for a few of its soldiers in Lebanon; it has negotiated with the hijackers of commercial airliners when this was the only choice, and it will negotiate with Hamas if the stakes are high enough. One course of action for Hamas might be to raise these stakes by military action.

## Possible outcomes

Consider this possible scenario. The region has plenty of Sagger missiles, given by the United States to the Afghan rebels fighting the Soviet invasion. These are potent, hand-held, ground-to-air missiles, designed to shoot down aircraft. Ben Gurion airport sits below the Judean mountains. Every plane that lands or takes off from Ben Gurion is highly visible to anyone with a Sagger missile on his shoulder. And what if Hamas should perfect its Qassam rockets fired from Gaza? At present they demonstrate an annoying (to Hamas) tendency to explode in empty fields. With some improve-



A HAMAS ACTIVIST holds an election flier with a photo of Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, top, at a polling station Jan. 25 in the West Bank village of Hawara, south of Nablus. Hamas emerged victorious in the Palestinian parliamentary elections, winning enough seats to form a government.

ment in range and accuracy, they might land in Ashkelon or even Tel Aviv.

And if they do? What recourse would Israel have other than to retake possession of the Palestinian territories and drive the inhabitants further from Israel's borders? It could plead for American and European support but they are not likely to be drawn into another Mideast war. At best they might broker a truce that would, under the circumstances, be unfavorable to Israel. There are huge constraints on small states dependent upon others for economic and military support.

In a few months you might ask the leaders of Hamas about that. They and all of us will soon be subjected to strains that will change the history of the region and the fate of its people. In other words, the answer to the question, "What can we expect?" is that we cannot do more than speculate about which of a series of unpleasant and risky alternatives is likely to emerge when the dust has finally settled.

## POST SCRIPT

In all this, who has won and who has lost? Here our poker analogy fails us because the pot must be divided among many players and no one even knows its size. Let us count the ways.

ISRAEL: It could suffer serious economic and political losses if the peace process ends. But there could be a brighter side. A peace treaty with Israel signed by Hamas will be more acceptable to most Palestinians than one negotiated by Fatah. However, Israeli political leaders will be tempted to continue their unilateral policies vis-à-vis the Palestinians, refusing to negotiate with Hamas and making decisions on the future of the Palestinians without consulting them. This may be justified under the

circumstances but it does nothing to ease the anger and frustration that in part led to the Hamas victory.

PALESTINIANS: They must somehow convince their new leaders that they have to negotiate with Israel and, in the process, give up the dream of a single state solution. Israel, too, has to relinquish its demand for a unified Jerusalem and disengage from much of the West Bank if there is to be peace in the region. The chances of this happening soon are almost nil. But keep Ireland in mind and think positive.

UNITED STATES: President Bush's hope that democratic states can be established involving peoples with little practice in its arts or understanding of its rules and no desire to adapt theirs to western standards, has

been shot down. Yet no one else can broker an Arab-Israeli peace treaty, assuming that either side seriously wants one.

ARAB STATES: A great many Arab rulers must be nervous today. With little help from its cousins across the border, the Palestinian street led by a terrorist movement, has taken over control of its government. Where next? Beirut? Damascus? Cairo? Riyadh? Amman? A late-comer to the Mideast scene, Hamas is the only extremist organization to take power in an Arab country. Uneasy lies the head...

IRAN AND THE MUSLIM WORLD: Most of the Muslim countries, Indonesia, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and even Pakistan are removed from the conflict and concerned mainly about the future of Jerusalem and the possible side-effects of Hamas' victory on their own rebellious subjects. Iran, as we have noted, is heavily invested but it has bigger worries with Europe, its nuclear program and a restless youth that likes American music, movies and social customs.

EUROPE: Italian premier Silvio Berlusconi is widely quoted as saying "It was a very, very bad result" although both the New York Times and Ha'aretz toss in an extra "very." Either way it sums up the European reaction.

Yehuda Leo is a retired journalist who has worked in Israel, Europe and the United States. A Providence resident, he writes a regular opinion column for the Jewish Voice & Herald.

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# Dining Out

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meats and fishes, from teriyaki to Cajun. This restaurant unashamedly encourages a selection of desserts.

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By Marylyn Graff

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### Menu

Champagne  
Salad of radicchio with baby greens, vinaigrette

Thick rib veal chops with mushroom stuffing

Peas with baby onions

Rice pilaf  
Chocolate-dipped strawberries

Espresso or coffee  
Radicchio salad

Tear off leaves from a head of radicchio, rinse and dry well. Rinse about two cups of baby greens and dry well.

Make a dressing of 2 tbsps. white wine vinegar and 6 tbsps. extra virgin olive oil, 1 tsp. Dijon mustard, 1 tsp. crushed garlic and 1/2 tsp. each dried thyme and basil. Shake well to blend.

Arrange leaves of radicchio on two salad plates, cup side up, and fill with baby greens.

Opt: Open a small can of sliced beets and select several round ones, with a small knife cut beet slices into heart shapes and decorate the salad plates.

### Peas & onions

You can make this the easy way with frozen baby peas and onions. Follow the directions on the packages, combine and place in a serving dish. Sprinkle with parsley and dot with parve margarine.

### Stuffed veal chops

Buy two extra-thick (1 1/2 - 2 inches) rib veal chops. Trim off excess fat and make a horizontal slit with a sharp knife.

Saute a small onion (about 1 1/2 inch diameter) finely chopped, in a tbsps. of parve margarine, melted, over medium heat. Add a cup of chopped mushrooms and cook until soft. Stir in about 1/2 cup fine bread crumbs, and 1/2 tsp. each dried sage and thyme.

Mix well and add enough melted margarine to bind. Stuff into chops and secure with tooth-picks.

In an ovenproof saute pan large enough to fit chops without crowding, melt about 2 tbsps. parve margarine over medium heat. Brown chops nicely on both sides, pour in about 1/2 cup dry white wine or vermouth. Reduce to about half, cover pan and put into about a 350 oven for 20-30 minutes. (Do not cook these chops to death — they should be pink inside.)

If you don't want to stuff the chops, just follow cooking directions.

### Rice pilaf

1 cup long-grain rice  
1 medium onion, chopped  
1/2 sweet red pepper, diced  
fine  
1 medium carrot, coarsely shredded

1/2 cup flat-leaf parsley, chopped

1/4 cup slivered almonds  
2 cups chicken broth

Melt about 2 tbsps. parve margarine in a shallow pot or deep frying pan. Add onion and saute for 3-4 minutes, then rice. Stir to coat rice. Cook until rice begins to look translucent, pour in broth. Stir. Cover and simmer for 15-18 minutes until rice is tender but not mushy. Add the red pepper and carrot when rice is nearly done, so they stay a bit crisp. Stir in almonds, put into serving dish and sprinkle with parsley.

### Chocolate-dipped strawberries

This is a great romantic dessert if you can find some nice, big strawberries. Leave the caps and stems on and make sure the berries are very dry. Buy your chocolate at a candy store, as it is

already tempered.

For about a dozen large berries, melt 8 oz. bittersweet chocolate in the microwave in a small deep bowl or a small deep pan over simmering water on the stove. Cool to the point where it won't cook the berries. Hold each berry by the stem or a small fork and dip about 3/4 of the berry. Hold up to let excess drip off and place on wax paper or in small fluted paper cups. Let set. (Will set faster in the refrigerator. You can also make these with white chocolate.)

### Chocolate brownie cookies

(From Sarah Levy, president, Sarah's pastries and candies, Inc.)

4 oz. bittersweet or semi-sweet chocolate

2 oz. (1/4 cup) semi sweet chocolate chips

1 Tbsp. parve margarine, cut into small pieces

1/3 cup sugar

1/2 tsp. vanilla extract

1 large egg

2 tbsps. flour

1/8 tsp baking powder.

Break up the 4 ozs. chocolate and melt in microwave on half

power or in a pan over simmering water. Add the margarine and stir until melted. Cool.

Beat the sugar, vanilla and egg on medium until it thickens, about 1 minute. Stir in the melted chocolate, and sifted flour and baking powder. Stir in the chocolate chips. Chill in refrigerator for about 1/2 hour. Roll into 1 inch balls and place on ungreased baking sheet about 2 inches apart. Bake at 350 degrees at about 12 minutes, or until tops are not glossy. Cool on a wire rack.

Marylyn Graff is food editor of the Jewish Voice & Herald.

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## Medical Arts

# A feverish need to measure

The simple clinical thermometer remains one of medicine's most enduring instruments. It is likely that this fragile cylinder of glass yields



**Stanley Aronson M.D.**

more information than any other portable piece of diagnostic medical equipment. Certainly no Jewish home is regarded as completely furnished without at least one thermometer in a drawer.

Fever, said Galen, is the scream of deep illness seeking attention. And, to the ancients, fever had always been the herald of systemic illness. Older medical texts created an elaborate menu of fever profiles. There were fevers called eruptive (Coincident with the appearance of rashes,) remit-

ting, cerebral (associated with stupor or coma,) relapsing, Quotidian (daily) and hectic (Associated with delirium,) to name but a few.

There are not many biblical references to fever, but when mentioned, fever seems to appear more as a metaphor or as a form of divine retribution rather than a reflection of natural illness. (Leviticus 26:16 declares, "I will appoint over you sudden terror, consumption and fever that waste the eyes and cause life to pine away.")

When fever rages and the pulse accelerates, a measuring instrument like a thermometer is not really required. Many a Jewish mother from an older generation will tell you that her hand upon a fevered brow is more sensitive than any objective instrument. But might there be trifling increments of fever, low grade, perhaps, that not even a grandmother's hand could detect?

One of the earliest questions demanding an answer was whether there was such a thing as a normal human temperature. To determine this, the thermometer would have to be scaled. The ancient Greek scientists talked freely of heat and cold but assigned no numeric value to either. To them it was sufficient to note that one object was warmer or colder than another. Galen, more quantitatively oriented, suggested four levels of temperature, with a midpoint being a fresh mixture of boiling water and ice.

By the 17<sup>th</sup> century, physics had evolved to a degree where heat had to be calibrated, and scientists interested in both the weather and human illness sought ways of quantifying it.

What characteristics should a heat-measuring instrument possess? It must respond quickly and consistently to temperature changes in its surrounding environment. It must also possess some sort of scale, thus providing the observer with a numeric value which is consistent and meaningful. A reading on one thermometer must be the same as the reading on another, tested at the same time, on the same patient.

The first thermometers were based on two well-known physical phenomena: First that the volume of liquid or gas expand with increasing heat, and second that warm objects transfer some of their heat to neighboring cold objects until they reach the same (equilibrating) temperature.

The invention of a reliable thermometer began with an obscure Venetian physician,

Santorio Santorice, professor of medicine at the medical school in Padua. In 1611 he devised a simple instrument consisting of an air-filled glass globe which was inserted vertically into an open container of dye-stained water. This ponderous apparatus was wheeled to the bedside and the globe placed within the armpit of the patient. When the globe was warmed by the human body, its contained air absorbed some of the heat and then expanded, thus displacing some of the water at the other end of the globe. This instrument was crude and certainly not mobile; nor could it provide a precise, quantitative temperature reading, but it was a beginning.

Later in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the Royal Society of London accepted the challenge of trying to assemble a gadget to measure temperature. Many of its members including Wren, Halley and Boyle devoted time to this task. Their instruments were based on Santorice's principle that heat causes gases or fluids to expand — the more the heat, the more the expansion. They recognized, too, that the fluid to be used should not freeze easily nor should it be colorless. Hence they replaced the fluid in their experimental instruments with wine, (which is why the earlier instruments were called spirit thermometers.)

