

THE JEWISH STAR

Serving the Orthodox communities of the South Shore

VOL. 7, NO. 15

APRIL 11, 2008 | 6 NISAN 5768

PROJECT FRUMWAY

Tzniut with a flourish

Page 3

BEST COLUMN AWARD

NY Press Assoc. honor for David Seidemann

Page 5

ON YOUR MIND

Letters to the Editor

Page 4, 10

EYE ON ALBANY

The Silver torpedo; tax stability in Lawrence

BY MICHAEL FRAGIN

The score between New York City political heavyweights now stands at Silver 2, Bloomberg 0.

Therefore, we can understand Bloomberg's response Monday afternoon after learning that Shelly Silver refused to allow a vote on Bloomberg's congestion pricing plan.

"If that wasn't shameful enough, it takes a special type of cowardice for elected officials to refuse to stand up and vote their conscience on an issue that has been debated, and amended significantly to resolve many outstanding issues, for more than a year," Mr. Bloomberg said. "Every New Yorker has a right to know if the person they send to Albany was for or against better transit and cleaner air. People know where I stood, and where members of the City Council stood. They deserved at least that from Albany."



"The people should be entitled to open government. But not in New York State. The most dysfunctional legislature in the nation has once again proven itself number one."

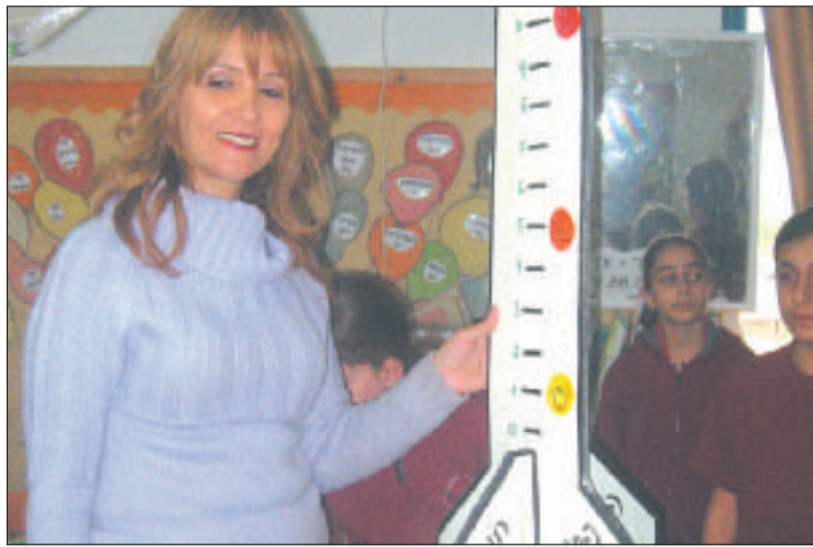
In an episode reminiscent of his torpedoing of the West Side Stadium and New York's Olympic hopes, Speaker Silver held his cards very close to his finely tailored suit vest for many months. He asked for a commission to study the issue, he got it. He asked for the New York City Council to vote first on the issue and they did. He refused to tie the issue to the budget to give supporters cover. Silver reluctantly said that he personally supported the plan after the press heavily criticized him, and he picked up two primary challengers in the fall election. Even then, Silver

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Fact-finding mission to Sderot, Israel's front line



Dina Huri, an elementary school principal in Sderot, Israel, with a rocket-shaped tool teachers use to coax shell-shocked children to describe their fears and feelings after rocket attacks from Gaza strike their city.

Photo by Avi Fertig

Under Sderot's unfriendly skies

BY AVI FERTIG

Sderot, Israel — The French have an expression for everything. For a group of American Jewish journalists, flown to Israel by Israir Airlines to tour Sderot and see firsthand the terror and mayhem of daily rocket attacks from nearby Gaza, it seems the residents of Sderot have just one expression that describes everything: Mah La'asot, roughly translated as, What are ya gonna do?

Eli Edri, principal to the 600 students attending Sderot's Makif Dati High School, uses the expression often. Particularly as he presents the remaining half of a missile found in a crater on the school grounds. Again, he repeats, Ma La'asot as he describes a Dvar Torah that went five minutes too long: just long enough to save an entire class of children from the falling concrete slabs of their collapses classroom ceiling, which flattened a roomful of empty chairs following a direct missile hit.

In Amit, a Sderot elementary school principal, Dina Huri, speaks quietly to explain the stress and heartache she feels when greets her students each day. "Everyone is the same," she says. "They are afraid. Every day is the same."

See UNFRIENDLY SKIES, Page 7

Sderot mayor says Israel will be forced to stop being moral

BY MAYER FERTIG

New York — Calling the notion that Israel faces Palestinian opponents in Gaza "a big lie," Sderot Mayor Eli Moyal told a luncheon audience in Manhattan Monday that international terrorists, including members of Hamas and Al Qaida, are the ones firing up to 70 rockets a day at his city.

Calling Israel's inaction "unacceptable, illogical and abnormal" Moyal said it is not the result of international pressure but due to the fact that Israel is a "moral nation" that can't accept the possibility of killing Palestinian innocents. He predicted Israel ultimately would be forced to "clean up" Gaza as the situation deteriorates more clearly to "the point when it's them or us, and then Israel will stop being moral."

Sometimes, he added, "it is immoral to be moral ... because it's costing innocent lives in my sight."

Several people have been killed and many more injured by rockets fired from Gaza falling on Sderot, a bombardment that has been going on for seven years. Several thousand

See SDEROT MAYOR, Page 7

Measles scare in Cedarhurst

JEWISH STAR STAFF

TV news trucks swarmed Central Avenue Monday after Nassau health officials announced a case of measles in Nassau County. An eight-month old recently arrived on a flight from Israel was diagnosed with the highly communicable disease.

Shoppers may have been exposed last Thursday, April 3, on Central Avenue in Cedarhurst or at the Fortunoff Source Mall. Specific locations on Central Avenue include Verizon Wireless, Washington Mutual (WAMU) and the Aries Nail

Salon between 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. At the Source infection could potentially have occurred at Maternity Works, Gymboree, Children's Place, Old Navy and the restrooms between 5:00 p.m. and midnight.

Measles is spread by direct contact by direct contact with nasal or throat secretions of infected people; airborne transmission is possible though less frequent.

High-risk individuals include un-immunized pregnant women, people with compromised immune systems who are not immunized and infants

under one year of age. Health official said it is important for people in those categories who might have been exposed, to receive preventative treatment with immune globulin as soon as possible. For more information contact the health department at 888-844-8657. Pregnant women should also contact their OB-GYN.

Individuals who may have been exposed to measles are asked to call their doctor or other health care provider, or the emergency room BEFORE showing up at those locations, in order to prevent the further spread of the disease.

Heading out of town

Hundreds attend OU's 'Emerging Jewish Communities Showcase'

BY SARI NOSSBAUM

Keeping up with the Goldbergs in any Jewish community in the tri-state area is difficult, at best; for many young couples trying to start a family and buy a home, the exorbitant cost of life in the tri-state area is untenable.

That could explain why over six hundred people from all over New York took a unique opportunity to explore the possibility of relocation in an assortment of Jewish communities throughout North America. They attended the 'Emerging Jewish Communities Showcase' at the Grand Hyatt in Manhattan this past Sunday. Among them were Rikki and Seth Rubin, a young married couple currently living in Far Rockaway; they hope to move elsewhere. "Everything is so expensive here," said Mrs. Rubin, who works as a Special Ed Teacher. "We're looking to raise our kids in a place where schooling and housing is more affordable." But determining which is the most suitable community for the Rubins is not so simple, and is what brought them to the showcase.

"The idea was to give Jewish communities that welcome transplants from the overpriced NY-NJ area."

See EMERGING, Page 8



Photo by Pat Cuomo

Jewish communities that welcome transplants from the overpriced NY-NJ area.

Kopilow won't run again for Lawrence School Board

Trustees, budget and capital improvements on May ballot

JEWISH STAR STAFF

Stanley Kopilow, wielder of a lone vote against the majority on the Lawrence Board of Education, confirmed that he will not run for re-election on the May 20 ballot. That raises the possibility that the 2008-2009 board could be comprised entirely of parents of private school students.

Candidates for Kopilow's seat have not yet been finalized.

Also on the ballot on May 20 will be a proposed

budget that calls for a three percent increase in spending, but with a tax levy that would increase by less than half-a-percent. The proposed 0.481 percent increase is among the lowest in New York State.

Voters will also have their say on referendums that would authorize the utilization of reserve funds for two capital projects.

Both capital projects would utilize funds from the \$29.2 million sale of the Number One School

See KOPILOW, Page 9

Inside

Opinion4
Sports.....11

Calendar12
Classified.....12

Shabbat

Candlelighting: 7:12 p.m. ■ Shabbat ends: 8:14 p.m.
Torah reading: Parshat Metzorah

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Pesach Patter

Kosher for Passover pancake mix, edible Seder plates and "coating crumbs" – all fodder for joking comment during The Nachum Segal Show Monday night in a live broadcast from Gourmet Glatt's pesach 'super-store' in Cedarhurst. Segal (right) was joined by Rabbi Berel Wolowik, head of the meat dept., and store manager Aron Hirtz. Photo by Yossi Tepper/The Video Maven



Flood of joy

A sefer torah that replaced one lost in a flood last summer was joyously received at Congregation Beth Shalom Chabad in Mineola, led by Rabbi Anchelle Perl, on Sunday, April 6, 2008.



