

Kids Today

Special pull-out section.



Passover Food & Greetings

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Movies

'Wallenberg' back, on DVD.
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Dr. Ruth pays a house call

Visiting NewBridge on the Charles, she tells seniors: You're never too old to date.
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Getting the real scoop on Israel

Seventh graders in Holliston and Haifa become buddies through monthly video chats online.
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The unsung Sidney Lumet

Before he was a director, the late Hollywood luminary was an actor – promoting Israel and breaking down racial barriers.
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Call it puppy love

Columnist Judy Bolton-Fasman never thought of herself as a dog person. But then Hudson pawed his way into her life.
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Parshah: Ahrei Mot

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Seder diplomacy



Marek Lesniewski-Laas, the honorary Polish consul general, dips his finger in wine.

Consuls general of four nations asked the Four Questions (from left): Takeshi Hikihara of Japan, Shai Bazak of Israel, Giuseppe Pastorelli of Italy and Fernando de Mello Barretto of Brazil.

Jews forge ties at annual event

By Leah Burrows
Advocate Staff

Four hundred diplomats and guests aren't 600,000 Jews, the Pike isn't the Red Sea, and a looming federal shutdown isn't slavery, but moving the American Jewish Committee's 12th annual Diplomats Seder two days before the event was itself a small miracle.

"Rahm Emmanuel said never waste a crisis, and we didn't," said Rob Leikind, executive director of

AJC Boston.

The seder was originally scheduled to take place at the JFK Presidential Library. However, when congressional budget talks appeared headed toward an impasse last Friday, the event was moved to the Granite Links Golf Club in Quincy. Still, come Sunday, everything went off without a hitch.

"This just goes to show how our community can come together,"

Continued on Page 2

Reigniting Friday night services

Young adults lead at Brookline's KI

By Elise Kigner
Advocate Staff

Groups of people in their 20s shared pews with congregants who balanced kippot on their silver hair. Together, they belted out songs and swayed to the sound of their prayers.

Stephanie Berkowitz, a 34-year-old who works in nonprofit management, acted as emcee of the Kabbalat Shabbat service at Congregation Kehillath Israel last Friday night, while a retired rabbi, Joseph Schultz, gave the d'var Torah.

Lamenting how people are becoming slaves to technology, Schultz told the story of a businessman who wanted to stay connected all the time, whether at the office, by his pool or home in bed. Schultz said he wondered what kind of relationship this man had with his wife – and everyone, young and old, started laughing.

Friday night services haven't been the same at the 94-year-old synagogue – the oldest in Brookline – since a group of young adults took them over last year.

The change was prompted by Rabbi Emma Kippley-Ogman, then a rabbinic intern, as a way to pump new energy into the service.

Previously, the regular Friday

Continued on Page 2

New stops on kosher roadmap

But despite lure of chains, shopping begins at home

By Leah Burrows
Advocate Staff

It's a Friday morning in Brookline and the kosher markets along Harvard Street are bustling with pre-Shabbat and Pesach shoppers.

Old friends and perfect strangers chat in aisles and deli lines, people schlep bags of groceries between stores, husbands wait on sunny benches.

It's a ritual that's been going on for decades.

But as local kosher delis close and wholesalers and supermarkets start supplying more kosher options, that ritual is changing — although, not as much as you might think.

Kosher shoppers still hop from store to store, buying brisket here, chicken breasts there and matzah someplace else – packing their cars with bags from locally-owned businesses and national chains.



Continued on Page 7 Karen Zar of Newton at Grapes Leaves in Brookline.

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So what's up with Bieber and Bibi?

Pop sensation Justin Bieber was scheduled to meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu before a concert in Tel Aviv. Or was he?



Bieber

Israel's Channel 2 reports that plans for the meeting fell through when Bieber rejected Netanyahu's request to include children from communities that had been hit by rockets from Gaza.

However, Ronit Arbel, an Israeli representative for Bieber, said no meeting had been scheduled in the first place, AP reports.

