

Books
A Newton native's surprise best seller.
See Page 11



Theater
The Jewish side of 'Rent.'
See Page 14



Food
Meals that are a summer breeze.
See Page 18

THE JEWISH ADVOCATE®

Established 1902

Vol. 202 No. 26 ■ 29 Sivan 5771 — JULY 1, 2011 ■ www.TheJewishAdvocate.com ■ \$1.50

It takes two villages

A Jewish mayor and an Arab mayor build bridges between their neighboring Israeli towns.

See Page 3

Remembering Mrs. Bloomberg

Fellow congregants at Medford's Temple Shalom recall how even into her 90s she was a fixture at the shul.

See Page 6

What? Jews can't fly?

A Web story about Delta Airlines and Saudi Arabia shows the power of the Internet to inform – and misinform.

See Page 8

Quarter century on Capitol Hill

Retiring as a Washington correspondent, James Besser reflects on how much Jewish politics has changed.

See Page 9

The maestro of suspense

Paying tribute to the late Bernard Herrmann on the centenary of his birth. The composer, whose film scores include "Psycho," "Vertigo" and the "Ghost of Mrs. Muir," blended Yiddishkeit and Britishkeit.

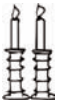
See Page 15

Have a news tip or story idea?

E-mail us at:

editorial@
TheJewishAdvocate.com

SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES



Parshat Hukat

BOSTON	8:07 PM
MANCHESTER, N.H.	8:11 PM
FALL RIVER	8:05 PM
PORTLAND, MAINE	8:08 PM
PROVIDENCE, R.I.	8:07 PM
SPRINGFIELD	8:12 PM
WORCESTER	8:10 PM

ERUV STATUS:

BOSTON	781-446-9797
MALDEN	781-322-5686
SHARON	781-695-0505

Five years and counting



ISRANET

Hamas has rejected a German-mediated deal that would have freed Gilad Shalit. His family marked the fifth year of the IDF soldier's captivity by symbolically chaining themselves near the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem. From left: Ya'ara Vinkler and her boyfriend, Yoel Shalit; and parents Noam and Aviva Shalit. Story on Page 2.

Mikveh boomlet at Orthodox shuls

Three area synagogues are constructing ritual baths

By Elise Kigner

Advocate Staff

Calling the mikveh a mark of an established Orthodox community, three local shuls are in the process of building the baths to make observance of the family purity laws more convenient for women.

Congregation Beth Israel Malden held a groundbreaking for its mikveh Sunday. Among the guests were Malden Mayor Richard Howard and the Bostoner Rebbe, Rabbi Naftali Horowitz. The Rebbe spoke about the importance of constructing Jewish ritual spaces.

"Today it is understood that it is not only enough to deal in theory, you have to deal with the basics of concrete, and that is what we are starting here today, to have another anchor in this wonderful community of

Malden," he said.

Congregation Beth El-Atereth Israel in Newton plans to build a mikveh as part of its synagogue renovation project that began last fall. Beth Menachem Chabad, also in Newton, is including a mikveh in its building, which is nearing completion.

A mikveh is a pool used predominantly by women at the end of niddah, the period when they are menstruating and couples may not have any sort of a physical relationship – from holding hands to having sex. Immersing in the mikveh returns a woman to spiritual purity, recalling G-d's creation of a world filled with water, said Tova Rabinowitz, the rebbetzin at Beth Israel.

"It is like a renewal for her; it is a rebirth for her,"

Continued on Page 23

Oh, say can he sing: Cantor to play Fenway

He lives in Canada, but his family belongs to Red Sox nation

By Leah Burrows

Advocate Staff

There is family, there is religion and then there is baseball.

It's Oct. 12, 1986. It's the night of the Kol Nidre service and game five of the American League Championship Series. The Boston Red Sox are playing the California Angels and have just rallied in the face of elimination.

Rabbi Gerald Zelermyer is standing on the bimah in his synagogue in West Hartford.

His 11-year-old son, Gideon, and the rabbi's father, Max, are sitting in the parking lot, a few hundred feet away, ears bent toward the radio.

