

# Shalom

**FREE**

EDITION 14 - Summer 2012

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## Magazine



Nir Landau

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Opinion

Community Events

List of Events in Massachusetts



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# Summer Time



This edition of Shalom Magazine covers a range of events that have taken place in our communities. Viewpoints of our contributors are included as well, in the hopes of sparking both awareness and conversation about the many issues that affect our community, both in Israel and her in Massachusetts.

We increasingly receive feedback from readers who have picked up a free copy of our magazine and are surprised to discover the breadth of events and the expansive jurisdictions contained within our editions. We live in an age where everybody

wants quick and free access to information, yet many organizations seeking to reach out to Jews have encountered obstacles in spreading their news. An everpresent dilemma seems to exist when small organizations aim to attract more members and attendees to their events, but they lack proper funding to conduct appropriate publicity. That is why we, at Shalom Magazine, are proud to offer free event listings to Jewish nonprofit organizations in Massachusetts.

In this edition, you will also learn about Israel advocacy projects that are emerging on the internet. To help provide a portrait of the world Jewish community, I began a series entitled "Growing Up Jewish In Brazil," where I discuss my personal background. In this edition, you will read about Jews in Cuba and in Puerto Rico.

Shalom Magazine is not only read by Jews. We are available at Shaw's and Roche Bros.' markets, so anyone can pick up a copy. It is a great opportunity for Jewish organizations to promote what they are doing to the community at large, showing that we are not only for ourselves.

Our readers love to know what is going on in the community, even if they do not have time to participate in events or belong to any organizations. It is part of a "feeling of belonging" that can be characterized as: "don't ask for my money, don't ask for my time, but keep me informed so I can feel I'm in." That is OK with us, as we believe that Jewish people often share a desire to be part of a group, but at the same time, do not necessarily wish to become completely engaged. Our purpose in this magazine is to show what is out there for the Jewish community. There are schools to enroll in, services and lectures to attend, websites to visit and learn from, and organizations in which to participate.

We hope you find something that speaks to you in the magazine and makes you more connected to the Jewish community. And if you are already connected, perhaps you might learn about other groups.

Enjoy the summer, and keep letting us know about your ideas. Stay connected with me at [facebook.com/shirleyfarber](https://facebook.com/shirleyfarber) or by email at [shalomma@msn.com](mailto:shalomma@msn.com). You may also share your thoughts at our website [www.shalomma.com](http://www.shalomma.com)

*Shirley Nigri Farber* - Editor

Cover: CJP Blue and White Party celebrating Israel's 64th birthday  
Photo by Nir Landau 617-838-9883

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**Editor & Publisher:** Shirley Nigri Farber  
**Marketing Director:** Scott A. Farber  
**Copy Editor:** Susie Davidson

**Contributors:**

- Alex Ryvchin - [www.JewishThinker.org](http://www.JewishThinker.org)
- Avrom Honig - [Feedmebubble.com](http://Feedmebubble.com)
- Daniel Pomerantz - Israel
- Derrek Shulman - ADL New England
- Hadar Arazi - Florida
- Judy Sacks - Jewish Vocational Services
- Karen Block - WLCJ
- Michael Freedman
- Dr. Rebecca Housel
- Rivka Horowitz - Canton Chai Center
- Robert Leikind - AJC Boston
- Rabbi Moshe Y. Bleich - Wellesley Chabad
- Sandi Morgan - Kehillah Schechter Academy
- Sheila Dexter - JALSA
- Sid Leifer - Mishkan Tefila
- Steve Schuster

**Contributing Photographers:**

- Eva Sverdlova
- Nir Landau
- Steve Schuster

**Design:** Farber Marketing

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# Community Event Listings

## Jerusalem Café at The Lowell Folk Festival

In an interfaith, joint fundraising effort, Congregation Beth Israel of the Merrimack Valley and Community Christian Fellowship will be serving kosher Middle Eastern and Israeli food at the 26th annual Lowell Folk Festival on Saturday, July 28 and Sunday, July 29 in downtown Lowell. The festival is a free, family-friendly event, featuring musicians and ethnic foods from around the world, artisans and craftspeople, and interactive activities for kids. For more information, call the synagogue office at 978-474-0540 or visit the Folk Festival Web site at <http://www.lowellfolkfestival.org/>.

## Hazak Summer Programs

- A Yiddish Film Festival will be held on Thursday, July 19 at 7:30 p.m.: "Yiddle With His Fiddle," starring Molly Picon and Max Bosyk, B&W, Yiddish with English subtitles. No fee for Hazak members, \$5 for non members. Refreshments will be served.
- The 8th Annual Barbeque will be held on Sunday, Aug. 19 at 5 p.m. Entertainment for the evening will be Sigy Moller. The fee is \$12 for Hazak members and \$15 for non-members.
- Paid-Up Dinner will be held on Sept. 13 at 6 p.m. Following wine and hors d'oeuvres, a sumptuous dinner will be served. Ted Kohan, author of "Those Who Walk in Darkness," will be the featured guest speaker. The couvert for members is \$10, and \$15 for non members. All members of the community are welcome to attend. For more information about Hazak membership and programming, please contact Temple Israel, 125 Pond St., Sharon, at 781-784-3986, or email [Hazakti@gmail.com](mailto:Hazakti@gmail.com).



## Friday Service and Dinner at Norwood Temple

Temple Shaare Tefilah will have a dinner followed by an evening service on Friday, July 13. The dinner, costing \$9, will be at 6:30 p.m., followed by the Kabbalat Shabbat service at 8 p.m. Please call reservations in to the Temple office by Tuesday, July 10, at 781-762-8670. For more information and directions see [www.templeshaaretefilah.org](http://www.templeshaaretefilah.org).

## BBQ in Randolph

Special late summer Bar-b-que Sunday, Aug. 26, 2012 at Young Israel-Kehillath Jacob of Mattapan and Randolph, 374 North Main St., Randolph. Entertainment provided by Mel Simons.

Noon through 4 p.m. Donation: \$18 per person. Contact Maxine at 781-961-2333 for more information and reservations.

## Tifereth Israel of Peabody

Congregation Tifereth Israel of Peabody will be holding a luncheon on October 21, 2012 in celebration of it's 90th anniversary. CTI is the only Sephardic Temple north of Boston and is located at 8 Pierpont St., Peabody.

For more information contact Elliot Hershoff at 978-537-7309.

For information on how to include your event in listings, please send an email to: [shalomma@msn.com](mailto:shalomma@msn.com)

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# BLUE & WHITE PARTY FOR YOUNG ADULTS

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# BLUE & WHITE PARTY FOR YOUNG ADULTS

photos: Nir Landau



On April 28, Boston celebrated Israel's 64th birthday in style at CJP's Blue & White Party for Young Adults. Co-hosted by BIG (Boston Israel Group) and the Consulate General of Israel to New England, the event took place at the gorgeous Seaport World Trade Center and was attended by over 500 young adults age 22 through 45. The night featured a live DJ, dance floor, Israeli snacks, signature drinks, photo souvenirs, a confetti canon, and best of all, 11 Israeli officers who were visiting Boston on CJP's Hatikvah Soldier Mission. CJP plans to go even bigger next year for Israel's 65th!



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Nearly 300 children crowded a park in Brighton to enjoy the 13th annual Shaloh House Lag Ba'Omer Extravaganza. After the activities, children gathered for a grand rally of songs and stories, followed by a unique exotic animal show. The show featured animals such as an alligator, lemur, fox, porcupine, ferret, and even a large boa constrictor! The connection to Lag Ba'Omer? Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai teaches us how to draw down lessons in serving G-d down to the lowliest and the most exotic animals.



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# Striar Hebrew Academy, Sharon

Striar Hebrew Academy is pleased to welcome Rabbi Yehudah Potok as the new Head of School, beginning in July. Rabbi Potok brings to SHAS more than a decade of experience in Jewish education, most recently as the Head of School at Oakland Hebrew Day School. "I look forward to helping forge the next phase of SHAS' life in collaboration with teachers, board members, parents, community members and of course, most importantly, students," says Rabbi Potok. "As the Jewish community of Sharon and the entire South area continues to expand, together we will help SHAS grow to meet its needs."



*Above: Eight SHAS students, who trained for six weeks in the after-school running club, successfully reached their goal: to finish the Halfway 5K race in Canton in June. Each of the students felt challenged physically and mentally, but also finished with a positive feeling about him or herself and about running in general. Leading the group was their trainer, gym teacher Ilyse Ehrenkranz.*



*Left: SHAS sixth grade graduates performed a musical at their graduation, a take-off of "Grease" called "Schmaltz." Posing before graduation ceremonies are: (front row) Mrs. Sharon Ramelson, Doni Berg, Eitan Altabet, Atalia Ramelson, Yoey Goldman and Mrs. Toby Kaplowitz; (back row) Shari Glass, Natanya Rosen and Mrs. Ellen Kischel.*

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*Zamir Chorale of Boston at Zamir's concert June 3, "From Boston to Berlin," Brandeis's Slosberg Hall*



*On June 5, eighty people learned insider tips from recruiters and career coaches at Career Moves @ JVS' Catch the Career Express in MetroWest at Temple Sholom in Framingham.*



*Wellesley Weston Chabad's family trip to the farm.*



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# JVS Boston's Record-Breaking Gala

For more photos visit: [www.jvs-boston.org/gala](http://www.jvs-boston.org/gala)



Honorees Atsuko and Larry Fish with JVS President & CEO Jerry Rubin and Board Chair Ruben Klein



JVS Board Members Cantor Steven Weiss, Dr. Marna Dolinger, and David Dykeman



Gala Chair and Board Member Margie Glazer with MC Ted Reinstein

Over 300 people attended *elevate: The JVS Gala* on May 9th at the InterContinental Hotel to celebrate the work of Jewish Vocational Service, Boston's premier job training and placement organization, helping people advance their skills and careers since 1938. The event was a huge success, raising over \$275,000 and drawing many special guests, some of whom included Secretary Joanne Goldstein, City Councilor Mike Ross, and Josiane Martinez, Director of the Mass. Office for Refugees and Immigrants.

JVS honored **Larry and Atsuko Fish** for their support of the agency's citizenship programs, Brigham and Women's Hospital for their investment in workforce development, and its "All-Star" clients **Robinson Mena and Rhonda Maloney** for their accomplishments in advancing their careers and education.

A special thank-you went out to the event's Master of Ceremonies and anchor of WCVB's Chronicle, Ted Reinstein; Gala Chair Margie Glazer; and the event planning committee: Catherine Bromberg, Marna Dolinger, Joe Goodman, Rob Hughes, Lisa Mansdorf Pollack, and Ellen Segal.



JVS All-Star Clients Robinson Mena and Rhonda Maloney with Geoff Vercauteren of Brigham and Women's Hospital

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# AJC Boston 13th Annual Diplomats Seder

On April 1, over 400 guests joined AJC Boston and diplomats representing 25 countries from around the world to celebrate the universal values of freedom, democracy, and human rights at the AJC Boston 13th Annual Diplomats Seder, "Stories of Freedom," at the JFK Library.

The Passover Seder is the annual ritual meal that marks the Jewish struggle for freedom. AJC Boston's Diplomats Seder is an opportunity to celebrate the universal human quest for freedom with Boston religious and ethnic community leaders, academics, diplomats, and human rights activists. "One of the wonderful features of the annual Seder is that it embeds in all who participate a passion for freedom while also challenging each of us to come to terms with what freedom means for oneself, one's community, and indeed all of humankind," said AJC Boston Director Robert Leikind.



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# The Secret of Rabbi Rocketpower Revealed By Aaron

Excerpted from: *Rabbi Rocketpower in Who Hogged the challah? A Shabbat Shabang* by Rabbi Susan Abramson and Aaron Dvorkin. Illustrations by Ariel DiOrio



A long, long time ago my mother was born.

When she was a kid, she loved to read and she was very shy.

She would never raise her hand in school 'cause she was afraid she would say something wrong.

Mom liked to read about Jewish heroes. She was amazed that people like her could be so brave.

When Mom was a teenager, she became a hippie with long hair, funky clothes and a peace sign around her neck.

Mom's rabbi gave sermons about stopping the war. She thought that was really cool. So she decided to be a rabbi and help the world just like him.

One problem... there were no women rabbis back then. But she didn't mind. She knew women could do anything.

Her first year of rabbi school was in Israel. One day her class took a field trip to Mt. Sinai in the desert. She got lost in a cave in the mountain and accidentally tripped over the REAL LIVE Ten Commandments!

Suddenly a loud voice told her she would now have super powers like being able to fly. So when there was trouble she could spin into Rabbi Rocketpower and save the day.

Just then she heard one of her classmates fall down the mountain.

Before she knew it, she was wearing blue tights and a tallis-like cape.

She had a *yad* in one hand and a *shofar* in the other hand. She pointed the *yad* at the wall. A lightning bolt shot out of it and made a hole so she could get outside. But when she began to fly she banged into the side of the hole 'cause she wasn't used to flying and she was a little klutzy.

"Oy vay!" she cried as she flew to save her friend. That's why whenever she flies she shouts "Oy Vay! Up, up and away!"

Every week our family celebrates Shabbat together. First Mom, Dad, our alien cat Purr and I have a special dinner. We light the candles, say the *Kiddush* over the wine and the *Motzi* over the home made *challah* Mom and I make every week.

Then we go to temple for services. Before the service starts, I always sneak into the social hall to check out what desserts we're going to have at the *Oneg Shabbat*.

Last week we had a BIG PROBLEM. We were having our annual Delicious Desserts *Oneg Shabbat* Contest. But when I snuck into the social hall, all the food was gone! You won't believe what happened!

## Chapter 5 – Alien Nation Confrontation

Just as Aaron arrived at the kitchen door, he stopped in his tracks. The invaders were walking backwards out of the storage room carrying the trays of food.

One of them was balancing a stack of whoopee pies on his head and shouting, "Ook-lay me-at!"

