JEWISH
RHODE ISLAND

JULY 2026 | TAMMUZ/AV 5786
JEWISHRHODY.ORG



Full speed into summer

Antisemitism "Command Center" at Gillette Stadium

New leadership at the Jewish Alliance

Meet the Jews of Block Island

THE NEW 2026 DEFENDER 110



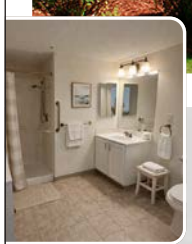
LAND ROVER WARWICK

RANGE ROVER DEFENDER DISCOVERY

A Proud Member of the Kaplan Auto Group

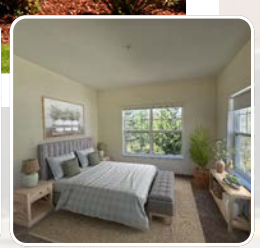
LANDROVERWARWICK.COM











TAMARISK SENIOR LIVING

DISCOVER THE COMFORT OF HOME AT *TAMARISK SENIOR LIVING*

Whether you're planning ahead or exploring options for a loved one, we're here to help you feel at home.

Tour our beautiful residence, meet our compassionate team, and learn how Tamarisk offers peace of mind.

Email or call for a tour today.

3 SHALOM DRIVE, WARWICK, RI 02886 401.732.0037 JAMESG@TAMARISKRI.ORG

JEWISH RHODE ISLAND

EDITOR Daniel Margolis

DESIGN & LAYOUT Alex Foster

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT
Tracy Blake | 401-421-4111, ext. 160
tblake@jewishallianceri.org

CONTRIBUTORS Fran Ostendorf, Bob Abelman, Ruth Marris Macaulay, Sarah Greenleaf, Robert Isenberg

COLUMNISTS Michael Fink, George M. Goodwin, Patricia Raskin, Rabbi James Rosenberg, Daniel Stieglitz

VOLUME XXXIII, ISSUE VII

JEWISH RHODE ISLAND
(ISSN number 1539-2104,
USPS #465-710) is published monthly except twice in May, August and September.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID
at Providence, R.I.

POSTMASTER Send address changes to:
Jewish Rhode Island, 401 Elmgrove Ave.,
Providence, RI 02906.

PUBLISHER
The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, President/CEO Steven A. Baker,
Chair Marisa Garber,
401 Elmgrove Ave.,
Providence, RI 02906.
401-421-4111;
Fax 401-331-7961

RHODE ISLAND PRESS ASSOCIATION **MEMBER** of the Rhode Island Press Association.

COPY DEADLINES: All news releases, photographs, etc., must be received on the Wednesday 10 days prior to publication. Submissions may be sent to: editor@jewishallianceri.org.

ADVERTISING: We do not accept advertisements for pork or shellfish. We do not attest to the kashrut of any product or the legitimacy of advertisers' claims.

ON THE COVER: PHOTO | GLENN OSMUNDSON
Having fun at J-Camp at the Bonnie & Donald Dwares JCC in Providence.

The Voice of Greater Rhode Island's Jewish Community
JEWISH RHODE ISLAND

@JewishRhody

Looking forward to what brings us together

DEAR READERS,

I'm Daniel Margolis – you can call me Dan – and I'm excited to introduce myself to you as the new editor of Jewish Rhode Island (JRI).

First, and most importantly, I want to thank Fran Ostendorf. Looking at the many previous issues of JRI, I am sure that all our readers will join me in thanking her for the work she has done over the past 12 years. I thank her for all that she has taught and, I hope, will continue to teach me. Even though I only arrived here a few days ago, I've already learned a great deal from her.



Fran and I share something else in common: Chicago. She lived there for years, and I moved to Rhode Island from Chicago just before we put this issue to bed. While in Chicago, I worked for ADL, the Anti-Defamation League, as the associate regional director in charge of policy and advocacy for the Midwest. My role was to connect with mayors, legislators and governors on how best to fight antisemitism and all forms of hate.

Working specifically on antisemitism and extremism can be depressing, especially in dark times such as these. Still, I found things to bring me cheer, including the surprisingly broad array of leaders who want to take practical steps to combat anti-Jewish hate. The people I worked with ranged from extremely liberal Democratic legislators in Illinois to the conservative Republican governors of states like Indiana and Nebraska.

Of course, there are bad people on all sides, but I was happy to find that there were good people as well, people who could work together to support the Jewish community: people who love the president and people who hate him, people who support Israel in the current wars and people who think the war is a mistake; people who vote red and people who vote blue.

I hope that Jewish Rhode Island – both the publication and the community for which it was named – can continue to do that as well. I hope that we can focus not on the things that divide us, but on the things that bring us together. Still, I hope we don't shy away from areas where we disagree. I believe that we can lead the country by discussing and debating these matters in a way that ultimately unites, despite our differences. Fran has done a great job in this respect – this is one of the many things I'll try to do as well as she has.

Aside from having worked in the Jewish community, I have spent time in the editorial world. I was an editor at Oxford University Press, handling online resources and print encyclopedias. Also in New York City, I worked as a news editor and journalist, covering everything from local community issues to the heads-of-state gatherings at the United Nations.

I should mention that, despite my time in Illinois and NYC (and also in Iowa!) I am only partially a transplant to New England. I was born and spent my first couple of decades in Worcester, Massachusetts, and was living there just before I took the ADL job in Chicago. I have been on the board of the Jewish Federation of Central Massachusetts and – in a role I would never have expected! – was for a couple of years the executive director of the B'nai B'rith Cemetery in Worcester. A big part of the reason I'm here is that I missed living in southern New England.

Thank you for reading. Please don't hesitate to let me know what you think of how we're doing, as well as any suggestions you have and things you'd like to write! Contact me at dmargolis@jewishallianceri.org or via mail at 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, RI 02906.

Daniel Margolis



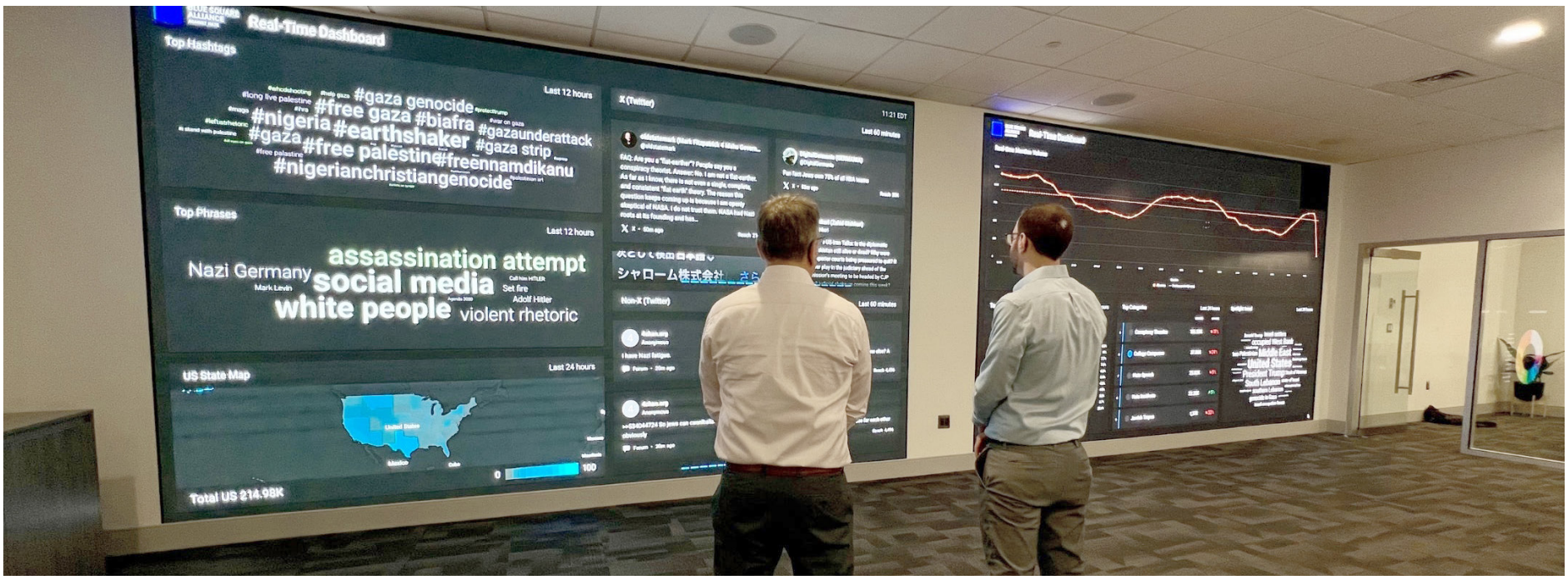
D'VAR TORAH 5 | **CALENDAR** 6 | **FOOD** 7 | **COMMUNITY VOICES** 9 | **OPINION** 11 | **REAL ESTATE** 12 | **HONORING CANTOR MAYER** 16 | **SCHOOL GRADUATIONS** 17 | **COMMUNITY** 18 | **BUSINESS** 27 | **OBITUARIES** 28

THE MISSION OF JEWISH RHODE ISLAND is to communicate Jewish news, ideas and ideals by connecting and giving voice to the diverse views of the Jewish community in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts, while adhering to Jewish values and the professional standards of journalism.

ALL SUBMITTED CONTENT becomes the property of Jewish Rhode Island. Announcements and opinions contained in these pages are published as a service to the community and do not necessarily represent the views of Jewish Rhode Island or its publisher, the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island. We reserve the right to refuse publication and edit submitted content

UP FRONT

Take a look at the antisemitism command center inside Gillette Stadium



Steven Fransblow (left) and Adam Katz (right) look at the real-time dashboard at the Blue Square Alliance Against Hate command center in Foxborough, Massachusetts.

PHOTO | JTA/JACKIE HAJDENBERG

BY JACKIE HAJDENBERG
JTA

FOXBOROUGH, MASS. – For the past five years, a specialty "command center" that researches antisemitism has been operating inside the New England Patriots' home stadium in this Boston suburb.

WALL-SIZED SCREENS, refreshed every minute, show live updates on public conversation topics related to antisemitism. Tweets featuring antisemitic dog whistles are also blasted onto an enormous dashboard – hand-me-down technology formerly used by the Patriots during team practice to run plays.

The command center is where the Blue Square Alliance Against Hate (BSA) monitors more than 1 billion social media posts every day. It's a project of the Patriots' Jewish owner Robert Kraft, the Boston-area philanthropist who founded the BSA in 2019.

On June 23, the nonprofit anti-hate organization announced the formation of a new advisory board featuring a slate of high-profile names: former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice; Warner Bros. CEO David Zaslav; Bank of America CEO Brian Moynihan; Salesforce CEO Marc Benioff; and Dentons CEO Kate Barton.

The advisory board will guide the organization on strategy and "deepen institutional relationships," its website said.

The statement said the board will help further the mission of the roughly dozen analysts who staff the command center. They monitor trends in antisemitic rhetoric online, craft research reports based on their findings and use search engine optimization to make links with their resources float to the top of Google search results. The wall-sized screens are filled with word clouds, pie charts, bar graphs, tweets and Facebook posts, detailing what everyday Americans encounter online.

Since Oct. 7, 2023, the BSA has been on particularly high alert, monitoring shifts in the online conversation around antisemitism, which often included ordinary social media users swapping the word "Zionist" for "Jew" in derogatory ways, the group says. But in late February, when the United States and Israel entered the war with Iran, the organization began noticing new trends in their data.

"What we saw, especially right after the operation began, is Hitler glorification was the first thing to spike," Rotem Leiba, a lead analyst at the BSA, said. "In terms of all the antisemitic things we've seen happening at this time, Hitler glorification was the first to spike."

Using Brandwatch, the social media monitoring software, the team found that terms like "Hitler was right," "We owe Hitler an apology," and "Hitler knew what he was doing" appeared with increasing frequency — more than it did in the aftermath of Oct. 7. A new term, "Hitler in heaven," also began popping up across social media, topping similar sentiments at 21.4 million impressions.

One area they are still investigating is bots: Studies have shown that automated software programs frequently amplify levels of hate speech.

"We are starting to talk to other partners that can help us understand who are the actors behind these conversations and … their echo chambers, and who's the one publishing it," Leiba said.

Efforts to manipulate public opinion and inflame social tensions are often pinned on Russia, Iran and other countries, although most of those bots Blue Square is tracking appear to be homegrown, Leiba explained. "Even some of the bots that we have seen in some reports amplifying content are bots that are created domestically, not necessarily from foreign actors."

As Israel and the United States joined forces to attack Iran, and Israel pursued its proxies in Lebanon, rhetoric dehumanizing Jews also spiked. CyberWell, a compliance partner to social media organizations that helps them follow content moderation and regulatory policies, also found similar results.

Tal-Or Cohen Montemayor, founder and executive director of CyberWell, said the users would compare Jews to "rats, pigs, monkeys or cockroaches in the comments section – that's human beings being really disgusting."

The Foxborough-based command center resembles that of the Secure Community Network in Chicago, where the group that coordinates security for Jewish institutions set up an office in 2021 to monitor antisemitic threats.

At the stadium, which will also have hosted seven matches by the end of the current FIFA World Cup, it's clearly Kraft's team's turf. Photos of Kraft, framed op-eds he wrote about antisemitism on college campuses and pictures from his alma mater, Columbia University, decorate the office. Blown-up images of the Patriots' Super Bowl rings adorn the hallways leading into the command center.

The BSA is part of a crowded field of antisemitism watchdogs that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Righteousness and self-righteousness

This week's Torah portion is Pinchas, named for the biblical character who Jewish tradition sees as the model of righteous zealotry. Don't be surprised if you did not learn about Pinchas when you were a child in religious school. His story is rather grisly.

D'VAR TORAH



RABBI JEFFREY GOLDWASSER

IN THE STORY, Pinchas took swift, but unauthorized, action when he saw an Israelite man named Zimri "whoring" with a Midianite woman named Cozbi. (It's a charged word, I know, but an accurate translation of the Hebrew). Pinchas picked up a spear and killed both Zimri and Cozbi. According to the text, Pinchas' zealous action averted God's wrath against the Israelites, and it earned him the reward of "perpetual priesthood."

Even the ancient rabbis had a hard time understanding and explaining this story, as it implies that vigilante killing can be excused, and even rewarded, if it is done in zealous obedience to God. It's a dangerous idea. We don't want to encourage people to justify killing by saying, "God told me to do it."

The Talmud states that Pinchas was only rewarded for his murderous action because he struck the couple while they were caught in the forbidden act. Further, it says that Zimri had a right to kill Pinchas in self-defense because no court had ordered him to be executed (B. Sanhedrin 82a). By the reckoning of the Talmud, it seems that Pinchas was no better than the man he killed.

What is the Torah trying to tell us? What are the rabbis trying to say?

Zealotry is a common human experience to things that excite our anger and our sense of righteousness. When people see things that they believe to be evil, they are often quick to strike (preferably with words, not spears). We can recognize this tendency in ourselves.

Think about the times when you have responded angrily to something that seemed wrong to you. Did you say something hurtful? Did you become hostile? Did you do something that you later regretted, even if you thought your anger was justified?

Jewish tradition has an ambivalent approach to such zealotry. On the one hand, it is good to be passionate in the cause of justice and righteousness. We applaud swift action to stand up for what is right. On the other hand, we are reminded that we rarely make good choices when we are enraged.

The rabbis intentionally narrowed the circumstances when actions like Pinchas' could be permitted. They warned that the line between righteous indignation and self-righteous fervor can be very unclear when we are upset. They reminded us that zealotry can backfire in terrible ways.

How should we respond when our passions are excited by things that seem wrong to us? First, we should be patient with ourselves. Take the time you need to consider an appropriate response. Consider the perspective and intentions of the other person.

Second, let your response come from your best self – your highest values and your deepest commitments – and not from anger, self-aggrandizement or fear. Remember that we always have a choice to make things better, or to allow our anger to make them worse. Make choices that lead to healing.

Finally, be humble. None of us is perfect. Everyone makes mistakes. Remember the times when you fell short of your standards and you needed others to be forgiving toward you – not enraged. Lower your ego before you judge others.

Pinchas' story is not easy. It challenges us and may even anger us. It reminds us that there are no easy choices in this world. It reminds us to examine ourselves, our motivations and our feelings. It tells us to do the best we can to do what is right in a world that is often wrong.

RABBI JEFF GOLDWASSER *is the spiritual leader of Temple Sinai in Cranston. A version of this d'var Torah appears on his blog, RebJeff.com.*



Greater Rhode Island

July 10	8:01pm
July 17	7:57pm
July 24	7:52pm
July 31	7:45pm

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

includes Cyberwell, the Combat Antisemitism Movement, the Secure Community Network and the Anti-Defamation League's Center for Antisemitism Research. The ADL and BSA announced the formation of a partnership in February to expand educational programming on antisemitism prevention in schools and provide support for synagogues and faith communities.

"They've built delivery trucks going to all these different places, and the trucks aren't full," Katz said, referring to their blue square pins and other "blue square content" and "blue square messaging." "We have stuff we're trying to get onto delivery trucks to get to these places. It's an obvious match."

Their efforts are based on the idea that monitoring can help identify rising risks of violence and detect dangerous trends before they escalate. Susan Benesch, who directs the Dangerous Speech Project at Harvard University, has written that such early warning systems are helpful, but only so long as they are matched by actions.

In a working paper for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Benesch suggested steps like promoting "counterspeech" by influential members of a community, changing the design of social media platforms that amplify such speech, or strengthening social norms in the communities from which the hate speech and misinformation emerges.

Blue Square may be the most public-facing of these monitoring efforts, and, with Kraft's money and platform, the best known, thanks to its Super Bowl ads and its association with America's most popular sport.

Having captured the public's attention, the BSA is seeking to shape its discourse. When regular internet users look up an antisemitic conspiracy theory or a trending dog whistle, Blue Square wants its results to be the first they see.

"Our default use case is: What does mainstream America see and hear on this topic?" explained the group's president, Adam Katz.

Steven Fransblow, chief data and technology officer at the BSA, provided a typical example.

"We're trying to crack the code on: How can we continue to be surfaced when Candace Owens says, 'Go research this,'" Fransblow explained. "They're finding us, versus Reddit."

Owens, a far-right commentator who frequently promotes antisemitic conspiracy theories, has nearly 8 million followers on Twitter, and nearly 6 million subscribers on YouTube. Once a well-regarded voice in the conservative political space, she has been disavowed by her former supporters in more recent years as her content has become increasingly anti-Israel and antisemitic.

