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An almost civil disagreement *Lawrence school board election looms*

Photo by Claudio Papapietro

Taking part in the Board of Education candidates forum at Lawrence Middle School on Tuesday, April 27, 2010, are, from left, Nicole Di Iorio, Annie Reyes, Jay Silverstein, David Sussman and Nahum Marcus.

By Michael Orbach

The chill in the air this week was perfectly timed. Nothing would seem to complement the annual Lawrence School Board election better than rain, wind and sporadic hail. In Lawrence, Cedarhurst, Long Beach, Atlantic Beach and parts of Woodmere, neighbors no longer seem quite so neighborly; fences and hedges feel a little taller, even foreboding, as the now annual conflict between Jews and non-Jews, Orthodox and non-Orthodox, private school and public school parents, begins again. This year, with three seats up for grabs on the District 15 board, is no different.

Jay Silverstein, Annie Reyes and Nicole Di Iorio are challenging board members Solomon Blisko, David Sussman and Nahum Marcus, respectively. Given that the teachers' contract will be renegotiated this year, the election is viewed as especially important.

A Meet the Candidates night at Lawrence Middle School on Tuesday seemed,

at first, to be free of the rancor that often plagues school board meetings. Last year, public school parents held their own candidate event at a park in Inwood. This year Blisko couldn't make it, but the five candidates who were present were civil toward each other, cooperatively passing around a microphone. The loudest cry of protest emerged from a boy whose mother refused to let him drink from a bottle of red Vitamin Water. The mood changed, however, as the evening progressed, and loud murmurs could be heard from audience members unfriendly to the incumbents.

A moderator from the League of Women Voters asked each candidate a battery of questions including how he or she would heal the divisions between district residents, and whether they live in the district (all answered in the affirmative).

A special ire seemed to be reserved for David Sussman. The urologist from Lawrence is a graduate of the Lawrence public schools, and a 15-year veteran

of the school board whose children attended the schools as well; his son, Sam, is currently in the tenth grade. Some public school parents take as a personal betrayal Sussman's longtime alignment with board members who are Orthodox and send their children to yeshiva. He was subjected to a number of disparaging comments about his physical appearance, but was unabashed about a school board he feels is the best the Lawrence School District has seen.

"It's a board that's willing to do what's right for children and what's right for the community and not be afraid of criticism, not be afraid to stand up in a storm," Sussman told The Jewish Star earlier in the day.

On Tuesday evening he repeatedly thanked his family who sat in the first row and were often the only people who cheered for him. To highlight his points about fiscal responsibility, he waved a newspaper clipping about budget cuts in Mineola. He listed the board's accom-

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Reaching out

Agudah's 'Yes, we can' moment

By Michael Orbach

It was raining on Tuesday night as Rabbi Avi Shafran, Agudath Israel's director of public affairs, stood in the hallway of a home in Lawrence, amiably greeting people arriving for an open forum with Agudah's lay leaders. "Astonishing, we let you in the neighborhood," one guest joked with Rabbi Shafran.

The evening dubbed, 'What does Agudah mean to me?' was equal parts town hall meeting, pep rally and group therapy for Agudah, which is involved in activities that range from lobbying the White House, Capitol Hill and numerous statehouses, to running summer camps in a number of states. It marked the first time that Agudah has held an informal panel discussion intended to connect with its constituents. A number of local rabbonim including Rabbi Yitzchok Frankel of Agudath Israel of the Five Towns, Rabbi Yaakov Reisman of Long Island in Far Rockaway, and Rabbi Aryeh Ginzberg of the Chofetz Chaim Torah Center in Cedarhurst, joined about 75 residents of the Five Towns and surrounding areas.

Agudath Israel of America is one of the four groups that play a leading role in Orthodox Judaism in the United States, along with the Orthodox Union, the Rabbinical Council of America and, historically, the National Council of Young Israel. Agudah's lay leaders take cues from the Moetzes Gedolei HaTorah, the self-appointed Council of Torah Sages, that includes Rav Shmuel Kamenetzky, Rav Dovid Feinstein, Rav Malkiel Kotler, and Rabbi Yaakov Perlow, the Novominsker

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An almost civil disagreement

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plishments.

"We've created the finest free universal pre-k program on Long Island," Sussman said. "This was done under Dr. [Asher] Mandorff [a past president of the board] and continued by [current president] Dr. [Murray] Forman — a creation of the so-called Orthodox/private school board."

The board has also increased the school day for fifth graders by 119 50-minute periods, the equivalent of three extra weeks of schooling, and has the "finest arts and theater program" on Long Island, Sussman said. Even Sussman's opponent, Annie Reyes, an African-American mother of eight and grandmother of 14 from North Lawrence, seemed aware of his stature.

"I think I got the short end of the straw," she laughed on the day of the event.

Reyes has a pleasant, easy-going manner that belied her reasons for running for a seat on the board.

"I complain and I complain that I don't like this and I don't like this," Reyes explained. "I like to be a part of the solution and not part of the problem. I can't complain and sit on the outside and not want to do something. You can only sit back for so long."

She continued: "Dr. Sussman has tried to make the best decision that benefits the children and families but right now we need something a little different."

Selling decommissioned school buildings is a short-term solution to a long-term problem, Reyes stressed. "Sooner or later we have to pay the piper."

In an interview with *The Jewish Star*, she elaborated on her point. "We can't keep on selling buildings in order to pay for the upkeep," said Reyes. "We can't do that. I feel right now, if we close our eyes, we might wind up in a one-room schoolhouse with one teacher."

Reyes, who ran a senior center until her retirement, said she feels that a one-percent tax increase over a period of time would help alleviate the situation.

Of the three challengers, Silverstein is the

most polished and experienced. A Duke University-trained school and clinical psychologist, Silverstein worked in the Lawrence schools from 2005-2008. Currently, he consults for two private schools and manages a private practice in his hometown of Long Beach.

"I think it would be a great honor to serve the community," Silverstein told *The Jewish Star*. "I graduated from Lawrence High School. I have two children in the public schools and I believe that the way of culture and traditions in our community makes this a remarkable place to live and raise children."

He praised the current board for "getting us off contingency" and demonstrating fiscal responsibility, but he said he would be able to "help the board demonstrate the same leadership in their educational responsibilities."

Silverstein is currently suing the school board over his recent firing that he claims was due to what his lawyer called "anti-Orthodox" feelings. Superintendent John Fitzsimons has called the accusation baseless and said the district offered Silverstein a position of greater responsibility for the same salary.

Silverstein maintained that there would be no conflict with being a member of a school board he is suing. He said that, if elected, he would recuse himself from matters concerning the lawsuit.

"I have been a committed employee for the Lawrence Public School district," he said. "I served the district and the community in an exemplary manner and I was deprived of continuing to serve the community I love. I also think the community was deprived of my continued service. Now that I am not employed by the district, I can think of no better way [to serve the community] than as a representative of the board of education."

At the event, he stressed a plan that would focus on greater communication with community members, transparency and, in his words, thinking, "what would I do if it was my child," before making every decision. "We have a wonderful district and our children are doing wonderfully," he said.

Blisko, the incumbent, a dentist in Woodmere, said that Silverstein's lawsuit "speaks for itself."

"I'd like to finish what we started," Blisko said in an interview Monday about why he is seeking reelection. He could not make it to the Wednesday meeting due to appointments with his patients. "We didn't approach the tax situation with a slash-and-burn [attitude]," said Blisko. "We approached it in a fiscally responsible manner. We're sensitive to people who pay taxes and we want to provide an excellent education to all the kids in the district, public or private."

Blisko stressed efforts the board has made to bring the community together, like having students of two Jewish private schools collaborate with students at Lawrence High School in a performance of "Twelve Angry Men," and the formation of the Five Towns One Community Fund, a non-profit that works with private and public schools to help poor families in the area. The board also ran a fundraising drive that raised close to \$10,000 for an immigrant family that suffered a fatal fire in their home.

Answering critics who complain that the majority of the board members do not send their children to the public schools, Blisko said, "If you pay taxes you have a right to elected office."

Arguably the least conspicuous of the three incumbents is Nahum Marcus, an ordained rabbi, who sat to Sussman's left and seemed to slightly bemuse the audience. He has a simple answer why he's running for reelection. "I'm a glutton for punishment," he laughed.

Marcus joined the board three years ago when his special needs son was refused therapy by the district. He sued and won. Since being elected, Marcus has focused singularly on special education. "I know what it's like to have it in your family," he said.

Self-effacing, Marcus said that he was still learning the ropes and hoped to be able to continue on the board. The biggest change that was made in his tenure, he says, was one of attitude in the school office.

"The attitude I stressed in special ed is, 'I want you to listen to the child and the needs of the child,'" he explained. "Don't worry about the money or financing, you worry how to help, we'll worry about the money."

Recently, he said, a parent was suing the district to pay for the private special education of her special needs son. The school was a non-Jewish school in Manhattan and the district was refusing to pay, claiming that the boy was receiving a sub-par education. Marcus investigated and learned that the boy was doing far better in his new school. The reason he was reported to be failing, Marcus said, was that a teacher and a teacher's aide were let go when the boy left the district.

"Instead of caring what's good for the child they lied and tried to get the kid back," Markus explained. "I blew a fuse. How do you care more about your job than a child with special needs?" He worked with the board to pay for the child's tuition and told the teacher and the aide to not bother applying to the Lawrence school district again.

Reyes and Di Lorio were honest about their limitations when it came to board finances. "I'm not going to pretend to know," said Di Lorio. "But I am willing to learn."

In her closing statement she said her greatest qualifications were several African American and Hispanic teenagers who sat in the first two rows to support her. "The children asked me to run," she told *The Jewish Star*. "I see a division within this community. I feel that I can offer solutions to this problem. I understand the people of this District." Di Lorio is offering to drive anyone to the voting booth on May 11th who needs a ride, "no matter who they vote for." "Everyone has my number," she said later.

In Reyes closing statement, she pointed out that the board does not have a female member and then listed her role model: Golda Meir. "I never did anything alone," Reyes said, quoting the late Israeli prime minister. "Whatever was accomplished was accomplished collectively."

In his closing statement, Marcus mentioned "When Humanity Fails," an exhibit in the Lawrence High School about American soldiers liberating concentration camps during World War Two. "For the children, all of us can learn to get along," he said.

Rally for Israel

Obama policies criticized – not always politely

By Sergey Kadinsky

Standing in the rain, hundreds of supporters gathered outside Israel's consulate in Manhattan on Sunday, condemning President Barack Obama for his treatment of the Jewish state. Competing with umbrellas, were signs in support for the Tea Party movement.