Two of them were throwing cupcakes at each other and giggling uncontrollably.

"On-turn the ship-space," ordered another. Another one pointed a remote control toward the back of the building and pressed a button.

Suddenly, Aaron heard a whirring, grinding noise coming from behind the building. He ran to the back door and peeked outside. There was a big yellow rocket ship with its nose in the ground and its rocket boosters in the air. It was sputtering and shaking like an old car that had just been turned on and was revving up its engine.

"Oh my G-d!" he muttered. "They ruined the *Oneg Shabbat* and

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# The Secret of Rabbi Rocketpower Revealed By Aaron

now they're going to get away with it? I've got to tell Mom!" But by the time he raced to the sanctuary, Rabbi Mensch was walking down the aisle to begin the service.

"Mom!" Aaron demanded, running after her and tugging on her tallis. "You're not going to believe what's going on behind the temple!"

"Can't you see I'm busy?" she murmured.

"But Mom!" Aaron insisted, stamping his foot. He was so flustered he didn't know what to do.

Suddenly it dawned on him. If he couldn't get her attention, he would have to defend the temple himself. He could use the karate moves he had been working on over the past few months.

Aaron ran back to the social hall ready for action. But when he got there, all he saw were the half-eaten desserts and the Kiddush cups half-filled with green liquid sitting on the tables. As he looked around, he spotted the last creature shuffling out the back door.

"Phew!" Aaron sighed with relief. He really liked the idea of fighting aliens particularly to save the temple. But somehow he didn't feel so brave when he saw them in person.

He counted to ten, gathered up his courage, and peered out the back door.

Bang! Aaron jumped as a big ramp from the spaceship landed on the ground. The aliens who had just left the temple began scurrying up it backwards, hooting and hollering and slapping each other on the back.

Others began chasing each other down the ramp, untucking their torn shirts from their ripped pants.

Some of the bigger ones were playing next to the spaceship, throwing clumps of dirt at each other and rolling in the mud.

Aaron was so confused that his head began to spin. The aliens didn't seem bad, but they were acting so weird that he couldn't figure out what they were doing.

One thing was clear: even though they had turned on their spaceship, they weren't getting ready to leave.

Who hogged the *challah*? Read the book and find out! Available at the Israel Book Shop, Brookline, MA and Amazon.com or contact sales@rabbirocketpower.com. \$9.95. Perfect summer reading for the whole family. Check out [www.rabbirocketpower.com](http://www.rabbirocketpower.com) for more information about the Rabbi Rocketpower series.

**Rabbi Abramson is the rabbi of Temple Shalom Emeth in Burlington. She is one of the first 50 women to be ordained and is the longest serving female rabbi in Massachusetts.**



## GLOSSARY

**Kiddush** – The blessing over the wine.

**Challah** – The special loaf of bread eaten on Shabbat.

**Motzi** – The blessing over bread.

**Tallis** – The prayer shawl adult Jews wear when they lead a worship service or when they pray during the day.

**Yad** – Means hand in Hebrew. It's also the name of the pointer you use when you read out of the Torah so you won't touch the scroll.

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# My Kid, the Jewish Day School Reject



**Malina Saval**

Thin envelopes in the mail never fail to remind me of senior year in high school, when flimsy rejection letters from colleges floated softly into my mail box like dead leaves off an oak tree in winter. Good news arrived in thick manila envelopes stuffed with enrollment information like tuition and dorm room assignments. Ultimately, my acceptance letter from Cornell arrived in two separate thin envelopes, because I

guess the admissions committee thought it'd be fun to freak out already neurotic A-list over-achievers pining for entrance into an Ivy League school.

This week, my 5-year-old son, Boaz, received two thin envelopes in the mail (in Los Angeles by the time a kid is 2, it's not unheard of that he's fielded enough ding letters from private preschools to wallpaper his playroom). One was an acceptance letter to a local public school with a solid academic reputation to which we'd applied -- we lived outside of the school's district

and therefore submitted Boaz's name into the citywide lottery. At random, his name was chosen and he'd earned one of the school's coveted open spots.

The other thin letter was preceded by a phone call from the principal of a local Jewish day school, a cozy little school with a small student body, an amazing Hebrew-immersion program and a bunch of kids that Boaz already knew from preschool, which would help ease his transition. Principal X wanted to tell me directly that she was unable to offer Boaz a spot in the incoming kindergarten class. She had thought about things long and hard and, along with her faculty, had decided that the school would not be an appropriate fit for Boaz, who currently receives speech and occupational therapy once a week for -- and this is straight off his Individualized Education Program (IEP) paperwork -- "a receptive and expressive speech delay and auditory processing disorder."

But Principal X's main concern was that when she observed Boaz at his preschool, he left the classroom three times, which he generally does when he's bored or sad or frustrated (or, say, strange adults dressed in doctors' scrubs for Purim are

observing him like an insect in a petri dish). The Jewish day school simply didn't have the staff to provide for his various "special needs," meaning a) there was no spare room for Boaz to hide out should the mood strike and b) there would be no teacher's aide on hand to reel Boaz back inside should he dart out during a fiery game of Hebrew Hangman or the G-rated picture-book version of the story of Boaz (the original one) and Ruth.

I could hire a full-time behavioral shadow, the principal offered, but that would be expensive (I did the math and a full-time shadow five days a week, six hours a day, for ten months, runs about \$60,000; the school's tuition is roughly one-sixth that amount). And anyway, why would I scramble and struggle to come up with the cash to hire a shadow so my kid can go to a school where he's been rejected?

The great irony of my kid being rejected by a Jewish day school is that I'm a Jewish educator. While not full-time, for the past eight years I've taught everything from "Jewish Journalism" to "Jews in the News" at various Los Angeles-area religious schools. I've completed graduate-level coursework in Jewish education. I've lived in Israel. So, Boaz not getting into to this particular school - especially with all the noise made in the Jewish community about the importance of Jewish education - felt like a real slap in the face. But more so, I was heartbroken that Boaz was being deprived of an educational and cultural opportunity that I believed he so richly deserved. He loves baking Hamantaschen, he loves lighting the Shabbat candles. At the risk of sounding infantile, it just didn't seem fair.

And so, after the urge to stock up on mayonnaise and white bread `a la Woody Allen in "Hannah and her Sister" subsided, after I took my 3-year-old daughter Ayla to Target and let her pick out an Easter basket and pastel candy (that'll show them!), after I briefly considered letting the Mormons who rapped on my door every Saturday morning into my house or, even better, taking the Scientologists up on their offer of a free personality test, after I blasted Marvin Gaye's "His Eye is On the Sparrow" on my iTunes (belting out all the Jesus parts), after I



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ate an entire wedge of Trader Joe's brie on kosher bagel chips and left a weepy message on my therapist's voicemail, I calmed myself down and considered our other options.

Boaz can't exactly articulate where he wants to go, and in picking for him a Kindergarten, I am forced to make the distinction between what I want for him and what he really needs. I know what Boaz needs -- encouragement, the freedom to be himself, an enthusiastic, über cool teaching staff that doesn't rely on any preconceived notions of how children are supposed to behave -- but the challenge is finding an educational environment that provides all these things. The challenge is in finding a school that wants Boaz.

I could send Boaz to the local public school. The obvious upside, he's been accepted. And it's free. And I've heard some pretty great things about the school from other moms who send their kids there. The downside, Boaz would be one of 25-30 kids in a classroom - and with budget cuts, there would be little if no individualized attention. I could 'Like' the LA Jewish Homeschooling page on Facebook, or look into the local Waldorf, or as one reader brightly suggested after reading my last blog, send him to the Churchill School in upstate New York where Kevin Bacon and Kyra Sedgwick send their kids. "You'd

be one degree from Kevin Bacon," my friend Steven pointed out. The thing is, Principal X was probably, if not right, than at least realistic about what her school could offer Boaz in the way of emotional and educational support. That's the school's deficiency, not Boaz's. Had he been accepted, and attended, it might have been a disaster. And the good news is that Los Angeles is a big city and there are dozens of Jewish day schools, and maybe someday Boaz will go to one. Maybe he'll go to another private school, or a public school. Maybe Boaz will thrive in a public school setting, with its myriad after-school activities like Mad Science and Spanish club. Maybe it will take us two or three kindergartens before we find the right match. Maybe he'll drop out and become a rock star at seventeen or maybe he'll pen a New York Times best-selling memoir entitled "Confessions of a Jewish Day School Reject".

Maybe in the long run, I keep trying to tell myself, where Boaz goes to kindergarten or where he doesn't won't make much difference at all.

*Originally published at Huffington Post, reproduced with the author's permission.*


*Malina Saval is the author of "The Secret Lives of Boys: Inside the Raw Emotional World of Male Teens."*

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*On Sunday, June 17, about 40 members of Boston Israel Group (BIG), comprised of American and Israeli young adults, gathered for a BIG Picnic at JFK Park in Cambridge. The weather was perfect for some outdoor fun as attendees shmoozed, and enjoyed fresh fruit and some relay races, including wheelbarrow races! Learn more at <http://www.facebook.com/BostonIsraelGroup>.*



*The Boston's Annual Jerusalem Day Parade on Sunday, May 20, at Harvard St., Brookline, was sponsored by Christians and Jews United for Israel*

On Monday, June 4, members of Sharon Post 735, Jewish War Veterans were at the Brockton VA Hospital and presented a check in the amount of \$2000 to be used for personal items to assist veterans in the care of the Veterans Administration Healthcare System. Some of these funds will be utilized to purchase special telephones that are used by severely disabled veterans that allow them to keep in touch with family and friends. They assist in their psychological well-being, as well as their therapy toward recovery.

This donation represents the most successful Memorial Day solicitation in memory, during the period from Wednesday, May 23 through Friday, May 25 at Shaws Supermarket in Sharon. The Post historically solicits funds at Shaws twice each year in the week preceding Veterans' Day and Memorial Day, with all funds benefiting the veterans at the Brockton VA Hospital.



*Sr. Vice Commander Herb Shostek, Adjutant Sonny Freedman, Post Commander Jeff Weitzenkorn, Richard Leeman (Assistant Chief, Voluntary Service, VA Boston Healthcare System), Quartermaster Paul Maltzman, and Trustees Morton Kaufman & Milton Kline. (Photo by Brian J. Kiernan)*

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# Shaloh House Chabad of the South Area

## Hebrew School Last Day Celebration

Shaloh House Chabad of the South Area celebrated its last day of Hebrew School on Sun., June 3. It was a day of fun with various memory games and contests, including a Mitzvah scavenger hunt. At the end, awards and prizes were handed out to the students of the school, with their parents in attendance. The festivities ended with everyone enjoying ice cream.

Shaloh House Hebrew School has been teaching children for 25 years in Stoughton, serving families from all over the South Area communities. The school prides itself on the strong energy, excitement and enthusiasm that is experienced in the classrooms and beyond. The goal is to instill in the children a sense of pride and love for Judaism; games and competitions are played in order to motivate learning. It is the only program that uses the Aleph Champ curriculum, a self motivating Hebrew reading program modeled on the martial arts system. Aleph Champ has been very instrumental in raising the level of Hebrew reading in the Hebrew School. A year round, bi-weekly, school-wide Jeopardy game on all kinds of Jewish topics keeps the students on their toes every week. What we teach is traditional; how we teach it is nontraditional.

On Sun. June 3, the Shaloh House Hebrew School completed another successful year of learning, fun and memories that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. Some of the special memories to cherish were the annual Shabbat experience, the Purim play, the Chanukah parade, the pizza trips, Jeopardy, and Aleph Champ.

Rabbi Mendel Gurkow, Director of the Hebrew School, encouraged the students to realize that their learning and experience at Hebrew School will be even more valuable to them as they get older in life. He also thanked the parents for choosing Shaloh House and entrusting their children's Jewish education to the care of the Shaloh House teaching staff.

Registration for the year 2012/13 is now under way for children entering Kindergarten through Grade 7, as well as for the advanced Post Bar/Bat Mitzvah class. There is no membership required for Hebrew School at Shaloh House, and the tuition is very affordable. For more information, please call 781 344-6334 or visit [www.shalohhouse.com](http://www.shalohhouse.com).



*Mr. Mal Jacobs teaches the children of Shaloh House Preschool how to keep peaches safe from squirrels by wrapping the trees in tree netting.*



*Rabbi Gurkow presents the graduating certificate to Adi Edelhause of the Shaloh House Hebrew School graduating class of 2012.*

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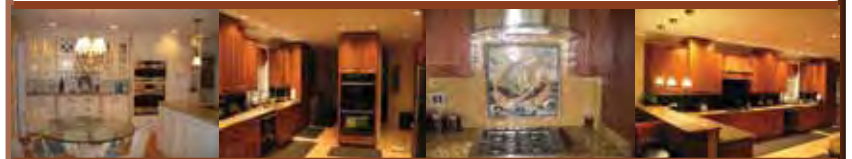
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# THE TRUEST BLOOD

## Dr. Rebecca Housel

Women have always been associated with blood through menstruation. We are considered “unclean” in Jewish tradition because of it. In fact, menstruation was a punishment to Eve in Genesis, resulting in a perpetual curse on all of womankind. Doesn't sound very fair, does it? But at least Eve was never considered a blood-sucker. That honor was given to her rebellious predecessor, Lilith, Adam's first wife.

The story of Lilith begins to emerge between the third and fifth centuries in the Talmud, but Lilith is mentioned six hundred years earlier in the Dead Sea Scrolls; a fragment from Songs of the Sage describes all manner of evil monsters, including Lilith, as “those which fall upon men without warning to lead them astray...” HBO's hit summer series, True Blood, is a supernatural drama in its fifth season, and in the second episode on June 17, the show introduced Lilith as the mother of all vampires.