EDITED BY MIRIAM L. WALLACH

Dear That's Life,

Dear That's Life,

As a local dermatologist, I was invited to speak to my daughter's 7th grade class about skin care and sun protection. I started out the talk by listing the major components of skin. I pointed out the epidermis and the dermis and then moved on to collagen.



After informing the girls that collagen is responsible for the firmness and elasticity of our skin, which keeps us looking young, I posed the following question to the group: What happens when we get older and the collagen layer gets thinner and less elastic?

I was looking for "wrinkles" as the correct answer when one of the 12 year olds blurted out, "you get Botox!"

Some might consider shopping for Pesach clothing a contact sport by some. In any event, it's not for the faint of heart.

Trying on a dress I had been eyeing in a store on Central Avenue, I took a moment to admire myself in the mirror, except there was little to admire; the dress did not look great. Something about it made it look better on the hanger than on me. I decided to leave it.

At that moment, the customer in the dressing room next to mine, a young girl with a high pony who looked way too dolled up for 10:30 in the morning, exited from behind the curtain and gave herself a once-over as well. I was significantly taller than she was, and also standing at the mirror; she took notice of me, and the dress I had on.

"Oh!" she said, in a perky, cutesy voice, "I tried on that dress, too!" Yippee, was all I could think, but managed to respond more politely. "Really?" I said. "Funny thing is I liked it better before I put in on."

Nodding knowingly, she smiled, looked me over and responded, "I think it's made for someone younger."

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Did something funny happen to you? Something outrageous? How about something that "could only happen around here?" Type it up for That's Life, hit send and have a chance to win a great meal at Burgers Bar! Each week the best submission to That's Life will be selected by the editors and awarded a \$25 gift card to Burgers Bar on Central Avenue, one of the area's newest and most popular restaurants.



E-mail submissions to letters@thejewishstar.com, with your name and daytime and evening phone numbers.

All decisions by the editors are final. All submissions become the property of The Jewish Star. Anonymous submissions will not be published.

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Modestly fashionable

NCSY's Project Frumway unveils new clothing line from Be Precious

BY MALKA EISENBERG



Project Frumway Coordinators, (from left to right on the top) Miriam Rosen, Sheri Seidenfeld, Elissa Schertz, Eliana Brecher, Jodi Cooperberg, (bottom) Laura Shafran and Aliza Friedman (not show, Lauren Kagan and Sarit Sandowski)

Over 500 women and girls cheered and applauded as 40 young women sashayed down a runway at Congregation Beth Shalom last week to the thump of recorded music, inaugurating a new line of modest clothing while raising money to benefit Long Island NCSY and Zev's Fund.

The goal of Project Frumway, said Rina Emerson, Associate Director of Long Island NCSY (National Council of Synagogue Youth — the youth movement of the Orthodox Union), "is to show girls that they can dress in a stylish and cool way but still be frum with modest values. It was also for fundraising and making the experience fun."

Josh Liggett, CEO of the Be Precious clothing line showcased at the event intended "to promote tzniut dressing in the world," he pointed out. "It's my way of doing chinuch, to help girls find l'chatchilah clothing that is modest, to look beautiful and not have to change it around and at affordable prices."

The seed was planted in 2000 when Mr. Liggett, then in Yeshiva High School in Los Angeles met Rabbi Steven Berg, currently national director of NCSY. Mr. Liggett worked in shul youth groups, was guided by Rabbi Berg in his choice of Yeshiva in Israel and continued to either work or advise in NCSY through his years in Yeshiva University, until today. The Be Precious line is a division of L.A. Movers; a family-run California-based clothing business for over 25 years owned by his parents, Andy and Beverly Liggett.

Shortly after Mr. Liggett and

his father launched the clothing line, he approached Mrs. Emerson and asked if they wanted to do an all women fashion show. "I wanted to do it since the idea of the line began," pointed out Mr. Liggett. "It's a great way to get the word out and lots of girls want to do a fashion show in a tzenuah manner." He decided on the Long Island area since it's a "strong NCSY region, I'm involved here and I live here. Most people in the company live in New York." The presence of HANC, HALB, and HAFTR in the area was also an incentive.

Postcards were mailed, fliers posted and a contest was launched: women could send in their own designs to be judged by a panel of students. The four chosen designs were produced, to be named by their designers, and worn, along with other styles, by models chosen from the representing schools. The models ranged in age from three-year olds in nursery through twelfth grade. After receiving basic instruction

Dalia Hoeningsfeld and Ayelet Haymov of HAFTR on the runway in clothing from Be Precious's new line. For further info on the clothing, visit bepreciousclothing.com



on walking the runway, with makeup and hair done, the young women, with varying degrees of confidence and flamboyance strutted or walked to the music of Azamra DJ. Food and boutiques were set up in a room across from the show and the submitted drawings were taped to the walls of the hallway outside.

"People wrote emails or called about the positive energy, saying what an amazing time they had at the event," stressed Mrs. Emerson. "We hope to do it

again next year, but we hope to grow it, reaching more schools, getting more teenagers involved, more people from the community involved. We didn't know what to expect. We are very happy that it was a success."

For more information on NCSY programs for teens and other groups contact: www.NCSY.org. For more information on the Be Precious line of clothing contact: www.bepreciousclothing.com.

Photos courtesy LI NCSY

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From the Other Side of the Bench,
his weekly column, placed third in the
Best Column category
of the 2007 Better Newspaper Contest,
ahead of nearly 170 other
newspaper entrants.

Mayer Fertig
Publisher and Editor in chief

20932

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Serving the Orthodox communities of the South Shore

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Coincidence? We think not

Editorial

Everything happens for a reason. If you believe that, and we do, then technically speaking, there's no such thing as a coincidence.

That certainty certainly tends to heighten the experience of watching little pieces of the puzzle fall into place before your eyes, as they are sometimes wont to do.

A few weeks ago we agreed to take a quick trip to Sderot sponsored by Israil Airlines — a mission to Sderot, as such trips are known — to highlight the dire situation there for the folks back home.

We planned to focus attention on what was happening — daily rocket attacks — and on what wasn't happening — which is to say, not much of a response from Israel's government.

We even wrote about our intentions in this space and encouraged others to go along. There weren't many takers, which we'll assume is due to the trip's extreme proximity to Pesach, but a small group gathered, including executives of several prominent and widely read Jewish newspapers, based in Philadelphia and Baltimore.

Well, if you've heard that everything happens for a reason, you've surely also heard the one about men planning and G-d laughing, right?

At more or less the last minute — a little more than 48 hours before takeoff — a personnel matter arose here at the newspaper that tossed the carefully arranged travel plans out the window. Our thanks to Avi Fertig, a Woodmere-based writer and journalist for agreeing to step in on almost no notice. His impressions, observations and photos from Sderot begin on the front page and continue on page 7 of this week's issue. We hope to bring you more of the same next week.

Before continuing our story, we should point out that Mondays and Tuesdays in our office are hectic, to put it mildly. The weekly deadline is looming and we don't ever leave the office for events, meetings or lunchtime appointments. Like many of you reading this, we're grateful if we get to eat lunch at all.

Back to the story. On Friday, minutes after pulling the plug on the original travel plans and tying up the loose ends on our excellent Plan B, an e-mail arrived at the office with an invitation. Lunch, on Monday afternoon, in Manhattan, with the mayor of Sderot.

Coincidence? We think not.

We accepted the invitation. The story of Mayor Eli Moyal's remarks also appears on page 1.

There's no such thing as coincidence. Which is why we went and, not coincidentally, why we think the steak we were served was so good, too.

One other note.

Many of our readers are kind enough to point out that they notice the high standard of quality that The Jewish Star aspires to maintain.

It was very gratifying this week to learn that the New York Press Association, whose member publications include some of the finest local media outlets anywhere, chose to recognize excellence at The Jewish Star, in the person of David Seidemann, whose columns entitled From the Other Side of the Bench, add so much to the paper each week.

Our congratulations to David — the title columnist may represent a departure from his day job in the legal world — but he wears it like a pro, nonetheless. We're proud to recall that we asked him to write many months before he accepted our offer. We're glad he did and look forward to seeing him continue, b'ezrat Hashem, to go from success to success.

CORRECTION

Due to an editing error, a headline on the front page of the April 4, 2008 issue misstated the town in which Rabbi Shalom Rosner's shul is located. Congregation Bais Ephraim Yitzchok is in Woodmere as the article indicated. The caption of a related photo of the Rosner family should have mentioned Eliyahu, born last month, who was not shown.

Don't put off seeking help

To the Editor:

Your April 4, 2008 featured two very prominent and difficult stories (Father, boys disappear after mom is awarded custody; and Questions abound after Tranquility Bay rescue). Both were important. A number of people who previously had not been reading The Jewish Star now tell me they read your paper because the professionalism and depth has changed significantly. Good for you.

I suggest the common denominator in these and related stories is:

- Prevention,
- Community education, and
- Most important, seeking and accepting professional help when it's most needed.

Let me suggest that a good follow up would be to focus on a, b, and c above. The world is full of could've and should've and, unfortunately, in situations involving mental health, not getting the necessary help at the right time from the right person can often lead to serious consequences.

I always use the analogy of cancer,

Letters

r'l. When a person is diagnosed, they only go to a cancer specialist and the best one they can find; they don't go to a general practitioner or any other type of physician. And in the past 25 years, the emphasis has been on prevention, early detection, and treatment - and those campaigns have been successful. So too in mental health, the emphasis must be on prevention, early detection, and treatment.