"You're very hardy souls for coming out today," said Rabbi Aryeh Spero of the conservative group Caucus for America. "No president, prime minister, not even the United Nations, can tear asunder what G-d has decreed."

The reason for the rally varied: demonstrators cited the president's snubbing of a photo opportunity with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during his recent visit; Obama's public condemnation of Jewish construction in East Jerusalem; and the president's inability to stop Iranian nuclear ambitions.

The message on Glen Oaks-resident Bonnie Bockman's shirt was of a turban-clad Barack Obama alongside Osama bin Laden. "The only difference between Obama and



Photo by Sergey Kadinsky

Protestors gathered despite the rain at the Israeli consulate to protest President Obama's policies to Israel.

Osama: Just a little B.S.," read the t-shirt. "I searched for this shirt on an AOL message board, and I had to have it," said Bockman. "I proudly wore this shirt when I voted for president."

Needless to say, the vote she cast was not for Mr. Obama.

Across the street, a dozen Neturei Karta members staged a quiet counter-protest. Trading brief insults with their opponents, they were in no mood for dialogue.

"I was speaking to the young man with the reddish beard," said Astoria resident Zelig Krymko. "But the other Neturei Karta were

telling him not to speak to the apikoros," using the Hebrew term for heretic. The anti-Obama mood at the rally was unforgiving as author Joan Peters came to the stage.

"I was a civil rights worker, and I voted for Obama," said Peters, as booing erupted from the crowd. "I believed him when he said he loved Israel."

Peters, author of the history book "From Time Immemorial," had flown from Chicago to attend the rally. She said that her impression of Obama changed after his speech in Cairo. "The Holocaust is not the reason that Jews went to Israel," said Peters. "There was already a Zionist movement before the war."

The rally was spearheaded by Beth Gilinsky, who founded the Jewish Action Alliance to Combat Islamic Extremism.

"We are here to show the Holocaust survivors that we have learned," said Gilinsky. "We are shedding the victim status and putting on the mantle of victory."

"You are standing in the rain," said Rabbi David Algaze of Forest Hills. "you are not fair-weather friends. If 'Never Again' means anything, it means we are vigilant."

Agudah's 'Yes We Can' moment

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Rebbe, who heads the organization. The Moetzes Gedolei HaTorah meets in private to render halachic decisions and takes social positions recognized by most chareidim and many modern Orthodox Jews.

The panel discussion Tuesday night featured Agudah's lay leaders; a chance to put a public face on an organization that largely operates out of the spotlight.

Rabbi Chaim Dovid Zwiebel, who holds the highest lay leadership position in the Agudah as executive vice president, explained: "People know us by reputation; they don't know us as human beings and we are." ("Despite rumors to the contrary," Rabbi Shafran quipped.)

The Agudah has several state and regional offices, but the event in Lawrence was also an effort to drum up local, grassroots support and expand and deepen the organization's reach — an acknowledgement, perhaps, that there are Orthodox Jews outside of Brooklyn. "We're here to hear," Rabbi Shafran stated.

Styled on the health care debates that occurred several months ago, the scope of Agudah's activities seemed no less complex than the facts of health care. Switching from English to Hebrew to Yiddish and Yinglish, presenters struggled to answer the question: What does Agudah do?

"Can we put it in one word? Two? A phrase?" asked one speaker.

The presenters included Rabbi Shmuel Lefkowitz, the vice president for community affairs; the Yale-trained legal counsel, Rabbi Mordechai Biser, who rattled off a list of activities that ranged from opposing school budget cuts in New York State, to fighting against



Photo by Michael Orbach

Rabbi Shmuel Bloom, the former executive vice president of Agudah, also sat in for the panel, dubbed "What does the Agudah mean to me?"

dividing Jerusalem, to urging insurance companies to cover infertility treatments.

"Orthodox Jews should get our fair shake," explained Rabbi Yaakov Bender, the revered rosh yeshiva of Yeshiva Darchei Torah, who spoke later in the evening. (Rabbi Zwiebel credited Rabbi Bender with bringing him into the organization 23 years ago.)

The event was strictly not a fundraiser, but Rabbi Bender advocated that participants become members of the organization, tying Agudah's political prowess to its membership.

"It's numbers," Rabbi Bender maintained. "There's no reason why every single frum family ... shouldn't be card carrying members

of the Agudah."

By moving somewhat closer to the public spotlight, Agudah also took the chance of stirring up notice of past errors, particularly how Agudah has dealt with the explosive issue of child sexual abuse. But it was Rabbi Zwiebel himself who raised that point, the lone critical one of the evening.

"What's the phrase, Mea Culpa?" Rabbi Zwiebel asked the crowd. "We have to acknowledge for quite a long time the issue was not understood; the extent of the problem was not understood; the severity of the scars that are left by the experience were not understood. Because they were not understood they were not dealt with properly," he

said. "We are a lot of smarter, including the Gedolei Yisroel who stand at the helm of Klal Yisroel. A number of positive steps have been taken and, frankly, I think there are more positive steps that need to be taken."

He added that a meeting of summer camp directors was scheduled for April 29 to discuss how to educate parents and campers to prevent sexual abuse.

Shlomo Steiman, a soft-spoken tax attorney from Kew Gardens Hills, said he found the event "refreshing."

"I appreciated the dignified manner and the frankness about issues which are sensitive," he said.

During a Q and A session, the questions centered on the ever-present tuition crisis facing Jewish families, and on what was being done for Sholom Rubashkin, who faced sentencing this week by a federal judge.

Regarding Rubashkin, Zwiebel turned away two calls for action from members of the audience. "Don't do anything other than be mispalel (pray)," he said, explaining that, given the already steady effort on Rubashkin's behalf, any more could backfire.

In his brief remarks, Rabbi Zwiebel stressed the Rubashkin case and the relationship between President Obama and Israel as reasons why Agudah needs community support.

"We have to rise to the challenge," he said, before declaring, "We are becoming the voice of American Jewry."

Two-and-a-half hours after it began, the program ended. Amid the sound of chairs being shuffled back and forth, a loud murmur arose as the audience began davening Maariv.

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Parshat Emor

The Eighth Day

“A newborn ox, lamb or goat remains with its mother for seven days. Then, after the eighth day, it shall be acceptable as sacrifice for a fire offering to G-d.” (Vayikra 22:27) A similar verse in Shmot 22:29 says that “on the eighth day, you shall give it to me.”

The difference is that the Shmot passage refers to setting the animal aside for G-d, while our verse refers to the actual offering of the animal. (Chizkuni)

What is the significance of the eighth day that changes the baby animal from being unacceptable to being acceptable to G-d?

Ibn Ezra compares the animal's eighth day of life (the day of “m'ruba,” when a quarter-month has passed) to that of a human baby — just as the baby may now be circumcised so may an animal be brought as an offering.

In a lengthy exposition of this verse, Targum Yonatan explains the significance of the quarter-month in that a seven day waiting period proves the animal's viability as it assures us the animal is not a “nefel” — the halakhic category of a stillborn, which would obviously be unfit to be a korban. (Rabbi Shimon Ben Gamliel — Shabbat 135b. For a human, the “nefel” status is removed at thirty days.)

As a mohel, one Torah thought I hear a lot at bris is that the eighth day is “I'maalah min hateva” — above nature, or supernatural. Through circumcision, we elevate ourselves and our bodies to G-d, by removing something natural to help attain a spiritual level previously unreachable.

But some of the commentaries have different thoughts on the subject.

Chizkuni notes how a Zav, metzora and one who comes in contact with a corpse come out of their tumah (spiritual impurity) on the eighth day — the day after a seven-day waiting period.

Baal Haturim examines how each day of beginning of the animal's life parallels the days of creation. One who sacrifices an animal on its first day will be viewed as sacrificing to the heavens and earth (created on the first day), on the fourth day as if to the

luminaries, etc. The animal must experience its seventh day (parallel to Shabbos) for the one sacrificing it to remember that G-d created the world, and that it is to Him that we are sacrificing on the eighth day.

Whether outside of nature, a new life post-removal from the camp, or a reminder that, first and foremost, G-d created the world in seven days, we can begin to understand how the animal's status is changed on day eight when it is finally worthy to be a korban — an offering that helps a person come closer to G-d.

In the first mishnah of Avot 4, ben Zoma reminds us of the verse in Tehillim 119:99 which says “Mikol m'lamdai hiskalti.” We can learn from any one who teaches us and should accept the truth from whatever source it may come.

In Thornton Wilder's novel “The Eighth Day,” a character describes his generation at the turning of the 20th century as the Eighth Day. “Man is not an end, but a beginning. We are at the beginning of the second week. We are children of the eighth day.” In other words, the eighth day represents progress. It is when G-d's initial input into the world is set, and humans take a stab at what their G-d-given gifts can create, what they can invent, what they can put together to foment advancement in civilization.

We can look at all that is natural and supernatural in the world, and it is very easy for us to fall back on it all and say, “It's all G-d. It's always been G-d. It will always be G-d. There is nothing else.”

But we are on this earth for a purpose, and our first job is to discover that purpose. If G-d created the world in six days and rested on the seventh, we are meant to emulate Him through our own creativity for six days, as we too rest on the seventh. But the progress of human development and creativity begins on the eighth day. It is the day when we take action, when we perfect the world under G-d through the actions we take to get closer to him.

When we circumcise our sons, when we take the animal that is now over a week old, we take action and turn a being that has not yet accomplished much to a point of spiritual fullness that could not have been accomplished without our input. This is the turning point of the eighth day, a day of action and a day that looks toward a brighter tomorrow.



Rabbi Avi Billet



Photo by Brian Alevis

The Mousetrap in HAFTR

A scene from HAFTR performance of Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap that took place on Motza'ei Shabbat. Students Evan Margolis, Jacqui Geller, Marissa Snitkoff, Josh Abramowitz, Alexander Mehl, Ariel Weiss and Rivi Wartenberg try to find a killer.

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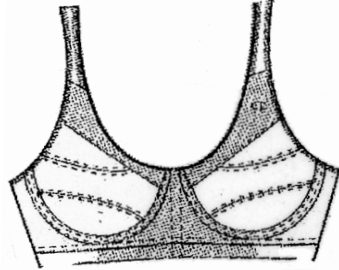
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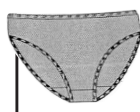


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Deadline is Wednesday of the week prior to publication.



Photo courtesy of Chai Lifeline

Some happy Chai Lifeline campers with their counselors. Chai Lifeline will be holding its second Friends 'N Fun weekend for boys in Lawrence this weekend.

Chinuch".

Wednesday, May 12th, Rabbi Eli Mansour will speak about "Kabalat Hatorah: The Blueprint of Creation".

