

THE JEWISH STAR

Independent and original reporting from the Orthodox communities of Long Island

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IN MY VIEW

Tough times don't last; tough people do

Advice to a man in deep financial trouble

BY RABBI YAKOV HOROWITZ

Dear Rabbi Horowitz: In my wildest dreams, I never thought I would be writing a letter like this — or that I would be in such a challenging position.

Over the past 27 years, I built a business from scratch and was b'ezras Hashem (with G-d's help) very successful financially. Now, I am watching the fruits of my labor disintegrate. Sometimes I feel like I am watching a film of my professional life in reverse — with everything I've created unraveling before my eyes. I am finding it difficult to eat and sleep. In fact, I recently started taking sleeping pills to unwind at night. Baruch Hashem (thank G-d), I am blessed with a wonderful wife who is supportive and understanding, but there are so many questions: Should I add to her burden by unloading all

my problems on her? Should we tell our children? How about our married children, who we are supporting — what do we tell them? How do I overcome the malaise that is my constant companion? My family is looking for

See VIEW, Page 5

Rabbi Yakov Horowitz is the founder and dean of Yeshiva Darchei Noam of Monsey, and founder and director of Agudath Israel's Project Y.E.S.



Try to remember that your kids are watching your reaction to this situation very carefully, and that this is probably the best chance you will have to afford them an image of resiliency in the face of adversity."

Brightening up the boardwalk



Photo courtesy Max Gottfried

Isaac Lichter proudly shows off his artwork on the Long Beach boardwalk on Sunday, at an "Art by the Sea" exhibit hosted by the Hebrew Academy of Long Beach. The display was created by HALB's art enrichment program, using watercolors, pen and ink, and mixed media.

Misaskim chesed organization plans local expansion

Flood of post-Shavuot shiva homes leaves warehouses empty

BY YAFFI SPODEK



Friday, June 6, marked the first time since Misaskim's founding nearly five years ago that its warehouses were empty — a result of an unusually high number of aveilim (mourners) in the Jewish community beginning shiva at the same time.

"Unfortunately, we got hit very hard this week," explained Rabbi Yankie Meyer, one of the founders of Misaskim. "There were over 300 aveilim in 42 places, and we are working on replenishing... We just did pick-ups on Sunday so our supplies are automatically replenished."

Some of these supplies — provided free of charge — include chairs, coat racks, air conditioners, siddurim (prayer

books), Tylenol, water coolers and other amenities aveilim may require or request during the week-long mourning period.

Though Misaskim is best known for assisting the bereaved, the organization is also involved in a host of other Jewish communal services. Members of its disaster recovery unit are trained and equipped to respond to scenes of fatal accidents, often stepping in to prevent an autopsy through interactions with medical examiners and gov-

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Creative fundraising digs deep so donors will too

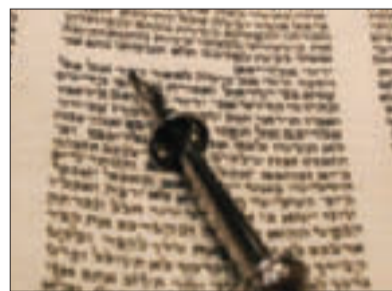
North Shore Hebrew Academy embarks on unique campaign to raise scholarship funds

BY YAFFI SPODEK

The economic recession has taken a toll on yeshiva day schools, more so perhaps than any other Jewish entities. Terms like 'tuition crisis' and 'charter schools' are being uttered more frequently as parents are being forced to reevaluate their educational priorities in the face of rising costs and diminished savings.

The North Shore Hebrew Academy, in conjunction with 13 local shuls in Great Neck, is addressing the increased need for scholarship funds, seeking to dedicate 12 Sifrei Torah (Torah scrolls) in the Sam Aharonoff "Shivtei Torah" Scholarship Campaign. All proceeds will benefit the Sam Aharonoff Memorial Scholarship Fund, which offsets tuition for dozens of needy students in North Shore's elementary school and high school, who would otherwise be unable to attend.

"Our grandparents and parents



North Shore is raising scholarship funds through a Torah dedication campaign.

spent their lives building the Yeshiva day school movement in this country to what it is today," said Arnie Flatow, North Shore's Executive Director and the coordinator of the campaign. "I don't think we are ready to let it go so easily... In a recession, schools have to be innovative and proactive to raise money."

Flatow presented the idea for the Torah campaign to his friend, Sam Aharonoff, a member of the school's Executive board and a key person in the school's fundraising group who for years served as the link between the Ashkenazic and Sephardic communities.

"Sam embraced the project and

See FUNDRAISING, Page 7



Sam Aharonoff, a "h

Bake sales prosper while economy falters

BY MICHAEL ORBACH

At first glance, Dr. Deborah Dienstag, a local pediatrician, proud mother of four and grandmother of two, may be the worst businesswoman in the entire world.

Two weeks ago she bought the necessary ingredients for challah. Her two daughters, Sarah Henya, 18, and

See BAKE SALES, Page 7



In this 2008 file photo, Camp Morasha held a bake sale for the Zev Wolff Fund last summer.



Photo by Mayer Fertig

Seidemann featured on "JM in the AM"

Jewish Star columnist David Seidemann (left) was an articulate and entertaining guest for 40 funny minutes last Thursday, June 4 on Nachum Segal's popular "Jewish Moments in the Morning" radio program (91.1 FM /

jmintheam.org). Segal told his audience he reads Seidemann regularly and urged him to turn nearly three years of "From the other side of the bench" columns into a book. Hear the interview at www.wfmj.org/playlists/jm.

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Shabbat

Candlelighting: 8:08 p.m. ■ Shabbat ends: 9:18 p.m.
Torah reading: Parshat Beha'alotcha

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PARSHAT BEHA'ALOTCHA

When it's cloudy

In a few instances, the Torah describes the very specific role clouds play within the Israelite encampment.

In the last four verses of Shmot, Chapter 24, as Moshe is receiving the complete instructions of the Torah, he ascends a cloud-covered mountain for 40 days. Of course, no one else is allowed to "enter" the mountain during this time.

Skip to the end of Shmot. In Chapter 40, the Glory of G-d shifts from a one-time location at Sinai to its more permanent



Rabbi Avi Billet

place as it fills the Mishkan, and the cloud moves into the tent of meeting ('ohel mo'ed'). Not even Moshe may enter at this time — he must wait until the cloud rises — and the people will not travel, we are told, until the cloud lifts. The cloud of G-d is present during the day; the evening is illuminated by fire.

The rules seem pretty clear. If the cloud is visible on top of the Mishkan, no one may enter the Mishkan and there is no traveling. When the cloud lifts, Moshe may enter, and travel can resume.

As a result, the passage in our portion (9:15-23) seems out of place. As a matter of fact, perhaps it should not appear in the Torah at all. In a seemingly repetitive string of verses, the Torah lays out the rules again: the cloud, which is controlled, of course, by G-d, dictates the terms of travel.

Sometimes the people will remain for a few days or for a lengthier period of time, and sometimes they will travel the morning after they unload and seemingly get settled.

