JEWISH
RHODE ISLAND

NOVEMBER 2026 | CHESHVAN/KISLEV 5787
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Former Oct. 7 hostage speaks at Brown

Voters make sweeping changes on election night

Children's books fall roundup

Franklin Foer speaks on American Jewry at local synagogue

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JEWISH RHODE ISLAND

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ON THE COVER: PHOTO | AARON PERROTTA
Maya Regev, who was abducted by Hamas from the Nova music festival during the Oct. 7, 2023, terrorist attacks in Israel, answers questions from an audience at the Brown RISD Hillel Oct. 8.

The Voice of Greater Rhode Island's Jewish Community
JEWISH RHODE ISLAND
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Election night brings big changes, questions for Jews

DANIEL MARGOLIS

PROVIDENCE — Voters delivered a stunning defeat to Republicans Nov. 3, handing the House, Senate and several governorships to the Democrats, who scored victories even in states long considered deep red, leaving Democratic voters ecstatic — and many Jewish voters with questions.

Votes were still being counted, but as of press time, Democrats had flipped seven Senate seats, giving them a 54-44 majority there, with Alaska and Mississippi still too close to call. New Democratic senators were elected in Kansas, Iowa, Ohio, Texas, North and South Carolina and Maine. Texas and Iowa will have Democratic governors.

In the House, with 68 races uncalled, Democrats had a 228-139 majority, having flipped more than 30, including four in North Carolina alone.

In Rhode Island, Democrat Helena Buonanno Foulkes handily defeated her opponents, independent Ken Block and Republican Aaron Guckian, for governor. Incumbent Jack Reed did the same in his Senate race, as expected. Democratic socialist David Morales won the Providence mayoralty, and Democrat Adam Greenman — former CEO of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, which publishes this paper — was elected mayor of Pawtucket.

For many Jews, the night was tumultuous. The controversial Abdul El-Sayed won a Senate seat in Michigan, despite allegations of antisemitism, the most recent surrounding an ad by a pro-El-Sayed PAC blaming spending on Israel for the rising cost of groceries and another, from El-Sayed's own campaign, featuring far-right commentator Tucker Carlson. Several Democrats with views like El-Sayed's also won House seats in Colorado, New York and elsewhere.

The research and advocacy organization Jewish Majority, citing its poll of Jewish early voters, said that 57 percent of Jews in Michigan backed El-Sayed, more than 20 percentage points less than voted for Democrat Jocelyn Benson for governor on the same ticket. Ninety-nine percent of those who voted against El-Sayed said they might have voted for a different Democrat and cited concerns about antisemitism and his position on Israel.

Question 7 in Providence, which would direct the city "to divest from countries and companies profiting from genocide, apartheid, ethnic cleansing, and prolonged military occupation," passed overwhelmingly with 75 percent of the vote. Critics say that the wording of the actual resolution — which was not printed on ballots — singles out Israel.

Steven A. Baker, president and CEO of the Alliance, which advocated a "no" vote on the measure, argued the campaign was worthwhile despite the vote's outcome. "It was part of a broader effort to educate … about the lived experiences of many Jews, in this moment, to ensure that concerns about rising antisemitism were taken seriously, and to raise awareness about the impact of the global boycott, divestment and sanctions movement here at home," he said in a statement.

Still, Democrats across the state and country were celebrating the election result. "As Democrats regain a majority in the House, we will fight to root out the corruption in Washington, to lower costs for the American people, to restore and expand healthcare access, and to rein in the chaos of the Trump administration," Rep. Seth Magaziner, D-R.I., said after winning reelection. Rep. Gabe Amo, the other Rhode Island House member, also retained his seat.

Republicans, for their part, are beginning to search for answers. Vice President JD Vance said, "The main problem is that many people who voted for Trump/Vance in 2024 voted for Democrats in 2026." He cited the war with Iran, the economy, not putting "America first" and the U.S. relationship with Israel as reasons. Other Republicans, citing polling data, have pointed to different issues, including Trump's tariffs and militarized immigration enforcement.

The ADL said it was ready to work with both parties, but that the election season "underscored the dangers of portraying Jews as dangerous, disloyal or responsible for society's problems, as well as the blatant fixation on and demonization of Israel." The group urged leaders of both parties to confront antisemitism within their own ranks.

DANIEL MARGOLIS *is the editor of Jewish Rhode Island.*

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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.

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UP FRONT

Ballet RI features story of Holocaust survivor Anka Nachtigal

MAYA CICCHITELLI

PROVIDENCE — Dance is more than a form of entertainment; it is a way of storytelling. Through expressive choreography, dancers can reveal emotions that words sometimes cannot describe. The weekend of Oct. 23-25, Ballet RI collaborated with the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center to present the world premiere of "Nachtigal" at the Woodman Center at Moses Brown School. The show brings the story of Holocaust survivor Anka Nachtigal to life through dance.

Rhode Island resident Lilliane Birch, Anka's daughter, shared her mother's story of survival in hopes of keeping her family's memory alive and spreading awareness about the lasting impact of kindness.

Anka's story began during her high school years, when she stood up for a girl who was being bullied. The two eventually became close friends, and Anka made sure that the girl was never bullied again.

Years later, that same girl would return Anka's kindness in a life-changing way. During the Holocaust, as Anka and her family faced the threat of death, her former classmate recognized her and pulled her and her family out of line, saving their lives. An act of kindness that began in high school ultimately became the reason they survived Auschwitz.

The emotional depth of Anka's story was brought to life through choreography by Yury Yanowsky, who worked directly with Birch on the project. Although the dancers' movements were often simple, they were powerful, conveying emotions that went beyond the movements themselves. The dancers portrayed the fear, grief and uncertainty experienced by Jewish people during the Holocaust. Their movements reflected the suffering endured, as well as the moments when hope briefly emerged before the harsh reality of their circumstances returned.

The music added to the emotional intensity of the

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PHOTO | COURTESY BALLET RI

Lilliane Birch tells her family's story to Ballet RI dancers while sitting alongside Ballet RI Artistic Executive Director Kathleen Breen Combes (left) and Resident Choreographer Yury Yanowsky (right).

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The life we live, the legacy we leave

RABBI ANDREW KLEIN

THIS TORAH portion at publication time is "*Chayei Sarah,*" the Life of Sarah. Ironically, the portion begins after Sarah's death, giving no details at all about her life. One interpretation of this is that while the specifics of our lives might not be recalled by future generations, our legacy lives on through the way our deeds and actions impact those around us.

D'VAR TORAH



RABBI ANDREW KLEIN

Life is precious and fragile, temporary and fleeting. We human beings are not meant to be here forever; we are born, we live, we age and we die. Many of us are afraid to speak of aging and dying, especially our own aging and dying. As a rabbi, and as a 74-year-old human being, I believe that great comfort can be found in speaking openly and truthfully about the natural process of life.

Some of us may be blessed with an abundance of years; others may not. Most of us have never been taught or trained to appreciate our aging process in a healthy, fulfilling, graceful and grateful manner.

Like most aspects of our lives, aging is complex. Growing older can bring blessings; inevitably, it will also bring challenges. Our Western culture is acutely focused on staving off the physical aspects of aging, mostly the decline of the body — gray hair, sagging skin, decreased physical mobility, weakening bones, aching joints. We place a high premium on looking and staying young.

We all celebrate the aging, growth and development of babies and children. What if we seniors decide to celebrate our own aging in the same way? What if we appreciate the gifts that each new stage of life, including old age, can bring?

Here are just a few benefits I see to growing older. We can: be less concerned with what other people think; say no when our truth is no; limit our social interactions to those relationships that are most meaningful, loving and fun; relish our calm, relaxed time at home without FOMO; discover our own truths about life; and experience the radical self-acceptance of arriving at a quiet, gentle place of self-love and *shalom* in our own skin.

Our tradition teaches us to honor and respect our elders and to view every stage of life as a sacred journey. Proverbs 16:31 teaches, "Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is attained by the way of righteousness." The Holiness Code in Leviticus 19:32 commands, "You shall rise before the aged and show deference to the old."

Along with the wisdom and reverence that aging brings, Judaism also teaches that we have a responsibility to pass our gifts along to the next generation. One of my favorite stories in the Talmud is about an ancient Israelite named Honi.

One day Honi saw an old man planting a tree; he asked the man, "How long will it take for that tree to bear fruit?"

"Seventy years," replied the old man.

"Do you think you will be alive in 70 years to eat its fruit?" asked Honi.

The old man replied, "I found a world full of carob trees. Just as my ancestors planted for me, I too am planting fruit trees for my children and grandchildren."

I love this teaching because rather than just expressing gratitude for the sustenance his ancestors had provided for him, the old man took actions to provide sustenance for his descendants in the years to come.

Judaism teaches us that we remember a loved one who has died and impacted our lives by remembering them on their *yahrzeit,* the anniversary of their death. We do this as an act of love, respect and spiritual continuity. We recall our loved ones on the anniversary of their death rather than on their birthday because when a baby is born, we don't know how their life will unfold and who they will become; a baby is a blank slate. On the day of a person's death, however, we know who they were, what gifts they taught us and how we want to remember them.

What sustenance and teachings will we leave for our descendants? Perhaps if we learn to understand and appreciate the gifts inherent in the final stages of our lives, we will have richer teachings to pass along to the next generations and, in doing so, leave the world a little bit better than we found it.

May we all learn to see and value our lives with honesty and compassion, appreciating our wins, acknowledging our shortcomings and finding the courage to pass along the wisdom we have gained from the mistakes we have made along the way. May this perspective help us treasure every minute of this one precious life we have been given.

ANDREW KLEIN *is a rabbi emeritus at Temple Habonim in Barrington, R.I.*

Candle lighting times
November 2026



Greater Rhode Island

Nov. 6	4:14pm
Nov. 13	4:07pm
Nov. 20	4:01pm
Nov. 27	3:58pm
Dec. 4	3:55pm Light Chanukkah candles before Shabbat candles

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

performance by creating an unsettling atmosphere that reflected the fear and uncertainty experienced during the Holocaust. Combined with the dancers' expressions and movements, the music allowed the audience to connect with the emotions of the story without relying solely on words.

As Ballet RI's artistic executive director Kathleen Breen Combes wrote in the performance's playbill, "There is something extraordinary about the ability of dance to communicate what words sometimes cannot."

Ballet RI's performance did more than entertain an audience. It educated people, preserving an important story. It helped generations to connect with the experiences of those who lived through history. Anka Nachtigal's story also served as a reminder that even the smallest acts of kindness can have a lasting effect. A decision to stand up for someone years earlier ultimately helped save a family, showing how compassion can make a difference when it matters most.

"Nachtigal" is part of "In Motion," a mixed repertory evening that opened Ballet RI's 49th season. The next performance is Nov. 6 at the United Theatre in Westerly, R.I.

MAYA CICCHITELLI *is a senior at Cranston High School West.*

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

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. On Wednesdays, programming is chair yoga. No café dates: 11/26, 11/27. 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.

Temple Torat Yisrael Mahjong. Tuesdays thru 12/22. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Drop in and play Mahjong with us. Beginners and experienced players welcome. We can provide a set if needed. Free. Information, Michelle Birman at michelle@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

Fall Hebrew Classes. Tuesdays thru 11/17. Time varies by class. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. Classes offered: Introduction to Prayerbook Hebrew, Beginners, Beginning Spoken Hebrew, Advanced Beginners for Spoken Hebrew, Intermediate and Advanced. Offered jointly with the Jewish Alliance of Greater RI. No class date: 11/3. Information, Toby Liebowitz at tobyaane@gmail.com.

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

Delve Deeper: The World Behind the Bible. Wednesdays 7-9 p.m. Thru 12/9. This virtual course led by Mark Leuchter, Professor of Hebrew Bible and Ancient Judaism at Temple University in Philadelphia, will look at the way the Hebrew Bible came together across centuries of ideas and experiences from the social groups behind the texts. No class date: 11/25. Cost: $250 (for scholarship information, email larrykatz1221@gmail.com). Information or to enroll, www.delvedeeper.org.

R.I. Reform Congregations: Introduction to Judaism. Thursdays 7-9 p.m. Thru 3/11. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Offered in partnership with Reform Congregations throughout Rhode Island. No class dates: 11/26, 12/24, 12/31. Information, Judith Gilson at jgilson@temple-beth-el.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.

United Brothers Synagogue Shabbat Services. First Friday of month 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 Beth-El Torah Study. Most Saturdays 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.

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

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 in the Chapel. Information, Templesinairi.org, admin@templesinairi.org or 401-942-8350.

Friday | November 6

Temple Sinai Pizza Dinner Shabbat. 6-8 p.m. 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Join us in the Sanctuary for the Evening Shabbat service followed by pizza in the Social Hall. Cost: $10. Information, Templesinairi.org, admin@templesinairi.org or 401-942-8350.

Saturday | November 7

Evening of Jewish Renaissance. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Bonnie & Donald Dwares JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Join us for this event that brings the community together for an evening of learning, discussion and exploration of Jewish life and culture. Presented by The Judge Marjorie Yashar & Dr. James Yashar Fund at the Jewish Federation Foundation. Free. Information and RSVP, Samantha Kaufman at skaufman@jewishallianceri.org.

Sunday | November 8

Sisterhood of Temple Beth-El Artisan Marketplace. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Featuring both new and returning vendors offering textiles, glass, pottery, soap, photography, prints and notecards, jewelry, handmade eyeglass frames, woodwork, succulent plant gardens, nature art/illustration, candles, leather and Judaica as well as a Scholastic Book Fair. Bagels and coffee sold by the Brotherhood. Information, TBESisterhood@temple-beth-el.org.

Congregation Agudas Achim Ruach & Roll Sunday Playgroup. 10-11 a.m. 901 N. Main St., Attleboro, Mass. Children five and younger enjoy Jewish songs, stories, movement, holiday themes and simple crafts with their grown-ups. Free. Information, office@agudasma.org or 508-222-2243.

R.I. Jewish Historical Association Presents Author Phyllis Karas. 11 a.m. Bonnie & Donald Dwares JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Karas will discuss her book "Curse of the Blumenthals," which uncovers a remarkable true story of a Providence family's tragedy, secrets and the past's lasting impact. Light refreshments will be served. Free. Information and RSVP, rijha.org/events.

Temple Sinai Presents the Ocean State Clarinet Choir. 2-3:30 p.m. 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Join us in the social hall for this 25-musician chamber music group as they play a variety of classical and popular compositions. Information, Templesinairi.org, admin@templesinairi.org or 401-942-8350.

Monday | November 9

Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center Kristallnacht Commemoration 2026: "The Jews of Nazi Vienna: Rescue and Destruction." 7-8:15 p.m. Bonnie & Donald Dwares JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Drawing on years of archival research, Dr. Ilana Offenberger, Associate Teaching Professor of History at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, will examine the experiences of Vienna's Jewish community under Nazi rule. Free. Information, info@hercri.org or 401-453-7860.

Tuesday | November 10

Unlikely Partners for Peace: Roots/Shorashim/Judur. 6-8 p.m. Cranston location upon RSVP. Orthodox Israeli settler Rabbi Hanan and Palestinian activist Khaled are among the leaders of Roots/Shorashim/Judur. Based on mutual recognition of each People's national identity and connection to the Land, they challenge the assumptions their communities hold about each other, building trust and creating a new discourse around the conflict in their respective societies. Information, Stephanie Hague at shague@jewishallianceri.org.