All the lectures will take place at 9 p.m., and will be followed by Ma'ariv. Lectures are open to men and women.

May 2 Chanukas HaBayis

THE AGUDAH OF THE FIVE TOWNS, located at the corner of Cedarhurst Ave. and Peninsula Blvd. will celebrate the completion of its new building beginning at 12:00 p.m. Scheduled guests include Rav Dovid Feinstein, Rav Reuven Feinstein, and Rav Malkiel Kotler.

Lag B'omer CHABAD OF THE FIVE TOWNS will celebrate Lag

B'omer in Cedarhurst Park. Celebrations will include: music, bonfire, food, archery, races and the sensational performance by the Acrobatic Chassidic Twins from France. From 5:30-8:00 p.m.

The Great Parade

THE GREAT PARADE begins with a concert at 10 a.m. starring Mordechai Ben David, Avraham Fried and Lipa Schmeltzer at 770 Eastern Parkway in Brooklyn. The parade itself begins at 11:30 and will feature floats and marching bands. A fair will take place afterwards at Kingston and Lefferts in Brooklyn with motor bikes, a petting zoo, food and rides.

May 3 Movie nights

TEMPLE BETH-EL OF ROCKAWAY PARK, located at 201 Beach 121st Street in Rockaway Park will be

hosting a movie night every Monday in May at 7:30 p.m. "In the Shadow of Jew Suss" will be shown on May 3. "Four Seasons Lodge" on May 10, "Killing Kasztner" on May 17, and "Farewell Israel" on May 24. For more info contact Sharon at 516-581-0231.

May 4 Desert Class

THE JCC OF THE GREATER FIVE TOWNS KOSHER CULINARY INSTITUTE, at 207 Grove Ave. in Cedarhurst, has scheduled a "Diary Shavuot Desserts" class with chef Shoni Schwartz at 10:00 a.m. The fee is \$50.00. For further information and/or to register please call 516-569-6733, ext. 222 or e-mail sheryl.wyszkowski@fivetownsjcc.org.

May 5 Job workshop

THE ELIEZER PROJECT is presenting a seminar on "Leveraging Technology and the Internet for an Effective Job Search" at their offices, located at 466 Central Ave. in Cedarhurst. The presenter is Nancy Wildermuth who is an online digital media ad sales manager. Due to limited space, please contact Ellen Aronovitz at ellen@eliezerproject.org as soon as possible to reserve a seat.

May 6 History with singles

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF YOUNG ISRAEL (NCYI) will present a program for singles in New York City at 7:30 PM. The event, "Remember the Past...Connect to the Future," will take place at the Museum of Jewish Heritage, located at 36 Battery Place in Manhattan.

The program is open to Orthodox singles over the age of 35. The cost of the program is \$45 per person (or \$54 after May 1). Attendees will enjoy a private tour of the museum followed by the program and a reception.

Advance paid registration is required, and space is limited. Register online at <http://www.youngisrael.org/secureContent/signup.cfm/63/Singles%5FJ Museum>. Alternatively, checks can be made payable to "Young Israel Programs" and mailed to the National Council of Young Israel at 111 John Street, Suite 450, New York, New York 10038. For more information, contact NCYI Director of Programming Rebbetzin Judi Steinig at (212) 929-1525 x100 or by email at jsteinig@youngisrael.org

April 29 Healthcare professionals

UJA-FEDERATION OF NEW YORK'S SOUTH SHORE HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS division will honor Neil Berman, D.D.S. and Eric Thall, M.D. at its annual dinner. Eric Lippman, M.D. and Neil Smith, M.D. will both receive the Community Service Award. The dinner will be held on Thursday, April 29, 2010 at Temple Hillel, 1000 Rosedale Road, North Woodmere at 6:30 p.m. Please respond to Irwin Gershon at 516.677.1818 if you would like to attend.

April 30 and May 1 Chai Lifeline Shabbaton

BATSHEVA AND SHAUL KATZ AND YEHUDA AND BETH HONIG will host the second Chai Lifeline Friends 'N Fun weekend for boys in Lawrence and Cedarhurst. Last year's event was an incredible success. Dozens of Camp Simcha and Camp Simcha campers and counselors got a taste of camp chizuk that kept them going until the summer. Over 300 members of the community shared a beautiful oneg Shabbos with the group, reinforcing the sense of solidarity and community that the Five Towns has with the children of Chai Lifeline.

April 29, May 6 and May 12 Pre-Shavout lectures

DAVIS RENOV STAHLER YESHIVA HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS, located 700 Ibsen Ave. in Woodmere, will be hosting their annual Pre-Shavuot Lecture Series. The first presentation will be this coming Thursday, April 29th. Rabbi Dovid Fohrman who serves as scholar in residence for the Institute for Text Study, a division of the Hoffberger Foundation for Torah Studies, and who gives a popular weekly shiur at the Young Israel of Woodmere, will deliver a shiur on the topic of "Themes in Megilat Rut".

Thursday, May 6th, Rabbi Mordechai Willig, Rosh Yeshiva and Rosh Kollel at Yeshiva University, and Rav of the Young Israel of Riverdale, will give a shiur on the topic of "The Mitzva of

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May 6 & 13

Shalom Aleichem

THE FIVE TOWNS JCC, located at 207 Grove Avenue in Cedarhurst, will present Dr. Annett Labovitz, who will give two classes about the stories of Shalom Aleichem: "Tevya the Milkman" (May 6) and "The Railroad Stories" (May 13) at 10 a.m. There is a \$30 fee for the two classes. To register please call Sheryl at (516) 569-6733 x 222 or email sheryl.wyszkowski@fivetownsjcc.org

May 9

Singles night

POP LOUNGE, at 14 East 58th St. in Manhattan, will hold a Jewish Singles Night for singles between the ages of 21-31. The event will be hosted by Aaron Ellnor, "The Dating Wingman." Cost is \$35 pre-order and \$40 at the door. For more information contact TheDatingWingman@gmail.com

May 11

OU wine & cheese

THE ORTHODOX UNION will be hosting a wine and cheese tasting events for Orthodox singles between the ages of 22-28 at 7:30 p.m. at Congregation Edmund J. Safra, located at 11 East 63rd Street in New York. Fee is \$10. Call 212 613 8300 for registration and more information.

Making marriage work

THE CHABAD OF THE FIVE TOWNS, located at 74 Maple Ave. in Cedarhurst, will host Rabbi Daniel Schonbuch, noted lecturer and author of "First Aid For Jewish Marriages". Schonbuch is a marriage counselor who specializes in helping families and couples revitalize their relationships. He will discuss "The Art of Communication" at 8 p.m.. For more information go to www.chabadfivetowns.com or call (516) 295-2478.

May 16

Holocaust memorial concert

THE LAWRENCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACADEMY OF FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS will present a Holocaust Memorial concert beginning at 6:00 p.m.. The concert will take place at Lawrence High School, located at 2 Reilly Road in Cedarhurst. The concert is free. For more information call 516-295-7084.

ON THE Calendar

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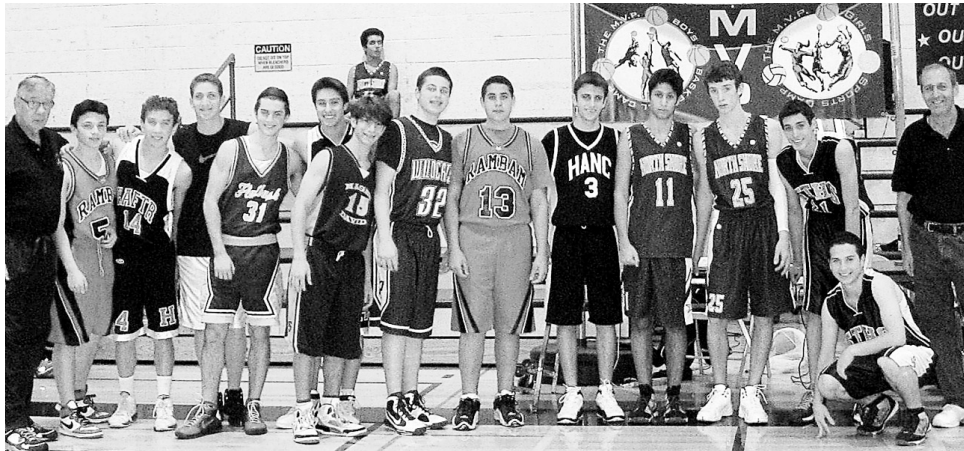


Photo courtesy of Judah Rhine

MVP Basketball hosted its 2nd annual MVP All Star Day this past Sunday. Over 200 players were chosen by their coaches to participate in the event. MVP Basketball camp takes place at the end of August. For more info visit www.sencalake.com and click on the MVP link. Pictured above are the MVP 8th grade boys.

Conversos

THE SEPHARDIC TEMPLE, at 775 Branch Boulevard in Cedarhurst will host Professor Francesca Bregoli who will speak on the topic of "Blurred Identities: Conversos in The Early Modern Period." The talk will focus on forced conversions in the Iberian Peninsula and the challenges posed by the process of reversion to Judaism in the Sephardi community of Amsterdam. The program begins at 7 p.m. and refreshments will be served.

May 19

The Ten Commandments and ice cream

CHABAD OF THE FIVE TOWNS, located at 74 Maple Avenue in Cedarhurst, will be holding a dairy luncheon and an ice cream party. Services/Shachrit begins at 10:00 a.m.; Ten Commandments read at 11:15 a.m. followed by a dairy luncheon and ice cream party.

May 23

Salute to Israel Parade & Concert in Central Park

THE FREYER FAMILY 17TH ANNUAL ISRAEL DAY CONCERT IN CENTRAL PARK will take place Sunday, May 23, 2010, the 10th of Sivan 5770, at the Summer Stage in Central Park at 72nd St., rain or shine, following the Salute to Israel parade. Admission is free. Talented performers from Israel and America will appear including Eitan Katz, Gershon Veroba, Dr. Meyer and Baruch Abittan, Pey Dalid, and Michael Ian Elias. The concert is presented in association with Young Israel Chovevei Zion, with special thanks to the National Council of Young Israel. The concert organizer is Dr. Joseph Frager; Chairpersons are Dr. Paul and Drora Brody; co-organizers are Meyer and Esther Chetrit and Jacqui and Tamar Ekstein. Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele will be the guest speaker; Deputy Speaker of the Knesset Danny Dannon will also appear, as will David Ha'Ivri, executive director of the Shomron Liaison Office. To help defray the huge costs, contributors of \$500 or more will be listed on

the widely distributed concert poster, with a dedication to a loved one. For more information, call 917-650-5623.