In 2011, Brandeis University came out with a report on the historic correlation between Jews and vampires, tracing it back to the blood libel myth, originating in 1144 CE England. Jews were accused of taking revenge on a Christian innocent by completing a blood ritual. Of course, there was no truth to the myth. Greed, as usual, was the real culprit. The Anglican Church posted an apology in 1955 for 750 years of unfair persecution of innocent Jews through the Church's support of the blood libel myth, which consequently spread across Europe and into Russia. Undoubtedly, the late admission derived from shudders of righteous guilt from the Holocaust; Hitler used this same deeply-rooted European anti-Semitism to justify the genocide of millions upon millions. In a recent article by Marjorie Ingall, Ingall views True Blood's “evil Hebrew-ishly chanting, blood-ritual doing vampires who preach integration into majority culture while doing unholy cultish Jew-y things as ‘Bad for the Jews.’” While True Blood's use of Lilith clearly correlates to the blood libel in some respects, like the presence of a new vampire character named Salome, as in King

Herod's daughter (the same historical Herod known as “King of the Jews”), Ms. Ingall is missing the larger point: the Lilith-demon myth was not created by Christians, it was created by Jews.

The same Talmudic scholars who developed Lilith's mythology between the third and fifth centuries used Lilith in reference to things like the curses of womanhood, listing attributes like growing long hair and sitting while urinating as demonic or beastly. Lilith is referred to as Adam's first wife beginning in the 8th century in what sounds like a bad divorce: essentially, when Lilith refused to be subservient to Adam, Adam asked God to make him a second wife.

So why is Lilith considered the first vampire in HBO's True Blood? Because according to hundreds of years' worth of Jewish commentary on Jewish texts, she ate of human flesh and drank of human blood. Even her name derives from the Hebrew word for night. Lilith threatened Adam after his betrayal, promising to be a curse on all of Adam's children. In fact, this idea became so prevalent in Middle Eastern cultures, that the word “lullaby” is actually a disambiguation of the Hebrew for “Lilith comes.” It was believed that if mothers sang to their children at night, Lilith would somehow be deterred.

Lilith is very clearly part of a hegemonic discourse—a metaphor for the misogynistic paranoia of the dominant social group: Men. Men who felt the need to not only blame all of womankind for human mortality, but to issue another female caveat through Lilith, a female demon or beast, who only became that way after refusing to submit to her husband.

In the interest of full disclosure, though I edited two books on True Blood in 2010 and 2011, I am not connected to, nor compensated by, the show itself or HBO. I have worked with several True Blood stars, including Sam Trammell, as the pop culture expert for the Wizard World organization, a company that hosts comic conventions all over the United States and Canada. As Wizard World's “vampire expert,” part of my talk on vampire myth includes Lilith as the first vampire—and not because of True Blood. Because that is how she is portrayed in ancient Jewish texts. But long before there was blood-sucking Lilith, there was Kali, who stopped an earthly demon threat by sucking the demons' life-blood from their bodies. Kali is, of course, the Hindu goddess of life and death and pre-dates Lilith by a good 4000 years.

Jewish patriarchal paranoia created Lilith, not the writers of True Blood. If anything, True Blood's usage of Lilith, accurately connecting her to her Jewish roots, is meant to empower women, who, in vampire mythology—like in Jewish mythology—end up marginalized when submissive to a male. Those who don't submit are often demonized by their male counterparts, even tortured, or worse, killed. If anything is “Bad for the Jews,” it's the pervasive negativity toward women, not a fictionalized fantasy portrayed on cable.

*Dr. Rebecca Housel is a professor who teaches social theory in Western New York; she is also a writer and editor in Wiley's Philosophy & Pop Culture book series. Her next speaking appearance is in September at the Toronto International Film Festival, on increasing more viable roles for women in Hollywood.*

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photos: Emily Rothman

On Sunday, April 29 during Holocaust Memorial Day, over 100 people participated in Boston 3G's 3rd annual Frozen Memorial. With the support of Israel Campus Roundtable, the group spread out throughout Faneuil Hall and, in a unique and modern twist on a moment of silence, froze, on-cue, for 6 minutes to honor the 6 million Jews that perished in the Holocaust.

## Holocaust Memorial Day



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### QUESTION:

I am newly married, and have asked my mother-in-law if I could have several of my husband's favorite recipes. She said that anytime I wanted, she would make them for us. She did not offer to give me the recipes. Bubbe, I want to learn how to make them myself. What can I do?

### ANSWER:

I suggest that you do the best you can by checking out recipes with similar ingredients. Eventually, you and your husband will develop your own favorites together. Time will give you the answer as to when to ask your mother-in-law again. Be patient.

## The Meaning of a Discount

The other day I purchased a package of band-aids and wouldn't you know, the next day I accidentally got a small cut on my finger. I opened the band-aid package and realized that I had purchased a box with children's designs. It reminded me of an incident that happened to my son many years ago. I had a conversation with my husband about getting a microwave oven at a discount from a friend. My son was in the other room at the time.

Several days later, I received a call from school. Our son was playing tag during recess and hit the top of his head on the iron step of the fire escape. It was an old school building with the fire escape on the side. The principal was taking him to the emergency room because my son's head was bleeding. I called my husband. We drove to the hospital where my sister worked, expecting to find a crying, frightened six-year-old. Instead, he approached us saying, "Gosh, too bad Auntie is not working today, we could have gotten the doctor and the stitches at a discount." I never realized that he had heard the conversation with my husband about the microwave. We are often surprised and don't realize what our young children overhear and take away from our conversations.

And of course, Mazel Tov to all of the newly married couples in the summer,

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- 1 (14-ounce) can red kidney beans
- 1 (14-ounce) can cut green beans
- 1 (14-ounce) can cut yellow wax beans
- 1 (14-ounce) can chickpeas
- 1 medium onion
- 3/4 cups sugar
- 1/2 - 2/3 cup white vinegar
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil

Rinse and drain the beans and place in a large bowl. Peel the onion, and cut it in half lengthwise. Slice each onion half crosswise into thin half circles. Separate onion slices. Add the onion to the bowl with the beans.

In a medium bowl, whisk the sugar with 1/2 cup vinegar and oil. Taste and add more vinegar if needed. Pour the dressing over the beans and toss. Chill for several hours. Stir with a large spoon before serving.



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photos: Eva Sverdlova

The Celebrate Israel Parade went up Manhattan's Fifth Avenue from 57th to 74th Streets on Sunday, June 3



Protesters among our own Jewish people



photo: Hello Video & Photo

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# Growing Up Jewish in Cuba: From Pogroms to Paradise



*A bridal shower for Ena and a friend, Havana, Cuba*



*Ena and David wedding, May 9, 1955, Havana, Cuba*

## Vicky Teichberg Weiner

Ena Polak de Teichberg was born in the town of Guantanamo, Cuba (not Guantanamo Bay, the American detention center). Her parents had immigrated to Cuba from Russia in the early 1920s.

They were both born in Minsk, Russia, but did not meet until they were on the ship to America. Her father, Harry, was traveling by ship to the United States in a one-month journey that stopped in Cuba. He loved it there and decided to stay.

Her mother, Zoila, went on to live with her aunt in Madison, Wisconsin. They continued their romance through letters. Finally in 1921, he asked her to marry him, and she gave up what could have been an easy life to join him in Cuba.

When Ena was one, she, her four-year-old sister Nona, and their parents moved to the small town of San Antonio, where sugar cane was the main industry. It was an hour away from Guantanamo. They were the only Jewish family there. Her father decided to open a general store in the town. Ten years later, her youngest sister Selma was born. Growing up there, they were referred to as Polacks, not Jews, to avert potential anti-Semitism.

Her mother was an observant Jewish woman and instilled Jewish values in the daughters. She made sure their store was closed during Jewish holidays and taught them the importance of traditions and marrying Jewish men. They grew up eating their mom's Jewish foods such as gefilte fish and matzah ball soup. They also loved Cuban rice and beans and tropical fruits.

They mostly celebrated Jewish holidays together in their home, but one year they attended a memorable Passover seder at the Guantanamo military base that was hosted for Jewish US soldiers, with local Jews invited to attend.

Her father wanted the sisters to stay nearby and study crafts and sewing. Their mother insisted that they go to the University of Havana to get a college education and date Jewish boys, since almost all of them lived in the capital city.

The JCC in Havana had a vibrant Israeli Center where Jewish students attended dances and other social events. There was a Hebrew School and a kosher butcher. Ena and her sister moved into a Jewish youth hostel. Their roommate was a young woman named Marta Beck, who now lives in Brookline (Ena still sees



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her every so often). She introduced both Ena and her sister to her best friends from her hometown of Camaguey. These two young men would become their husbands.

In May 1955 Ena married David Teichberg in Havana under a chupah. Their daughters, Vicky and Lori, were born in 1956 and 1962. In 1959, when Fidel Castro rose to power, Jews began to leave the island. By 1962, Ena and David decided to emigrate to the United States. To leave the island, government workers would come to your house and list everything you owned. Later, at the airport, they required all of your possessions to be handed over to them. Ena's family had sold their Chevrolet Belair convertible, and were forced to buy it back and turn it over to the government in order to obtain their visas. Her husband was able to leave with their daughter Vicky, and six months later, Ena was able to join them in Danville, Illinois with their newborn daughter Lori.

Meanwhile, back in Cuba, her father was arrested, tortured, and jailed for one year on false charges of leading an anti-Castro militia. He eventually got out and was able to leave with her mother once they had taken his land and his store. Ena, David and their daughters were in Illinois for three years before moving to Washington, D.C. In Washington, Vicky attended a Hebrew academy for four years before the family moved to San Juan, Puerto Rico. The year was 1967, and Ena was finally reunited with her sisters and parents.

At the height of Jewish life in Cuba, there were 15000 Jews on the island. By 1989, there were 800 Jews left. Many of the Cuban Jews ended up moving to Florida or Puerto Rico. The Conservative synagogue in San Juan, Puerto Rico was called Shaare Zedeck Synagogue, and had 400 families. Jewish life in Puerto Rico was the closest thing to what these families had left behind in Cuba. There was beautiful weather and a close Jewish community with which they celebrated milestones and holidays.



*Ena and her daughters Lori and Vicky (right)*

Their daughters were very involved in the Jewish community of Puerto Rico for many years. More recently, Ena's grandchildren came to the Boston area to study. Ena and David eventually moved to Boston with their daughter Vicky and her husband Gil to be closer to them. The family now lives in Stoughton, Massachusetts and enjoys going to Ahavat Torah Congregation.



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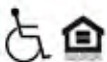


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From visiting the oldest working synagogue in the world to touring Europe's charming cities, AmaWaterways celebrates Jewish history with two of its most popular cruises: The Legendary Danube Jewish Heritage and Blue Danube Discovery Jewish Heritage. The themed cruises will journey across four countries on the Danube River on the AmaDolce, AmaLegro and AmaWaterways' newest ship, the AmaCerto.

"This itinerary provides a glimpse into the rich history of the Jewish community in Europe," said Kristin Karst, AmaWaterways' executive vice president and co-owner. "AmaWaterways is thrilled to offer our guests this unique opportunity to explore Jewish ancestry while enjoying a relaxing and luxurious experience onboard our ships."

AmaWaterways' Jewish Heritage itineraries highlight the beautiful sights and sounds of the Danube River with visits to Germany, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, and extensions in Prague and Budapest. The itineraries include shore excursions to well-known World War II sites, historic Jewish synagogues and sightseeing tours in some of Europe's most beautiful cities. AmaWaterways' 2012 Jewish Heritage cruise itineraries are as follows:

## **The Legendary Danube Jewish Heritage**

The 11-night itinerary starts with two nights in Prague, Czech Republic with a tour of Josefov, the former Jewish ghetto which is now the second largest Jewish museum in the world. Passengers will next enjoy a stop in Karlovy Vary, famous for its Bohemian spas. Passengers then travel to Nuremberg, Germany to embark on the Danube River onboard AmaWaterways' newest ship: AmaCerto. In Nuremberg, passengers visit Zeppelin Field and view Hitler's Party Rally grounds and Justice Palace where the war crimes tribunal sat in 1946. Passengers then cross the Continental Divide on their way to Regensburg to explore Germany's best preserved medieval cities. The itinerary includes excursions to the oldest Jewish Ghetto in Germany; the Regensburg Synagogue; Jewish Cemetery "Judenu"; and Oscar Schindler's house.

Passengers also visit Austria's beautiful cities such as Passau, Linz, Melk and Vienna. The itinerary includes excursions to Salzburg, the setting for "The Sound of Music," and a Benedictine Abbey tour in Melk. In Vienna, travelers enjoy excursions to the Jewish Museum, Judenplatz; Sigmund Freud's House; and the Jewish Cemetery and the Jewish Quarter in Vienna's 2nd District. Also available is a Vienna city tour and an optional

Mozart and Strauss concert.

Ending in Budapest, Hungary, passengers explore old Buda and modern Pest which includes sightseeing stops at the Sankt Stephen Park where travelers visit the statues of Raoul Wallenberg and Gabor Sztethlo, both credited with saving thousands of Hungarian Jews during World War II. Other excursions include visits to the Jewish District, a 1956 Hungarian Revolution Tour, and a visit to the Parliament building still bearing bullet holes from the Soviet intervention. Travelers will also visit the "House of Terror," a feared location of the Hungarian secret police. North American

travelers can book this special itinerary now with a US departure date of July 22, 2012.

## **Blue Danube Discovery Jewish Heritage**

The 13-night itinerary starts with two nights in the beautiful and historical city of Budapest. Passengers explore Sankt Stephan Park and the Jewish District for a walking tour featuring stops at the Dohany St. Synagogue, the Old Jewish Cemetery and the Tree of Life. Passengers also visit the distinctive Fisherman's Bastion, the Royal Palace, St. Stephen's Basilica and the famous Heroes' Square before embarking onboard the AmaDolce or AmaLegro.