Friday | November 13

Jewish Alliance Hosts Blood Drive. 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Bonnie & Donald Dwares JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Donations by appointment. (Use sponsor code RR1528.) Walk-ins welcome if availability permits at time of arrival. Eat, drink and bring photo ID. Donors will receive a $10 Whole Foods gift card. Information, ribc.org or 401-453-8385.

Hattie Ide Chaffee Home Presents Fishel Bresler. 2-3 p.m. 200 Wampanoag Trail, East Providence. Join us as we welcome the talented Fishel Bresler for a special performance with our residents. We would love to have you be part of this wonderful community gathering filled with music, joy and connection. Free. RSVP and information, Susie Adler at Susie.Adler@hattieidechaffee.org or 401-486-3890.

Saturday | November 14

Temple Emanu-El Comedy Night with Rabbi Bob Alper. 7 p.m. 99 Taft Ave., Providence. An ordained rabbi turned stand-up comedian, Bob brings a unique blend of wit, warmth and clean comedy to the stage. Cost: $25 per person (includes one drink). Information and RSVP, Shoshana Jacob at shosh@teprov.org or 401-331-1616.

Sunday | November 15

Temple Torat Yisrael Holiday Craft Market. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. 1251 Middle Road, East Greenwich. Handmade arts and crafts from over 25 local vendors will be sold. Information, Michelle Birman at michelle@toratyisrael.org or 401-885-6600.

RICI Celebrate and Advocate Israel with Wine Tasting. 3-6 p.m. Awards will be given to recipients in the RI community for their collaborative work with Israel, Jewish students and the community at large. Wines from Israel will be tasted highlighting the Hadassah youth villages that teach the wine-making industry. Ahava Catering will provide kosher food. Location shared upon registration. Information, ricoalitionforisrael.org.

Temple Sinai Presents the Rhode Island Wind Ensemble. 5:30-6:30 p.m. 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Enjoy this 50-member wind orchestra, which consists of wind and percussion instruments, as they play a variety of music in the social hall. Information, Templesinairi.org, admin@templesinairi.org or 401-942-8350.

Tuesday | November 17

Confronting Antisemitism in Rhode Island. 6-8 p.m. Bonnie & Donald Dwares JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Opening presentation by Special Assistant Attorney General Taylor Dumpson of the RI Attorney General's Civil Rights Unit followed by a panel discussion featuring Wendy Joering of the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center, Samantha Joseph of the Anti-Defamation League New England and Stephanie Hague of the Jewish Alliance. Moderated by Emily Gaudreau of the Jewish Alliance. Free. Information and RSVP (by 11/16), Emily Gaudreau at egaudreau@jewishallianceri.org.

Young Professionals Mixer: Pre-Thanksgiving Pilates Pump. 7:15-8:30 p.m. Bonnie & Donald Dwares JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Expect a full-body workout, a welcoming atmosphere and a chance to connect with other young professionals. After class, stick around to mingle as you enjoy some tasty protein bites. Cost: $12. Information and RSVP, Samantha Kaufman at skaufman@jewishallianceri.org.

Thursday | November 19

Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center "How My Grandfather Stole a Shoe and Survived the Holocaust in Ukraine." 6-7:15 p.m. Bonnie & Donald Dwares JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Join journalist, author and third-generation descendant of Holocaust survivors Julie Masis for a compelling presentation on her new book. Q&A to follow. Free. Information, info@hercri.org or 401-453-7860.

Friday | November 20

Temple Emanu-El Shabbat B'ma'agal. 5:45-9 p.m. 99 Taft Ave., Providence. Shabbat services in the round followed by dinner. Cost: $22 per person. Information, Shoshana Jacob at shosh@teprov.org or 401-331-1616.

Temple Sinai Friday Evening Service. 6-7:30 p.m. 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Join us in the sanctuary. Information, Templesinairi.org, admin@templesinairi.org or 401-942-8350.

CALENDAR

Sunday | November 22

Temple Sinai Presents C+D Acoustic Artistry. 2-4 p.m. 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Join us in the social hall to enjoy Denise Heitman and Cheryl Appel Rosenfeld's pop, rock and folk covers from the 60's to today and contemporary Jewish music as well as some light refreshments. Cost: $12 at the door. Information, Templesinairi.org, admin@templesinairi.org or 401-942-8350.

Friday | November 27

Temple Sinai Evening Service. 6-7 p.m. 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Join us in the Chapel as Rabbi Ben Lefkowitz leads this service. Information, Templesinairi.org, admin@templesinairi.org or 401-942-8350.

Sunday | November 29

Family Hanukkah Menorah-Making Workshop with PJ Library. 2-3 p.m. Harbor Creative Arts, 7592 Post Road, North Kingstown. Join us for this hanukkiah-making class to get ready for the holiday. Fellow PJ Library parent Rachel Arementano, founder of Harbor Creative Arts, will provide instruction and materials. Cost: $18 per family (includes one hanukkiah kit). Pre-registration required. Information, Lyndsey Ursillo at lursillo@jewishallianceri.org.

Temple Sinai People of the Book. 2-3:30 p.m. 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. We will discuss Noa Tishby's "Israel: A Simple Guide to the World's Most Misunderstood Country on Earth," which includes a historical survey of the Jewish homeland and Zionism, examines the founding and growth of modern Israel, and looks towards the future. Information, Templesinairi.org, admin@templesinairi.org or 401-942-8350.

Monday | November 30

Hanukkah Sale Pop-Up. 10-11 a.m. and 3:45-5:15 p.m. Bonnie & Donald Dwares JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Stop by our Lower Lobby for a festive selection of Hanukkah favorites and essentials including Hanukkah wrapping paper, Hanukkah candles, dreidels, Hanukkah-themed gifts & goodies... and more. Information, Dori Adler at dadler@jewishallianceri.org or 401-421-4111.

Wednesday | December 2

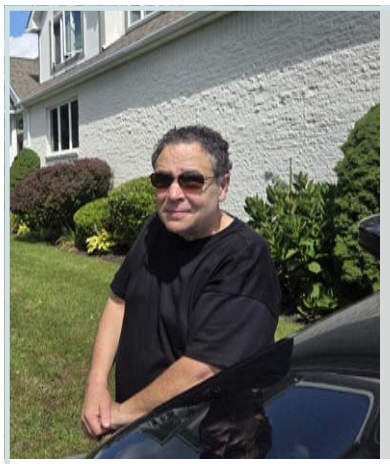
Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center "Hitler, Stalin and the Idea of Judeo-Bolshevism." 6-7 p.m. Bonnie & Donald Dwares JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Judeo-Bolshevism was the Nazi conspiracy theory that Jews secretly controlled the Soviet Union and communism. Dr. Philip Decker will trace the origins and evolution of this myth, examine how it shifted during the Nazi-Soviet Pact and explore how it became a justification for mass murder in the Soviet Union. Free. Information and RSVP, info@hercri.org or 401-453-7860.

Friday | December 4

Temple Emanu-El Installation of Rabbi Friedman. 5:45-9 p.m. 99 Taft Ave., Providence. Join Temple Emanu-El as we officially install Rabbi Alex Friedman with a full weekend of activities beginning with Shabbat B'ma'agal on Friday night. Information, www.teprov.org or 401-331-1616.

Monday | December 7

City of Providence Hanukkah Spectaculah. 4:45-6 p.m. Providence City Hall, 25 Dorrance St., Providence. In celebration of Hanukkah, the Department of Art, Culture + Tourism; P3 and the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island invite you to an outdoor menorah lighting followed by music and refreshments on the second floor of Providence City Hall. Free. Emily Gaudreau at egaudreau@jewishallianceri.org.



Hello!
I am Carl,
a successful Jewish male in my mid-sixties from southeast MA, about 30 minutes from Providence, never married, no children.

I am fun and outgoing, with a great sense of humor.
I enjoy a night out for fine dining and theatre, as well as a cozy night at home with a good movie and some takeout. I am fond of music of all types – from Barbara Streisand, Barry Manilow, Andrew Lloyd Weber, and the Boston Symphony Orchestra just to name a few. I also enjoy singing. I like visiting museums, zoos, love to travel, and am open to new experiences. I am an animal lover with a beautiful pet cat named Willow. I am looking for a kind, outgoing woman with a sense of humor for friendship, laughs, and perhaps more.

If you are interested, please call or text (508) 889-2270

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- Supporting the Israeli economy



Avi Nevel, Founder & CEO of Rhode Island Israel Collaborative (RIIC)
-RICI Sy Dill Mensch of the Year Award



Dr. May-Tal Sauerbrun-Cutler, Jewish student faculty advisor, Brown University
-RICI Advocacy Award



Stanley Freedman, RICI Founding Member
-RICI Lifetime Recognition Award

FOOD

Pam's Shabbat Challah

Serves: *8+* | **Prep:** *A few hours; most is hands-off waiting for dough to rise* | **Bake:** *35 minutes*

INGREDIENTS

2 packets active dry yeast (5 tsp)
½ cup sugar
1¾ cups warm water
3 eggs
1 cup vegetable oil
1 tablespoon salt
6-7 cups flour
1 egg, beaten (egg glaze)
Bag of white chocolate chips *(optional)*

INSTRUCTIONS

Dissolve yeast and sugar in warm water. Let sit for 10 minutes.

Add eggs, oil and salt. Mix together.

Add half the flour and mix together.

Gradually add remaining flour until the dough is manageable. *Note*: if you want to make white chocolate chip challah, add a bag of white chocolate chips before the last 1 or 2 cups of flour.

Knead dough until smooth and elastic.

Oil the entire surface of the dough, cover with a wet cloth, and let rise for 1 hour.

Shape challah and place on a well-greased baking sheet.

Punch down dough and remove a small piece for the mitzvah of separating challah.

Divide dough into 3 equal pieces and roll each into a 12-inch rope, tapering the ends.

Arrange the 3 ropes side by side and pinch together at the top.

Braid tightly, alternating right and left ropes over the center, without stretching the dough.

Pinch ends together.

Let rise for another hour.

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Brush challah with beaten egg.

Bake until golden brown, approximately 35 minutes.

Challah Stuffing with Fresh Herbs

Serves: *8* | **Prep:** *30 minutes, plus optional overnight drying*
Bake: *45–50 minutes*

A SAVORY CHALLAH stuffing featuring tender vegetables, fragrant herbs and rich olive oil. Optional pecans add a festive touch, but the stuffing is equally delicious without them. Golden and crisp on top, soft and flavorful inside, it's a delicious addition to the Thanksgiving table.

INGREDIENTS

1 large challah loaf (about 1 pound), cut into ¾-inch cubes
⅓ cup extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for greasing
1 large yellow onion, diced
3 celery stalks, diced
1 large carrot, finely diced
2 garlic cloves, minced
1½ tablespoons fresh sage, chopped
1 teaspoon dried thyme
½ teaspoon dried rosemary
2 tablespoons fresh flat-leaf parsley, chopped
⅓ cup pecans, coarsely chopped (optional)
2 cups chicken or vegetable broth
2 large eggs, lightly beaten
1 teaspoon kosher salt, to taste
½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Prepare the challah. Cut challah into ¾-inch cubes and spread on baking sheets. Leave uncovered overnight to dry or bake at 300°F for 20–25 minutes until dry but not browned.

2. Cook the vegetables. Preheat oven to 350°F. Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add onions and cook for 8-10 minutes until softened and lightly golden. Add celery and carrot and cook another 6-8 minutes. Stir in garlic, sage, thyme, rosemary, salt and pepper and cook for 1-2 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in parsley and optional pecans.

3. Combine. Place dried challah cubes in a large bowl and toss with the vegetable mixture. Whisk eggs with 2 cups of broth and pour gradually over the challah, tossing gently. Add more broth as needed until moist but not soggy.

4. Bake. Transfer to a lightly oiled 9 × 13-inch baking dish. Cover with foil and bake at 350°F for 25 minutes. Uncover and bake another 20-25 minutes until golden brown, crisp on top and the center reaches 165°F. Let rest 5-10 minutes before serving.

Recipe Notes

Optional additions: Pecans add flavor and contrasting texture but are not necessary. No ingredient adjustments are required although you may need slightly less broth without them.

Make ahead: Dry the challah overnight and prepare the vegetable mixture up to one day ahead. Refrigerate the vegetables separately. Combine with broth and eggs just before baking.

Beyond Friday night: A loaf of possibilities

JODI GREENBERG

THERE'S SOMETHING SPECIAL about a freshly baked challah on the Shabbat table. The golden braided loaf, its slightly sweet aroma and the anticipation of tearing off that first soft piece. When my friend Pam's homemade challah is on the table, it's hard to resist sneaking a bite before everyone gathers. Don't look too closely at the underside of the loaf. I may have already helped myself!

But what happens to the challah after Friday night?

For some, the answer is simple: "What leftovers?"

For the rest of us, that half-eaten loaf presents a delicious opportunity. Challah may be the star of Shabbat, but it has a surprisingly impressive résumé beyond Friday night.

French toast is perhaps its most celebrated encore. Thick slices soak up eggs, milk and cinnamon, creating a breakfast that might even convince teenagers to get out of bed before noon. Challah also makes wonderful bread pudding, golden croutons for soup or salad, and a particularly indulgent grilled cheese sandwich. And if you've never made challah French toast casserole for weekend brunch, it's an easy way to impress guests while doing most of the work the night before.

Of course, every family has its own challah traditions, and sometimes the best recipes begin with whatever happens to be left on the kitchen counter. I asked friends and family how they give leftover challah a second life. Their responses ranged from practical to predictable.

Sandy shared, "I sometimes break apart the savory leftover challah into smaller pieces and leave it in a paper bag for a few days. Then I put it in the food processor and make breadcrumbs for my schnitzel."

Daria said, "French toast — that is usually dinner for the boys one night a week."

And Sue? "Never had that problem! I hear bread pudding is nice."

Clearly, not everyone's challah lives long enough to become leftovers.

One of my favorite things about Jewish food is how recipes travel through families and friendships, gathering stories along the way. My friend Pam's homemade challah, adapted from a recipe passed down by our friend Steff's Bubbie, has become something of a Shabbat tradition. Whenever Pam is invited to dinner, everyone knows she'll arrive with her challah, and we all look forward to it! There's nothing quite like gathering with friends, sharing a meal and passing around a loaf made with love and maybe a few white chocolate chips. I've included her recipe so you can bring a little of that tradition to your own table.

And while challah has mastered the art of disappearing by Saturday morning, with Thanksgiving just around the corner, perhaps it's time to give challah a starring role at another holiday table.

Challah's rich, tender texture and slightly sweet flavor make it an excellent foundation for stuffing. Combined with sautéed onions, celery, fresh herbs and a little olive oil, it becomes a savory side dish that might just give the turkey some competition. Add toasted pecans for a little crunch or keep it simple with traditional herbs and vegetables.

It's also a lovely way to bring a little Jewish tradition to a holiday centered around gratitude, family and sharing a meal.

Whether your challah comes from a favorite Rhode Island bakery, a treasured family recipe or a friend's kitchen, it's a reminder that some of our favorite foods don't need to be reserved for special occasions.

So the next time you bake or pick up challah for Shabbat, consider getting two loaves — one for Friday night and one for whatever delicious adventure comes next.

A few places to find challah in Rhode Island and Southern Massachusetts:

Certified kosher:

NAVAD Bakery: www.navad.co. Order online for pick-up at various locations.

Stop & Shop Bakery: (Bread products labeled KVH pareve are certified) 333 West River St., Providence

Lieba's Challah: Chabad of Southern Rhode Island: chabadsri.com. Order for pick-up.