May 24

Blood Drive

THE BACH JEWISH CENTER, located at 210 Edwards Blvd. in Long Beach, will hold its first annual TMD blood drive. Afternoon time.

May 26

Shalhevet dinner

SHALHEVET HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS will hold its first annual dinner, honoring Judy & Scott Wagman and Stacy & Robbie Zeitz. The dinner will be held at Temple Hillel, 1000 Rosedale Road in North Woodmere. For information call (516) 224-0242.

Shiurim

Monday

HALACHA SHIUR followed by a Parsha shiur by Rabbi Yaakov Feitman beginning at 9:00 PM at Kehillas Bais Yehuda Tzvi, 395 Oakland Ave., Cedarhurst.

Tuesday

SHIUR IN MAHARAL ON THE CHUMASH by Rabbi Eytan Feiner from 8:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. at Congregation Kneseth Israel, 728 Empire Ave., Far Rockaway.

PARSHA SHIUR by Rabbi Mordechai Sitorsky at Kehillas Bais Yehuda Tzvi, 395 Oakland Ave., Cedarhurst.

Thursday

VIDEO SIMULCASTS OF WEEKLY SHIURIM by Rabbi Eli Mansour and Rabbi Yissocher Frand at Kehillas Bais Yehuda Tzvi, 395 Oakland Ave., Cedarhurst. Rabbi Mansour at 7:45 p.m., Rabbi Frand at 9:00 p.m. Weekly chaburat: 10:15 p.m., Taamei HaMitzvos: 11:00 p.m., Maariv: 11:15. Chulent served.

Daily

MEN'S TORAH STUDY KOLLEL PROGRAM with Rabbi Don Well, from 10-12 every morning at Congregation Bais Medrash of Cedarhurst, 504 West Broadway, corner Bayview Ave in Cedarhurst.



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Photos by Elizabeth Kirshenbaum

Alcohol is in short supply at kosher events at the Lawrence Country Club.

Liquor lockdown

Booze barred at Lawrence Country Club's kosher events

By Mayer Fertig

The annual dinner of the Lawrence-Far Rockaway Community Kollel on Tuesday evening was a dry affair — not because the program was boring or the cause unworthy, but — on account of what an attendee at the Lawrence Country Club described as, “two beefy security guards walking around policing whether anybody was serving or consuming liquor.”

The men, muscular and intimidating in tight black shirts, were apparently in the employ of Mezza on the Green, the non-kosher caterer at the elegant club on Causeway in Lawrence. Similarly attired men were reportedly present at a kosher event at the club on Sunday evening, as well.

Mezza, which holds a liquor license, and the country club's kosher caterer, Chap-a-Nosh, which does not, are locked in a contractual dispute over fees for serving wine and spirits at kosher events. The fight has been brewing for nearly a year. It reportedly led another kosher caterer, Mauzone, to walk away from the country club at the end of February without seeking to renew its contract. At least one prospective kosher client has moved her June event to another venue and is demanding a refund.

In a sense, it seems that both caterers are right.

Two sources confirmed to The Jewish Star that the disagreement arose in 2009 after the Village of Lawrence and Mezza on the Green agreed on set corkage fees and bartending services for kosher events at the country club — fees already spelled out in existing contracts with Mauzone and Chap-a-Nosh — but then somehow the wrong contract was signed. Mezza's signed deal with the village is actually different than the version that was approved by the Lawrence Board of Trustees, according to the sources.

The discrepancy became apparent last May when Mezza first sought to collect the fees that its contract says it is entitled to. Chap-a-Nosh, understandably, prefers to pay only the lower fees to which it previously agreed. The differences between the two versions of the contract are sobering, potentially running into thousands of dollars per event.

Yehuda Honig made an 'aufruf' at the country club at the end of December but when presented with the fee schedule for

wine and liquor, he balked.

“I'm not paying you \$4600 so that three guys can take a shot of vodka,” he said he told the representative of Mezza on the Green. “If you want, I'll make you a deal. I'm going to bring my own liquor and I'll give you a flat \$1500, take it or leave it.” In the end he took it. It was free money for him,” Honig said.

“It's going to hurt the country club's business a lot,” predicted Chani Einhorn.

She made an engagement party for her daughter at the club in March and booked a weekend sheva brachos for June. But she moved the second event to a hotel and demanded a refund after going through weeks of uncertainty and aggravation over corkage and bartending fees before the engagement party.

“I didn't want to deal with it again, so I cancelled,” Einhorn said. “People are going to stay away. It's becoming an exorbitant situation. I understand that [Mezza] holds the liquor license and he's entitled to it, [but] I wasn't looking to spend \$5,000 on liquor for a Shabbos sheva brachos.”

“It is an unfair tax because why shouldn't we be able to serve liquor,” said Honig. “We have to pay for our caterer; it's a community country club. And furthermore, [alcohol] is required for kiddush. We're not drinkers. When you have a kiddush, how many people, maybe 15 or 20 percent, take hard drinks?”

“I'm a Lawrence resident for 20 years. I pay my taxes. This is the first time I'm using the country club,” Einhorn said. “I'm entitled to have liquor served.”

Reached by telephone, Lawrence Trustee Michael Fragin, who attended the kollel event, said, “I don't know if should issue an apology or a statement,” but he declined to comment further, citing the possibility of litigation against the village.

The Jewish Star sought comment from Lawrence Mayor Simon Felder, and the village administrator, David Smollett, as well as from representatives of Mezza on the Green and Chap-a-Nosh.

Mayor Felder did not respond to several telephone messages left on Tuesday evening and an email sent early Wednesday. E-mails to the village administrator and Mezza on the Green were not answered. Chap-a-Nosh declined to comment in anticipation of a long-sought meeting with village officials. It was scheduled for late this week.

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Basil: New Yorkers introduced to gourmet kosher pizza

By Sara Trappler Spielman

Occupying a corner café on a narrow, quiet street, the newest addition to the culinary scene in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn, comes alongside a revolution in upscale kosher cuisine.

Previously a non-kosher Caribbean restaurant, the new pizza and wine bar known as Basil is the only kosher restaurant in the part of the neighborhood north of Eastern Parkway. This slight departure away from the hub of kosher shops is telling of the clientele Basil's owners, Danny Branover and Isaac Alkaslasi, hope to attract. Executive chef Moshe Wendel says that even non-Jewish folk in the area have been requesting the establishment's signature offerings.

But Wendel assures that they're not ordinary slices of pizza. They'll come in individually sized pies with unique toppings; every ingredient will be prepared from scratch, he says. With flour imported from Italy, cheeses from Israel and Europe and a very expensive, high tech gas-run wood stone pizza oven — "The Rolls Royce of pizza ovens," in Wendel's words — baking everything to perfection, it's supposed to taste more like Italy.

The view from Basil's windows, however, reminds guests they're still in Brooklyn. From small, gray, marble tables and a matching bar counter, patrons can watch pedestrians on Kingston Avenue and Lincoln Place through floor-to-ceiling glass doors.

The menu offers the traditional mozzarella and tomato varieties of pizza, and also some more wild selections, such as "Pencil Asparagus and Ricotta" made with golden beets, mint and jalapeno; "The Sardinian Anchovy" featuring red onion, preserved lemon and goat's milk feta; and "Nutella," a concoction of hazelnut, banana and chocolate spreads.

Past the oven at the center, sauces are simmering on the stovetop during a recent visit. A line cook, whose job entails following the chef's recipes at a specific station, walks in with a plate of sliced eggplant.



"Sliced too thin," Wendel says, indicating with his fingers how much thicker to cut the vegetable.

Wendel's been working in kitchens for 14 years, and the staff at Basil are carrying out his vision to create gourmet food. Until recently, his experience was in non-kosher dining. Wendel is aiming for a casual, comfortable atmosphere with familiar food while also opening customers' palates to unusual delicacies. "It'll be good food, but you don't have to be serious to come in," Wendel explains. "You can still eat off of people's plates."

He believes Crown Heights, in light of the thousands of international visitors who regularly pass through, deserves good quality restaurants offering gourmet products.

"It's kosher of course," he says of his own venture, "but it won't taste different. It'll be good by all standards, a restaurant for everyone, because there are all types here."

He imagines friends sharing their orders of pizza and pasta over glasses of wine. In the morning, there'll be coffee with fresh croissants, muffins, breads and cookies all baked on the premises by the pastry chef, Ehud Ezra.

Opening at the crack of dawn, Basil will function as a coffee shop until 11:00 am. Then until 10:00 p.m., there will be a full menu of Italian-style personalized pizzas, paninis, pastas, fish and salads, as well as elegant desserts. The place will remain open until 2:00 a.m. every night serving a lighter

menu with snacks and drinks.

Wendel takes out his handmade basil ice cream from the freezer, which will be paired with the funnel cake on the dessert menu. He says that he takes pride in personally crafting his artisanal offerings, such as the odd-sounding combination of herb and ice cream. "I'm a craftsman," Wendel stresses. "What I do is not an art. It's a craft."

Wendel believes the art of cooking is best-learned hands on. After culinary school, he traveled to France, where he "learned about real food." He scoured outdoor markets for fresh fish, produce and cheese, and toiled in beautifully-appointed kitchens. When he returned home, he was motivated "to do the real thing." At the time, he thought that encompassed only the food, but soon, he discovered more.

When he met his wife a few years ago, says Wendel, they both "wanted to become more Jewish." They were familiar with basic traditions and lit candles every Friday night at Jangle, a restaurant Wendel was working at in Pennsylvania.

He reached a turning point one day when he woke up and could no longer taste anything. The life-altering experience — a nightmare for a chef — turned out to be related to an allergy to his cat, but it made him question his spiritual reality. Maybe there was more to life than food and taste, he reasoned. "I became more G-d conscious," says Wendel.

He decided to give religious Judaism a try, and went to a Chabad center in Philadelphia for the High Holidays. Two years ago, he and his wife began to keep Shabbat and moved to Hillside, N.J.

Before Basil, Wendel served as executive chef at Mosaica, a Mediterranean-inspired kosher restaurant offering French and Moroccan cuisine in Vauxhall, N.J.

Visitors and local residents often travel to Manhattan to dine out, a fact that Wendel and his bosses hope to change. Crown Heights, with its abundance of stores, children's museum, and synagogues, draws people in for spiritual and cultural reasons. They want to add to its culinary draw, as well.

"Why not," asks Wendel, "have something right here?"

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Opinion

Free free to disagree, but respectfully, please!

As a proud American citizen who cares deeply about the fate and destiny of Israel, the growing tension between the USA and Israel under the current administration in Washington, D.C. is of great concern. I can recall no time in my memory when a sitting U.S. president (including President Carter while in office), the executive office (including George H.W. Bush's executive office), and cabinet have appeared to be so intensely and increasingly hostile toward Israel and one-sided and understanding towards terror-sponsoring states (e.g. Syria) and "respectable" terrorist partners (e.g. the Palestinian Authority).