A critical reader of these verses might declare the Bible critic's mantra: "The Torah has multiple authors who couldn't get it right, so they all needed

to set the record straight." As this is not an assumption we like to employ, we must find an alternative answer, to deal with the issue of why people are assumed to be unintelligent, failing to grasp the concept that "cloud present = no travel" while "cloud removed = you may use the mishkan and/or today's a travel day."

The Seforno on 9:23 makes a profound comment, one that is perhaps difficult for us, who in our 21st century post-modern existence write and dictate our own schedules, to comprehend. He says all is done based on G-d's declarations, paying no heed to whether people haven't even had a chance to take a

breather, or whether they've settled down in the new resting spot and are quite comfortable. To bring a practical example, anytime I've ever had car trouble, whether from a break-in, dead battery, flat tire, or fender bender, it has never been "a good time for this to happen." While I am generally grateful that all of these scrapes have never involved personal injury to anyone, the inconvenience of hours lost somehow never take place on days in which I had nothing better to do.

How many times have we gotten into a groove, whether it is in a new job, a new school year, or the like, only to have something throw us completely out of our rhythm and force us have to begin again?

I recall the month of Elul in yeshiva in Israel as being a particularly challenging time to "get into learning." After a couple of weeks, however, as things

begin to fall into place and become routine, the Sukkot break would send us out of yeshiva only to have to start over after the holidays.

Perhaps the lesson we are meant to take is that as much as we plan and think we are in control, we are not the One pulling the strings. Sometimes we need a reminder to this effect — a reminder that can come in a very noticeable cloud or in an enlightening pillar of fire. And sometimes we'll miss it completely. After all, when it's cloudy "the sun don't shine."

But repetition is a good breeding ground for getting the message.

Whether we like our home, our community, our country, there may come a time when the signs are dictating it's time to move on. Hopefully we'll be able to see the signs and the timing will be "good for all of us."

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Edited by Miriam L. Wallach

Dear That's Life,

Sometimes life is just a series of vignettes that, when strung together, tell of the interesting and often colorful moments that make up your world. For me, more often than not, they arrive in the form of one-liners.

Moment #1

Overheard as a mother and a daughter walk out of the manicurist and join pedestrian traffic on the sidewalk:

"Seriously, Mommy — don't they know we know they're talking about us even though they are speaking in Chinese?"

Moment #2

Amid a large crowd, just two people, who were standing right there, seemed to take note of the following exchange:

"Miriam, there is NO way you could be carrying just ONE and NO way you could be due in October," a woman exclaimed.

Even for me that was a bit much, and I was taken aback. I'm all for being frank but I have started to learn the advantages of filtering. Sometimes, refraining from saying exactly what you're thinking is quite prudent. Other times, saying exactly what you're thinking is exactly what the doctor ordered. This was one of those times.

"Wow, Mrs. So-and-So," I responded, "I really hope for your sake I have something else to write about before my dead-

line next week."

Moment #3

Stopping into a pizza store in Borough Park with a friend after paying a shiva call, I stood in front of the display to check out what they had to offer. It was a Thursday night but the store was not that busy and there was a lot to choose from. As I surveyed the different types of pasta, numerous varieties of pizza and an abundance of egg-plant Parmesan, something unexpected caught my eye: cholent.

Tugging on my friend's shirt like a small child, I could not stop laughing and pointing at the crock pots (that were mostly empty, by the way.) "Look!" I said, not believing my eyes. "They have cholent!" "So?" she responded, as if this was completely normal and I was the nut. "But it's a pizza store!" I exclaimed. "Yes," she replied, "but it's also Thursday night."

Unable to understand what it was about Thursday night that made it acceptable to serve cholent, I clung to what I knew to be true, and repeated: "But it's a PIZZA STORE!" "But you're in Borough Park," she replied, and added, "Honey, you've got a lot to learn."

Clearly I do — and I'll tell you what I've learned: the true sign that the Five Towns really has become Brooklyn will be when our pizza stores begin serving cholent on Thursday nights — and when we think that's normal.

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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.

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Celebrating Jewish Life

IN
THE JEWISH STAR

Engagements

- Engagement of Jack Melul (Manchester, U.K.) & Shira Siani (Jerusalem, Israel) — June 4, 2009
- Engagement of Yael Gold (Brooklyn, NY) & Eli Langer (Brooklyn, NY) — June 4, 2009
- Engagement of Mordechai Baruch Loeb (Lakewood, NJ) & Suri Frisch (Brooklyn, NY) — June 3, 2009
- Engagement of Simcha Hakimi (Los Angeles, CA) & Yaakov Nourollah (Los Angeles, CA) —

Births

- Birth of Hannah Harper Steinberg (Fairlawn, NJ) — May 28, 2009
- Birth of Batya Rus Maraney (South Africa) — May 27, 2009

May 31, 2009

■ Engagement of Esther Malka Friedman (Brooklyn, NY) & Avi Rosengarten (Brooklyn, NY) — May 31, 2009

■ Engagement of Leora Sorscher (Brooklyn, NY) & Yossi Bloom (Brooklyn, NY) — May 27, 2009

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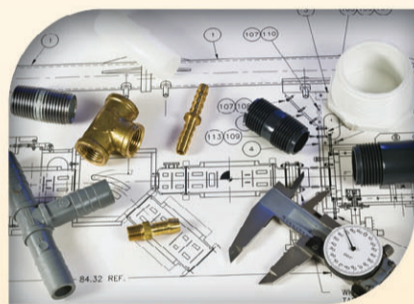
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OPINION

New brand of entertainment in Albany

Editorial

There's really nothing nice to say about the prevailing method of governance in Albany, unpopularly known as "three men in a room." No good at all comes from the governor, the senate majority leader and the speaker of the assembly making every major decision without input from other elected officials.

If you had to come up with something nice to say about that absurd arrangement you could always point out that at least somebody was in charge — but apparently even that wasn't the case.

Monday's Republican coup in the Senate, aided and abetted by two Democratic problem children, Hiram Monserrate and Pedro Espada Jr., is certainly the most entertaining political story to come out of Albany in recent memory. However, it also highlights the rank incompetence and political ineptitude of Malcolm Smith, the apparently former majority leader, and of Governor David Paterson, who if New Yorkers are fortunate, will become a political footnote — a half-term wonder who stepped in following the Spitzer scandal. Monserrate and Espada's political plotting must have been weeks in the making — how on Earth could Paterson and Smith have been caught off guard?

A seasoned political operative we spoke with called Smith "pathetic" for "insisting that he's still the majority leader. Either way, when he opens his eyes again, he still won't have the votes... there will still be 32 votes against him and 30 votes for him."

Although the institution of the state legislature was in greater disarray than usual as of this writing, and there's still no budget, in some other key respects, it's all good.

For one, we welcome having local Senator Dean Skelos as majority leader once again — even if he does need to share power with Espada. Multiple investigations may eventually catch up with Espada; he won't be around forever. Monserrate's tenure is likely to be even shorter. If convicted as charged of slashing his girlfriend, Senate rules will require his immediate ouster.

Additionally, two fatally flawed bills would now appear to be dead letters.