BJs Wholesale Club: bjs.com. (The bakery is not kosher, so shoppers should look for a recognized kosher symbol on the packaged product.)

Southern Massachusetts: Zayde's Market: zaydesmarket.com. 15 Washington St., Canton

Non-kosher certified but well-worth noting:

Maven's Delicatessen: mavensdeli.com. 727 East Ave., Pawtucket

Oak Bakeshop: oakbakeshop.com. 130 Cypress St., Providence

Seven Stars Bakery: sevenstarsbakery.com. Various locations throughout Rhode Island.

Know of others? We'd love to hear from you! Send us a message at editor @ jewishallianceri.org.

JODI GREENBERG *is a member of the board of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.*

COMMUNITY VOICES

Woodcraft Rangers

In my last column about summer camps, I mentioned being a camper and a counselor at some Woodcraft camps. This boys' youth group was important to me and deserves attention.



GEORGE M. GOODWIN

MY TWIN, Theo, and I didn't join Cub Scouts because you had to be 9 or 10 years old. But our parents thought that we were ready for some kind of activity beyond religious school.

Theo and I wanted to join Little League, but its games were on Saturday mornings. We already enjoyed swimming at the beach in Santa Monica, and our grandmother, Saide, taught us to ride bicycles. We also played ping-pong and took painting lessons in Mrs. Abby's backyard studio.

Soon we began learning to play musical instruments.

Woodcraft Rangers met one afternoon a week after school. Dad was still at his office, so Mom became our leader or "guide" until we entered seventh grade. Our "tribe," known as the King Snake, usually met in a public park, and learned "Indian" — as they were called at the time — lore.

I'm not sure that Theo, our friends and I were fully aware that Native Americans still lived in Southern California. The one most familiar to us was "Tonto," the Lone Ranger's sidekick, on the TV show that ran from 1949 to 1957. Theo and I once met Jay Silverheels, the actor who played him.

Woodcraft Rangers had an ethical dimension. Its purpose, which as little boys we didn't fully grasp, was citizenship. Civil and kind behavior toward one another, Jews and Gentiles alike, was expected. Another emphasis was developing a reverence for nature, including animals, plants, land, water, weather and the solar system.

There was a third emphasis: becoming more spiritual or developing respect for some kind of heavenly order. Boys learned many "Indian" words and names, including Wakonda, "The Great Spirit" or our creator. We summoned him during our weekly "council meeting," which included various speeches made by the first and second chiefs, the recitation of 12 tribal laws and the Omaha Tribal Prayer to Wakonda.

There were no references to the decimation of "Indians" the seizure of their lands or their continuing isolation and suffering. Could you imagine a youth group based on the admiration of Jews in pre-Inquisition Spain or elsewhere before Israeli statehood?

Woodcraft's focus on "Indian" lore came from founder Ernest Thompson Seton (1860-1946), a Canadian naturalist, folklorist and illustrator. In 1902, seeking a way to prevent delinquent boys from damaging his property, he founded the Woodcraft "Indians".

Soon thereafter, British army officer Robert Baden-Powell had a similar idea, and founded the Boy Scouts. Seton and Powell encouraged each other, and the library and museum established at one of Scouts' most renowned camps, Philmont in New Mexico, were named in Seton's honor.

Instead of uniforms, Woodcraft Rangers wore "honor bands," which were

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From the Archives OF THE RHODE ISLAND JEWISH HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Leopold Karpeles, Civil War hero

ON APRIL 30, 1870, for his extraordinary service, Leopold Karpeles became the first of six Jewish Civil War veterans to receive the Medal of Honor.

Karpeles was born in 1838 in Prague, Bohemia, and immigrated to the United States in 1849, following his older brother, Emil. They both settled in Galveston, Texas.

For several years, Karpeles rode with the early Texas Rangers and was part of the Brownsville Guard as both companies helped to protect merchant shipments from Mexican bandits.

After a falling out with Emil about slavery, Karpeles moved to Massachusetts in 1860 to live with some of his abolitionist friends and to work at a dry-goods store.

In 1862, at the onset of the Civil War, Karpeles enlisted in the 46th Massachusetts Regiment and was appointed to a front-line position: color bearer. He was honorably discharged after his nine-month term, and reenlisted in 1863, this time in the 57th Regiment, from Springfield, Massachusetts, to continue fighting for the North.

Karpeles' commanding officer, Lt. John Anderson, said of him, "His gallantry was conspicuous in the Battle of the Wilderness ... and the North Anna River, in which latter fight he was wounded while far in advance of the line, bearing the colors of the Regiment; but he carried the colors until wounded the second time."

While recovering from his wounds, Karpeles met Sara Mundheim, the daughter of a Reform rabbi in Washington, D.C., whom he married and with whom he had his first two children. After his wife's death, he married her sister, Henrietta, and went on to have six more children.

RHODE ISLAND JEWISH HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Karpeles is buried in the Washington Hebrew Congregation Cemetery, in Washington, D.C.

In 1989, a relative of Karpeles, who lived in Providence, donated Karpeles' personal papers to the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association.

Today, Karpeles' Medal of Honor is on display at the Lyman and Merrie Wood Museum of Springfield History in Springfield.



Illustration from the 2002 Calendar of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA.

PHOTO | RHODE ISLAND JEWISH HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

THE RHODE ISLAND JEWISH HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION *is the oldest Jewish historical society in continuous operation in the United States. Stories for "From the Archive" are written by RIJHA staff, board members and volunteers based on information in RIJHA's Chaya and Beryl Segal Archive. To learn about RIJHA and its programs, or to volunteer or become a member, please contact office manager Jaime Walden at (401) 331-1360.*

COMMUNITY VOICES

When the machines don't stop for Shabbat

MARK GINSBERG

ON FRIDAY NIGHT in Efrat, where I live, the table gets set the way it always has. Candlesticks, *challah*, the kids scrubbed and hungry. Somewhere over the Judean hills, software is running that cannot tell time, does not know what a Friday is, and would not stop for one if it did. For most of Jewish history, resting on Shabbat was a decision a person made. This year, for the first time, it is a decision a country must make on your behalf, and the rabbis are only beginning to catch up.

A question no rabbi used to get

The questions reaching Israel's rabbinic authorities sound like riddles from another century. If a drone feed is recording on Shabbat and no human watches it, has anyone worked? May a soldier wearing a helmet screen glance at an automated alert on Saturday, and if the answer is no, who takes the shift? The Chief Rabbinate spent this summer publicly wrangling with the army over religious soldiers and military discipline, a fight that made the front pages of the Jewish press abroad. Beneath the headlines sits a quieter problem the old law books never imagined: the machinery of national defense now hums along seven days a week whether or not anyone sanctifies the day.

Try explaining the Sabbath concept to a missile. The interception system that guards Tel Aviv does not distinguish between a Tuesday rocket and a Saturday one, and nobody serious argues it should. When Operation Epic Fury ran its course against Iran, the campaign's tempo was set by fuel, weather and enemy behavior, not by the Jewish calendar, and its hardest phase began with questions about what comes after the shooting. A country that pauses for *Kiddush* still needs to keep the software warm.

The old categories stretch

Jewish law is no stranger to this kind of stretching. The tradition that produced the Shabbat clock and the Shabbat elevator, devices that let observant homes keep running without anyone flipping a switch, is now being asked to extend the same ingenuity to national survival. Some answers come easily: defensive systems that operate without human triggering are widely treated like a wall, something that stands on its own. Others stay hard. A human must still watch some screens, and deciding which screens, which humans and which circumstances is a live argument among the *poskim*, the decisors of Jewish law, right now.

There is a version of this argument waiting for everyone. The same armed forces have had to build rules for how much care machines must take with civilians, an effort that changed how wars are fought, and the Sabbath question is its twin: what do we insist on keeping human, and what do we allow the machines to carry for us? Two countries built on the same textual inheritance, the one I live in, and the one Rhode Island readers live in, will answer differently in the details and identically in principle.

The rest of the world is next

Israel is only the first place where the question became unavoidable, since it is the first place where war, religion and automation all run on the same grid. Every tradition with a day of rest, and every secular society with a notion of the weekend worth defending, will soon face the Israeli predicament in some softer form, when the algorithms that manage deliveries, markets and maybe armies simply never pause. The rabbis working through the problem now, sometimes uncomfortably, are writing drafts of an answer the rest of the world will eventually need.

Back at the table, the meal runs long. The children argue over the last of the *challah*, the phone stays dark and the hills outside stay watched by something that does not rest. Both of those things are true on the same Friday night, and making peace between them, plate by plate and ruling by ruling, might be the most quietly Jewish thing this country has done all year.

MARK GINSBERG *lives in Efrat, Israel, and writes about Israeli society and technology.*

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orange sashes placed diagonally across their herculean chests. The bands were decorated with multicolored "coup" feathers, which represented accomplishments in various fields. The acquisition of a certain number of coups led to higher awards. Eventually, a Ranger could advance from the "Little Lodge" to the "Big Lodge," which was expressed through a larger honor band.

In some ways Woodcraft resembled Judaism in its emphasis on acquiring knowledge, doing good deeds, building communal bonds, and showing respect and reverence for a higher authority. It may have also resembled Judaism in its strict gender role differentiation. While Jewish girls were valued within the family, their public roles were limited in the 1950s.

Our King Snake tribe would never have flourished for six years without Mom's leadership. She was soon one of a slowly emerging group of women who joined the organization's board of directors. Eventually, she became its first woman president and its first Jewish president. In 2003, in recognition of fifty years of leadership, she received Woodcraft's highest honor, an "Indian" name, which none of us could spell or pronounce.

Woodcrafts four summer camps made it popular in Southern California. Their idealism, Spartan conditions and pervasive fun, brought together both affluent, middle class and less privileged kids with male counselors from many backgrounds. Without Woodcraft's camps, Theo and I would not have have interacted with Black and Hispanic people. We would never have been exposed to so many varieties of non-Jewish food. What in the world was shepherd's pie?

There were a few instances when my Rangers' background surprised others. After attending Woodcraft's camp at Lake Arrowhead for two summers, Theo and I were sent to our Temple's coeducational camp in Malibu. One day, when I was wearing a Woodcraft T-shirt, a counselor asked me how I acquired it. When I proudly explained that Theo and I were campers at Lake Arrowhead, he was amazed and wondered how we tolerated Camp Hess Kramer's comfort and luxury.

When I was 34 and a graduate student, at Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles, a Shabbat retreat was held at Lake Arrowhead. The camp belonged to the Jewish Community Center in Long Beach. Upon arriving, I immediately recognized the place as the former Woodcraft camp. At our Saturday night campfire, I was excited to tell many Woodcraft stories before reciting a verse from the Omaha Tribal Prayer: "Wakonda, a needy one stands before Thee; I who sing am he."

Thank you, Wakonda, for so many blessings. As we also say in Hopi: *Lo Lo Mai, Lo Lo Mai*. "May the Great Spirit guide our footsteps."

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



OPINION

How civil society disintegrates

RABBI JAMES B. ROSENBERG

WHEN RUTH OPPENHEIM, a long-time member of Barrington's Temple Habonim, died March 12 at the age of 98, a congregant at the temple told me, "Our synagogue has just lost an important part of our history; more than that, our larger Jewish community has just lost a significant part of our collective history." With Ruth's death, world Jewry lost one more living witness to the horrors of Nazi Germany.

IT SEEMS TO ME



RABBI JAMES ROSENBERG

Ruth was not quite 11 when she suffered and survived the trauma and terror of *Kristallnacht*, Nov. 9, 1938. Through persistence and a large dose of lucky circumstances, in the winter of 1940 Ruth and her family of six found themselves reunited in a cramped two-bedroom apartment in the Washington Heights neighborhood of Upper Manhattan.

This past Sept. 15, Temple Habonim sponsored a fundraiser in honor of Ruth Oppenheim at the Avon Theater on Providence's Thayer Street. The synagogue had arranged for the Avon's single showing of the re-release of the 1989 version of "Reunion," with Jerry Schatzberg directing Harold Pinter's feature-length screenplay of Fred Uhlman's novel by the same name.

Mah Nishtanah? Why is this film different from all other Holocaust-related films that I have seen? The story is told in flashbacks from the perspective of an elderly Jewish man, Henry Strauss, who returns to his native Stuttgart after a more than half-century absence to try to discover whatever had happened to his teenage friend. In the early 1930s, the young Henry, then known as Hans, had developed an intense yearlong friendship with a classmate, the aristocratic Count Konradin von Lohenburg, at an elite all-boys school — a relationship that Talya Zax at the "Forward" celebrates with the words, "But oh, the halcyon days of this doomed duo."

The early 30s in Stuttgart was a time of increasing societal uneasiness at the birth of Nazism, but not a hint of what the triumph of Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party would mean for that "doomed duo," for Germany, for the whole of Europe or for the world at large. Who could have anticipated those infamous Nuremberg Laws of 1935, Kristallnacht in 1938 or Operation Barbarossa, Germany's invasion of their once-ally, Russia, on June 22, 1941? Or those hellholes of Auschwitz, Belzec, Chelmno, Majdanek, Sobibor, Treblinka and, in Russia, Babi Yar? Most tragic is the refusal of German civil society in the early 30s to see their disintegration and their inability even to begin to sense the coming storm.

I came back from the Avon bursting with questions, asking myself why I was so moved by this particular film, perhaps more deeply stirred by "Reunion" than by any other movie concerning the Holocaust. That very evening, I began searching online for reviews of the movie, only to be confused at first by the large number of films with the same name. I narrowed my search with "Holocaust related," and several different reviews of the 1989 version popped up along with the "Forward" review of the April 2026 two-week revival in New York City.

I found Talya Zax's review especially enlightening. First, the title of her piece: "In 1989, Harold Pinter and Jerry Shatzberg made the perfect Holocaust movie for 2026." Why does the movie seem to speak more powerfully to American audiences today in 2026 than it did in 1989? The subtitle offers the answer: "Almost four decades after its premier, 'Reunion' is a masterful look at how civil society disintegrates."

Today, in this autumn of 2026, the 1989 film about the early 1930s in Germany shows us the film equivalent of "chapter and verse" precisely how our American society is disintegrating before our very eyes and ears.

By now we ought to feel frightened enough to do something about it.

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

The party's over

MARJORIE DAVIS

Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Md., a congressman for the past 45 years, will retire in January. A stalwart supporter of Israel throughout his tenure in Congress, Hoyer epitomizes the type of Democrat that is rapidly disappearing.

HOYER REPRESENTS another time — when most Democrats stood with the Jewish state. A recent Gallup poll revealed that 70% of Republicans are pro-Israel but only 17% of Democrats.

As a Democrat who supports Israel, Rep. Jared Moskowitz of Florida said, "It's become lonely."

In Congress, two antisemitic Republicans, Marjorie Taylor Greene and Thomas Massie, have been cast aside. However, antisemites on the Democrats' side continue to grow.

Some of the newly elected Democrats took antisemitism to a new level. Michigan's Abdul El-Sayed justified a Hezbollah-inspired terrorist attack on a Detroit-area synagogue where over 100 children were in school. His antisemitic remarks did not stop former Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Barack Obama from campaigning for him.

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LETTERS

Thank you, Steven A. Baker

IT WAS WITH GRATITUDE that I read Steven Baker's article on the Question 7 Providence divestment resolution and its clarity on what is being overtly and covertly stated. It is with sadness that I also read Zach Kligler's article in support of Question 7.