Bieber weighed in on his Twitter account, saying, "[I] want to see this country and all the places I've dreamt of and whether it's the [paparazzi] or being pulled into politics it's been frustrating."

Bieber, who arrived in Israel on Monday, plans to visit Christian sites in the Galilee, the Dead Sea, Masada, Acre and Caesarea.

Independent minyan meets shul in Brookline

Continued from Page 1

night services tended to draw an older crowd. The services were led by the same people, typically the rabbi and a congregant, and they drew the same 20 people week after week. "The people who were already there were people who were committed to a Friday night minyan," Kippley-Ogman said. At the same time, young adults were telling her that they were looking for a vibrant place to daven, "a transformative experience," on Friday nights.

So Kippley-Ogman convened a meeting between those young adults and some of KI's Friday night regulars. Together, they created KICKS, KI's Community Kabbalat Shabbat. Their goal, the rabbi said, was to create a place that would be "songful, vibrant and intergenerational."

Now, about 60 people pack into the small sanctuary every week for services led by members of a "davening corps," a group of 15 people who take turns at the pulpit. Among them is KI's chief rabbi, William Hamilton. "The spirit and the atmosphere and the intensity of warmth of Shabbat comes to life," Hamilton said of KICKS.

While the Conservative liturgy is the same, congregants say the feeling of the services is different.

Larry Cohen, who has belonged to KI for 40 years, led the mincha service last Friday. "I love to sing, but I don't have a very good voice," Cohen said. "I think a good service is one in which the voices in the room are so loud they can't hear my voice." The 63-year-old Brookline resident credits the younger worshipers and the rotating leadership with bringing "spirituality and energy" to the services.

(In addition to KICKS, the shul continues to hold Friday night services geared toward families with children once or twice a month in its main sanctuary.)

KICKS leaders jokingly call the group the "codependent or the dependent minyan." They say they know of no other area synagogue that hosts a service that so resembles an independent minyan.

But this may be changing. The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism approved a strategic plan last month that said both the USCJ and shuls should "nurture new and emerging independent minyanim," as a way to attract singles and young couples.

KICKS leadership team member Jacob Cytryn, 29, said that because synagogues are juggling so many different functions, they find it difficult to concentrate efforts on a single service. KICKS leaders, Cytryn said, are thinking about "not just who is leading services and what the pages are going to be, but thinking about greeting people and creating a warm and welcoming environment, and what it means to create a community out of that."

Like many independent minyanim, KICKS is tapping into a younger generation who finds Jewish community not in one institution, but many. These young adults may go to KICKS Friday night and then to an independent prayer group, like Washington Square Minyan or Minyan Shaleym in Brookline, on Saturday morning. Or when the Moishe/Kavod social justice house hosts a Friday night Shabbat, they may head there.

Like the young people at the services, members of the KICKS leadership team tend to straddle various Jewish communities. Cytryn, who is studying for his doctorate in Jewish studies and education at Brandeis, is also on the leadership team at the Washington

Square Minyan. Rabbi Rachel Silverman, who was ordained last year, is the associate director of Prozdor at Hebrew College.

Both Cytryn and Silverman recently joined KI, but Silverman said that getting others to sign up is not the leadership team's main objective. "We're not trying to drive up the membership," she said. "We're trying to bring a different kind of prayer experience."

KICKS leaders still face the challenge of solidifying the community. As people mostly come just for Shabbat, the leadership team cannot take down their names and phone numbers. The million dollar question: Why do some come one week, but not the next?

Still, leaders call KICKS a success. "I think synagogues are missing out by not replicating it," Silverman said. "Clearly you need active, engaged leaders who are going to take it on, but it doubled if not tripled the number of people who come on Friday night. It created a viable young adult community every single week. It has changed the face of the Brookline Jewish community."

For more information on KICKS, visit congli.org.