Cruising along the Danube River, passengers stop in Bratislava, Slovakia to visit

the tomb of Chatam Sofer, Bratislava's most famous Rabbi. Passengers can take a walking tour of Bratislava to visit landmarks such as the Old Town Hall, Mirbach Palace and the Gothic St. Martin's Cathedral. Other shore excursions include the Bratislava Communist Tour to discover bizarre architecture of the "Slovensky Rozhlas" (Slovak Radio); a visit to Liberty Square; and a visit to the memorial and cemetery for fallen soldiers of the Russian Army that helped liberate the city during World War II.

Traveling from Slovakia to Austria, passengers stop in Vienna, the country's capital. Excursions include visits to the Jewish Museum, Judenplatz, Sigmund Freud's House, and the Jewish Cemetery and Jewish Quarter in Vienna's second district. Additional stops in the itinerary include Melk, Linz and Salzburg, the setting for the "Sound of Music"; Regensburg, home to Oscar Schindler's House; Nuremberg, where passengers visit Zeppelin Field to view Hitler's Party Rally grounds, and Justice Palace where the war crimes tribunal sat in 1946. The itinerary ends with two nights in Prague, Czech Republic, with a tour of Josefov, the former Jewish ghetto. North American travelers can book this special itinerary now with U.S. departure dates of August 2, October 14 and October 25, 2012.

AmaWaterways' AmaCerto, AmaDolce and AmaLegro ships carry a maximum of 148-164 passengers and incorporate the most advanced river cruise ship design, including Twin or French Balconies in the majority of its spacious staterooms and suites, which range up to 350 sq. ft. Passengers will enjoy gourmet dining with free-flowing local wine at multiple fine dining venues available onboard. The ships also feature a sun deck; fitness center and spa; and complimentary Internet and Infotainment system in all staterooms, plus ship-wide Wifi. For passengers wanting to explore the serene paths along the rivers, the ships offer a fleet of bicycles onboard (capacity controlled).

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# "I AM ISRAEL" STORMS THE WEB

**Alon Bayer**

A new Israel advocacy project, created by a private initiative of young Israelis, seems to be what the *Hasbara* (Israeli foreign policy) has been missing.

Although this never was the case in the past, the word "Israel" has come to carry a negative connotation. Public opinion views Israel through the looking-glasses of biased media coverage, interest-motivated politics, and anti-Zionist propaganda. It seems like everybody forgot who the Israelis are, and why is there a place called "Israel" in the Middle East. The defining history has been lost, and with it – the faces, the people, the basic understanding of what Israel stands for.

Last summer, a group of young Israelis decided to change this unfortunate scenario. They got together and created "Telem – Speaking for Israel," an NPO with the stated goal being to show the world the true meaning of Israel. An endeavor they have recently begun is simple and powerful, and in a way, exactly what the *Hasbara* needs – a human angle.

The initiative is called "I Am Israel." It began as a Facebook group, within which Israelis, pro-Israel activists and people who feel affection for Israel write briefly about themselves and their lives. They upload a picture of themselves, and finish with the phrase "I Am Israel." The goal is to highlight the people, the faces, and the stories, in order to convey the idea to viewers that Israel is not some faceless rogue country with a main character of oppression, but a home, and a homeland. It is simple, it is needed, and it works.

*Boris Dolin is one of the founders of Telem.*

*Boris, what is next?*

"Next, we will promote the group in other Facebook forums, and across the web. We are going to print posters and postcards with pictures and posts from "I am Israel" and distribute them among pro-Israel activists worldwide."

*Will it really change anything?*

"Not at the beginning, but this is a step in the right direction. It will raise awareness to us as people and encourage others to join us, or to create similar projects of their own. And if enough people join the project, if enough people stand up and say loudly "I Am Israel",

then yes, there will be a change."

*Dennis Kovalyov is a co-founder and head of the New-York branch of Telem.*

*Denis, was it difficult to find a budget for the project?*

"What budget? We are an NPO, but not only that – everything we do is from our own pockets. We have no funding. We decided that instead of running door to door asking for funds, we would begin doing and creating, and begin changing the picture. And then – we hope – funding will come to us."

*And if not?*

"If not, we will still be here, working for our cause. We have our creativity, our motivation, and our activists all around the globe, trusting us and waiting to do something for Israel. We can't disappoint them, and we can't disappoint the cause."

*Boris, how about support from home?*

"Absolutely. We have already started to create awareness in Israel to the advocacy effort. Because it is our responsibility – that of every single Israeli. Everyone can do something to contribute, and if he can, we believe that he must. It is our home we are standing for. 'We are Israel.'"

You are welcome to meet some of the participants of "I Am Israel," and even become one. Visit the Facebook group (<http://www.facebook.com/groups/181624001959540/>) and write about yourself. Learn more about Telem at <http://telem.me>.

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# I AM ISRAEL



*My name is Alon and I am from Israel. I am married to a dutch woman and we both live in Israel. We believe that this is our home and, of course, many other people home too. I am proud to be part of this country and part of the jewish history.*

*Yelena Sigal. Pharmaceutical Researcher. I made Aliyah by myself, learned Hebrew from scratch, and cry while singing Hatikvah. I am an Israel lover. I am Israel.*




*I am Olga, 29, and I made aliyah alone and left my family in Ukraine. I started from Jerusalem, and moved to Tel Aviv. I live, work and learn here. I am a journalist, radio anchor and a PR and new-media professional. I have also worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Embassy of Israel in Russia). I am deeply in love with Israel and we are happy together. My country is the best in the world for me, because I am Jewish. And I am Israel. I know to create. To survive. To suffer. To be strong and to defend. I know to be happy, to give all my love. To share. To amaze. To produce and communicate. To lead. To bless. I know how to love - because I am love. I am Israel.*

*Adi, 18 years old. I am a volunteer in the national service. I am proud to be part of the wonderful people that live here - people who always help you when you're in trouble. I AM ISRAEL.*

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# I AM ISRAEL

*Dima Glinets, 18, High School student. take care of your society, take action, because no one else will do it for you. I Am Israel.*



*Naama Severin, 28 y.o. Software Engineer at Intel. I live in Jerusalem and can't imagine myself in any other place.*



*I'm Dor, 19 years old. I used to serve in the army but then I was hospitalised and found to have Diabetes type 1, which means I can't eat sugar, and need to check my blood sugar levels every day and inject insulin. That changed my life completely, but in time, I found out that Israel, my country, is highly developed in that field. Now I can go out to eat ice cream with my friends on the beach, because I can easily find sugar-free ice cream. I can also have sugar-free chocolate at almost any supermarket, and that's just the tip of the iceberg. I love Israel cause it's home, cause it's where I belong, no matter what! I am Israel.*



*Hey guys, I'm Hila, a 23 year old psychology student and I work as a new media manager. Im originally from Paraguay, yet Israel has been my home since I can remember. There's no other place in the world I'd rather be in. I am Israel.*

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# A Royal Insult?

**Alex Rychin**

When the world's most elegant and luxurious cruise ship, the MS Queen Elizabeth, gently eased into Haifa Port in November 2011, the visit was hailed by the ship's owners as "a seal of approval for international tourism to Israel." As significant as the famous ocean liner's arrival in Israel was, one can't help but wonder about the significance of the failure of the great monarch in whose honor the ship is named to make her own visit to the Jewish State.

Since ascending to the throne in 1952, Her Majesty has visited a remarkable 129 countries on official state visits, earning her the title of the best traveled monarch in history.

Of course, British sensibility requires that her destinations are always carefully choreographed and of strategic value to the realm, usually with the intention of either strengthening diplomatic and economic ties with a country, or stoically reinforcing the British Commonwealth.

In the pursuit of such interests, the Queen has found time for countries as repressive as Saudi Arabia and Iran, as despotic as Libya and Zimbabwe, and as remote as Tuvalu and Western Samoa.

Yet the sole flourishing democracy of the Middle East has failed to make it onto the itinerary for 60 years.

Prince Philip did attend a ceremony at Yad Vashem honouring his mother, Princess Alice of Greece, as a Righteous Gentile, and Prince Charles attended the funeral of Yitzhak Rabin. However, Buckingham Palace was careful to clarify that both visits were "personal" and did not constitute state visits. Why then has the sovereign of the British realm failed to make a single visit to the Jewish State?

After all, Israel is a state born out of the British Mandate and pursuant to a British declaration (that of Lord Balfour in 1917). It is a country which still adheres to the Westminster system of government and which counted Winston Churchill as one of its staunchest supporters.

Churchill had declared: "my heart is full of sympathy for Zionism." He heaped praise on the Jewish settlers, stating that "nothing will stand in your way. You have changed desolate places to smiling orchards and initiated progress instead of stagnation."

The countries have always cooperated militarily. The Yishuv (Jewish population of pre-Israel Palestine) fought shoulder to shoulder with the British on the plains of Gallipoli, and battled Vichy France in Syria. Israel also joined Britain in the Sinai Campaign of 1956. Today, a common fear of Islamic extremism ensures that strategic, military and intelligence cooperation between the two countries remains stronger than ever.

Economic relations are flourishing. Britain is Israel's third largest trading partner. Around US\$2.5 billion moves in each direction each year.

It is this shared connection with the past and a common vision for the future which makes this Royal snub all the more perplexing.

## **What then is the reason?**

Security considerations clearly aren't the answer, given the visits of US heads of state and personal visits by the Queen's husband and son.

Eminent British historian Andrew Roberts has spoken of a de facto ban on royal visits to Israel: "The true reason, of course, is that the FO [Foreign Office] has a ban on official royal visits to Israel, which is even more powerful for its being unwritten and unacknowledged. As an act of delegitimization of Israel, this effective boycott is quite as serious as other similar acts, such as the academic boycott, and is the direct fault of the FO Arabists." Indeed, a fear of disturbing British economic and strategic inte-

rests in the Arab world by giving legitimacy to Israel has been roundly suggested as the cause of the Queen's icy treatment of the Jewish State. However, given the breadth of the Queen's travels and Britain's strong economic and military ties with Israel, could a symbolic visit to Israel really disturb mutually beneficial cooperation with the Arab world? Or perhaps by cooperating with Israel in real terms but denying it the symbolic recognition that a state visit would accord, Britain is able to carry on its fruitful relationship with Israel while simultaneously strengthening its bond with the Arab world by appealing to their intolerances.

It must also be noted that the Queen's coronation came just four years after the creation of the modern Jewish State and the cessation of what Britain deemed a terrorist campaign by the *Irgun* and the Stern Gang (Lehi) against British interests in the region.

Both groups claimed to be reacting to colonial rule and the infamous White Paper issued by the British Government which denied Jewish migration to Palestine at a time when the Nazi killing squads and gas chambers were in full effect. Nevertheless, to British society their tactics will always be considered terrorist.

The assassination of British minister of state in the Middle East, Lord Moyne in Cairo in 1944 by the Lehi and the "Sergeant's Affairs" of 1947, in which the *Irgun* hanged two British soldiers in retaliation for the execution of two of its members, drew particular outrage from the British government and public.

**Could these events have forever shaped the Queen's attitude towards Jewish national aspirations?**

In 2006, Prince Philip broke his silence on his family's links with Nazi Germany. Philip revealed that his family found Hitler's plans to bring Germany to the helm of European power to be "attractive," and admitted they had "inhibitions about the Jews." All three of Philip's sisters married German princes, and one of his brothers-in-law was Prince Christoph of Hesse, the head of the secret intelligence service in Germany under Hermann Goering.

If the Queen's attitude towards Israel has been shaped by the *Irgun*'s actions in the 1940s, perhaps her family's attitudes towards the European Jews during the same period have had a lingering effect on the royal psyche as well.

Whatever the motives behind the Queen's failure to visit Israel, the result remains the same. In the same period as the Queen has seen fit to remove her shoes for the rulers of brutal and repressive regimes, she has snubbed the democratic Jewish state. And as enthusiastically as Israel would welcome Her Majesty, those who seek to undermine the survival of Israel through the Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions Movement (BDS) will welcome the Queen's de facto boycott with equal enthusiasm. Equally so, they will see it as a powerful endorsement of their own attempts to delegitimize the Jewish national home.

Or maybe we're reading too much into it all. As historian Andrew Roberts suggests, "perhaps her majesty hasn't been on the throne long enough (60 years) for the Foreign Office to get round to allowing her to visit one of the only democracies in the Middle East." No doubt the enemies of Israel will be hoping that they don't get around to it for at least another 60 years.

*Alex Rychin is a lawyer, writer and founder of The Jewish Thinker (www.jewishthinker.org), an online forum where users post opinion pieces to debate and exchange ideas on issues affecting the State of Israel and the Jewish Diaspora. For information, please visit www.jewishthinker.org*



# Ahavath Torah Congregation and Beth Am of Randolph combining religious schools

Ahavath Torah Congregation of Stoughton announced on June 24 that its religious school will be combining with that of Temple Beth Am in Randolph as of September, 2012. The new school will be named B'Yachad South Area Religious School. B'Yachad means "Together," and is symbolic of the merging and collaboration of the two synagogues' religious schools, staff and curriculum.

The school will offer a two day per week schedule, and cater to preschool age to grade 7. Classes will meet Sundays from 9 a.m.-noon and Wednesdays from 3:45-5:45 p.m. Jewish history, customs, culture, prayer, holidays, and the Hebrew language will be emphasized in interactive classes held at Ahavath Torah Congregation, 1179 Central St., Stoughton, from Sept. 9 through Dec. 19. The school year will continue on Jan. 2, 2013 and run through May 22 at Temple Beth Am, 871 North Main St., in Randolph.

"I am looking forward to partnering with Temple Beth Am's religious school," said Ahavath Torah Congregation Education Director Sue Rosman. "Together [with Beth Am Education Director Debbie Gladstone], we are merging the best elements of our schools."

Ahavath Torah Congregation is a Conservative synagogue in Stoughton, with Rabbi Jonathan Hausman as religious leader. Temple Beth Am is a Conservative synagogue in Randolph, with Rabbi Loel Weiss as religious leader.