Putting off necessary treatment for any type of mental health problem due to concern of stigma, shidduchim, or a hope that it will go away on its own is potentially delaying the need for more serious and crisis oriented response in

future months or years.

DAVID MANDEL

Chief Executive Officer

Ohel Children's Home and Family Services

Loose change for Tomchei Shabbos

To the Editor,

Thank you so much for your beautiful front-page article "Charity on Central Avenue" by Yaffi Spodek (April, 4,

See LETTERS, Page 10

Paid Advertisement

A Special Report from Long Island NCSY

NCSY and HAFTR teens travel to Germany to create pioneer outreach organization with Jewish teen leaders of Central Europe.

On one block in East Berlin are elevated stones with names on them. Some represent individuals, others families, and some represent whole synagogues. The constant change in elevation makes it physically difficult to walk down that block in East Berlin; what the stones represent makes it spiritually challenging to walk anywhere in Germany.

For ten days, 18 Long Island NCSYers chose to walk in Germany, recognizing the physical and spiritual challenges the place represents. Under the leadership of Rabbi Aryeh Lightstone and NCSY they embraced the opportunity and obligation to support fellow Jews regardless of where they live.

On the Thursday of Taanit Esther the group, half from NCSY and HAFTR, and half from Lauder Am Echad of Germany, spent the day commemorating the horrors of the Shoah 60 years before in Berlin.

The NCSY Leadership Fellows, 15 outstanding HAFTR students, ran a seminar for 15 public school counterparts in Germany. Careful attention was paid to one of the numerous memorials set up in Berlin, the tombstone of the Shul Bat Tzion. Although the German government decided to commemorate the destruction and obliteration of Bat Tzion sixty years ago, the group celebrated Purim and Shabbat there.

Sarit Friedman, a senior at HAFTR, summed up the seminar eloquently when she told the whole group, "We came all the way to Germany to educate, motivate and to inspire, and I think we were probably successful in achieving those goals. However, we came all the way to Germany and we were educated, we became more motivated and we are now more inspired. We learned so much from the Jews who choose to remain Jews against all odds both historical and present."

It is especially poignant that this work is occurring in Germany. Rabbi Josh Spinner, as head of the Lauder Foundation in Germany, reached out to Rabbi Lightstone to form a strategic alliance with NCSY. No one in the world is better at outreach for teens than NCSY, he commented, and the recent success of Long Island NCSY and its Yeshiva Day School missions to New Orleans and elsewhere made working with Long Island NCSY a natural fit. The teens that NCSY brought from HAFTR were wonderful role models for German teens, he added, and the impact they made will be long lasting in helping develop an effective and successful outreach organization.

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FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BENCH

A matter of principle

I spent my third year in college, 1981, in a Yeshiva in Israel. While purchasing a pair of Tzitzit at the Eisenbach Judaica Store in Mea Shearim the owner didn't have the proper change. He told me I could pay him the balance of ten shekalim the next time I came in. Not having the occasion to patronize his store again that academic year, and forgetting about the ten shekalim, I returned to America without paying that debt. I completely forgot about it over the years despite returning to Israel in the interim.

It wasn't until 13 years later or so, while reviewing the laws of Tzitzit, that I remembered the money that I owed to Eisenbach. My wife, who was then my "almost fiancée," was enroute to Israel for a vacation (from me). I drove her to the airport, and asked that she go to Eisenbach and give him the equivalent of ten shekalim. He must have thought she was



David Seidemann

nuts when she presented herself in his store to pay off a ten shekel debt of 13 years. A second chance to make good.

I had an employee, a lawyer who left our firm for bigger and better things (a job in Washington, DC, and a marriage). Some six weeks after he left I was surprised to receive in the mail from him a plastic Bic pen that he had found in one of his suit jackets. Attached was a little note stating that he had taken the pen home by accident. It cost him more to mail the pen back to me than the pen was worth. A chance to make good based on a commitment to principle.

Last Friday night my family and I enjoyed the privilege of hosting Rav Matityahu Deutch shlita, the Chief Rabbi of Ramot Shalom, Israel. He shared with me the following story, of which he has first hand knowledge.

Gideon was a soldier in the Israeli Army. He came from a secular Israeli fam-

ily and was wholly non-observant. While on active duty it was discovered that he had a severe intestinal condition that would ultimately require surgery. A fellow soldier, an observant Jew, prevailed upon him to visit Rabbi Deutsch, who suggested that the ill soldier pick one mitzvah to observe to serve as a "merit" during his sickness. Gideon chose the mitzvah of wearing tzitzit. He did not observe Shabbos, eat kosher food or pray; he didn't observe any other of the 613 mitzvos in the Torah, but he and his tzitzit were inseparable.

Months passed and the surgery was scheduled. At the hospital the surgical preparation included the copious washing of his entire body, changing into sterile drapings and the pre-surgical injection of a certain serum. The nurse insisted that Gideon remove his tzitzit, which by then were charcoal in color. When told that his tzitzit were not sterile, he produced a new pair and remarked that this pair had never been worn before and therefore were sterile.

Gideon refused to enter the operating room without his tzitzit and the nurse refused to give him the injection until he removed them. The standoff lasted for forty-five minutes. Gideon was wheeled into the O.R. wearing his tzitzit but without the injection necessary to begin the anesthesia. The doctor entered the operating room expecting to find a groggy, nearly sleeping patient; instead he found a bright-eyed soldier and an exasperated nurse.

"Why is he awake? Did you give him the injection?" screamed the Doctor.

"No," replied the nurse.

"Did you give him the injection?"

"No, I told you."

"Are you sure?" the doctor screamed, red-faced.

"Yes, I am sure," replied the nurse, who was now crying.

The doctor ran out of the room. Five minutes later he returned, shaking, and crying himself. "Are you sure you didn't give him the injection?" he repeated.

"100 percent sure," came the answer.

"Thank G-d," said the doctor.

It seems that prior to entering the operating room the doctor, an Orthodox man, realized that the serum the nurse was about to inject in Gideon was the wrong one and would have killed him. It was meant for another patient.

The Doctor had learned of the mix-up on his way into Gideon's room and had to make sure, not that the nurse gave Gideon the injection, but to make sure that Gideon was not given the injection. In the five minutes after which the doctor ran out of the room he was able to confirm that neither patient was administered a contraindicated serum.

This story is not meant to suggest that performance of a mitzvah guarantees salvation in this world. Rather, it illustrates that when one remains committed to his or her principle commitments, the human psyche can be comfortable with whatever transpires.

Everyday, our principles and commitments are tested. If we surrender our principles and commitments, we cease to be ourselves. If we are not ourselves, what are we and how can we deal with the existential? If a person remains himself then whatever befalls him, is at least happening to himself, to the person he knows best, to the person uniquely qualified to deal with the situation at hand.

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. His column has been honored by the NY Press Association.

Time to assess

Following the election of several private school parents to the Lawrence Board of Education, local newspapers carried a never-ending stream of letters that castigated the board's every action. News articles reported accusations that the board was a puppet of the private school community, replete with secret agendas and ulterior motives reminiscent of the McCarthy era. Is any of this true?

After almost two years, it is time to determine if the concerns regarding the board were warranted or based on fear and paranoia rather than fact.

I believe that over the last two years the achievements of our students and staff are nothing short of incredible, due in significant part



Dr. Asher Mansdorf

to the efforts of the faculty and staff and the support they have received from the Board.

Though there is not enough room to list all of the achievements of our students, I would like to mention a few. The Lawrence School system can

boast that it is home to a Coca Cola scholar, a National Hispanic scholar, six students who were selected to present at the Long Island Junior Science and Humanities Symposium, two Intel semi-finalists, eleven students qualified for admission to the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth, and one student who achieved the top ACT score in New York State (one of only eight). Administrators and students alike at the High School say that the atmosphere there is

enormously positive; truancy has plummeted almost 60%.

The Board of Education, under the leadership of President Murray Forman, has completed hundreds of thousands of dollars of repairs, renovations and improvements to facilities that have been neglected for decades; all while keeping our tax increases to the lowest on Long Island for three years running. In fact, this will be the third year in a row that the tax levy will be decreasing.

Lawrence now has the only full-day free Universal pre-K program on Long Island. This is groundbreaking and places Lawrence in the vanguard of education in New York. The number of teachers to students has gone up over the last two years, which means that there are more teachers for every student.

At Lawrence High School, previously closed bathrooms have been completely refurbished and made handicap accessible. Steam traps in all the schools have been updated and now function correct-

ly. The perennial leaking roof at the Middle School has been repaired. Gates and fences at the elementary schools have been repaired or replaced to enhance security. A new playground was installed at the Number 6 School. The Middle School elevator was replaced and the High School auditorium refurbished.

Technology was upgraded with the purchase of 257 desktop computers, 13 projectors and over 60 interactive smart boards. The new phone system is being installed which will improve communication and reduce costs. 27 new photocopy machines were purchased to replace the District's leased equipment. This has resulted in significant savings while simultaneously upgrading capabilities.

In short, the Board has done everything it can to see a continued upward trajectory of student scores at all academic levels.