Then came Daniel Fahrenheit, who was born in Danzig but lived much of his life in Holland as an instrument-maker. It was he who devised the instrument consisting of a glass rod with a very thin inner bore and a small reservoir below filled with liquid

mercury. As the mercury-filled bulb was warmed, the contained mercury expanded and the mercury column rose within the tube. His instrument was calibrated so that the freezing point of water was placed at 32 degrees and the boiling point was 212 degrees. Andre Celcius, a Swedish astronomer, suggested that the freezing point should be at 100 degrees and the boiling point at zero. His close friend, the Swedish botanist-physician Carl Linnaeus, felt that this was counter-intuitive and suggested rather that the warmer the object being tested, the higher should be the scale-number. Celcius accepted this and the modern Celcius scale, with zero denoting the freezing point of water and 100 signifying the boiling point is now the standard system of thermometric notation.

The old-fashioned glass thermometer need no batteries to be replaced, no engineering degrees to assemble and no expensive outlays to purchase. It was simple, reliable and its only failing was its fragility and the constant anxiety that a child, thinking it might be a candy stick, might bite it. But whether it is the classical thermometer or the more sophisticated temperature-quantifying machine, most American families still use it as the sole criterion of health and sickness in their children.

Leo Rosten tells the story of the physician who asks his patient "What are you taking for that fever?" The patient replies "Make me an offer."

*Dr. Stanley Aronson is dean emeritus of Brown Medical School.*

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## D'VAR TORAH: BO (EXODUS 10.1-13-16)

## Escape into freedom

The first time I ever spoke about this Shabbat's Torah portion was on a Friday evening in the late sixties, when I was a rabbinical student at the New York School of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. The rabbi of Temple Judea in Manhasset, a town in Nassau



Rabbi James Rosenberg

County on the north shore of Long Island, was going to be away on that particular Shabbat and invited me to conduct the worship and deliver the sermon. In those days I greatly enjoyed leading my fellow Jews in worship, but – having not yet found my own “voice” – I was still extremely uncomfortable preaching. A week before I was to stand before the Manhasset congregation, I still had no idea what I was going to talk about.

During the late sixties the American Jewish community was beginning to express concern for the plight of our fellow Jews in the Soviet Union. Elie Wiesel had visited the USSR in 1965 and had written a powerful account of what he discovered in his widely read book, “The Jews of Silence” (1966). During those years Jews were reading the English translation of Yevgeny Yevtushenko’s “Babi Yar” in public places, because in this poem the great Russian poet was expressing his solidarity with the Jewish people.

Today I am as old as the Jewish race.

I seem to myself a Jew at this moment.

I, wandering in Egypt...

No Jewish blood runs among my blood, but I am as bitterly and hardly hated by every anti-Semite as if I were a Jew.

By this

I am a Russian.

I myself had affixed a red and white SAVE SOVIET JEWRY sticker to the rear bumper of my car. Because Parashat Bo opens with the continuation of the dramatic conflict between Moses and Pharaoh, I finally decided to shape my sermon – with some help from Yevtushenko – into a plea for helping our brothers and sisters in the Soviet Union. Moses’ demand to the hard-hearted Egyptian Pharaoh, “Shalach et ami! Let my people go!” had become world Jewry’s demand to the hard-hearted

Let My People Go

Soviet authorities: “Shalach et ami! Let my people go!” When I left the synagogue on that chilly winter evening, little did I know that 20 years later I would be putting my body where my mouth was.

#### In Russia

It is late morning at the Moscow airport on Sunday, Nov. 20, 1988. The day has dawned bright but bitter cold following a moderate snowfall. My colleague, Rabbi Cary Yales, of blessed memory, and I have just spent eight days in Leningrad and Moscow bringing material aid and emotional support to Jewish refuseniks who are trying to accumulate the wherewithal to escape mother Russia to find a new, more welcoming home in either Israel or the United States.

Cary and I are in a confused state of exhausted elation. Our mission has been successful in that we have managed to meet with every one of the families that Action for Soviet Jewry back in Waltham, Mass., has arranged for us to contact. We have delivered well over 100 pounds of contraband: The usual stuff for the black market – cameras, electronic calculators, jeans, and the not-so-usual stuff – a sheepskin coat for a man in Moscow, as well

as 100 syringes for a diabetic also living in Moscow.

To say that when we arrived in Leningrad, the authorities gave us a hard time is an understatement. By 1988 Soviet officialdom has perfected and refined the art of bureaucratic intimidation. Eight days ago the men with the badges at the Leningrad airport warned Cary and me that upon leaving the country we would have to present to the men with badges at the Moscow airport every single item of contraband they have discovered – two very long lists, indeed! As we were riding in a cab from the Leningrad airport to the Hotel Pribaltiskaya on the shore of the Baltic Sea, Cary and I agreed that by the time we arrived at the Moscow airport with our four empty suitcases, all of our deliverable goods would have been either “lost” or “stolen.”

Cary and I have barely slept for more than a week, but our spirits are lifted by the thought that within minutes we will be escaping the cage which is the Soviet Union in November, 1988. Cary moves through passport control just ahead of me, the final obstacle on the road back to breathing free. He waits for me

See D'VAR, page 22

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## Synagogue singing

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Photo by Julia McCann

## D'VAR

From page 21

at the other side of the barrier. So far, so good.

But then the inspector takes a second look at my visa and says in a clear, firm voice: "This not you." "What are you talking about? Of course that's me," I respond, pointing to my picture on my Soviet visa. Looking more carefully, I immediately realize what the problem is; I had my picture taken for the uniquely frustrating Soviet visa application after an entire summer sunbathing on Barrington Beach. I have to admit that in the picture I do appear to be several shades darker; I could possibly be mistaken for a middle-aged Latino. "This not you. You speak Russian."

I now regret my continually practicing the few Russian phrases I have managed to pick up: *Dobryi dyen*, good day; *puzhalista*, please;

*spaziba*, thank you; *da svidanya*, good-bye. When will I learn to keep my mouth shut? "This not you." "It is me; of course, it's me." Cary is witnessing this scene with increasing apprehension from the other side of the barrier. Silence as the inspector stares at me with penetrating, inscrutable eyes. Silence as my stomach sinks to my feet. More silence, and then the official shrugs his shoulders and waves me through.

I throw myself into Cary's arms, clinging to him with relief, as each of us spontaneously breaks into a traditional *b'rakbah*, blessing: I say, "*Barukh attah Adonai elohaynu melekh ha-olam, she-behyanu, v'kiyyamnu, v'big'lanu laz'man ha-zeh*" (Blessed be You, Lord our God, King of the universe, Who has kept us alive, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this joyous moment!) At the very same time, Cary is saying, "*Barukh attah Adonai elohaynu*

*melekh ha-olam, she-asani ben-borin*" (Blessed be You, Lord our God, King of the universe, Who has made me a free man!) We disentangle and climb up the stairs into the Pan-Am/Acroffort jumbo jet, into freedom.

James Rosenberg is the rabbi at Temple Habonim in Barrington.

## Agudas Achim offers adult Hebrew classes

Congregation Agudas Achim welcomes those adults who can identify the Hebrew alphabet to sharpen their Hebrew reading skills in five Sunday morning classes. The classes will focus on specific prayers found in the Reconstructionist prayer book, *Shabbat Vehagim*. Students will gain a working sight vocabulary and will talk about the themes of the prayers.

Classes will meet from 9:30-11:30 a.m. on the following Sunday mornings: Feb. 5, 12, and 26 and March 5 and 19.

Congregation Agudas Achim is located at 901 North Main Street in Attleboro, Mass. Call the synagogue office at (508)222-2243 for more information.

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By Julia McCann

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**What's the nature of your business?**

It is an investment advisory firm focusing on micro-cap value securities.

**How many people do you employ?**

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**Where do you see your business going over the next five years?**

Steady growth. Right now we have \$120 million in assets and we would like to double that to \$250 million in the next five years.

**What's the best thing about your job?** Talking to clients and helping them to meet their investment objectives.

**What personal connections do you have to the Jewish community?**

Member of Temple Emanu-El, board of directors of the Jewish Seniors Agency on the executive, investment and the institutional advancement committees, on the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island as board member, VP for West Bay - executive and investment committees; affiliated with Chabad of West Bay.

**Is there additional information you'd like to share?** We're focused, we're concentrated, we're long-term investors.

*Gary Siperstein lives in Warwick with his wife, Mynde, and his two children, Jason Eliot and Carly Rose.*



Gary Siperstein, second from right, is president of Eliot Rose Asset Management.

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By Julia McCann

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**What is the nature of the business?**

We work with clients to list and sell their properties and we help buyers find houses.

**How many employees are on your team?**

Six, including me.

**Where do you see your business going in 5-10 years?**

I sell 60-70 homes per year so I'd hope to double that. The office has done \$18 million in sales in 2004 and another \$18 million in 2005.

**What is the best thing about your job?**

I enjoy working with people and I enjoy getting their homes sold and finding the right house for the buyers.

**What trends are you seeing? Is there any evidence that the market is down?**

The market is certainly slowing down — it's taking longer to sell homes. But on a positive note, interest rates are still very reasonable and the value of a home usually appreciates five percent per year.

**What is the average house price in Rhode Island?** Offhand, I'd say around \$300,000.

**How long is the average house on the market for?** 65 days.

**How long have you been in the business?** Six years.

**And what were you doing before this?** I have a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's in special education.

**Are you a Rhode Island native?** I'm originally from New York but I've lived in Rhode Island for 15 years.

**What makes your office stand out from others in the business?** It has been the #1 team in the state for Century 21 for 2004 and 2005 and I was the #1 individual seller in 2001, 2002 and 2003.

*Debbie lives with her two children and her husband of 15 years.*

*(Julia McCann is a freelance writer and photographer who lives in Barrington.)*



CENTURY 21 Realtor Debbie Chennisi helps out a client at her office in East Greenwich.



## Community



Photo by Temple Emanu-El

## Storytime Shabbat!

"Storytime Shabbat" kids read books, performed a play and said the blessings over the challah, candles, and "grape juice" at Temple Emanu-El in Providence. Above, the kids are displaying their "Shabbat Table Centerpiece" that they made as part of the program.

The next event, on Feb. 7, the group will celebrate *Tu B'Shevat*.

## Middle East Book club at Cong. Agudas Achim

As part of its Celebrate Shabbat! initiative, Congregation Agudas Achim is sponsoring a book discussion on the fourth Saturday of each month at 9 a.m.: The Middle East Book Group is learning about that part of the world and the Arab-Israeli conflict from the stories of the people who live there.

The book list includes both fiction and non-fiction titles by American, Israeli and Palestinian authors. The aim is to create an open, safe and tolerant environment for those who want to deepen their understanding of the Middle East, rather than engage in political debate. On Jan. 28, the book to be discussed is, "A Peace to End All Peace" by David Fromkin. February's title - to be discussed on the 25th of the month - is "A Tale of Love and Darkness" by Amos Oz.

Celebrate Shabbat! is funded in part by a grant from STAR (Synagogues: Transformation and Renewal) and is a member of STAR's Synaplex network of synagogues.

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## TZEDAKA BOX

From page 15

2. Glue pictures all over the outside surface of the canister, covering it completely. Set aside.

3. Trace your hand onto 6 to 8 of the pictures that have



Charlotte Sheer

colors you might typically find on trees.

(Remember that flowers and fruit have great colors!)

4. Cut out the hand shapes.  
5. Arrange and glue the hand shapes onto one surface of the cardboard tube. Overlap and fan them out, to look like branches and leaves growing from a tree trunk.

6. Stand the "hand tree" up,

facing the back of the canister. Tape into place.

7. Cut a slit in the plastic cover of the canister.

8. Make a label that says "TZEDAKAH." Glue onto the front of the canister.

What else do you know?

Why is it so important to recycle paper products, whenever possible? How many other ways can you think of to re-use products that have been made from trees?

Charlotte Sheer of Foxboro is a teacher and writes an arts & crafts column on Jewish holidays.