The gay marriage bill that — only in New York! — doesn't provide exemptions for religious institutions seems unlikely to come to a vote in this session. Same for the slightly updated Markey bill that would open a window for sexual abuse victims to sue their abusers even if the statute of limitations has passed. The bill has the potential to unmask many predators but might also bankrupt institutions that historically did a poor job of protecting children. Both bills need further consideration. So does the way Albany continues to do business.

Lawrence election

A more stable legislative body is the Village of Lawrence Board of Trustees, which will hold an at-large election on June 16.

Incumbent Joel Mael is seeking a fourth two-year term; Michael Fragin is running his first race after being appointed to fill the seat vacated by Lawrence Mayor Simon Felder.

A candidacy by Jackie Handel, long active in Village politics, ended prematurely several weeks ago when it was discovered that her petitions were riddled with errors. She has said she will not run a write-in campaign but with just 130 people having cast ballots in the last election, it seems reasonable to wonder if she will give it a try.

Fragin, it should be noted, is a one-time columnist for this newspaper, which gave us first-hand exposure to the breadth of his political knowledge and ability. He is a valuable asset to the Village of Lawrence who deserves election to a full term.

He and Mr. Mael have done a good job on a board that, just this week, won approval for an ambitious plan to transfer responsibility for waste treatment to Nassau County. Instead of spending millions to upgrade an aged treatment facility, Lawrence will turn its waste plant into a pumping station to send the 1.5 million gallons of sewage produced in Lawrence each day to a county facility. The expected savings to Village residents will be significant — amounting to hundreds of dollars a year in lower Village taxes.

The Jewish Star supports Mael and Fragin and urges Lawrence voters to do likewise.

Letters

The article was overrated too?

To the Editor:

According to an article in last week's issue (Flipping out in Israel is overrated; June 5, 2009), "only" 25 percent of the 600 students in the study had a dramatic or transformative change in their religious values after a year of study in Israel. Only? That is one in four!

The study then goes on to explain away the significance of this conclusion by stating that of those students in the 25 percent group, most reported coming from families with stronger conflict and less cohesion than students who experienced less change, or, stated more frankly, from more dysfunctional families. That would also imply that the remaining 75% of the students who came from families with less conflict and more cohesion would not be expected to experience dramatic or trans-

formative change. One would not have to conduct a study to recognize the conclusion and its implication as dubious.

Also, in light of the subjective standards used as criteria for the study and the bias shown in its conclusions, one may wonder if even the "only" 25 percent figure is understated.

If you feel flipping out is overrated, ask the parents and friends of those who have. It appears that it is the study (or the prominent reporting of it) that is overrated.

JACOB STEINER
Woodmere

Obama's Cairo speech misguided

To the Editor:

President Obama's misguided pairing of the Holocaust and the Jewish right to a homeland

portrays an inaccurate and misleading justification for Israel's existence.

The Jewish nation has centuries old Biblical ties to the Holy Land, promised by G-d himself to the children of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This unassailable guarantee trumps all other legitimate Jewish entitlements to the land.

Arab appeasement — or today's politically correct term,

moral equivalence — serves only to hand Holocaust deniers and anti-Semites further fodder for their intractable bigotry, a despicable insolence that fifty Presidential missions to Buchenwald won't ever change.

CHASKEL BENNETT
Brooklyn

To the Editor:

It was not so long ago that, unknown to its general membership, a group of prominent Five Towns individuals went to

meet and greet Hillary Clinton at a local shul. This is the same Hillary Clinton who now, as a response to a latter day Hitler attempting to get control of weapons of mass destruction, has demanded in effect that not a single additional Jewish baby should be born into the so-called West Bank.

A.M. BERNSTEIN
Lawrence

Letters

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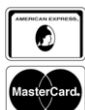
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FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BENCH

Take note, President Obama

I want them subpoenaed. All of them. I want to see every single one of Barack Obama's report cards and year-books from first grade through the end of law school. On second thought, save the postage. It doesn't matter. Because after hearing his "Hate us, we are Americans" speech in Cairo on June 4, and after hearing his "Blame it on the settlements" speech, I don't need to see the report cards. I'm going to bet he failed every World History course and was voted "most likely to appease" by his classmates.

By linking Israel's existence only to the Holocaust, he has laid the pretext for the plan of deny the Holocaust, ergo deny Israel. By quoting from the Koran but failing to quote from the Bible that links Jews to the land of Israel thousands of years ago, Obama furthered the oft-cited claim of the Arabs that they are paying the price for Eastern Europe's treatment of the Jews. By linking the settlements to the lack of a Palestinian homeland, Obama lays the founda-



David Seidemann

tion for the Arabs to continue to fail to take responsibility for their failure to reform their ideology; for their utter failure to build a viable peace partner, and for their prolific tendency to reject offers by Israel that would have given them Statehood multiple times over.

The problem with Obama's vision for the future is that it totally ignores the realities of the past. Read that sentence twice and make it your mantra because if an American President can be so blind, than perhaps we are not illuminating the path sufficiently. Perhaps we are too silent, too complacent, too unwilling to stoke the fires. Am I the only one who sees the connection between the election of a president committed to the "carrot" and the immediate ratcheting up by Iran and North Korea of the nuclear "stick"?

Peace treaties are made between civilized societies that respect and recognize each other's right to exist. Peace treaties are enforced by countries that each have the ability to police fringe ele-

ments within their own borders that might seek to sabotage the agreement. Viewed in that context, the score is Israel: 2, Arabs: 0.

I, on the other hand, received an "A" in History, took copious notes and without a subpoena will gladly send them to Mr. Obama. In a nutshell, Mr. President, G-d gave Israel to the Jews and they conquered it in a series of battles in the days of Joshua. The Jews got tossed out a few times, and Arab nomads eventually settled there with the Jews. No formal Arab country was ever established there and, in more modern times, the British took over. Faced with an inability to tolerate Arab murderers, the British handed "Palestine" over to Israel, the U.N. drew a few lines, the Arabs waged war in defiance of the U.N. partition, Israel won, expanded its borders and here we are.

Those are my notes, Mr. President, and I will gladly share them with you. The way I see it, therefore, is that the Arabs should really be miffed at the British and perhaps at the U.N. (although the U.N. has made it up to the Arabs over the years by their constant demonizing of Israel for having the

temerity to exist.) So my vision of the New World order would look like this: the British really owe the Arabs, big time, and a swath of land should be carved out of England for the establishment of the New Arab State. They could call it Palesland or Engstine. Being that the United Kingdom is already a monarchy, the transformation shouldn't be so dramatic.

In furtherance of reparations to the Arabs displaced by the United Nations partition plan, the U.N. building in New York should be sold. The monies will be set aside as T.A.R.P. (Trans Arab Reparations Program) funds and will be distributed as per further instructions from President Obama. The Trans Arab Reparations Program is not to be confused with the Toxic Assets Recovery Program currently being used to bail out banks and other industries, although they do share the same quantum of legitimacy. The "plan" would allow any Arab who desires to remain in Israel proper to remain without penalty

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and each Arab family shall be free to procreate as they wish. Jews however, that is, those living in Israel proper, must remain at their present family size. Only upon the passing of a grandmother or grandfather, will a marriage be allowed to result in the birth of a baby to replace the grandparent that passed. In the event of multiple births, say twins or triplets, see Exodus: chapter 1, verse 22.