IN MY VIEW



Rabbi Hershel Billet

I have seen much material in the pro-Israel press and in pro-Israel cyberspace, that has taken up the case for Israel intelligently and eloquently. And this must continue in all legitimate arenas.

At the same time I have seen material and initiatives that are not acceptable and could be harmful to Israel. There have been vicious ad hominem attacks on the President and his men. Some, unfortunately, have been racial. And they come from members (mostly fringe elements but not exclusively fringe elements) of the pro-Israel Jewish community.

Remember, if we care about Israel and want to help Israel, we must speak and act in a manner that is effective. A few points are in order:

1. We must always show respect to the office of the President of the United States.
2. We must be respectful towards cabinet members and advisers of the President.

3. We must always speak with measured words, in a respectful tone.
4. We should be forceful and tireless in our advocacy for Israel.
5. We are allowed to criticize the policies of the President, the executive branch, and those members of Congress who are unfair to Israel.
6. We should nurture and solicit help from our friends in Congress.
7. We should express support for the prime minister and government of Israel.
8. We should encourage the prime minister to be fearless in pursuing his mandate on behalf of the citizens of Israel. He should not make concessions on matters of security (such as removing road blocks/checkpoints) which might compromise the safety of Israeli citizens.
9. He should continue to allow communities to build according to the needs of normal growth within Jewish communities which are located on legally acquired land including in Judea and Samaria.
10. Jerusalem is the united capitol of Israel and must be developed legally without any quotas imposed by foreign governments. Only under Israeli control have all religions been allowed to worship freely at their holy sites in Jerusalem.
11. Under no circumstance should our words or deeds be disrespectful, insulting or racially abusive. Our public actions/demonstrations should be pro-Israel, not anti-Obama.

Respectfully Yours,
Rabbi Hershel Billet

Rabbi Billet, rabbi of the Young Israel of Woodmere, sent this message to the members of his congregation.



Photos by Christina Daly

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Hundreds gathered at Chevrah Hatzalah of the Rockaways and Nassau County's annual Sushi and Grill reception held at the Sands on April 25. Hatzalah celebrated 29 years of saving lives.



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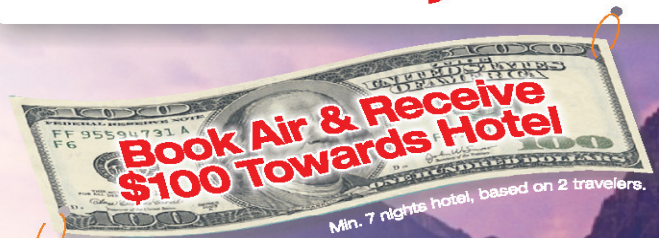
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Ask Aviva

Nice guy but something's missing

All questions are real. Identifying details have been changed to preserve anonymity.

Dear Aviva,

I wish I had a crystal ball. I've been dating a guy for three months. He is a really wonderful person and everybody wants us to get engaged already. I see that he is not like any other guys that I've dated: He has such great middos and, based on how he treats me, his parents and the rest of his family, he would make an amazing husband and father.

The issue that I have is that I am not attracted to him at all. I really wish that I were, but after unsuccessfully trying to find him even slightly appealing, I see that there is nothing there for me, physically.

I don't want to break up with him because I am getting older and I am scared that I will miss my opportunity. I know what else is out there, and I have found that the good guys are few and far between. But I also know what it's like to be attracted to someone, and I can tell you that I am most certainly not attracted to this one.

We do have fun together, but I see that I am not excited when he calls or texts. He is ready to propose whenever I give him the go-ahead and he has no clue that I feel this way. Is physical attraction really that important, or am I just being shallow? I'm sure I could have a nice life with him anyway.

Dear Tepid,

Let me put it to you this way: If a married friend told you that physicality is not an important component in her marriage, either mistrust her or pity her.

You are not being shallow in wanting your spouse to be what a spouse is supposed to be: attractive to you.

You have a very good contender in your ring. I wouldn't want to see you throw him away so easily. Let's see if we can try to muster up even a fraction of fervor from your end.

Here's your game plan.

Step 1: Be direct.

You mentioned that he "has no clue" that you are unenthusiastic. That scares me. Have you led him on? Do you give your brightest smile even when you feel like rolling your eyes?

It is vital that you talk to him and clue him in. He has to know that you are merely shuffling behind his sprints. The only person who can tell him this is you. I know that it is easier to just sit back and let life happen, rather than addressing things directly, as they come up. This is a skill that you must work on in all areas of your life - at work, at home, with friends and even with hair salon staff.

-Tepid

Find words that you are comfortable with and educate him about the issue. Be polite, but honest. You don't have to talk about his mediocre looks; in fact, it is probably best if you leave that part out. Be clear in conveying that there is something impeding on the relationship. Expect him to be thrown, so go easy, without avoiding the matter.

Step 2: Self-Assess

Let's figure out if this issue is coming from you, or if you were influenced by an outside source. Has anyone made any derogatory comments to you about his looks? If so, try to think of how you viewed him on your first date. Also, try to separate your opinion from others' by being confident in even your minor decisions.

Now let's determine how unattractive he is to you. Does he have a feature or two that you can appreciate (Case A)? Maybe you find him neutral - nothing attractive, nothing unattractive (Case B). Or, perhaps he is repulsive to you (Case C).

Step 3: Be Proactive

Case A is pretty simple. All you have to do is see which features you like, and then focus solely on them. Try to blur out the rest of him and look at the attribute you like. But do yourself a favor and remember to blink while you are on your focused mission, otherwise he will wonder why you are trying to burrow a hole through his chin

with your laser-vision.

Case B is all about context. Tell him to wear that shirt you like, and if you don't like any of his shirts, buy him one that you do like. Make sure that you date in places that make you feel nice. (This depends on you — it could be an upscale restaurant, a hike, or a toy store.) This is a good time to exercise your directness: "Do you mind wearing your dark grey polo?" or "I heard about a new restaurant/trail/store that I would like to check out. Can we go Thursday?"

In Case C, if he is too yucky, blechy and ewwy (those are the technical terms), it will be very, very, very difficult to rally together enthusiasm. I recommend taking a break and seeing if you miss him. (Definition of a break: a set period of time in which neither party has any contact with the other. Definition of contact: texting, emailing, chatting, Facebook-poking and even the elusive conversation in the flesh.) If you don't think about him over the break, and/or are not excited to see him when you reunite, chalk it up to a lost cause and move on to the next guy.

Aviva Rizel has received her Master's in marriage and family therapy from Hofstra University and sees couples, families and individuals. Email questions to avivarizel.mft@gmail.com.

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Frantic Fridays

In which the flood *could* have put out the fire

I needed an egg. It was 47 minutes before Shabbos and the kugel batter was ready to go in the oven... if only it had an egg.

Stepping out the front door, I had to think fast. Head next door to the B's? I had recently borrowed a candle...or five, just moments before it was time to light. Wouldn't want them to think last minute pre-Shabbos preparation was typical over here.

Down the block to the E's or the R's? Probably not enough time, with the houses in between and the pleasantries that would be required.

Across the street to the J's? They had newborn twins, a one-year-old and a three-year-old. But it was only an egg, so I crossed the street barefoot and knocked on the door.

Cue the harps.

The house was eat-off-the-floor immaculate with nary a teething toy in sight. Children with newly washed hair smiled at me from the sofa, just behind the bouquet of red roses sitting on the sill. The aroma of warm, freshly baked challah wafted through the living room, greeting me at the front door.

And of course, they were more than happy to oblige. I rushed back into my house, egg in hand, cracked, mixed, poured and cranked up the oven.

But that was last year...

...and I'd be lying if I said the neighbor's serene scene inspired anything but awe.

Here, we still specialize in Frantic Fridays. I sometimes feel like I greet the Shabbat Kallah like a flustered lover, smoothing my hair and clothing after dealing dinner plates like playing cards and joining my husband in a well-rehearsed kitchen dance involving mini hotdogs, hotplates and fridge-light tapings.

Our weeks are packed with carpools, homework, groceries, cooking, laundry, little league and employment. Husband and I both squeeze in more work hours than I care to recount here. I say the work gets squeezed in, but those who juggle professional careers with family and religion know that everything gets squeezed. It is our exhausting reality, cherished if not always graceful.

Which brings me to last week.

I pride myself on being an organized, master multi-tasker, so when Father-in-Law stopped by on Friday afternoon, we chatted and I smugly baked a chicken, washed sweet potatoes, prepped a cholent, answered emails, mixed cookie batter and put portabella mushrooms in the broiler. When Husband came home, he took over the proceedings (which includ-

ed plugging in the cholent pot I had left disconnected) and I raced into the home office to put out a client fire.

Until the smell of smoke brought me back to the kitchen.

Black clouds rippled from the stovetop and flames burst from inside when we opened the oven door. We led the kids out the back door and called the fire department. Shoeless on the front lawn, the children worried about favorite toys and I wondering if we'd have food for Shabbos...

"Which reminds me," I said to my husband as I took mental inventory of the various items in the oven, "I put some mushrooms in the broiler; they are probably ready by now."

Moments later, when the fireman held charred tinfoil in his right glove and radioed the verdict to the dispatcher, "Portabellas in the broiler," I felt like Gracie Allen. And, with the entire squad fewer than 10 feet away, I checked the time, proceeded to (casually as I could) pull five candles from a drawer, strike a match and light them one by one in candlesticks on the console. Three arm waves and a prayer later (two prayers actually, both the bracha and a request that I not be written up as a pyromaniac) and it was Shabbos. The nearly dozen firemen took their industrial fans, rolled their fireman eyes, swallowed their fireman smirks and departed.

The kids reveled in reliving the excitement and mocking my mushrooms during dinner. I noted that somehow most of the food was perfect - even enhanced slightly by the hint of smoke, when I realized that I had not given my daughter her bath.

"I know," said Husband. "You left the water running."

No recollection on my part.

"Upstairs? The bath?" he prodded. "When I went up to open windows and let out the smoke, I couldn't help but notice the bathroom was flooded."

Oh yes. The bath.

He applauded my trifecta (the cholent pot, the fire, the flood) and, G-d bless him, laughed with me. The kids joined in because kids love to see their parents laugh even if they don't know exactly what is funny. And like every other week, the chaos melted into a cocoon.

Maybe I do need to multitask less. Maybe there is an easier way to manage it all.

Perhaps, if I am honest, there is a part of me that savors the sharp contrast, the wonder of going from total Tohu Va'vohu to a little bit of Gan Eden on earth each Friday night.