It's the bottom of the 11th and rookie reliever Calvin Schiraldi takes the mound to protect the Sox's 7-6 lead.

As Rabbi Zelermyer begins the evening prayers, those of Gideon and Max are answered: Schiraldi retires the side.

The eldest and youngest Zelermyers leap out of the car and walk together to the sanctuary, just

as the cantor begins to sing.

Before Max sits down, he catches his son's eye on the bimah and gives the rabbi a quiet thumbs up.

On Tuesday, Gideon Zelermyer, now a cantor, will stand in the sanctuary of Fenway Park and sing the National Anthem. His father will watch from the stands, along with Gideon's son, Max. Presumably, the elder Max, who died about a decade ago, will be watching from a heavenly skybox.

Continued on Page 4

So it's not all about tikkun olam?

Most young Jews volunteer, but say faith is not why

By Leah Burrows

Advocate Staff

Brookline native Emily Raine began volunteering in high school. She volunteered throughout college, joined AmeriCorps while working towards her master's degree, and continues volunteering today as a young professional.

When she talks about volunteering, she doesn't talk a lot about tikkun olam or tzedakah. She talks about civil obligation and cultural understanding.

"For me, service is about exposure and connection," Raine, 31, said. "It's about having an opportunity to understand the larger community through a broader lens."

She's not alone.

A recent survey conducted by the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University and Gerstein/Agne Strategic Communications found that while a large majority of Jews between 18 and 35 volunteer for social causes, few identify the practice with Jewish values.

"Most Jewish young adults don't connect their Jewish identity, values and heritage to their volunteer work," said Fern Chertok, the study's lead researcher at the Cohen Center.

The study found that while 72 percent of young Jews volunteered in the past 12 months, only 10 percent worked primarily with Jewish organizations.

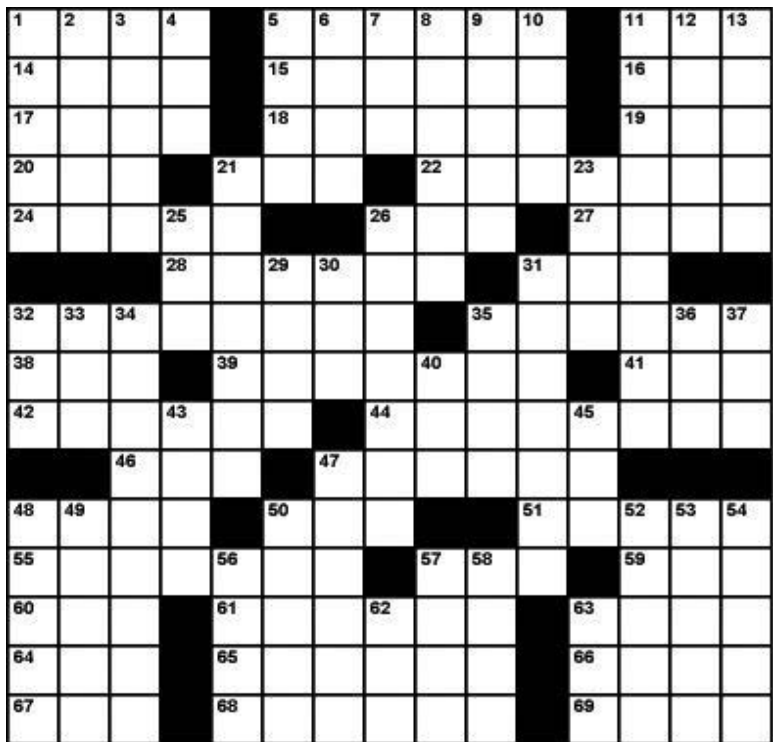
Continued on Page 7



Cantor Gideon Zelermyer with Pedro Martinez at a fan event in Montreal this year.