In the New World order, Barack Obama retains his title of President of the United States until 2012 to be succeeded by a Republican who received a D in history or by a Democrat who received an A. My vision, Mr. Obama, is based on my notes. On the other hand, your notes are based on your vision, skewed as it might be.

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.

IN MY VIEW: TOUGH TIMES DON'T LAST; TOUGH PEOPLE DO

Continued from Page One

ing to me for guidance; how can I offer them chizuk (support) when I myself am reeling?

Name withheld by request

Rabbi Horowitz responds

The wisest of all men, Shlomo Hamelech, extolled the importance of friendship when he penned the classic pesukim, "Tovim ha'shnayim min ha'echad, ... sheim yipolu, ha'echad yokim es chavero - [The shared power of] two is better than one ... for if they should fall, one can lift the other" (Koheles 4:9-10). It is interesting to note that Shlomo Hamelech uses the plural 'yipolu' when denoting 'falling' rather than the singular yipol. I suggest that he is teaching us a profound lesson — that when we hit rough patches in our lives, the value of companionship and solidarity exists even if both have fallen, and is not only limited to situations when the one friend who is standing assists the other who has slipped.

All too often, we tend to withdraw — even from our

closest friends and loved ones — when things get difficult. But doing so denies us the comfort that Shlomo Hamelech was referring to when we need it the most. With that in mind, you will be well served to keep the lines of communication open with your wife and resist the temptation to shield her from the difficulty you are facing. You may wish to share all the details of your financial crisis with her or simply discuss things in broad strokes. However, locking her out of your life will, in all likelihood, deprive you of the chizuk she can offer you, deny her the ability to support you emotionally, and perhaps even erode the quality of your marriage.

You and your wife ought to, in an age appropriate manner, explain to your children that the family's finances have had a significant reversal. It is probably unwise to share all the details with them, but you must be completely honest, for any evasive answers you give will make them even more anxious. I suggest that you be more direct with your married children and explain to them that while your commitment to them was made with the best

of intentions, you are simply unable to meet them now.

Your use of sleeping pills worries me. I am not suggesting that you never take them, rather that you do so sparingly and only under the care of your physician, as they are addictive. And if you find yourself sinking into the black hole of despondency, please, please seek out the assistance of your rabbi and/or mental health professional (in all honesty, treating clinical depression is far beyond the skill set of a well-intentioned rabbi, such as this writer. If you are feeling genuine depression, you should certainly continue to consult with your rav, but you must seek professional help as well), for denying yourself their aid is analogous to having a root canal done without Novocain.

In my work with at-risk teens, I often find myself called upon to comfort and guide terrified and broken-hearted parents of kids who are spiraling downward. Naturally, they feel

like their lives have been shattered beyond repair. (As the wise mother of a troubled teen once told me, "Rabbi, good parents are never happier than their unhappiest child.") In the course of our discussions, I often ask the parents if they are exercising regularly and spending recreational time together. I am usually treated to a "you-gotta-be-kidding" look, as they cannot imagine relaxing during this tumultuous period of their lives. I inform them, however, that it is more critical than ever that they nurture their bodies and souls — in order to be better positioned to help their teenager and his/her siblings. So please take care of yourself for your own sake and for those you love. In addition to all its health benefits, exercise releases the endorphins that are so helpful in maintaining your emotional health.

Always try to keep your eyes and ears open for things that bolster your spirits — a pasuk in Tehillim, a vort

(Torah thought) you remember from your rebbe, a beautiful sunset, an uplifting song; anything that will give you chizuk. Twenty-one years ago, my contract was not renewed (that's polite-speak for getting fired) as head counselor of the summer camp where I worked for seven years. Distraught, I drove up to the Catskills to clear my head and clean out my desk. At the bottom of a stack of papers, I found a poster with the words, "Tough Times Don't Last; Tough People Do." I took the sign home and framed it.

You mentioned that you find it hard to be a pillar of strength for your family to lean on, as your knees are wobbly in the face of your challenges. But as difficult as it may be, try to remember that your kids are watching your reaction to this situation very carefully, and that this is probably the best chance that you will have in your lifetime to afford them an image of resiliency in the face of adversity. I am very fortunate to have a mother who is an extraordinary role model, perhaps the most resilient person I have ever met. She was

childless for the first 10 years of marriage, widowed a few short years later, and left with three children under the age of five. Her personal example of poise and courage in her darkest days inspire me whenever I hit a rough patch.

Finally, and perhaps most important of all, this financial crisis affords you the opportunity to articulate our bedrock Torah values to your family in a way that may not have been possible in heady times. Speak from your heart about your fears and concerns — but also about our faith in Hashem, about the importance of family and community in our lives, about how the value of our lives is measured not by what we have, but rather by what we have given to others. Hopefully, it is these lessons that your family members will remember — far more than the difficult times that caused them to be taught.

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Pioneers of Zion Award
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Baco Boys award to Kulanu student

Kulanu senior Yigal Rosengarten was among 15 individuals given awards for Devotion and Commitment in Action at a ceremony at Temple Hillel on Thursday, May 14. What has been termed "The Baco Boys Award" was established by the Five Towns Jewish Council in the memory of four teenage Camp Baco counselors: David Altschuler, Adam Cohen, Jonah Richman, and Jordan Satin, who drowned in 2003 while attempting to save each other in the rain-swollen Boquet River.



The Five Towns Jewish Council acknowledges their untimely passing and promotes the qualities of selfless service to humanity by annually presenting The Award for Devotion and Commitment in Action to local students.

In nominating Yigal, the Kulanu faculty noted his participation in Tomchei Shabbos, delivering food to the needy before Shabbos, and his participation in the Kulanu Fair where he is instrumental during early morning set-up, working a full day and assisting in clean up

at the end of this annual event. Mr. Michael Trotta, the school coordinator and Mrs. Melissa Sornik, social worker, noted that Yigal's demonstration of chesed on a daily basis was the overriding reason for his nomination.

ON THE **Calendar**

For a complete listing of upcoming community events, including items that didn't make it into the print edition, go to www.thejewishstar.com.

Five Towns - The Five Towns Shul Softball League for men is expanding from 8 teams to 12 teams. The games are played on Sunday mornings during the months of July and August. Any shul that would like to join should please contact Eli Dworetzky, the commissioner, as soon as possible, at tiredcpa@aol.com.

Hewlett - Anshei Chesed, in conjunction with the Orthodox Union, will host a symposium entitled "Crisis in Jewish School Tuition: Are there any Solutions?" on Shabbos, Parshas Beha'aloscha, June 13 at 6:30 p.m. The symposium will be chaired by Stephen Savitsky, president of the Orthodox Union. The panel will include noted experts including Asher Mansdorf, Jack Katz, Charlie Harari and Avi Lauer. Anshei Chesed is located in the Yeshiva of South Shore, 1170 William St. in Hewlett.