Or maybe, I just need more sleep.

"Good Night, Gracie," I thought to myself as I got into bed. "Good night, Gracie, and good Shabbos too."

Ilya Welfeld, stops to cherish the chaos, writing about balancing work, life and religion for The Jewish Star. Email her at ilyawelfeld@gmail.com.



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Opinion

Why Israel needs to worry about ... Zimbabwe?

The Western world, with the United States at the helm, is working hard to cajole the other countries of the world to join them in their battle to halt Iran's nuclear development.

The United States is organizing, urging and entreatng their partners and allies, those countries who believe as the United States believes that a nuclear Iran is a threat to the entire world, to reach out to their own friends and allies. The mission is to keep the world safe. The plan is to put forth a fourth round of sanctions against Iran.

I'M THINKING



Micah D. Halpern

Iran has other plans.

As the United States and other Western countries sweat it out, working hard to organize the powers that be at the United Nations and within the Security

Council, Iran bobs and weaves and maneuvers with apparent ease lining up supporters for their own cause.

Over the past four months Iran has engaged in secret negotiations with Zimbabwe. An agreement between the two countries was signed just a few days ago and has been



made public. According to the agreement Iran now has mining rights to Zimbabwean uranium ore.

The best guesstimate is that Zimbabwe's uranium ore deposits are huge, but no one knows for sure. Iran will begin mining and in exchange, Zimbabwe will receive much needed oil. It is a win-win situation for both countries. Zimbabwe is strapped for oil and fuel. They have great untapped uranium, but no money with which to mine their lodes. Iran's uranium stock piles, old and imported from South Africa in the 1970's, are almost totally depleted. Iran and Zimbabwe each get what

they want, they each get what they need.

Would the Western world have ever persuaded Zimbabwe to join their fight? Never. Zimbabwe continues to be ruled by Robert Mugabe, the iron fisted thug, the mass murderer, the man who is persona non grata across the Western world.

Mugabe could not care less about the United Nations, the Security Council, international condemnation, sanctions or his reputation. Mugabe does what he thinks is best for Robert Mugabe. And right now Mugabe needs fuel and has uranium. Iran is the perfect partner.

Few people saw this alliance coming. Only a handful are paying attention now. That's a mistake.

That is what makes Iran such a formidable foe. Iranians know how senseless sanctions against them are, they know sanctions are extremely difficult to impose and how even more difficult they are promote. They understand, too, that there is the calculated risk that goods may be confiscated as they make their way to Iran but that is a price they are all too willing to pay.

Zimbabwe does not stand alone. There are many countries out there that can easily be persuaded to join with Iran, some out of economic need, some out of fear of Iran, some because like Iran, they despise the United States and the West. To ignore those countries is a mistake.

Every country has a diplomatic Achilles heel. The West must make every effort to sway as many non-allied, non-friendly countries as they can. The West needs to invest energy in those non allied countries and forge relationships and gain information. Information is power.

And by the way Iran is a very powerful enemy.

Micah D. Halpern is a columnist and a social and political commentator. Read his latest book THUGS. He maintains The Micah Report at www.micahhalpern.com.



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Two rings to unite them all

One of the most effective tools of cross-examination is to confront the witness with his or her testimony from a prior proceeding or act of life. For instance, I once cross examined a witness in a divorce case with testimony from a deposition she had given two years prior, relative to a motor vehicle accident that she was involved in for which he was claiming compensation for serious injuries.

At the divorce trial she was attempting to establish that her husband was the driving force behind their business and that he was the key to all the money made over the years.

FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BENCH



David Seidemann

Her objective was to convince the court that now that they were becoming divorced she needed to be supported by her soon-to-be ex-husband because she possessed no business acumen herself. However, two years earlier a deposition given in connection to her motor vehicle accident she claimed just the opposite. She testified that she was the power behind the family business and that due to her injuries she was unable to work on a daily basis for months

which served to cause the business to fold. In another matrimonial case I confronted a man who claimed that he did not have the money to pay child support and spousal support with the fact that he made a contribution that year to the ASPCA. My point was well-received that he somehow had money to better the life of a dog but did not have enough money to see to it that his ex-wife and children have food to eat.

Deeds matter and words matter. Sometimes they come back to haunt you and sometimes they serve to help you. Here's a story I heard about a week ago from the subject of the story herself as she lives modestly in our very own neighborhood.

The woman hailed from a very noteworthy family where each of the women in the family married into other noteworthy families. The mother married royalty as did her two daughters and granddaughter. The matriarch of the family lived in Israel with her husband and their eldest daughter. The younger daughter lived in the United States with her daughter, the granddaughter of the matriarch.

One summer afternoon at a family picnic the granddaughter misplaced her diamond engagement ring. She was a woman of simple tastes and never dreamed of having it replaced. She concealed the loss for as long as possible from her husband as she did not want her husband to feel the pressure of having to replace it.

Husbands can sometimes be fooled but mothers can't, at least not as easily. One day the mother confronted her daughter and told her that she no longer believed her story that the ring was being polished and would soon "reoccupy her finger."

"I know you misplaced it," said her mother "I'm giving you mine... Tsu pas nisht. It is not proper that a woman as important and respected as you, married to such an important figure in our community should walk

around without a ring on her finger. My husband, your father, passed away many years ago. I am no longer a married woman and I don't need a diamond on my hand. You, however, deserve to walk the streets with the pride associated with being married and with the glory you deserve." Reluctantly, her daughter took the ring and wore it on her finger for years. The secret between mother and daughter remained intact.

Meanwhile, across the great ocean, the matriarch of the family had taken ill and was being cared for on a daily basis by her elder daughter who lived just a short few blocks from her. "You have been such a great daughter, taking care of all my daily needs. When G-d decides that my time on this earth is over I am leaving to you my diamond engagement ring," the great matriarch said.

That was the one and only discussion that took place regarding the ring and the subject was never resurrected until recently, when the matriarch of the family passed away.

After shiva concluded, the two daughters were cleaning out their mother's bedroom drawers when they came upon their mother's engagement ring. The daughter who lived in America, the one without a husband, the one who had given her diamond ring to her daughter told her sister: "While I was thousands of miles away in the United States you cared for our mother's every need. I know she wanted you to have her diamond engagement ring and so here it is. We must carry out our mothers expressed wish."

Using the same Yiddish phrase she used years before in addressing her daughter in America, she now addressed her older sister and said "Tsu pas nisht. It would be improper if we did not carry out our mother's wish. So here please take the ring and wear it in good health."

"I would in a heartbeat" said the elder sister, "but I am married and already have a diamond adorning my hand. You, on the other hand, though having lost your husband years ago, seem to have also lost the diamond ring he gave you upon your engagement." Echoing her younger sister's words it was her turn to say, "Tsu pas nisht. It would be improper for me to own two diamonds when you possess none." And with that she gave their mother's diamond ring to her younger sister.

"You see I knew your sparkling little secret," the elder sister continued. "I knew that you said 'Tsu pas nisht' to your daughter, my niece, years ago when you gave your ring to her, sacrificing your honor for hers. Now it's my turn to happily throw those words back in your face. Because it is so fitting that all of us, those with husbands and without, carry the majestic symbol of the love we shared with our respective and respected husbands."

This is not just a "story" I heard. I happen to have met every one of the women connected to this true story and know that the sparkle and radiance on their fingers are a reflection of their mothers and grandmother's soul.

David Seidemann is a partner with the law firm of Seidemann & Mermelstein. He can be reached at (718) 692-1013 and at ds@lawofficesm.com

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Opinion

Editorial

Secret to success is just showing up

Not all of the people who live in the Lawrence school district are necessarily in strict agreement with one another about how stupendously lucky they are to live there under the current school board. Suffice to say that differences of opinion exist. However, if one were to look at that question strictly from the perspective of a taxpayer, the residents of District 15 are fortunate, indeed.

That's because tax levy increases in District 15 have been close to zero for the last four years. This in a district that subsisted on austerity budgets for several years previous, after fed-up voters nixed successive school spending plans.

Compare this to the Hewlett-Woodmere district next door. In District 14 school taxes have nearly doubled in recent years and the upward trajectory shows no sign of slowing.

Eleven months ago two homes located across the street from one another in Nassau County were assessed at \$654,000 each. One home sits in District 14, the other in District 15. Last year's tax bill on the former was \$12,338 — that's the Hewlett-Woodmere district — while the tax bill on the latter, in the Lawrence district, was just \$5687.

Property taxes are not the whole story of a district's performance, of course. No matter how great the concern over dollars and cents, it is still more important to be certain that students are being given every advantage. That will always be the case. Luckily, there is every indication that the quality of education in District 15 remains very high indeed.

Therefore, we remind voters in District 15 who are concerned with their property tax bills to circle May 11 on their kitchen calendars, to mark it in their day planners

and highlight it in their electronic schedules.

May 11 is the date of the school board election in the Lawrence School District — a week earlier than districts elsewhere, on account of a conflict with Erev Shavuot — and voting is vital.

With that in mind, we'll take this opportunity to make another point.

Woody Allen once said, "80 percent of success is just showing up."

From the perspective of a taxpayer, residents of District 15 are fortunate, indeed. District 14 taxes have doubled.

Being a member of the school board in District 15 has not been easy in recent years. At risk of being accused of moral equivalency, which we do not intend or condone, it is fair to say that officials on both sides of the aisle (the aisle in this case runs between public school and private school parents) have been criticized, vilified, threatened and downright hated. If there's any ego involved in such work it would have to be related to a peculiar form of masochism.

Therefore, we respectfully suggest that a way to demonstrate gratitude to elected officials and would-be elected officials alike, would be to show up when the opportunity presents itself.

School board meetings would come under this heading. And this week, an observer at the Meet the Candidate Night noted that there were virtually no identifiably Orthodox men (read: yarmulkas) in the crowd. It's not easy to get out on a work night, but we all do so anyway for all sorts of reasons. Even if you already have every intention of voting, and already know exactly for whom you intend to vote, showing up to an event like that to lend moral support to people working on all of our behalf — to applaud or even smile, where appropriate, would be a nice thing to do.

We're just saying.

Letters to the editor

Remembering the Holocaust

To the Editor,

Thank you for your headline coverage of Yom Hashoah and especially the Five Towns community-wide program (The memory of memory - Holocaust commemoration draws hundreds in Lawrence; April 16, 2010). Your articles about the commemoration let those who didn't attend, and the outside world, especially the deniers, know that the Holocaust did happen and we have proof.

Even though it is sad that the first generation of survivors is dwindling, we are well represented by the second generation - by Ben Brafman who let the audience know, and the deniers too, that more than six million human beings perished.