In January, Owens suggested that her former employer, the conservative podcaster Ben Shapiro, who is Jewish, sought to grab the mantle of Turning Point USA's slain founder Charlie Kirk, saying Shapiro was acting as if he was promised the role "3,000 years ago." The "3,000 years ago" phrase is an antisemitic meme, mocking Jews for claiming ancestral ties to the Land of Israel and alleging they exploit history to assert a nefarious agenda. That phrase, which Blue Square says arose as early as 2014, but took off after Oct. 7, is one that the organization is working to counteract with its web presence.

Search "3,000 years ago" and "Jews" in Google and hits explaining its antisemitic intent pop up from the American Jewish Committee, CyberWell, the Times of Israel and social media sites like Reddit and Quora. This week, anyway, Blue Square's explanation of the term showed up on the second page of search results.

The BSA has its critics. A controversial $15 million Super Bowl ad, which aired in February, featured a Jewish high school student who discovers a Post-It note scrawled with the words "Dirty Jew." Critics of the word choice found it outdated or unrealistic, or called the ad spending outlandish, arguing that there are better ways to address antisemitism or help the Jewish community.

Katz defended the ad, saying it was a vindication of the "command center" and its data-driven approach to monitoring antisemitic language and memes.

"We were looking at what are the most ubiquitous slurs on social media that are happening with high volume and frequency and are understandable by everybody," Katz said. "And that's why we went with 'dirty Jew.'"

According to BSA's research, the phrase "dirty Jew" made nearly 500 million impressions across 140,000 posts on X, Facebook, Instagram, Threads, Reddit, Bluesky, and 4Chan between 2023 and 2025 – an increase, Fransblow said, of 174% from the previous three years.

"With the Super Bowl, you have 30 seconds," Katz added. "It's got to hit and land with as close to 140 million people as possible. So you're trying to find language that is recognizable, that is ubiquitous, that is common, that is inarguably antisemitic."

Added Katz, "We can't afford to be too subtle."

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

FOR COMPLETE MONTHLY LISTINGS, VISIT JEWISHRHODY.ORG

Ongoing

Kosher Senior Café and Programming. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday – Thursday at the Bonnie & Donald Dwares JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence; Fridays* at Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. In-person (and usually on Zoom Tuesday –Thursday) programming 11 a.m.-noon followed by lunch and discussion noon-1 p.m. *No café on 7/3. On 7/31, Summer Picnic at Goddard State Memorial Park; see separate listing below for more information. On Wednesdays, programming is chair yoga. For seniors aged 60 and older as well as younger adults with a disability; all faiths and backgrounds are welcome. Suggested donation: $3 per lunch. The Kosher Senior Café is a program of Jewish Collaborative Services and is generously supported by the Jewish Alliance of Greater RI and Blackstone Health. Information and RSVP, Neal at neal@jcsri.org or 401-421-4111.

Mahjong at Temple Torat Yisrael. Tuesdays 11 a.m.-1 p.m. 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Drop in and play Mahjong with us. Beginners and experienced players welcome. Free. Information, Michelle Birman at michelle@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Hebrew Classes. Tuesdays twice per month through 8/18. Introduction to Prayerbook Hebrew 5-5:45 p.m. Other levels 6-7 p.m. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. Classes offered: Introduction to Prayerbook Hebrew, Advanced Beginners for Spoken Hebrew, Intermediate and Advanced. Offered jointly with the Jewish Alliance of Greater RI. Upcoming dates: 7/14, 7/21, 8/11, 8/18. Information, Toby Liebowitz at tobyaane@gmail.com.

Temple Torat Yisrael Virtual Minyan. Tuesdays 5:30 p.m. Via Zoom. Information, temple@toratyisrael.org.

Cape Cod Synagogue Family Shabbat Services and Dinner. Second Friday of the month 5:30 p.m. 145 Winter St., Hyannis, Mass. In-person and livestreamed services on website, Facebook, Cape Media, YouTube and Community Television Comcast channel 99. Followed by Community Shabbat Dinner. Information, 508-775-2988 or capecodsynagogue.org.

Temple Beth-El Shabbat Service. Fridays 5:45-7:15 p.m. 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Please join us. Information, Jude Weinstein at jweinstein@temple-beth-el.org or 401-331-6070.

Temple Sinai Evening Service. 6-7 p.m. 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Join us in person or on Zoom. Followed by an Oneg Shabbat Reception (7-8 p.m.) on 7/31. Information, Templesinairi.org, admin@templesinairi.org or 401-942-8350.

United Brothers Synagogue Shabbat Services. 7 p.m. 205 High St., Bristol. Shabbat services first Friday evening of every month. Information, Bradford Louison at bradlouison@gmail.com or 617-512-1978.

Cape Cod Synagogue Shabbat Services. Fridays 7 p.m. 145 Winter St., Hyannis, Mass. With Rabbi David Freelund. In-person and livestreamed on website, Facebook, Cape Media, YouTube and Community Television Comcast channel 99. Information, 508-775-2988 or capecodsynagogue.org.

Temple Torat Yisrael Shabbat Service. Saturdays 9:30-10:30 a.m. 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Shabbat service with Torah Reading and Kaddish. In-person service with Zoom available. No service 7/4. Information, Michelle Birman at michelle@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Temple Sinai Breakfast and Torah Study. Saturdays 9:15-11 a.m. 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Breakfast followed by weekly Torah study (also on Zoom) at 10 a.m. Information, templesinairi.org, admin@templesinairi.org or 401-942-8350.

Temple Habonim Torah Study. Some Saturdays 10-11 a.m. When Shabbat morning services are not scheduled, Torah Study (currently online) is usually held. Information, Adina Davies at office@templehabonim.org or 401-245-6536.

Cape Cod Synagogue Shabbat Services. Saturdays 10:30 a.m. 145 Winter St., Hyannis, Mass. With Rabbi David Freelund. In-person and livestreamed on website, Facebook and YouTube. Information, Cape Cod Synagogue at 508-775-2988 or capecodsynagogue.org.

Temple Sinai Morning Service. Saturdays 11 a.m.-noon. 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Join us either in the Chapel or on Zoom. Information, Templesinairi.org, admin@templesinairi.org or 401-942-8350.

Friday | July 10

Temple Torat Yisrael Kabbalat Shabbat Service. 5:45 p.m. Via Zoom only. Information and Zoom link, Michelle Birman at michelle@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Saturday | July 11

Temple Beth-El Torah Study. 9-10:30 a.m. 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Join us in the library. Information, Jude Weinstein at jweinstein@temple-beth-el.org or 401-331-6070.

Tuesday | July 14

Young Professionals Happy Hour. 5:30 p.m. Hot Club, 25 Bridge St., Providence. Enjoy the beautiful summer weather and have a drink with friends while enjoying the river. Cost: $12 (includes one drink). Information and RSVP, Samantha Kaufman at skaufman@jewishallianceri.org.

Thursday | July 16

Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center Author Talk. 6-7 p.m. Bonnie & Donald Dwares JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Award-winning journalist and author Daniela Gerson will discuss her book "The Wanderers: A Story of Exile, Survival, and Unexpected Love in the Shadow of World War II." Part family history, part investigative journey and part exploration of the refugee experience, this book uncovers the story of many Polish Jews who fled to the Soviet Union. Free. Information, Lexi Kutenplon at lexik@hercri.org.

RICI "Justice Beyond Borders: Americans Murdered by Terrorists and the Fight for Accountability." 7-9 p.m. Help us bring justice to the families of Americans murdered abroad by Palestinian terrorists who were released in hostage deals. Join in this virtual conversation about justice, navigating the legal system and Israel's dilemma in hostage deals. Cost: Free; donations encouraged. Register at tinyurl.com/justice716. Information, Maria Friedman at maria@ricoalitionforisrael.org.

Friday | July 17

Temple Torat Yisrael Kabbalat Shabbat Service. 5:45 p.m. Via Zoom only. Information and Zoom link, Michelle Birman at michelle@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Temple Habonim Shabbat by the Sea. 6:15 p.m. Barrington Town Beach, 87 Bay Road, Barrington. Bring your own chair or blanket and welcome Shabbat on the beach. In case of inclement weather, the services will be moved inside to Temple Habonim (165 New Meadow Rd, Barrington). Information, office@templehabonim.org.

Friday | July 24

Temple Torat Yisrael Beach Shabbat. 5:30 p.m. Goddard Memorial State Park, 1095 Ives Road, Warwick. Come experience Kabbalat Shabbat with an informal, interactive family service. Service will be followed by a potluck dairy picnic. All are welcome. Information, Michelle Birman at michelle@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Saturday | July 25

Temple Beth-El Torah Study. 9-10:30 a.m. 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Join us in the library. Information, Jude Weinstein at jweinstein@temple-beth-el.org or 401-331-6070.

Thursday | July 30

Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center Game Day. 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Ledgemont Country Club, 131 Brown Ave., Seekonk, Mass. We're putting the fun in fundraising with the return of Game Day – an exciting event featuring mahjong, canasta and bridge, plus fabulous raffle prizes – all to raise critical funds that help our programs thrive. Information, info@hercri.org or 401-453-7860.

Friday | July 31

JCS Kosher Senior Cafe Summer Picnic. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Goddard Memorial State Park, 1095 Ives Road, East Greenwich. Transportation provided, upon request, leaving from the Dwares JCC at 10 a.m. and Temple Sinai at 10:30 a.m. Bus will return to Temple Sinai and the JCC following the picnic. The Kosher Senior Cafe is for individuals of all faiths and backgrounds 60+ or under 60 with disabilities. RSVP (by 7/24) and information, Neal at neal@jcsri.org or 401-421-4111.

Temple Torat Yisrael Kabbalat Shabbat Service. 5:45 p.m. Via Zoom only. Information and Zoom link, Michelle Birman at michelle@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

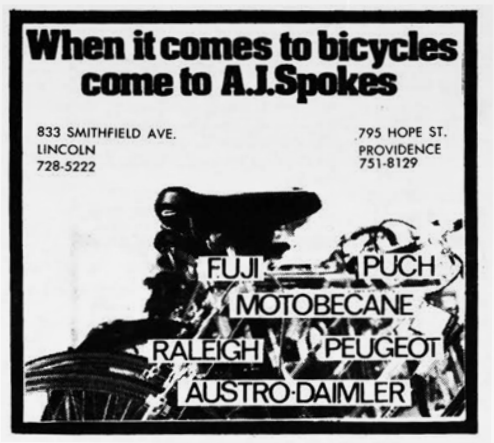
Saturday | August 1

Temple Beth-El Torah Study. 9-10:30 a.m. 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Join us in the library. Information, Jude Weinstein at jweinstein@temple-beth-el.org or 401-331-6070.

Wednesday | August 5

Building Safer Communities: A Conversation with Attorney General Candidates. 7 p.m. Bonnie & Donald Dwares JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Hear directly from the candidates running for Attorney General in this moderated conversation. This event is nonpartisan. The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island does not endorse any candidates. Information and RSVP (by 8/3), Emily Gaudreau at egaudreau@jewishallianceri.org.

JEWISH RHODE ISLAND's This Month in History



High Gear

Cycling exploded in popularity in the 1970s, partly in response to the oil crisis. Enter A.J. Spokes, a groundbreaking neighborhood bike shop on Hope Street, which was co-founded by polymathic Providence native John Ranucci. This ad from July 1978 advertises a second location in Lincoln, as well as popular brands at the time. According to lore, the staff of A.J. Spokes once opened a 40-foot shipping container full of 10-speed bicycles and sold all 350 units in a single day.

Newspaper courtesy Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association

FOOD

Five frozen treats to keep cool this summer

Summer heat can be tough to beat without a cool, refreshing game plan. Cool off when the temperatures climb by turning to frozen make-ahead treats that can make almost any sweltering afternoon feel like a beach vacation.



STAYING COMFORTABLE is simple with Grapes from California, which take "cool" to the next level. Freezing them turns each grape into its own mini sorbet - just rinse, dry and freeze for two hours, or try these easy recipes that give everyone something to enjoy.

As a naturally healthy, refreshing, juicy and hydrating solution, grapes can become your summer go-to. To find more frozen solutions, visit GrapesFromCalifornia.com.

1 Chocolate-Dipped Frozen Grape and Yogurt Clusters

Fresh grapes add a bright, juicy pop of flavor to tangy yogurt and rich chocolate in these irresistible frozen clusters that are light, refreshing and perfectly balanced for summer snacking. Make a batch and keep them ready for warm afternoons or casual backyard get-togethers.

2 Frozen-Yogurt California Grape and Coconut Bites

This fun and easy snack lets grapes shine, as each bite features a sweet grape dipped in creamy Greek yogurt and rolled in shredded coconut for a refreshing, tropical treat. Ideal for hot summer days and made with just three ingredients, they're a simple way to enjoy a cool, healthy snack.

3 Hot Honey Frozen Yogurt, Grape and Pecan Bark

Cool, crunchy and sweet with a pleasing touch of spicy heat, this frozen treat offers something for everyone. Juicy grapes pair with Greek yogurt, pecans and a drizzle of hot honey for a refreshing bite with subtle sweetness and satisfying crunch. Keep a batch in the freezer for a summer snack that feels both fun and effortless.

4 Frozen Grape-Lemon Yogurt Cups

Cool off with delectable frozen snack cups. These snacks offer the best of both frozen grapes and frozen yogurt. Layer granola, lemon yogurt, California grape halves and toasted almonds, then freeze. The grapes lend a sweet-tart freshness and bite to the mix as a natural complement to yogurt and granola, even when frozen.

5 Swalty Frozen Grapes

Frosty grapes bring together juicy sweetness, zesty lime and a hint of salty spice from Tajin for an irresistibly refreshing summer bite. Served ice-cold straight from the freezer, they're crunchy and flavorful, perfect for cooling down on hot days. Take one bite and they might become your new warm-weather favorite.

For the full recipes, find this story on our website at jewishrhody.com.

SUMMER INSTITUTE

Holocaust by Bullets

Presented with trainers from Yahad In Unum

www.yiu.ngo/en

REGISTER HERE:

PROGRAM DETAILS

Wednesday, July 29: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Thursday, July 30 & Friday, July 31: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- $500 stipend upon completion (attendance all three days required)
- Breakfast and lunch provided
- Earn 25 PDPs
- Limited to 30 participants

This workshop is free of charge

REGISTRATION

Limited to 30 participants

Contact: Raquel Poole - raquel.poole@bristolcc.edu

BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
HOLOCAUST & GENOCIDE CENTER



Thank you to our Golf Classic Sponsors

EAGLE SPONSOR

Bonnie and Donald Dwares

LEGACY LOUNGE SPONSOR

Envision Technology Advisors, LLC

GOLF CART SPONSOR

bodyby Z® PLASTIC SURGERY

GOLFER GIFT SPONSOR

THE KOFFLER GROUP

BRUNCH SPONSOR

Pamela and Jeffrey Vogel

COCKTAIL SPONSOR

WINGATE LIVING

BEVERAGE CART SPONSOR

BeaconBank

NOVELTY SPONSORS

AMPLIFIED

The Charness Family

100 YEARS 1926-2026 THE MIRIAM HOSPITAL
A CENTURY OF HEALING, HEALTH AND HOPE

Lezli and Jamie Pious

LONGEST DRIVE / CLOSEST TO PIN

ANCHOR MECHANICAL

LIVE AUCTION SPONSOR

Brier & Brier
Personal Service.....Insurance Professionals

9TH HOLE SPONSOR

TOWNE GLASS & ALUMINUM INC.

GOLF TEE SPONSOR

RentProv Realty

GENERAL DONATION

BayCoast BANK

TENNIS SPONSOR

Johnny Rockets THE ORIGINAL HAMBURGER
Maven's DELICATESSEN EST. 5783
Pokéworks

PICKLEBALL SPONSOR

NEUROSURGERY FOUNDATION INC

Neurosurgery
Brown Health Medical Group
BROWNHealth UNIVERSITY

COMMUNITY VOICES

Amazing architects: Gehry and Stern

TWO RENOWNED American architects passed away last year. But Frank Gehry (born in Toronto in 1929) and Robert A. M. Stern (born in Brooklyn a decade later) were usually perceived as stylistic, if not ideological, opposites. I'm unaware if either Jew was ever religiously observant, but both builders could be placed within a broader Jewish and architectural context, which somehow seeks to balance tradition, innovation and revolution.



GEORGE M. GOODWIN

Nearly 50 years ago, when teaching art and architectural history in Los Angeles, I could not escape Gehry's growing and gripping presence. After struggling to emerge as a mainstream modernist, he gained sudden notoriety for the redesign of his own home, a rather ordinary 1920s cottage, in a sleepy Santa Monica neighborhood. He reinvented it (and then himself) through deconstruction: by tearing open and then conflating the structure's interior and exterior. Gehry's neighbors were appalled, especially when droves of curiosity-seekers, myself included, clamored for a look.

Gehry soon gained notoriety for grander, postmodern explosions and implosions, which violated the modernist ideals perpetuated by such local masters as Richard Neutra, Rudolph Schindler, Pierre Koenig, Raphael Soriano and Victor Gruen (all with Jewish roots). Far more than a mere adventurer, however, Gehry became an iconoclast. But was his approach visionary, refreshing or absurd? Wanting to decide for myself, I visited many of Gehry's commercial and cultural structures.

While favoring innovation, I also remain an idealist, seeking balance and order. As a result, I preferred the work of many of Gehry's slightly older colleagues, such as I. M. Pei, Kevin Roche and Paul Rudolph, all of whom I was able to interview. I was also fortunate to interview many of Gehry's younger contemporaries, including Charles Gwathmey, Richard Meier and Moshe Safdie, whose startling yet suave creations I often admired.

Perhaps my greatest obstacle to embracing Gehry was my continuing, if not deepening, loyalty to both tradition and modernism. Having remained enthralled by Frank Lloyd Wright, for example, I have visited scores of his buildings throughout the country. By reading numerous books by and about him, I could also grasp his fundamental ideas and aspirations. This is not to say, however, that I took kindly to his egoism and downplaying of collaborators for which many criticized him - even if he had spent a few years of his youth in Pawtucket.

I eventually wrote about Wright and his dozens of Jewish clients, including those who gave him an extraordinary synagogue commission in suburban Philadelphia. Beth Sholom, completed in 1959, shortly after his death, became one of the 20th century's most daring or, to some, irreverent examples.

Gehry, whose given name was Goldberg, also received many commissions from Jews. I interviewed Marcia Weisman, a prominent L.A. collector of contemporary art, whose husband, Frederick, hired Gehry to design the Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Marcia's brother and Frederick's business partner, Norton Simon, also commissioned Gehry to redesign galleries for Asian art at his art museum in Pasadena that houses one of the most remarkable private art collections ever assembled.

Gehry never designed a synagogue and I'm unaware if he ever sought such a commission. Indeed, he designed very few houses of worship. One was a small Catholic chapel for the downtown L.A. campus of Loyola University Law School. An interfaith place of worship, its small size and use of wood created a deliberate contrast with the concrete, steel and glass of the university. I love visiting all kinds of houses of worship but found this one less appealing than his other work.