Being Jewish is a heavy and relentless lift. For all the joy and *simcha* we experience, we are always tasked with defending our existence. Jews supporting Question 7 are to me simply tired and/or lazy, couching their lack of clarity and exhaustion by wrapping themselves in a garment of "Jewish Values." *Pikuach Nefesh*, preserving a life, does not mean at the expense of one's own, which is exactly what is proposed here. Arguments saying Question 7 does not single out Israel ignores the motivation for the proposition in the first place. (Note Mr. Baker's numbers for Russian, Iran and China.)

There was no divestment outcry before a targeted PR campaign, started around 15 years ago, singled out Israel. My experience of the volunteers campaigning for divestment was to be called a "Zionist, Racist, Baby Killer" outside Whole Foods on North Main Street simply for asking if I could offer a different opinion. There is not a thoughtful framework in those street campaigning for this measure, anger based on lies singling out the Jewish State and, by association, the Jewish people.

My call to action: If you are so concerned about Israel's morality, which by default would mean that you actually care about Israel, then put an Israeli flag in your window next to your "Vote Yes on 7 Sign." What? Afraid to do so? Thinking someone might view you as a colonizer, a racist, a genocidal Zionist? Thinking you might lose a friend or ten? As I said, being Jewish has never been easy. And if you do not believe in the Jewish people and the Jewish state, then stop hiding behind a wall of Hebrew phrases. To do otherwise is a *shanda*.

Gershon Stark
Providence

Disappointed in the RIIC ad

I'M SENDING THIS to voice concern and disappointment for the RIIC advertisement at the bottom of page 22 in your most recent edition. Allowing Question 7 to be equated to the violence experienced Oct. 7 is a desecration to the memory of the lives taken that day and a grossly inflammatory exaggeration of the stakes on the table with this bill.

Even and especially in a publication that makes space for broad ranges of belief, yours has an obligation to uphold ethical conduct and not con-

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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

Israel, Gaza and the 'Big Lie'

MOSES MORDECAI TWERSKY

There is a broad attack on the moral integrity of the Jewish people, in both the Diaspora and Israel. Our ancient and modern history is being falsified.

FOR EXAMPLE, former President Barack Obama, in an interview with Irish journalist Susan McKay in Belfast, Northern Ireland, said that in the founding of the modern State of Israel, the land of the Jewish people was unlawfully taken from the Palestinian Arabs. He said that "understandably, these people said, 'this is injustice and I want my land back.'"

But Obama's assertion is wrong. Efraim Karsh, head of the Middle East and Mediterranean studies program at King's College London, noted in his 2010 "Palestine Betrayed" that no contemporary accounts described the events of 1948 as a systematic dispossession of Arabs by Jews. "To the contrary… there was no doubt whatsoever as to which side had instigated the bloodletting and the attendant defeat and exodus," he wrote — and that side was not the Jews.

Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu correctly responded to Obama in a video posted to social media, saying, "The Jewish people are not foreign occupiers in the land of our forefathers. Our history is not a colonial enterprise. Our land is not stolen land. This is our homeland." The constant, false assertion that Israel is not legitimate is similar in its rhetorical methods to another common refrain from the anti-Israel movement: that the Gaza war is a genocide.

While their subject matter is entirely different, both assertions have a similar logic. They are completely removed from reality, and they are repeated *ad infinitum* in any argument on the conflict. They therefore meet the definition of the "Big Lie," the Nazi idea that you can convince people of anything if a lie is outrageous and repeated often enough.

Still, Obama is actively supporting Abdul El-Sayed, the Democratic candidate for Senate in Michigan who maintains, among other things, the "genocide" view. The former president similarly supports New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani, who has repeatedly said the same.

There is no genocide. The IDF was faced with a jihadist enemy, Hamas, who took 251 hostages and committed war crimes, genocidal in nature, in their unprovoked attack on southern Israel: murder, rape, murdered babies, the loss of 1,200 Israeli lives — the worst catastrophe to befall the Jews since the Holocaust.

'The IDF was faced with a jihadist enemy'

In Gaza, Hamas had hundreds of miles of tunnels, sprawling under every social institution: hospitals, kindergartens, apartment buildings, schools and mosques. U.N. institutions, mainly UNRWA, were thoroughly infiltrated.

The objective of the IDF was to get the hostages back and eliminate Hamas. The IDF constantly tried to avoid killing Palestinian civilians, though, due to the nature of this warfare and Hamas' total disregard for the lives of Palestinians, there were, unfortunately, many civilian casualties.

This was brutal urban warfare — but it is not genocide.

Many are saying that Israel wrecked the chances of a two-state solution with its war on Gaza, and that is somehow evidence of genocidal intent. But the chance for a Palestinian state was killed not by Israel's self-defense war, but by Oct. 7 itself. That massacre changed the paradigm of the Israel-Palestinian conflict, making a Palestinian state an existential threat. Armed drones in the West Bank could reach the heartland of Israel in minutes.

Still, there are alternatives that would allow Palestinians their freedom while guaranteeing Israeli security. What is needed is a new conception of Palestinian freedom. This freedom could be expressed in, for example, clearly delineated Palestinian territories, with representation in Palestinian Councils, who would then send representatives to the Knesset of Israel. This enhanced Palestinian autonomy would satisfy the Palestinians' need for national self-determination.

But to get there, to real Palestinian self-determination and a safe Israel, the Big Lies need to be rejected, and historical discourse must be grounded in the truth.

MOSES MORDECAI TWERSKY *of Providence has a master's degree in American history from Providence College. His novel "Love Story in Greenwich Village: New York Iranian Adventure," was published in January 2021 by Omniscriptum and is available from Amazon and other booksellers.*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

In New York, Democrats chose Darializa Avila Chevalier as their Congresswoman. One day after the Oct. 7 massacre, Chevalier attended a rally celebrating Hamas' terror against innocent civilians, including babies, children and the elderly.

The Democrats' actions in the 119th Congress should be eye-opening.

In November 2025, 22 Democrats co-sponsored a House resolution accusing Israel of genocide. It takes a particular combination of evil and ignorance to accuse Israel of genocide, a word coined to describe the Holocaust, but now used to describe a lie that is easily disprovable.

In April, 40 out of 47 Democratic senators voted to block arms sales to Israel.

In July, 103 Democratic representatives voted to end aid to Israel, but no Democrat voted in favor of ending aid to Jordan.

Many Democrats fail to recognize the importance of supporting the only democracy in the Middle East. Israel is an imperfect country worthy of criticism like any other, but unlike any other, it is a tiny country confronting terrorists seeking its destruction on seven fronts.

One can only imagine the damage Democrats will do now that they have regained both houses of Congress.

However, it's not only Congress where Democrats have abandoned the Jewish people. New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani picked 18 people to serve on a judicial panel, but it turns out that 18 is not always a lucky number for Jews. In a city where an estimated 50% of lawyers are Jewish, not one of his picks was. Although Mamdani denied that he intentionally excluded Jews, there is a 1 in 262,144 chance of this randomly occurring.

Mamdani was the first mayor in over 60 years to skip the Israel Day Parade, yet he attended the parade celebrating Pakistan, a country where Christians are killed for practicing their faith and honor killings of women occur.

Mamdani, a socialist who speaks of equity and fairness, is okay with Muslims controlling 99.9% of the land in the Middle East but is against Jews having self-determination in the other one-tenth of 1%.

It's not just moderates and registered independents like me who are disheartened with the party. Some ardent, hard-left Democrats have also started sounding the alarm.

Jonathan Greenblatt, who served in the Clinton and Obama administrations, said the Democratic Party has an antisemitism problem that can be defined in three letters: DSA — Discrimination, Stereotyping and Antisemitism.

Ammiel Hirsch, a Reform rabbi and president of the New York Board of Rabbis, cautioned that Jews should not be loyal to any party. Instead, they "need to demand that the political parties earn our vote."

Joel Rubin, who worked for Bernie Sanders, noted that political parties die when they kick out the Jews. He said that some of the most iconic Democrats such as Louis D. Brandeis and Ruth Bader Ginsburg would not be welcome in the party today, and he called on all Jews to speak up.

Saying "I didn't leave the Democratic Party. They left me," Alan Dershowitz, a lifelong Democrat who cast his first presidential vote for John F. Kennedy, recently registered as a Republican.

In fact, it was Robert F. Kennedy who in 1948 said that Jews were the reason that the Arab population in Palestine almost doubled to 1.2 million between 1932 and 1944.

Kennedy referenced a pamphlet published by the Christian Council on Palestine that said, "All authorities, including Palestine Government officials and British investigating commissions not particularly favorable to Zionism, agree that Palestine's extraordinary progress has been due primarily to Jewish zeal and enterprise, and to the capital and labor brought in by Jewish immigrants. The extraordinary growth of the Arab population is primarily due to the reduction of the death rate, directly traceable to the better economic and health conditions introduced by the Jews."

Today, documented historical facts such as these are ignored as many prefer to espouse a fictitious narrative that paints Israel as a villain that colonized the land.

Just as too many Republicans have adopted the lie that the 2020 election was stolen, too many Democrats are spreading lies about Jews and Israel.

Championing every other minority while overlooking antisemitism in some of its adherents, the Democratic Party has forsaken Jewish people who have long supported it, and has lost its moral high ground.

Farewell, Steny Hoyer. So long to truth, reason and justice. When it comes to the Democratic Party, for the Jewish people, the party's over.

MARJORIE DAVIS *lives in Providence. She graduated from Brandeis University and is a senior database specialist in a large, international technology company. An alternate version of this article appeared in the Times of Israel.*

OPINION

Getting the facts right: distinguishing valid criticism from blinkered ideology

FARREL I. KLEIN

THE "RED-GREEN ALLIANCE" between far-left movements (red) and Islamist movements (green) describes political groups with sharply different goals cooperating around common enemies: the United States and Israel. Many socialists defend secular government, gender equality, labor rights and freedom of conscience. Islamist movements vary but seek a religious political order that would sharply restrict those freedoms. A coalition based on shared opposition to the United States or Israel postpones those internal contradictions and conflicts.

The Palestinian cause has become a litmus test in this environment. Solidarity with Palestinians, opposition to civilian suffering and criticism of Israeli government policy are legitimate positions. The problem arises when activists must prove their left-wing credentials by treating any defense of Israel's continued existence as disqualifying, or excuse violence against civilians as "resistance." A leftist movement committed to universal rights cannot depend on whether the victims or perpetrators fit a preferred political narrative.

The distinction between criticism of Israel and rejection of Israel's existence is essential. A person can condemn settlement expansion, discrimination, military conduct or a particular government without calling for the state to be dismantled. Slogans or programs demanding Israel's destruction are not merely critiques of policy. Hamas's 2017 political document rejects any alternative to "the full and complete liberation of Palestine, from the river to the sea" and does not recognize Israel. The "settler-colonial" label, when it becomes a claim that Jews have no indigenous connection to the land, erases a central part of Jewish history. The ancient kingdoms of Israel are documented in historical and archaeological sources, and Jewish religious and cultural life has persisted in the land through centuries of Diaspora, persecution and expulsions by Christian and Muslim leaders. The moral and political challenge is to acknowledge both peoples' attachments, not to make one people's national existence proof that the other has no rights.

When people who condemn colonialism demand the elimination of the only Jewish-majority state, treating Jewish national self-determination as uniquely illegitimate, despite Israel being the native land of the Jews, they have shown that they have become a hate group. That does not mean Israel's policies are beyond criticism. It begs the question: Would the same activists accept the abolition of any other nation-state, or is Israel being held to a standard applied to no one else? Calling for Israel's destruction without a credible plan to protect the lives and rights of its Jewish population is not a neutral call for justice. It turns Jews' historic vulnerability into a test of political purity.

The current versions of anti-Israel movements use the big lie, calling Israel an apartheid state and saying Israel committed genocide in Gaza. Israel includes more than 2 million Arab citizens with the same rights as Jews. Arabs have served in the police, Knesset (Israeli parliament), Supreme Court and in almost any job or profession available in the country. This is proof that Israel does not practice apartheid. As to the genocide claim, Israel has killed about 74,000 Gazans among a population of about 2 million. About a third of those killed have been definitively identified as Hamas fighters. Hamas ideology glorifies death and fighting Jews, and the group places military installations, fighters, weapons depots and rocket launchers in schools, hospitals, mosques and private homes to maximize civilian casualties. The Hamas leaders hid in tunnels not open to the general population. Israel supplied food, water and medicine to Gazans while fighting Hamas. Israel gave warnings to civilians to leave areas where military targets were going to be attacked. Those who hate the existence of Israel have used the civilian deaths caused by Hamas' human shield policy to trumpet the genocide lie.

"...when it becomes a claim that Jews have no indigenous connection to the land, erases a central part of Jewish history."

Movements that normalize the destruction of Israel or romanticize attacks on civilians threaten the country's security and deepen the fear that compromise will be met with further violence. This hampers any ability to negotiate with Palestinians as most Palestinians still call for the destruction of Israel. These movements call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel. Most BDS proponents seek to eliminate Israel rather than to change particular practices. This makes Israel less willing to cooperate with Palestinians or support concessions. The targeting of Israel also poses a political and strategic danger to the United States. Portraying American institutions and alliances as inherently illegitimate deflects from the threats posed by authoritarian and militant movements like the radical socialist-Islamist alliance that seeks to dismantle the United States from within. Coalitions built around civil liberties and equality fracture when principles are selectively applied.

A principled response is neither to suppress peaceful protest nor to silence criticism of Israel or the Palestinians. It is to insist on standards that apply consistently: defend Palestinian rights and Jewish rights; condemn attacks on civilians whoever commits them, distinguish a people from the armed group claiming to represent them and reject the idea that one national community must disappear for another to be free. The Palestinian cause should not require socialists to excuse the Islamist call for the destruction of Israel, and Jewish self-determination should not require anyone to excuse Israeli government policy. A politics of equal human dignity can hold both truths at once.

FARREL I. KLEIN *is a retired psychiatrist and Rhode Island native.*

LETTERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

tribute to the spread of disinformation or the manufacturing of additional political panic for its own sake. A retraction of this ad and an apology should be issued for platforming this rhetoric with a commitment to responsible advertisement moving forward.

As a rabbi and a therapist, I speak with people every week who are experiencing clinical levels of distress because of fears related to antisemitism and the ongoing war. Including an ad that suggests that Question 7 is the same as Oct. 7 has the potential to have a catastrophic impact on people who are already incredibly vulnerable psychologically. Including this ad is actively harmful to Jewish and non-Jewish members of our community alike.

I look forward to hearing from you and learning more about how you will uphold ethical standards moving forward.

Thank you,

Heather Shore
Pawtucket.

JVP's values aren't those of Judaism

MR. ZIGLER, author of the pro-divestment article in your previous issue, is an excellent propagandist. He started his essay with the new blood libel of genocide and apartheid. He has learned that if you repeat a lie often enough, people will believe it. He then cherry-picks the universalist visions of Judaism and neglects any ties Israel has to the land that was divinely promised to the Jewish people. He claims that Jewish Voice for Peace is for justice and Palestinian rights. He omits that JVP is anti-Zionist, against a Jewish homeland in our ancestral lands. JVP has never criticized the Arab governments that refuse to give citizenship to the nearly one million Palestinian refugees who have lived for generations in Arab countries. JVP's organizational materials overwhelmingly focus criticism on Israel, the U.S. and Western support for Israel; condemn Israeli policies; and call for ending U.S. military support. If you look at their website, JVP has endorsed only anti-Israel candidates.

