

the JEWISH VOICE

Serving the Jewish community of Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts

MAIN MENU



Cosmonauts and women

Posted Thursday, April 24, 2014 2:57 pm

DOV BEN-SHIMON



I was in Westport, Conn., the other day, giving a briefing to the Jewish

Federation on Russia and Ukraine and the work we [the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and federations] do together. And a random factoid came up, which I want to bring up here. We were talking about Saratov, the unofficial second capital of the Volga region of Russia. I made a joke about Yuri Gagarin, Russia's first cosmonaut, who not only came from Saratov but also landed his Soyuz capsule there. (The joke was that he wanted to go home to his mom and dad for dinner. It was funny; you had to be there.)

But the other point that lots of Russians have told me was that "Saratov has the most beautiful women in Russia." So ... I checked with some colleagues and research notes on this issue. And if you ever wanted "proof" (such as it is) for how long-lasting some impressions can be in these areas ... here's a good example.

The story that beautiful women are from Saratov comes from 1247, when the conquering Tartars (yes, the same ones we're now talking about in Crimea) ordered all the beautiful women of Russia to go to Saratov.

You could legitimately claim that things may have changed slightly in the last 700 years. But then you'd be grappling with the weight of history.

DOV BEN-SHIMON is the Executive Director of Strategic Partnerships for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Ben-Shimon and Alan Gill will be speaking June 16 at the Jewish Alliance annual board meeting.

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BAR | BAT
MITZVAH

How all the Jewish MLB players did in 2016

BY RON KAPLAN
JTA - This season promised to be a banner year for Jewish Major League Baseball players - and by and large, the class of '16 fared pretty well. Many had their best seasons in years and fans were introduced to a couple of promising newcomers.

reaches its climax with the World Series, here's a look at what all the Jewish major leaguers accomplished (or not) during the regular season.

Ian Kinsler, Detroit Tigers, second baseman
Kinsler set a franchise record with eight leadoff home runs in

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Clockwise from top left: Ian Kinsler, Danny Valencia, Kevin Pillar, Joc Pederson



At the 2015 Challah Bake, everyone got involved.

PHOTO: VOICE FILES

The bake is back

BY FRAN OSTENDORF

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If you missed the first couple of years of this annual event, you don't want to miss out again. The Great Rhode Island Challah Bake is back for a third year. As with each year, the promise is for an amazing event, according to organizers. Women and girls are invited to discover the rich meaning of challah on Nov. 10. There

will be braiding tips, an inspiring speaker, camaraderie and shared experience. And the end result? Each participant will take home two delicious challahs for Shabbat. This Challah Bake in Little Rhody is part of a worldwide event. Whether you are in Los Angeles, Chicago, Barcelona or London, thousands of women around the world will be baking challah on the same

day. This takes place right before the Shabbos Project weekend. In Rhode Island, there is space for 200 women and girls to sign up for the event that takes place at 6:30 p.m. at Brown RISD Hillel, 80 Brown St., Providence. Cost is \$10 per person. RSVP to thegreatchallahbake@gmail.com. **FRAN OSTENDORF** is the editor of The Jewish Voice.

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OP-ED

Dylan over Roth? The Nobel Committee made the right choice



Bob Dylan

BY LARRY YUDELSON
JTA - As a fan who runs the "Bob Dylan: Tangled Up in Jews" website, I should have been ecstatic at the Nobel Prize in Literature being awarded to the writer whose words have been the soundtrack of my life since I first sang them at a Jew-

ish summer camp some 40-odd years ago. However, as an editor of a New Jersey Jewish newspaper located just 23 miles from the Newark neighborhood of Weequahic where Philip Roth grew up and placed so much of his fiction, I should have been heartbroken

that Roth, also rumored to be a contender for the prize, lost out - again. So, why Dylan and not Roth? Roth, 83, and Dylan, 75, have a great deal in common. Both are the grandchildren of Jewish immigrants. Their families were



Philip Roth

DYLAN | 8

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