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Joe, son of Rada and Baruch Roda, owners of Jerusalem Pita in Brookline, celebrated his 8th birthday with friends and sister Zoe at the Sharon Lake.

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# KOACH: Conservative Judaism on campus

## Karen Greenman Block

What is happening to Jewish students on college campuses today? Hopefully lots of good things, like getting a useful education, stimulating their thought processes, and learning to challenge the status quo.

It is that last part that raised many questions for me when I had the privilege of meeting with 140 college students at the Koach Kallah last February.

I had just recently become aware of the college organization called Koach. Apparently, it came into existence as the result of the Hillel organizations becoming more Orthodox on many campuses. As I understand it, United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism came to the rescue to provide a venue for the Conservative/Masorti students in which to participate where they would feel comfortable. There are chapters on campuses all over the country. Once a year, they come together for their Kallah (convention). USCJ had been funding it in the past, but due to budgetary constraints, their budget was to be severely cut. For this reason, very few students were going to be able to attend. USCJ approached the Women's League for Conservative Judaism for help (WLCJ is the international organization to which most Conservative sisterhoods belong). A request went out from Rita Wirtlieb, International President, for sisterhoods to contribute toward defraying the cost. The response was overwhelming. Instead of only 35 students being able to attend, enough was raised to support 142, including transportation in many cases.

The 2012 Koach Kallah was held at Boston University over Winter Recess. As President of the North Atlantic Region of Woman's League, the hosting region, I had the privilege to be able to attend the event, which took place over three days. The days and nights (remember, these are college students - I don't think they programmed sleep into the event) were filled with creative sessions, educational sessions, wonderful speakers, and more.

I chose to attend *shachrit* services on Friday morning, which were held at Congregation Mishkan Tefillah in Chestnut Hill. My seven-year-old granddaughter, Rachel, accompanied me and we joined the students for breakfast following services. Watching these students daven was awesome. They were so knowledgeable and comfortable in what they were doing. Everyone took part. It was *Rosh Chodesh*, so Torah reading was a part of the service. It was hard to believe these were, for the most part, teenagers. Clearly, they took their Judaism seriously. And yet, they had joined Koach because they found Hillel too religious for them.

Rabbi Elyse Winick, the one who made this all work, introduced several guests at the end of the service. As the representative from Woman's League, I received a rousing reception. My granddaughter was impressed. I was mystified. Surely deans and clergy rate a greater ovation. During breakfast I learned the answer.

Apparently, as Hillel organizations on many campuses were unable to find adult leadership, Chabad stepped in to fill the

need. From what I was told by these students, they did not feel comfortable in that setting. Most came from egalitarian backgrounds and wanted the more progressive service. Koach met this need.

It was apparent that these students had a strong bond with their Judaism and each other. They had been crossing paths for years in Jewish summer camps, USY, other Koach events. At breakfast, many came up to me to express their thanks to Woman's League for making it possible for them to attend. With the crazy cost of tuition and airfare, very few would have been able to afford to make the trip. Yet 142 did. It was awesome. I met students from my alma mater and that of my husband's, as well as people from many different areas of the country, covering all four corners. All told a similar story of finding the place where they truly belonged.

In reflecting back on that morning, it really illustrated for me why the Woman's League for Conservative Judaism is so important. Our goal is to strengthen and perpetuate Conservative/Masorti Judaism in the home and community. What better way to do it? These students obviously had strong Jewish backgrounds, most likely from their families. Wouldn't it be a shame to have it fizzle out in college because they couldn't find their community? Women's League, through our Torah Fund Campaign, is also a major supporter of the four Conservative rabbinical schools: the Jewish Theological School in NYC, the Zeigler School in Los Angeles, the Schechter School in Israel, and the Seminario Rabinico in Argentina. It wouldn't surprise me if some of the 142 attend graduate school at one of these venues.

It's one thing to know that your organization is doing good work for an important cause. It is truly extraordinary to actually see it in action.

*Block is the President of North Atlantic Region Woman's League for Conservative Judaism and a member of Temple Israel of Natick. She lives with her husband Allen in Framingham, where they raised two sons. A former Social Worker, she has been involved in philanthropic organizations throughout her adult life.*

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# The Sephardic repertoire of Latin Jazz Vocalist Kat Parra

## Ann Braithwaite

In the 21st century, the finest singers of jazz define themselves by exploring material far outside the standard covers of the American Songbook. But few jazz vocalists have traveled as far through time and space as Kat Parra, who has assembled a singularly rich repertoire by fusing Latin American grooves with luminous medieval Sephardic songs. Her new album, *Las Aventuras de Pasion!*, is slated for release August 14 on her label JazzMa Records. The latest dispatch from her far-flung creative sojourn, it features some of her most beautiful discoveries yet, as well as several stellar original and classic pieces.

Part of what sets *Las Aventuras* apart from her previous albums is that Parra has taken a firm hand in crafting the album's overall sound and instrumentation. She worked closely with several arrangers, but mostly with Grammy-nominated arranger, educator, and composer Wayne Wallace, who also co-produced the album, to develop a unique instrumental concept for each piece. Instead of dense charts featuring multiple horns and a full Latin percussion section, the music tends toward transparency, all the better to hear her gorgeous voice rendering a program of mesmerizing melodies. Parra credits tenor saxophonist and cultural activist Francis Wong, who has served as a creative and fiscal consultant, with encouraging her new musical path.

Parra kicks off the album flexing her vocal muscles with a hard-charging version of the Mardi Gras classic "Iko Iko" set to a ferocious Puerto Rican bomba groove.

Parra also introduces two originals, including the heartfelt "Call Your Name," a luminous Afro-jazz ballad dedicated to the beloved drummer Paul van Wageningen, who plays beautifully on the track despite contending with serious health issues. "Oye Papi" is a bold cha-cha kiss-off with full salsa instrumentation that wouldn't sound out of place with a blazing Carlos Santana guitar solo. That flash of anger is a rarity on an album that overflows with moments of sublime beauty, like Parra's interpretation of the Linda Ronstadt bolero "Lo Siento Mi Vida," featuring a gorgeously textured arrangement for string quartet and marimba by Turtle Island Quartet violinist Mads Tolling.

While each piece features a finely tailored instrumental setting, the album seamlessly blends ancient and modern tonalities. The cohesive feel is all the more amazing when you consider that about half of the album focuses on Parra's Sephardic repertoire, which she created with the support of grants from the Zellerbach Family Foundation and San Francisco Friends of Chamber Music.

From "Dieziocho Anyos," featuring Michael Spiro's congas and Michael Hatfield's marimba, to the batá-powered "La Comida

de La Manyana," set to an Afro-Cuban folkloric rumba, each piece creates a vivid and utterly personal sonic world all its own. The haunted love song "Yo M'Enamori D'Un Aire" features an ethereal tabla and cello arrangement, a vibe enhanced by Masaru Koga's delicate *shakuhachi* (a Japanese end-blown flute).

While a number of artists have explored these songs from the 14th and 15th centuries, Parra sees the potential in modernizing this ancient music to create a broader audience awareness of these timeless melodies. Since the release of her impressive 2006 debut *Birds In Flight*, she has steadily expanded her repertoire based on a treasure trove of songs written when Sephardic Jews thrived in Muslim-dominated Spain. The Golden Age came crashing to an end in 1492, when the Christian re-conquest led to the expulsion of Spain's Jews and the spread of Sephardic culture across the Mediterranean and the Americas.

In another leap through time, Parra concludes the album with two stunning pieces inspired by late 19th century French composers. There's a ravishing Wallace arrangement of "Nature Boy" that opens with a passage from Faure's "Pavane," and the closer, which features original lyrics set to Eric Satie's "Gymnopedie No. 1," the theme for the documentary *Man On Wire*.

"I wanted to explore the possibilities of combining all of my musical influences, and Western classical has always been an important part of my life," Parra says, noting that she studied classical flute at UCLA.

Even before she started exploring the Sephardic repertoire, Parra had distinguished herself with her restless musical curiosity. The veteran Latin jazz vocalist had long been interested in expanding beyond the genre's foundational Afro-Cuban grooves by adding sensuous rhythms from Brazil, Peru, and the Middle East. In many ways, the San Jose-raised singer simply took another step by setting ancient Sephardic songs to pulsing New World grooves. The rhythmically expansive arrangements give a whole new meaning to Latin jazz.

Her 2008 album *Azucar de Amor* (Patois Records) includes two Sephardic tunes, the classic love song "Por La Tu Puerta" and the ethereal ballad "Esta Montanya D'Enfrente." One reason the pieces blend so seamlessly with her other Spanish and Portuguese-language tunes is that Ladino consists largely of old Castilian, a language preserved by Jews who fled mostly to the Ottoman Empire after the expulsion.

After dipping her toes into the welcoming waters, she took the plunge with 2010's *Dos Amantes* (JazzMa Records), a breathtaking album featuring her Sephardic Music Experience ensemble. She commissioned several artists to create arrangements for her, such as the esteemed bassist Oscar Stagnaro, but her key collaborator was pianist/music director Murray Low, one of the region's most sought-after accompanists. While the songs are set to an enticing array of Latin (and even Middle Eastern) rhythms, the lyrics all tend to dwell on one particular topic.

"All these songs embrace the basic theme of love," Parra says. "Unrequited love, loss of love, a longing for the one true love, love of country. There's also an underlying theme of the strength and perseverance for not only the Jewish people but of women in general."

Ultimately, Parra's sound is what makes the concept work. Full and throaty in her lower register, clear and crisp in her mezzo range, she possesses a voice with personality and soul. In transforming ancient Sephardic songs into evocative Latin jazz vehicles, in creating more vulnerable settings for her voice, and by fusing unusual instrumentation with her songs, she is both following her muse and hoping to inspire listeners to explore a music that often defies classification.



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## LimmudBoston Planners Welcome Limmud International Co-Chair

### Deanna Mirsky

Limmud Boston volunteers welcomed Helena Miller, Co-Chair of Limmud International, to a lunch and learn at Hebrew College on June 12. (Limmud is Hebrew for “learning.”) Dr. Miller, who has been involved with Limmud UK and Limmud International for over 30 years, was in town for a Hebrew College education conference, where she reported on the results of last year’s independent Limmud International Study by Professors Steven Cohen of Brandeis University and Ezra Kopelowitz of Research Success Technologies in Israel.

Dr. Miller said that the study confirms what has always been felt - that Limmud conferences the world over offer an irrefutably beneficial effect on Limmud participants and volunteers. While Limmud participants have always known that Limmud conferences have a positive effect on their lives, that feeling had never actually been quantified.

Attendees from Boston’s first LimmudBoston conference in 2010 were among the over three thousand respondents from 49 Limmud locations around the world. Survey questions centered on feelings about being Jewish, thoughts on Israel, and involvement with the Limmud phenomenon. In addition to enthusiasm for Limmud conference planning, a majority of respondents replied that Limmud has inspired them to attend other Jewish learning events. Also, nearly one-quarter of respondents have become involved with setting up some kind of new Jewish initiative in their communities. Overall, because of their attendance at a Limmud conference, respondents felt tremendous satisfaction and a real impact on their Jewish knowledge and identity.

Both the Limmud International Study and LimmudBoston can claim responses such as, “It is truly among the most transformational Jewish experience I’ve ever had!” This addresses issues of the sustainability of Limmud as a worthy organization. “Limmud’s fantastic growth has been one of the success stories of

our generation,” Dr. Miller said. She emphasized that Limmud has enabled the growth of Jewish life in Europe, providing a focus for a generation that is looking for Jewish values and culture, but is not necessarily synagogue-oriented. In Europe, Limmud brings Jews together from different countries and communities. Many travel across borders to attend in different locations. In North America, Limmudniks travel from state to state to attend Limmud conferences.

“LimmudBoston participation has grown tremendously in just a few years. We are excited to start the planning for LimmudBoston 2012 with new and dedicated team leaders,” said Steffi Aronson Karp, founder of LimmudBoston, who introduced Dr. Miller at the luncheon. Karp had just returned from the first Limmud Baltimore. “Of course, LimmudBoston is always open to more volunteers at this volunteer-run conference,” she added.

Wendy Liebow of Lexington and Barbara Posnick of Wayland have stepped

forward to lead the Program Team for LimmudBoston 2012. Terri Swartz Russell of Lexington and Steffi Aronson Karp will remain as conference chairs.

LimmudBoston 2012 will take place on Sunday, Dec. 2 at Congregation Mishkan Tefila in Chestnut Hill. This celebration of Jewish learning expects participants from throughout the Northeast, beginner to scholar, young to young-at-heart. This year there will be several added area Shabbat experiences preceding the day-long learningfest. The popular Camp Limmud (ages 3-12) will double in size. There will be a lunchtime musical event and two storyteller concerts during the day. Volunteer signup and presenter session proposals may be filled out online at [www.LimmudBoston.org](http://www.LimmudBoston.org)

*Deanna Mirsky is a writer and LimmudBoston volunticipant from Newton.*



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# To Hell with Hate; To Heaven with Resilience

**Rabbi Moshe Y. Bleich**  
**Wellesley-Weston Chabad**

So the “Jews need to get the hell out of Palestine and go back home - to Germany, Poland, America,” or wherever.

To me, it felt as though Helen Thomas was saying that the Jews need to just go to hell. Or wherever. Just go away.

They ruminated upon the solution to the “Jewish problem” some seventy years ago. They wanted the Jewish people gone then, as well. The lead man? His first name was Adolf, and he lived in Germany, or should I say “home” for the Jews, according to some big mouth. Thomas sounded like she was speaking from inside that meeting.

Six million Jews were murdered then, Helen. At “home,” Helen.

Their “home” in America would not allow most of those Jews into their “home” country. It was something about quotas. The British also refused to allow them into “Palestine” then. No one else wanted them, either. So they

turned Europe into, well, a h-ll-hole. I guess it was better that the Jews were just slaughtered where it was most comfortable: at home, of course.