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As part of its "Celebrate Shabbat!" initiative, Congregation Agudas Achim will present Christina Crowder and the search for Romanian Jewish music, on Sat., Feb. 18, at 7:30 p.m. All are invited to listen as Crowder tells about researching the roots of Jewish music among the Gypsy and Romanian people.

Classically trained, Christina picked up the accordion in college and was swept off her feet by an exuberant Hungarian Czardas in 1990. Nearly a decade in Eastern Europe followed, where she performed with the Budapest-based klezmer ensemble, Di Naye Kapelye developing the ability to play music by ear. She then spent two years of field work on contemporary and archival Jewish music in

Romania as a Fulbright scholar from 1999-2001. She has recently settled in Rhode Island, where she performs with the Providence-based Klezphonics, Di Bostoner Klezmer, and the Yiddishkeit Klezmer Ensemble. She also promotes an annual eclectic Klezmer concert with the Quahog Klezmer band.

"Celebrate Shabbat!" is funded in part by a grant from STAR (Synagogues: Transformation and Renewal) and is a member of STAR's Synalexo network of synagogues.

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## Obituaries

## Anna Efos, 98

CRANSTON - Anna Efos, 98, died Jan. 22 in Aventura, Fla. Born in Providence, she was a lifelong resident of Cranston and North Miami Beach. She was the wife of the late Louis Efos and Arthur Kramer. She leaves a son, Everett Efos and a daughter, Joan Goldstein, of Cranston; three grandchildren, Jill Allyn and David and Amy Efos. She was the sister of the late Bess Deutch, Rose Dubinsky and Abraham and Benjamin Rosen.

Burial was in Florida.

## Georgette Y. Elboim, 84

WARWICK - Georgette Y. Elboim, 84, died Jan. 27. She was the wife of the late William Elboim. Born in Boston, a daughter of the late Harry and Nellie (Kaplan) Cohen, she moved to Rhode Island in 1968.

She was a federal retiree beginning her career for the War Department in 1942, during World War II in Washington, D.C., and retiring in 1987 from the Defense Mapping Agency in Rhode Island.

She leaves a son, Charles Elboim of Santa Rosa, Calif.; and two daughters, Hillary Elboim-Lubiner of Arltleboro and Arlene Kalver of Cranston and eight grandchildren. She was the sister of Adelyn Tyl of Florida and the late Alvin Cohen and Helen Teplitz.

Contributions may be made to a favorite charity.

## Ida Goodstein, 95

FALL RIVER - Ida Goodstein, 95, died Jan. 24. She was the wife of the late Charles Goodstein and Robert Fields. Born in Malden, Mass., a daughter of the late Mandell and Freida (Levenson) Dubin, she had lived in Warwick and Florida, before moving to Fall River.

Mrs. Goodstein worked as a practical nurse at the former Cranston General Osteopathic Hospital for 10 years.

She was a past president of Pawtucket Hadassah, a life member of the former Women's Association of the Jewish Home for the Aged in Providence, a founding member of Temple Am David, Warwick, and a member of Temple Beth Shalom, Boca Raton, Fla.

She leaves a daughter, Carole Goldman and her husband Hy of Cranston; four grandchildren, Richard Goldman and his wife, Loren, of Cumberland, Marion Wainer and her husband, Henry, of South Dartmouth, Peter Shaw, and Susan Bridge Farmer and her husband, Kyle, all of Texas; five great-grandchildren, Andrew, Jamie, Alexandra, Sara and Seth; and a nephew, Mandell Chernoff of Burlington, Vt. She was the mother of the late June Shaw-Kirschbaum and the sister of the late Irving Dubin and Sarah Chernoff.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to Beacon Hospice, 45 North Main St., Fall River, MA 02720 or Fall River Jewish Home, 538 Robeson St., Fall River, MA 02720.

## Anne Gorden, 93

WARWICK - Anne Gorden, 93, died Jan. 20. She was the wife of the late Joseph Gorden. Born in Central Falls, a daughter of the late Nathan and Goldie (Slavsky) Glassman, she had lived in Warwick for 30 years.

Mrs. Gorden was a former member of Temple Am David and a member of the Warwick Social Seniors.

She leaves a son, Norman Gorden of Warwick; and two daughters, Roberta Johnson of

Warwick and Beverly Schneider of Bethesda, Md.; a brother, Samuel Glassman of Pawtucket; a sister, Ethel Kaplan of Warwick; five grandchildren, Michael, Mark, Richard, Ilene and William, and two great-grandchildren, Wendy and Kerry. She was the sister of the late Rose Sandler, Bessie Bonneville and Martha Schwartz.

Contributions may be made to the American Heart Association or Temple Am David.

## Dr. Edward Freedman, 91

PENN VALLEY, Pa. - Dr. Edward Freedman, 91, a family practice physician for over 50 years, died Jan. 23. He was a resident of Penn Valley. He was the husband of Elaine Z. (Passen) Rosen and the late Frances (Metzer).

Dr. Freedman was a 1930 graduate of Roxborough High School. He was a graduate of Temple University and the Pennsylvania College of Osteopathic Medicine. He was a past president of Temple Israel of Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, and of B'nai B'rith.

He leaves two sons, Dr. S. Mitchell Freedman and his wife Barbara of Raleigh, N.C., and Carl Freedman and his wife Beverly (Ehrich) of Pawtucket; and five grandsons, Jesse, Adam, Benjamin, Michael and David.

Contributions may be made to Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence, RI 02906.

## Laura Katzman, 96

GREENWICH, Conn. - Laura (Leichter) Katzman, 96, a Providence school teacher for more than 20 years, died Jan. 19. She was the wife of the late Peter J. Katzman, owner of the former Central Plumbing Co. and had lived on the East Side of Providence for more than 50 years before moving to East Providence

and then Connecticut.

She was the daughter of the late Simon and Pauline (Silverman) Leichter.

Mrs. Katzman was a 1930 graduate of the Rhode Island College of Education, now Rhode Island College, and taught at several schools during the 1930s. She returned to teaching in the 1960s and '70s.

She leaves a son, Abner and his wife, Marlou Desain, and a daughter, Joan Green and her husband, David Green, all of Greenwich; and five grandchildren, Susanna Beiser, Melanie Fisher, and David, Rebecca and Jonathan Katzman.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to Congregation Shir Ami, 30 Myano Lane, Stamford, Conn., 06902.

## Pearl Pulner, 98

FALL RIVER - Pearl Pulner, 98, died Jan. 19. She was the wife of the late Benjamin J. Pulner. Born in Providence, she was a daughter of the late Barnett and Bessie (Smira) Bander.

She was educated in the Providence public schools and graduated from the former Edgewood Secretarial School.

Mrs. Pulner and her husband owned and operated the Benjamin J. Pulner Paper Co., Providence.

She was a long time resident of Barrington.

She was a life member of Temple Beth-El, Providence, and was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

She leaves a sister, Mildred

Rosner of Fall River; two nieces, Marilyn Erhenhaus of Fall River and Carol Louison Berge of Warren and Vero Beach, Fla.; and many grand nieces and nephews. She was the sister of the late Nettie Bander and Lillian Silverman.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to the Fall River Jewish Home, 538 Robeson St., Fall River, MA 02720.

## Bernard Schuster, 86

CRANSTON - Bernard Schuster, 86, died Jan. 28. He was the husband of Mildred (Harrison) Schuster. They were married for 58 years.

Born in Romania, a son of the late Isadore and Clara (Schuster) Schuster, he had lived in Pawtucket for 15 years before moving to Cranston in 1968.

He was the owner of the former Chain Discount Jewelry and Gift Shop in Centerville for 40 years. After the store closed, he worked as a courier for Tufts Veterinary Hospital for five years until his retirement 19 years ago.

Mr. Schuster was a member of Temple Sinai, Touro Fraternal Association and the Masons.

He leaves a son, Michael Schuster and his wife, Terry, of Narragansett and a daughter, Judith Schuster, of Philadelphia, and two grandchildren, Andrew and Daniel. He was the brother of the late Albert and Byron Schuster.

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## Engagements

**Lynda J. Zenofsky** and **Jason A. Golditch** announce their engagement. He is the son of **Marian and William Golditch** of Providence. She is the daughter of **Barbara Jacobson** of Cranston and **Morris Zenofsky** of West Warwick. The future bride, a CPA, was graduated from the University of Rhode Island. The future bridegroom, a television producer, was graduated from Rhode Island College. The couple plans a May, 2006 wedding.



Jason A. Golditch and Lynda J. Zenofsky

**David and Nancy Mills** of Cranston announce the engagement of their daughter, **Jamie Beth Mills**, to **Carl Russell Sisson**, son of **Patricia Sisson** of Westerly and the late **William Sisson**.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Cranston West High School and Rhode Island College. She teaches special education in the Cranston School Dept.

The future bridegroom is a graduate of Westerly High School and Rhode Island College. He is an associate producer at WPRI/WNAC TV in East Providence.

A wedding is planned for July 14, 2006.

## Births

**Ian and Pamela Holloway** of Warwick announce the birth of their daughter, **Charlotte Ann**, on Dec. 7, 2005.

Maternal grandparents are **Howard I. and Patricia Cohen** of North Kingstown. Maternal grandmother is **Maryann Holloway** of Cranston.



Charlotte Ann Holloway



**Sarah Danielle Buchsbaum**, on Jan. 17. Sarah is the granddaughter of **Jerrold and Barbara Lavine** of Providence and **Sanford and Selma Buchsbaum** of Greenwich, Conn. She is the great-granddaughter of **Irving Showstack** of Del Ray, Fla.



Caroline Ruby Stein

**Gordon and Elisa Buchsbaum** of Sharon, Mass., announce the birth of their daughter, **Sarah Danielle Buchsbaum**, on Jan. 17. Sarah is the granddaughter of **Jerrold and Barbara Lavine** of Providence and **Sanford and Selma Buchsbaum** of Greenwich, Conn. She is the great-granddaughter of **Irving Showstack** of Del Ray, Fla.

**Natalie Stein** of Bristol and **Barry Stein** of Narragansett announce the birth of their first grandchild, **Caroline Ruby Stein**, on Jan. 20.

born on Dec. 31, 2005 at Yale-New Haven Hospital weighing 6 lbs., 3 oz. She is the daughter of **Joshua and Tamara Stein**, of Hamden, Conn. Her maternal grandparents are **Claudia and Joel Goodman** of West Hartford, Conn.

**David and Carol Resnick** of Foxboro, Mass., announce the birth of **Lindsey Grace** on Jan. 5. She was welcomed home by her sister, **Jodi Riva**.

Paternal grandparents are **Frank and Sylvia Resnick** of Cranston.

**Andrew and Toby Weiser** of Barrington announce the birth of **Samuel Jacob** on Jan. 7, weighing 6 lbs., 11 oz. Paternal grandparents are **Mitchel and Ginger Weiser** of Woodstock, N.Y. Maternal grandparents are **Richard and Harriet Fingerth** of Longmeadow, Mass.

**Yossi and Shoshannah Laufer** announce the birth of a son on Jan. 20.



Lindsey Grace Resnick with big sister Jodi Riva



Samuel Jacob Weiser

## Simchas

## Wedding

**Julia M. Cotton** and **Joshua P. Sinykin** were married on Jan. 1 at The Ocotillo Golf Resort in Chandler, Ariz. Rabbi **George Astrachan** officiated.

The bride is the daughter of **Mr. and Mrs. Peter C. Cotton**, of East Greenwich. The bridegroom is the son of **Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Sinykin** of Madison, Wis., and **Sun Lakes, Ariz.**

The bride is a graduate of the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University. She is the public relations representative for **Lockheed Martin**, in Colorado Springs, Co. The bridegroom is a graduate of the University of Minnesota Institute of Technology. He is a systems engineer at **LSI Logic** in Colorado Springs.