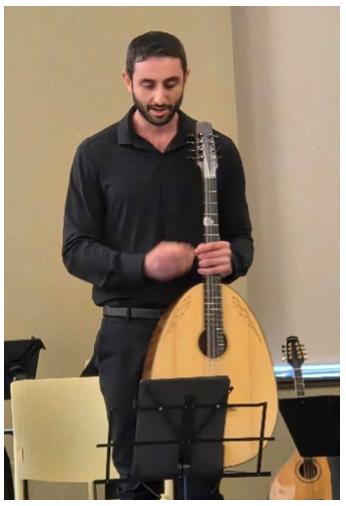
Contrary to its name, one does not need Jewish ancestry to belong to JVP. Membership in JVP is defined by alignment with Palestinian self-determination; backing the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement; and opposing U.S. military aid to Israel, so even calling JVP a Jewish organization is a lie. JVP funding is obscure, coming from anybody opposed to the existence of Israel.

Mr. Zigler claims to love the Jewish community. JVP is known for protests outside synagogues and Jewish institutions. JVP loves Jews and others who hate Israel. Most Jews that I know care about the plight of the Palestinians. Those who know the history understand that Israel has repeatedly tried to make "land for peace" deals with the Palestinians. Each of these deals has been rejected or, literally, blown up by Palestinians. There will not be peace until the Palestinians abandon their desire to destroy Israel. Voting for divestment will only increase the distrust Israel and pro-Israel allies have, decreasing the likelihood of peace.

Farrel I. Klein
Providence

ARTS

Mandolin Fest







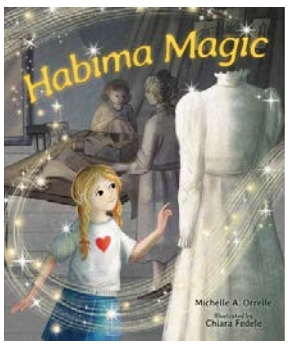
PHOTOS | JEWISH ALLIANCE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

SOUTH KINGSTOWN, R.I. — The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island partnered with University of Rhode Island Hillel to present the 11th Guitar and Mandolin Festival on Oct. 22. Guests enjoyed latkes and autumn treats before musicians under the instruction of Jacob Reuven took the stage.

Children's book spring releases roundup from Kar-Ben Publishing

SARAH GREENLEAF

"Habima Magic"

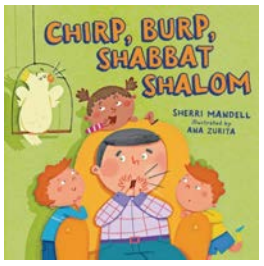


written by Michelle A. Orrelle and illustrated by Chiara Fedele (Kar-Ben Publishing, 2027), is a sweet and simple children's book about the theater and costume design. A 7-year-old girl attends the theater with her grandfather and admires a display of old costumes. Her grandfather tells her about his mother, who was a seamstress at the theater, and wishes the two could have met.

When the little girl finally gives in to her impulse to touch one of the costumes, she is transported back to another time, and a woman teaches her to sew. The two work on making gowns until they are finished, and the little girl leaves to find her grandfather. She rejoins him without trouble, as if no time has passed. A sweet story about passing down family traditions and memory, the book is set in Habima, the oldest theater company in Tel Aviv.

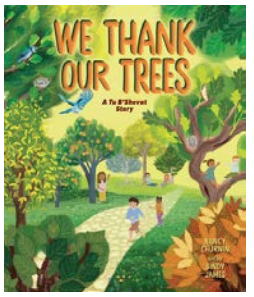
Suggested reading level is second grade.

"Chirp, Burp, Shabbat Shalom"



for the younger kids, written by Sherri Mandell and illustrated by Ana Zurita (Kar-Ben Publishing, 2027), takes kids through the sounds of a household as a Shabbat meal is prepared. The best detail is Uncle Rich, who not only "lets out a BURP" but does so while sitting in an armchair eating a huge bowl of pickles.

"We Thank Our Trees: A Tu B'Shevat Story"



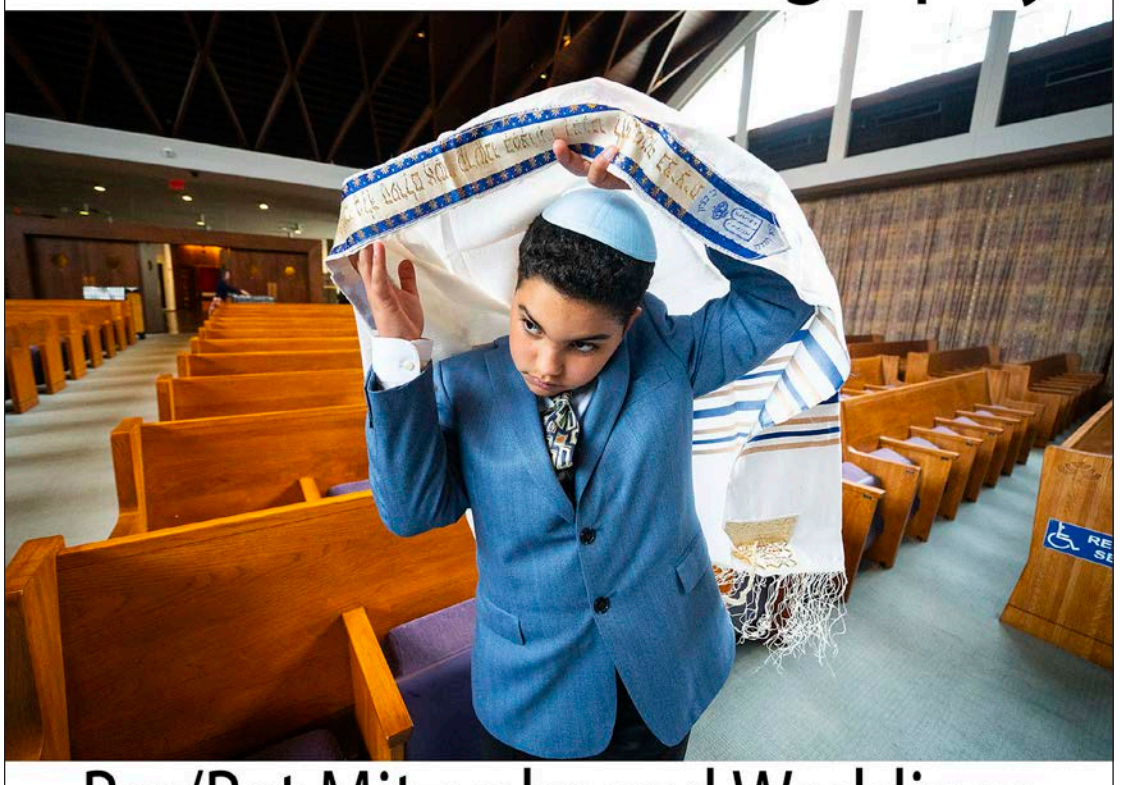
for the kids in between, written by Nancy Churnin and illustrated by Bindy James (Kar-Ben Publishing, 2027). This book in verse has a nice rhythm and simple rhyming scheme and explores the many ways in which trees are important to people and the planet. The illustrations are especially great, with trees from all over the world included and labeled throughout the book.

Suggested reading level is first grade.

All of these books are slated for publication in spring 2027.

SARAH GREENLEAF *is the digital marketing manager for the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island and writes for Jewish Rhode Island.*

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COMMUNITY

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Former Oct. 7 hostage at Brown: 'They hurt me on purpose'

DANIEL MARGOLIS

PROVIDENCE — Maya Regev, who was abducted along with her brother from the Nova Music Festival Oct. 7 and held captive in Gaza, spoke here Oct. 8, three years and a day after her capture.

REGEV, SPEAKING AT Brown RISD Hillel, described her life before the music festival, how she ended up at Nova, the chaos of Oct. 7 and her brutal experiences in captivity.

Brown student Eli Levin said of Regev's talk, "The sheer strength it took, of perseverance, came through in every word she had to say. It's going to stick with me for a long time."

Regev was vacationing in Mexico when a friend invited her to the festival. She and her brother, Itay, decided it would be too good to miss.

"It was, I think, until that day, the best party that's ever been in Israel," Regev said. "It was literally that good ... I remember standing in the main stage with Omer Shemtov, with Itay, my brother, and some of my friends, and I'm hugging one of my friends, and I'm telling her, 'Wow, Mica, I'm having so much fun, I can't believe we have, like, six more hours. Like, I'm so excited, I'm so happy that I came.'"

Then the music stopped and the DJ announced a red alert. Such alerts are common in Israel, so Regev and her friends waited for trouble to pass. It soon became clear this was different.

A police officer told her, "One woman got shot in the head. There are terrorists in Israel. You need to escape." She and her friends began running away, through fields.

Regev's phone rang; it was her father. "I didn't want to answer the phone, because I didn't want him to hear all the screaming, all the gunshots coming from everywhere, people, you know, dying," she said. "I didn't want him to know that I'm running for my life, because I knew that if they just come to where I am, and I didn't want to risk. So, I didn't answer any of his calls at that time."

After more than an hour, Regev's phone rang again. It was Ori Danino, a friend of a friend. After escaping, he returned to save Regev and her friends.

He picked them up, but the car was stopped by terrorists, who captured them all. Danino died in captivity.

The conditions in captivity and the treatment she received were appalling. Shot in the initial attack, she had no medical treatment for more than a week.

"He lifted my leg up, he started tilting it," Regev said of a Gazan doctor. "He hurt me on purpose, and he screamed at me, 'You're going to die here. You deserve to be here. We're going to kill all the Jews. Nobody cared about you. Nobody is fighting for you.'"

A Gazan teacher was assigned to watch Regev. "She showed me videos of the stuff she teaches her kids, her students. She showed me videos of kids wearing *kafiya*, holding guns and screaming 'death to the Jews.'"

"People ask me again, 'Could you see any humanity in those people?'" Regev said. "No, I couldn't, because if she was really human, she would give me more food, she would treat me, they would give me painkillers."

"People ask me again, 'Could you see any humanity in those people?'"

Regev lived in captivity with a Gazan family. "I was in a family home, surrounded by kids from age 4 to 14, walking around me, talking to me like it's normal."

Regev continued, "So when people ask me, 'Do you think there are any innocent people in Gaza?' No, I'm sorry, but no. I don't think that, because I lived with them, I lived among them."

Her family in Israel, her brother still in captivity, God — and Guy Illouz, kept her going. Illouz and Regev met in the hospital. He was shot three times, in the hand and in the back, after "watching all of his friends die."

"One day, I'm calling his name, and he's not answering," Regev said. "Guy died from his wounds right next to me, a day and a half after we met, because he didn't receive the right medical treatment." This was why she needed to go on: She alone knew how Illouz died — and his family "deserve to know what happened to him."

Faith helped her. "I can say that at the lowest place I've ever been — you know, I was in hell, I was in a place where I was again hated simply for being Jewish," Regev said. That "was the place I felt God the most."

"Trust yourself, and trust God that he knows what's good for you," Regev said as she concluded her remarks. "Be grateful for what you have, and be grateful for what you don't have, because if you — if it's not yours, then it's not meant to be yours."

Asked if she had any advice for Americans, she noted that she spoke at the University of Texas at Austin the same day as Hasan Piker, an influential anti-Israel activist who, the ADL notes, has "expressed explicit support for...Hamas, the Houthis, Hezbollah."

"Everything you hear, everything you see online, the easiest thing to do is just to repeat the slogan, just to be a part of something," she said. "Even if it's something you believe in, please check before you go and you spread it, because it's important."

When released in November 2023, a few days before her brother, she underwent multiple surgeries for the bullet wounds in her leg — and the damage inflicted on her by Gazan doctors.

"Everything's been positive," said organizer Lev Kotler-Berkowitz, "I mean, her story is just really unbelievable, and being able to really engage with it and hear straight from her is an experience a lot of people really value. Just being able to learn new details, hearing her tell it is just unbelievable."

The evening was organized by Brown RISD Hillel, the Jewish Alliance, Temple Emanu-El, Temple Beth-El, Congregation Beth Sholom, Chabad of College Hill and StandWithUs, in addition to individual supporters.

DANIEL MARGOLIS *is the editor of Jewish Rhode Island.*



PHOTO | AARON PERROTTA

Maya Regev, who was abducted by Hamas from the Nova music festival during the Oct. 7, 2023, terrorist attacks in Israel, describes her experience before an audience at the Brown RISD Hillel Oct. 8.

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COMMUNITY

Franklin Foer offers his take on the future of American Jews



PHOTO | M. CHARLES BAKST

PROVIDENCE — Franklin Foer, journalist and author, discusses American Judaism with Rabbi Sarah Mack, senior Rabbi at Temple Beth-El, in Providence Oct. 22.

FRAN OSTENDORF

PROVIDENCE — After Oct. 7, Franklin Foer told the audience at Temple Beth-El, "I felt like something fundamental in the Jews' place in American society was shifting." He had been delving into the issue of rising antisemitism in American society before that, but, he said, he couldn't find a way into the story that felt compelling.

That shift gave him the push to tell the stories that resulted in "The Golden Age of American Jews Is Ending," published in April 2024 in The Atlantic magazine.

Foer, an author and staff writer for The Atlantic, spoke Oct. 22 about the article and the future of American Jewry as part of Beth-El's yearlong series on American Jews. He said that American Jewry is different from any other Jewish community in the diaspora.

In the article, he chronicled the rise of antisemitism on the left with examples of incidents in the San Francisco Bay Area, on college campuses and in progressive circles around the country. And he discussed how liberalism ushered in an unprecedented era of safety and prosperity for Jews in America.

The article sparked widespread discussion and debate, including opinions that it was a dangerous story and that it underplayed continued antisemitism during the decades-long period that Foer's article described as a time when Jews were able to peacefully integrate into American society.

In a roughly 70-minute conversation with Rabbi Sarah Mack, senior rabbi at Temple Beth-El, Foer offered his thoughts on the climate for American Jews in general.

He outlined how Jews "busted into the mainstream" during the post-World War II years, when "our differences could be celebrated. We had all this pent-up creativity and energy that could contribute to society."

But in the past 25 years, he said, "We've lost that vision. As it's ebbed, our insecurity has grown."

"Antisemitism is so confusing to explain to the outside world," Foer continued. "Racism is very clearly understood. Judaism doesn't fit that template. Antisemitism supports racism and is about power. Antisemitism becomes anti-Judaism."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

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COMMUNITY

Year-end giving: A time to reflect on purpose, legacy and generosity

As the calendar year draws to a close, many people pause to reflect on family, values, community and the impact they hope to make. Year-end planning naturally brings finances and taxes into focus, but it also invites a more personal question: "What can my resources accomplish?"

FOR GENERATIONS, Jewish tradition has called us to steward our resources as tools for strengthening community and repairing the world. The values of *tzedakah* (righteous giving), *dor l'dor* (generational continuity) and *tikkun olam* (improving the world) shape a philanthropic identity rooted in responsibility, generosity and legacy. Charitable giving becomes an expression of held beliefs and a declaration of the legacy we hope to build.

Donors and supporters bring these values to life by caring for vulnerable neighbors, enriching Jewish life, strengthening relationships with Israel, educating future generations and nurturing connection and community. Year-end giving is no different. Every contribution helps to sustain the shared values and institutions that bring people together. Through the Jewish Alliance, donors and supporters can thoughtfully integrate philanthropy into financial and estate planning. Donor-advised funds, charitable trusts, endowment gifts and legacy commitments offer ways to advance cherished causes while addressing personal financial goals.