After Gehry gained wide renown as a postmodern master, I was more than curious to visit his Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain. Of course, Wright's design of the original Guggenheim had not only broken the traditional art museum mold but set a new standard for all that followed. Yes, I was thrilled by Gehry's Bilbao fantasy, but was also saddened to discover that it overpowers everything inside and out.

Over many visits to Los Angeles, I watched Gehry's Disney Concert Hall arise, and Betsey and I were able to attend a performance there. This building too hollers for attention.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

From a Caribbean island to R.I., ties that bind

BY MIKE FINK

In honor of our nation's 250th anniversary, we are reprinting this article from August 2019.

I'D BEEN PLANNING my pilgrimage to the place where patriotism was born and bred: the bleak, black isle of Sint Eustatius.

"Don't go there, there's nowhere to swim, nothing to see, nothing to do," advised a pair of sophisticated travelers I sometimes see at the pool at the local Marriott.

"Cruise ships avoid it altogether," they claimed.



MIKE FINK

The ruined pirates' hidden rocky retreat held no charm for such summer seekers of surf and sunbeams. Of course, that is precisely what appealed to me.

I call my trip "patriotic" because this tiny island in the windward zone of the Caribbean, once renowned as "The Golden Rock," was also once a treasure chest of goods to be imported and then exported to the New World: ours.

Gen. George Washington needed gunpowder in 1776 to win the war for our independence. Sint Eustatius, which is often called Statia, had been colonized by Holland and France, England and Spain, and had a jargon that worked like a code. The island, and its Jewish merchants in particular, supplied the Yankees with the weapons necessary to win the war for freedom and liberty from the authoritarian crown of England.

Sint Eustatius was the first nation to salute the flag of the brand-spanking-new United States of America. Indeed, it says so on signs all over this strangely haunted place that few people besides me seem to care to visit.

By a series of perhaps coincidences, I have met most of the scholars, diplomats and prizewinning authors who have preceded me in researching this intriguing island. I hoard letters from Harry Ezratty, writer of "500 Years in the Jewish Caribbean," which I read and reread with pleasure and intellectual profit. And one Derek Miller became a Touro National Heritage Trust Fellow at the John Carter Brown Library, at Brown University, which has led excavations in the synagogue compound on Sint Eustatius. The Dutch government supports the restoration of the ancient synagogue and mikveh, and the explanatory plaques narrating the nostalgic, challenging, confrontational chapters of the island.

Mostly, for my June sojourn in Statia, I relied on the superb Pulitzer Prize-winning book "The First Salute," written by the renowned Barbara W. Tuchman. I found it at the Rochambeau Library, in Providence, and took it with me as my guidebook, not only for its information but also for its moral, political and philosophical interpretation of the facts of the American Revolution.

With its broken binding,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11





Scenes from the island. PHOTO | MIKE FINK

OPINION

Eleven years later

Not quite 11 years ago, what was then called The Jewish Voice published my column titled "How to Talk About the Iran Deal." Before going back to what I wrote in that previous column, let me point out that criticism of J Street, which considers itself to be a pro-Israel/pro-peace lobbying organization, is still strong and angry among right-wing American Jews. What is new is that this past May the Israeli ambassador to the United States, Yehiel Leiter, condemned J Street as a "cancer within the Jewish community."

I AM REPEATING word for word the final 10 paragraphs of my Aug. 21, 2015, piece to affirm the truth of that time-worn adage, "The more things change, the more they remain the same:"

Ever since President Obama announced the historic nuclear agreement between Iran and the United States – along with China, Russia, Great Britain, France, and Germany – we American Jews have been engaged in a profoundly difficult and emotionally charged debate as to whether to support the deal, despite its obvious shortcomings. The question boils down to this: Do the risks of supporting the deal outweigh the risks of opposing it? For those who oppose the deal, what do they consider a better, safer alternative?

We Jews in the United States are deeply divided on this issue. I, like many of my fellow Rhode Islanders, have called the Washington offices of Senator Jack Reed, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, and Representative David Cicilline to urge them to support the agreement. On the other hand, I am aware that many of my fellow Jews are urging our congressional delegation to join an effort to nix the deal.

Of course, nobody possesses a monopoly on the truth. Because I believe that *kol Yisrael arayvim zeh bazeh*, that all Jews are responsible for each other, I feel the need to make known my views on issues that affect my fellow Jews in Israel; but as a non-Israeli, I affirm that only Israelis should decide what is best for them. By the same token, no Israeli – and that includes Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu – should claim to know what is best for the United States in general or for Jewish Americans in particular.



RABBI JAMES ROSENBERG

It seems to me that our local Community Relations Council (CRC), under the able leadership of Marty Cooper [z''l], continues to be acutely sensitive to the diversity of opinion within our Jewish community. While the CRC's widely distributed email of this past July 14 expressed its concern "that today's deal may not achieve the goal of preventing Iran from acquiring and developing nuclear weapons," it has not – in contrast to some other CRCs – taken a stand either in support or opposition.

I am proud to be part of a local Jewish community that, for the most part, celebrates our diversity; and there are many other Jewish voices of tolerance and mutual respect throughout our land. However, some prominent Jewish supporters of Israel have chosen to adopt a far more strident stance. Toward the end of July, for example, I received in my inbox a column by Charles Jacobs and Elliot Hamilton (jns.org news service) with the inflammatory title, "It's time to evict J Street from the Jewish communal tent."

The opening paragraph reads as follows: "The recent announcement of the P5+1 nuclear deal with Iran has sparked deep concern and even outrage in the Jewish community. In an almost unprecedented moment for American Jewry, the majority of prominent Jewish organizations have lined up to combat the deal. This includes AIPAC, the ADL, and various Jewish Federation chapters, including those in Boston and Miami. This historic display of Jewish unity comes because of a clear belief that Israel and the Jewish people have been placed in a life-threatening situation."

What the authors of this misleading paragraph fail to say is that *the majority of American Jews support the deal*, that hundreds of American rabbis support the deal, and that most Jewish organizations – including the majority of Jewish Federation chapters – have withheld either a Yes or a No on the deal; they prefer to study the intricacies of this complex agreement rather than rushing to judgment. Since Jacobs and Hamilton posted their column on July 24, five U.S ambassadors to Israel have lent their support to the deal. Most significantly, on August 4 the on-line Jewish "Forward" wrote that "nearly 70 former Israeli top security officials urged Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to treat the Iran nuclear agreement as a done deal and to repair relations with the United States."

The names of these security officials appear in an ad they placed in the August 4 issue of the *Jerusalem Post*. Perhaps they know something that Netanyahu doesn't know...or doesn't want to know.

Clearly Jacobs and Hamilton are less interested in the facts than in delegitimizing J Street. They conclude their screed with: "Pro-Iran J Street – which is spending millions of dollars to promote a deal that threatens Jewish life, receives considerable sums of cash from anti-Israel and antisemitic sources to promote pro-Iran causes, and dangerously undermining the collective Jewish unity needed to block the deadly Iranian threat – should be drummed out of organized Jewish life. It is time for J Street to go."

Orwellian irony of ironies: Charles Jacobs is president and Elliot Hamilton is research associate of Americans for Peace and Tolerance.

Tolerance?? Those of us who have the good fortune to live in the Jewish community of greater Rhode Island still know how to demonstrate the meaning of the word.

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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Unfortunately, during his lifetime and posthumously, Robert A. M. Stern, received far fewer accolades than Gehry. But Stern was distinguished in so many ways. He wrote numerous books about American architecture, created a documentary film series and taught design at Columbia before becoming a dean at Yale. Far more than an academician, however, he became an extraordinarily versatile, prolific and cosmopolitan artist. Inevitably, perhaps, a showman too.

For the record, Stern, whom I once interviewed at his office in New York City, designed a few synagogues – one in Brooklyn, another at Princeton – but neither attracted much attention. I'm also aware that he sought a synagogue commission in Brookline, but it went to a truly aristocratic, Episcopalian architect.

Stern and his huge staff could design virtually any kind of structure within a historical or a stylistic context. Compared to Gehry's creations, Stern's were gracious, suave, and witty. But were some of his buildings too learned, if not contrived?

I'm particularly fond of some of Stern's academic buildings, including his libraries, classrooms, and dormitories at prep schools, colleges and universities. Some of his museums too. His reverent yet playful spirit is displayed at the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. By contrast, his Raclin Murphy Museum of Art at Notre Dame University seems truly esoteric.

Stern did receive a museum commission from the Newport Historical Society, but it was unfortunately never built. Fortunately, he designed two impressive structures at neighboring Salve Regina University, including its Our Lady of Mercy Chapel.

Stern's sense of play was charmingly expressed in administrative offices and indoor courts at Newport's International Tennis Hall of Fame. His design of Brown's Nelson Fitness Center cleverly pays homage to the university's former Marvel Gym.

Given his love of spectacle and allusion, can Stern be considered an aristocrat or even a snob? Indeed, did his devotion to architectural history become obsequious?

Whether looking forward or backward, Gehry and Stern sought to create as much as possible on their own terms. Gehry's approach was surely more radical, but Stern's also brought surprise, wonder, and delight. Perhaps both builders somehow demonstrated that brilliance and blasphemy shelter each other or that the status quo can never suffice.

GEORGE M. GOODWIN, *of Providence, is the editor of Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes.*

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

OPINION

FROM THE INTERIM PRESIDENT AND CEO

On challenges, successes and a bright future

BY HARRIS CHORNEY

These remarks were given at the annual meeting of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island on June 10, 2026. The remarks have been been edited for space.

Good evening everyone. My name is Harris Chorney. I'm the interim President and CEO – soon to be former - of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island. I want to welcome you to our 15th annual meeting. Tonight, we come together to celebrate the year that was, to honor and remember outstanding members of our community, and to install our new Board of Directors. Tonight we also mark a transition, as we walk through the doorway to welcome a new President and CEO.

AS I REFLECT on the past year, one word comes to mind: challenge.

It has been a challenging year for our community, for our organization and for the Jewish people.

Externally, we continue to live in a time when antisemitism too often raises its ugly head. Events around the world and here at home – in Smithfield and East Greenwich, just to name a few - have reminded us that we cannot take our safety, security or sense of belonging for granted. At the same time, economic uncertainty has affected many families and businesses. Even with stock market indices reaching record highs – at least until this week - that prosperity has not necessarily translated into greater confidence or spending. For many households, philanthropy is one of the first items reduced when budgets tighten.

Internally, we faced our own significant challenges: a CEO transition and software conversions to our two major platforms (which never go smoothly!).

But despite all of these challenges, the Jewish Alliance never lost sight of its mission.

In a year filled with challenges, we did not retreat from our mission. We doubled down on it.

And, what I am most proud of is not simply that we faced these challenges – it is how we responded to them.

Our staff showed remarkable resilience - I ask all staff that is here tonight to stand and be recognized. You did a remarkable job this past year and we thank you for all you do. I also want to recognize three of our staff retiring this year: Jana Brenman, Events Manager, 15 years; Fran Ostendorf, Editor, Jewish RI, 12 years; and Pierre DaLomba, Housekeeping/ Maintenance, 22 years. Thank you for your many years of service and dedication to our organization

"...we did not retreat from our mission. We doubled down on it."

Our volunteers continue to lead. Our donors continue to give – by the way, it's still not too late to support this year's community campaign. Our JCC members and Early Childhood Center parents continue to engage. And our community continues to show up for one another. To all of you we say thank you.

Even during a period of leadership transition, economic uncertainty, rising antisemitism and significant operational changes, we were able to continue increasing our allocations to our partner agencies, many of whose leaders are with us here this evening. These organizations are on the front lines of Jewish life in Rhode Island, and our support helps ensure that they can continue to fulfill their own vital missions.

Because of the generosity of our donors and the commitment of this community, we were able to provide scholarships that make Jewish day school education – at the Jewish Community Day School and Providence Hebrew Day School – accessible to more families. We helped ensure that Jewish Collaborative Services was able to provide kosher food to seniors throughout our community, allowing some of our most vulnerable neighbors to live with dignity and connection. We supported critical mental health services for Israelis coping with the trauma and stress of war and conflict.

We continue to work with our agency partners and synagogues to help them build a secure environment – and the Jewish Alliance took the lead in putting together a second anti-hate summit in May that addressed not just antisemitism but all hate.

And let's not forget that the largest allocation we make each year is to the Bonnie and Donald Dwares Jewish Community Center – and I want to recognize Bonnie and Donald who are here this evening for everything they do for our community. The Alliance's support helps sustain the exceptional fitness center, which has grown to almost 1,100 members. It supports our exceptional early childhood program, with over 80 children, and the infrastructure that allows the JCC to serve as the central gathering place for Jewish life in Rhode Island – think the Jewish Culture festival held last fall, attended by over 1,300 people.

Our mission is simple – to help make life better for those in our community, and others. I thank you for your support in helping us fulfill that mission.

I'll conclude by saying the future is bright for the Jewish Alliance and our Jewish community. If you want to feel optimistic about the future of our Jewish community, take the time to read a book to the kids in our Early Childhood Center. Personally, these were some of my most memorable experiences in this role. Attend an annual meeting of the Jewish Community Day School or the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center. Witness the energy, enthusiasm and passion of kids and young adults who participate in these organizations, as I have had the opportunity to do. It will give you hope for the future.

And the Alliance's future will be even brighter – led by our new President and CEO Steven Baker – with his energy, his passion and his love of being Jewish.

HARRIS CHORNEY *is the outgoing interim President and CEO of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

this copy is as neglected yet precious as the relics to be discovered on the island. The book also features color photographs of paintings of the important personages in the history of Sint Eustatius, especially the English Adm. George Rodney, who, enraged at his defeat, commanded the total destruction of the glamorous Golden Rock and the exile of its leaders. He even executed a Jewish octogenarian who represented the economy and its martial value.

Tuchman's book is a quite remarkable, almost overwhelmingly wise and astute close study of the circumstances by which "we" won the Revolutionary War (like our victory in World War II, it was not an inevitable triumph, but an earned and almost divinely-inspired one).

I read every rich paragraph, some of them aloud to my wife and travel companion, and many to myself, sighing in admiration over Tuchman's eloquence and depth. I enjoyed her dedications and asides, but it is her final concluding statement I must choose to cite here: "The free and equal new human in a new world would be realized only in spots, although conditions would come nearer to being realized in America than they would ever come in the other overturns of society.

"Revolutions produce other people, not new ones. Halfway 'between truth and endless error' the mold of the species is permanent. That is earth's burden."

This mix of patriotism and philosophy is most impressive.

I had made up my mind to learn from the experience of being in this tragic place where Jews first came to escape the Spanish Inquisition, established the very concept of religious liberty, overcame their separation from Ashkenazic fellow Jews during World War II, and even, in certain ways, experienced an "assimilation" not entirely separate from the mixing of Jewish immigrants into the economy and culture of North America. And so, race and religion, despite their distinct distances from each other, shared many struggles in common and together.

I have a very personal theory about what motivated the inhabitants of Statia: I like to believe that the Sephardim had heard about our Newport and its Touro Synagogue, that lamp unto the nations. They supplied weapons to George Washington precisely because he had quoted an official of Touro's congregation in saying that the new nation would give "to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance."

Wherever I go, after some hesitation and with some courage, I feel that I have not truly left miniature Rhode Island.

MIKE FINK *(MFINK33@AOL.COM) is a professor emeritus at the Rhode Island School of Design.*

REAL ESTATE

A brief overview of mezuzot

BY SARAH GREENLEAF

THE *MEZUZAH* is a ubiquitous part of Jewish homes and spaces, but for those who aren't experts in Jewish law, it can seem like a nice decoration instead of what it really is – a commandment from the Torah traced back to biblical times.

Mezuzah is a Hebrew word that translates to "doorpost," the place the *mezuzah* must be affixed. The *mezuzah* consists of the *k'laf,* the parchment upon which two biblical passages are inscribed, Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and Deuteronomy 11:13-21.

The scroll must be prepared to exacting standards: the parchment from the skin of a kosher animal, the ink an indelible black, the writing instrument a special quill pen. It must all be written on one single piece of parchment and have the name Shaddai (a name for God) written on the reverse side. Each *k'laf* is handwritten by a *sofer* (scribe) who has studied and conforms to exacting laws of *mezuzah* creation.

There are no rules for the case that holds the *k'laf,* though it should be possible to access the scroll as it must be checked twice every seven years. Cases can be made from any material and can be simple or decorative or even homemade.

Each room, not just the front door entrance, requires a *mezuzah* to properly fulfill the *mitzvah.* To require a *mezuzah,* a doorway must have two doorposts and a lintel connecting them on top. Closets do not require a *mezuzah* as they are too small, and a bathroom should not have one. When you purchase a home, it is required that you put up *mezuzot* with the blessing on the day you move in. If you are renting, you have up to 30 days to complete the task.

When affixing a *mezuzah* to the doorframe it should be on the right-hand side as you enter the room. It should be at the lowest part of the top third of the doorway and should be easily reachable to kiss. A rabbi can visit your home and help you determine the correct placement if you need help.

In Ashkenazi tradition the *mezuzah* is placed at an angle with the top pointing into the room and the bottom pointing outside. This is a result of an argument between two rabbis, a grandfather and grandson, in the 11th century. Rashi, a French rabbi, thought the *mezuzah* should be hung vertically, but his grandson, Rabbenu Tam, wrote that the *mezuzah* should be put up horizontally because the Ten Commandments and Torah scroll were stored that way in the ark of the Temple. To hold true to both these ideas, Rabbi Jacob Ben Asher, 150 years later, came up with the idea to take the middle path and affix the *mezuzah* at a slant.

When putting up a *mezuzah* you recite the following blessing:

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu likboa m'zuzah.

"Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us to affix a *mezuzah*."

While today's *mezuzot* are scrolls encased and affixed to doorways, it might have been done differently in the past. "Originally the method seems to have been to place the roll in a cavity scooped in the doorpost," wrote F. Landsberger in a 1960 "Hebrew Union College Annual" article. "The ancient Egyptians are reported to have had, at the entrance of the home, the inscription of some sacred adage. It had been surmised that this custom may have been borrowed by the Israelites. In Palmyra, Syria, there has been found a door lintel of the third Chrisitan century with the Jewish creed of Deut. 6.4-9 in Hebrew letters."

Today the *mezuzah* remains an important part of Jewish life. There have been numerous legal cases fought, usually against condo boards, over the right of Jewish residents to affix *mezuzot* outside their doors. In 2015, a law was passed in Rhode Island that prohibits landlords and condo associations from restricting Jewish residents from placing *mezuzot* on their doorways.