Lido Beach - The Lido Beach Synagogue will host a siyum by the Shabbos Women's Study Group in memory of Diana Berkovitch Libin a"h on June 13. The group has completed the study of the Book of Samuel and will be making a Siyum followed by a gala kiddush. Men and women are invited to attend. A Chumash class at 8 a.m. will be followed by Shacharit, which will begin at 9 a.m. For more information, please call the shul at (516) 889-9650.

Inwood - The JCC of the Greater Five Towns has scheduled its 11th annual golf outing for Monday, June 15 at the Inwood Country Club. For more information, please call (516) 569-6733.

Cedarhurst The JCC of the Greater Five Towns is offering two Mahjong reviews scheduled for Monday June 15 and Monday, June 29. Both classes are from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The fee is \$20 and pre-registration is required. For more information and to register, please call Sheryl at (516) 569-6733, ext. 222.

East Meadow - The East Meadow Simcha chapter of Hadassah will meet on Monday, June 15 at the East Meadow Public Library at 7:45 p.m. Elliot Goldberg will entertain with a musical variety show. For more information, please call (516) 481-1294.

Cedarhurst - The JCC of the Greater Five Towns will host a dinner for singles ages 55 and up, on Tuesday, June 16 at 7 p.m. at the JCC, 207 Grove Ave. The evening will feature entertainment with mentalist David Rosenberg; the cost is \$18. For more information, call Lisa Stern at (516) 569-6733.

Bronx - Birkat Shmuel, the Albert Einstein College of Medicine's shul, will hold the first ever dinner in the shul's history, on Thursday June 18 at 6:30 p.m. in Lubin Dining Hall, 1300 Morris Park, Bronx, New York. Honorees will include the shul's outgoing rabbi and rebbeztin, Rabbi Alex and Jordana Mondrow, and the past rabbis of Einstein, Rabbi Yaakov and Peshi Neuberger, Rabbi Avrohom and Rena Kanarek, Rabbi Chanoch and

Michelle Waxman, Rabbi Kalman and Jordana Topp and Rabbi Josh and Ilana Blass. Guest speakers will be YU President Richard Joel, Allen Spiegel, MD, Dean of Einstein; and Edward Burns, MD, Executive Dean at Einstein. For more information, please e-mail einsteinsynagogue@gmail.com.

Freeport - Congregation Tifereth Zvi is pleased to announce its first Annual Father Son/Daughter Fishing Trip on Sunday June 21. The day begins with Sunday morning shiur at 5:45 a.m., Shacharis at 6:30 a.m., and the boat leaves the dock in Freeport at 8:00 a.m. We will have the boat until noon. The cost is \$35 per person (same for adult and child) and includes rod and bait. Drinks will be provided. Please e-mail office@tzminyan.org to reserve your spot. A minimum of 30 people needed to book the boat.

Manhattan - American Friends of The Max and Ruth Schwartz Hesder Yeshiva Of Sderot will hold their Annual Awards Dinner on Tuesday, June 30 at The Puck Building, 295 Lafayette Street in New York City. Among the guests of honor will be Mrs. Ruth Simon of Lawrence. Please respond by June 22 to ensure program recognition. For more information, please call (212) 274-8900 or e-mail dinner@sderot.org.

Oceanside - The Friedberg JCC Baby Boomer Club is hosting a wine tasting on Wednesday, July 1 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person and additional fees may apply. The club is for those born between '46 and '64 to meet for socializing and outings. The JCC is located at 15 Neil Court in Oceanside. For more information please call (516) 766-4341 or e-mail aschiller@friedbergjcc.org.

ONGOING EVENTS

Cedarhurst - Young Israel of Lawrence-Cedarhurst and Bnei Akiva North America are happy to announce the launching of a new Bnei Akiva chapter in the Five Towns. The chapter will be open for 4th and 5th grade boys and girls of the entire community. Activities for boys and girls will be separate and will be led by our Bat Ami girls, Alona and Nofar. YILC is located at 8 Spruce Street in Cedarhurst. For more information, please call (516) 569-3324.

Cedarhurst - The Beis Medrash of Cedarhurst holds a Flexible Morning Learning Program every Monday through Thursday from 10:30 a.m. until 12:45 p.m. There are shiurim and chavrusas in Chumash, Gemara, Halacha and Chovos Halevavos. Learners may come and go as they please. The Beis Medrash of Cedarhurst is located at 504 W. Broadway (off the corner of W. Broadway and Cedarhurst Ave.) For information, please contact Rabbi Moshe Kaufman at (718) 471-2780 or moshekaufman@gmail.com.

Cedarhurst - The "Sunday Night Torah Lecture Series" in memory of Shari Siman-Tov z"l is held weekly at 8:00 p.m. at Congregation Shaare Emunah, the Sephardic Congregation of the Five Towns, 539 Oakland Avenue (Corner Oakland Ave. & Peninsula Blvd). Men and women are invited. Ner Sarah is a network of

Torah and chesed projects in memory of Shari Siman-Tov z"l. For more information, please e-mail nersarah@nersarahproject.com or visit www.nersarahproject.com.

Woodmere - The Young Israel of Woodmere hosts a Torah Conference Call (TCC) program every Monday through Thursday from 12:30 to 1:00 p.m., and Sundays from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m., sponsored by IDT. The schedule is as follows: Sundays, Rabbi Binny Freedman: tastings on the parsha; Mondays, Rabbi Zev Meir Friedman: contemporary hashkafic topics; Tuesdays, Rabbi Kalman Topp: halachic topics of daily life; Wednesdays, Rabbi Aaron Glatt, MD: Bentching and halachos relating to benching; and Thursdays, Rabbi Yisrael Kamintsky: hashkafa from the parsha. To participate, dial (718) 732-6924 or (973) 409-3117. Enter the conference ID#: 516 295 0950 and enter the password: 613613#.

Long Beach - Long Beach Medical Center has a newly formed Gamblers Anonymous group. Meetings are held each Monday at 7:30 p.m. in Conference Room D at Long Beach Medical Center, 455 E. Bay Drive. For more information, please call (516) 897-1250.

Long Beach - Long Beach Medical Center's Counseling Center has free weekly Anxiety & Depression walk-in screenings every Wednesday from 2-3 p.m. Screenings will include an interview with a mental health professional. For more information, please call (516) 897-1270.

Cedarhurst - The JCC of the Greater Five Towns offers a variety of Hebrew classes. The Conversational Hebrew Intermediate meets Mondays from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. The Conversational Hebrew Beginner class meets Mondays from 11:50 to 1:05 p.m. The Learn How to Read Hebrew day class meets Mondays from 1:10 to 2:25 p.m. The Conversational Hebrew Beginner night class meets Tuesdays from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. The Conversational Hebrew Intermediate night class meets Tuesdays from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. The Learn How to Read Hebrew night class meets Mondays beginning 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. Each class meets 12 times and costs \$200.