By defining charitable priorities, donors and supporters can transform year-end planning from a financial exercise into a heartfelt expression of identity and values. Generosity communicates purpose, strengthens community and helps future generations inherit not only resources, but also the values that shaped those who came before them.

Donors and supporters often begin with a defining question: What can these resources achieve both today and long into the future? Exploring that question together with the Jewish Alliance can clarify a philanthropic vision and turn intention into meaningful support. An active commitment to giving creates an intentional legacy and strengthens the shared Jewish community.



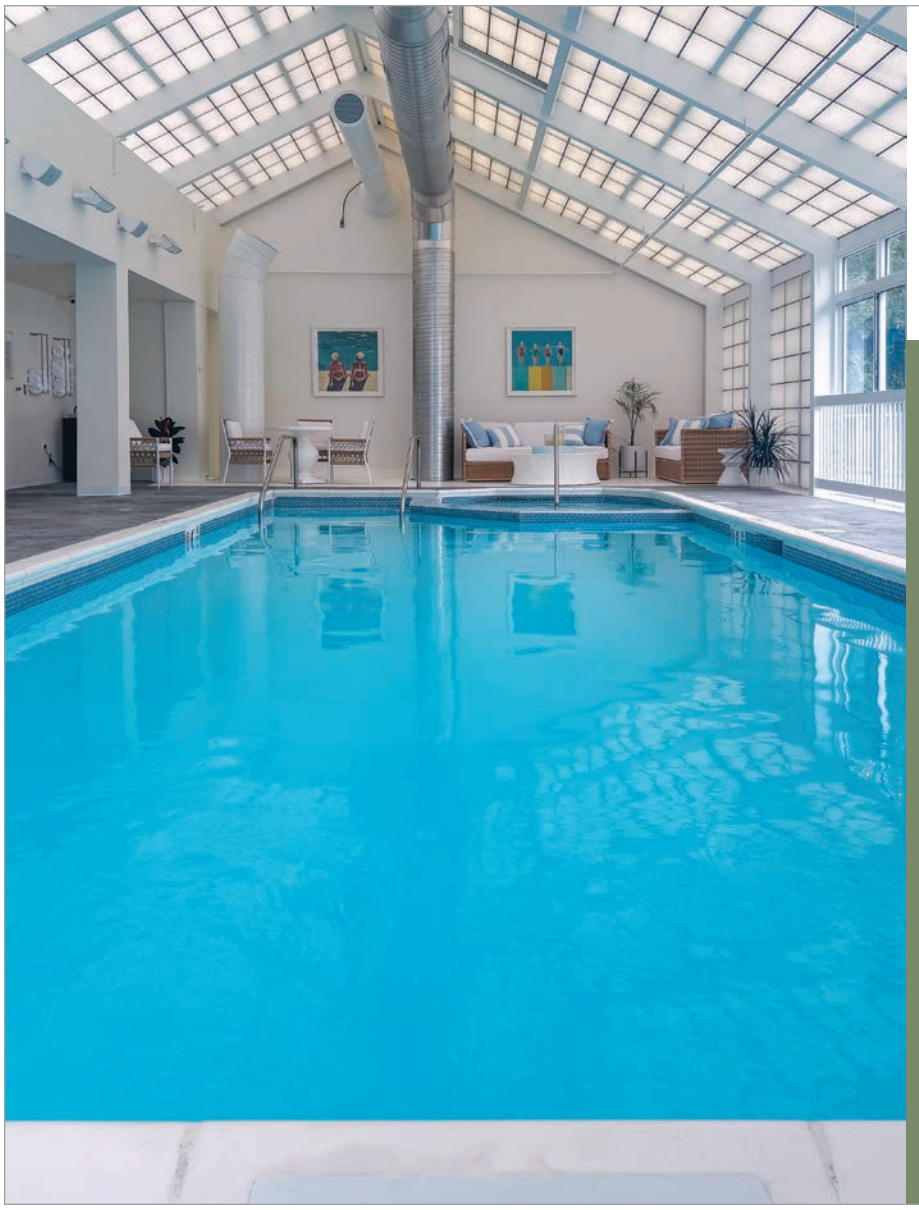
PHOTO | GLENN OSMUNDSON

Twins from East Greenwich, R.I., dance to the music of Ezekiel's Wheels Klezmer Band at Temple Beth-El.

During year-end planning, the Jewish Alliance is here to help donors and supporters make the most of their generosity — deepening charitable impact, personal fulfillment and *nachas*, genuine pride, through gifts that will continue making a difference for generations to come.

For more information on the many ways to consider year-end giving, contact the Philanthropy team by emailing donate@jewishallianceri.org or calling 401-421-4111.

This article was submitted by the Jewish Federation Foundation.



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COMMUNITY

Temple Emanu-El creates a new megillah

DAVID GORDON

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Temple Emanu-El is announced that a talented *soferet* — a woman trained as a Jewish ritual scribe — will work with the congregation to create a new *Megillat Esther*, the scroll of Esther read on Purim.

On the weekend of Nov. 20-22, *soferet* Julie Seltzer will lead an educational weekend of talks, discussions and interactive sessions focusing on the Jewish scribal arts (called *sofrut*) and her own journey to becoming a master *soferet*.

Historically, women have been barred from writing Torah, *mezuzah* and *tefillin* scrolls. Whether or not they could write *megillot* is subject to some debate.

Nevertheless, a generation of female scribes has begun to take its place in the creation of sacred Jewish objects. Seltzer is herself a student of Jen Taylor Friedman, believed to be the first woman to write a complete Torah scroll.

Temple Emanu-El's Rabbi Alex Friedman said, "Our community sits at the intersection of wanting to maintain our traditions around creating our sacred texts and also our steadfast belief that gender is irrelevant to the creation of these objects. We're so proud to work with Julie Seltzer and other talented artisans like her."

During the Nov. 20-22 weekend, congregants will be invited to learn more about the process of making a *megillah* and to watch part of the process up close.

On the evening of Nov. 20 and the next morning, Seltzer will present on how she came to be a *soferet*, introduce the materials of scribal work and explain the traditions and customs that shape a kosher *megillah*.

On Sunday morning, Seltzer will lead a session entitled "Flawless Writing: The Torah of Human Mistakes," speaking about both the practical side of errors when writing a scroll as well as the deeper reasons for keeping human beings in the mix, even when flawless machines exist.

Attendees will also be invited to get a close look into the writing process with Seltzer as she writes the new scroll.

"This is a rare opportunity for folks to see up close how these objects are made," Rabbi Friedman said. "It's not as though we commission a new *megillah* every year."

The emotional high point will come at Purim, when the new *megillah* will be used for the first time. As the *megillah* is opened and the familiar story is chanted, children and adults will hear a text they helped welcome into being — listening closely, joining the celebration, and blotting out Haman's name with groggers and noise.

The megillah will enter the synagogue's ritual life carrying not only the ancient story of Esther, but also the story of a Rhode Island community that chose to create, learn and celebrate together.



Soferet Julie Seltzer works on a Torah scroll.

DAVID GORDON *is the vice president for financial development at Temple Emanu-El in Providence.*

After Survival: Who would care for aging Holocaust survivors?

JOANNA SLIWA

WHEN CHAYA AND CHAIM Kleinhandler arrived at the Ansbach displaced persons camp in Germany, they had already survived years apart. German authorities had taken them from the Chmielnik ghetto in occupied Poland to a munitions factory, then sent them to different camps. Chaya was deported to Auschwitz. In January 1945, she escaped a death march by hiding inside the camp. Chaim and their sons were deported to Buchenwald and forced onto a death march.

After the war, Chaya and Chaim reunited with three of their five children in their hometown. Both were well over 50 in 1945. Few Jewish couples their age had survived together and had children beside them. By 1949, the Kleinhandlers were rebuilding their lives in Israel.

Many older survivors faced the years after liberation without spouses or children. Some lived far from anyone they knew. They needed housing, medical care and help with daily tasks, but they also needed company, familiar places and a say in how they lived. The end of the war brought a new question: Who would care for them in the years ahead?

In 1955, Saul Kagan, executive director of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, made that challenge a priority. "The care of aged victims of Nazi persecution is the subject of special attention in the Conference allocations program," he told its board. The Claims Conference was established in 1951 to seek reparations from West Germany for Jewish victims of Nazi persecution. Now it was using those funds to help survivors meet their everyday needs.

The Claims Conference worked closely with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), whose staff assessed proposals, distributed grants and examined conditions in the communities seeking support. By 1954, Claims Conference funds distributed through the JDC reached 1,561 older survivors. Over the next two years, a quarter of its grants for construction and renovation projects went toward building, repairing or equipping homes for older people. But a better building did not necessarily mean a better life. That became clear as staff looked closely at conditions across Europe.

In Brussels, social worker Gerda Jacobson was troubled by the low morale of residents in a Jewish nursing home. Many had come from other countries as refugees or displaced persons. She wanted to hire a trained social worker who could support their emotional well-being and organize activities. The plan did not go forward. Elsewhere in the city, a Jewish welfare agency helped older people improve their poor housing and considered opening a club for those living on their own. Some people needed a place in a home; others needed support to stay out of one.

In Amsterdam, demand for places became urgent. By late 1958, one Jewish home had 107 residents and 123 people waiting to enter. Its leaders asked the Claims Conference to help fund an expansion. They also explained what residents wanted: to remain near the city center, where they could visit friends and use public transportation. They wanted to be "in the middle of life."

Should funding add rooms to that home? Could better health service and practical help allow some people to remain in their own homes? JDC specialists urged communities to consider those possibilities. Meanwhile, the Claims Conference faced requests it could not fully fund. When a home in The Hague sought help amid a growing waiting list, it received only a third of the amount requested. Behind the figures were people waiting for a safe place to live.

In Zagreb, Claims Conference support joined contributions from the JDC, local donors, Jewish emigrants and the Yugoslav government to build a new Jewish nursing home. It opened in 1958. Yet even this modern home faced a challenge that money alone could not solve. Residents of different ages and backgrounds needed ways to connect and take part in decisions about their days.

These stories reveal a side of Holocaust history that did not end with liberation. They also raise questions that remain familiar: What makes a place feel like home? How do we care for older survivors without taking away their independence? And whose needs are overlooked when resources are scarce?

Join the author at her Baxt Lecture, "The Holocaust from the Perspective of Jewish Children and Older Adults," on Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. at the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center. She will look at the experiences of two groups whose perspectives can change how we understand survival — and the years that followed.

DR. JOANNA SLIWA *is a historian at the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) and a former staff member at the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. She is a historian of the Holocaust and Polish Jewish history. Joanna is the author of the award-winning "Jewish Childhood in Kraków: A Microhistory of the Holocaust" and co-editor of "Older Jews and the Holocaust: Persecution, Displacement, and Survival."*

COMMUNITY

Koffler Bornstein family, Bob Landau and Fran Debras honored at JCS meeting

WARWICK, R.I. — Jewish Collaborative Services welcomed community members, supporters and partners to its ninth annual meeting Oct. 22 at Tamarisk Senior Living, celebrating the generosity, leadership and compassion that have strengthened the community.

HOSTED BY RABBI Jeffrey W. Goldwasser, the evening featured greetings from Steven Baker, CEO of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, and Lt. Gov. Sabina Matos, who shared well wishes and expressed gratitude for JCS and its work in the community. The program highlighted JCS' impact across its programs and services last year, welcomed new and returning board members, and recognized three honorees whose contributions reflect the organization's mission.

Sandra "Sandy" Bornstein accepted the Ruth and W. Irving Wolf Jr. Award for Multigenerational Philanthropy on behalf of the Koffler Bornstein family. Scott Wolf presented the award in honor of his parents.

For more than 30 years, Sandy and her late husband, Richard Bornstein, supported JCS and its predecessor agencies. Their commitment to giving was rooted in values passed down through generations. Sandy's parents, Sol and Lillian Koffler, were influential philanthropists whose generosity helped shape the Rhode Island Jewish community. They supported the Rhode Island Jewish Home for the Aged and contributed generously to other local organizations that continue serving the community.

Sol Koffler immigrated to the United States at 13 and went on to found American Tourister Luggage and establish The Koffler Group. Despite his business success, he remained deeply committed to supporting the community that had helped him and his family thrive. That spirit continued through the Koffler Bornstein Family Foundation, which Sandy and Richard directed together. Today, Sandy carries that legacy forward, honoring her parents' dedication to Jewish seniors and



PHOTO | GLENN OSMUNDSON

Scott Wolf presented the Ruth and W. Irving Wolf Jr. Award for Multigenerational Philanthropy to Sandy Bornstein, center, accompanied by her daughter, Jo-An Kaplan, and JCS CEO Pam Morris (right). Bornstein accepted the award on behalf of the Koffler Bornstein family.

helping sustain their vision for future generations.

Robert "Bob" Landau received the Maurice Glickman Leadership Award, presented by Jim Galkin, in recognition of Bob's longstanding contributions and leadership grounded in dedication, sound judgment, partnership and a commitment to the long-term well-being of JCS and its community.

Bob has been an instrumental partner with JCS for more than a decade. His involvement began before the organization's formation, when he served as a consultant to Jewish Seniors Agency and played an important role in the merger between Jewish Family Services and the Jewish Seniors Agency, which led to the creation of JCS. By helping guide organizations through change and supporting the work that brings people and services together, Bob has contributed to the foundation on which JCS continues to build.

The evening also recognized Frantzcia "Fran" Debras with the Erin Gisherman Minior Award for Staff Excellence, presented by Casey Gilfillan Amaral, JCS director of human resources. Fran was honored for her 13 years of dedicated service to Tamarisk, particularly her leadership of the Renaissance Memory Care Program.

Beginning her career as a certified medication technician, Fran advanced to director of memory care through her expertise, compassion and commitment to residents and their families. Her impact extends beyond the residents in her care. After earning her dementia care "Train the Trainer" certification, she shared her knowledge with colleagues, helping strengthen the quality of care throughout Tamarisk. The difference she makes is perhaps best captured by the families who experience her care firsthand. One family member recently expressed gratitude for the calm, patience and kindness Fran showed while caring for their mother, a reflection of the thoughtful, person-centered approach she brings to her work every day.

JCS thanked this year's honorees and the supporters, volunteers, partners and community members who make its work possible. Together, it continues building on a shared legacy of generosity, leadership and care for the community.

Those inspired by the Koffler Bornstein family's legacy, Bob Landau's leadership or Fran Debras' dedication can consider making a gift to JCS in honor of an individual or family who has made a meaningful difference. To learn more about supporting JCS or making a tribute gift, visit jcsri.org or contact the JCS development team at 401-331-1244.



COMMUNITY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

He said he wants to retire the term Zionism because after most countries are settled, the "-isms" are retired. "Anti-Zionism is a fantastical notion. Israel is just not going to disappear. There is a group of people with an army. Maybe we should talk about a solution that doesn't involve erasure."

Foer has written extensively on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, including the July 2026 Atlantic article "How Netanyahu Lost America," which argued that Netanyahu had shattered Israel's relationship with American Democrats. In the article, he chronicled Netanyahu's rise to power and how it coincided with the alienation of many American Jews on the left and the right from Israel's policies.

He told the audience that he fears that the original vision that Israel was built on is slipping away and that it no longer has a stable majority.

In American politics, he said, what confuses many people is that Jews believe in universalism, social justice — and peoplehood. There are times when those ideas are in tension.

Now there is a shift in American Jews politically. Jews are moving away from traditional party labels. Being part of the party of no party allows you to make decisions as to what is best for you, he said. But it leaves Jews more exposed.