From ancient times encased in stone doorways to the beautiful decorative *mezuzah* on a grandparent's condo door, the *mezuzah* has persisted throughout Jewish history as a reminder of the relationship between the Jewish people and God. It is also seen by many as a protective amulet, a way of keeping a home safe in a hostile world.

SARAH GREENLEAF *(sgreenleaf@jewishallianceri.org) is the digital marketing manager for the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island and writes for Jewish Rhode Island.*

TAKE ACTION:
REPORT an INCIDENT

JEWISH ALLIANCE of Greater Rhode Island

At the Jewish Alliance, we believe all people should be treated fairly and justly. If you have experienced or witnessed an incident of antisemitism or extremism, please report it. Antisemitic activity includes overt acts or expressions of anti-Jewish bigotry and hostility. Many incidents are not crimes but are still considered antisemitic and should be reported.

This initiative is meant to help track antisemitic incidents in the state of Rhode Island. Experiencing any type of antisemitism may be traumatic for you or your loved ones. *If you need additional support, please contact Jewish Collaborative Services at 401.331.1244 for guidance.*

www.jewishallianceri.org/report-it/

This project was supported by Grant No. 15PBJA-22-GG-01558-HATE awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the SMART Office. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice

COMMUNITY

RICI presents 'Justice Beyond Borders'

ON JULY 16, RI Coalition for Israel will co-sponsor "Justice Beyond Borders: Americans Murdered by Terrorists and the Fight for Accountability," a free online webinar on one of the hardest questions in counterterrorism: what happens when terrorists who murder American citizens are released in hostage deals and then escape extradition.

You'll hear from Arnold Roth, whose 15-year-old daughter Malki was murdered in the Sbarro bombing; Kathleen Luken, twin sister of an American killed near Beit Shemesh; Tal Hartuv, who survived that same attack; and attorney Mark Goldfeder of the National Jewish Advocacy Center. The program is available online at no cost. There will be a live Q&A.

The program is co-Hosted by Atlanta Israel Coalition & Rhode Island Coalition for Israel with support from community partners: National Jewish Advocacy Center, EndJewHatred, American Jewish Alliance, Chicago Jewish Alliance, Canadian Antisemitism Education Foundation (CAEF), ShuratHadin Israel Law Center, Massachusetts Antisemitism Synagogue Task Force, American Muslim and Multifaith Women's Empowerment Council, and the Mattathias Project.

It starts at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Register: tinyurl.com/justice716

COME LEARN WITH US!



If you're interested in learning new things, acquiring new skills, and making new friends, LLC welcomes you to our in-person and online collaborative courses, offered year-round. Use the website or code below to **get your free catalog**.

Lifelong Learning COLLABORATIVE

LifelongLearningCollaborative.org

A legacy that runs deep.



Every gift tells a story. Yours can tell one of hope, connection, and community — a story that continues long after today.

A planned gift or bequest to the Jewish Alliance ensures that future generations inherit not only our traditions but a strong commitment to one another.

Because when we invest in the future, we honor the past — ***and we keep our community anchored in what truly matters.***

For more information on ways to leave your Jewish legacy, please contact Endowment@JewishAllianceRI.org visit JewishAllianceRI.org/JFF or scan the QR Code

JEWISH FEDERATION FOUNDATION of Greater Rhode Island

Part of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island

C + D Acoustic Artistry

Denise Heitmann & Cheryl Rosenfeld



Folk / Pop / Rock / Jewish

Events | Private Parties | Coffeehouses

heitmanndenise@icloud.com | (401) 640-4299



A MODERN TRADITIONAL JEWISH DELI

BREAKFAST · LUNCH · DINNER · CATERING · OPEN EVERYDAY

Rhode Island Monthly's best OF RHODE ISLAND

727 EAST AVE • PAWTUCKET, RI 02860

(401) 205-8560 • MAVENSDELI.COM

Mutual HVAC Service & Installation

AN AFFILIATE OF PETRO HOME SERVICES

We convert oil to gas



Complete gas heat service & sales

Heating & Air Conditioning Specialists From Tune-Ups to New Equipment!

NOW INSTALLING GENERATORS!

• Gas Heating • Air Conditioning • Heat Pumps • Roof Top Systems •

Want Comfort? The Feeling is "Mutual!"

Keeping you comfortable since 1934!

Residential & Commercial Projects

www.mutualhvac.com

A FULL IN-HOUSE DESIGN, INSTALLATION & SERVICE COMPANY

MasterCard VISA

Call us anytime at 401-351-3900

REAL ESTATE

Braiding Time: homeward bound

SARAH GREENLEAF

THIS PAST MAY marks my fourth year in Providence. When I moved here it was largely sight unseen. I had seen snatches of what would become my apartment over Facetime from 3,000 miles away and had been to Providence once, years earlier. When my wife and I chose to move here it was partially to be closer to family and partially to live somewhere less expensive than Los Angeles. Other than that, we couldn't really imagine what our lives would be like here. It was an adventure and a leap of faith.

A lot has happened in those four years: new jobs, a new baby (now three years old), my wife going back to school, career changes and meeting new friends. What we were seeking when we moved here was simple – we wanted our lives to be easier. Sometimes when you start down a path it is murky and hard to tell if you are going the right way. This was not the case with our move to Providence. Once we made the call, things fell into place in many ways.

This is not to say that we didn't have setbacks or difficulties, but that the day-to-day experience of our lives had a different tenor. It was easy to make friends, chatting with other parents in coffee shops, being invited into people's homes for Shabbat, becoming close with our downstairs neighbors. People here were whole, not only their jobs and careers, not looking over your shoulder to see if someone more important or interesting was behind you.

We thought we would live in our apartment for a year before buying a house, but after an unexpected job loss and career change, we decided to stay. We celebrated Passover here, put up our Hannukah decorations here, ate Thanksgiving here a few weeks after my daughter was born, and celebrated Shabbat. We made our temporary apartment our home through the people we invited into it, the things we celebrated and the milestones we experienced here.

This year, we bought our first house, just six blocks down the street from the apartment we love in the neighborhood where we became parents and watched our daughter grow. It felt surreal to walk through the place, keys in hand, and see the potential not only for our family, but for the community we've built and love. I could see Passover seders, the Hannukah party I'm always saying I want to throw and never get around to, maybe even Thanksgiving someday.

I spent part of my childhood in my grandparents' home where I lived with my mother, my grandparents and my 20-something uncle. The house was always filled with people, celebrating holidays and, because my family is so large, at least one birthday a month. I remember the punchbowl brought out for special occasions, the bustling in the kitchen, playing with my cousins in the basement. When my mother and I moved out of that house and into an apartment of our own we returned to my grandparents' house again and again, because it was the center of our family's life. Not because it was large, it wasn't particularly large, but because it was a home made for celebration and gathering.

My grandparents' home was the sort of place I always wanted to have. I've made that type of place in studio apartments by cramming in my writing group with a table full of snacks, in a row home in Philadelphia where my roommates and I threw a party to welcome springtime, in a fourplex in Los Angeles where all the neighbors got together during COVID to plant a garden, and in this apartment we are packing up now where I've hosted wintertime happy hours for the parents of my daughter's friends. Though I'm beyond excited to *finally* be able to paint the walls the colors I want and redo the closets without permission, the thing I am most excited to fill my home with isn't stuff, but people.

People are what make a place, a neighborhood, into a community. People are what made us love it here and decide to stay. We plant our roots not because any structure is so wonderful that we must live inside it, but because we want to live near the people who make us feel known. We bought a house, yes, but even more than that we committed to a place, a community, a way of living. We decided to create our memories here and in doing so to become a part of this place too.

SARAH GREENLEAF
(sgreenleaf@jewishallianceri.org) is the digital marketing manager for the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island and writes for Jewish Rhode Island.

THE SANDRA BORNSTEIN
HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTER
INVITES YOU TO

GAME DAY

LEDGEMONT COUNTRY CLUB
SEEKONK, MA

07.30.26

THURSDAY | 11:30AM - 4:00PM

scan, call, or
email to register

Sign up now!

info@hercri.org | 401.453.7860 | 401 Elmgrove Avenue, Providence, RI 02906 | bornsteinholocaustcenter.org

REAL ESTATE

Designing your home for modern Jewish entertaining

BY KINGSLEY CATALUCCI

For many Jewish families, home means more than a place to live. It is where traditions are shared, holidays are celebrated and generations come together. From Passover seders and Hanukkah dinners to welcoming friends for Shabbat, the home plays a central role in Jewish family life and hospitality.

AS LIFESTYLES CHANGE, many people are rethinking how their homes can support both daily life and special gatherings. Good design can make hosting easier, more comfortable and more enjoyable all year long.

Create a kitchen that brings people together

Today, the kitchen is often the center of entertaining. Features such as large islands, open layouts and ample seating encourage conversation and connection while meals are prepared. Extra prep space, additional refrigeration, beverage stations and ample storage can help make holiday cooking and larger gatherings easier to manage.

If you host often, adding double ovens, warming drawers or a larger pantry can make it much easier to prepare meals for Passover, Rosh Hashanah or Shabbat.

Expand your gathering space

Many homeowners are also looking beyond the main living areas to create more gathering spaces for family and friends. Finished basements can become flexible spaces for holiday celebrations, children's activities, game nights or casual entertaining.

A basement remodel might include a comfortable family room, media space, wet bar, guest suite or dedicated area for grandchildren to play during larger gatherings. Additional space allows hosts to accommodate multiple generations while giving everyone room to relax and connect.

Plan for flexible dining spaces

Every gathering is different. One week you might have a small Shabbat dinner, and the next you could be hosting a big holiday celebration with extended family and friends.

Flexible dining spaces help you adapt to any occasion. Expanding tables, built-in banquettes and open layouts connecting the kitchen, dining and living areas make it easy to host both everyday meals and bigger celebrations.

Design for multi-generational gatherings

Jewish celebrations often bring grandparents, parents, children and grandchildren together. Designing spaces that welcome all ages can make gatherings more comfortable and accessible.

Features like wider doorways, guest suites on the first floor, accessible bathrooms and comfortable seating make it easier for everyone to join in family gatherings. Thoughtful design helps ensure that family and friends of all ages feel comfortable, welcome and included.

Bathroom remodeling can also play an important role. Walk-in showers, improved lighting, double vanities and thoughtfully designed guest bathrooms make overnight visits more comfortable while providing greater accessibility for family members of all ages.

Create spaces for tradition and connection

Many families like to include features that show their heritage and traditions. Built-in cabinets for displaying special items, spaces for candlesticks, family heirlooms or Judaica and well-designed bookshelves can all help make a home feel personal.

Natural light, warm materials and cozy gathering spaces often set the scene for special moments, like blessing the candles on Friday night or sharing stories at the holiday table.

Think beyond the holidays

The best homes make daily life easier and help entertaining feel simple. Whether you have a new kitchen, a refreshed family room or a more useful dining space, good design lets you spend less time managing your home and more time enjoying the people in it.

The most successful homes are those that support everyday routines while creating opportunities for meaningful gatherings. By designing spaces that honor tradition and accommodate modern living, homeowners can create places where family, friendship and celebration continue for generations.

KINGSLEY CATALUCCI *is the Director of Sales and a Design Consultant at RIKB Design Build, specializing in functional and beautifully tailored living spaces. An AKBD and Universal Design Certified Professional, she adopts a collaborative, detail-focused approach from concept to construction. Kingsley was named to NKBA's 30 Under 30 and Pro Remodeler's 40 Under 40, and she holds a Bachelor of Interior Design from Wentworth Institute of Technology.*

RIKB Design Build is a Jewish Rhode Island advertiser. This editorial content was produced independently of advertising.

Business and Real Estate Litigation

William M. Kolb, Esq.

ATTORNEY AT LAW

(401) 714-0622 | bill@kolblaw.com

www.kolblaw.com



J-CAMP

SUMMER 2026!

June 22 – August 21

BONNIE & DONALD DWARES JCC Rhode Island

POWERED BY THE JEWISH ALLIANCE

401 ELMGROVE AVENUE

PROVIDENCE RI

We've created the best Summer J-Camp experience at the Bonnie & Donald Dwares JCC!

We provide a diverse and welcoming environment for all our campers with a new theme and corresponding activities every week. J-Camp is built on four pillars of JAMS: ***Judaism, Arts, Movement (athletics), and STEM***.

In addition to our on-site programs, we have weekly field trips and specials guests! In the past, field trips included ***the zoo, local parks, museums*** and more.

SWIM LESSONS | WEEKLY FIELD TRIPS | LUNCH INCLUDED

JewishAllianceRI.org/explore-programs/for-children/summer-j-camp

Double chai, double blessing

Honoring Cantor Brian Mayer's 36 years in song



Cantor Brian Mayer's solo performance, backed by the choirs and orchestra in the main sanctuary from the May 31 concert at Temple Emanu-El in Providence.



The choir and orchestra perform in the main sanctuary at Temple Emanu-El during the Sunday, May 31, concert in Providence.

PHOTOS | JOHN FELL

BY PATRICIA RASKIN

PROVIDENCE – Music has been a large part of my life since childhood. We had two baby grand pianos. My mother and brother played those pianos, and I sang, filling our home with music.

IT WAS A SPECIAL treat to attend the music extravaganza at Temple Emanu-El for the Double Chai Weekend – Lifting our Voices *Nos'im Koloteinu*, celebrating cantor Brian Mayer and 36 years of song, spirit and *kehillah* – the weekend of May 28-31.

The concert on Sunday afternoon was magical. The program included Mayer's music from the B'nei Mitzvah and Teens, the 50th Anniversary Israel Concert, the High Holy Days, Odessa Concerts, Shining Through Broken Glass: The Kristallnacht Concert, Hanukkah Parties, Dr. Martin Luther King Concerts: Singing the Dream, and Kolot Emanu-El CD. There was much richness to the performances as each song or orchestral piece spoke to the amazing programs over the years. I was captivated by the music, the singing and the energy in the congregation. There was a standing ovation at the end; I was thrilled to be there.

Following are some reflections from some of the key participants in the weekend:

Stephanie Markoff Cohen, Event Chair, Double Chai Weekend

I feel unbelievably inspired, energized and grateful! The Double Chai Weekend hit a … home run! Each of the beloved programs – Friday's Shabbat Chai, Saturday's Torah Tutor Alumni Shabbat and Sunday's magnificent concert – filled the house with community members and friends, many of whom traveled in from afar to celebrate the joy our collective music has brought for 36 years with Cantor Mayer and over 100 years at Temple Emanu-El. I am so excited to see what comes from this. Momentum is there to continue these programs for generations to come. And that's what Judaism is all about. We are stewards of history while simultaneously incorporating new tunes as we go. *L'dor v'dor*.



PATRICIA RASKIN

Cantor Lynn Torgove

The Shabbat Chai service at Temple Emanu-El has been one of the joys of Shabbat for me. It was created by Cantor Brian Mayer to bring in Shabbat with delight, community and music. What better way to welcome Shabbat than with a klezmer band?!

As a Cantor myself, having served at Temple Emanu-El in Marblehead, Massachusetts, for many years … and as a lover of klezmer music, I was delighted to become part of the fabric of the Shabbat Chai band.

During the evening service, the divide between the band and the congregation melted away. This is what I loved the most – all of us singing together, children dancing in the aisles, and turning to bow toward the setting sun in the west, its rays shining through the glow of the stained-glass windows. The service ended with a clapping, singing, tambourine-shaking *Oseh Shalom*. The glow of Shabbat stayed with me through the end of Saturday evening, still humming the tunes of the Shabbat Chai service, the Living Shabbat.

Ben Rotenberg, Torah Tutor Alumni, Jewish Educator

Being a Torah tutor taught me lessons that stayed with me for life. Torah tutoring takes patience, persistence and flexibility. You sit with a student, go through blessings, Torah and Haftarah readings, and somehow try to convince them that practicing the trope for the 10th time really is exciting.

In Hebrew, we call this *chinuch* – helping another person dedicate themselves to a path you once walked yourself.

It was also one of the first real responsibilities I was given as a teenager. First, Cantor Mayer asked me to tutor my own brother for his bar mitzvah. Whoever thought that was a good idea had tremendous faith in both of us.

I worked with a student with dyslexia, and I began to understand something important: Every student learns differently. There is a verse in Sefer Mishlei (Proverbs) that says, "*Chanoch la'na'ar al-pi darcko,"* meaning, "Teach a child according to their own path, and even in old age they will not depart from it."

I want to thank Cantor Mayer, this synagogue and all the students I worked with – especially the ones who taught me patience – for giving me not only responsibility, but also a real sense of purpose. And patience.

AND WHAT IS THE NEXT chapter for Cantor Emeritus Brian Mayer? It has already started.

He says, "The Gala weekend was magnificent, everything I had hoped for and more. It was the honor of a lifetime. My next professional chapter is well underway. For the past two years, I've been on the faculty of the European Academy for Jewish Liturgy, a mostly online school dedicated to teaching cantors, cantorial students and lay leaders. I am mentoring 10 such students on three different continents. Some of this work involves travel, and I've been to Europe three times in the past seven months, including a two-week stint as visiting professor at the University of Potsdam outside Berlin. I also now have the time to return to my academic research and am scheduled to publish two articles on cantorial music this summer."

PATRICIA RASKIN, *owner of Raskin Resources Productions, is an award-winning radio producer, business owner and leader. She has served on the board of directors of Temple Emanu-El, in Providence. Her "Positive Living with Patricia Raskin" podcast can be heard on voiceamerica.com.*

Day schools celebrate end of year

Jewish Community Day School graduates fifth graders







Providence Hebrew Day School recognizes students



Rabbi Weissmann receiving a heartfelt thank you from students, staff and parents for his years of dedicated leadership.



Eighth grade Graduation ceremony for Henoch Hollander. PHOTOS | PHDS



Kindergarten graduation!



Nochi Gayer receiving an end-of-the-year award.



Bayla Goldstein receiving an end-of-the-year award.

COMMUNITY

BUSINESS 27 | **OBITUARIES** 28

Alliance annual meeting celebrates 15 years of community building



Steven Baker, new president and CEO of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, speaks at the Alliance's 15th annual meeting.



Nanette Fridman speaks to the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.

PHOTOS | GLENN OSMUNDSON



Ralph Posner received the 2026 Melvin G. Alperin Award for Excellence in Jewish Communal Leadership

BY FRAN OSTENDORF

PROVIDENCE – Each June, the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island celebrates its accomplishments, honors its leadership and recognizes the dedication of its volunteers and staff at its annual meeting — a gathering where the community comes together to share in both the joys and the honest moments that help shape our community.

THIS YEAR, on June 10, about 100 people turned out for the 15th annual event, held in the Baxt Social Hall at the Bonnie & Donald Dwares Jewish Community Center. Attendees included past and present board members, agency executives, clergy, community members and past Alliance CEOs Adam Greenman and Jeffrey Savit. In addition to awards, boards installations and the customary speeches, attendees got a chance to hear from the newly appointed president and CEO of the organization, Steven Baker.