The couple honeymooned by cruise to Mexico and will make their home in Colorado Springs.



Joshua Sinykin and Julia M. Cotton

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## *My Voice* Watching, waiting and worrying

By Allison Kaplan Sommer

Like many Israelis, I was watching television, engrossed in a new Israeli television drama, enjoying some pleasant escapism...and suddenly, the news breaks in. A special report. Within minutes, I forgot about the drama series and everything else. Prime Minister Sharon was being rushed to the hospital and it was serious.

You could hear it in the tone of the newscasters, see it on their faces, read it in the Hebrew newspapers updating on the Internet. Something was very wrong. No matter what happens to Ariel Sharon, we are all already in mourning—all of us: those who always liked Sharon, those who never liked him, and the vast number of Israelis who once vilified him, but over the past several years have looked on in wonderment as he embodied the definition of the word 'leader'.

Yes, he had deep flaws, yes, there was scandal, he was far from perfect. There isn't an Israeli who hasn't opposed his positions or his actions bitterly at some point. But no one can deny that he was a leader. We had a leader. And we no longer do.

There are echoes of the feelings we had 10 years ago, when we lost Yitzhak Rabin. Of course, we are not dealing with an assassination this time, with internal violence, with the same level of utter astonishment, with the same depth of national tragedy. But something very similar is happening on an emotional level, and that is the sense of being in a pit of insecurity stemming from the fact that the country is not really being led at the moment. And we don't know who our next real leader will be. If you want to get Freudian about it, we're losing our father figure.

And so we worry, watch and wait, unable to let an hour pass with-

out checking the television, radio and Internet for a medical update. He's still alive, and the experts are telling us that that is something to be thankful for. So on the level that we need Ariel Sharon—as a leader—we've already lost him.

And still we can't help but hope. Those of us who believe in miracles are praying for one. And those of us who don't believe in miracles wish that we did.

*Allison Kaplan Sommer, a native of Barrington, is a writer who lives outside of Tel Aviv. She has worked for the Jewish press for many years and is married to an Israeli law professor.*

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## A Jewish online dating success story

By Marlene Greene

As a young, single professional, new to the New York City area, I saw dating as a fun way of meeting interesting people, and ok, a great way to get some free meals! I was open to anything; meeting guys in bars or at the gym, getting fixed up by everyone from my boss to my landlord, speed dating, Not My Date parties, Jewish singles events, the Matzah Ball, and of course, I was on Jdate. Here was my profile:

Woman, 27 years old, single  
Rhode Islander living in Hoboken, New Jersey  
5'8", toned  
Non-smoker

I love the outdoors, hiking, sailing, working out, traveling and exploring. I'm very low maintenance and can be ready to go in 10 minutes. I love my job and care a lot about it. The person I'd like to meet is my *hasbert* and knows what that term means! Major qualifications: fun, funny, smart, sexy, ambitious, employed, athletic, outgoing, well-educated, sweet, caring, sensitive. Is that asking too much? OK, how about just someone who will be my best friend and true companion while making my heart beat faster every time I think of him? And, oh, is at least 6', please...

I had been on 54 "first dates" and the excitement of dating and meeting new people was starting to lose its appeal. I was wondering if I would ever find my *hasbert* (destiny). I took a "break" from dating and was determined to let nature take its course. Luckily, one day while I was procrastinating at work, I decided to give it one more try...

In February of 2003, I came across a profile that seemed to meet all of the "requirements" I had listed in my profile. I sent a tease to "Eye doc Eric." I waited very patiently (for a whole day) before he finally wrote back. After trading just two emails we decided to meet at a neighborhood bar for drinks, something really casual.

As I walked the few blocks to the bar to meet him, I was on the phone with a friend trying to convince myself that as much as we had gotten along on the phone, I shouldn't have any expectations. Well, the minute our eyes met, all I could think about was how badly I wanted him to ask me for a second date! It was below zero outside and when he insisted on walking me home, I knew there would be a second date. Well, there was a second and a third, and soon we were a couple.

By the time summer was over, we were in love and were learning so much about each other's lives and families. Everything seemed

See ONLINE DATING, page 20

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## Observations by the father of the bride-to-be

**R**ecently I told some friends that I was going to accompany my younger daughter while she tried on wedding dresses. Their reactions were as follows:

From the women: "How very sweet." "How lovely to bond with your daughter." "I'm sure you'll enjoy it." From the men: "Bring your checkbook."

This is not going to be a rant about how difficult it is for men to deal with weddings, their own or some-



**Yehuda Lev**

one else's. (In fact, my daughter paid for her own dress and, with her fiancé, is paying for their wedding.) My role was to stand by, look as though I knew what I was doing, and contribute my considered judgment on how she looked in the dresses she was trying on. Not being an utter fool I restricted my comments to an occasional "lovely" with a few "beautifuls" added for variety.

Face it friends, when it comes to weddings men are about as needed as a third leg. This is true during the premarital stages as well as the wedding itself. We generally stand around, amazed at the enormity of effort that goes into wedding preparations and then, at the event itself, we walk down the aisle looking like penguins and stand under the *huppah* unnoticed while everyone gazes in awe and admiration at the bride. If it weren't for the fact that the law requires two for a wedding, we could just as well stay home and watch the *Wedding Channel*.

Viewing the preparations for my daughter's wedding (never mind that it is scheduled for next November) I am in awe at the breadth and intensity of the action. I can recall three sites that were officially chosen and then rejected. Latest word is that it is set for the chapel of her



**Clayton Gragg and Ariela Lev**

alma mater, Brandeis University. The bride has informed me of the principal reason for this. Apparently the chapel has a glass wall, which catches the sun at a certain hour of the afternoon so that the wedding pair are silhouetted against the sky. I am not making this up.

When last I heard, the guest list was being held at 125, a goodly number of whom will fly in from California where she was born and lived until we moved to Rhode Island. Others will be arriving from Seattle, St. Louis, Chicago and Washington, D.C. The dresses for the bridesmaids have already been selected, the canopy has been chosen and the rabbi has been alerted. Enough non-Jews will be present so that my wife will write a booklet explaining to them what they are watching. It will probably contain no reference to the fact that this is an all-

woman production.

My role consists of saying the aforementioned "lovelys" and "beautifuls" as well as a plentiful number of "yes dears." Clayton, the other half of the duo-to-be, has only to utter one "I do," an important responsibility, granted, but one which I'm sure he can handle. His role has been even smaller than mine; he didn't even get to watch the dress selection. Truth is, he is probably quite happy with this arrangement. Call me a chauvinist if you will, but women seem genetically wired for this sort of activity while men mostly prefer to stay out of the way.

The mother of the bride has been content with offering advice when requested. As a practicing historian her interest in weddings as a genre is limited to the marital customs of the Incas and the Aztecs, most of which would probably be illegal in New England. The stepfather of the groom lives in Washington State and has, thankfully, been most circumspect in his queries about what to expect when the day arrives. I doubt whether he will be surprised at anything that transpires. As a former Marine he knows when to duck, and weddings provide many opportunities for the men involved in them to practice their avoidance skills.

Which is pretty much what I am about at the moment. Frankly, I'm not anticipating the wedding as much as the aftermath because in a year or two I expect that the products of this union will begin to emerge, among them I trust, at least one baby boy. Eventually he will develop a liking for the important things in life; baseball, TV, EverQuest and girls. When he does, you know to whom he will turn for advice and counsel. And the best part is that when he finds the right girl and is ready to marry, never, ever, will he ask me if the shoes he has picked match the socks he will be wearing at his wedding.

For this let us all give thanks and say, Ah men.

*Yehuda Lev writes a regular opinion column for the Jewish Voice and Herald.*



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## Jewish wedding traditions

By Jv&H staff  
voicetherald@fjri.org

The following is an introduction to Jewish wedding traditions, which, however, will vary with different denominations, notably Orthodox weddings.

• **Auftruf** — The *auftruf* ceremony usually takes place during the Shabbat service prior to the wedding. The word *auftruf* means "calling up," and the bride and groom are called up to read a portion of the Torah during the service. Following the service, they are showered with candy, to symbolize the wish for a sweet, fruitful and prosperous life. At the conclusion of the service, the congregation is invited to a Kiddush — Sabbath refreshments — to fulfill the mitzvah of hospitality and to have everyone share in their celebration.

• **Ketubbah** — Before the start of the formal wedding cer-

emony, couples sign their *ketubbah*, the Jewish marriage contract. The traditional text, written in Aramaic, an archaic Semitic language, is legally binding and states the obligations of the bridegroom to his bride. Oftentimes, couples add an egalitarian text in English that expresses their shared goals, personal commitments and desires for their relationship. There are two witnesses to the signing.

• **Badeken** — After the *ketubbah* signing, the *badeken* or veiling ceremony takes place. This is when the groom places the veil over the bride. There are several interpretations of this custom. One is that it developed in ancient times as an act of modesty, similar to when Rebecca veiled herself before she first met Isaac, her betrothed. Another interpretation is that it developed to prevent the recurrence of what happened to Jacob: because he didn't see the face of his bride, Jacob married Leah instead of Rachel, the woman he loved.

• **Huppah** — The is the wedding canopy under which the bride and groom stand during the marriage ceremony. It symbolizes the home that they will create as husband and wife and is open on all four sides to signify that family and friends are always welcome. It is also seen

as a sign of God's presence at the wedding. Under the *huppah* the bride stands to the right of the groom. Under Orthodox custom, the bride may circle the groom seven times (representing the seven wedding blessings). After the introduction by the rabbi, the groom recites his wedding vow and gives the ring to the bride. Traditionally the ring is a plain gold band without any breaks or engravings. Next the *ketubbah* is read aloud.

• **Kiddushin** — The blessing over the wine and occurs twice during the ceremony. The two cups are thought to symbolize the joy and sorrow the couple may encounter in life. By both parties sipping from both cups, they are expressing their willingness to face life as equal partners.

• **Sheva Brakot** — The Seven Blessings comprise the bulk of the wedding liturgy and begin the next part of the wedding ceremony. The blessings cover many themes — the creation of the world and humanity, the survival of the Jewish people and of Israel, the marriage, the couple's happiness and the raising of the family.

• **Breaking of the glass** — The ceremony ends when the groom smashes a wrapped glass with his foot. One interpretation



sees the breaking of the glass as a reminder of the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, and that we should never be so joyous as to forget that there is much sorrow in the world.

• **Yibud** — Immediately following the ceremony, it is customary for the couple to spend a few moments alone. This is known as *yibud*. The *yibud* experience will give them a peaceful time for shared reflection and marks the end of the wedding ceremony.

### Upcoming bridal shows

• **Feb. 11, Newport Wedding Exposition** — Rosecliff Mansion, 548 Bellevue Ave. Hours: 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Fashion shows: 12:30 & 2:30 p.m. Admission price: \$5.

• **Feb. 19, Foxboro Bridal Expo** — At Gillette Stadium, One Patriot Place. Show hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and admission is \$5. Visit online at [www.showevent.com/shows](http://www.showevent.com/shows).

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## Wedding countdown

To help you get a better understanding of how to plan a wedding and when you should be making certain decisions, here's a time frame you can follow that should ensure that your wedding goes off as smoothly as possible.

### 10 to 12 months before

If you haven't done it already, this is a good time to announce your engagement and introduce your respective families. Since most reception halls and temples have busy wedding schedules, it is also important to book both as early as possible, preferably at least a year in advance of your wedding day. It's also a good idea to start putting together a guest list around this time and ask your parents whom they'd like to invite as well. Also, since your budget will determine just about every aspect of your wedding, sitting down and determining what you can spend, and developing a savings plan should be first and foremost.

### 6 to 9 months before

This is the time when you want to start booking some services, such as a florist, caterer, a DJ/band, and a photographer. However, some of the more experienced DJs and bands as well as photographers might have their schedules booked a year in advance, so this might be something you'll want to consider doing shortly after you get engaged and choose a date. Also, this is a good time to inform any guests who will be traveling significant distances of the date of your wedding. The earlier your guests can book a flight, the less expensive that flight will be.