For the coming years a \$17 million district wide repair and upgrade program is planned. Audi-

toriums will be air-conditioned, labs will be completely renewed, and fields will be covered with all weather turf. Tennis courts will be modernized. Our buildings, which in some cases are close to 100 years old, will be brought up to date to help students to excel. A thoughtful and deliberate process of evaluating district-wide needs incorporated the requirement to revitalize our school buildings while being mindful of the fact that without tax increases the district's 30 million dollar windfall is not a renewable resource.

While accomplishing all these important goals, the board has never forgotten its need to be financially prudent. With the Bear Stearns fiasco fresh in our minds and the announcement that the nation has lost millions of jobs this winter, it is clear that the current state of the economy presents challenges for everyone. Nevertheless the board has been able to add programs and infrastructure while decreasing the tax levy for three straight years.

The concerns of all stakeholders in our community's educational system are being addressed. Both public and private school students are receiving the finest educational opportunities. Parents will see continued improvements in the academic programs and facilities offered to their children. Taxpayers will benefit from the Board's prudent fiscal policies and the achievement of stabilized tax rates.

Men and women of good will can and should debate the merits of any path taken. It is important, however, to review records free of animus. A dispassionate review of the record clearly shows that the fear that public education will suffer and funds will be diverted to yeshiva students was totally unfounded. The facts tell the true story of the Board's enormous achievements.

Dr. Asher Mansdorf is a former president of the Lawrence Board of Education on which he served for six years. He lives in Woodmere.

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PARSHAT METZORAH

Formula for Improvement

BY RABBI AVI BILLET

Of all the depictions of tzara'at, arguably the most fascinating is tzara'at on the home (14:33-54). The non-anthropologist Jew who cares (and doesn't view tzara'at as a curiosity) ought to consider the consequences of tzara'at on the home, even if tzara'at as a spiritual affliction does not exist today.

When a suspicious splotch appears on a wall, a kohen is informed and the house is emptied. Imagine! Every piece of furniture, kitchen utensil, article of clothing, book and all the food (perishable and non-perishable) is taken out and placed on the front lawn to avoid being declared "Tameh" along with the house if the splotch is indeed tzara'at.

The house is closed for a week, after which the kohen returns for an inspection. If he suspects it is tzara'at, the parts of the wall where the suspected tzara'at appears are removed. (Imagine having to call the "TYVEK" people for new insulation because a hole was made to get rid of tzara'at.)

The wall is patched - the Torah describes stone walls in which individual stones are removed and replaced - and if the splotch returns the kohen comes to declare it tzara'at and the house "tameh." Anyone who eats or sleeps in the home, even someone who merely enters the home becomes tameh and must dunk one's clothes and person in a mikvah to have the tumah removed by nightfall.

There is a formula for cleansing the home of tumah, and after the contractor finishes his touchups, the family can return to their home and resume life as usual, having

not been there for at least two weeks while their possessions sat on the front lawn at the mercy of the elements.

Many commentaries show the Torah's concern for earthenware vessels which, once tameh, can never lose their tumah status. Other items can become usable again, after being dunked in a mikvah. While true for kitchen utensils and metal folding chairs, this does not work practically for mattresses and couches, curios and breakfronts, dressers and bookcases. One would be better off taking them outside before the kohen comes.

Siftei Kohen (Shakh) asks: why must the house be emptied before the kohen comes? Since the house is not tameh until he declares it such, let him come then declare it to be nothing or tell them to clear out the house before he seals it (the act which makes everything inside tameh).

The Midrash claims this process is meant to teach people not to be liars. If someone asked to borrow something, and was told, "I don't have such an item to lend," the tzara'at causes the borrower to empty the house for the world to see, and the potential borrower now sees the item the homeowner denied owning. The fear of such embarrassment would cause a person to choose his words with care.

In a lengthy comment (14:36), Shakh paints a picture of those who need to air out their proverbial "dirty laundry." It needs to be done even before the kohen comes as a lesson to the person that there is something wrong in the behavior in the home which needs correcting - even if the splotch is not tzara'at.

Two points must be emphasized. The first: we have

the opportunity to live completely virtuous lives. By avoiding idle chatter and gossip and other non-holy activities that may take place in the privacy of home, we can create holy homes in which every action achieves an element of sanctity.

The second: The Torah and the halakhic lifestyle work best for those who honestly buy into it and live by its rules. If tzara'at on the home is ignored or painted over (though this would not work to cover it), the correction process will never be employed. If people know the rules but pick and choose the ones they want to follow (or do not even choose to learn more about the ones they do not know), the system cannot achieve its desired goal. The same applies to the rules of Shabbat, kosher, niddah (chapter 15), prayer, modesty, speech and gossip, and general behavior between fellow humans.

For some people, the fear of emptying the house, making holes in the wall and finding a place to stay for two weeks to avoid the tumah of the house is an incentive to live this holy existence. For others, going through the process gets them to change. Others opt out and do what they want, picking and choosing what works for their lives. If a person is committed to being in one of the two former categories, what are we doing to insure that we are constantly improving? If we don't see the hand of the divine reminding us to improve through tzara'at, what reminds us of a greater goal to achieve?

Avi Billet is a mohel based in the Five Towns. His webpage is mohelformyson.bravehost.com

KOSHER BOOKWORM

A Haggadah triple play

Perhaps one of the most storied commercial slogans was made popular by an American president, or so the legend goes. Theodore Roosevelt, in describing a cup of Maxwell House Coffee a century ago, was said to have stated that it was "good to the last drop."

Maxwell House took the phrase and ran with it, forever to be associated with the sentiment expressed by so colorful an expression.

To American Jews, however, Maxwell House became associated with another institution that was to forever become a hallmark, The Maxwell House Haggadah.

A newly published edition of the Haggadah contains the complete story of the unique Pesach saga, with the history of the personalities and circumstances that led to the corporate decision to publish that Seder standby.

My People's Passover Haggadah is published by Jewish Lights Publishing as a two volume set featuring essays detailing various historical, theological and spiritual aspects of proper Pesach observance, as well as nine concurrent text oriented commentaries. These are set alongside and around the centered text, Talmud style. Their aim is to teach the reader and Seder participant the "deeper" meaning of the holiday and its attendant rituals.

The Maxwell House episode that caught my fancy is found among the opening essays and lends an air of light and breezy reading to this academic work. The historical role of the Pesach Seder and the Haggadah in America is framed by the role played by famed



Alan Jay Gerber

Jewish ad firm Joseph Jacobs Advertising, which helped turn a liturgical work into a commercial masterpiece.

Since the 1930's, this Haggadah has found its way into millions of homes, schools, senior citizens centers, jails, and into every U.S. military campaign. This Haggadah remains available to this day, under the hand of Joseph Jacobs CEO Elie Rosenfeld, to serve the ever-growing needs of an ever-growing observant Jewish community.

My People's Passover Haggadah is a superb learning tool about the history of one of the most popular Jewish books in our spiritual repertoire, as well as a unique compilation of quality writings about this precious holiday.

Two other books related to the Pesach holiday that I wish to bring to your attention are, "Rejoice in your Festivals" by Rabbi Zvi Dov Kanotopsky a"h, published by Urim Publications; and The Haggadah by Joseph Tabory, published by The Jewish Publications Society.

Rabbi Kanotopsky was active in the rabbinate from the mid-40's to the early 70's. He served the Jewish communities in Crown Heights and later West Hempstead before moving to Israel. He was a leading darshan and talmid chochom and rosh yeshiva at Yeshiva University High School. He is best remembered for his unique sermons whose special flavor is featured in the book under review here.

What makes this book so special is how the rabbi blends the religious content of the drosho with the events of the day. Given the tense tenor of our own times, this work helps

us to better appreciate the task rabbis face weekly in attempting to apply our Torah to contemporary events and personalities. It does so in a manner that brings dignity to our religious teachings, and helps to comfort us in difficult times.

The readings for the Pesach season play a prominent role at the beginning of this volume, and I specifically draw your attention to them. In reading them please make special note as to when they were delivered. This will enhance your understanding of the rabbi's intent and better appreciate what faced our people during a most difficult period of time.

The Jewish Publication Society has brought forth a highly academic, scholarly volume - 154 pages in total. A third of that consists of the Haggadah text with a sparse commentary within the text itself.

A fuller treatment is reserved in what appears, because of its placement, as an introduction rather than a commentary about the Seder text and ritual. It is highly scholastic and footnoted and altogether highly unlikely, given its steep price, to be a candidate for placement at the Seder table itself, subject to assault by wine and matzo crumbs. I would hope that in the future the JPS would consider a more user-friendly edition.

As you prepare for Pesach the Kosher Bookworm urges you to consider these suggestions and hopes to see you next week with a final list of books for your holiday enjoyment.

Shabbat Shalom.

Alan Jay Gerber is a retired New York City public school teacher who served on Brooklyn's School Board #20 from 1973 to 1989. He lives in Cedarhurst.

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UNDER SDEROT'S UNFRIENDLY SKIES

Continued from Page One

Every hour, all day long." Their fears are the falling missiles that come at random and the jarring alarms that offer a microscopic respite of 20 seconds to flee harm's way.

Ms. Huri's answer to the students' terror is small but effective. A walled-off corner in the school basement has a sign on the door: Cheder Shaalva, a room of comfort, which the children describe as a haven. One by one, on Ms. Huri's urging, the girls describe to a guest their situation at home and why this room plays such an important part in their daily routine. One girl lives on the top floor of her apartment building, and must run, sometimes half a dozen times in a night, with her family, to the building's basement miklat, bomb shelter. Another girl hasn't slept in her own bed since the rockets began falling seven years ago. "I sleep on the couch in the living room," she says. The living room "feels safer."