Baker, who previously worked at the Minneapolis Jewish Federation as chief philanthropy officer as well as the Minnesota Jewish Community Foundation, begins his tenure at the Alliance July 1. In his remarks, he promised a listening tour of Rhode Island and said, "Strong leadership isn't about having all the answers on day 1 or 100."

The evening's program included a d'var Torah in song by Cantor Judy Seplowin of Temple Beth-El in Providence.

Sarah Miller presented the Riesman Leadership Development Award to Abigail Anthony, a past president of Temple Shalom in Middletown. The Gail Putnam Award, presented annually to a staff member of the Alliance, went to Eunice Tavares.

Marisa Garber announced that the Melvin G. Alperin Award for Excellence in Jewish Communal Leadership had been presented to Ralph Posner at a reception before the annual meeting. Deeply engaged in the RI Jewish community, Posner has held leadership roles in the Jewish Federation and the Alliance since 1993. He is a past recipient of the Joseph Ress Community Service Award.

Nanette Fridman offered remarks about building community and philanthropy. Fridman, whose roots are in Rhode Island, is the co-founder of Effect Collective, where she advises values-driven organizations and leaders across North America on strategy, governance, philanthropy and leadership. She is an inspiring speaker.

On building community, she said, "We have to help the next generation understand what we are building and why. Organizations don't build community; people do."

She emphasized that telling stories and extending invitations bring people into the community and show them what philanthropy can do.

"Donors step forward because they see what their generosity does," she said.

Generosity was one of the many areas touched on by Interim President and CEO Harris Chorney's report to the community. Chorney began his presentation with a touching tribute to Alan Hassenfeld, whose generosity made him a beloved figure in the Jewish community and across Rhode Island. Hassenfeld, chairman and CEO of Hasbro and one of two Alliance honorary directors, passed away in July 2025.

Chorney spoke of Hassenfeld's commitment to Jewish life and the Hassenfeld family's legacy within the Rhode Island community.

"Many of the institutions and programs we value today benefited directly or indirectly from Alan's vision and advocacy. He understood that investing in Jewish life was not merely about preserving the past; it was about creating a thriving future," Chorney said.

Chorney went on to discuss the challenges the Alliance has faced in the past year, including rising antisemitism, economic uncertainty and operational and leadership changes. He said that the organization has never lost sight of its mission and has been able to help fund partners in Rhode Island and abroad.

In her remarks, Board Chair Marisa Garber said, "The answer to these challenges is not to work in isolation. It is to come together as a community. To collaborate. To partner. To support one another. To build upon our collective strengths and deepen the connections that bind us together."

For more complete remarks, see page 11.

FRAN OSTENDORF *(fostendorf@jewishallianceri.org) was the editor of Jewish Rhode Island.*

BMW AUDI MERCEDES BENZ VOLKSWAGEN MINI COOPER PORSCHE

"EXCELLENT AS ALWAYS"

"From check-in to check-out, this establishment prides itself with customer service and excellent pricing. I've been a customer for 4 years and very happy to see Tracy and Gerry on my visits."
– Richard L., Providence,
Porsche Macan

GERMAN MOTORS INC
Sales & Service
879 North Main Street, Providence, RI 02904
401-272-4266
Email us at: germanmotors**help**@gmail.com

COMMUNITY



The Maxman, Steinfeld and Tilden families after Rosh Hashanah services and luncheon on the lawn of the St. Andrew Parish Center, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean.

PHOTO | CONGREGATION SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF RUTH

Congregation Sons and Daughters of Ruth: A Jewish spiritual home on Block Island

BY SETH CHITWOOD

BLOCK ISLAND - Witnessing a Block Island sunset is magical but observing it alongside the small but enduring Jewish community gathered at the island's St. Andrews Parish Center on Friday nights is truly spectacular.

CONGREGATION SONS and Daughters of Ruth, founded in the 1970s and often known as CSDR, is the island's only Jewish congregation and spiritual home for its seasonal residents, year-round islanders and visitors who find themselves looking for Jewish community.

"We put chairs in a giant circle," said Joel Maxman, a founding member of CSDR. "During regular Shabbats, we start at 8 p.m., and then we do the service, and then we always have kiddush with challah and some schmoozing time as well."

The congregation's story began more than four decades ago, with a handful of Jewish families who had summer homes on Block Island and began wondering whether they could hold High Holiday services without leaving the island.

Longtime member Maxman, whose family first came to Block Island in 1978, remembers the earliest gatherings as informal and improvised.

"Somebody suggested doing a Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur service," he said. "A couple of us went over to the mainland for Rosh Hashanah to Beth David in Narragansett, and then somebody said, 'Hey, let's just do a Yom Kippur service here.'"

The informal gathering grew into an organized congregation by the 1980s. A year-round resident, Elliot Taubman, trained to lead services, as did summer resident Richard Weisbrod.

"Between the two of them, they led the services and pulled the thing together for maybe 15 years," Maxman said.

Taubman, who was affectionately known as Cantor Elliot, died in 2025, and his memory remains part of the congregation's story.

"Our group is definitely smaller as the original congregants have either moved to Florida or died off or moved to the mainland," he added. "We've had our ups and downs, but a lot of people stood up and started learning how to lead services and pulling things together."

Today, CSDR remains unaffiliated with a denomination, though it uses Reform prayer books. Maxman describes the congregation as egalitarian and welcoming to Jews across a wide range of backgrounds.

"We started out unaffiliated," he said. "We got help from a Navy chaplain who was a Reconstructionist rabbi, who came over from Newport and helped us figure out how to do it."



During the shofar portion of Shaharit service on Rosh Hashanah, conducted outdoors on the deck of the St. Andrew Parish Center. The shofar is held by Richard Weisbroat, who led services together with Elliot Taubman.

During the summer season, generally from Memorial Day through Labor Day, the congregation holds Friday night Shabbat services. Depending on when the Jewish calendar falls, CSDR also gathers for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Some years, especially when the holidays align with the late-summer island calendar, attendance can swell dramatically.

CSDR's current president, David Brody, is a part-time Block Island resident who lives full time in Manhattan. Like many members, his connection to the island began with family summers and deepened through the friendships built at the congregation.

"We had one Rosh Hashanah service where we ran

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

COMMUNITY



RI Foundation President and CEO David Cicilline presents the David Cicilline Leadership Award to LIFT student Yael Tesar.



Francine Denerstein was installed as the new chair of the board.



Sandra Bornstein installs Francine Denerstein as the board chair.



Student award winners.

PHOTOS | GLENN OSMUNDSON

SBHEC celebrates student award winners, reaffirms mission and impact

BY LAURA AUKETAYEVA

PROVIDENCE – More than 150 students, educators, Holocaust survivors' families, community leaders, board members, volunteers and supporters gathered at the Bonnie & Donald Dwares Jewish Community Center on June 4 for the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center's Annual Meeting, Board Installation and Art & Writing Awards Ceremony.

THE EVENING BROUGHT together the people who make the Center's mission possible: teachers who bring Holocaust education into their classrooms, students who transform what they learn into art and leadership, community members committed to preserving memory for future generations and those at the heart of the Center: children and grandchildren of survivors who continue to share family stories.

The program opened with remarks from outgoing Board Chair Dr. Michael Bryant, a professor at Bryant University whose leadership guided the Center through a year of significant growth and expanding impact. Dr. Bryant reflected on the Center's accomplishments and thanked the many volunteers, educators and supporters who helped sustain its work.

Executive Director Wendy Joering then presented the Center's annual review, beginning with a moving tribute to three Holocaust survivors the organization lost during the past year: Ruth Oppenheim, Yakov Karlin and Yosef Porath. Each had become part of the Center's extended family. Their stories, Joering noted, remain central to the Center's mission of education, remembrance and action.

The tribute set the tone for an evening focused on carrying forward the voices of survivors as their generation grows smaller. Throughout the program, attendees reflected on the Center's continued growth under Joering's leadership. Her commitment to Holocaust education, preservation of survivor testimony and partnership-building has expanded the Center's reach across schools and communities throughout Rhode Island and beyond.

Much of that work begins in the classroom, where the support of the Jordan Frank Family Foundation has become transformative. It allows the Center to provide educators throughout Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut with lessons, books and professional development about the Holocaust resources at no cost. The curriculum ensures that students are reading age-appropriate books

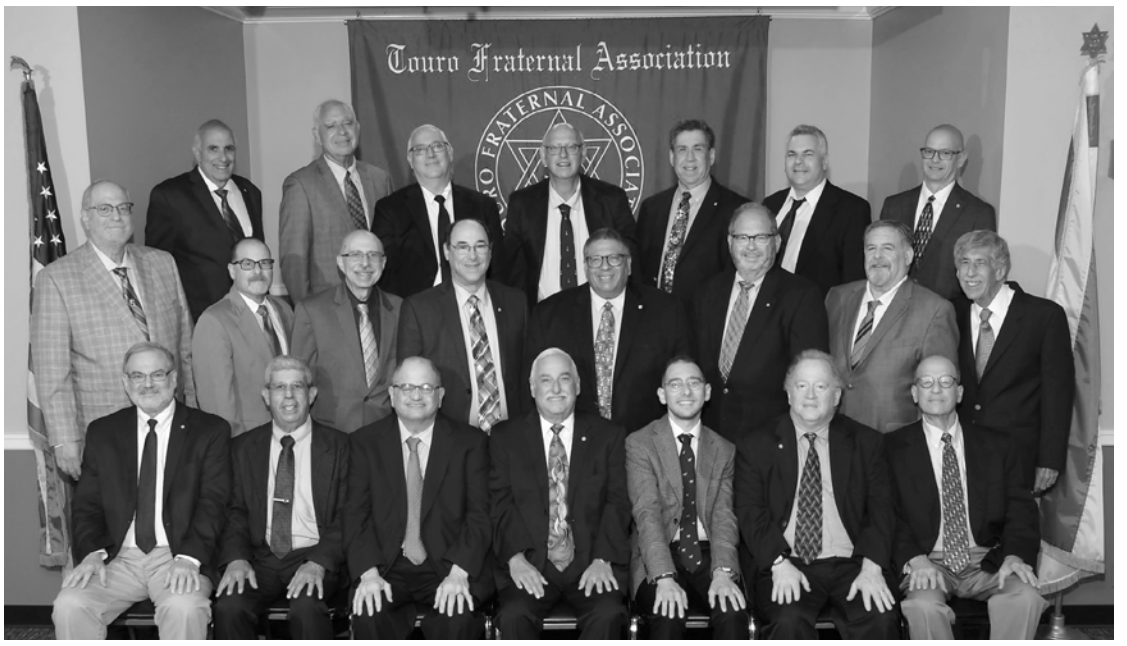
CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

COMMUNITY

Dinerman, Halsband installed as Touro presidents

BY LARRY BERMAN

CRANSTON—Norman Dinerman and Scott Halsband were installed as lodge presidents at Touro Fraternal Association's annual installation dinner May 20. Dinerman is serving his second consecutive term as Friendship Lodge president after returning to a leadership post he held a decade ago. Halsband is beginning his third year as Harmony Lodge president after moving up from the positions of lodge vice president and treasurer.



PHOTOS | LARRY BERMAN

The board members and officers of Touro Fraternal Association for 2026-27 are, front row from left, Ried Redlich, Ralph Orleck, Barry Schiff, Michael Smith, Harrison Schiff, Max Guarino, Steven White. Middle row, Bruce Wasser, Barry Ackerman, Larry Berman, Jed Brandes, Stevan Labush, Jeffrey Davis, Alan Lury, Larry Winkler. Back row, Peter Hodosh, Andrew Lamchick, Jeffrey Stoloff, Stuart Solop, Bruce Weisman, Mitchell Cohen, Scott Halsband. Absent for photo were Ron Chorney, Norman Dinerman, Robert Miller and David Weisman.

INSTALLED TO NEW three-year terms were current members of the board of directors: Larry Berman, Jeffrey Davis, Alan Lury, Michael Smith and Stuart Solup.

Joining Dinerman as Friendship Lodge officers are Larry Winkler, vice president; Ralph Orleck, secretary; and Ron Chorney, treasurer. Teaming with Halsband as Harmony Lodge officers are Jeffrey Stoloff, vice president; and Harrison Schiff, treasurer. Chorney, Schiff and Orleck are lodge officers for the first time. All the lodge officers serve one-year terms.

The installation ceremony followed a brisket dinner. Rabbi Ethan Adler served as the installing officer and Ried Redlich was the master of ceremonies.

At the June 10 board meeting, Stevan Labush and Jeffrey Davis were elected to their seventh one-year terms as chairman and vice chairman respectively. Labush re-appointed the following to association positions: Bruce Wasser, secretary; Ralph Orleck, treasurer; Barry Schiff, chaplain; and Ried Redlich, faithful guide. Mitchell Cohen and David Weisman were appointed as inside guards.

Touro, home-based in Cranston, is the largest Jewish men's fraternal organization in the Northeast. Founded in 1917, Touro offers numerous social activities for its members and guests, as well as monthly guest speakers, and gives back to the community through dozens of annual contributions to Jewish and other causes.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

connected directly to the curriculum. Its lessons also teach about the rich lives that existed before the Holocaust.

For many students, learning becomes even more personal through the Center's Speakers Bureau, composed largely of children of Holocaust survivors who share their families' experiences. Teachers consistently report that these presentations leave a lasting impression, transforming history from an abstract subject into a human story.

The impact of that education was evident during the Art & Writing Awards presentation. This year's theme, "Beyond Silence," drew inspiration from Anne Frank and the enduring power of her diary.

Award recipients included Dallas Poulin of Pilgrim High School; Lyla Schaumberg, Skyler Grist, and Elizabeth Ruiz of St. Augustine School; Ilan Lennon of Margolin Hebrew Academy and Cooper Yeshiva in Tennessee; Laryssa Farrell of Pilgrim High School; Taylor DeVerna of Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School; and Kehan Tian of Barrington High School.

Lennon's award-winning essay explored Kristallnacht, Jewish identity, and the responsibility of remembrance. Family members joined the ceremony virtually from Tennessee, while students and educators from South Carolina also participated remotely, reflecting the growing reach of the Center's educational partnerships.

The evening also highlighted the Leadership Institute for Teens (LIFT), which experienced its largest cohort in program history this year. Through stories directly from Holocaust Survivors or their families who settled in Rhode Island, visits to other non-profit organizations in the state, or participation in the Art & Writing Awards, students continue their involvement through leadership training, civic engagement, and community service.

At the annual meeting, each LIFT student received a certificate dedicated in honor or memory of a Holocaust survivor, creating a meaningful connection between students and the individuals whose stories continue to educate future generations.

"...each LIFT student received a certificate dedicated in honor or memory of a Holocaust survivor..."

Former Congressman David Cicilline attended to present the David Cicilline Leadership Award to LIFT student Yael Tesar, recognizing her commitment to leadership and service.

A significant moment of the evening came during the installation of the Center's new board leadership. Sandra Bornstein installed Francine Denerstein as the organization's new Board Chair.

The appointment carries special significance because of Denerstein's personal connection to the mission. Born in Bergen-Belsen after World War II to Holocaust survivor parents, she spoke about the responsibility of remembrance and the importance of ensuring that future generations understand the lessons of Holocaust history. Denerstein outlined a vision focused on strengthening partnerships throughout Rhode Island while expanding the Center's educational reach nationally and internationally.

The newly installed board includes children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors, educators, community leaders, and supporters dedicated to advancing the Center's mission: to use the history of the Holocaust to promote human dignity, combat antisemitism, and confront all forms of hate.

The stories of those who were murdered and those who survived the Holocaust live on whenever a teacher shares a lesson, a family member tells a survivor's story, a student creates a work of art, or a young leader chooses to stand up for others.

That spirit filled the room on June 4 and continues to guide the work of the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center every day.

LAURA AUKETAYEVA, *Ph.D., is the Director of Education and Programs at the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center.*

COMMUNITY

Community Relations Council celebrates four legislative wins

BY EMILY GAUDREAU

The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island routinely engages in state-level advocacy rooted in the belief that public policy is one of the most powerful tools available to advance justice, dignity and community well-being. Guided by Jewish values such as *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), *hineni* (showing up for one another) and *m'dor l'dor* (from generation to generation), the Alliance works in coalition with partners across sectors to advance policies that strengthen Rhode Island for everyone.

THIS LEGISLATIVE session was defined by persistence paying off — especially in the long-fought passage of the 364-day bill. After years of sustained advocacy and coalition work across multiple sessions, this reform was finally enacted. The legislation reconsiders how certain offenses are classified, helping to reduce the disproportionate immigration consequences tied to minor infractions and bringing greater fairness and proportionality to the justice system.

One significant victory was the passage of the "Protect Our Courts" legislation, which limits the ability of federal immigration authorities to investigate, detain, apprehend or arrest individuals within courthouses for potential violations of federal immigration law without a judicial warrant. The policy protects the right to a fair trial and ensures access to justice for all community members, regardless of immigration status, by safeguarding courthouses as spaces where individuals can participate in legal proceedings without fear of enforcement actions.

Another key achievement of this session was the increase in the child support pass-through within the Rhode Island Works program – the state's cash assistance and work force development program. Under the new policy, more child support payments now go directly to families, increasing from the previous $50 threshold to $100 for families with one child and $200 for families with two or more children. This change strengthens household stability and ensures more of the support intended for children directly reaches them.

In addition, the Alliance supported the successful passage of organizing rights for in-home care aides for people with disabilities. These workers provide essential daily support that enables individuals to live independently and with dignity. Extending organizing protections represents an important step toward improving working conditions and recognizing the value of this critical workforce.

Taken together, these victories reflect the impact of long-term advocacy, sustained partnerships and coalition-driven change. While additional priorities remain part of ongoing work, this session demonstrated what is possible when community partners remain committed over time to advancing equity-centered policy.

Through this work, the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island continues to translate core values into tangible policy outcomes. In partnership with allies across the state, the Alliance remains committed to advancing legislation that strengthens communities and supports the dignity and well-being of all Rhode Islanders.

Community members interested in getting involved in state-level advocacy are encouraged to reach out to Emily Gaudreau at egaudreau@jewishallianceri.org.

EMILY GAUDREAU, *is the director, Community Advocacy and Engagement at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.*

JEWISH FEDERATION FOUNDATION

Lifting up our community members

Each year, we are pleased to provide scholarships and grants to local students, clergy and staff, and others from endowment funds generously established by community members decades ago. Some of these funds were created via legacy gifts, and others were set up during the donors' lives. No matter the timing, these funds have the same, significant impact.

IN THE 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR, the Jewish Alliance distributed $27,319 to assist individuals in the community.