This is also a good time to order gowns for both the bride and bridesmaids, as some manufacturers require a few months to ship to bridal shops. You might want to ask your rabbi to be the officiant of your wedding. And much like out-of-town guests will save travel dollars the earlier they learn of your wedding date, you will likely save money, too, if you book your honeymoon around this time.

### 4 to 5 months before

This is a good time to decide on wedding invitations, of which there are many styles to choose from. Also, pure is ideal to start hunting for a wedding cake by sampling a number of different bakeries and their style of cakes before ultimately making a decision. Just to be sure, confirm that all of the bridesmaids have ordered their gowns and start looking for a tuxedo for the groom as well as the groomsmen. If you haven't done so already, purchase your wedding rings and let any other people you'd like to participate in your wedding (ushers, readers,

during the ceremony, etc.) know of your intentions.

### 2 to 3 months before

Finalize your guest list and mail out your invitations. If your guest list includes a considerable amount of people who are spread out geographically, mail the invitations as close to 12 weeks in advance as possible. This is also a good time to finalize your menu choices for your guests, and find all your wedding accessories such as the ring pillow, candles, etc. Also, since it is tradition to provide gifts for those in the wedding party as well as the parents of the bride and groom, this is a good time to decide on and purchase those gifts. Just to be safe, confirm that all groomsmen have ordered their tuxedos and finalize all transportation, both to and from the wedding and to the airport for your honeymoon.

### 1 to 2 months before

Schedule the first bridal-gown fitting. Also finalize the readings you'd prefer during the ceremony and mail them out to anyone who has agreed to do a reading. If your family prefers to host a small gathering for close family and friends after the wedding rehearsal, the night before the wedding, this is a good time to order any food or drinks you might want to serve that night, or make a restaurant reservation.

### 3 to 4 weeks before

Confirm your honeymoon arrangements and see if your wedding rings are ready. This is also when you should get your marriage license and check the guest list to see who has and



hasn't RSVP'd. For those who have yet to RSVP, you might want to contact them so you can get a closer idea of what the head count will be. You should also prepare and order your wedding program around this time.

### 1 to 2 weeks before

Get a final attendance count and submit it to the caterer as soon as you know it, while also providing a final seating chart. Pick up the wedding gown and tuxedo. Make sure the wedding party picks up their attire. Also, finalize your vows and confirm all wedding-day details such as

transportation, photo schedules, and addresses. And don't forget to pack for your honeymoon.

### The day before

This is mainly when you rehearse for the ceremony and make any final confirmations you might have to make.

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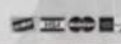


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## Recent *oleh* finds costs add up quickly

By Jonathan Udren

JERUSALEM (JTA) — After two years of single life in Israel, I looked forward to the new perspectives that marriage with my new wife Dena would bring to my Israeli immigrant experience. I knew that the

normal adjustments from bachelorhood were inevitable, such as putting down the toilet seat and washing linens more frequently than every six months.

But I never imagined that marriage would force me to re-experience the entire immigra-

tion process. As we settled into our temporary home, I looked forward to the delicious dishes my wife had been planning to cook for us. Any one of them would have been a grand improvement from my bachelor diet, which mostly consisted of pitas with



Dena and Jonathan Udren

labneh and hummus, and soy patties or Delipecan cereal.

But I didn't realize that a broader diet equals a much broader bill at the checkout. On our first trip to the grocery store together, the clerk rang up a bill of about \$150. I bit my tongue as I thought to myself, "That's how much I spend in a month!"

But the shopping had only begun. Since I previously had lived in a furnished apartment, the only household items I owned were a microwave, assorted plates and pieces of silverware, a pot for boiling pasta and a pan for frying eggs.

It was understood that our housewares would need a major overhaul. Even more so, since we were moving to an unfurnished apartment, which in Israel generally means the place would be completely empty. Ours didn't even come with closets, much less a refrigerator or oven.

Over the next several weeks we tracked down all the necessary household items, some from Janglo, a kind of Craig's List for English speakers in Jerusalem, some from places I'd never thought I'd visit, like IKEA.

We spent so much time at Home Center — the Israeli equivalent of Home Depot — that I still can picture the workers in each of the different departments. There's the French girl with the clear glasses in housewares, and the older Sephardi man with a moustache in the hardware department.

As the weeks went on, our seemingly endless shopping spree started to feel like a nightmare.

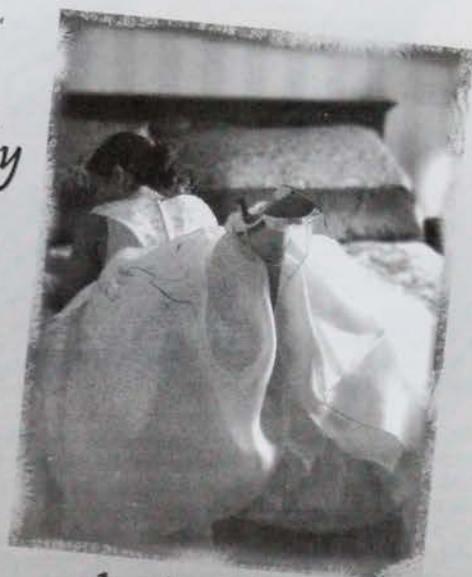
Over the course of several weeks our to-buy list was starting to shrink, and we were just about ready to move to our new place in Efrat, in the West Bank about eight miles south of Jerusalem. Maybe the life changes that I'm experiencing have more to do with marriage in general than aliyah.

It may be that the only difference between my newly married friends in the United States and me is that I'm learning these lessons in Israel. But, that detail makes it all even more worthwhile to us.

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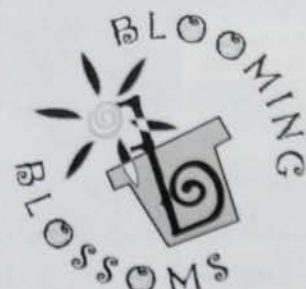
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## Talking it over before the wedding

By Mary Korr  
mkorr@fri.org

As couples prepare for their wedding day, they should also prepare for their life together.

"Wedding planning is a microcosm of what is to come. Do your problem solving in advance," advises Suzanne Jacobs, a clinical social worker at Jewish Family Service (JFS) in Providence. "There is compromise in any relationship that brings together two people with different backgrounds, cultures, family values. If it is an interfaith marriage, it adds an additional piece," she says.

Jewish divorce rates reflect nationwide statistics: one in two marriages will end in divorce. To combat these statistics, the Union for Reform Judaism has begun a pilot program: "The Aleph-Bet of Marriage, Journeying Towards Commitment." ([urj.org/jfc/pre-marital](http://urj.org/jfc/pre-marital)).

It is a seven-session group workshop facilitated by a licensed social worker. It has an extensive curriculum, with rabbis participating at sessions to provide expertise in Jewish marriage. It was developed as a response to a proposal by Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie, URJ president, that "we assist engaged couples to consider issues of Jewish life and child rearing before their marriage takes place...the most effective time to accomplish this goal is when a new Jewish home is being created under the *huppah*."

### Talking with a rabbi

At area synagogues, rabbis confer with couples on the logistics of the day, the wedding ceremony, and any issues couples may raise. Several area rabbis offer

more structured programs.

Rabbi Elyse Wechterman of Congregation Agudas Achim in Attleboro requires four to six meetings with couples, which ends with the couple writing their own *ketubah* (wedding contract).

At Congregation Beth Shalom in Providence, Rabbi Mitchell C. Levine meets with couples "in part to coach them on setting up a Jewish home. Typically the *Kallah* (bride) undertakes significant studies with a married Jewish woman," he says. The rabbi counsels the *Hatan* (groom).

Rabbi Amy Levin at Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston said she usually meets several times with couples on a wide range of topics. They discuss the Jewish wedding ceremony, explore ways the couple will express their Judaism in their home, and review issues relating to testing for genetic diseases. She also encourages them to arrange for one session with a couple's counselor.

In preparation for their life together, couples should discuss everything, from how and where they are going to celebrate the holidays, to what they will do when they have children. "Everything is a process," says Jacobs. "And while it is hard for a couple to know what kind of parents they will be, they should talk about what they will do if they have kids — how will they discipline them? What part will religion play in their life?"

If a couple gets tangled up in family differences over their wedding, they should ask themselves: "Whose wedding is this anyway? In 20 years, what do you want to remember of your wedding? Is it

the flowers? Or who sat next to whom? I tell couples to go back to who they are — what are their values and priorities that will make their wedding meaningful for them," Jacobs says.

### Gutterman lecture on divorce antidote

On April 28, the Julie Claire Gutterman memorial lecture at Jewish Family Service will be on the topic: "Bad and good couples' therapy: How to avoid the first and do the second." The speaker is William J. Doherty, Ph.D., who has written the book: "Take Back Your Marriage: Sticking Together in a World that Pulls Us Apart." (2001, Guilford Press).

In it he writes, "The antidote to divorce: Marriage with the long view is an investment strategy that takes into account the bull and bear markets of life with your partner. It comes with the conviction that nothing will break us up, that we will recalibrate our individual goals if they get out of alignment, that if we fight too much or too poorly we will learn to fight better, that we will accept each other's weaknesses that can't be fixed...this kind of commitment is not made just once but over and over through the course of a lifetime."

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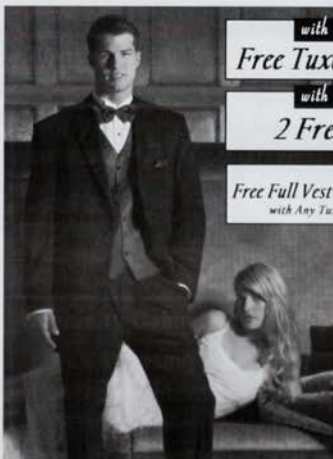
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## New Conservative initiative reaches out to the intermarried

By Sue Fishkoff

BOSTON (JTA)—The Conservative movement needs to go beyond opening its doors to intermarried families and begin working actively to integrate them fully into congregational life, while continually suggesting to the non-Jews to those families that they consider conversion.

That's the crux of a new keruv, or outreach, initiative presented recently at the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism biennial by the organization's executive vice president, Rabbi Jerome Epstein.

More than a year in the making, the initiative, which includes an explanation of the thinking behind the initiative as well as a detailed action plan for rabbis and congregations, includes input from all the major bodies in the Conservative movement. It's being mailed to every Conservative professional and lay leader in North America.

For too long, Epstein told conference delegates, the Conservative movement has at best "merely welcomed" intermarried families, and often has rejected them.

Instead, he said, Conservative congregations should work to bring the entire family into congregational life, encouraging the couple to raise Jewish children and encouraging the non-Jewish spouse to convert.

To that end, Epstein proposed using the word "edud," or "encouragement," rather than "keruv," to emphasize the movement's new focus — not just on converting the non-Jew, but on educating him or her to be a committed Jew.

"Too often we act as if being warm,

welcoming and supportive is our goal, and it is not!" Epstein said in a veiled reference to the Reform approach.

While improving initial outreach to intermarried families is "a vital first step," he said, the ultimate goal of the new Conservative outreach is inspiring the intermarried non-Jew "to choose Judaism out of conviction that Jewish living will enrich their lives."

With the Edud initiative, the Conservative movement is suggesting a more active welcome to interfaith families just weeks after the Union for Reform Judaism at its biennial in Houston advocated openly suggesting to the non-Jewish spouse that he or she convert.

"If we believe that Jewish family life is important, let us say so sensitively but passionately," Epstein said.

"We must begin aggressively to encourage conversions of potential Jews who have chosen a Jewish spouse. And if conversion is initially rejected, we must continue to place it on the agenda."