Three hundred and fifty years ago, about a hundred thousand Jews were tortured and massacred by a thug called Bogdan Chmelnitzky. He wiped out dozens of Jewish communities in Eastern Europe, decimating the Jewish people in a real way.

Spain and Portugal did the same thing about five hundred years ago. The Europeans did this to the Jewish people time and time again. The Crusaders, on their way to the Holy Land, made sure to murder Jews at “home” in Europe. And before that, it was Babylonia, Persia. In fact, where was it not?

Thanks for clarifying things for us, Helen.

Go back home? Can you please tell me what is really bothering this woman? For that matter, what is bothering the rest of the world, as it continues to react with ferocious indignation, time and again, to anything regarding Israel? And why do actions by Israel bring out vicious and hateful anti-Semitism, as the world points its angry finger against all Jewish people?

Those questions I cannot answer. Instead, I can focus upon how the Jewish people have reacted, through a bloody history of anti-Semitism, persecution and gas chambers. In one word: Resilience.

Giving in always seems the easiest way out. One simply stops struggling, and allows something forceful to take over. Flowing with the stream simply takes the tired one downstream, once resistance has ceased. The determined ones, however, those with an innate special mission and goal, do not allow themselves merely to go with the flow. The salmon swims upstream, against the tide, knowing that come what may, it must reach its destination. Its entire species is relying on it. It got there, in fact, precisely because its parents invested everything they had to swim against the tide.

The Jewish people were given a mission and a goal at Mount Sinai: To follow the Divine commandments, and be an example of human beings connected with a Divine Father. That mission

and goal is what has seen, and will continue to see, the Jewish people, through it all.

True, the Jewish people have also had their internal moments. One of those is recorded in the Torah portion “Korach.” The Torah relates how the man named Korach led a mutiny against the leadership of Moses. Korach managed to convince many others of his argument. Eventually, the ground swallowed him up, together with his cohorts. A heavenly fire took care of many other rebels. After an unjustifiable complaint, thousands of Jewish people perished by a Heavenly plague. (Bamidbar [Numbers], 16-17)

At this point, the Almighty informed Moses to place the staffs of all the leaders of the tribes in the Holy of Holies. The staff of the one chosen by the Almighty, Aaron, sprouted flowers, and it produced almonds (17:23). The message was loud and clear: You have just experienced a nasty rebellion. You have also witnessed thousands of deaths through a plague. The response: Continue to sprout, continue to blossom, continue to grow, continue to produce fruits.

The subsequent verses of the Torah portion are, indeed, all about the Temple and its required honor guard. A few verses later, the Torah commands the Jewish people to provide to the Kohen and Levite families produce and gifts, mainly from the Holy Land. The message to the people continued to be about a bright and holy future.

There has been no quitting. There will be no quitting. The Jewish people have never gone away, and they will never go away. Despite the occasional mistake or mishap, and despite the constant threats against the Jewish people, resilience will continue, for there is a goal.

Very soon, really very soon, that goal will be realized with the advent of the Messianic era, when everyone in the world will recognize the truth and reality of all worshipping the same G-d in peace and harmony.



On Shabbat, the third day of the Hebrew month of Tammuz (6/23), it was the sixteenth *Yahrtzeit* of the Rebbe - the Lubavitcher Rebbe. This saintly man, of righteous memory, lived his life for the other person. The Rebbe took upon himself the responsibility of bringing awareness and an awakening of Judaism to the Jewish world, and a determined focus to the world at large.

The Rebbe dedicated his selfless life to reshaping the entire world. The Rebbe took it upon himself to live a life with a vision to inspire all of mankind to make this world not just a better place, but the perfect place, a place prepared for the Messianic revelation.

There has been no one in history who embodied resilience like the Rebbe. He did so for the Chabad movement, world Jewry, and even all humanity, in an orphaned and broken world after the Holocaust.

The Rebbe’s passing sixteen years ago left a gaping hole in this world. Humanity was dependent upon the true leadership and the Divine guidance the Rebbe so selflessly imparted to a torn world.

The Rebbe’s greatness, though, has continued to blossom even after his physical passing. Through his relentless message and call for resiliency and love, that legacy, that life and that spirit the Rebbe so embodied continues

to live on today and flourish stronger and more powerfully than ever.

May the Rebbe’s lifelong goal, to bring healing to the world, in the form of redemption with the coming of Moshiach, be realized speedily, when all death will be eliminated, and the world will be restored to its proper form, according to the guidance and leadership of G-d Almighty Himself.



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# JNF Commemorates the 45th Anniversary of the Reunification of Jerusalem

Forty-five years ago, the brave soldiers of the paratroopers brigade liberated Eastern Jerusalem and unified Israel's capital for the first time in over 2000 years. More than 120 participants from around the US celebrated the 45th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem with Jewish National Fund (JNF) on the Road to Jerusalem Mission, May 15-22, 2012.

"It is always a pleasure to bring people to Israel, but this time was different," said mission chair, New England Board Member and JNF Capital District President Kenneth Segel. "Not only did we literally travel down one of Israel's most important roads in her storied history, but we were also VIP guests at Israel's official Jerusalem Day ceremony at Ammunition Hill."

The mission attendees also met with high-level dignitaries, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Shimon Peres, and Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat at the site of the heroic battle that marked a significant turning point in the Six Day War.

"No one can show people Israel the way JNF can," said Segel. "JNF brought to life the intense emotions - fear, bravery, and euphoria - that were felt all at once during those six short days. I have every confidence that after going on this mission, participants are forever more attached and ever more in love with the land and people of Israel."

JNF has many exciting missions coming up, including the President's Society Mission and the Israel at 65 - Independence Day Mission. JNF Boston President Michael Blank, who will be chairing the President's Society Mission, said, "Please join me in Israel this fall. We will travel together on a trip of a lifetime and it will truly be a special opportunity to see the work that JNF has been doing in Israel for the last 110 years."

Mission participants will tour JNF's projects and witness the progress that has been made throughout Israel, most notably in the Negev, through JNF's Blueprint Negev campaign.

For more information about participating on a mission, or to get involved with JNF, contact Regional Director Sara Hefez at [Shefez@jnf.org](mailto:Shefez@jnf.org), or call 617-423-0999 ext. 811.



*New England Board Member and JNF Capital District President Kenneth Segel and his wife Nancie pose in front of the plaque honoring Nancie's father at the Ammunition Hill Wall of Honor.*



*JNF National Campaign Director Sharon Freedman in a therapy room donated by the Elovitz Greenberg Family of Newton at the JNF Sderot Indoor Recreational Center.*



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# Transculturated: The Puerto Rican Jewish Experience

## THE RACE AND CULTURE DILEMMA

**Michael W. Teichberg**

With homosexuality in the mainstream, most people are by now familiar with the more complex and less understood gender identity classification known as the transgendered; people born physically as one gender, but mentally and spiritually of the other.

I would like to examine the situation of a group with a similar internal/external disparity of identity, but of an anthropological, rather than a sexual nature. I call this group the transculturated: people who identify as belonging to one culture, but due to their DNA and ancestry, appear to belong to their ancestors' culture and race instead.

I am such an individual. You would never know by looking at me that I am Puerto Rican, third generation, born in Latin America. I have European features and a very Jewish, non-Latino name. I know that I am not initially recognized by my own people ("mi gente") as one of them until I speak to them in Spanish. But once a Latino speaks to me, there is an instant connection. We both know we grew up in that culture with the same values and similar experiences, and that we share a lifelong yearning for a homeland left behind.

That instant connection is the one that I have by default with white Americans because of the way I look, but inversely, when they hear me speak Spanish and/or find out I am a Latino Jew, that connection is instantly lost forever. Some are intrigued and thirst to know more, but as a Latino in America, there is no denying that you are of a different class. You become a token individual in their life. Add to the mix the Jewish part, and many Massachusetts gentiles look at me as if they have come across a rare and undiscovered species they can't figure out. In many ways, I see this as both a sense of pride and of isolation.

I believe that this reverse racism is experienced by all minority groups in foreign countries. In the US, the idea of what a Puerto Rican looks like is so specific that even American Puerto Ricans that have been here for one, two or more generations are shocked when they meet a Jewish, Asian, or other type of Puerto Rican. Virtually every religion and every race exists in every country of the world, but for some reason people, even people of the same group, create an image of what someone from that country should look like based on the race or color of the "native" people. White Catholic Spaniards have been in Puerto Rico since 1493! There is a town in the mountains called Orocovis where virtually everyone is an albino, redheaded Puerto Rican. Never judge a book by its cover is a classic proverb that needs to be applied to the way we think of people beyond their clothes and other conventional nuances.

## JUDAISM IN AMERICA TODAY

The Jewish experience on the mainland US (or "the States" as we called them growing up), some would argue, is the best it has ever been for Jews at any point in modern history. We can practice freely and identify as Jewish publicly, without fear of persecution or of encountering violence. Having lived in the Boston North Shore area for the last eight years, it is easy to forget that in many parts of this country, there is still resentment about the historical success of our people, both in business and in our overarching societal influence. Around here, any resentment is uttered behind closed doors, as opposed to the overt hate speech and tasteless, derogatory words you can hear spoken against Jews in some parts of the country.

Despite how good things are, the worst damage I have seen to the Jewish faith in America, unfortunately, is internal. America's freedom, liberties, egalitarianism, and forward-thinking character have led the new generation of Jews to relate less to their Judaism as a faith and more as a cultural identity. There is nothing wrong with this, as I presently feel that way myself, but what I miss is a sense of Jewish community. Many folks do begin to participate again in Jewish life once they have their own children, so I acknowledge that maybe my own situation of being married in my late 20s with no children pigeonholes me into a unique category of widespread disinterest amongst my Jewish peer group.

In order to survive, synagogues and temples need to transition to more of a JCC/country club model. Synagogues across the country are closing down and undergoing mergers. The entire system is falling apart due to lack of membership and interest. Judaism has

always evolved throughout history, and as we advance as human beings, religion must also evolve. To survive, its place in our lives must also change. If we want to preserve Jewish communities and promote Jewish social interactions, synagogues will have to deemphasize religious services and incorporate Jewish tradition and Jewish education while providing social events that are less "religious," less about God, and more about us as a people. Organizations like Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP) are doing this already, but we are only now seeing the beginning of this trend.

I am concerned about the state of Judaism in America, because I grew up somewhere where being Jewish was a sense of pride and ingrained into childhood - and we were not Orthodox.

**Michael Teichberg graduated with a B.A. from Tufts University and then relocated permanently to the Boston North Shore area, where he now lives with his wife, Rachel, and cat, Meatball. He is the Human Resources Manager for The School for Field Studies in Beverly.**



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# Jewish Women's Circle's Canton Chai Center



Marion Fine, Shirley Farber, Rivka Horowitz and guests

On Sunday, May 20, over 100 women joined together at the Four Points Sheraton in Norwood to attend the Spa for the Soul event organized by the Jewish Women's Circle's Canton Chai Center. Women of all backgrounds and affiliations enjoyed an evening of spa amenities, shopping, dinner, and great entertainment by comic actress Marion Fine. Rivka Horowitz presented the event with help from the host committee: Valerie Gritsevskaya, Anne Sebastian, Rita Ahern, and Lisa Flashenberg.

The JWC is an ongoing monthly program designed for the contemporary Jewish woman. The group is comprised of women of diverse affiliations and backgrounds who join together to have a good time, participate in workshops, and explore Jewish themes. For more information email: [JewishCanton@gmail.com](mailto:JewishCanton@gmail.com).



Lisa Flashenberg and the raffle tickets



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# Why History Matters: The 1967 Six-Day War

David Harris  
June 5, 2012

Mention the word “history” and it can trigger a roll of the eyes. Add “Middle East” to the equation and folks might start running for the hills, unwilling to get caught up in the seemingly bottomless pit of details and disputes.

But without an understanding of what happened, it’s impossible to grasp where we are -- and where we are has profound relevance for the region and the world.

Forty-five years ago this week, the Six-Day War broke out.

While some wars fade into obscurity, this one remains as relevant today as in 1967. Many of its core issues remain unresolved and in the news.

Politicians, diplomats, and journalists continue to grapple with the consequences of that war, but rarely provide context. Yet without context, some critically important things may not make sense.

First, in June 1967, there was no state of Palestine. It didn’t exist and never had. Its creation, proposed by the UN in 1947, was rejected by the Arab world because it also meant the establishment of a Jewish state alongside.

Second, the West Bank and eastern Jerusalem were in Jordanian hands. Violating solemn agreements, Jordan denied Jews access to their holiest places in eastern Jerusalem. To make matters still worse, they destroyed many of those sites.

Meanwhile, the Gaza Strip was under Egyptian control, with harsh military rule imposed on local residents.

And the Golan Heights, which were regularly used to shell Israeli communities far below, belonged to Syria.

Third, the Arab world could have created a Palestinian state in the West Bank, eastern Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip any day of the week. They didn’t. There wasn’t even discussion about it. And Arab leaders, who today profess such attachment to eastern Jerusalem, rarely, if ever, visited. It was viewed as an Arab backwater.

Fourth, the 1967 boundary at the time of the war, so much in the news these days, was nothing more than an armistice line dating back to 1949 -- familiarly known as the Green Line. That’s after five Arab armies attacked Israel in 1948 with the aim of destroying the embryonic Jewish state. They failed. Armistice lines were drawn, but they weren’t formal borders. They couldn’t be. The Arab world, even in defeat, refused to recognize Israel’s very right to exist.

Fifth, the PLO, which supported the war effort, was established in 1964, three years before the conflict erupted. That’s important because it was created with the goal of obliterating Israel. Remember that in 1964 the only “settlements” were Israel itself.