Hewlett - The 1 in 9 Hewlett House offers support groups at 86 East Rockaway Road. The groups include: yoga and stress reduction, Mondays from 1-2 p.m.; breast cancer support for those undergoing treatment, Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 12 noon, and Wednesdays from 1-2 p.m.; knitting circle meets on Tuesdays from 10-11 a.m.; the writer's roundtable meets Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 12 noon; Newly Diagnosed Breast Cancer group meets Tuesdays from 12:15-1:15 p.m. for eight sessions facilitated by Jill Alper, MSW, CSW; breast cancer group for the working woman meets Tuesdays at 6 p.m. and is facilitated by Sue Champlin, CSW. A new class, held on Tuesdays, from 10-11 a.m., is a "Mind Body Spiritual Healing Journey" for cancer patients looking to connect to their inner sanctuary. All classes and support groups are a free service. Please call Christine (516) 374-3190 to register.

FUNDRAISING

Continued from Page One

became its major advocate," noted Flatow. "It didn't stop when he was unfortunately diagnosed with cancer. He continued to advocate for it throughout his illness. When he passed away from cancer last year, it was only fitting that we named the campaign in his honor."

On November 22, 2009, Sam Aharonoff's first yahrzeit, the Torahs — seven written according to Ashkenaz tradition, five following the Sephardic one — will be welcomed and completed at a formal siyum and celebration. In light of the economy, the school hopes that extending the campaign beyond what was originally planned will maximize donations to the scholarship fund.

Over 8,000 Shivei Torah brochures were mailed out to the participating Great Neck synagogues. Shlomo Elias, Vice President of Fundraising at North Shore, whose family had previously dedicated the Aron Kodesh (Torah ark) where most of the Shivei Torahs will be housed, is thrilled that the community has embraced the project. "Everyone is very excited to be involved in this unique project which is bringing the entire community closer together and is a fitting memorial to a dear friend who dedicated so many of his years to this Academy and community," he said.

The Torahs, each named for one sheivet (tribe), were previously paid for and dedicated by 12 families as part of North Shore's capital building campaign for their new high school. Now the school

is giving parents and benefactors the opportunity to dedicate sections of each Torah — be it a sefer (book), parsha (chapter), pasuk (sentence) or word — and take part in this mitzvah, while at the same time donating to a worthy cause. Every contribution will be inscribed in the Shivei Torah Campaign Sefer, and each donor will receive a Certificate of Dedication at the project's conclusion.

Flatow believes this to be the first time in modern history that 12 Torahs are being dedicated together at one time by one institution.

"I think this is an incredible project, quite unprecedented, and it really addresses what our school is all about," he told The Jewish Star. "Scholarship funds today require hundreds of thousands of additional dollars and we as an institution are committed to raise these needed funds to keep our kids in school during this crisis. The reaction from this community so far has been incredible in the fact that 13 synagogues in this community are participating, and speaks volumes about our Kehillah."

Flatow retains an optimistic outlook regarding the future of yeshivas in general. "It is way too premature to talk about the demise of our Yeshiva Day School movement," he maintains. "The yeshiva movement will continue to thrive. There have been recessions before. We just need to stay positive to get through this, and with the right projects, we will. I am confident that we will weather this new storm."

For more information on North Shore's fundraising campaign, visit www.shiveitorah.org or call (516) 487-8687, ext. 2.

BAKE SALES PROSPER WHILE ECONOMY FALTERS

Continued from Page One

Rivkah, 16, students at Torah Academy for Girls, baked the challah in her kitchen. Then, in an almost unimaginable con, sold the challah back to Dr. Dienstag for an unbearable \$18 per loaf.

But Dr. Dienstag doesn't consider the purchase of four challahs, one crumb-topped cherry pie, a cheesecake, and a mountain of chocolate covered pretzels a business decision inasmuch as an act of charity.

"I was going to give the money anyway," Dr. Dienstag told The Jewish Star, "and I get the cookies."

All the profits from this year's TAG bake sale went to Naveh, an organization in Israel that helps victims of terrorist attacks.

"It encourages young girls to become community activists," Dr. Dienstag said about the bake sale, "and it involves a lot of organizational skills on the kids' part. It really teaches them fundraising and business skills."

Her daughters, alongside Estee Siegal, another TAG student, began the Naveh bake sale five years ago at TAG. So far, they've raised over \$30,000 for the charity. It seems that while the economy is faltering and charities are suffering, bake sales in the Five Towns and Far Rockaway Jewish community are prospering.

Three other bake sales occurred in the week after the TAG bake sale, not to mention one that took place the

same night as the TAG sale in the B'nos Bais Yaakov school. Other beneficiaries included Yad Eliezer, a charity that helps poor Israeli families, and Sophia, an Israel-based school for troubled girls.

The bake sale is usually overhead-free, with parents and students volunteering to buy the ingredients, then baking and selling the goods at a steep profit. The concept is frequently a no-brainer.

"I'm 20 years old. I like cookies; I like cake," said Yisroel Yavne who helped run a bake sale with his mother for Yad Eliezer. "We decided other people do too."

Rivkah Dienstag says that their only cost this year was wrapping paper for the baked goods. She says that this year's profits were lower than from the previous year, but were still strong enough to be considered a success.

"We made over \$5,000 this year," said Rivkah, who is a finishing her junior year at TAG. "Our total cost was \$100."

This year even a professional pastry chef volunteered a cake.

Regarding the sticky issue of kashruth, products at the TAG bake sale were labeled with the full list of ingredients, possible allergens, and the name of the family in whose kitchen the item was baked. This tactic has been employed in other kosher bake sales as well. Another tactic is to encourage or even require products to be baked in a shul kitchen.

"When something is served in the shul, that means we're giving our okay to it, but we won't do it on anything baked privately," said Rabbi Elazar M. Teitz, the rav of Elizabeth, N.J. "However, if you buy something privately, I would not have any objections. As long as it's understood that we're not giving any approval, tacit or otherwise." Items baked in private homes are required to be labeled as such. Gatherings in the kitchen of the Jewish Educational Center shul there, to prepare for a Shabbos kiddush or a bake sale, are commonplace.

Linda Hartley, an assistant professor at NYU and the president of Hartley Consulting, a non-profit development and management consulting firm, said that bake sales are usually successful because of a strong community ethic.

"The bake sale is a representative of that connecting to community. It feels very good and very American to do it," Hartley explained.

Getting the cookie also plays a part too.

"It's immediate — you can eat it," Hartley said. "Giving feels good and you're adding something good on top of it. You're getting the feeling twice."

While the bake sale season may be over, Dr. Dienstag said the her patients have taken to preordering her daughter's challah in advance for next year's bake sale.

"It's an opportunity to get really good home baked stuff if you're not good at it," she said, laughing.





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THE KOSHER BOOKWORM

Books and beach chairs

How to make this summer a worthwhile reading experience (part one)

With the advent of summer, I am once again presenting a list of recommended books that deserve your reading attention.

Given the events of the past few weeks and the behavior of Mr. Obama in Cairo, it



Alan Jay Gerber

would be interesting to see how another president comported himself in a time of dire need for the Jewish people. One such descriptive is a newly published book, "A Safe Haven: Harry S. Truman and the Founding of Israel" (Harper, 2009) by historians Ronald and Allis Radosh.