To bring children of mixed marriages into Jewish life, "special outreach" is needed to ensure their Jewish education, Epstein said. While not laying down rules for the movement's Solomon Schechter schools, youth programs and camps, the new initiative proposes special scholarships and extra attention for children of intermarriage.

At discussion sessions after the presentation, people talked about their experiences with intermarriage and tried to hammer out positions for their congregations to take.

In general, participants seemed to feel that the initiative was long overdue. Even though it would introduce even more complexity into a movement that already has an equivocal relationship to Jewish law, many people felt the keruv initiative was necessary.

"I don't know that we have to be happy about it, but we have to address it," Richard Price of Aberdeen, N.J. said of intermarriage, which he noted "has touched my own family."

Price said he hopes the keruv initiative wasn't created simply because of the Conservative movement's declining numbers, but is "about addressing the human needs of the people involved."

The Conservative movement doesn't dictate outreach policy to member congregations, and some people were surprised to find out that not every Solomon Schechter school requires non-Jewish children to convert within a year of admission, as the movement recommends — or, on the opposite end of the spectrum, that not every supplementary school accepts non-Jewish children up until their bar or bat mitzvah.

Marilyn Feinberg of Kalamazoo, Mich., said non-Jewish children of intermarried families are accepted in her congregation's school without question.

"In adult conversion we educate first, so why not do that with the child?" she said. "It doesn't make sense to wait until they're 13."

Some delegates wondered if new rabbis coming out of Conservative seminaries would be up-to-date on the more activist approach. Others spoke about their conflicted feelings about attending intermarriages, especially those of friends' children.

Some expressed relief

that the keruv initiative seems to give the permission to talk about conversion while still welcoming the intermarried couple.

"It needs some tweaking, but it's very strong beginning," said Judy Kornlith of Pittsburgh, Pa.

Ed Case, director of Interfaith Family, an outreach group based in Newton, Mass., said he welcomed the keruv initiative, but called its emphasis on conversion as the ultimate goal "disturbing."

Many couples who are willing to explore and gradually get involved in Jewish life will be deterred if they think they are told that conversion is the synagogue goal," Case said, adding that "most interfaith families will continue to affiliate with the Reform movement."

That may be true, Conservative leaders say. But the new approach is aimed at welcoming those non-Jews who have married Jews already in Conservative congregations, and focusing attention on the continued social and educational needs of new converts seeking affiliation with Conservative shuls.

"A lot of our young people are intermarried, and we lose almost all of them," said Rabbi Elliot Dorff, rector of the University of Judaism. "I'm not suggesting our rabbis do intermarriages, but we need to find more ways to make them welcome, so their children will be Jews and maybe down the road they'll convert."

The outreach document is called "al ha'derech," or "on the path," an indication that it's not meant to dictate policy but rather suggest a way to guide what the movement is now calling "potential Jews" toward greater Jewish involvement.

"It's a focus, indicating where we'll spend our time and energy," Dorff said. "We should have been doing this 10 years ago."

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## A flower for every bride

Your wedding day is the perfect time to stop and smell the roses — or the daisies or the tulips or the hydrangea. A bride's flower options — from her bouquet to the centerpieces — are virtually limitless. If you're having a hard time choosing what to carry down the aisle or use as decoration at your reception, consider what kind of bride you are. There's a perfect flower for everyone — it's just a matter of finding what's right for you. Here are some suggestions, depending on your own personal style:

### Roses are classic

White roses or stephanotis with pearl pins in the center are ideal flowers for the classic bride bouquet. Bridesmaids carry cascading roses in shades that match their dresses. Her groom and ushers sport rose and baby's breath boutonnieres. A basket with rose petals to toss down the aisle is the perfect accessory for her flower girl. Long-stem white roses in tall vases that allow guests to see one another make for traditional, tasteful reception centerpieces.

### Calla lilies

Debra Messing, the "Will and Grace" star who carried a tall bouquet of calla lilies at her wedding in 2000 to screenwriter Daniel Zelman, is someone the modern bride can emulate. When it comes to the modern bride's bouquet, she should consider single-flower monochromatic nosegays or calla lilies in white or a bright color, matching her bridesmaids' dresses. Calla lilies in various shades are ideal for attendants. Her groom might stick with a traditional rose boutonniere or simply a silk handkerchief tucked in his front pocket, depending on how formal the affair. The modern girl may use mixed wildflowers for centerpieces. For example, if she is an autumn bride, she might include a decorative hollow pumpkin with its top off as a vase for typical autumn flowers like gold mums. Since she's willing to be creative, she might include real flowers as decoration on her cake, which are beautiful and keep her on budget. (Real flowers are cheaper than having pastry chefs whip up the sugary kind.)

### Orchids

A glamorous bride who prefers to make a statement with flowers should choose something like orchids, peonies, giant peonies or black magic roses. (In-season flowers are always more affordable.)

### Dahlias

The romantic bride should consider dahlias, a baby's breath cloud or a nosegay in a silver or gold cone-shaped vase called a tussy mussy. Tea roses are a great choice for the bridesmaids. Her flower girl carries a pomander and wears a wreath of baby's breath or daisies in her hair.

### Beach brides

Beach brides might select something like spiky blue veronica with hydrangea, white amaryllis, sunflowers or birds of paradise can make a statement in the sand. The groom wears linen yet steers clear of any flowers — unless the couple is in Hawaii and opts for matching leis. In that case, their bridal party — if they have one — will follow suit. If not, the bridesmaids are more likely to have a tropical flower in their hair instead of their hands. Flower arrangements that feature shells make for fitting decorations.



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**Pressing:** Selected blooms are pressed and flattened with a flower press and then framed.

**Freeze-dry:** Flowers are sprayed with a starch and then "baked" in a freeze-dryer. This is the only preservation method where flowers don't need a protective covering and it will give you the most realistic looking shapes and colors of the flowers.

It's best to make bouquet-preservation arrangements before the wedding. Inquire about prices. Costs vary but it will always be less expensive to preserve a few blooms instead of the full bouquet.

The fresher and healthier the flowers, the prettier they will look preserved. Consider leaving your actual bouquet in a safe place during the reception. Have the caterer store it in the refrigerator or stick the stems of a hand-tied bouquet in water. Then, at the ceremony, toss another bouquet. These steps will ensure that the flowers will be in their most pristine state come preservation time.

Ask if the preservationist can pick up the flowers the day of your wedding or the very next day. If you can't do it yourself, give the bouquet to a trusted bridesmaid who can bring it to the preservationist for you or mail it to one that's further away.

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(From left) David Goldman and Rose (Goldman) Feldman, Sylvia (Goldman)

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# way we were Age Brides



rg) Goldman, parents: Beatrice and Jack Tragar, probably 1930.



Albert and Annie Sydney, 1905

Photos courtesy of the B.I. Jewish Historical Association



ankoff and Jack Murray Schaffer, circa 1926



Rebecca Gomberg Blazer, 1916



Nettie Paster Cohen  
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## Host a bridal shower lunch or brunch

By Marylyn Graff

Most of this party can be made in advance and served at room temperature. Unless you are a professional cook with a special pan and rack, you will want to order the salmon cooked from a good fish market. If you are serving a small group of less than 20, you might want to make a salmon mousse instead. For the whole salmon, allow about 4 servings to the pound. For the rest, use your judgement about how much per person you will need.

**Mimosas** — sparkling wine with orange juice, about 50/50. A good splash of orange liqueur in your pitcher or punch bowl will improve it a lot.

**Kir** — Made in the glass: put about an ounce of blackberry liqueur in a wine glass and fill with white still or sparkling wine. Have lemonade for those who don't drink wine. Decorate with lemon slices and mint leaves.

I'm not specifying many quantities in these recipes, because it depends on how many people are coming to the party.

See BRIDAL SHOWER LUNCH, BRUNCH, next page

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**BRIDAL SHOWER LUNCH OR BRUNCH**

From page 12

**Asparagus rolls**

2 doz. or so medium thick asparagus spears, washed, tough ends snapped off.

- 1 16 oz. pkg. frozen phyllo pastry, thawed
- 1/2 cup finely grated parmesan cheese (approx.)
- 1 stick butter, melted

Unwrap phyllo and cut stack lengthwise to fit asparagus spears with tip just showing. Cover rest to keep from drying out. Brush top piece with melted butter, sprinkle lightly with cheese, place stalk of asparagus on end and roll up. Keep doing this with rest of stack and rest of pastry until either asparagus or pastry is used up. Place rolls on a baking sheet, seam side down, brush with more butter and sprinkle with cheese. Bake in a 375-degree oven for 15-18 minutes, until nicely browned.

**Stuffed mushrooms with spinach & feta (onion, garlic & chopped stems)**

About 24 crimini or white mushrooms 1 1/2 to 2 inches in diameter, washed quickly in running water and dried on paper towels. Remove stems and chop finely.

- 1 pkg. frozen chopped spinach, thawed and well-drained
- A medium onion, finely chopped
- 1 cup crumbled Feta or bleu cheese
- 2 or 3 tbsps. melted butter

Melt butter in a sauté or frying pan and cook onions until clarified, with chopped mushroom stems and about a tsp. of chopped garlic. Stir in spinach and cheese. Stuff into mushrooms, place on a baking pan and bake for about 15-20 minutes at 350.

**Deviled eggs**

Allow about one whole egg per person. Hard-boil the eggs, drain, immerse in cold water and peel. Cut eggs in half the long way and scoop yolks into a bowl. Mash well, salt and pepper to taste, stir in a couple of tbsps. chopped chives per dozen eggs. Mix in enough mayonnaise to form a smooth mixture. You can also use a combination of mayonnaise and sour cream. You can get fancy and stir in a couple of tbsps. of capier or capers. Spoon or pipe yolk mixture from a pastry bag or tube into the egg whites.

**Whole poached salmon**

Unless you are very brave and own or can borrow a large fish poacher with a removable rack, the better part of valor is to go to a good fish market and order it cooked. (By the way, make sure they don't decorate it with shrimp or other seafood — (Ask me privately and I'll tell you about my grandson's bris party). Order about 1/4 lb. salmon per guest. The salmon should arrive on a platter. Decorate it with overlapping half slices of lemon and a slice of black olive for an eye. Arrange dill or fennel fronds around the fish.

Add about 2 tbsps. well-drained capers to each cup of "real" mayonnaise or mayonnaise mixed with sour cream to taste and serve in a sauce boat or, if you're good with a pastry bag, pipe it around the salmon.

**Orzo salad**

Cook orzo, allowing about 1/4 cup uncooked per person. Chop a celery stalk and finely cut a scallion, white and most of green parts, a couple of radishes and part of a green pepper, or any preferred vegeta-



bles, for each 2 cups cooked (about 1 cup uncooked).

Stir in a tsp. each of dried basil, parsley, and tarragon for this amount. Make a dressing of one part Chinese or white wine vinegar, three parts extra virgin olive oil and a tsp. of Dijon mustard or use an envelope of "Good Seasons" instead of the herbs, adding in the Dijon mustard. Stir into the salad just enough to moisten.

**Salad platter**

Arrange large leaves of romaine or red or green leaf lettuce on a platter. Slice tomatoes and arrange in rings over lettuce, run the tines of a fork down some cucumbers to score on all sides. This is easy and makes them a lot prettier. Slice thinly and arrange over tomatoes. Thinly slice mild onions, separate into rings, and slice yellow peppers into rounds. Scatter these over the platter. Make a simple dressing of 1 part Chinese or white wine vinegar to three parts extra virgin olive oil and sprinkle lightly just before serving.

**Veggie platter**

You can buy roasted red peppers in a jar, but it's easy to do this yourself, and they won't be all oily. Cover a baking sheet with foil. Cut off both ends of red peppers (save for salads), cut in half, remove seeds and membrane and flatten on pan, skin side up. Broil until nicely blackened and put into a paper bag for about ten minutes. Remove and peel off blackened skin — it comes right off. Slice into strips.