In the corner of the comfort room is a large rocket-shaped ruler made of white foam-backed poster board. The rocket, Ms. Huri explains, lets the girls describe how afraid they feel that day. There's a yellow smiley drawn next to the first line of the ruler. Next to the fifth line is an expressionless face. "No fear, but no smile," Ms. Huri interprets. The top line, by now the pattern emerging, is represented with a descriptive 'frown-y' face. "Yael," Ms. Huri said to the girl sitting next to the rocket, "how do you feel today?" Yael points to the face next to the fifth line. Mah La'asot.

Robin and Lawrence Dermer are in Israel to record their dream: a music album, in honor of Israel's 60th Birthday, of "We Are the World" proportion. Lawrence is a renowned pop producer, best known for his work with Madonna and other artists. His project, his dream, he and Robin say, is sponsored by Israil and by pre-arrange-



Photo by Avi Fertig

High School principal Eli Edri with half of a missile that flattened a classroom as students heard a lengthy Dvar Torah elsewhere.

ment, crossed paths with the journalist delegation. The small group looked on as Lawrence was teaching Ms. Huri's fifth grade the chorus of his peace anthem titled, "We are strong."

Within the hour, hundreds of children are watching Lawrence's newest artists; quick learners indeed, perform his anthem on an auditorium stage. As they sing along with Lawrence and his newly enlisted chorus of Amit students the auditorium lights suddenly flash on, bathing the cheering students in harsh fluorescent white.

To visitors the random lighting malfunction is meaningless. But in the same instant, the room falls into chaos. Some children stand motionless in front of their seats, others sit, fidgeting, with panicked expressions. Many scream, and the juxtaposition of "We are strong" and the palpable unwinding sanity in the room is unnerving. And then it is over. The lights shut off and the show went on.

Mah La'asot takes different forms in Sderot. Rabbi Dovid Fendel's is most ambitious. "We're building buildings faster than they can destroy them," the rosh yeshiva of the Sderot Yeshiva Hesder says, leading the

journalists up the roughhewn stairs of his new, double-reinforced concrete Beit Midrash. The Long Island-born rabbi points to a row of seemingly abandoned one-story structures. "They are empty," he confirms. These are former dorm rooms deemed unsafe for habitation. "They can't withstand a rocket blast," he explains. "Blast-worthy" is the most rigid building code in Sderot.

"The Palestinians are trying to make Sderot a ghost town," he says defiantly. "What are we going to do?" Ma La'asot. His usage has none of the wry inflection Israelis reserve for outsiders when explaining their wacky, upside down world.

What are we going to do? He said, "For every Kassam, we build another story. For every Kassam, another settlement. They should see we are not afraid."

Mah La'asot?
"A building made of 1,500 tons of cement," says Rabbi Fendel.

The Jewish Star thanks our advertising partner Talk N Save for providing telephone services for this Mission to Sderot.



Photo by Josh Shpayher

Sderot Mayor Eli Moyal (third from left) with Jeffrey Ballabon (second from left) and other luncheon attendees.

SDEROT MAYOR SAYS ISRAEL WILL BE FORCED TO STOP BEING MORAL

Continued from Page One

people have moved out of the city.

Moyal said "100 percent" of the children in his city are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. "It means you're going to sleep with your parents again. It means you're not going to ride your bike again."

Cafes and theaters in Sderot have shut down, and elderly people like his 85 year-old mother never leave the safety of bomb shelters because they can't move quickly enough in the event of an attack.

A balloon tethered above the city sounds the alarm when a launch is sighted giving residents 15-20 seconds to take cover.

For everyone else, normal everyday activities pose a gamble.

"When I drive a car in Sderot I am always calculating" if the alarm sounds will there be time to get out of the car and reach shelter? He said. "It's roulette."

Moyal bitterly rejected the argument that there is no military solution to the rocket bombardment on Sderot. "I laugh.



Photo by Josh Shpayher

Sderot Mayor Eli Moyal speaks with Jeffrey Ballabon and others.

Then why the hell did we build the best army in the Middle East?"

Left to resolve itself, Moyal said, "I can 100 percent guarantee that a terrorist state will be established in the Gaza Strip" that will affect not only Israel but also the U.S. and Europe.

"If Sderot will fall Israel will fall, because the next city will be Ashkelon, then Holon, then Tel Aviv," the mayor said.

Moyal spoke at a event at Abigail's restaurant sponsored by the issue campaign consultancy firm the Ballabon Group, G.S.S. Investigations, and YCT

Rabbinical School.

"I think he expressed pain. I hear the frustration," said Chaim Leibtag of Far Rockaway, COO of the National Council of Young Israel, who attended the lunch. "It appears that a lot of people are doing - but we're not doing enough to stop the problem. We need to understand the impact on children," of the seven year bombardment. "A 14 year-old only knows terror, a 21 year-old only knows terror. And a seven year-old? What does he know?"

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HEADING OUT OF TOWN

Continued from Page One

people the opportunity to see what kind of communities are out there," explained Stephen Savitsky, resident of Hewlett, and President of the Orthodox Union (OU) which sponsored the program. "It's important for

them to see that there are other vibrant communities" away from New York.

In fact, there were representatives from fifteen vibrant communities from all across the country, including San Diego, Omaha, Columbus, and Charleston, to name a few. Each



Action at the Omaha booth at the Emerging Jewish Communities event Sunday in Manhattan, sponsored by the Orthodox Union.

community had a booth complete with flyers and brochures containing relevant information about schools, synagogues, and kosher restaurants in their area. Enthusiastic residents or even community rabbis manned the booths, ready to answer questions from passersby.

Most of the community rabbis who took part in the showcase were affiliated with the OU synagogue in their city, and did so with the help of Rabbi Bini Maryles of North Woodmere, former rabbi of Young Israel of North Woodmere and now Director of Synagogue Services for the OU. "People encounter barriers when considering moving and we are trying to help them," said Maryles. "This way they can speak to representatives at each booth and find out anything from job opportunities to climate."

One of the booths that attracted the most traffic was New Orleans, represented by Rabbi Uri Tapolosky, of Cong. Beth Israel. "We moved there nine months ago and we're rebuilding from the ground up...

literally," explained Rabbi Tapolosky, as he held up a picture of a Sefer Torah being saved from the water filled Beth Israel synagogue after the tragic hurricane in 2005. "Right after Katrina there were just ten Jews in New Orleans, and now there are seven thousand Jews in the community," he said proudly, adding that New Orleans now also boasts two Jewish Day Schools and two kosher restaurants. "This place is great for people with a pioneering spirit," continued Rabbi Tapolosky. "And now we have the infrastructure of every other community."

Denver, Colorado's booth also was very popular. It featured six representatives of that community, including Aliza Bulow, an adult educator who is originally from Long Beach. She moved to Denver seven years ago.

"We moved for the lifestyle," said Bulow. "My husband was a Manhattan lawyer, working crazy hours, and I wanted him to be there as a father for our kids." Seven years



New Orleans' message of hope as post-Katrina rebuilding continues.

on, Bulow could not be happier, and was encouraging other New Yorkers at the showcase to do the same. "I feel like we moved back in time ten years," she said. "And there's so much warmth in the community."

There are also five kosher restaurants and three different school 'tracks' in Denver - catering to Jews all across the religious spectrum.

The OU was very pleased with the turnout. "It's certainly beyond our expectations," said Savitsky. "And we hope this information will be helpful for all the young couples."

Another of the young couples who attended the showcase was Chani and Dr. Alan Perl-

man, who currently live in the Upper West Side in Manhattan. "It was like speed dating for Jewish communities," he said. "But you have to know how to read between the lines." As the Perlmans discovered, some of the communities do not yet have an eruv or kosher eateries, both of which can be important factors when deciding where to live. "We obviously still have to do our own research and travel to each city in order to be able to make an informed decision," said Mrs. Perlman, "But we're so grateful that there's even a program encouraging this."

Photos by Pat Cuomo



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KOPILOW WON'T RUN AGAIN FOR LAWRENCE SCHOOL BOARD

Continued from Page One

in July 2007, which continues to accumulate interest in a tax reserve account established by the school board that same week. According to school officials, the total amount of funds in the reserve account has increased from the initial \$29.2 million to about \$30 million.

grass field.

A rare 4-3 vote at the school board meeting capped off a debate over placement of the project on the ballot, the first time that a motion was decided by one vote during the current school board's tenure.

Pat Pizzarelli, the district's director of athletics, physical education and health, pitched the idea of installing an artificial turf field with lights at a school board meeting in February. The athletic director has emphasized the flexibility of the synthetic field to serve teams and individuals from both the public and private school communities.

"This is not just for the public school kids, this is for the entire community," Pizzarelli said.

Lights, which supporters said would have created more available field time for the community, were not included in Proposition IV.

The installation of synthetic turf fields has been the subject of heated debates in nearby communities, most recently the Lynbrook school district. Opponents of the artificial surfaces have raised both environmental and economic concerns.

In Lawrence, Trustee Uri Kaufman has publicly expressed concern about artificial surfaces and its impact on the health of athletes.

Both Trustee Michael Hatten and Pizzarelli cited several studies that say the proposed synthetic surface is safe for students and economical for the district. In addition to reducing maintenance costs, the multi-use field could be utilized by the community, they said.