Sixth, in the weeks leading up to the Six-Day War, Egyptian and Syrian leaders repeatedly declared that war was coming and their objective was to wipe Israel off the map. There was no ambiguity. Twenty-two years after the Holocaust, another enemy spoke about the extermination of Jews. The record is well-documented.

The record is equally well-documented that Israel, in the days leading up to the war, passed word to Jordan, via the UN and

United States, urging Amman to stay out of any pending conflict. Jordan’s King Hussein ignored the Israeli plea and tied his fate to Egypt and Syria. His forces were defeated by Israel, and he lost control of the West Bank and eastern Jerusalem.

Seventh, Egypt’s President Gamal Abdel Nasser demanded that UN peacekeeping forces in the area, in place for the previous decade to prevent conflict, be removed. Shamefully, the UN complied. That left no buffer between Arab armies being mobilized and deployed and Israeli forces in a country one-fiftieth the size of Egypt -- and just nine miles wide at its narrowest point. Eighth, Egypt blocked Israeli shipping lanes in the Red Sea, Israel’s only maritime access to trading routes with Asia and Africa. This step was regarded as an act of war by Jerusalem. The United States spoke about joining with other countries to break the blockade, but did not act.

Ninth, France, which had been Israel’s principal arms supplier, announced a ban on the sale of weapons on the eve of the June war. That left Israel in potentially grave danger if a war were to drag on and require the resupply of arms. It was not until the next year that the U.S. stepped into the breach and sold vital weapons systems to Israel.

And finally, after winning the war of self-defense, Israel hoped that its newly-acquired territories, seized from Egypt, Jordan, and Syria, would be the basis of a land-for-peace accord. Feelers were sent out. The formal response came on September 1, 1967, when the Arab Summit Conference famously declared in Khartoum “No peace, no recognition, no negotiations” with Israel.

Today, there are those who wish to rewrite history.

They want the world to believe there was once a Palestinian state. There was not.

They want the world to believe there were fixed borders between that state and Israel. There was only an armistice line between Israel and the Jordanian-controlled West Bank and eastern Jerusalem.

They want the world to believe the 1967 war was a bellicose act by Israel. It was an act of self-defense in the face of blood-curdling threats to vanquish the Jewish state, not to mention the maritime blockade of the Straits of Tiran, the abrupt withdrawal of UN peacekeeping forces, and the redeployment of Egyptian and Syrian troops. All wars have consequences; this one was no exception. But the Arab aggressors have failed to take responsibility for the actions they instigated.

They want the world to believe post-1967 Israeli settlement-building is the key to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Six-Day War is proof positive that the core issue is, and always has been, whether the Arab world accepts the Jewish people’s right to a state of their own. If so, all other contentious issues, however difficult, have possible solutions.

And they want the world to believe the Arab world had nothing against Jews per se, only Israel, yet trampled with abandon on sites of sacred meaning to the Jewish people.

In other words, when it comes to the Arab-Israeli conflict, dismissing the past as if it were a minor irritant at best, irrelevant at worst, won’t work.

Can history move forward? Absolutely. Israel’s peace treaties with Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994 prove the point. At the same time, though, the lessons of the Six-Day War illustrate just how tough and tortuous the path can be.

For more information, visit [ajc.org](http://ajc.org).

David Harris, Executive Director, American Jewish Committee (AJC) and Senior Associate, St. Antony’s College, Oxford University (2009-11), assesses challenges to Jewish security worldwide.

Article published in the *Huffington Post* and the *Jerusalem Post*.

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## Two Jews, Three Opinions

### Felix Ben

The old saying goes, “two Jews, three opinions.” Certainly, the Jewish people are known for having strong opinions and not being at all shy about letting their views be known. It is



Alex Ryvchin

this tradition of debate and enquiry that inspired lawyer and writer Alex Ryvchin to launch the nonprofit site The Jewish Thinker ([www.jewishthinker.org](http://www.jewishthinker.org)) in August 2011.

Ryvchin’s brain-child is a website that invites readers to contribute their original articles dealing with any aspect of Jewish thought and life. The site does not feature news articles, but rather, opinion pieces stemming from current events and trends

in the Jewish world. Readers can then share these pieces using email and social media sites, and can start a discussion by posting comments on articles both on the site and on Facebook.

“As long as it’s topical, interesting and concerns the Jewish people, frankly I don’t care what it’s about or how controversial it may be,” Ryvchin explains. “This site is for all people, from all professions, and of all nationalities and faiths to have their say on the issues most affecting the Jewish people,” he said. “I want pieces to provoke thought and debate. This is how ideas and opinions are formed and challenged.”

Ryvchin says that he was inspired to launch the site because of his experiences in Jewish and Israel advocacy and his belief that others shared his passion for writing, arguing and defending.

“I was a spokesman for the Zionist Federation in the UK; I worked as a lawyer, and I always enjoyed a good argument,” he said. “I enjoy hearing strong opinions, and I enjoy letting my opinions be known.”

Ryvchin believes that while Jews are inherently opinionated and want to make themselves heard, they often struggle to find a proper outlet for their views. “I was coming across a lot of people who felt very strongly about events in the Middle East, about trends in the Jewish Diaspora, and about the roles of religion in Jewish identity,” he said. But I sensed a great frustration. People had important things to say, but nowhere to say them. That is the basis for this project.”

Since its launch, the site has developed a strong global following with hits coming from Israel and across Asia, the North America, Australia and Europe. “It’s been quite incredible really,” Ryvchin says. “I have received some wonderful contributions from readers, and others have written to me to say that the site gives them a voice. People have written to say that they have been waiting for a site like this for a long time. It’s something I’m very proud of.”

So what does the future hold for The Jewish Thinker? Ryvchin believes it will go from strength to strength. “We’re getting some really interesting pieces from really interesting people,” he said. “And we’re always looking for more pieces and more regular contributors. That’s how this will grow, and that’s how more and more people will have a forum to express themselves. I am confident this will really take off in the U.S. and throughout the English-speaking world. With technology allowing us to connect to people across the globe, I think this will become a major player in the opinion market.”

*Felix Ben is a Jewish philanthropist and finance professional. Among his projects are “Let My People Dance,” a dance school connecting the Jewish community, and “Jewish Sydney,” a social network for Jewish singles in Sydney, Australia.*



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October 13, 7 p.m.

Film Concert: **The Ancient Law** (1923, directed by E.A. Dupont)

With a newly commissioned electronic music score by Thomas Köner, Germany

Location: Modern Theatre, 525 Washington Street, Boston, MA

October 14, 7 p.m.

Staged reading: **Voltaire and Frederic: A Life in Letters**

Directed by Guy Ben-Aharon.

With Thomas Derrah (Voltaire) and John Kuntz (Frederic II)

October 23, 7 p.m.

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Paul Celan - Ingeborg Bachman, correspondence

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## Security Training Enhances the Protection of Jewish Institutions

The Anti-Defamation League New England and its community partner, the Jewish Emergency Management System (JEMS), which includes Combined Jewish Philanthropies, Jewish Community Relations Council and Synagogue Council of Massachusetts, held a highly-attended training program at Gann Academy in Waltham to educate the leadership of local Jewish institutions about the best practices to follow when it comes to enhancing community-based security. More than 130 people from 80 distinct Jewish institutions and various branches of law enforcement participated in the training, which featured ADL experts Elyse Jarvis and Robert Trestan, representatives from the FBI, state and local police, and the US Postal Inspector. The training included discussions on how to prevent and manage emergencies; security guidelines and best practices; how to treat suspicious mail; and techniques to maximize the quality of relationships with local law enforcement. This training session was meant to provide the leadership of Jewish institutions with knowledge of the best practices, and to help them be best prepared.

In his comments at the outset of the program, ADL Regional Director Derrek L. Shulman said that strengthening relationships with local police ought to be a top priority for all Jewish institutions, even though there are no known specific local threats at this time. Shulman added that events overseas, such as Iran's illicit pursuits of a nuclear weapon and instability in the Middle East, sometimes have "ripple effects" that extend to the United States and serve as opportunities for local institutions to review security procedures. The security training reinforced the importance of ensuring that building staff is properly screened and trained, security equipment is in good working order, and that all workers understand how to detect and report things that are out of the ordinary. The training program also included an interactive session with a panel of experts. The training was not meant to alarm the community, but to continue an ongoing process of taking precautions to ensure the safety of all who visit or work in a Jewish institution. For more information, contact: [Isnastaielr@adl.org](mailto:Isnastaielr@adl.org).

## Metrowest Shabbat Retreat

### in Nature to Take Place in August

The first Metrowest Shabbat Retreat in Nature will be held August 17-19 at the Nobscot Scout Reservation, located on Nobscot Road in Sudbury. The Shabbat Retreat in Nature, a weekend of Judaism outdoors in the woods, will include Kabbalat Shabbat beneath the sky, outdoor services, walks in the woods, meditation, storytelling, music, arts & crafts, environmental education, activities for kids and adults, havdalah under the stars, and more.

It will begin at 4 p.m. on Friday and end at 1 p.m. on Sunday. Registration for the retreat is now open, and the options for attendance are many. It is possible to come for an afternoon, a day, or the whole the weekend, and to sleep under the stars, in a tent, in a lean-to, a cabin, or at home. Everyone of every age and every background is welcome. Dietary laws will be observed, meals will be vegetarian, and food will be mostly local.

The Shabbat Retreat in Nature is sponsored by Ma'yan Tikvah of Wayland and supported by Kerem Shalom of Concord, Temple Israel of Natick, Congregation Beth Elohim of Acton, and Temple Beth Sholom of Framingham.

Programs in place include Jewish meditation led by Cantor Sarra Spierer and storytelling by Bruce Marcus, who will recount his experiences in the woods and fields and also will invite participants to share their stories. Dan Balter and Pablo Vezquez of Fireseed Arts will lead an environmental art workshop. Robin Reiner, a biologist and educator, will lead a workshop on Mammals of New England, including examining skins, skulls, teeth, horns, and more, plus their Hebrew names. Astronomer Peter Sultan will share his knowledge of the starry sky (if the night is clear). Nature walks will be led by Rabbi Katy Allen, Nature Chaplain Lisa Greber, and others. More workshops, as well as Shabbat and daily services, are also planned.

Fees for the weekend vary, and the maximum is \$125 per person. For more information contact Rabbi Katy Allen at [rabbik@mayantikvah.org](mailto:rabbik@mayantikvah.org) or 508-358-5996 or visit [www.mayantikvah.org/metrowest-retreat/](http://www.mayantikvah.org/metrowest-retreat/), where online registration is available.

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## Let's Kibbitz!

By Susie Davidson

*This column will highlight events, promotions, trips, program launches, arts, awards, appearances, and all manner of worthy doings, as well as nachas and simchas, and of course, finding out who was where, and when!*

**Late playwright's wife carries on with Karski Karma, and an overdue national recognition** - On May 29, **Jan Karski**, a hero of the Polish resistance in World War II who died in 2000, posthumously received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honor. President Obama named Karski as one of 13 recipients of this award; among the other recipients were **Madeline Albright, Toni Morrison, Bob Dylan, retired Justice John Paul Stevens, and Shimon Peres.**

Born Jan Koziielewski in Lodz, Karski was a Catholic who grew up among Jews and became a Polish World War II resistance movement fighter. Under great risk, he investigated conditions in the Warsaw Ghetto and in Izbicia, a way station near the Belzec death camp, and obtained a microfilm from the underground movement. In 1942 and 1943, he tried to inform the Polish, British and U.S. governments about the extermination of European Jews in German-occupied Poland. Later, he became a professor at Georgetown University. He is often referred to as "the man who tried to stop the Holocaust."

**Marc Smith**, a Worcester-based playwright, film writer, producer, and director and film and theatre professor who died last year at the age of 77, wrote two plays focusing on resistance to the Nazis. His "A Journey to Kreisau" is centered on Helmuth James and Freya von Moltke, who led the Kreisau Circle resistance center, and "Karski," tells the story of Jan Karski.

Smith's wife, **Susan**, an adjunct faculty member at Clark University, directs publicity for Smith's Blue Pumpkin Productions company, which she co-founded. She reports on promising developments with "Karski": "The play had performances in Worcester at the Hibernian Cultural Centre, at Elms College in Chicopee, and at the Kosciuszko Foundation in New York in 2009 and 2010, as well as in Poland in 2009 (in Wroclaw and at Kreisau/Krzyzowa)," she told Shalom.

"Through an amazing series of surprise interconnections, I began communications a few months ago with Wanda Urbanska, who heads the Jan Karski U.S. Centennial Campaign Committee," she said. "The year 2014 marks the centennial of Jan Karski's birth, and one of the first major goals of this committee was to seek the Presidential Medal of Freedom award for Karski." As we know, that goal was achieved. Smith thanked Congressman **Jim McGovern**, who had signed on early in support of this award.

Smith said that "Karski karma" is the phrase that Urbanska has used to describe the amazing progress quickly being made toward increased awareness of the courageous humanitarian. Please visit her website for regular updates: [www.thekreisauproject.com](http://www.thekreisauproject.com).

**A special birthday, with Israel in mind** - **Sherry Alpert**, Principal of Sherry Alpert Corporate Communications in Canton, recently celebrated her 60th birthday. In lieu of gifts, she asked all the guests to make donations in her name to the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting (CAMERA) in honor of CAMERA's 30th anniversary.

The party was held at the Canton home of **Dr. Rose Ann Berwald and George Chism**, with more than 60 friends and family in attendance.

Alpert's boyfriend **Larry Finklestone**, who is a fundraiser for Jewish nonprofit organizations as well as a business consultant with his firm Savvy Solutions, surprised her with a video tribute depicting her life from birth to present, incorporating 150 photos he gathered of friends and family, with appropriate songs as the soundtrack beginning with Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons' "Sherry." Nearly all the guests were delighted to see themselves in at least one photo.