In this first list, the organization that receives the grant chooses the benefiting youth(s):

- **Gladys C. and Sherwin J. Kapstein Family Fund**
  Three scholarships to students at Rhode Island College, Providence College and Brown University who have actively promoted interfaith relations at their institutions
- **Lawrence Hopfenberg Memorial Fund**
  One fellowship for a University of Rhode Island Hillel student to help build the university's Jewish community
- **Marion Feinstein RW Lodge Fund**
  Two scholarships enabling local BBYO teens to attend a regional convention
- **Pepi Silverstein Memorial Scholarship Fund**
  One scholarship for a URI Hillel student to participate in a leadership training program in Israel
- **Ruth Markoff NCJW Youth Endowment Fund**
  One scholarship for a refugee child to attend Camp JORI
- **Stanley M. Goldstein Memorial Scholarship Fund**
  One scholarship for a student at Dartmouth High School

IN THIS SECOND LIST, community members apply to the Jewish Alliance for grants and scholarships:

- **Edward Goldberg Memorial Fund**
  One grant for local congregational staff to attend a professional development conference
- **Al Goldberg Memorial Fund** Two grants for local spiritual leaders to continue their education
- **Joseph Galkin Memorial Fund** One grant for local congregational staff to attend a professional development conference

THE ISRAEL TRAVEL and study support listed below comes from the Donald Salmanson Israel Trip Fund, Leonard I. Salmanson Fund, Congregation Ahavat Shalom Endowment Fund, Charles and Eleanor Elbaum Israel Scholarship Fund, Graubart/Irving Fund, Marochnack Zionist Fund, Page Family Fund, Lillian and Sidney Ross Fund, and Rabbi Joel H. Zaiman Scholarship Fund. The funding supports:

- **Two grants** for local youths to participate in a summer leadership enrichment program in Israel
- **One grant** for a local youth to participate in March of the Living
- **Four grants** for local students to attend academic programs in Israel
- **Two need-based scholarships** for two of the students studying in Israel

We are incredibly grateful to the community members who had the foresight to create these meaningful endowment funds. If you are interested in creating an endowment, please reach out to endowment@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111.

Submitted by the Jewish Alliance Development Team.

COMMUNITY

Volunteering in Israel: making connections with identity and culture

BY GABRIELLA STEIN

Thanks to the Pepi Silverstein Scholarship Fund, I was able to return to Israel in May 2026 and volunteer in the country I care so deeply about.

MY SUMMERS have revolved around Camp Young Judaea Sprout Lake for as long as I can remember. Now, as a rising junior at the University of Rhode Island, I am returning once again to be a unit head. I couldn't be more excited to give back to the community that has given me so much. With this position came a very exciting opportunity to travel to Israel and volunteer with the leadership teams from each of the Young Judaea camps. The Pepi Silverstein Scholarship Fund made it possible for me to volunteer across Israel, make meaningful connections with fellow young Jewish leaders and experience a culture shaped by thousands of years of faith and traditions as well as modern innovations.



The year after I graduated high school, I lived in Israel as a participant in the Young Judaea Year Course, where I felt an undeniable connection to not only my Jewish identity, but my identity as a Zionist. I was in Israel from September 2023 through May 2024, which shaped my connection in ways that are hard to describe. I've been lucky enough to return twice, since the end of my program. Every time I come back with a stronger connection than before.

For the 2026 trip, Young Judaea worked with Birthright Israel to plan a meaningful and jam-packed volunteering schedule that still left us time to explore and experience the rich culture Israel has to offer. Between packing food for families and soldiers and helping farmers with agricultural work, I really felt I was able to send the message that I have not forgotten the resilience of the people of Israel and the impact they've had on me.

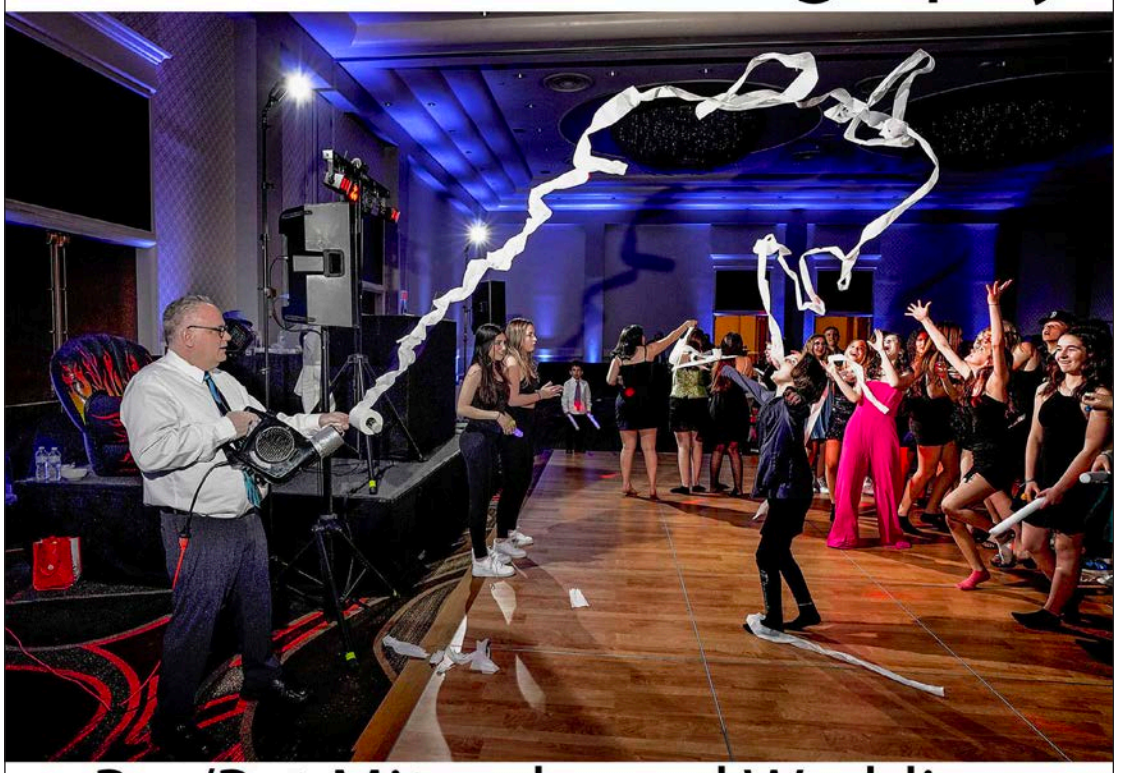
The most inspiring volunteering experience we had was the day we worked at Kfar Aza and Kibbutz Be'eri, communities that were ravaged on Oct. 7, 2023. Last year was my first summer as a unit head, and it was my second time on this trip. We also visited Kfar Aza in May 2025, and it looked, in a lot of places, as if time had stood still since that October. But they are making changes now and attempting to refurbish and grow. This resilient spirit is unlike anything that many of us had ever seen.

At the University of Rhode Island, I intend to take on a stronger role in encouraging my peers to visit Israel and get a chance to see with their own eyes what this true resilience looks like.

People ask me what it was like being in Israel the year of Oct. 7, and in the years after, they've wondered if I was scared. What people often see of Israel is news

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

Osmundson Photography



Bar/Bat Mitzvahs and Weddings
email: glenn@osmundsonphotography.com
website: www.osmundsonphotography.com
401-257-9619



HATTIE IDE CHAFFEE HOME
TM



Home with a Heart!

State-of-the-art Rehab wing
Best rated by U.S. News & World Report
Private Rooms and Bathrooms
Arts Academy | Kosher Cuisine
RI Federation Garden Club

78 years of compassionate skilled care

(401) 434.1520 | hattieidechaffee.org

200 WAMPANOAG TRAIL | RIVERSIDE, RI 02915

COMMUNITY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

about war and conflict, which does not accurately depict what daily life is like there. The media is a terrifying place for anyone with an opinion, but it is even scarier for those without one. With such strong language and black-and-white rhetoric, it can be difficult to understand the nuance that comes with informed discussion about the Middle East. When the first thing people read is a bloody and frightening article, they naturally come to a negative conclusion. It is important, especially in the wake of the Israel-Hamas war, for people to visit Israel and see for themselves. Not only does this offer support to the people, but it allows



an understanding of the rich history that infuses life there.

GABRIELLA STEIN *is a rising junior at the University of Rhode Island from Farmingdale, New York. She is majoring in Film Media.*



Patrick C. Lynch
Attorney General: 2003-2011

Jeffrey B. Pine
Attorney General: 1993-1999

One Park Row, Fifth Floor Providence, RI 02903
P: 401.274.3306 | F: 401.274.3326
PLynch@lynchpine.com | JPine@lynchpine.com
Criminal Defense • Personal Injury/Serious Accidents • Civil and Business Litigation
Government Investigations • Government Relations

Ceremonies by Denise

Creating memories one ceremony at a time.

- Officiant
- Singer/Guitarist
- Baby Namings
- Weddings
- Celebrations of Life
- Funerals



Denise Heitmann

401-640-4299
hayomhh2020@gmail.com

COMMUNITY

Celebrating 40 years of the Richard Bornstein Memorial Dwares JCC Golf Classic



Celebrating 40 years of community and excellence at the Richard Bornstein Memorial Dwares JCC Golf Classic.



Perfect day for a round with friends on the course. Yitz Schleifer, Andrew Schuster, Alex Cutler and Avi Rosenstein enjoy a beautiful June day on the links.



High energy on the court!

PHOTOS | MADE YOU LOOK/ JOEY GAMM

Everyone is till buzzing from what was, by all accounts, an epic day! Under sun-drenched skies, the 40th Anniversary Golf Classic brought the community together on June 8 for a day of sport and heart – and, fittingly, it turned out to be the most successful year ever.

ONCE AGAIN, the event expanded beyond the links to include tennis and pickleball. Seeing the courts and courses bustling with friendly competition was a highlight. It is that sense of connection across all ages and interests that fuels everything at the Bonnie & Donald Dwares Jewish Community Center in Providence. Whether it's a child experiencing the magic of camp, a member finding their rhythm in the fitness center or a neighbor enjoying the warmth of the Kosher Senior Cafe, community participation makes these programs a reality.

The "small but mighty" community is a generous one, raising a record-breaking $120,000 to support vital programs and services offered by the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island. The "Fund-a-Need" initiative, resulting in $20,000 in pledges, will impact camp scholarships and youth summer program supplies and equipment and will allow the JCC to purchase a pool chair lift, critical to accessibility and inclusivity efforts building-wide.

None of this would have been possible without the tireless work of event co-chairs Ruthie Furman-Ingard and Ben Ingard. Their dedicated committee of Bethany and Rich Sutton, Jessica Rosenthal and John O'Bell, Lauren and Max Charness, Andrew and Shelly Sigal and Lynne Klasko-Foster poured their hearts into every detail, working behind the scenes for months to make sure every player felt welcomed and every detail was perfect.

Event sponsors – both the longtime friends and new partners – deserve a special thank you: Bonnie and Donald Dwares, Envision, Koffler Group, Body by Z, Wingate, Beacon Bank, Pamela and Jeffrey Vogel, Brier & Brier, Amplified, Lezli and Jamie Pious, The Miriam Hospital, The Charness Charitable Foundation, Anchor Mechanical, Towne Glass, RentProv, Maven's Delicatessen and Brown Health Neurosurgery Foundation.

"Ruthie and I were honored to have the opportunity to act as hosts of this event, but the success of this event is a result of the hard work and dedication demonstrated by the host committee as well as Alliance leadership and staff." said Ben Ingard. " We owe a large debt of gratitude to our sponsors, without whom we would not have this opportunity. We look forward to seeing everyone on the course once again next June.

Details will be available in the early fall.

Submitted by the Jewish Alliance Development Team

Support and recognition for Miriam Hospital

BY JRI STAFF

PROVIDENCE – With 74 guests in attendance, The Miriam Hospital Women's Association held its 129th Annual Meeting and presented its 41st Annual Recognition Award June 3 at The Waterman Grille.

The MHWA, which dates to the 1890s, was instrumental in founding, The Miriam Hospital and continues to support the institution's functioning and growth.

Association President Paula Cofone highlighted her group's accomplishments during her annual report. This year, she noted, the association funded "Equipped for Exceptional Care" in support of needs expressed by the hospital's staff. Also in the past year, Cofone said, the association grew by 10 members and sponsored two evening programs. These included an Oct. 23 event with clothing stylist Amy Salinger and Dr. Maria Stump's presentation on "Move, Nourish, Connect: The Brain Formula" on April 30.

MHWA Co-Vice President Elaine Fain, MD, presented a check for funds the group raised this year to The Miriam Hospital President Maria Ducharme, DNP, RN. Ducharme accepted the check on behalf of the hospital.

The funds are earmarked for the purchase of cardiac stress-test equipment, treadmill equipped with a GEN Centricity technology that automatically records blood pressure and seamlessly integrates with the patient's medical record.

In her remarks, Ducharme thanked the association for its generosity and noted that The Miriam has been ranked a Best Regional Hospital since 2012. It has also consistently received an "A" grade for hospital quality, she added.

Co-chair of the MWHA Centennial Celebration Susan Bazar introduced Susan H. Kaplan, this year's Recognition Award recipient. Kaplan, Bazar said, has been involved with the hospital for 22 years, including eight as chair of the The Miriam Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees.

Kaplan was described as generous, passionate and hard-working, with Ducharme calling her "the heart of The Miriam." Lenore Leach, founder of the yearly award, congratulated her on her accomplishments.

Past President Barbara Bowen presided over the installation of the association's 2026-2027 officers. These include Nancy M. Riffle, president; Amy Page DeBlasio and Heather Dawood Volrath, co-vice presidents of program development; Beth Salk and Ellen Goldman, co-vice presidents of membership; Dr. Elaine Fain and Karen Triedman, co-vice presidents of Equipped for Exceptional Care; Marianne Litwin, treasurer; Marilyn Myrow, corresponding secretary; and Mary Gagnon, recording secretary.

For more information about The Miriam Hospital Women's Association, email Brianna Riley at bgiorgi@BrownHealth.org or call 401-793-2520.

COMMUNITY

There is more to the Jewish story than turmoil and tragedy

BY RYAN GOLDITCH

"Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

WHEN I ENTERED the barracks at Auschwitz two months ago, those words from George Santayana were the first I read.

I was not ready for the week that awaited me in Poland, and nothing could have prepared me for the horrors I was about to witness. My experience confronted me with a reality that no textbook, no lecture, no documentary can ever fully convey.

This spring, I had the incredible opportunity to participate in the March of the Living and to learn about the atrocities of the Holocaust firsthand. Throughout the trip, I traveled with the Northeast Delegation, a group of nearly 75 students, and Holocaust survivor Sami Steigmann.

As soon as we landed in Poland, we traveled to Auschwitz. It was not what I expected. It was enormous, crowded and industrial. There, I stood inside a gas chamber and touched the very walls that prisoners clawed in a desperate attempt at freedom, for one more second of air, one more second of life. Then, I looked up and saw the openings in the ceiling where Zyklon B was poured onto innocent men, women and children.

One of the most meaningful experiences of the trip was our visit to Tykocin, a small shtetl roughly two hours northeast of Warsaw. Tykocin was beautiful, the kind of place where you could imagine generations of Jewish life flourishing. We stood in the synagogue in the center of town and sang *"Hinei Ma Tov,"* a song of Jewish life, joy and happiness, celebrating how good it is that we could be together.

Then we learned what happened in Tykocin.

On Aug. 25, 1941, the Jews of Tykocin were ordered to the market square. They were marched and trucked to the Łopuchowo Forest, forced to dig large pits, line up on the edges, and were massacred. We went to the forest and stood beside those very pits. A total of 2,500 Jews remain buried there.

One story we were told was impossible to forget. A mother and her young daughter stood hand in hand on the edge of one of the pits. The mother was asked whether she wanted the Nazi soldier to shoot her first, or her daughter first.

At Treblinka, where nearly 870,000 Jews were murdered, we took a moment for ourselves to process the overwhelming wave of emotions we were experiencing. Sami, our Holocaust survivor, raised his arms, smiled and declared, "We are here. We made it." I led the Northeast Delegation in *"Hatikvah"* as we remembered the victims murdered there.

On the day of the March, more than 7,000 Jewish teens from around the world gathered at Auschwitz as we prepared to march to Birkenau, the same route where prisoners once marched toward their deaths.

This time, we were living.

This time, 7,000 Jewish teens, determined to remember, determined never to forget, marched together in solidarity and in a promise that we would never again allow dehumanization, never again allow antisemitism to rise.

On the March, I met many Jews my age from around the world. Different cultures, different languages, but united by our shared religion, our shared heritage and our shared history.

One moment comes back to me every time I think about what I took away from Poland.

At Tykocin, one of the rabbis told us about the history of the synagogue. Somebody asked if it had become a museum.

The rabbi said no. Judaism was never meant to live behind glass.

Someone else asked if it was still a practicing synagogue.

The rabbi responded, "Not on its own. It only becomes alive when Jews fill it."

Finally, someone asked if there was still a Torah there.

The rabbi paused for a moment and looked at us.

"Yes," he said. "The Torah lives in each and every one of you."

While this trip brought me face to face with some of the darkest evils of human nature, it also showed me that there is more to the Jewish story than turmoil and tragedy. Our story is one of resilience and flourishing.

On the March of the Living, I realized there is hope for the Jewish future, hope that antisemitism will fall, hope for peace and security in Israel and hope for Moshiach, the day when we say "Next year in Jerusalem" at our Passover seder and truly mean it.

Am Yisrael Chai.

May our Father in Heaven bless the State of Israel and shield it with His loving kindness. God bless America, and God bless the State of Israel.

RYAN GOLDITCH *is a senior at Cranston High School West. This trip was made possible by a grant from the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.*



Ryan standing one in front of Birkenau, holding the Israeli flag.



Ryan with Holocaust survivor Sami Steigmann. PHOTOS | RYAN GOLDITCH

Celebrate the arrival of each season ... with a visit from David Schwartz, of Schwartz Tree & Landscape, to evaluate your trees and shrubs.



Angies List Super Service Award

• Natural Pruning • Insect & Disease Control
• Landscape Design & Construction

SCHWARTZ TREE CARE LANDSCAPING

Ivory Halo Creations

401-941-4440 www.ivoryhalo.com

The Voice of Greater Rhode Island's Jewish Community

JEWISH RHODE ISLAND Business & Professional Directory

APPLIANCES

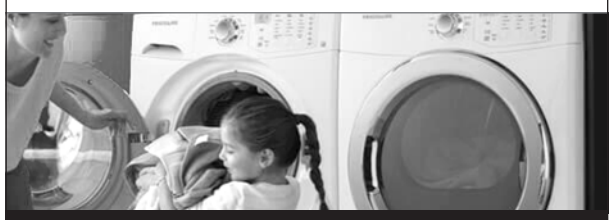
EST. 1979

IZ SCHWARTZ APPLIANCE

Honest advice, Great selection and Value.