Aside from all the drama that played itself out in that post-war era, the authors prudently begin this volume with a 35-page chapter detailing the role of the soon-to-be deceased president, Franklin D. Roosevelt. In effect, this chapter sets up the

role that the new and untested president, Harry S. Truman, was to play in one of the most dramatic chapters in both world and Jewish history: the revival of a Jewish State after 2,000 years. Such an event had never happened in world history before.

The perfidious behavior of FDR and his minions in lying to American Jews about his intent as to the establishment of a Jewish state after the war is given full play and shows the sharp contrast in style and moral behavior of these two presidents.

The events detailed reflect an extremely well researched literary effort. The notes and bibliography demonstrate the laborious research into the archives and related literature, both primary and secondary, which gives the reader a full picture,

not only of the events being recorded but also of the motivations that drove actions and events.

Given FDR's rancid behavior then and the contrast with the recent behavior of Obama now, one can only give pause with a sickening feeling of déjà vu. Especially galling is the behavior today of Jewish members of congress and their meek reaction, as well as that of other congress members, who represent Jewish constituencies nationwide, in the face of what should be considered a brazen betrayal of trust and friendship.

For this alone, this book should be read, for its historical relevance is most haunting.

We all hear complaints about how the press slants the news in favor of, or against, that which they admire or detest. History has shown that this behavior is nothing new, only that such coverage today is just



that much more brazen and obvious.

In a fascinating book entitled "All The News Unfit To Print" (Wiley, 2009), journalist Eric Burns goes back into history to demonstrate that press bigotry is nothing new.

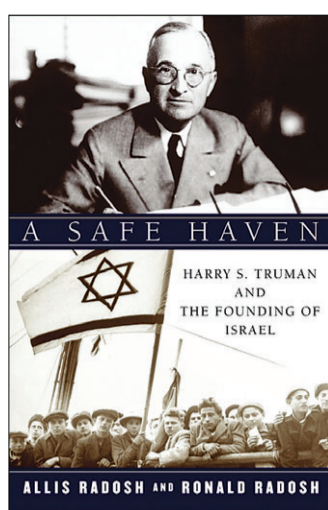
Of particular interest to our readers is how Burns describes in great detail how the press misreported and prejudged the guilt or innocence of French Army Captain Alfred Dreyfus. Further, aside from the judicial aspects, Burns points to the rabid anti-Semitism that permeated the French press and thus further poisoned the atmosphere against Dreyfus during his unfortunate ordeal.

Another case of press bigotry demonstrated by the author concerns Moscow-based New York Times reporter Walter Duranty who, in the 1930s, reported on economic and political affairs in the USSR during the rule of Josef Stalin.

To say the least, Duranty's reporting was nothing short of pro-Communist propaganda. He not only shilled for Stalin politically but also deliberately downplayed the politically inspired famines in the Ukraine. In the pages of The Times he praised the Communist system in idyllic terms despite clear proof that the regime was as brutal as any there ever was in that country.

The Times for a long time kept Duranty on staff despite allegations, by such respectable journalists as Joseph Alsop and Eugene Lyons, that Duranty was on the KGB payroll. Other details in the book note how this vaunted Times reporter made light of Communist motivated anti-Semitism and the brutality and ruthlessness that went with it.

It should be noted that in 1932 Duranty was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his 13-part series on the Stalinist regime. Journalists and foreign policy



specialists ever since have demanded the award be revoked although those pleas have fallen on deaf ears.

It might be of further interest to note that in 2008 the government of Ukraine, as well as other countries, officially recognized the Stalinist-inspired famine as genocide.

Next time you read The New York Times just think of Mr. Duranty and know that you are not alone in your suspicions about the integrity of that paper.

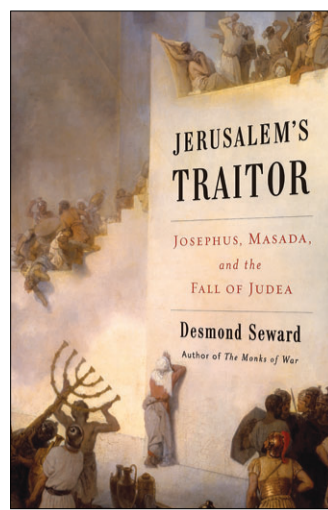
With The Three Weeks soon to be upon us, I would like to bring to your attention three books whose themes and contents would make for appropriate reading during that time of year.

The first is titled, "Jerusalem's Traitor: Josephus, Masada, and the Fall of Judea" (De Capo Press, 2009) by historian Desmond Seward. This book, using eyewitness accounts, details the life and times of Flavius Josephus, who at first was the Jewish general who fought the Romans in their attempt to conquer Jerusalem. Captured in battle, he changed sides and remained loyal to Rome for the rest of his life.

The book goes into great detail as to the siege of Jerusalem and of Josephus's attempts to persuade the Jews to surrender without battle. His perfidy is apparent by his every action detailed so vividly by Seward.

All that is left of Josephus's legacy today are his written historical works that are for many the only "reliable" source material of that era. A good writer he was, but also a traitor to his people and to his G-d. This book is a good resource for getting to know this important aspect of a sad era in our history.

Another book, published two years ago, treats this same era - the destruction of Jerusalem and the Second Temple - in greater magisterial form. Titled "Rome and Jerusalem: The Clash of Ancient Civilizations" (Knopf, 2007) British his-



torian Martin Goodman goes into great detail describing the entire era, locale and personalities involved in this titanic struggle by Rome to put down the world's only monotheistic civilization.

To the best of my knowledge, this is the most comprehensive one-volume history of the Churban (destruction) ever written in English. The author demonstrates his knowledge of Jewish law, lore, and customs throughout, reflected in his descriptions of the happenings, both life cycle and political, and the behavior of all involved in the sad and tragic events that inhabit this 600-page book.

The footnoting, bibliography and index were greatly appreciated by this writer. Taken together with the previously noted book on Josephus, you will be well versed on the events that lead us into the observance of The Three Weeks.

In recent years many of us have come to add remembrances of the Holocaust to the Kinos service on Tisha B'Av. In sync with the theme of this liturgy, a book entitled "Years of Horror / Glimpse of Hope" (Shengold, 1993) by Moshe Maltz, was brought to my attention by the late author's grandson, Mayer Maltz of Woodmere. Originally written in the author's native Yiddish, this book was translated into English by Gertrude Hirschler.

The book is based upon a remarkably kept diary of the Maltz family's experience being hidden for much of the war by a gentile woman in a hayloft on her farm in southeastern Poland. This book is no simple read. The details reflect a perceptive writer keen on details and reasoning behind events. The inhumanity described herein is riveting and the humanity experienced is inspiring. This Tisha B'Av, consider this book for reading with others, to share and discuss.

Next week, I hope to be able to share with you part two of this list and something for Father's Day.

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MISASKIM PLANS LOCAL EXPANSION

Continued from Page One

ernment agencies. "These cases are where we actually spend the most time," Meyer noted, "since it takes time to travel to the different offices."