**Kosovo a Go Go!** - Local playwright, mime, puppeteer and writer **Ian Thal** of Somerville was invited by the Writers' League of Kosovo (Lidhja e Shkrimtarëve e Kosovës) to represent the United States at Drini Poetik, an international poetry festival in Prizren, Kosovo on June 9 and 10.

"Kosovo had one of Europe's oldest Jewish communities, but half of them were wiped out during the Shoah," said Thal. "Most of those who remained left for Israel soon after. Those who remained after that left during the last war, in 1998-99."

Thal said that Israel does not have full diplomatic relations with Kosovo, but provides aid for economic development. Thal's first full-length play, "Total War," was a semifinalist in the 2009 Dorothy Silver Playwriting Competition. It is a five-act play that addresses the legacy of anti-Semitism after the student newspaper at a Catholic university publishes a Holocaust denial advertisement. Before faculty, students, and staff can begin the expected dialogue on free speech and religious pluralism, an anarchist-cell using the nom de guerre of "Total War" begins a campaign of guerrilla art attacks. Though a work of fiction, Total War was inspired by events Thal witnessed while attending graduate school at Boston College. The play drew a street protest during its first staged reading.

Thal has written a number of articles on contemporary Israeli playwrights for New England's arts and culture website The Arts Fuse over the last several months, including pieces on Motti Lerner and Savyon Liebrecht. Thal quit his involvement in the Bread and Puppet theater company in protest over founder Peter Schumann's 2009 exhibit that seemingly equated the walls of the Warsaw Ghetto with the West Bank separation wall in Israel.



Sherry Alpert and Larry Finklestone with Joyce Rosenthal and Sumner Alpert (Sherry's father) of Newport, R.I.

**Visionary Maurice Rothman of Hull sets his sight high for a new site** - **Rothman**, a naturopathic practitioner of holistic health, is hoping to soon realize his dream of a web site for his Alternative Health Resource Network, a non-profit organization. The site, accessible in beta now at [www.althealth.org](http://www.althealth.org), will include free resources, a newsletter and access to a network of holistic practitioners.

"The aims and purposes of my site are manyfold," he told Shalom. "We will strive to introduce modalities of healing available through the medium of alternative holistics, which means no drugs - none whatsoever." The site also plans to organize free health clubs to be held in members' homes, where new healing systems will be shown and demonstrated. Other features will include "barter smarter," where members can barter services and products, as well as a "find friends and mates" database.

Rothman, 89 and still going strong (he is assisted by three tech-savvy producers), is a Dorchester native who was previously married, raising two sons in Brookline. "My mind is as sharp today as it has been all of my life," he said. A businessman, he organized the New England Society of Psychic Science Researchers Inc. in 1980. "I got it approved as a nonprofit with both the state of Massachusetts and with the US government, and also trademarked our logo," he recalled. Rothman has received many degrees from holistic colleges, in Naturopathy, Nutrition, Herbology, Iridology, Radionics, and other specialties, as well as a Ph.D. "My aim and purpose is to raise the level of consciousness of human beings, to change their view of the world from linear to non linear," he said, explaining that IQ is based on linear thinking, consciousness on non linear.

"The world is in chaos, people are in chaos, and our educational and medical systems are in chaos, all because they are led by the minds of linear leaders, ruled by their egos, with little spiritual guidance in their lives." A longtime congregant of Kadima Toras Moshe in Brighton, Rothman feels that religions as we know them today will eventually change. "What will replace them is the real truth of existence," he said. "That is the message of the coming Golden Aquarian Age."

# COMMUNITY NOTES & EVENTS



## **Boston Jewish Film Festival movies:**

July 11, 7 p.m. - **Restoration**

Yakov Fidelman thinks all's well at his furniture restoration workshop, until his partner dies. Fidelman's son, Noah, wants to sell, but a mysterious new employee, Anton, entertains other ideas. In Hebrew, English subtitles.

Aug. 1, 7 p.m. - **Mabul (The Flood)**

A dysfunctional family, mean class mates and a self-serving tutor could crush any kid's dreams. Yoni, a soon-to-be bar mitzvah, also deals with his older brother who is autistic. Can Yoni's family overcome life's travails?

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## **Berkshire Jewish Film Festival**

26th consecutive season

Mondays, July 9-August 13 at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Lenox Memorial High School, 197 East Street, Lenox. Information: Congregation Knesset Israel, 413-445-4872, ext 25.

## **Free Trip to Israel**

Over the last 13 years, nearly 300,000 Jewish young adults from 59 countries have participated in Birthright Israel, the free peer-oriented trip to Israel. But did you know that there's a Birthright Israel trip just for Boston locals? Every summer and winter, CJP partners with Birthright Israel to send forty local participants ages 22 through 26 on this amazing Israel experience.

CJP's Boston Community Birthright Israel experience begins before participants even board the plane. CJP hosts several local pre-trip social activities where participants bond with each other and their staff. This sense of community becomes even stronger on the trip itself, and then transitions seamlessly back home in Boston, where participants receive personal follow-up from CJP staff.

To be eligible, participants must be age 22 to 26, reside in the Greater Boston area, and have not previously gone on an organized peer trip to Israel. Registration for the next trip opens in September and spots fill up quickly. To learn more about CJP's Boston Community Birthright Israel trip or to be added to the pre-registration list for the upcoming trip, email [bostonbirthright@cjp.org](mailto:bostonbirthright@cjp.org).

## **Saving Lives in Israel**

The New England Region of American Friends of Magen David Adom is holding a dessert-reception on Thursday evening, August 9, from 7:30-9 p.m., in Brookline. Speakers will include Shai Bazak, Consul General of Israel to New England, who will discuss why Magen David Adom is Israel's second line of defense, and MDA volunteers, who will discuss their experiences saving lives in Israel.

The event is free and open to the public, but reservations are necessary. There will be no solicitation of donations. Dietary laws observed.

For details or questions, contact Burt Klein, New England Representative for AFMDA, at 617-916-1827 or by e-mail at [burtonklein@gmail.com](mailto:burtonklein@gmail.com).

## **Judaic Needlework**

Tuesday, July 17, 10 a.m. - A joint meeting of the Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Needlework ([pomegranateguild.org](http://pomegranateguild.org)) New England Area Chapters at the Charlton Sewing Center, 12 Stafford St. in Charlton. Information: Call 508-248-6632 or visit [www.charltonsewingcenter.com/index.html](http://www.charltonsewingcenter.com/index.html). Local contact: Miriam K. Sokoloff, [sewandquilt@comcast.net](mailto:sewandquilt@comcast.net) or 617-277-3711.

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# OPEN HOUSES

## Boston

**The Boston Synagogue, 55 Martha Road, Boston, MA 02114.** Sunday, September 9, 11-1 p.m. Parents & Prospective Members Open House & BBQ. Hebrew School 11-12 p.m. Prospective Members 12-1 p.m. Come on down and see what our downtown community is all about! For more information, contact: office@bostonsynagogue.org or call 617-523-0453.

**Temple Hillel B'nai Torah  
120 Corey St. West Roxbury, MA  
617-323-0486 www.templehbt.org**

**Friday, Sept. 5, 5:30-8:30 p.m.**

**Shakin' Shabbat & Open House:** Shakin' Shabbat is our once-a-month, half-hour moving and shaking service for families with kids up to age 6. Rabbi Penzner leads parents and pre-schoolers in welcoming Shabbat with music, movement and a story. Stay afterward for a community Shabbat dinner. Welcome Shabbat in song and community. Kabbalat Shabbat service emphasizes rest and meditation, using chanting, a story for all ages, and time to connect with others.

**Saturday, Sept. 6, 12:45-2 p.m.**

**Shira Kayam Chanting Group:** Is music your path to spiritual connection? Join us for devotional chanting as we explore traditional and new melodies and songs. No Hebrew knowledge or reading required.

## Sharon

**Temple Sinai Shabbat on the Lawn:** Join the Temple Sinai Community Fri., Aug. 10 for its annual "Shabbat on the Lawn." Each summer, the congregation celebrates its beautiful surroundings outside the Temple building at 25 Canton St., Sharon, with a short service at 6 p.m., at the Temple's outdoor chapel. All current, new, and prospective members are welcome.

**Open House: Wed., July 18, 7-8:30 p.m.** Meet with professional and lay leaders to learn about synagogue life at Temple Sinai. Child care available.

**Open House: Thursday, Aug. 9, 7-8:30 p.m.** Meet with professional and lay leaders to learn about synagogue life at Temple Sinai. Child care available. For more information, contact the Temple office at 781-784-6081.

## Westwood

Temple Beth David in Westwood invites you to join us for an Open House on Wednesday, August 29 at 7pm or Shalom Beth David on Sunday, September 9 from 9am to noon. At Shalom Beth David come learn about the temple, meet the clergy and representatives from different organizations and enjoy some coffee and a nosh. Both events are free. We are located at 7 Clapboardtree Street in Westwood. Visit our website <http://templebethdavid.net> or call the temple office at (781) 769-5270 to RSVP or for more information.

## Stoughton

Ahavath Torah Congregation will have a Fall Shabbat Open House on Friday, Sept. 7 at 7 p.m. The temple is located at 1179 Central St., Stoughton. For more information or to RSVP please call the office at 781-344-8733, email [office@atorah.org](mailto:office@atorah.org), or visit [www.atorah.org](http://www.atorah.org).

## Canton

Reform congregation Temple Beth David, 1060 Randolph St., Canton, will have a New Member Open House/Barbeque on Friday, July 20 from 6-7:30 p.m. in Rosie's Garden, directly behind the main building. A 7:30-8:30 p.m. Friday evening Shabbat Service will follow in the sanctuary, led by the synagogue's new Rabbi Emma Gottlieb. This event is open to both Temple members and unaffiliated Jews in the South Shore area. A complimentary meal of burgers, hot dogs, and the usual BBQ fare is offered for dinner, as well as an Oneg Shabbat. For more information, please check our facebook page, [JewishBoston.com](http://JewishBoston.com) or our Temple website, [www.templebethdavid.com](http://www.templebethdavid.com), or leave a message for Claire at the temple office at 781-828-2275.

## Canton

### Reform Open House and BBQ:

The Crossroad of Community, Spirituality and Living Jewishly Temple Beth Abraham, 1301 Washington St., Canton, Wednesday, Aug. 22, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Call 781-828-5250 or visit <http://www.templebethabraham.org/> for more information.

## Sudbury

Congregation Beth El of Sudbury is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. Join us for an Open House on Sunday, August 19, 4 - 6 p.m. or Wednesday, August 29, 6 - 7:30 p.m. to meet our clergy and staff, learn about our religious school and adult education programs, and find out about upcoming events. Beth El is located at 105 Hudson Road, Sudbury, MA. For more information, visit our web site: [www.bethelsudbury.org](http://www.bethelsudbury.org) or call us at 978-443-9622.



## Ahavath Torah Congregation

1179 Central Street, Stoughton, MA  
[www.atorah.org](http://www.atorah.org)

For service schedules and High Holiday information,  
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781-344-8733 or email us at [office@atorah.org](mailto:office@atorah.org).

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# COMMUNITY NOTES & EVENTS

## Congregation Beth Israel of Onset on Cape Cod

Congregation Beth Israel of Onset on Cape Cod is pleased to welcome visitors to our shul. Our daily minyan are run by Mr. Mel Greenbaum, our acting Religious Director. Onset has many rentals available for long or short stays within a 5 minute walk of the Shul, and offers delightful beaches and charming cottages. We encourage new visitors to visit Onset and experience a frum vacation and Shabbos in this beautiful, seaside village.

The Beth Israel of Onset Cape Cod Synagogue is located at 7 Locust St. in Onset, and is an Orthodox synagogue operating each year from the end of June through Labor Day. Minyanim are held daily at 8 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., and at 9 a.m. on Shabbos morning. Our Rosh Hashonah services will be led by the YU Macabeats a capella group. Reservations are requested.

For more information, and a brochure listing places to stay and things to do, please visit our website, [www.capecodshul.org](http://www.capecodshul.org) or email [ehauser@capecodshul.org](mailto:ehauser@capecodshul.org).

## Congregation Dorshei Tzedek 60 Highland Street, West Newton

Events listed below are free and open to the public. Shabbat Morning Services: **July 14 and 28, Aug. 11 and 25**; then weekly starting in Sept. 9:45 a.m.-noon, followed by a kiddush lunch. All-Ages Erev Shabbat Services - musical, participatory services, appropriate for all ages: Aug. 10 and Sept. 7. Candlelighting and kiddush at 6 p.m., followed by a potluck vegetarian dinner. Service begins at 6:45 p.m.

Shabbat Morning Torah Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer: **Sat., Sept. 8, 8:45-9:40 a.m.**

Selichot Service, **Sat., Sept. 8, 8 p.m.**

For information: [www.dorsheitzedek.org](http://www.dorsheitzedek.org); email [info@dorsheitzedek.org](mailto:info@dorsheitzedek.org) or call 617-965-0330

## Temple Anshe Amunim 26 Broad St., Pittsfield

**Tuesdays, July 3 through 24, 10:30 a.m.:** "Disavowing Judaism", a play analysis series with Dr. Barbara Waldinger of Queens College. \$25 for temple members, \$35 for non-members.

**Sun., August 5, 7 p.m.:** "A Jubano Evening." Rabbi Arthur and Linda Starr will speak about their missions to the Cuban Jewish community (the Jubanos). \$15 pre-registration admission, \$20 at the door.

**Sun., Aug. 26, 7:30 p.m.:** "Election 2012 - Defining America's Future." Eleanor Clift of Newsweek and public television delivers the annual Feigenbaum Memorial Lecture. Admission is free. Contact [templeoffice@networx.com](mailto:templeoffice@networx.com) or call 413-442-5910.

**Shalom Magazine offers free event listing to all non-profit Jewish organizations in MA. One event per organization up to 70 words, space is limited. Preference is given to events open to the public at no or low cost. Please email text only (no attachments) to: [shalomMA@msn.com](mailto:shalomMA@msn.com).**

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