WE CARRY THE BEST BRANDS SUCH AS

- Subzero
- Wolf
- Thermador
- Bosch
- GE
- Whirlpool
- Maytag
- Frigidaire
- Electrolux
- Verona
- And many more!



izschwartzappliance.com

WATCH REPAIR & SALES

Saltzman's Watches

EST. 1940



3rd Generation, Locally owned and operated since 1940



Factory Authorized Service Center for: Swiss Army, Fendi, Baume et Mercier, Cartier, Tag Heuer, Movado, Philip Stein, and More

GENUINE PARTS USED FOR ALL REPAIRS INCLUDING ROLEX, CARTIER, AND BAUME ET MERCIER

VICTORINOX SWISS ARMY · LUMI NOX · PHILIP STEIN · MICHELE

Authorized Dealer Breitling, Tag Heuer, Movado, and More!

1024 Reservoir Ave - Cranston, RI (401-946-0930)
Hammet's Hotel, 4 Commercial Blvd, Newport RI (401-841-0011)
www.saltzmans-watches.com

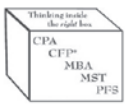


DELMAN WATCH CO.
650 Oaklawn Avenue, Unit G | Cranston, RI 02920

- Certified watch service center in business for over 35 years
- Specializes in restoration and repair of modern and antique timepieces
- Services high-end brands including: Tag Heuer, Cartier, Rolex, Brietling, Movado, Ebel, and Raymond Weil

401.946.5158 | www.delmanwatch.com

CPA



Larry B. Parness
Nikki M. Parness

thinking inside the RIGHT box

Full service financial firm providing
Business/Individual Consulting
Tax Preparation | Financial Planning

401-454-0900 • info@larrybparness.com
595 Hope Street • Providence, RI 02906
You've known me for your taxes...
Now see us for the rest of your financial story.

ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS

ASSOCIATED ENGINEERS
Engineers and Consultants

established 1965

Alan M. Salk, P.E. — Ralph A. DeVivo, P.E.

401-524-3614 www.associatedengineers.net

THERAPY

PVD PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES
Exceptional Therapy and Testing in PVD

EVIDENCE-BASED THERAPY AND EVALUATIONS FOR:

Anxiety Disorders · Eating Disorders
Mood Disorders · Academic Issues
ADHD · Trauma
LGBTQIA Affirming

401-330-5882 | PVDPSYCH.COM

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Adler's

WHEN WOODROW WILSON WAS PRESIDENT, 25¢ COULD BUY A GALLON OF GAS, AND A 'TWEET' WAS A BIRD TALKING

WE'VE BEEN HERE SINCE 1919



173 WICKENDEN PVD
401/421-5157 www.adlersri.com

INSURANCE

Medicare Plans • Life & Health Insurance
Property & Casualty Insurance • Employee Benefits

Brier & Brier

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE, PERSONAL ATTENTION

Offices in Warwick, Providence, and Boynton Beach, FL
(401) 751-2990 | www.brier-brier.com

Jacob N. S. Brier *MBA, PHR®* — jacob@brier-brier.com
Jeffrey G. Brier *CLU, ChFC CASL* — jbrier@brier-brier.com

REAL ESTATE

EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE. SUPERIOR STANDARDS. PROVEN RESULTS.

LAZARUS GROUP



TOP 1% NATIONWIDE SALES PRODUCER

More than 35 years of Real Estate Experience

Certified Home Marketing Specialist

Certified Staging Specialist

COLDWELL BANKER

DIANE LAZARUS, MBA, GRI
Group Leader - Broker Associate
Serving Greater Rhode Island

401.640.1658 | lazawoman@cox.net

Rochelle Ellen Ziegler
REALTOR®
Licensed in RI, MA & CT



- 21 years Experience & Top Producer
- Top 3% of Coldwell Banker Realty Worldwide
- Clients are forever grateful

1000 Division Street, Suite 15
East Greenwich, RI 02818

COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

401.474.0735
Rochelle.Ziegler@NEMoves.com

GERRI SCHIFFMAN is more than a real estate agent



Gerri is a trusted advisor who understands houses inside and out

EXPERIENCE INTEGRITY RESULTS

401-474-3733
gerrischiffman.com
gerri@residentialproperties.com

Residential PROPERTIES LTD.

COMMUNITY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

out of chairs," said Brody. "We had 75 or 80 people. I think it was the year Rosh Hashanah ended up being on Labor Day weekend, or right after Labor Day weekend, and a lot of families stayed out."

More often, Brody said Friday night services draw between 10 and 30 people, with a core membership of about 40 families. The mix includes summer residents, a small number of year-round Islanders, weekend guests and vacationers who search for a Jewish congregation on Block Island and discover CSDR.

"Mostly it's summer people and a couple of year-rounders," Brody said. "But we do get people who sort of got off the boat, looked up 'Block Island Jewish Congregation,' found us somehow and showed up on a Friday night."

Simon Lichter, a longtime summer Islander and volunteer helping the congregation with outreach and organization said that everybody who's there, in a very genuine way, wants to be there to connect with the local Jewish community.

"It creates a spirit that, in some ways, is much different than what you might find in other synagogues," he said, describing it as a havurah kind of style.

"Very *heimish*, very intimate. We do services in a circle led by someone, and then there's also someone who gives a d'var Torah. We ask some questions, so it's very down to earth," he said.

CSDR does not own a synagogue building. Over the years, the congregation has met in living rooms, community spaces and several island churches that opened their doors. It eventually found a steady home at St. Andrews Parish Center a community space associated with the Catholic parish.

The congregation also has its own Torah, donated by the Draper family, a prominent year-round Block Island family with long ties to the Jewish community.

"It needed restoration work, as most Torah scrolls do," Maxman said. "The congregation paid to restore it. And now it's in a hopefully safe room in their house, because we don't have a whole lot of storage space in the parish center."

Over the decades, CSDR has marked many milestones of Jewish life on the island. There have been Jewish weddings, community bar mitzvahs and High Holy Day gatherings that brought extended families together.

The Abrams-Draper family, among the island's longtime year-round Jewish residents, celebrated the bar mitzvahs of three sons with the help of tutors and the broader congregation.

While CSDR is most active in the summer, its leaders are working to strengthen its year-round connections. The congregation has begun building a relationship with Congregation Beth David in Narragansett, hoping to create a mainland connection for Islanders who want access to services, programs or holiday celebrations in the off-season.

"We want to have them as a sister synagogue, like a mainland synagogue," Brody said. "Access to more Jewish community that people can either Zoom into or physically attend."

Leaders have also discussed possibilities such as helping Block Island families attend Passover seders on the mainland, including through home hospitality with Rhode Island Jewish families.

"We're trying to integrate ourselves with the larger Jewish Rhode Island community," Lichter added.

CSDR is also becoming more visible beyond the island. Under Lichter's volunteer leadership, the congregation has created a website, JewishBlockIsland.org, and established a social media presence.

Lichter, who formerly served as executive director of the Block Island Chamber of Commerce, sees this as part of a new chapter for CSDR.

"We built the website, we have a social media presence, and we're formalizing this board. I think we're in a great 2.0 spot for the congregation," he said.

Brody said the congregation's 40-year history carries particular meaning at a time when many Jews are seeking visible and welcoming spaces.

"Especially with antisemitism and finding it hard to express yourself Jewishly in the public space, it's beautiful that Block Island is able to maintain and develop a Jewish presence through 40 years," Lichter said. "I think that's a beautiful example of resilience of the Jewish people."

That is part of the congregation's purpose: to be there when someone is looking.

"One thing that I do whenever I travel anywhere is I look for the synagogue and see if I can fit going to services into whatever trip I'm doing," Maxman said.

"This is a community of Jewish people who really do live and embody Jewish values. It's just great to connect with those people when you're here."

SETH CHITWOOD *(www.sethchitwood.com), of Barrington, is a features reporter for The Standard-Times, in New Bedford, Massachusetts. He is also the creative director of the award-winning Angelwood Pictures production company.*

OBITUARIES

Cynthia Agronick, 83

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Cynthia



Agronick died on June 18, 2026, at Hope-Health Hulitar Hospice. She was the beloved wife of the late Jordan Agronick. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Samuel and Adeline (Siegel) Rosenberg, she was a longtime resident of Warwick, before moving to Smithfield. She was the devoted mother of Gail (Steven) of Smithfield; Ben (Lili) of Rochester, New York; and stepmother of Ruth (Steve) of Sacramento, California. She was the dear sister to Elaine Auger of Providence and the late Lenore Blasbalg. She was the loving grandmother to Zoe (Carl), Adeline (Robin), Sadie, and Sam. Cherished aunt to many nieces and nephews.

Contributions can be made to Jewish Eldercare at Jewish Collaborative Services, https://jcsri.org/donate/donate-now/.

FLEISHER MONUMENT COMPANY

With 20 years' experience we continue to create personalized, meaningful memorials. Wording both in Hebrew and English. Relevant etching can be included.

Ira Jay Fleisher (401) 265-2330
fleishermonumentco@gmail.com
(Serving Rhode Island & Massachusetts)

Marilyn Bell, 83

VESTAL, N.Y. – It is with



profound sadness that we announce the passing of Marilyn Bell on June 22, 2026, at home, surrounded by her devoted children.

Marilyn's life was a testament to love, family and community. Predeceased by her parents, Bernard and Goldie (Flint) Bograd, her sister Barbara Bograd and her beloved husband, Nathan Bell, Marilyn built a life full of love, friendship, volunteerism, activism and, most of all, family.

Born in Providence, Marilyn moved to the greater Binghamton area and raised her three children, David Bell, Gary Bell and Rachel (Bell) Fineman. She worked in the advertising department of the Press & Sun Bulletin, where she was known for her remarkable spirit and dedication. After retiring from the newspaper, Marilyn dedicated herself to giving to the community. She ran the gift wrap campaign for Hadassah, volunteered at Chabad and sat on the executive boards of both Beth David Synagogue and Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, just to name a few of her accomplishments.

Marilyn was more than a pillar of the local Jewish community. She had a knack for making friends, she loved to laugh, and she had a zest for life. Her greatest joy came in the form of her children and grandchildren, whom she adored. Marilyn is survived by her devoted children: David Bell, Gary Bell and Rachel and Michael Fineman; her beloved sisters, Joyce Bograd and Suzanne Gilstein; and her treasured grandchildren: Samira (and Erica), Alex, Nosson, Reuven, Gabe, Shaya and Yonah.

Contributions may be made to Beth David Synagogue, 39 Riverside Drive, Binghamton, NY 13905, as an expression of her enduring spirit within the community she cherished.

Edwin Brooklyn, 99

WARWICK, R.I. – Edwin



Gerald Brooklyn died on June 11, 2026, at Greenwich Farms in Warwick. He was the beloved husband of the late Carol R. Brooklyn for 65 years. Born in Passaic, New Jersey, he was a son of the late Abe Brooklyn and Alice (Zacharewitz) Brooklyn Trilling. He was a state spelling bee champion who proudly represented his elementary school in the state finals. Edwin was a trombone player with the Passaic-Bergen Symphony Orchestra and had his own dance band in Passaic in the 1940s. He was also a former Rutgers University ASTP US Army football running back and a track runner who took on the 100-yard and 220-yard dashes.

Edwin was a student at Upsala College, where he met his beloved wife. While there he focused on business administration, and he received his bachelor's in business administration. He had lived in Passaic, where he managed and operated the A. Brooklyn Tire Exchange,

OBITUARIES

following the death of his father. Edwin was a veteran of WWII from June 1944 to August 1945 and the Korean War from October 1951 to October 1953. Staff Sergeant Brooklyn served at the Headquarters Company at Camp Gordon in Georgia, where he was responsible for the filing of requests and the transfer of Signal Corp personnel around the world.

In his later years, Edwin served his community as a President of Market Merchandisers, Inc., a President of Certified Computer Services, a President and Chairman of the Board of Service Merchandisers of America, a Vice Chairman of the RI Council of Highway Safety and a Chairman of the Board of the Cranston YMCA. He was also a former Vice President of Temple Sinai, in Cranston, and a former co-owner of Only a Dollar, Inc; he was a member of other civic and charitable organizations.

He was the devoted father of John Brooklyn and his partner, Cara Hart; Alex Brooklyn and his partner, Teri Molloy; Susan Brooklyn and Nancy Brooklyn and her husband, Sven. He was the dear brother of Mildred (Isaac) Jolles, Sylvia (Eric) Denhoff and Lillian (Sidney) Grau. He was the loving grandfather of Chelsea, Amanda, Roshi, Brooklyn, Emma and Kensington. He was the cherished great-grandfather of Izabel.

Contributions may be made to RI Community Food Bank, ATTN: Development Department, 200 Niantic Ave., Providence, RI 02907.

Lillian Cohen, 101

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Lillian



Narva Cohen, of Providence, passed away on June 5, 2026, at HopeHealth Hulitar Hospice Center. She was the loving wife of the late Donald "Buddy" Cohen.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Morris and Anna (Kibrick) Narva, she returned to the city of her birth in her later years.

Lillian and her beloved Buddy enjoyed many years together traveling, playing golf and entertaining family and friends in their home. Lillian loved cooking and was especially creative as she modified recipes to make them her own. Lillian and Buddy also enjoyed family trips, near and far, with their four children. As dog lovers, they took care of their own dogs, as well as a few grand dogs, over the years.

A floral designer for many years before retiring, Lillian took great pride in her work. "The Flower Lady," as her family nicknamed her, continued her interest in floral design, volunteering to create flower arrangements for historic buildings in Lexington, as well as bouquets for Wright-Locke Farm in Winchester. Lillian was an active member of the Lexington Field and Garden Club, oldest garden club in the nation. She also spent hours in her own gardens or volunteering in other gardens, designing and maintaining beautiful displays of flowering plants and shrubs.

Her other passion was knitting and needlework. As a member of the Lexington Arts and Crafts Society, Lillian exhibited and sold many of her knitted creations.

Age did not slow down Lillian. She continued to play tennis into her late 80s and enjoyed watching the professional tennis players on TV. When she was not playing tennis or gardening, she was reading, playing mahjong, doing word games or building jigsaw puzzles.

She is survived by four children, Lynne Shapiro and her husband, Harvey, of Falmouth, Massachusetts; Robert Cohen and his wife, Eileen, of Foxboro, Massachusetts; Steven Cohen and his wife, Kathy, of Natick, Massachusetts; and Lee Cohen and his wife, Ellyn, of Cranston; eight grandchildren, Scott Shapiro and wife, Paula; Nancy Nelsen and husband, Bill; Abby Cohen and husband,Ryan; Sabrina Cohen and husband, Julio; Linsey Pimentel and husband, Matt; Tyler Cohen and wife, Rachel; Hannah Cohen and husband, Ryan; and Marshall Cohen and partner, Nick Mizaur; seven great-grandchildren, William, Avery, Theodore, Oliver, Mia, Maxwell and Poppy, and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by siblings, Morton Narva, and triplet sisters, Betty Friedman and Pauline Jacobs.

David Fine, 65

PLAINVILLE, MASS. –



David A. Fine, of Plainville, Massachusetts, passed away on June 10, 2026, at HopeHealth Hulitar Hospice Center in Providence.

Born in Attleboro, Massachusetts, a son of the late Harold and Anne (Korman) Fine, he spent most of his life in Rehoboth before moving to Plainville four years ago.

A graduate of Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School, Class of 1978, Dave was a skilled carpenter for many years before retiring. An avid fisherman, he enjoyed playing cards and he loved his dog, Babs.

In Dave's retirement he became a fixture in his community. He and Babs visited with all their neighbors on their daily walks, and Dave grew into a resource for his friends, providing transportation and running errands. And the 100-pound gentle giant unofficial therapy dog that was Babs provided comfort to all.

He is survived by three siblings, Steven Fine and his wife, Eileen, of Derby, Connecticut; Bayla Fine of Rehoboth; and Paul Fine and his wife, Edna, of Marlborough; four nieces, Elizabeth Fine and her husband, Ryan Meltzer; Shayna Fine; Jenna Mushin and her spouse, Ashelyn Davis; and Destany Funteral-Fine; one nephew, Andrew Mushin and his wife, Beth, and many cousins.

Karen Germain 82

WARWICK, R.I. – Karen



Paula (Gleckman) Germain passed away on June 27, 2026, in Johnston with her loving family by her side. She was the beloved wife of the late Richard Germain for 34 years. Born in Albany, New York, she was a daughter of the late Jacob and Sarah (Hittner) Gleckman. After Sarah's untimely passing, she was raised by her adopted mother, Rebecca (Hittner) Gleckman.

Karen attended Hope High School and graduated in 1962; she immediately married and started a family. Her life was dedicated to creating a home in Warwick where she remained for 58 years.

Karen was a devoted dog mom, she gave her love and devotion to many poodles and golden retrievers over the years, none as special as Faith whom she lost in 2019 after 12 love-filled years. She was an avid vegetable gardener for many years until she was no longer able to care for her beds. When life slowed down some, she found time to enjoy "Days of Our Lives."

Karen was a dearly loved mother to Susan Twardowski, her husband, Robert; and Rayna Breitenbecher, her husband, Erick; all of Johnston. She was the dear sister of Joseph Gleckman of Scituate, Sharen Gleckman of Providence and the late Elaine Ginsberg. She was the loving grandmother of Robert and Mandy. She was the cherished great-grandmother of Robert.

Contributions may be made to the American Alzheimer's Association: Rhode Island Chapter.

Judith Glantz, 90

NORTH KINGSTOWN, R.I.



– Judith H. (Polonsky) Glantz, of North Kingstown, passed away on May 31, 2026. She was the wife of Ernest Glantz, with whom she shared 68 years of marriage.

Born in Newark, New Jersey, she was the daughter of the late Harry and Ruth (Peyser) Polonsky,

Survivors include: three children, Dr. Michael Glantz of Pennsylvania; Steven Glantz and his wife, Tamie, of South Kingstown; and Lawrence Glantz of New Jersey; four grandchildren, Amanda Gill and her husband, Thomas; Matthew Glantz; Cassandra Glantz ,and Zachary Glantz and his wife, Stephanie; four great-grandchildren, Saylor Gill, Ella Gill, Leo Glantz and Ari Glantz. She was the sister of the late Ethel Moore and sister-in-law of the late Richard Moore. She was also the sister-in-law of Winifred Glantz and the late Barry Glantz.

Contributions may be made to, Alzheimer's Association Rhode Island Chapter, 245 Waterman St. #306, Providence, RI 02906

Beverly Goldberg, 89

DELRAY BEACH, FLA. –



Beverly H. Goldberg, formerly Beverly Ann Halpern, passed away peacefully on June 24, 2026.