Bruce Weinberg
Brooklyn

G-d helps those who help themselves

To the Editor:

Israel has a new worry. A danger in addition to the constant threats presented to Israel by Iran, Hezbollah, Hamas, Syria and all the other hostile nations in her neighborhood, and in addition to the pressure and the censure of the UN. This trouble is coming from my country, and my president.

News reports are indicating that a switch of foreign policy is under way. President Barack Obama is reaching out to the Arab nations to draw them in as allies and he has shown Netanyahu his disfavor.

When I view Mayor Koch's accurate and unexaggerated message about our president's foreign policy shift and the shameful, meek reaction of Congress, I am worried. When Elie Wiesel and Ronald Lauder

take out full pages in the NY Times and Wall Street Journal, I am worried. However, when, according to my very inaccurate assessment, the average age of the paltry showing at the rally in front of the Israeli consulate looks to be around 40-plus, I am very worried. Where were all of our youth? Where were the college and high school kids? Where were the young couples with carriages? Why did I not meet my friends and acquaintances?

It is clear that President Obama has shamed our prime minister. He is pushing hard for Israel to stop building in Jerusalem, and he is reaching out warmly to the Arab leaders. Against Iran no meaningful action has been taken.

I wonder: have we, as Jews grown complacent? We have never had it so good. We cannot imagine that Eretz Yisrael is in for a tough time from the bastion of democracy and opportunity, our USA.

I am much too frightened to assume and rely solely on back channels to affect a policy change. I believe that we must speak out forcefully and hope that those who have access to the corridors of power are doing their jobs.

Most of the speakers, including our friend, Curtis Sliwa, exhorted us to "daven to Hashem." But we do not solely rely on a miracle. I think all of us must raise our voices. We must do those American democratic rites of protests, rallies, letter writing, calling our representatives and telling them that the changes that are occurring are dangerous to this country and endanger Israel even more. We need our leaders to lead the way and encourage us all to do for Israel.

I have no solutions; I am not certain that any of my suggestions will change the situation and help Israel, but as is taught in Pirkei Avot, "It is not for you to complete the task, but neither are you free to stand aside."

Esther Langer
Long Beach

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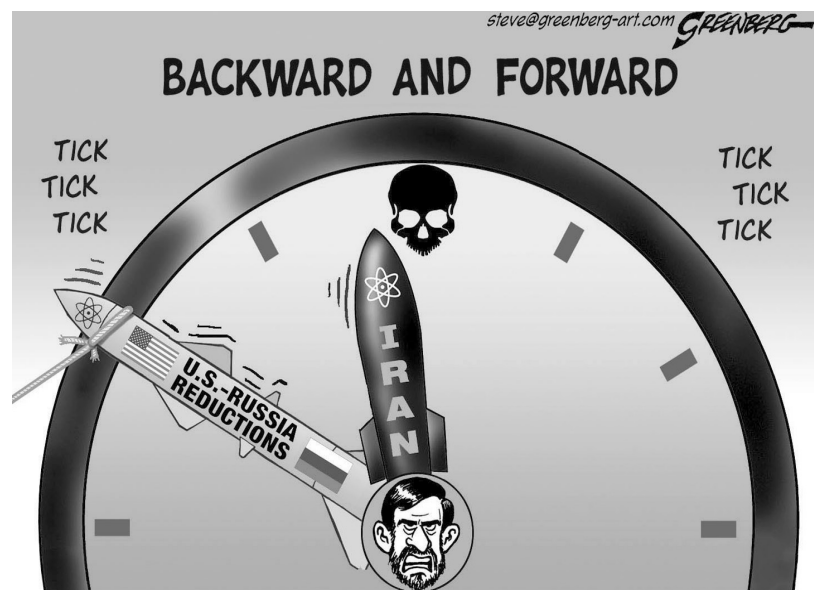
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Book review

Salvation in Shanghai

By Miriam Bradman Abrahams

SJ Rozan has won every award in the crime fiction genre for her books about the detective team of Lydia Chin and Bill Smith. She has detailed Chinese history and culture in her books but never touched upon Jewish history until now. After a hiatus of seven years, Rozan wrote "The Shanghai Moon." The book is ninth in the Chin/Smith series but it stands alone. "The Shanghai Moon" takes place in Shanghai during World War II, where there was an unlikely safe haven for 20,000 Jews.

I met SJ Rozan, native New Yorker and Jewish Book Network author, at a Nassau Region Hadassah event in Little Neck. She delivered a fascinating presentation about the short-lived Shanghai Jewish community. When pressed for her full name, SJ confided that she is Shira Judith. SJ says "the Chinese could be one of the lost tribes of Israel" — their community is so similar to the Jews in its focus on family and food. SJ's books play up the relationship between Lydia and her mother, a Chinese immigrant who sounds just like a typical Jewish mother. SJ had heard about the Jews of Shanghai and wanted to know more so it was time to research and write an incredible Jewish story.

Joel Pilarsky, Lydia Chin's mentor, involves her in a case recovering jewelry which belonged to Rosalie Gilder, a teen who fled the Holocaust by becoming a refugees in Shanghai. Lydia reads a cache of letters found on a Jewish Museum website, which Rosalie had

written to her mother who had stayed behind in Salzburg. The poignant letters detail their voyage to Shanghai and how Rosalie and her brother build a life there.

SJ created the backdrop for the novel by reading memoirs in English and German, interviewing survivors and watching two documentary films — "Ghetto Shanghai" and "Last Refugee Shanghai." In 1937, Jews fled to Shanghai from Eastern Europe because no place else would take them. Jews could still leave Europe if they had proof they had somewhere to go. Rumors spread that if you could get on a ship to Shanghai you could stay there. There were three communities in Shanghai, the Chinese section, the International Settlement and the French concession. The British controlled the International Settlement and weren't checking papers.

Three people who are now acknowledged as Righteous Gentiles made it possible for Jews to leave Austria and Lithuania to Shanghai. The Chinese Consul General to Austria, Feng-Shan Ho, wrote visas freely and was known as the Chinese Schindler. The Japanese Vice Consul in Lithuania, Chiune Sugihara wrote transit visas through Japan. The Acting Dutch Consul in Lithuania, Jan Zwartendijk, wrote visas for the Dutch colonies of Curacao and Surinam, which together with the transit visas through Japan issued by Sugihara, allowed Jews to exit Europe to the Far East via the Trans-Siberian Railway. As Sugihara was leaving Lithuania, he continued to hand out exit visas through his train window. The entire Mir Yeshiva left intact

as a group to Shanghai using visas signed by Sugihara. Fleeing to Shanghai meant you needed enough money to get to Vienna or Lithuania then board a ship or train out. Educated, multilingual refugees who wealthy when they left Europe arrived penniless in Shanghai.

Jews arriving to the International Settlement encountered two Jewish communities: White Russian middle class czarists, and about 300 wealthy Jews from Baghdad who supported the new refugees by setting up shelters and schools. Japanese were the majority in Hongkew and in December 1941 when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, the Japanese became enemies of the International Settlement. The Germans wanted them to hand over or exterminate the Jews. The Japanese refused. There are various theories why the Japanese didn't comply. They witnessed relief efforts in Shanghai and didn't want to alienate wealthy Jews. Jacob Schiff made loans to modernize the Japanese army and the Japanese felt they owed the Jews loyalty.

The Japanese compromised by moving "stateless persons" to Hongkew in 1943 by a proclamation that never explicitly stated Jews. The camp in Hongkew had a curfew but was self-patrolled and you could leave for work or school. Jewish culture thrived but living conditions were difficult. With the bombing of Hiroshima, and Chiang Kai-shek winning China's civil war, Jews were no longer welcome and the community disbanded by 1950. Though numbering 20,000 during



SJ Rozan

the war, by that time only 1,000 remained. Those left behind were the assimilated, the sickly and the elderly

Through "The Shanghai Moon" I learned about a very real chunk of Jewish history that I had heard about from an elementary school rabbi in Brooklyn, who repeatedly told us students that he was from China. We didn't believe him. Now, I know better.

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The Kosher Bookworm

Remembering the Lower East Side

With the warm weather of the spring season now upon us, walking tours of some of the most historic communities in New York City beckon to us. Thus, this week's essay will deal with one such community that is dear to this writer and his family.

For over the a century, the Lower East Side of Manhattan was regarded by most major historians as the largest Jewish immigrant community in America. The Lower East Side was the area of first settlement when Jews arrived upon these shores. They were to spend their first, and for many families, their second generations in that neighborhood, assimilating to a new and strange culture that was to alter their lifestyles and religious observances almost beyond recognition.

By the beginning of the 21st century, this area of first settlement has become the focus of nostalgia by the forth and fifth generations of the original immigrants who now make occasional forays into "der alter heim," to satisfy old sentimental notions or just plain curiosity.

For this writer, a native of that community, my interest lies within the religious roots of American Judaism as personified by the ex-

periences of the original settlers so long ago.

Recently, a detailed history and new guide to the sites of this community was published by the Columbia University Press. Titled, "Lower East Side: Remembered and Revisited," the book was written by Joyce Mendelsohn, a lecturer on the history, culture and architecture of New York at the New School.

What makes this guide so special is that it is not just some ordinary tourist trap brochure. It is a serious historical as well as geographic guide to a neighborhood that I hold dear to this very day. The sights and sounds from my childhood to early adulthood resonate within the pages of this book. This guide is truly a volume of history, fact, and a study of a community that still lives in the lives of its descendants, wherever they live, from the Five Towns to Beit Shemesh. Consider the following facts:

Every Young Israel shul owes its origins to those Lower East Siders who, 98 short years ago, established the first Young Israel in this community. Every graduate of Yeshiva University owes their education to those Lower East Siders who first established their yeshiva in these humble surroundings. Every American yeshiva boy and Bais Yaakov girl owes their day school education to the founders of the Rabbi Jacob Joseph School, "der mama yeshiva," and the original Bais Yaakov school, first founded and nurtured on the Lower East Side.

The greatest poskim of that generation,

who, each in their own way, set the pace for Jewish Halachik responsa on the American continent for generations to come. Rav Moshe Feinstein, Rav Eliyahu Henkin and Rav Tuvia Goldstein, all of sacred and blessed memory, lived their lives and saw their teachings flourish first in the Lower East Side community.