Foer is now working on a film and another book. The book is about the history of American Jews since 1945, he said. His work has focused on the downsizing of the federal workforce and politics, as well as American Jewry.

In his Beth-El talk, he discussed soccer, the subject of "How Soccer Explains the World: An Unlikely Theory of Globalization," his 2004 book. "The game is everywhere," Foer said. "There is so much political power."

"One of the most interesting things in soccer is there is still a club in most European cities that identifies as a Jewish team even though the team is no longer Jewish," Foer said. "That tells you something about antisemitism. You don't need actual Jews for antisemitism to persist."

Mack ended the conversation by asking Foer if he sees hope for American Jews.

He said, "I think about the history of this diaspora, which is so incredible. The prosperity and achievement is without parallel.

"It is true that we feel threats like we have never experienced. We have to be realistic about the things we do still have. America does remain an exceptional nation. We have a country where all these different people peacefully coexist. That dream of pluralism is not one that I'm willing to surrender. Judeo-pessimism is real. But if we succumb to pessimism, we aren't thinking strategically."

"Most Americans still really like Jewish people," he said. "What happens on the fringes is something we have to resist."

FRAN OSTENDORF *is the former editor of Jewish Rhode Island. You can read Franklin Foer's articles at theatlantic.com, but a free one-month trial subscription is required.*



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COMMUNITY

Chabad of West Bay connects Jewish community in all seasons

BRAD SWARTZ

CHABAD OF WEST BAY, also known as the Chai Center, brings Jewish programming, education and support to individuals and families throughout Rhode Island's West Bay area. At the heart of its work is a warm, welcoming community where everyone can explore and celebrate their Jewish heritage, no matter where they are on their Jewish journey.

Throughout the year, Chabad creates ways for people to connect. Camp Gan Israel welcomes 60 children, with affordable pricing and scholarships helping to make the experience accessible. Each year, Chabad also distributes approximately 1,800 challahs and Shabbat kits. Holiday programs bring traditions into the community through shofar blowing at five locations statewide around Rosh Hashanah, community menorah lightings, a Purim program and Passover resources.

During Passover alone, Chabad provides 100 Seder-to-Go kits and more than 1,000 pounds of matzah, all free of charge. Year-round Jewish education offers meaningful opportunities for people of all ages to learn and grow, while Jewish calendars shared throughout the West Bay area help families stay connected to the rhythms of Jewish life.

Yet Chabad's impact reaches far beyond programs and holiday celebrations. The organization makes more than 1,000 door-to-door visits, offering a personal connection, especially to people who are homebound or living alone. Chabad also brings companionship and Jewish connection to local nursing homes and assisted-living facilities, as well as through monthly and holiday visits within the state prison system. Rabbinic counseling and crisis intervention provide support during life's most difficult moments.

Together, these efforts reflect Chabad's commitment to ensuring that every member of the Jewish community has a way to feel connected — whether by joining a joyful community celebration or welcoming a caring visitor into their home.

Chabad works in partnership with the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island. According to Rabbi Yossi Laufer, "The annual grant we receive from the Jewish Alliance helps fund the distribution of thousands of holiday resources and educational materials, Camp Gan Israel scholarships, year-round outreach and learning opportunities, and visits to residents in many local living facilities. We are grateful for this support and look forward to continuing our work together, helping people experience the joy of Jewish connection, engagement and community."

Chabad also values the spirit of partnership that strengthens the West Bay community. It works alongside the area's two synagogues, with each organization supporting the others to care for and serve the local Jewish community.

The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island supports Chabad of West Bay through its Community Development Committee. Chabad's work closely reflects several of the committee's priorities: making Jewish enrichment accessible, creating meaningful connections across the community and serving vulnerable populations with care and dignity.

For Community Campaign donors, support to Chabad of West Bay demonstrates how local generosity creates real impact for all ages and reinforces the power of collective giving and responsibility. Like all programs and services supported through the annual Community Campaign, it is only made possible by those who are committed to ensuring a vibrant and strong Jewish future.

To learn more about the annual Community Campaign or the grants and allocations process, visit jewishallianceri.org.

BRAD SWARTZ *(bswartz@jewishallianceri.org) is the partnerships and fundraising manager at the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island.*

R.I.C.I seeking board members, planning events

JRI STAFF

AMID A SLATE of activities, the Rhode Island Coalition for Israel is looking to add new members to its board of directors.

The coalition, which unites Christian and Jewish supporters of Israel, is seeking to add to its board as current members finish their terms. Those who have been involved and are interested in a leadership role, including setting the direction of RICI and providing organizational support, should contact maria@ricoalitionforisrael.org.

This month, the group will officially launch the Rhode Island chapter of Lox & Loaded, a pro-Jewish gun safety and shooting club. The club will meet monthly at Midstate Gun Company in Coventry and is open to all, regardless of background or skill level. In accordance with state law, a safety class is mandatory before attending a meeting. Register for membership at tinyurl.com/loxandloadedri or, for questions, write to maria@ricoalitionforisrael.org.

The coalition's flagship event — the annual awards fundraiser — will take place Nov. 15 and will include an Israeli wine tasting. The evening will honor Avi Nevel, May-Tal Cutler and Stanley Freedman with various awards. While registration is filling up, tickets are still available at tinyurl.com/2026rici. The Providence location will be shared with registrants closer to the date.

RICI has held several activities recently. Its members participated in or spoke at three Nights to Honor Israel. The nights took place at Praise Tabernacle Church in Cranston; Faith Christian Center in Seekonk, Massachusetts; and Vida Abundante, a Hispanic church in Providence.

The coalition describes the events as "meaningful gatherings between local Jewish and Christian communities to support Israel, dispel myths and misinformation about Israel and commemorate the tragedy of the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks."

Also in commemoration of Oct. 7, RICI, Temple Sinai and the Consulate General of Israel to New England held an event Oct. 6, which included a screening and discussion of "October Shadows: An Exploration of Trauma and Healing After October 7."

Touro Fraternal awards grants to students

CRANSTON, R.I. — Touro Fraternal Association awarded grants of $5,000 to Ella Finkelstein, Caroline Kaluzny and Charlotte Kaluzny to aid in their pursuit of a college degree.

The association's Student Financial Aid Committee considers each candidate's grades, family financial need, other sources of financial assistance they receive, a written personal statement and letters of recommendation to determine who are the most meritorious.

Finkelstein is a freshman at Ohio University, where she is studying acting and dance/choreography. In addition to her acting pursuits, she has taught classes at the Talent Factory, and she did community service at Franklin Farm.

The Kaluznys are the first set of siblings to win Touro grants in the same year. In high school, Caroline Kaluzny took on leadership roles as class vice president and student council vice president. In addition, she runs her own baking business and creates online film and digital content, reviewing movies. Her online account has more than 20,000 followers.

Charlotte Kaluzny volunteered at nursing homes, developmental centers, hospitals and other health care settings. She qualified as a certified nursing assistant. Both are freshmen at Emmanuel College.

Since the establishment of the student grant and loan program in 1981, Touro has made financial awards to ease the cost of higher education for its members and their families.

Touro Fraternal, based in Cranston, is the largest Jewish men's fraternal organization in the Northeast. Founded in 1917, the association offers social activities for its members and guests. It also gives back to the community through dozens of Jewish and secular causes.

For more information about Touro Fraternal Association, visit tourofraternal.org, send an email to info@tourofraternal.org or call 401-785-0066.

COMMUNITY

Turning values into action: A word on the Community Campaign

JENNIFER ZWIRN

AN OLD SAYING holds that "wise men speak because they have something to say; fools because they have to say something." This is a reminder that meaningful action speaks louder than words. More than 2,000 years later, this insight continues to resonate, challenging us to align our actions with our values. Supporting the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island's annual Community Campaign is one way to do exactly that.

In a world marked by division, uncertainty and growing challenges, our community needs more than good intentions. It needs people willing to step forward, express their values through generosity and make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

"Giving to the Community Campaign is critical because it strengthens the foundation of Jewish life in Rhode Island and diversifies our individual and collective reach," says Reza Breakstone, who co-chairs the annual campaign with Katie Ziegler.

The impact of that support can be seen in countless ways across our community. A gift of $500 feeds a family through Jewish Collaborative Services' kosher food pantry. A contribution of $1,000 can send a child to Community Beit Midrash for a full year of Jewish learning, while $10,000 can provide a child with a life-changing summer at Camp JORI. These are just a few examples of how collective generosity sustains the programs, services and organizations that bring people together, care for those in need and preserve our Jewish heritage and traditions.

Community Campaign dollars also strengthen local Jewish institutions; support programs for older adults, teens and young families; and provide critical resources when unexpected needs arise. They help make Jewish education, engagement, leadership development and community connections accessible to people at every stage of life. Beyond Rhode Island, campaign support helps meet urgent humanitarian needs and strengthens Jewish communities around the world. From helping vulnerable individuals and families to nurturing the next generation of Jewish leaders, every gift helps ensure that our community remains vibrant, resilient and connected.

Jewish tradition teaches that we are responsible for one another. Through acts of *tzedakah* and communal responsibility, we strengthen not only individual lives but also the future of our entire community. Each contribution becomes part of a sacred partnership linking past generations with those yet to come.

At a time when antisemitism and global uncertainty challenge Jews' sense of security and belonging, standing together as a community is more important than ever. The Alliance brings the community together around shared priorities, enabling it to respond to immediate needs while investing in a stronger future.

Giving is more than a charitable act. It is a declaration that Jewish life matters, that Jews care for one another and refuse to let the future be defined by fear or indifference.

"The question is not simply what we believe, but what we're willing to do about it," says Ziegler. Rhode Island Jews can take pride in being a community that acts with purpose rather than merely talking about making a difference. Every gift to the Community Campaign, regardless of size, is an investment in the community's people, values and future.

Now is the time to turn words into action, compassion into commitment and shared responsibility into lasting impact.

For more information on the many ways to support the Community Campaign or to learn more about where the money goes, visit jewishallianceri.org or contact the philanthropy team directly by emailing donate@jewishallianceri.org.

JENNIFER ZWIRN *is the chief philanthropy officer for the Jewish Alliance.*

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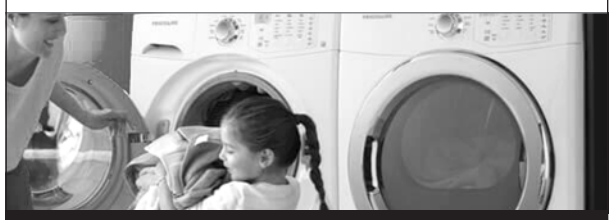
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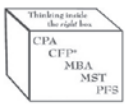


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BUSINESS

Jewish Alliance makes year-end giving easy and impactful

PROVIDENCE — As the holiday season draws near, the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island is helping community members make their year-end giving both simple and meaningful.

With busy schedules and competing priorities during this time of year, the Alliance is offering clear options and helpful reminders to ensure donations are processed by Dec. 31 — allowing donors to take full advantage of tax benefits while making a real difference.

Gifts to the Jewish Alliance's Community Campaign support a wide range of initiatives that touch thousands of lives locally and around the world. From providing essential social and human services to supporting Jewish education in formal and informal settings to fostering engagement and collaboration across the community, the Community Campaign strengthens the Jewish community at every level.

"Every gift to the Community Campaign is a direct investment in the well-being and future of our Jewish community," said Reza Breakstone, Community Campaign co-chair.

Donors are encouraged to review year-end giving options and deadlines early to ensure timely processing. To learn more about how contributions to the Community Campaign create lasting impact, visit jewishallianceri.org/about/our-impact.

"As we close out the year, we're deeply grateful for the generosity and compassion of our supporters," said Katie Ziegler, Community Campaign co-chair. The Jewish Alliance thanks all who give for their continued commitment to building a strong, connected, and caring community.

Submitted by the Jewish Alliance development team.

Contributions	Critical giving dates
Credit Card	Receive by Thursday, Dec. 31
Checks	Postmark by Thursday, Dec. 31
Wire Transfer	Receive by Thursday, Dec. 31
Securities via DTC Transfer	Initiate by Friday, Dec. 11
Mutual fund shares	Initiate process by Tuesday, Dec. 1
ACH	Initiate process by Monday, Dec. 14
Grant recommendations from JFF donor advised funds	Submit by Wednesday, Dec. 9 at noon (Requests received later may be remitted to the grantee in Jan. 2027.)

These deadlines also apply to contributions to endowment funds and donor-advised funds held by the Jewish Federation Foundation. For assistance making a gift, including instructions for electronic transfers, contact the Alliance at donate@jewishallianceri.org or call 401-421-4111.

OBITUARIES

Esther Coren, 99

Esther Coren, 99, died Oct. 11 surrounded by her family. She was the beloved wife of the late Sanford Coren; he was the love of her life, and the couple were married for 65 years.



The eldest daughter of the late Solomon and Rose Fischer, Esther was born in 1927 in Brezanny, Poland. The family emigrated to the United States when she was one year old and settled in Providence. An outstanding student, Esther graduated from Central High in 1945.

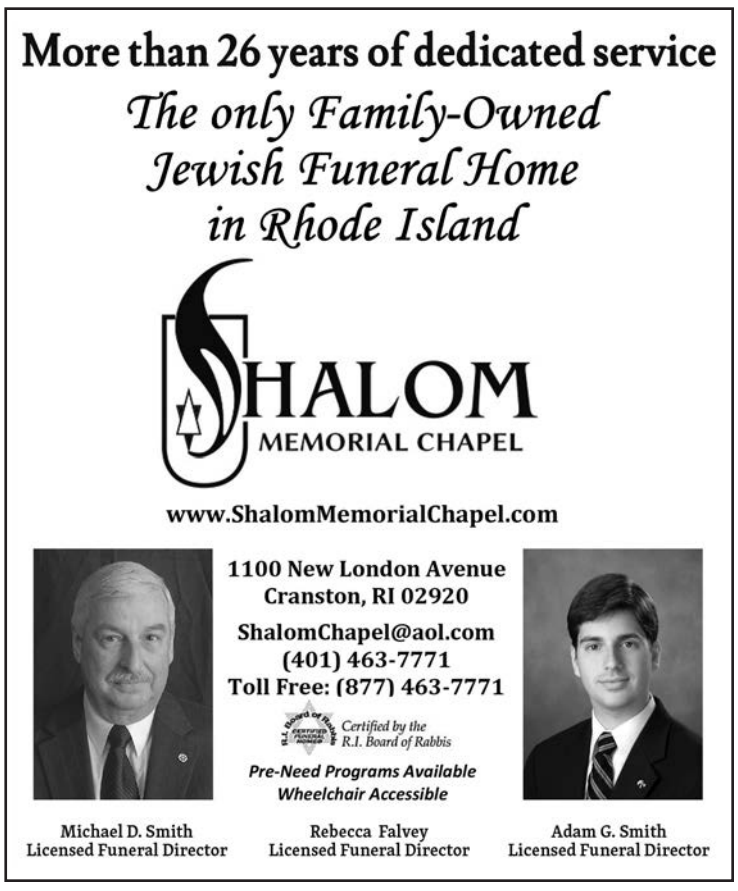
She began her professional career as a clerical worker but paused her working years to raise her two children. Later, Esther worked at several companies as a bookkeeper, including Spencer Company, Time Plating and Rhode Island Technical Plating. She retired in 1993 to help care for her grandchildren.

Esther loved cooking and hosting the family for the holidays and many spirited meals at her home. Above all, she cherished her role as a wife, a mother, a mother-in-law, a grandmother, a great-grandmother, an aunt, a great-aunt and a sister. Family meant everything to her, and her family cherished her as well.