Slice eggplant into rounds about 1/2 inch thick. Sprinkle with salt, put into a colander with a weight on top and drain for about 30 minutes. Remove, rinse and dry on paper towels (this gets the bitter juices out). Place on a foil-covered baking sheet (you can use the same one you roasted the peppers on), brush lightly with olive oil, place under broiler until brown, turn, oil and brown other side.

Artichoke hearts. You can buy these marinated in jars.

Arrange eggplant slices overlapping on a platter scatter red pepper strips and artichoke hearts on top and sprinkle with a good Italian dressing.

See BRIDAL SHOWER LUNCH, BRUNCH, page 14

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# Food

## BRIDAL SHOWER LUNCH OR BRUNCH

**Tiny biscuits with cheese or olive centers** (cut with tomato paste cans or something about that size.)

Make a biscuit dough with a mix or from scratch. (You can even start with packaged biscuits, just line them up and roll together.) Roll 1/4 inch thick and cut into small rounds (an empty tomato paste can is about right.) Place a small cube of cheddar cheese or a pitted olive on half of the rounds. Put the other half of rounds on top and seal. Bake on a cookie sheet for 10-12 minutes.



### Chocolate Fudge Cake

This cake is a favorite recipe of Leah Camara, the "Voice & Herald's" layout artist, who is also a wonderful cook and baker. The cake has been taste-tested with much enthusiasm by all the staff.

### Cake

- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter
- 4 oz. unsweetened chocolate, broken up
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 1/4 cups sugar
- 1 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 2 tps. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 1/2 tps. salt
- 1 1/2 cups sour cream
- 3 eggs.
- 1 cup water
- 2 tps. natural vanilla extract



1. Heat oven to 350. Grease and flour three 9-inch round cake pans
2. In a glass bowl, melt butter and chocolate together in microwave on high until melted and smooth — 1 to 1 1/2 minutes, stirring halfway through. (Or do the same in a metal pan over low heat or simmering water.) Set aside. On low speed of electric mixer in a large bowl, mix together flour, sugar, cocoa, baking powder, baking soda and salt until blended.

3. Add sour cream, eggs, water, chocolate mixture and vanilla. Beat 30 seconds on low until dry ingredients are moistened, increase speed to medium and beat 2 minutes. Pour into prepared pans and smooth tops.

4. Bake at 350 for 40 minutes or until layers spring back when pressed. Cool in pans on rack 10 minutes. Turn layers out onto racks to cool.

### Frosting

- 4 oz. unsweetened chocolate, broken up
- 1/2 cup solid vegetable shortening
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1 box (1 lb.) confectioner's sugar
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder.
- Garnish: berries or chocolate curls

In a small glass bowl microwave chocolate on high for 1 minute, (or in a pan as above) stir until smooth and set aside. Beat shortening, butter, sour cream, milk, vanilla, salt, 1 cup of the sugar and the cocoa powder in a medium bowl until creamy. Gradually beat in the remaining sugar and melted chocolate until thick and smooth.

Place a cake layer on plate or revolving stand, spread with about 2/3 cup frosting. Top with second layer and repeat. Top with remaining layer. Spread rest of frosting on top and sides. Swirl decoratively. Garnish with strawberries, raspberries or chocolate curls.

### Everybody loves a fruit bowl

Create a beautiful fruit bowl with melon chunks or balls, berries, fresh pineapple, grapes or whatever you like.

Some sugar cookies flavored with lemon zest would be a nice addition.

If you are creating this party at home, ask some friends to help — prospective bridesmaids usually like to pitch in.

This can be a stand-up party or a sit-down with tables, depending on how much room you have. If it's a sit-down, you can buy pretty fabrics and cut up with pinking or regular sheers to make tablecloths and napkins, coordinated with your centerpiece flowers. If it's a large party, you will probably have to use disposable plates and flatware and paper napkins, so buy nice ones. It's a good idea to plan your color scheme first.

Marilyn Graff is food editor of the Jewish Voice & Herald.

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## Grooms take an active role in planning

The majority of wedding resources are still skewed toward the female audience, leaving men searching for advice. The groom has wedding responsibilities and wants to help with wedding planning, but he's often in the dark about what to do, says Mark Walerstein, founder of GroomsOnline ([www.groomsonline.com](http://www.groomsonline.com)), an informational website offering tips, pointers and time-saving hints designed to make the planning process more fun, relaxing and rewarding for the man.

The groom, best man or groomsman can check out the site for wedding-day checklists, attire pointers and bachelor party planning ideas.

When planning your upcoming wedding, keep these top tips

in mind, courtesy of GroomsOnline.com.

1. Gather paperwork. Make it your responsibility to apply for the wedding license, research blood-test requirements, and coordinate passport applications if needed for international travel. In addition, add the bride's name to financial accounts, wills or insurance policies if you have mutually decided this will be in your best interests.

2. Arrange transportation. Interview limousine companies or other transportation arrangements and finalize the details. Make sure you provide accurate directions to and from the ceremony and to your reception location as well. Present the company with a schedule or timeline so that the limo will be on time.

3. Plan the honeymoon. Once your locale is decided upon, go about booking the trip and securing transportation to and from the airport, which could be provided by your best man.

4. Coordinate groomsmen's attire. In addition to your own attire, set up fittings for tuxedo rental or purchase for your wedding party. Make sure everyone is provided with the necessary components (i.e. tie, vest, cummerbund and shoes) prior to the wedding day. Also arrange to have the tuxedos returned after the wedding by a groomsman.

5. Pick up the rings. After selecting your wedding bands, make sure they are sized correctly and pick them up from the jeweler. Be sure they are brought to the ceremony and in safekeeping with the best man.



THE GROOM should share equal billing in wedding planning.

## Tux terminology for the groom-to-be

Though the bulk of wedding day attire attention typically focuses on what the bride is wearing, grooms also have important choices to make when it comes to what to wear on their wedding day. And just like brides have many different styles from which to choose with respect to their gowns, so, too, do grooms when it comes to their tuxedos.

While a groom's wardrobe decision typically does not involve as much forethought or time as a bride's, he should keep in mind several factors before choosing a tuxedo. These include the degree of formality and the time of the event in addition to the style of the tuxedo itself. For instance, if the event is going to be ultra-formal, then a traditional tuxedo

complete with a tuxedo vest and tie is the most appropriate choice. However, at less formal weddings, this would clearly not be the best option. To help you make the right decision, here is a list of some tuxedo terminology that should help you make a more educated choice.

**Single-breasted.** Any man who has ever put on a suit, be it a tux or a business suit, likely knows that single-breasted means a suit with a single row of buttons down the middle. This has become the more popular choice of late and is appropriate for men of all body types. Single-breasted suits come in many styles, however. You can order a single-breasted tuxedo with either one button or two, with the choice typically

depending on the groom's height (taller grooms usually prefer two buttons, while shorter grooms like one button). Grooms can also order three- or four-button single-breasted tuxedos.

**Double-breasted.** As one might infer, the double-breasted tuxedo is one with two rows of buttons as opposed to one. Typically, these work best with hefty grooms, as double-breasted suits tend to hide girth.

**Cutaway tuxedo.** These go well with men of all statures. Cutaway refers to the front edges of the coat sloping diagonally from the waist and forming tails in the back. These are the most appropriate option for daytime weddings.

**Tails.** Tails are mainly

reserved for ultraformal and traditional weddings. Featuring a severe break between front and back, tails should be avoided by shorter or stockier grooms.

**High or low vest.** High vests are typically good for taller men with longer torsos, as they extend up the torso higher than a regular vest and go well with a high-

button coat. Low vests are more appropriate for most men and can be worn by men of all body types.

**Peaked lapel.** An extension of the coat collar, the peaked lapel is often a good choice for a shorter groom, as it typically makes the body appear longer and leaner.

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## Catering to your needs: start with budget

A stressful task to say the least, planning a wedding comes with a variety of decisions a couple must make before walking down the aisle. While many of these decisions are behind-the-scenes issues that most of your guests may never even notice, the process of choosing the right caterer is one decision couples must not take lightly, as everyone in attendance will be affected by who you choose to cater your special day.

Perhaps the main thing a couple must consider when choosing a caterer is their budget. Regardless of the style of your reception, cost will likely be dictated by the type of food you choose to serve your guests. Whether you choose a sit-down dinner or buffet style, the type of food and the number of guests dictate the price. If you're unsure of what to offer your guests, ask a caterer to offer some suggestions and see if it's possible to sample a few dishes from the kitchen. Many caterers are glad to do this, and it will give you a better idea of how you'll be spending your money.

When choosing a caterer, it is also important to check references. You can be referred to a caterer via a friend or coworker who is married, or you can ask any caterer during an interview to supply you with references.

### Agree on fee

Before choosing a caterer, it is also a good idea to reach an agreement on all fees, any extra charges or insurance and what the payment schedule will be like. This will more than likely be the most expensive part of the wedding, so having a concrete agreement in writing is the most responsible and safe way to go. Negotiating the price can be a difficult task, since most caterers will provide you with an estimate based on 100 guests, even if you have fewer guests coming. Discuss what the caterer's fee for fewer guests might be, if there is any at all. Also ask what the fee will be if you need to add more guests after reaching your agreement, or if the fee can be lessened should certain guests decide they are unable to make it. In many cases, after you've confirmed your guest list, refunds are not available for guests who don't show up for the reception and don't get a plate. And though this is something no couple wants to think about, make sure you have a cancellation policy in writing as well should the caterer need to back out for any reason.

Another thing to consider is how many catering employees you



**CHOOSING THE RIGHT CATERER** for your wedding is oftentimes an involved and difficult, yet important, decision to make.

want at the reception. In general, guests are seated in groups of eight or 10, so having one server for every eight to 10 people is a good way to go. Also make sure you know what you're paying these servers, and be sure to have that in writing as well. Make sure that the gratuities for the staff and the taxes are included in the price, too. After your wedding is over, the fewer hidden and extra fees, the better.

### Tableware, linens

When seeking out a caterer, you also want to see what types of decorations the caterer offers, if any. Table settings, floral arrangements for each table, and color schemes should all be open to discussion. Ask if tableware and linens are included as part of the estimate or the agreement. Believe it or not, these can get pretty pricey, so knowing what they are ahead of time can help you avoid any surprises. Some caterers also do not provide a cake with their estimate. Find out if they recommend any vendors and the types of cakes, styles and flavor you may select.

Before choosing any caterer, remember this aspect of your wedding may be the most expensive and also one of the most visible and memorable decisions you make. Making it carefully and considering all aspects of that decision will help make your wedding day a successful one.

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## Books

## Q &amp; A with Barrington author on 'The Secrets of Happily Married Men'

By Mary Korr  
mkorr@fri.org

**BARRINGTON** — Dr. Scott Haltzman, a Barrington psychiatrist and marriage counselor (and husband of 17 years), has just published a book, with humor and insight, on "The Secrets of Happily Married Men." (Eight ways to win your wife's heart forever).

A clinical assistant professor of psychiatry and human behavior at Brown University, he and his wife, Susan, have two children, Matt, 17, and Alena, 15.

Dr. Haltzman will make two book signing appearances next week — on Saturday, Feb. 11, at Borders (3 to 4:30 p.m.) in the Providence Place Mall and on Sunday, Feb. 12, at Imagine on Main St. (1 to 3 p.m.) in Warren.

This week, he answered the following questions for the *Jewish Voice & Herald*.

**MK:** Why did you write this book?

**SH:** As a psychiatrist, I began to notice patterns in how women and men were describing marriage, and in trying to learn more about it, recognized that within my specialty, there was scant mention on the patterns of marriage interaction I was seeing. Particularly, perhaps because of my own status as a husband, I was interested in learning what strategies men used in making marriage better. It seemed like all the "advice" and "relationship building strategies" were resonating with women, but men seemed to go about building strong marriages differently. I wanted to learn how.