Like Hatten, Pizzarelli was disappointed at the decision to make the turf field a separate proposition, but is pleased that it is on the May ballot.

"I would have rather it have been all one," Pizzarelli said. "But if you tell me that it is because of injury factor, it is nonsense; if you tell me you're worried that the whole commu-



Stanley Kopilow

nity may not be in favor of it, then that is a separate process."

Trustee Nahum Marcus, who voted down Hatten's motion along with Kaufman, Forman and Dr. Sol Blisko, said he has no objection to the turf field and vouched that he would vote for Proposition IV. However, Marcus explained that it is an "add-on" and should be separated from the several projects included in Proposition III.

"I think a turf field is a lovely idea, but not as essential as all the items on [Proposition III]," Marcus said. "I wouldn't want that to be the cause of stopping the other."

District 15 voters have not passed a capital improvements project since 1998, when a bond won approval to make renovations to the Number Two School.

Dr. David Sussman is the only current trustee who served on the school board for the approved capital project in 1998 and a failed one in 2002. Sussman, the board's current vice president who was first elected as a trustee in 1995, appeared satisfied at the final proposal for Proposition III.

"I feel we are attempting to create a wonderful capital repair plan that answers many needs and that will get voter approval," Sussman said.

The school board approved all propositions for the May ballot — including Peninsula Public Library's budget and trustee votes — at a meeting on April 1.

Additional reporting by Mike Caputo

Talk of mayoral challenge ruffles feathers in Lawrence

JEWISH STAR STAFF

Jacqueline Handel, president of the Lawrence Association, doesn't remember there ever being a contested election for mayor in the Village. The prospect of one in the next election cycle, when Deputy Mayor Shimon Felder is scheduled to be elected to the top post, does not sit well with her.

"I am especially appalled that anyone would choose to challenge this tradition with regard to the highest public office in Lawrence," she wrote in a letter to the club's membership, which she estimated to be about 1,000. "Especially when he failed to recognize and participate in the inter-view process."

The 'he' to whom Ms. Handel referred is Michael

Fragin; an investment banker and former top aide to Governor George Pataki (and a Jewish Star political columnist) who recently confirmed that he is weighing a run for mayor in Lawrence.

"The simple question is, should five people on the Lawrence Association nominations committee get to decide the election or should the 5,000 registered voters in Lawrence have a say in government as well?" Mr. Fragin asked.

Fewer than fifty people routinely attend monthly meetings held by the Lawrence Association.

Mr. Fragin disputed Ms. Handel's contention that he has just one year of involvement in local affairs and is therefore too inexperienced for the job. He was a gover-

nor of the Lawrence Association for two years and has been a trustee of the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) since 2006.

"That's wonderful, so let him become president of LIPA," retorted Handel, who said she would prefer "the normal procedure" be applied to choose Lawrence's next mayor.

The normal procedure, Ms. Handel said in her letter to the membership, is for the nominating committee to choose all candidates for elected village offices.

"That is the constitution of the organization, not the village," Mr. Fragin noted. "The statement has no legal force nor should it imply one. If the Lawrence Association sets the rules why even have elections?"

WE ARE INTERESTED

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IN MY VIEW

Continued from Page One

ver ensured that all the debate took place behind closed doors.

I am not taking a position on congestion pricing here. I see merits on both sides. What I do see is that Bloomberg, City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, and other supporters are willing to think big and attempt bold solutions to one of New York City's long-term problems.

No one denies that congestion is a long-term problem for New York. It is often faster to walk cross-town in Manhattan than to drive. So, isn't anyone in the Assembly concerned about congestion choking off the future growth of the nation's largest central business district? Are there any environmentalists amongst the Democrats in the Assembly who want to see fewer cars on the streets? Don't you expect that many of the working class in those districts need better mass transit? Don't those who always complain about being shortchanged by the federal government want the \$350 million in funds for transit?

The problem is that there is special dysfunction in Albany that prevents issues from being debated in front of the public. Had a vote gotten to the floor a combination of Democrats who support the plan could have teamed with the Republican minority that was also supportive to pass the measure. There could have been some spirited debate, some arm-twisting, and perhaps the plan could have passed, perhaps not.

But the truth is, as with almost everything else in Albany, we will never know. As Mayor Bloomberg said, the voters will not truly know how their representatives stood on the issue because no one was required to publicly take a stand. The people should be entitled to open government. But not in New York State. The most dysfunctional legislature in the nation has once again proven itself number one.

This past week the board of the Lawrence School district proposed its budget for the 2008-09 year. This budget contained a three percent spending increase, less than the rate of inflation, and a half a percent

increase in the tax levy. That is the equivalent of a tax freeze for 70% of our local tax bill.

There is ample reason to cheer this news. As I have noted before, the escalation of property taxes is the number one public policy problem here on Long Island; the engine driving that growth is school taxes. Many districts on Long Island are feeling the pain of double digit tax increases year after year in their school taxes.

In Lawrence we have enjoyed a 2.5% decrease in the school tax levy two years ago and a 1.5% decline last year. If you live in district 14, Hewlett Woodmere, you faced a more than 5% increase last year and face a proposed 6% increase this year. That is on top of the 6.6% increase in the tax levy two years ago. This amounts to a significant disparity in taxes between neighbors here in the Five Towns.

As he considers the property tax cap around New York State, County Executive Tom Suozzi may want to look at tax stability in Lawrence.

Letters

Continued from Page Four

2008), which described how the community could support our local Tomchei Shabbos by bringing their loose change to Commerce Bank in Cedarhurst. I have been a volunteer for Tomchei Shabbos for nearly 20 years, and the work they do in feeding the hungry of our community is very close to my heart.

The lead sentence "Patrons of the Commerce Bank branch..." might lead your readers to infer that they need an account at the bank in order to participate. Please reassure them that since Tomchei Shabbos has an account at that branch, anyone who wishes to contribute may do so, whether or not they are patrons of the bank.

Additionally, cards for mazel tov, bereavement, and hostess gifts are available year-round in support of Tomchei Shabbos and can be ordered from me by phoning 718-327-3038.

Thanks again for your support of this most worthy organi-

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VIVIANNE CHAYA FRANK
Far Rockaway, NY

Kosher Brownies

To the Editor:

Concerning the article entitled "Kosher Brownies" (April 4, 2008).

HANC started Shomer Shabbat Girl Scouting in 1990 with one Daisy and one Brownie Troop. We grew with our girls and sustained the troops for seven years and had Daisy, Brownie and Junior troops over the years.

The Nassau County Girl Scout Council had no experience with Shomer Shabbat troops at that time, but we made every attempt to participate in any council-wide activity that did not conflict with Shabbat. We never did manage to take our girls camping as the leader certification was only offered on Saturdays.

Our girls came from several

towns, shuls and schools. We kept our rabbis informed of our activities and met every Sunday morning at Young Israel of West Hempstead (when we were not out hiking or exploring). Citizen badges were connected to bikur cholim and Ecology badges to tikun olam. We entertained residents of nursing homes in costume on Purim and visited children's hospitals to bring gifts for the holidays.

For five years our troops marched down Fifth Avenue as the Color Guard, escorting diplomats in the Salute to Israel Parade and were featured in Jewish and New York newspapers several times, carrying our HANC Banner, our Girl Scouts of Nassau County Banner and the Israeli and American Flags.

Girl Scouting is very harmonious with themes we teach our children every day. I would encourage every girl to spend some time as Girl Scout.

NANCY COSTO
West Hempstead

ABOUT LETTERS

The Jewish Star welcomes Letters to the Editor of no more than 250 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for style, content and space. Deadline is Monday at noon; we cannot guarantee placement. Letters must include the name of the writer, current address and daytime telephone number and may be mailed to The Jewish Star, 2 Endo Blvd., Garden City, NY 11530; faxed to (516) 569-4942; or e-mailed to letters@thejewishstar.com.

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SPORTS

Former Hewlett lacrosse star recognized by Hall of Fame

Junior midfielder to receive Marty Glickman award

BY PAUL SHAPIRO

Max Seibald has won a lot of awards in his lacrosse career. The 20-year-old's accolades range from earning Ivy League Rookie of the Year honors to being named a United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA) All-American in both his freshman and sophomore seasons. He was also a unanimous first team All-Ivy selection and was chosen, as a sophomore, as one of five finalists for the 2007 Tewaaron Trophy, awarded to the most outstanding collegiate lacrosse player in the United States.

Now a junior, the Cornell midfielder and former Hewlett standout earned an award that had escaped him up to this point. Seibald will receive the Marty Glickman Outstanding Jewish Scholastic Athlete of the Year award from The National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame.

"It's just an honor," Seibald said. "I've been receiving several accolades over the past year and it's nice to be recognized by that organization."

Seibald will be joining the ranks with another Hewlett graduate, sportscaster Tony Kornheiser, at the 16th Annual National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame Induction on Sunday, June 8 at the Suffolk Y JCC in Commack. Others being inducted include Tennessee men's basketball coach Bruce Pearl, sportscaster Sam Rosen and Olympic gold medal gymnast Kerri Strug.

"That is an honor in itself," Seibald said. "It's a great opportunity to be around those kinds of people. You see guys like them on TV every day, and it's just great to have those personalities all in one place at one time. It's an honor to be amongst those guys. It's an honor to be recognized alongside such recognizable people."

Also receiving the Marty Glickman

award is Jillian Kraus, a senior on UCLA's women's water polo team. Kraus earned first-team All American and All-Academic in 2007.