Esther is survived by her son, Richard Coren, and wife, Carrie, of Cranston, Rhode Island; and daughter, Cheryl Botwick, and husband, Steven, of East Greenwich. Her grandchildren were her pride and joy: granddaughter, Blake Watterworth Coren, and husband, Avery, of Portland, Oregon; grandson, Jeffrey Botwick, and wife, Laurel, of Providence; and grandson, Zachary Botwick, and wife, Hannah, of Warwick. She was also blessed to become a great-grandmother to Jesse Botwick and Cleo Watterworth Coren. She is also survived by her brother, Charles Fischer, of Cranston, and many nieces and nephews.







OBITUARIES

Leon Samuel Golden, 96

Leon Samuel Golden, 96, of Warwick, died Sept. 17 at West Shore Health Center in Warwick. He was the loving husband of the late Dorothy (Blaivise) Golden and the son of the late Matthew and Ann (Lampert) Golden.



Leon served as an officer in the U.S. Army for two years. He worked as an auditor for the federal Department of Transportation in Providence and Boston for many years before retiring. A kind and gentle man, Leon loved spending time with his family and going to the beach. He was also an avid New England Patriots and Boston Red Sox fan. His family will remember his sweet nature and the warmth he brought to their lives.

He is survived by his four children: Mark Golden of California; Kayla Kauffman and her husband, William, of Pennsylvania; Eric Golden and his wife, Dulce Quiroz, of Nevada; and Reba Golden and her husband, Andre Mayer, of Johnston, R.I. He also leaves six grandchildren: Alexandria Golden, Brittany Golden, Zachary Kauffman, Morgan Kauffman, Joshua Golden and Jacob Golden. He was predeceased by his sister, Sandra Finn.

Lois Koritz Hopfenberg, 96

Lois Koritz Hopfenberg, 96, beloved "Queen of Hearts," died peacefully on Oct. 16, following a short illness.



A dynamic force of nature, Lois had a zest for life, a generous heart and the ability to make people feel loved. She was loved by many, and her presence made the world a brighter and a more entertaining place.

Born to Dora and Henry Koritz, Lois lost both parents at a young age and was lovingly raised by her two aunts, Mary and Jennie Dembofsky. She grew up in Brookline, Massachusetts, graduated from Syracuse University and later earned her Master of Education degree from Rhode Island College.

Lois devoted 30 years to teaching, touching countless young lives as a beloved kindergarten and Head Start teacher in Providence. In retirement she moved to Hunters Run in Boynton Beach, Florida, where she honed her golf, tennis and bridge skills. Never one to sit still for long, she embarked on a second career that perfectly captured her adventurous spirit. For 20 years and over 100 voyages, she traveled the world as a bridge instructor aboard various cruise ships, sharing her love of the game while making friends and exploring the world wherever she went.

Above all, Lois cherished her family. She was the beloved wife of the late Lawrence Hopfenberg of Providence. She was the proud mother of David and his wife, Trish, of West Palm Beach, Florida, and Bobby and her husband, Jeff Morgenstern, of Wellesley, Massachusetts. Lois's greatest joy was being a grandmother to Leah; Max; Harrison and his wife, Michelle; and Alexandra, who brought immeasurable love and happiness to her life.

Lois lived with energy, enthusiasm, curiosity and an unmistakable spirit. She embraced life fully, treasured her friendships, and left a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to know her. Her warmth, humor, strength and boundless love will remain in the hearts of her family and the many friends whose lives she enriched.

Donations in Lois's memory can be made to the Lawrence Hopfenberg memorial fund at Jewish Alliance of Rhode Island.



Lloyd S. Kaplan, 93

Lloyd S. Kaplan, 93, died Sept. 5 at Kent Hospital.



He was the beloved husband of Sheila (Berger) Kaplan for 66 years. Born in Fall River, Massachusetts, a son of the late Abraham and Tillie (Siegel) Kaplan, he lived in Warwick since 2009, previously living in Providence.

Kaplan was a music teacher and professor at numerous schools, including Hugh B. Bain Junior High School, Scituate Junior High School and Scituate Senior High School, Brown University Extension School, Community College of Rhode Island, Coastal Carolina University, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and the University of Rhode Island. The first music teacher to be recognized and inducted into the Rhode Island Music Hall of Fame, he devoted his life to music and his family. He never fully retired.

Lloyd was a Korean conflict U.S. Army veteran.

Devoted father of Marjorie Seidenfeld and her husband, Mark, of New Rochelle, New York, and Mitchell Kaplan and his wife, Eleanor, of Providence. Dear brother of the late Morton "Sonny" Kaplan, Rosalyn Jacobson and Rita Stein. Loving grandfather of Noraa, Rebecca, Michael, Talia and Jonah.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to the charity of your choice.

Leonard "Lazar" Labush, 95

Dr. Leonard "Lazar" Labush, 95, died Oct. 14 in Delray Beach, Florida, with his loving wife by his side. He was the beloved husband of Glenda (Feiler) Labush for 65 years. Born in Providence, a son of the late Abraham and Sonia (Matusow) Labush, he was a lifelong Rhode Island resident, primarily in Narragansett but wintering in Florida. He practiced podiatry for more than 50 years, retiring about 20 years ago.

Lazar was a Korean conflict U.S. Air Force veteran, serving in Libya. He was a member of Touro Fraternal Association and Congregation Beth David. He was a graduate of Hope High School, Brown University and Temple College of Podiatric Medicine. He served as president of the Rhode Island Podiatry Association. He was the youngest person to earn Eagle Scout in the state. In addition, Lazar was an avid reader.

Devoted father of Karen Rasnick and her husband, Martin, of Barrington, Rhode Island, and Matthew Labush and his wife, Jen, of Garden City, New York. Dear brother of Perele "Lee" Torti of Diamond Bar, California, and her late husband, Tony; Rhoda Broomfield of Warwick, Rhode Island, and her late husband, Marvin; and the late Phyllis "Pessie" (Labush) and James Williams. Loving Zadie of Dr. Phillip Rasnick and his wife, Rawaa; Rachel Rasnick; and Maxine Rasnick.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to Special Olympics Rhode Island at support.specialolympics.org.

Joyce Sandra Singer Lee, 72

Joyce Sandra Singer Lee, 72, died at HopeHealth Hulitar Hospice Center Sept. 5 after a 2.5-year illness.

Married in 1978, she felt privileged to be the wife of Terrence E. Lee, who died in 2025. They built a beautiful life together, filled with travel adventures and had good friends and family times. The highlight of these was the amazing vacation she and her family shared.

Joyce was a cherished mother to her devoted children, Daniel Lee and his wife Tiffany, of West Warwick, Rhode Island, and Andrea Lee, of Walpole, Massachusetts. Additionally, Joyce took special delight in being the adored Nana or Nannie to the two lights of her life: her beloved grandchildren Zachary Lee and McKenna Lee. Joyce was a major presence in their lives from birth, from babysitting to sporting events and step dancing competitions.

Born in Providence, Joyce was the daughter of the late Robert Singer of Boston and Eleanor (Silverman) Singer of Providence. She was the beloved sister of Patti Singer of Rochester, New York. She leaves her cousins to hold to the memories of the times they had together. Joyce leaves Terrence's family to hold on to the life they shared.

Joyce graduated from Cranston High School East in 1971 and the University of Rhode Island in 1975.

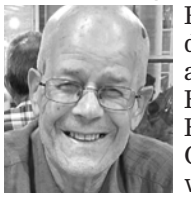
After 19 years as a stay-at-home mother raising her children, Joyce began her medical research career at The Miriam Hospital and then Brown University and Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island.

Joyce treasured her deep friendships, some of which stretch back decades. She was very thankful for all the help and support she received.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of your choice.

Louis S. Long, 75

Louis S. Long, 75, of Lincoln, Rhode Island, died Sept. 15 at HopeHealth Hulitar Hospice Center. He was born on April 25, 1950, in Providence.



Louis graduated from Hope High School and went on to receive his associate's degree at the Community College of Rhode Island. He built a career as a sales representative at Zep, where he worked for many years. A kind man who loved his family, he was known for his genuine smile and curiosity. He had a great appreciation for culture.

OBITUARIES

He gave generously of his time and talents to the community. Among his accomplishments were his service on the Lincoln Water Commission, his volunteer work at the Providence Performing Arts Center, his membership in the Touro Fraternal Association and his role at the Mishkahn David Messianic Congregation. These commitments reflected his sense of service and his values.

Louis will be remembered with love by his wife, Valerie Long; his daughter, Devorah Leaver, and her husband, Mark, of Bridgewater, Massachusetts; two grandchildren; his sister, Roberta Kirschbaum and her husband, Kenny, of Westchester County, New York; as well as many beloved nieces and nephews and beloved great nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father, Sidney Long, and his mother, Barbara (Finkler) Long.

Louis S. Long will be remembered for his kindness, devotion and love of family, and commitment to his faith and community. Donations can be made in his memory to the Touro Fraternal Association or the Rhode Island Coalition for Israel.

Paul Meierowitz, 79

Paul Meierowitz, 79, of Midland Park, New Jersey, died peacefully Oct. 5.



Born April 10, 1947, in Providence, Paul was the son of the late Herman Meierowitz and Dorothy Levine Meierowitz.

Paul graduated from Hope High School and attended the University of Rhode Island. He proudly served his country in the Rhode Island Army National Guard.

He is survived by his loving wife, Janis Greenberg Meierowitz; his daughters; and his beloved grandchildren.

Paul will be remembered by his family and loved ones, who will cherish the memories they shared with him.

May he rest in peace.

Paul Richard Miller, 83

Paul Richard Miller, 83, beloved son of the late George and Sarah (Collin) Miller, died Oct. 25.



He was the devoted husband of Linda Miller; doting father of Robyn Miller-Tarnoff and Jessica Miller; supportive father-in-law to Howard Tarnoff and Dr. Andrew Schwartzman; and proud Papa to Maya, Aviva, Jack and Casey.

Paul was a dedicated family man, a successful businessman, and an all-around good sport. Generous with his time and money, he was the consummate people person who told corny jokes and made friends wherever he went.

For over 40 years, he led the Miller Box Company in Warwick, Rhode Island, in partnership with his brother, Barry Miller. Paul managed the office and Barry ran the factory. When asked what he enjoyed most about his career, Paul cited the people. He had lunch with Barry nearly every day and loved working closely with his nephews, Henry and Eric Miller, as well as his colleagues and customers.

Paul's wife, Linda, was the love of his life. They were married for 55 years. When he initially met her at a party, he claimed to be an airplane pilot in order to impress her. When Linda's father said he'd never heard of a Jewish pilot, Paul confessed that he actually sold boxes and promised never to lie to her again.

Paul loved sports in every way, shape and form. In addition to being a lifelong Red Sox and Patriots fan, he was an avid skier, tennis and softball player, and a member of the Redwood Lodge softball team. When Paul's MS progressed, and he could no longer run, he pivoted to dog racing. Paul raced greyhounds at Lincoln Greyhound Park, often naming the dogs after his family and friends, including Sarah M (after his mother) and Mimi's Gem (after his mother-in-law), both of which were major champions.

Paul cheered on his daughters at all their games and stepped up whenever a coach or team sponsor was needed. While he loved to win and jokingly shared advice like "If in doubt, call it out," he was known for his good sportsmanship and fair play. When one of his teams fell short, he'd say "We'll get 'em next time" and then take everyone out for ice cream or Del's Lemonade.

Paul served on the board of Temple Sinai and called bingo numbers to raise money for the temple. He also led a Boy Scout troop of young adults with developmental disabilities. He sometimes brought his daughters along on the troop's outings, modeling how to treat everyone with respect.

Paul loved music. He played the recorder (which he called the doodah) and taught his family silly songs and limericks from his days as a counselor at Camp JORI and fraternity brother at the University of Rhode Island.

Paul had a kind word and smile for everyone and was able to see the best in people. His passing will leave a huge hole in our hearts.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Paul's memory may be made to Temple Sinai of Cranston, Rhode Island, or MSDreamCenter.org.

Sondra G. Medwin, 85

Sondra G. Medwin, 85, died Oct. 20 at Kent Hospital in Warwick. She was the beloved wife of the late Joel Medwin of 51 years. Born in New Bedford, Massachusetts, a daughter of the late Harold and Rose (Hazen) Alberts, she lived in Cranston for 61 years. She was the owner of Simply Sondra, Ltd. for about 20 years; previously she served as an operating room nurse at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston and Miriam Hospital in Providence. Sondra was a former member of Temple Sinai and Temple Beth-El.



Devoted mother of Lauri Fine (and her husband, Keith) of East Greenwich and Steven Medwin (and his wife, Selen) of Miami. Dear sister of Brenda Korn of Cranston and the late Norman Alberts. Loving grandmother of Madelyn, Bennett (and his partner, Caroline), Jessica and Scott. Sondra was also a cherished aunt of Mark and Billie Alberts.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to the Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation, 11a Blackstone Valley Place, Lincoln, R.I. 02865, online at gloriagemma.app.neoncrm.com/forms/online-donation, or the Susan G Komen Foundation, 28 West 44th Street, Suite 609, New York, N.Y. 10036, online at give.bcrf.org.

Pauline Namerow, 95

Pauline Namerow, 95, died Oct. 16, 2026, at Miriam Hospital. She was the beloved wife of the late Bernard Namerow. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late David and Sadie Robinson, she was a lifelong Providence resident. Pauline was a member of Temple Emanu-El.

Devoted mother of Andrew Namerow of Providence and the late Michael Namerow. Dear sister of the late Lillian Waldman.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, R.I. 02906.

Allison Beth Page, 59

Allison Beth Page, 59, of Newton, Massachusetts, died Oct. 24. She was the beloved wife of Steve Zolondick; the dear daughter of Lawrence and Ruth Page; the devoted mother of Talia, Ari, Alicia and Sarah Zolondick; and the loving sister of Marc (Debra) Page and Laura Page.

Born and raised in Providence, Allison attended Classical High School, Tufts University for her undergraduate degree and the Questrom School of Business at Boston University for graduate school. She dedicated 29 years of her career to Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, where she advanced through the organization to hold several director-level positions.

Allison passed away following her courageous battle with ALS. She enjoyed spending time in Newport with her family, playing cards with her friends and supporting the many causes close to her heart, including Temple Emunah, women's rights and ALS organizations.

She will be remembered for her infectious laugh, her selfless spirit and the extraordinary love she gave as a mother, daughter, sister, aunt, cousin and friend. It was a privilege to know and to love her.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Allison's memory may be made to Compassionate Care ALS at ccals.org.

Phyllis Williams, 93

Phyllis Williams, 93, wife of the late James and daughter of the late Sonia and Abraham Labush, passed away peacefully at Kent Hospital. She is survived by her sister, Rhoda Broomfield of Warwick; Leonard Labush; his wife, Glenda, of Florida; and Lee Torti of California, as well as several nieces and nephews.



Born in Providence, she graduated from Hope High School in 1951 and worked for the City of Providence for 25 years. Jim and Phyllis moved to Connecticut, where the family gathered for many holidays in her lovely home. Phyllis was a generous and caring person, contributing to many charities in her lifetime. She will be sadly missed by those who knew and loved her. She spent her last days at Tamarisk Senior Living and St. Elizabeth, where she got the best of care.

The family wishes to thank all who worked on these teams to keep her safe and comfortable. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to any charity of your choice.

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