Born to Harry and Katherine (Bergel) Halpern and raised in Rhode Island, Beverly graduated from Classical High School in Providence and later earned her degree from Simmons College in Boston. She dedicated part of her professional life to education, working as a teacher and continuing to substitute teach while raising her family. Her lifelong love of travel later led her to enjoy a part-time career as a travel agent, helping others explore



OBITUARIES

the world she loved so much.

Beverly and her beloved husband, Bernard S. Goldberg, shared 56 happy years together until his passing. Together they built a wonderful life centered on family, friendship,and creating lasting memories.

She raised her family in Cranston, while cherishing summers in Narragansett, where family gatherings, beach days and celebrations became treasured traditions. Beverly had a special gift for bringing people together and was known for organizing memorable family parties filled with warmth, laughter and love.

In retirement, Beverly and Bernie enjoyed spending their time between Narragansett and Boynton Beach, Florida, where they enjoyed golf, social activities and the company of many dear friends at Hunters Run Country Club.

Beverly was a devoted mother, grandmother, sister and friend. She maintained lifelong friendships and formed new ones wherever she went. She enjoyed playing bridge and canasta games with her friends, loved social gatherings and found great joy in spending time with her growing family. As her children and grandchildren grew, nothing brought her greater happiness than being part of their lives and celebrating their accomplishments.

She is survived by her loving children, Alan J. Goldberg and his wife, Amy, of Sharon, Massachusetts; and Nancy Rubenstein and her husband, Gene, of Sudbury, Massachusetts.

She was the proud and devoted grandmother of Jennifer Goldberg, Michelle Fellows and her husband, Matthew, Kenneth Paul, Heidi Rubenstein, and Dana Rubenstein.

She is also survived by her brother, Robert Halpern and his wife, Marcia, of Naples, Florida, and her sister, Marjorie Bean and her husband, Norman, of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

Beverly will be remembered for her kindness, warmth, vibrant social spirit, love of family and her ability to make every gathering feel special. Her legacy lives on in the many lives she touched and in the cherished memories shared by her family and friends.

Contributions can be made to the Parkinson's Foundation, 5757 Waterford District Drive, Ste 310, Miami, FL 33126 https://www.parkinson.org/?form=19983&tribute=true or a charity of your choice.

Sara Kaye, 47

HOUSTON, TEXAS – Sara



Shansky Kaye passed away peacefully on June 5, 2026, with her family by her side. She was 47 years old. Sara had recently been diagnosed with a very aggressive form of pancreatic cancer and was being treated at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. She received excellent, compassionate care, but sadly, her disease had progressed too rapidly to be cured.

Sara grew up in Barrington, graduated from Tufts University in Medford Massachusetts, in 2000, and then moved to Portland, Oregon, where she met her husband, Adam. Sara and Adam lived briefly in San Francisco, then settled in Austin, drawn there by the music scene. Most recently, Sara worked as the B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator & Music Assistant at Temple Beth Shalom in Austin.

Music was a huge part of Sara's life since she was a very young child. She was a singer- songwriter, played many instruments, including piano, guitar. and ukulele, and she sang in an a cappella group in college. Sara performed at open mics wherever she was living, frequently leading to long-term friendships and partnerships with other musicians, relationships that continued throughout her life. Music brought Sara much joy in her own life, and her lovely voice and beautiful music brought so much joy into the lives of all who knew her, and to all those who heard her sing.

There was not a sweeter, kinder, more loving person in the world than Sara. She was a shining light in our lives, and words can't express how much she will be missed.

Sara is survived by her husband, Adam; her children, Miles and Ruby; her mother, Janet Shansky; her sister, Becca Shansky, and brother-in-law, Jesse Schomer. Sara was predeceased by her father, Joseph Shansky. She is also survived by many loving aunts, uncles, cousins, band mates and dear friends.

Donations may be made to the Sara Kaye Memorial Music Fund at Temple Beth Shalom in Austin, Texas.

More than 26 years of dedicated service
The only Family-Owned Jewish Funeral Home in Rhode Island
SHALOM MEMORIAL CHAPEL
www.ShalomMemorialChapel.com

1100 New London Avenue
Cranston, RI 02920
ShalomChapel@aol.com
(401) 463-7771
Toll Free: (877) 463-7771
Certified by the R.I. Board of Rabbis
Pre-Need Programs Available
Wheelchair Accessible

Michael D. Smith Licensed Funeral Director
Rebecca Falvey Licensed Funeral Director
Adam G. Smith Licensed Funeral Director

Edythe Margolin, 82

WARWICK, R.I. – Edythe



Suzanne DuBrow Margolin passed away on May 14, 2026, at West View Nursing Center in Warwick after a lengthy illness. Born on March 8, 1944, in New Haven, Connecticut, she was the daughter of the late Harry and Dorothy DuBrow and the older sister of Steven DuBrow, who survives her.

At just 13, Edythe moved to Brooklyn, New York, where she boarded with a family so she could attend Yeshiva University High School, demonstrating her independence and responsibility. She later earned her BA and MA degrees in Jewish Education from Yeshiva University, where she met her future husband, Jerry.

After spending a year teaching English in Israel, the couple settled in Riverdale, New York, where they raised four children. Edythe became a Hebrew teacher and later the principal of Beit Emet Hebrew School in Larchmont, New York, where she was known for her excellent lesson plans and her genuine interest in each student's growth.

Every Sukkot she and Jerry welcomed their entire congregation into their giant Succah covered with fresh green branches. Edythe served her homemade apple cake and a wide variety of food as everyone sang and said the blessings.

Years later, Edythe became a real estate agent. She loved showing beautiful homes and sometimes even drove clients to the properties herself, earning their trust with her warm and friendly personality.

Family, friends and many others remember Edythe for her hospitality and generosity. When children and grandchildren visited on birthdays, there was always a beautiful cake and an elegantly set table waiting for them. Visitors to her home were almost always offered a hot meal and even a ride home. She gave thoughtful gifts, made creative cards and would send long thank-you notes.

Edythe was deeply encouraging to those around her, saying, "C'mon, you could do it!" She was also a patient listener, happily reviewing school reports and essays. When a grandchild played a song on the piano, she would applaud and say, "Bravo!" as she enjoyed listening to classical, Broadway and Jewish music.

Edythe loved weddings, and at bar mitzvahs she followed every word of the Torah reading. She also enjoyed attending Talmud classes at Young Israel of North Riverdale/Yonkers, which drew her even later in life, when understanding became very challenging for her.

She and Jerry treasured family time in New York and the Berkshires. They loved driving up to Rhode Island, exploring the beaches, lakes and parks here while Edythe took countless pictures of the grandchildren swimming, playing and building sandcastles.

Edythe especially cherished her and Jerry's annual trips to Israel, where they planted trees, prayed for the soldiers at the Kotel (Western Wall), visited the Biblical Zoo with grandchildren and bought souvenirs. She had strong faith throughout her life, and even in her last days, she somehow managed to listen intently as Jerry said the Shema and other prayers to her.

In addition to Jerry, her beloved husband of 60 years, she leaves four children: Jordana (Aaron) Weisman, of Providence; Elana Margolin, of Westerly; Sharona (Josh) Halickman, of Jerusalem, Israel; and Lavie (Rachel) Margolin, of New York City.

She was a devoted "Safta" to 11 grandchildren: Dovid Shmuel, Eli, Rivi, Shula, Gabi and Adena Weisman; Dov, Moshe and Yehudah Halickman; and Hadassah and Jack Margolin. She was also a proud "Grand Safta" to seven great-grandchildren: Zechariah, Shaya, Shimon and Tehilla Kholodenko; Reuven and Evy Weisman; and Ariel Levy.

Those wishing to honor Edythe's memory may contribute to Feed Israel, Hatzolah or the Jewish National Fund.

Susan Newman, 85

DELRAY BEACH, FLA.



– Susan (Lugger) Newman, originally from St. Louis, Missouri, passed away on June 18, 2026, peacefully at her home in Delray Beach. With her loving husband of 61 years, Allan Newman, Susan spent most of her years in Cranston.

She worked as a legal secretary for the same firm law firm for over 40 years. Moving to Delray Beach after retirement, she enjoyed playing canasta, mahjong and serving as president of her community women's club for a number of years. Susan is survived by her husband, Allan; son Michael (Chantal) Newman; daughter Lisa Nichols; and grandchildren Nathaniel Newman and Bronwyn Carpenter.

OBITUARIES

Juliann Oster, 62

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Juliann



Oster died on May 29, 2026, at The Miriam Hospital. The daughter of the late Gerald and Alice Oster. Juliann was a client of The Cove Center.

Juliann was happiest when she was with her family, Nancy and Arthur Mullen, Robert and Lidia Oster, and Joan Oster, and with her "best friends" Kim Marthers and Nicole Miranda. Juliann loved the beach, traveling and a good meal. She will be missed by her nieces Laura Mullen, Kate Arsenault, Amy Lambert, Sarah Oster Kelly, Danielle Oster Sarfati and Alana Oster Elias as well as several great nieces and nephews.

Donna Polofsky, 83

CRANSTON, R.I. – Donna



J. (Carlow) Polofsky passed away peacefully at Rhode Island Hospital on June 13, 2026, surrounded by her large and loving family, of which she was most proud, and lifelong friends, who were family. She was the beloved and ever-devoted widow to her late husband, Michael Polofsky, whom she married in 1965 and who predeceased her in 1996.

Born and raised in Brookline, Massachusetts, she was the daughter of Roscoe and Gloria (St. Jacques) Carlow and later the stepdaughter of Frederick Burnham. Donna had so many fond memories of growing up in the Boston area, including riding the streetcars all day and hanging out at the theater in Coolidge Corner. At 19, her family moved to Rhode Island, and she went along "kicking and screaming," not wanting to leave "the city." She would later count this as the luckiest move because she met the love of her life. Donna was a Cranstonian from then on, even being counted as an honorary alumna of Cranston High School Class of 1959, attending class reunions long after her husband's passing.

A lover of education, but never the conformist, Donna took classes and studied passions at RISD, Harvard and URI including business, photography, art, poetry and retail management. She would go on to hone these skills over her lifetime, starting many amazing businesses. She co-founded The Humidor Smoke Shop with her husband in 1965, a family business that continues today. Ever the entrepreneur, she also founded and owned several other businesses over her lifetime: Vogue on the Arcade Modeling, Kitchen Caravan and Regional Mortgage Co.

Donna traveled to many countries and loved immersing herself in the foreign culture and making friends along the way. She also loved reading, the movies and especially gardening and anything flowers, a love she had shared with Michael.

She was the cherished mother of Jana Lily Mooney and her husband, David; Brett Joseph Polofsky and his wife, Melissa; Dax Louis Polofsky; and Kaia Lee Polofsky and her husband, Robert Greenhalgh. She was the beloved sister of Lillian Dragon and Eliza Burnham, both of Colorado. She was predeceased by her siblings Jara Uzenda, Walter Carlow and Daniella Carlow.

Her ultimate pride and joy were her eight grandchildren, who will miss her eternally: Michael, Mason, Xander, Taylor, Griffin, Owen, Gavin and Ashton. Sleepovers, pool parties, trips for ice cream, wild west adventures, playing zombie grandmother, reading, learning to knit and crochet, gardening and yard work - Grammie made everything fun!

Ellen Robinson, 83

DELRAY BEACH, FLA.



– Ellen A. Robinson passed away peacefully on June 3, 2026, at VITAS Hospice, Delray Beach, surrounded by the love of family and friends. She was the devoted companion of Harvey Edelstein, whose companionship brought her great happiness.

Born in Providence, Ellen was the beloved daughter of the late Rudolph and Lillian (Levine) Volpe. She treasured her childhood summers in Onset, Massachusetts, and later created countless cherished memories with her children and grandchildren on Cape Cod, a place that always held a special place in her heart.

Ellen worked as a travel agent, helping others explore the world while cultivating her own love of adventure, people and new experiences. She had a remarkable gift for making everyone feel welcome and valued. Her warmth, kindness and infectious sense of fun drew family and friends together throughout her life.

She found joy in life's simple pleasures: spirited games of mahjong, cards with friends, painting, water aerobics and relaxing by the ocean. Whether at the beach, around a card table or in the company of those she loved, Ellen's vibrant spirit shined brightly.

Above all, Ellen was a devoted and loving mother and grandmother. She leaves behind her cherished children, Gary Robinson and his wife, Natalie, of Franklin, Massachusetts; Michael Robinson and his wife, Mara, of North Attleboro, Massachusetts; and Jamie Berman and her husband, Garrett, of Cranston. She was the dear sister of Susan Volpe Glass of Marina Del Rey, California.

Nothing brought Ellen greater pride or happiness than her seven beloved grandchildren – Lauren, Todd, Madison, Jacob, Victoria, Lindsay and Mia – who knew her lovingly as "Grammy." She delighted in their accomplishments, treasured every moment spent with them and filled their lives with unconditional love, encouragement and countless happy memories.

Ellen will be remembered for her generous heart, her enduring friendships, her love of family and the warmth she shared so freely with everyone fortunate enough to know her. Her presence brightened every room, and her memory will continue to bring comfort, smiles and love to those she leaves behind.

Contributions may be made to Roger Williams Park Zoo, 1000 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI 02907 or www.rijewishkids.com/donate.

Stuart Skerker, 70

ATTLEBORO, MASS. – Stuart Henry Skerker, of Attleboro, passed away on June 4, 2026, surrounded by the love of his family. A devoted husband, father, grandfather, son, brother and friend, Stuart's greatest joy was his family. Known affectionately as "Zaydie" to his grandchildren, he cherished spending time with them, sharing his love of reading, stories and learning.

A man who could make friends with anyone, Stuart seemed to know everyone in town, and everyone seemed to know Stuart. Whether through his work, his community involvement or simply his friendly nature, he formed connections wherever he went. Stuart was passionate about many things, including '70s rock music, musical theater, photography and cheering on all of Boston's sports teams.

For many years, Stuart worked as a Systems Analyst for the Massachusetts Department of Revenue in Child Support. In addition to his work with the Department of Revenue, he served as a Correspondent Photographer for The Sun Chronicle for 45 years, documenting the people, events and stories that shaped his community, and he particularly loved covering the stories of the Attleboro Fire and Police Department. Stuart was rarely seen without a newspaper in hand and could often be found listening to his scanner late into the night, ensuring that important local happenings were captured and shared with others.

Stuart is survived by his beloved wife, Jill Skerker; his loving children, Rachel Skerker and her husband, Joshua Fortin, and Benjamin Skerker and his wife, Krystle Poirier; his cherished grandchildren, Levi Skerker-Fortin, Ziva Skerker-Fortin and Piper Poirier-Skerker; his parents, Irving and Goldie Skerker, of Longmeadow, Massachusetts; and his brothers, Hugh, Robert and Paul Skerker.

Donations may be made to Capron Park Zoo, 201 County St., Attleboro, MA 02703 or PJ Library, 67 Hunt St., Suite 100, Agawam, MA 01001, two organizations that reflect his love of children, learning and community. Stuart's warmth, humor and unwavering commitment to his family and community will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew him.

Sheldon Sock, 102

CRANSTON, R.I. – Sheldon Sock, of Cranston, died peacefully at home on May 29, 2026. He was the loving husband of the late Leila (Lake) Sock for 71 years. Born in Providence, he was the son of the late David and Eva (Karklin) Sock. Sheldon was a long-time resident of Cranston and a member of Temple Beth-El. He owned a liquor store for over 20 years, putting in many long hours. He was an accountant at Scarpetti Oldsmobile, Regine Pontiac and New England Technology, retiring at 65.

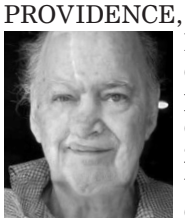
He was the devoted father of Philip Sock and his late wife, Gayle (Myers), of Narragansett, and Sharon Sabbagh and her husband, Tal, of Newton, Massachusetts. He was the dear brother of the late Nathaniel, James, Philip, Joseph and Abraham Sock and the late Irene Cohen, Lillian Sarat, Beatrice Zeaman and Rose Sock. He was the loving grandfather of Joshua, Aliza, Daniel, Jonathan, David and Gillian. He was the cherished great-grandfather of Billy and Julian Sock; Ella, Luna and Gavin Tokatlian; Leila, Noah, Avi, Alex, Max, Lilly and Eli Sabbagh. Sheldon is also survived by nieces and nephews.

Sheldon looked forward to his weekly calls with each of his grandchildren talking about their busy lives and travels. They all enjoyed his sense of humor and his amazingly sharp mind.

Contributions may be made to the Sock/Myers Foundation at https://rif.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=1412 or to a charity of your choice.

James Van, 74

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – James



Linwood Van, of Providence, passed away on June 12, 2026. He was the husband of Roberta C. Rose, with whom he shared 23 years of marriage.

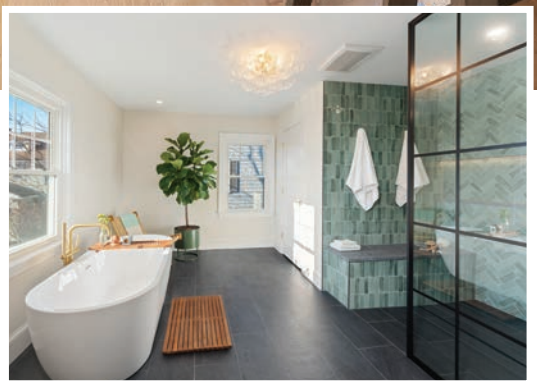
Born in Hartford, Connecticut, he was a son of the late Linwood Van and Jeannette (Michaels) Woodall and stepson of the late Gordan Woodell.

A graduate of Chariho High School, Class of 1979, Jim went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Navy security from the Naval War College. He served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War. A lifelong learner, he was an avid reader, and he enjoyed sailing, gardening and traveling. Jim was also a pilot, a true rock-and-roll fan and he loved animals, especially his dogs Andy and Anna and his cat Jethro.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his daughter, Maya Van, and her husband, David, of Warwick; nephew Joshua Jones; niece Rebecca Jones; three grandchildren, Hunter James Soares, Savannah Dorthea Dibiaso and Peyton Bernadette Dibiaso. He was the brother of the late Catherine Reitman.



RI REG. #3984 MA HIC REG. #164199 CT REG. #HIC.0666429







Spaces for All Chapters of Life

RIKB | DESIGN BUILD

Register for a complimentary design seminar at RIKB.com

Sep 19 10–11am	**BASEMENTS & MULTI-ROOMS**	Transforming Underused Spaces nto Favorite Rooms
Oct 17 10–11am	**REMODEL OR RELOCATE?**	Insights From Real Estate & Design Pros

401-463-1550 | 139 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, RI 02888