"We are looking for young men and women who are outstanding in their sport, and Max is," said Alan Freedman, director of The National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame. "He was a finalist for the Tewaaron Trophy for the most outstanding lacrosse player last year. The other thing that we are looking for is that he is a good student, and he met both criteria more than amply."

Seibald, who played at Hewlett from 2001-2005, is currently in the middle of his junior season at Cornell. Last season, he led the Big Red's high-powered attack to an undefeated regular season and to the NCAA Final Four.

But the 6-foot-1, 200 pounder is a star off the field as well. He has an internship this summer at Merrill Lynch, one of the world's leading financial

management and advisory companies, and is looking to enter the finance world once he graduates.

"I am looking to get into that," he said. "I think finance is my main interest, what I've tailored my studies towards. Being a business major at Cornell, that is definitely where I am headed right now."

Once the lacrosse star's collegiate career is over, will we ever see him on the field again?

"Absolutely," Seibald said. "Obviously, it depends on what league [Major League Lacrosse or National Lacrosse League] pursues me and what kind of career I have outside lacrosse, but if that allows me to play, I am definitely considering it. I would definitely like to continue my athletic career outside of college. ... It's not playing for the money. I'd just be playing for the love of the game and I am looking forward to the opportunity to potentially play in those leagues."



Photo by Ron Manfredi
Cornell's Max Seibald (No. 42) is congratulated by teammates after scoring a goal in last season's game vs. Notre Dame played at Hewlett High School.

Israeli tennis stars sponsor '08 Maccabi Games

Jonathan (Yoni) Erlich and Andy Ram, the reigning 2008 Australian Open Grand Slam Men's Doubles Champions, captured their second title of the year, winning the Pacific Life Open in Indian Wells, Calif.

While participating in the Sony Ericsson Open in Key Biscayne, Fla., the dynamic duo took time out of their busy schedule to participate in a tennis clinic at the Michael-Ann Russell JCC in North Miami Beach. During the clinic, held at the Soffer Family Tennis Center at the JCC, Erlich and Ram presented a check from the Jewish Sports Foundation (JSF) to Dr. Morton Plotnick, Development Consultant for the JCC Maccabi



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JSF is a non-profit philanthropic fund dedicated to fostering Jewish identity through sport, and to inspire children to grow healthy in body, mind, and spirit. The Jewish Sports Foundation's mission is to provide assistance and support for Jewish athletes who show a



financial need and dedication to academic excellence. To find out more about the JSF, visit their Web site at www.andyyoni.org.

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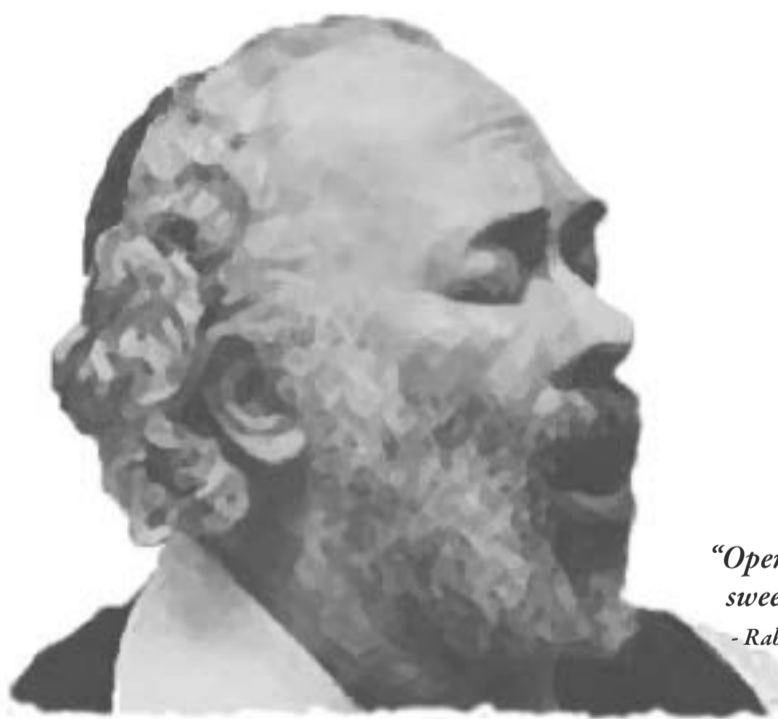
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ON THE Calendar

Cedarhurst - On Thursday, April 10 at 4:00 p.m. the Israel @ 60 planning group will meet at the JCC of the Greater Five Towns, 207 Grove Avenue in Cedarhurst. Please make every effort to attend or, if you can't, please send a representative from your organization. The clock is ticking and we need everyone to do their part - and more! E-mail Stuart Katz at stuart@israirusa.com.

Cedarhurst - Kulanu Torah Academy's Sunday Activity Program will meet on April 13, May 4, May 11 and May 18 from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. Activities include music, arts and crafts and adaptive physical education activities, all for special needs children. The program will take place at the HAFTR Kindergarten building, located at 33 Washington Ave. For more information, call Ruth Melincoff at (516) 569-3083.

Bay Shore - The Touro College of Health Sciences will host a Health Fair on Sunday, April 13 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in recognition of spring and to promote health awareness in the community. Among the participants will be health science stu-

dents manning exhibits where glucose screening, blood pressure readings, bone density evaluations and other activities will be offered. For children, face painting will be available. Members of the Bay Shore Fire Department will talk about safety rules and fire prevention. Admission is free. Touro College is located at 1700 Union Boulevard in Bayshore. For more information, call Dennis Weinstein at (631) 665-1600, ext. 239.

Syosset - The Long Island Philharmonic and the Jewish National Fund, in conjunction with the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County, will host "Behind the Silence: Treasure from the Ashes" on Sunday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m. at North Shore Synagogue. The live concert will feature chamber music, art and poetry, celebrating the courageous artists, both adults and children, who lived under Nazi rule and perished in concentration camps. Seating at the event is limited to 500 people. Tickets for Section A, preferred seating, cost \$250 and include a pre-concert reception beginning at 6 p.m. Section B seating costs \$100. The North Shore Synagogue is located at 83 Muttontown Eastwoods Road in Syosset. For more information, call the LI Philharmonic at (613) 293-2222 and visit www.liphilharmonic.org or call JNF at (516) 678 6805, ext. 110 and visit www.jnf.org.

Cedarhurst - Chabad of the Five Towns will host Holiday Basics III, an open forum with the Rabbi, on Sunday, April 13 from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Both men and women are invited to attend, and questions of all levels will be addressed. Chabad is

located at 74 Maple Avenue in Cedarhurst. For more information, call (516) 295-2478 or visit www.chabad5towns.com.

Oceanside - South Nassau Hospital will host a CPR and ACLS courses on April 16 from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. A Basic Life Support Renewal class will take place on Wednesday, April 30 from 6:00 to 10:30 p.m. All classes will be held in South Nassau Hospital's Conference Room No. 2. South Nassau Hospital is located at 1 Healthy Way in Oceanside. For more information or to register, call South Nassau's Office of Community Education at (516) 377-5333.

Cedarhurst - Chabad of the Five Towns will host a Passover Seder on Saturday, April 19 with evening services beginning at 8:15 p.m. and Seder beginning at 8:45 p.m. The cost is \$40 per adult and \$30 per child. Advance reservations are required by April 10. Chabad is located at 74 Maple Avenue in Cedarhurst. For more information and reservations, call (516) 295-2478 or go on line to www.chabad5towns.com.

Long Beach - The Long Beach Branch of the Friedberg JCC is hosting a traditional Passover Seder on Sunday, April 20 at 5 p.m. Meals are served family style. The fee is \$25 per person. Limited scholarships are available toward the cost of the dinner and are strictly confidential. Payment is due at time of registration, which will not be open after Monday, April 14. The JCC is located at 310 National Blvd. in Long Beach. For more information, call Paula Wall at (516) 431-2929 or visit our web site, www.friedbergjcc.org.

East Meadow - The Suburban Park Jewish Center, Congregation Lev Torah, invites the entire Jewish community to a Passover Seder on Sunday, April 20 beginning at 7 p.m. Following a brief service, a full-course Glatt kosher festive dinner

will be served. The cost is \$18 for adult members and \$25 for adult non-members. It is \$10 for children under age 12, and free for children aged 5 and younger.

Paid reservations are required by no later than April 14. The Suburban Park Jewish Center is located at 400 Old Westbury Road in East Meadow. To make a reservation, call (516) 796-8833.

Suffolk County - The Jewish Academy, Suffolk County's only Orthodox Day School, has arranged access to tickets at a reduced price to two children's sites, the Riverhead Atlantis Aquarium and the Long Island Game Farm for Chol Hamoed Pesach, April 22-24. In addition, they will give you a guide-book to travel to shuls and other places of interest, including the Montauk light house, and the Hamptons. It promises to be a very unique and enjoyable Chol Hamoed family trip. For more information, e-mail jaPesach@verizon.net, call (631) 413-0369, (516) 380-0530 or visit www.thejewishacademy.com/Pesach trip.

East Meadow - The East Meadow Simcha chapter of Hadassah will host Dr. Jill M. Rabin as a guest speaker on Monday, April 28 at 7:45 p.m. at the East Meadow Public Library. Dr. Rabin, a Clinical Associate Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Women's Health at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, will be speaking about women's health issues. Everyone is invited to attend and refreshments will be served. The library is located at 1886 Front Street in East Meadow. For more information, call (516) 794-6994.