0 94922 56755 0



- Across**
1. Bris star
 5. Adam after the apple
 11. Maimonides has two
 14. Roman and Messianic
 15. Haman's eighth
 16. Hebrew letter
 17. Uzis
 18. Tasks
 19. Israelite conquest
 20. Org. for Meyer Lansky
 21. Lamed (Eng)
 22. Lot's progeny
 24. Chazzerei (Eng)
 26. Orthodox minyan
 27. Hall of Fame Boxer
 28. Lady golfer
 31. Marceau character
 32. Israeli neighbors
 35. Prophesying
 38. Scotch name starter
 39. Orthodox wig
 41. Kunstler org.?
 42. __ Shvo, artist
 44. Jewish __ Fund
 46. Rickles
 47. Utensil to make latkes
 48. Imitated Mauri Rose
 50. 102
 51. Bialik offering
 55. Greenberg hope
 57. Break the ninth
 59. Chanukah miracle
 60. Son of Gad
 61. David's shooter?
 63. _ Hirsch, "Numbers" star
 64. Prior to Christians
 65. Son of Asher
 66. Golem?
 67. Seder sounds?
 68. Yad Vashem remembrance
 69. Seder salt water

- Down**
1. Moses' horns?
 2. David's ammo
 3. Felix Salten animal tale
 4. Eat (Yid)
 5. Ben Yehuda, Jerusalem
 6. Talmud, __ Law
 7. Eve's origin
 8. Israeli political party
 9. Ithamar's Dad
 10. __ Kudrow
 11. "Lost" tribe
 12. Fleishidic
 13. Chazzer homes
 21. Science Fiction writer
 23. Not with meat!!
 25. Salk's milieu
 26. Tablets site (2wds)
 29. Broadway lyricist
 30. Shema ender
 31. Have faith
 32. Jonas Salk's Org.?
 33. Cheer
 34. Yeshivas
 35. Adam's son
 36. Cassipi and Farfar league
 37. Olympiad Friedman
 40. Torah breastplate
 43. Bussed
 45. Solomon's find
 47. Afternoon prayer
 48. Queen of __
 49. Lanai
 50. Evil eye
 52. Helena Rubenstein product
 53. Torah portion
 54. Simeon to eleven
 56. Entebbe rescue
 57. Veiled bride
 58. Mt. Gilboa flower
 62. Sukkah?
 63. Bissel (Eng)

Mikveh building may reflect renewed concern for purity laws

Continued from Page 1

Rabinowitz said. "She connects herself with G-d, and it is spiritually uplifting."

Beth Israel is a 107-year-old congregation that in the past decade has attracted young families by offering home loans and day school subsidies. While impressed by the shul, prospective congregants were surprised to learn it did not have a mikveh, Rabinowitz said.

"The fact that we told people we were working on a mikveh is what gave them the push to come to our community," she said.

Many of the Malden congregants tend to use the Daughters of Israel Mikvah in Brighton, a 30-minute drive, Rabinowitz said. If the end of niddah falls on Shabbat or other holidays, the women have to put off a visit as the mikveh is too far a walk.

The mikveh is being built on top of a filled in-swimming pool, which dates back 50 years to when the building served as a combination synagogue and community center.

Construction on the mikveh began about two weeks ago. Already, the shul has raised a third of the projected \$250,000 cost, said Matthew Garland, the synagogue's executive director.

Garland said he hopes the mikveh will serve not only his 100-family congregation, but also Jews from the Boston and North Shore areas. To accommodate a diverse group of Orthodox Jews, the mikveh will include three rain water collection pits: one in the chabad style, with a pit under the immersion pool; and two on the sides to reflect the more standard Orthodox model.

The planned mikveh at Beth El is also being designed as a community mikveh, said Sharon Jacobson, a member of the shul's building committee. Jacobson said she expects it to serve members of Shaarei Tefillah; the Sephardic Congregation of Newton; and the Chabad of Newton Centre. The mikveh will include baths on each side of the immersion pool.

The mikveh will be open primarily on Shabbat and holidays, as women will continue to use the Brighton mikveh other days of the week. The mikveh may expand its hours in the future, said Rabbi Gershon Segal.