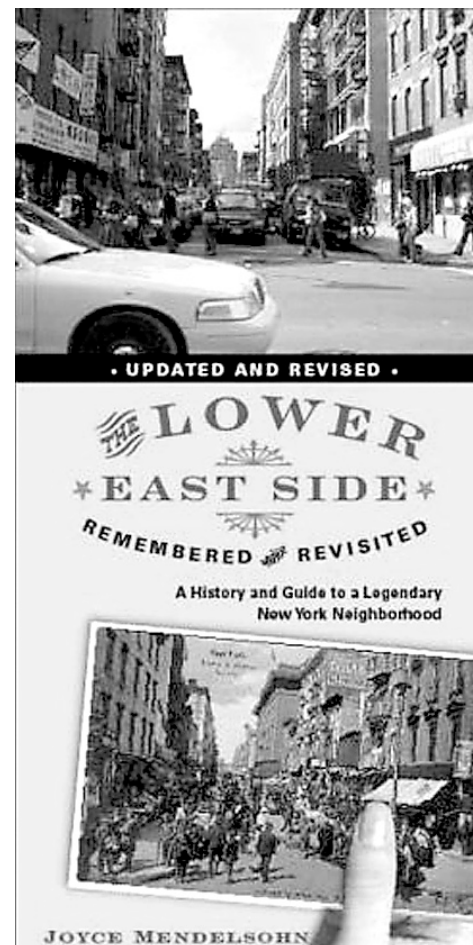
The histories of the shuls alone are worth the read. Here are just some of the shuls discussed: The still vibrant Bialystoker Shul, once the pulpit of the great Rabbi Dr. Mitchell Eskolsky, father and grandfather to the Dr. Fred Rosner and Rabbi Sholom Rosner families; the Bais Medrash Hagadol, once pulpit to Rav Ephraim Oshry, whose responsa during the Holocaust stand to this day as a monument to the strength of our religious traditions; and, The Young Israel of Manhattan, where it all began for the revival of Orthodox Judaism in America under the spiritual leadership of Rabbi Dr. David Stern.

Whether one buys and reads this book as a prep for visiting the neighborhood or just as an exercise in reading history, both efforts are worth your while. In addition, if you choose to visit, might I suggest that you contact The Lower East Side Tenement Museum (www.tenement.org) and the Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy (www.nycjewishstours.org) who will serve as valuable resources in planning for a visit.

However, do not forget the guide. A good reading before a visit will put you in good stead and make your visit all the more informative.



Alan Jay Gerber



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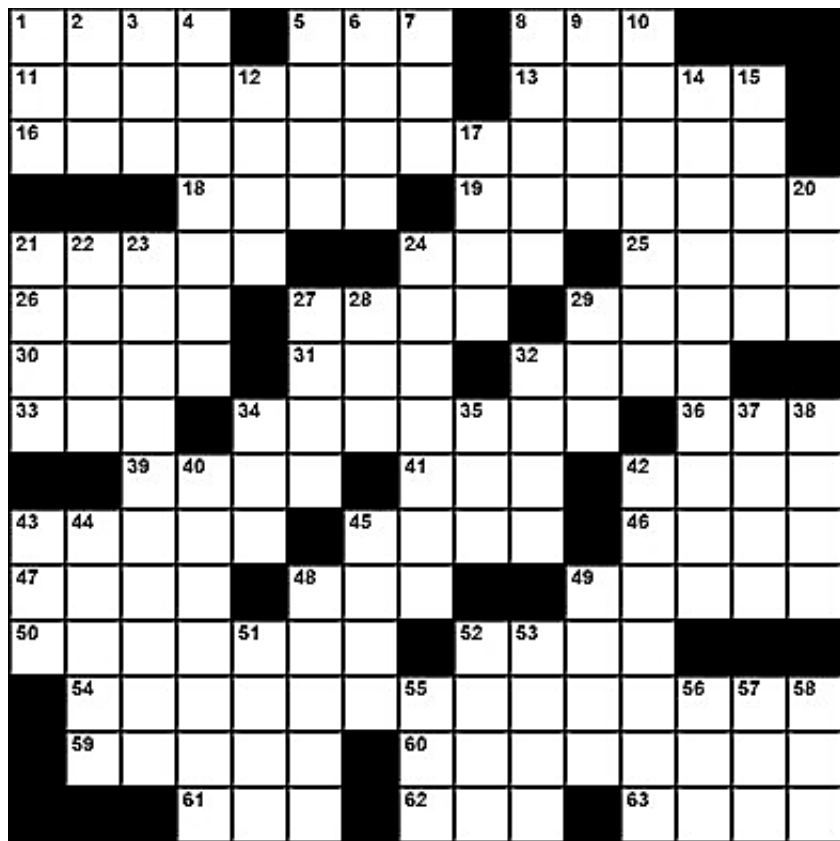
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The Jerusalem Post Crossword Puzzle



By David Benkof

Across

1. Word with rain or dew
5. Marina ___ Rey
8. That girl
11. Actor famous for his role in "ER"
13. Kind of wave
16. Prominent religious Zionist rabbi
18. Staffs
19. Up for grabs
21. Judaism alternative
24. Later!
25. Follow a commandment, perhaps
26. Cleveland Jewish News location
27. Smile widely
29. Prize money
30. Munch
31. Agudath Israel spokesman Shafra
32. J ___ (matchmaking Web site)
33. Pilot's announcement, briefly
34. The gemara is part of it
36. Hebrew letter, palindromic in English
39. He composed "Ol' Man River"
41. Mideast commodity
42. Itzhak Perlman's chance to shine
43. Treat badly
45. Adorable
46. Plan
47. Hunks have nice ones
48. It might say "Shalom"
49. Actress Midler ("The Rose")
50. Nurse
52. Simplest Hebrew verb construction
54. Major investor and philanthropist, especially to Chabad
59. Grow
60. Grow
61. Heaven

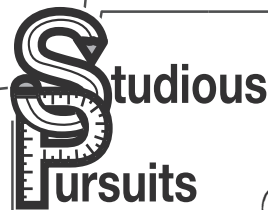
Down

1. Double helix
2. Brisker ___
3. Rower's need
4. Moses' nemesis
5. Chevruta, e.g.
6. Stately trees
7. Neighborhood of many E. European Jewish immigrants
8. Israel, e.g.
9. Widest part of the skeleton
10. Delete
12. "To ___ shall I make out the check?"
14. 1936-39 uprising in Palestine
15. Michigan and others
17. Financier Salomon
20. Moshe Dayan had one
21. Actress Skye
22. Opportunity
23. Phoebe from "Friends"
24. Free from jail
27. Kibbutz building, perhaps

28. Adolf's other
29. Manhandle
32. R. Crumb's "___ Steinberger, the Jewish Cowgirl"
34. Sen. Ron Wyden's state
35. Prepared to bless the candles
37. Oodles
38. Knesset action
40. Dead Sea sect
42. Participated in a bee
43. Network of the J.J. Abrams-produced "Lost"
44. Some chazers
45. King or queen
48. Yiddish actress Picon
49. Boxer Max
51. Poet Marcia
52. National Museum of American Jewish History's St.
53. Rainbows, e.g.
55. ___-eating contest
56. Purim mo.
57. Happy ___ clam
58. L'shana Tovah! (Happy ___ Year!)

Answers will appear next week

Last week's answers



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Rachel and Me

Dear That's Life,

So, I heard there was a Rachel Maddow sighting in the Five Towns last week.

Nope, sorry. It was only me.

I cannot imagine she hears it that often, or ever, but I do. Sometimes even once a week, I find myself being asked, "Do you know how much you look like Rachel Maddow?" To those who know me and watch her show, it seems pretty uncanny how much we look alike, have similar mannerisms and even seem to sound the same as well. Maddow, an MSNBC commentator, can be seen every evening hosting her show, "The Rachel Maddow Show." A former colleague of mine used to tell me all the time, "You were great last night," mocking the apparent similarities between the two of us. (Of course, I have no show, unless you count the entertaining hour otherwise known as 'bedtime'. Pull up a chair and bring your own popcorn.)

I've been stopped by complete strangers and asked if I am on television. Just last week, I noticed two older gentlemen in the supermarket who were trying hard to seem as if they were not staring at me, but then walked by and then commented to each other as they stood about 15 feet away, "No — I don't think it's her." I knew who they were talking about. I've heard it all before.

Truth is, I couldn't see it myself. People say that everyone has a twin and I figured I must be the exception. That was until I was flipping through a magazine in a doctor's office a couple of weeks ago and found an article on Ms. Maddow in which she is looking over a pair of glasses that has slipped down to the bridge of her nose. I do that all the time. And that's when I saw it — Yes, we do look alike. And it's a little freaky.

With permission, I took the magazine home to show my family, curious as to what they would think. I showed it to my husband



who simply stared at the picture for a couple of seconds, his eyes bugging out of his head. "Wow," he said. "You really do look like her." After reading the article, he added, "You know, if you didn't share the same politics, it would be a really funny show to see the two of you behind a desk." That's what they need at MSNBC — Bring Your Twin to Work day.

But of course, nothing says 'reality check' like comments from your kids. Showing the magazine to my second-to-oldest child, she looked at it a couple of times and then back at me. "A really, really little bit," she said, "she reminds me of someone but I'm not sure who."

Then I showed it to my eldest. She looked at it for a moment, handed it back to me and said, "Never seen her before in my life."

MLW

If something happened to you "that could only happen around here," you've got to share! Was it funny? Outrageous? Hopefully, it wasn't too painful. No matter what, if you type it up and sent it to letters@thejewishstar.com you'll have a chance to win a \$25 gift certificate to Burger's Bar on Central Avenue in Cedarhurst — in other words, you could win an outstanding meal at one of Nassau County's most popular kosher restaurants.



Submissions should include your name, your town, and your daytime and evening phone numbers. Sorry, but anonymous submissions cannot be considered. All decisions by the editors are final and all submissions become the property of The Jewish Star.

In case you were wondering, Burgers Bar is under the supervision of the Vaad Hakashrus of the Five Towns and Far Rockaway, and plays music you can find on MLW's iPod.

only simchas!

Celebrating Jewish Life

Engagements

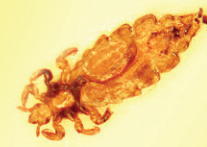
Engagement of Chaya Mizrahi (Monsey, NY) & Aryeh Chaim Urist (West Hempstead, NY) — April 25, 2010

Engagement of Shaina Daskal (Oak Park,

MI) & Chaim Weiss (Brooklyn, NY /Michigan) — April 22, 2010

Engagement of Ahuva Sprung (Brooklyn, NY) & Simcha Gitellis (Brooklyn, NY) — April 20, 2010

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61 Muriel Avenue (Honig Basement)

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Shacharis
9:00 am
Congregation Bais Avraham Zev
Corner of Rockaway Turnpike
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Oweg Shabbos

9:15 pm
At the home of Shaul and Batsheva Katz
50 Margaret Ave (Between Broadway and
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