**MK:** How does your website, [secretsofmarriedmen.com](http://secretsofmarriedmen.com), work?

**SH:** The website has changed since the book publication. What I had done was invite men and women to chime in on different relationship subjects, from infidelity, to gift giving, to therapy to sex. I collected the data, and used it to help me write 'SOHMM.' I'm a big advocate of marriage. These days, with so many young adults coming from families of divorce, it's understandable why they are skittish. If people have tools, however, to help them make a great marriage, I hope they'll be less shy about jumping in and committing themselves to the most deeply satisfying experience they may ever have.

**MK:** Are Jewish marriages any different, meaning are the divorce rates comparable and the issues comparable?

**SH:** I have heard that in past decades divorce rates were less

among Jewish couples, and probably still are among the Orthodox community. But my impression is that the more Americanized we become, the more we begin to think in terms of "If you're not happy, get out." The results on marriages are that couples become unwilling to ride out the tough times. I used to think that the strategies of successful marriage were different in Jewish men because they put their wives on a pedestal...I found that the problem in Jewish marriages didn't differ significantly from non-Jewish, and that the strategies to happy marriages were very similar also.

**MK:** Advice to a couple preparing for their wedding?

**SH:** Marriage isn't 50/50. You can't get into this with the intent of having him or her make you happy. Once you put that ring on you should devote your life to meeting your partner's need and making his or her life as rich as possible. The problem with 50/50, is that when you think you've given 50 percent, (and you sit around and wait to get your 50 percent) your partner perceives it as giving 25 percent, and is just sitting around waiting for you to give some more because he has the same attitude.

**MK:** Are we destined to repeat our parents' marriage style?

**SH:** Not necessarily. Each couple forms its unique style. I think we have an opportunity as a new generation to take the best from what we see, and apply it. But remember that some of the "old-fashioned" values are worth keeping. There is something to be said for a social stigma against divorce; sometimes when divorce is too easy, and couples bow out



Scott Haltzman, M.D.

early in marriage, they lose an opportunity to learn "the hard way" how rich and satisfying a lifetime commitment can be—even when marriage isn't always the source of happiness.

(Marriages in which there is domestic violence, addiction and chronic infidelities require other options.)

**MK:** Do you think singles put too much emphasis on finding a "soul mate"? What the heck does this mean or has it become hackneyed?

**SH:** Absolutely. Recent polls show that 93 percent of college students fully expect to meet and marry their soul mates. The problem with the view that there's one person in the world for you, is that when marriage goes sour (as it does at some point in every marriage) people become convinced that they just married the wrong person. So they start to look for Ms. or Mr. Right, and start all over again. I like to joke that we all married the wrong person, so let's just get on and learn how to get it right! After all, soul mates are made, not found.

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## Books

## How to marry a mensch

By Linda Morel

NEW YORK (JTA) — Wedged between the drama of life and death, Purim is also a love story. It's the saga of how a young woman met her husband, a man who initially seemed coarse and hard-boiled, but in the end arguably turned out to be a real mensch.

Set in ancient Persia, the story opens with King Ahasuerus banishing his wife. Eager to replace her, he tells his men to gather every beautiful maiden to his palace for his version of speed dating. Esther, niece of the revered Jew Mordechai, is taken to the palace with the other girls. Mordechai instructs her not to reveal her background, and visits the palace gates daily, hoping for news of his niece.

The king meets a number of potential queens, but selects Esther, unaware of her religion. The plot thickens when the king's vizier, Haman, intends a gallows for Mordechai, intending to kill him and annihilate the Jews. Esther, with Mordechai's help, sways the king and averts disaster for the Jewish nation.

Because of this, the Jewish people have praised Esther's bravery for centuries. But did anyone ever consider how a nice Jewish girl landed a king? "I imagine Queen Esther acted like she was happy to there, like she wanted to meet Mister Right," says Robin Gorman Newman, author of "How to Marry a Mensch," a recently published book. "She didn't just fantasize about it, she put her best foot forward."

## 'Love coach'

Newman is a love coach who helps single clients of all ages navigate the ever-changing social scene. In the age of JDate, the online dating service for Jews, her tips are timeless, as applicable in ancient Persia as they are now.

She advises clients to seek a *mensch*. She defines a *mensch* as a decent, responsible person, someone with good morals and strength of character, someone of whom even the fussiest Jewish mother would approve. While the word *mensch* derives from Yiddish, it's infiltrated popular culture, applying equally to men and women.

The love coach claims you must be a *mensch* to attract a *mensch*. Esther was a *mensch*, because she risked her safety and happiness in order to help her people.

A *mensch* is also a person you can trust, someone who will be there in times of trouble, the way King Ahasuerus responded when Queen Esther revealed that she was Jewish and that Haman was plotting genocide against her people. Instead of automatically accepting his vizier's advice, the king listened to his wife, hanging Haman on his own gallows.

Afterward, Mordechai instructs Persia's Jews to celebrate their salvation, something that's revived in present-day Purim parties. Yet in all that joy, it's worth noting that the holiday is not only a tale of redemption but also the joining of two *menshen*.

Let's imagine our heroine in action. When approaching

the king, what did she do right? Did she act like herself, or play by "The Rules"? The love coach speculates that Esther was a "mensch magnet," meaning that she was adept at making eye contact and starting conversations. "In the dating game, flirting is important, as is giving compliments."

She mentions an attractive client who was too shy to talk to men, until Newman encouraged her to take a chance. Long story short — by chatting a little, she married a great guy.

Today's dating scene has migrated to the Internet, the same tips apply. "Even on the Internet, you should distinguish yourself with a good photo," says Newman. "Write a punchy profile that shows your personality."

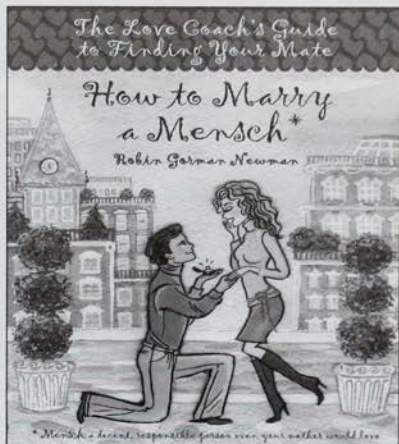
She describes a young man whose JDate profile wasn't drawing much attention. When she saw it, Newman knew why.

"Your picture looks like a military mug shot," she told him. "You're too stiff. You're not smiling."

The importance of appearing friendly can't be overestimated when it comes to attracting a *mensch*.

"People want to meet someone who's happy," says Newman.

She suggests seeking Cloud Eight. "Too many people want



perfection, that knock-my-socks-off feeling." They don't give a comfortable conversation with a nice person a chance.

A good percentage of Newman's clients are mature daters, people who've been divorced or widowed and are looking for mates. "You can get married at any age, if you have the right attitude," she says. "If you're afraid you're 50-plus and won't meet anybody, you probably won't." "The adage, the way to a man's heart is through his stomach," is

truer than ever," says Newman.

Conversely there's nothing better than a man who bakes. Now there's a real *mensch*.

In line with the holiday's theme, which revolves around exchanging desserts, she suggests throwing a singles Purim party, setting the mood by serving sweets. Invite every unattached person in your circle and ask them to bring friends. You never know who you could meet. If Queen Esther was still single, that's what she would do.

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## Selecting the perfect wedding gown

Laura Rosenberg, 26, a lawyer in Philadelphia, could not stop thinking about the very first dress she tried on when she began searching for her dream gown shortly after her engagement last year. It was simple and strapless with a dropped waist. But she says she couldn't believe finding the perfect wedding dress could be that easy, so she trekked to four more shops and tried on 25 others, only to finally settle on her first love. The best part? It was under her budget, she says.

The truth is that finding a wedding gown does not have to be stressful. In fact, it can be a whole lot of fun — if you know the secrets of navigating the sea of bridal salons, designers and outlets. Even better, your dream wedding gown does not even have to cost a fortune.

1. It's all about the right fit. You should start your search by scouring bridal magazines and Web sites for photos of all different types of dresses. Keep a file of all the styles that are appealing to you, and bring those images with you when you actually go to a bridal salon or dress shop. Use magazine and online sources to find suggestions for bridal salons in your area, but also ask friends and family for referrals, suggest experts. Then, make appointments with a few of them.

You can bring mom and the maid of honor to the appointment. But do not bring too many people because it's ultimately your decision. Try on various styles to see what looks best and use those images you pulled as a guide. You may want to bring a pair of shoes that are about the same height as the ones you'd like to wear on your wedding day but keep in mind that alterations are done after you pick a gown.

2. The gown you select should also reflect the formality of your reception. If you are having an evening reception with more than 200 guests, then you can opt for a floor-length dress with a long cathedral train, according to the magazine *Contemporary Bride*. But daytime or semi-formal brides should choose simpler dresses with chapel- or sweep-length trains that are shorter.

3. It should make you feel like a million bucks. Most people cannot afford a custom-made Christian Dior Haute Couture dress, but that does not mean you have to forego designer gowns altogether. Keep an eye out for trunk shows or sample sales held at bridal salons in your area.

Consider wearing a designer bridesmaid gown in ivory or white, which can make a simple yet stunning wedding dress. Simple is the key word. Avoid-

ing lots of beading or sequins, which require lots of detail from seamstresses, can keep the price of your dress down. You can also settle for a silk blend instead of pure silk. Making concessions and being flexible will help you keep your budget in check.

4. Once you pick a dress, it has to be ordered (unless it's off-the-rack or a sample). When it arrives, you will go through three to four fittings. Schedule your last dress fitting one week before your wedding day.



SHOPPING FOR A WEDDING GOWN can be stress free and even within your budget if you know where and what to look for.



### Comfortable footwear is a shoe-in

THE RIGHT PAIR OF SHOES are the final wedding day accessory. But uncomfortable shoes can be a pain for the bride. Break in shoes by wearing them around the house for several hours each day leading up to the wedding. If they're slippery and you could risk a fall going down the aisle, try placing adhesive strips on the soles of the shoes.



## ONLINE DATING

from page 2

to fit. Then in December, Eric was offered an amazing career opportunity that forced him to relocate. When he told me that he was offered the position my heart sank to the pit of my stomach. I was so proud of him, yet terrified of what it would do to us. Eric assured me that the move was for our future. (Of course, I also felt better when I searched women in the town he was moving to and none were on Jdate!)

We were both committed to making a long-distance relationship work. We managed to spend every weekend together. I believe that the distance drew us closer. It forced us to realize how much we cared for one another and how much we missed each other. There were many phone calls, hundreds of miles put on our cars and plenty of tears as I was driving back after a weekend.

Eric constantly planned romantic surprises for me. One cold March day I arrived cranky after a long drive in traffic to find an indoor picnic laid out on the living room floor, complete with blanket, wine, cheese, a Frisbee and grass!

Finally, in the spring of 2004, an opportunity arose where I would be able to trans-



Eric Bran and Marlene Greene on their wedding day

fer jobs, begin graduate school and be with Eric. I loved living in Hoboken and the friends I had there, but it was no fun without Eric. I would see couples walking along the street at night holding hands and know that we should be one of them. The decision to move was an easy one. I couldn't be sure of what the future would hold for the two of us, but I knew that I had to follow my heart and find out.

I am ecstatic to tell you that

soon after I made the move, Eric surprised me with a trip to Las Vegas and proposed on the gondola at the Venetian hotel! Although we lived less than a mile from each other for three years, and had acquaintances in common, I truly don't think we ever would have met if not for JDate. I am the luckiest girl in the world and can't wait to spend the rest of my life with "Eye doc Eric."

The couple were married on Nov. 5, 2005 at Temple Emanu-El.

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