The Jewish Advocate online

Online debate

April poll question:

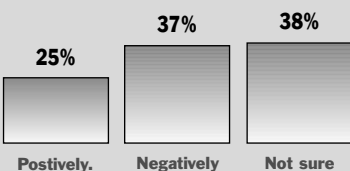
Should the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston keep J Street as a member organization?:

- A. Yes
B. No
C. Unsure

Tell us what you think at www.TheJewishAdvocate.com

March Poll Results

As one Arab government after another is toppled, how do you think it will turn out to affect Israel?



Despite late switch, seder goes off without hitch

Continued from Page 1

Leikind said.

Fittingly enough, the evening's theme was journeys – both ancient and modern. The seder featured speakers who had escaped Egypt and Iran, as well as written testimonies from women who fled persecution in Afghanistan and Rwanda.

Among the guests were consul generals from a dozen countries, including Israel, Germany, Japan and Turkey; honorary consuls from such countries as Pakistan, Guatemala and Finland; and leaders from AIPAC, J Street, the American Islamic Congress and the American Indian Forum (a Native American group).

The event provides an opportunity for diplomats to schmooze and network – while learning more about Jewish culture. "The seder is a chance to introduce the diplomats with whom we engage on a political level to the religious and moral traditions that shape our activism," Leikind said.

Sunday's seder was the first for



From left: Karen Tichnor; Shai Bazak, Israel's consul general to New England; Ronit Nudelman-Perl, deputy consul general; and Rabbi Boaz Heilman of Congregation B'nai Torah in Sudbury.

several diplomats, including Giuseppe Pastorelli, the Italian consul general. Pastorelli said he was especially taken with the symbolism of the seder traditions, of the herbs and water and the 10 drops of wine for the 10 plagues.

"I believe that keeping tradition is very important, and it's important to share our traditions," Pastorelli said. "It's only through common knowledge can we better understand each other and avoid misunderstandings."

Michael Lonergan, the Irish consul general, said that even though this was his first seder, he recognized some of the traditions.

"Some of our Easter traditions are not hugely different. It reminds us all that despite all of the historic religious differences, there is a lot of common ground."

The diplomats participated in the seder, giving readings and reciting prayers. The consuls general from Japan, Israel, Italy and Brazil each read one of the four questions in their own language.

Before asking why this night was different from all other nights, Takeshi Hikiyama, the Japanese consul, thanked his fellow diplomats and community members for their support following the earthquake. Shai Bazak, the Israeli consul general asked the second question in Hebrew. "That was easy," he joked.

The abbreviated seder was led by Rabbi Ronne Friedman and Cantor Roy Einhorn, both from Temple Israel in Boston. Temple Israel hosted the first diplomats seder in 1999. Friedman and Einhorn led the guests through the major prayers and songs, includ-

ing "Dayenu" and "Od Yavo Shalom Aleinu (Peace Will Come Upon Us)."

In the evening's haggadah, between "Go Down Moses" and the remembrance of the 10 plagues, were two stories of exodus. One was about Masuda Mohammad Yusuf, who escaped from Afghanistan after she and her family were targeted by the Taliban. Yusuf and her two daughters lived in Russia – where they also faced persecution – before arriving in Boston as refugees. But America was not the Promised Land she imagined. She and her daughter lived in homeless shelters for two years before moving into public housing with the help of the Jewish Vocational Services.

One speaker, Iranian poet Ala Khaki, told of being imprisoned and tortured before escaping Iran during the 1978 revolution. Khaki tied his story to the uprisings in the Middle East today and to the Exodus millennia ago. "People are fighting for the same values, for the same freedoms," he said.

Khaki added that he hoped the Arab journey from oppression to freedom will be much shorter than it was for the Israelites.

"We are going to cross the desert much faster," he said. "It won't take 40 years."

Correction: A story in the April 8 *Advocate* gave the incorrect date for the final Shabbat services at the Talner Beis Midrash. They were held on April 9.

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