Plainview - The Workmen's Circle and the Plainview Jewish Center will host a commemoration of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising on Wednesday, April 30 at 7:30 p.m. The program will feature remarks by Polish Consul General Krzysztof W.



Congregation Beth Shalom of Lawrence held its 56th Annual Testimonial Dinner on Sunday, March 30 at the Sands. The guests of honor were Rabbi Kenneth and Nancy Hain, in celebration of Rabbi Hain's 20th year as the congregation's spiritual leader. Pictured (left to right) are Lester Henner, President; Avram Schreiber, Dinner Chairman; Ben Brafman, Master of Ceremonies; Rabbi Kenneth and Nancy Hain, guests of honor.

Kasprzyk, a reading of names, a memorial candle-lighting, and musical performances by the renowned Yiddish singer Adrienne Cooper. The event is free and open to the public. The Plainview Jewish Center is located at 95 Floral Drive West in Plainview. For more information, call (516) 938-8610.

Manhattan - An Israel@60 Concert will take place on Yom Ha'atzmaut, Wednesday, May 7 at 8 p.m. at Radio City Music Hall. Performers include Hassidic reggae phenomenon Matisyahu, John Zorn and Israeli musicians David Broza, Idan Raichel, Rami Kleinstein and Habanot Nechama. The evening will also include a moving tribute to Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terror as part of Israel's Memorial Day. For more information, call Elliot at (212) 584-4303.

Oceanside - The Friedberg JCC presents Basketball Buds for Children with Disabilities program, beginning May 4 for five consecutive Sundays. It is a great opportunity for children ages 8 to 12 with an autistic spectrum disorder or other developmental disability. Each child will be paired up with a teen buddy to learn fundamental basketball skills. Classes will be grouped according to ability. The fee is \$115 and includes a team shirt and trophy. Please register by April 18. The Friedberg JCC is located at 15 Neil Court in Oceanside. For more information, call Anne Marie Pedalino at (516) 766-4341, ext. 160 or visit our web site at www.friedbergjcc.org.

Cedarhurst - Kulanu Torah Academy's SNAP Program for teens with special needs will meet on May 11 for a trip to the legendary Astroland Amusement Park. For more information about the trips and to join SNAP, call Leiby Brill at (516) 569-3083.

Israel - Migdal Ohr is pleased to announce a very limited number of spaces available to join "Come Fly with NBA Stars to Benefit Israel" for the week of May 25-May 30. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity is for 40 select individuals to help Migdal Ohr-Israel's largest youth village. Rick Barry, Earl "the Pearl" Monroe, Dominique Wilkins and "Dr. J" Julius Erving will be Migdal Ohr's guests for a one-week NBA Legends Mission to Israel. Golf with these legends in Caesarea, shoot hoops in Jerusalem, tour together, and connect on a personal as well as on a business level, meeting with representatives of government and industry from all walks of life. The cost of participation will entitle VIPs to round trip business-class airfare, and accommodations at a 5-star hotel in Tel Aviv for 5 nights, as well as private coach travel throughout Israel. All proceeds benefit the 6,500 children-at-risk of Rabbi Yitzchak David Grossman's Migdal Ohr. For information, call Robert Katz, executive vice president of Migdal Ohr, at (212) 397-3700, or e-mail robert@migdalahrusa.org.

Nassau County - The Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County presents "A Walk to Remember," on two Sundays, May 4 and June 1 at 11:00 a.m. Each participant will walk on the 247-acre Welwyn Preserve in memory of a Holocaust child. For a \$10 donation, participate as a walker or sponsor a walker. For each participant, sponsor, and donor, a paper butterfly in the name of a Holocaust child will be placed on a special memorial display. All those who participate in the walk on either date are invited to attend "An Event to Remember," on Sunday, June 1 at 2:00 p.m., a memorial featuring musical presentations by children, to be held in the Memorial Garden. For more information contact Silvana Gullo, Director of Development, at (516) 571-8040 ext. 107 or visit www.holocaust-nassau.org.

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Hollywood movie for women only screens in Five Towns

BY SARA TRAPPLER SPIELMAN

A new movie made in Hollywood under strict tzniut guidelines is having its Five Towns debut on Chof Hamoed, Tuesday, April 22nd at T.A.G.

Orthodox director Robin Garbose's "A Light for Greytowers" is a sweet, orphanage-genre film set in Victorian England with a Jewish twist.

The film premiered at Paramount Studio's The Sherry Lansing Theater on Dec. 29th in Los Angeles. The historic for-women-only event included a red carpet, kosher food carts and Hollywood industry folk among the hundreds of women who attended from the L.A. Orthodox community.

Over the past few months the movie played for Orthodox audiences that don't often attend movies, but eagerly bought tickets to this one because of endorsements by administrators of Bais Yaakov schools in Passaic, N.J., and Los Angeles.

"Greytowers" was shot four years ago during 23 summer days at Chabad's Rohr Jewish Student Center at the University of Southern California, an authentic Victorian home protected under the California Preservation Act.

According to Garbose - who has directed off-Broadway plays, performances at The Juilliard School and television shows, such as Head of the Class and America's Most Wanted - the location was perfect architecturally and offered a kosher kitchen and synagogue for its religious actors.

Nearly all the film's young actresses are alumni of Kol Neshama Performing Arts Conservatory, which Garbose created eight years ago in Los Angeles to provide professional artistic training and performance opportunities for Jewish girls in a Torah-observant setting.

After nearly four years of post-production work, this is the first full-length theatrical release for Kol Neshama, which has also pro-

duced eight original plays, a series of three musical DVDs and two CDs - all intended for women only.

The movie was directed under rabbinic supervision, especially scenes with the only three male actors in the film, one of whom deliberately doesn't appear in the same frame as his on-screen wife. It is distributed exclusively to female-only audiences and to women's groups on college campuses because there are Orthodox women singing and dancing in the film.

Based on the Jewish novel of the same title by Eva Vogiel and Ruth Steinberg, the story is set at the fictional Greytowers orphanage in 19th-century England and follows the journey of a young girl Miriam Aronowitch. Miriam and her mother, Anya, seek refuge in England from Czarist Russia and its Cossack pogroms. But after her mother falls critically ill, Miriam lands at the orphanage at the mercy of its cruel matron, Miss Agatha Grimshaw, who forbids the

observance of Shabbat or kosher. It's only by clutching on to her faith that Miriam is able to unite the girls and bring light to the surrounding darkness.

Garbose became observant 17 years ago after co-writing a Jewish themed screenplay that was developed at the Sundance Institute. As a professional director for 24 years she feels empowered to bring both her religious and professional worlds together. Her husband, Levi Yitzhaq Garbose, is a songwriter and musician who wrote the music and lyrics heard in the film, and who co-produced the film with his wife.

Robin sees "Greytowers" as cutting edge with its use of modesty in a world obsessed with exposure. She says the film presents "a more authentic image of the Jewish woman."

"There's never been a young heroine like Miriam [on film] fighting for Shabbat and kosher. It's a voice that hasn't been heard before," Garbose says.



Anya (Rivka Siegel) and baby Miriam fleeing Czarist Russia in a scene from "A Light for Greytowers."

Photo courtesy Robin Garbose

She's passionate about offering young, religious girls a movie that contains images of themselves that resonate with their perspectives of life. At the same time, she is creating a venue for girls with a "burning desire to perform" who previously had limited opportunities.

Bracha Leeds, co-director of the Chabad Jewish Center at the University of California at Berkeley, was hired as choreographer for the film and ended up filling an opening in the cast. Before becoming observant as a student at Berkeley, she grew up as a professional singer, dancer and actress.

"I never thought there would

be a place for this in my life when I became religious," Leeds said. After seeing one of Robin's plays she realized her performance talents "didn't have to go to waste." Leeds plans to help Robin bring the film to Berkeley. "The film is exactly what I envisioned," she said.

"A Light for Greytowers" will screen April 22nd at T.A.G., 444 Beach 6th Street, Far Rockaway. Tickets are \$16. For purchase or information call 718-627-1386 or click on www.kolneshama.org



Photo courtesy of Kulanu

Model seder

Kulanu student Yosef Lubin and his shadow, Dani Davis, enjoyed Kulanu's model Seder in Lawrence last Sunday, April 6. They and more than two-dozen other Kulanu student-shadow teams decorated their own Haggadot, conducted a bedikat chametz to search for bread, and learned about the 10 plagues.



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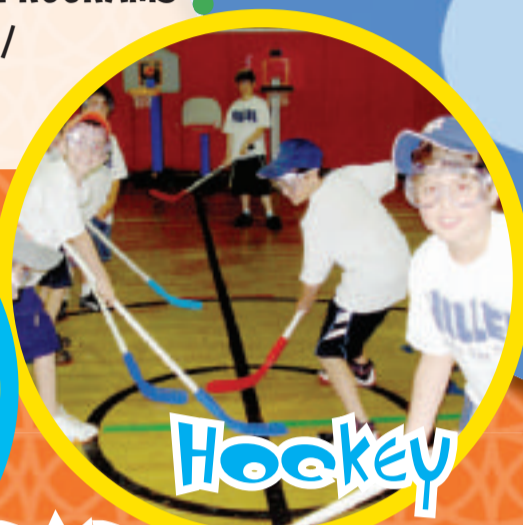
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