Jacobson said that in weighing priorities for the renovation project, the congregation wanted to keep foremost in mind the purpose of the synagogue. The \$4.25 million project includes a remodeled sanctuary and social hall.

"If we did a big renovation, and proportionally 50 percent was going to the social hall, that wouldn't be the right ratio for an Orthodox synagogue," she said.

'I think people are beginning to appreciate that the ancient wisdom of the rabbis has been validated ... the ways [the mikveh] enhances the marriage relationship.'

Rabbi Gershon Segal
Temple Beth El

Segal said with an increasing number of young families in the congregation, more members are observing the family purity laws and going to the mikveh – a result, he said, of greater education on the subject, starting, in some cases, in high school.

"I think people are beginning to appreciate that the ancient wisdom of the rabbis has been validated," Segal said. "They are beginning to appreciate the ways [the mikveh] enhances the marriage relationship."

Historically, he noted, the mikveh has always been a central feature of a Jewish community. One ancient mikveh was found on top of Masada.

"Here are these people who were under siege from the Romans, and yet one of the things they made sure to have, even while they were under siege, was a mikveh," he said.

Many laws govern the design of a mikveh, often prompting shuls to hire outside rabbis to oversee the construction. For example, Segal said his shul's specialist, Rabbi Zev Rothchild of Lakewood, N.J., climbed up to the synagogue roof to ensure that, in accordance with halacha, the collected rainwater would flow straight into the pipes, and not first bounce off the AC units.

"This is the level of detail which we have to be concerned with," Segal said. "How that rainwater ends up being collected is a critical feature."

Like the Beth El mikveh, the mikveh at the new Beth Menachem Chabad in Newton will be open only for Shabbat and holidays.

The chabad movement in particular promotes the building of mikva'ot, said Beth Menachem Rebbetzin Nechama Prus. In the Boston area, there are chabad mikva'ot in Brighton, Natick and Lexington.

"Because mikveh is so important in the Jewish religion, and because we hope to interest new people in observing its laws, we want to make going to the mikveh as pleasant and convenient as we can for them," Prus said.

Chaya Klein, Web administrator for the chabad mikveh site Mikveh.org, said there are more than 325 chabad mikva'ot around the world. About 50 of those were built in the past five years, and more than 40 are under construction, Klein said.

The Brooklyn-based Mikvah USA was founded six years ago to promote the construction of Orthodox mikva'ot by giving subsidies to shuls. The organization so far has funded 17 mikva'ot, with 13 more in the works.

Baruch Cywiak, director of special projects, estimated that nationwide there are 500 mikva'ot – not counting the many in metropolitan New York. About 15 mikva'ot are built each year, he said.

Newton's Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters Community Mikveh was added to the ranks of Orthodox-supervised mikva'ot this spring when it switched its supervision.

The mikveh changed from Conservative to Orthodox supervision to accommodate observant women, said assistant director Carrie Bornstein. The mikveh is now being supervised by Rabbi Yaakov Love of New Jersey.

About 10 percent of the people who use the mikveh are Orthodox, Bornstein said. She added that some Orthodox women have been interested in the mikveh, but uncomfortable with its supervision. "They say, 'I want to come, but it is important to me that there is an Orthodox rabbi who says it's a kosher mikveh.'"

Bornstein said when the mikveh was founded seven years ago, it wanted to signal its openness to the non-Orthodox communities. "Working with a Conservative rabbi helped give us some clout in the liberal world," she said.

At this point, she said the mikveh is already established as a place open to those of all denominations. The mikveh will continue to be independently run, meaning Rabbi Love will supervise only the mikveh facilities, not what it is used for.

Bornstein said the staff originally expected the mikveh, which is open to men and women, to be used mostly for alternative purposes, such as to celebrate landmark birthdays or to mark different stages of cancer treatment or the end of infertility treatment.

As it turned out, however, most of 1,400 immersions each year are for traditional reasons, like family purity.

The mikveh is closed on Shabbat and holidays.

Check out videos and photos of the Beth Israel mikveh on MaldenMikveh.org.

Solution to this week's crossword puzzle