During a typical week, there are approximately 35 families sitting shiva in the local Jewish community, totaling between 150 to 200 people, Meyer said. Though peak times often occur after holidays — the previous record was 250 aveilim in one week — Misaskim has always been equipped to meet the demand. Meyer attributes last week's overflow to the fact that many of the 300 mourners were members of large families, leading to a shortage of shiva chairs, he explained.

"We managed to find some more shiva chairs in our warehouse in Lakewood,"

Meyer said. "We had plenty of folding chairs, but we didn't have enough shiva chairs. But by Sunday, we were fine."

To store equipment, Misaskim operates warehouses in Brooklyn (which supplies to Long Island), Monsey, Lakewood and Kiryas Joel, serviced by close to 100 volunteers. The largest contingent of volunteers comes from Brooklyn, a demographic that Meyer hopes will change in the near future.

"We are going to be expanding within neighborhoods," he told The Jewish Star. "Right now, we don't have a lot of volunteers in the Five Towns, and we want to change that. For example, if we have an emergency at the airport at rush hour, we want to be able to send people from the Five Towns and all over, who may be closer than Brooklyn."

Meyer estimates that Misaskim provided services to close to 10,000 people throughout the tri-state area in 2008. For any halachic questions that arise, the organization consults with Rabbi Yechezkel Roth, who heads a beis din (Court of Jewish Law) in Brooklyn.

A description of Misaskim from its web site, misaskim.org, is perhaps the best way to encapsulate what the organization is all about: "Understanding tragedy with compassion... Coordinating crisis with expertise... Throughout life's darkest moments, Misaskim is a source of light and warmth, encouragement and direction."

"For every tragedy, there is a completely different way to deal with it," Meyer explained, "and whatever it is, we do it."



Photo courtesy Misaskim

Misaskim's fleet of vehicles deliver and retrieve loaner items from shiva homes across the region.



The Young Israel of North Woodmere (white shirts) played a basketball game against Beis Haknesses of North Woodmere (dark shirts) on Sunday to raise money for the Zahal Disabled Veterans Fund.

Hoops for Chayalim

BY RACHEL BLADY

More than bragging rights were at stake Sunday night when members of Young Israel of North Woodmere and Beis Haknesses of North Woodmere competed on a basketball court in the Number Six School. Close to \$1,000 was raised for the Zahal Disabled Veterans Fund.

YINW member Isaac Seinuk, who organized the game, first learned of the Z.D.V.O. last year in Israel where he participated in a fundraising bike ride. Seinuk said the idea of having a game for the same cause was a no-brainer.

"There was a desire to have an 'us versus them' basketball game, as the two shuls are very close," he told The Jewish Star. "I felt that if we were going to play each other, it should be for a cause, not just bragging rights. Thus was born 'Hoops for Chayalim.'"

Sponsors gave money by making a contribution or giving any amount for each point scored. "It was understood that each player would be sponsored, meaning raise money for the cause," Seinuk explained.

The game was well attended. Families from both shuls crowded the gym to support their respective teams. But they cheered for each point scored, knowing that the higher the score, the more money would be donated. YINW won the game, with a final score of 70-63.

"People in both shuls were excited to play," said Seinuk. "It was great the way it was set up. It was spouse and kid-friendly. It was not just a game for men."

The Z.D.V.O. was established in 1949 after Israel's War of Independence to provide the 6,000 disabled veterans all that they needed for rehabilitation. The organization has since helped over 51,000 veterans as well as civilian victims of terror. Beit Halochem Centers around Israel serve as places for the veterans to undergo treatments and participate in sports programs.

If you would like to set up a similar event, you can contact Isaac Seinuk. The people in the NY office can provide materials to help with fundraising. To learn more about the organization, go to www.fidv.org.

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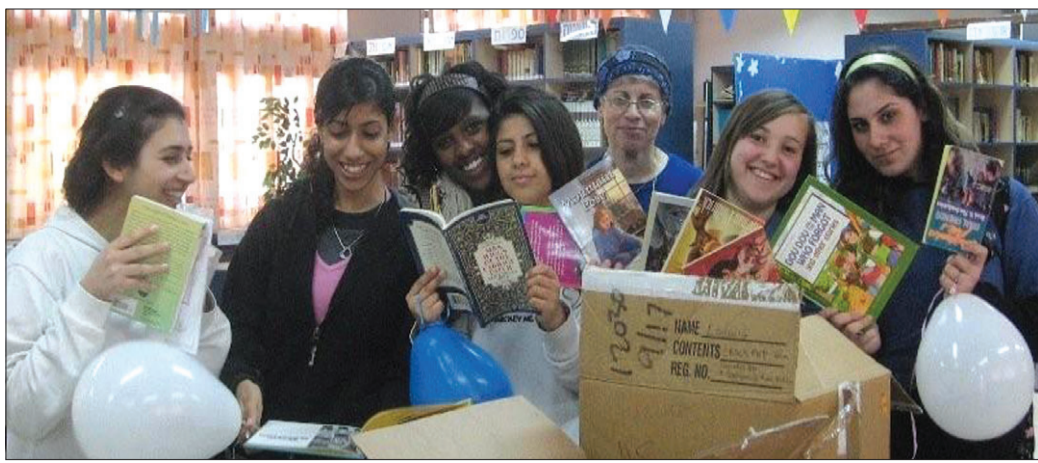
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BY YAFFI SPODEK
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Books for Israel

An opportunity to educate, long distance

all worthy ways to support Israel, but there is another way to help the people there, particularly children, that doesn't require a trip overseas or a monetary contribution.

Just ask David and Naomi Greenberg of West Hempstead. As the local volunteer coordinators of the Books for Israel project, the Greenbergs collect used children's books to be shipped and distributed to Israeli children who have limited access to English literature as a result of recent government cutbacks.

Books for Israel is an international grassroots effort that was initiated in October 2002 by two sisters, Rena Cohen and Jade Bar Shalom, and was later renamed the Jade Bar Shalom Books for Israel project in memory of its founder who passed away in August of 2006.

"Israel doesn't have money in their budget to pay for English books, so teachers there contact us to let us know what they need to supplement the curriculum," Naomi Greenberg explained. "We've gotten back wonderful letters from the students and teachers saying we enriched their lives."

Books come from all different sources, including shuls, schools, libraries and individuals. All types of books are welcome, from paperbacks and textbooks, to books on tape, for children of all ages.

A local guidance counselor and teacher, David Greenberg has heard firsthand accounts from Israeli children who spent hours reading in bomb shelters, as a distraction, for enjoyment, and to help improve their English. He and Naomi take annual trips to Israel to see their children and grandchildren who live there, and visit some of the schools that have received the books.

Treating the project as their own opportunity to give back to others, the Greenbergs also purchase books to send,

in addition to the many that are donated. Recently, they bought some at a rummage sale in Lynbrook, and from the West Hempstead library, which was eliminating some older books to make room for new ones.

"We've been doing some buying on our own," Naomi said. "Other groups collecting around the country have taken donations for shipping costs as well, but we haven't because we view this as our tzedaka project."

Naomi also puts up notices on several local community e-mail listings, including West Hempstead, Five Towns, and Kew Gardens. In response to her request, the Hebrew Academy of Nassau County is donating 15 boxes of books to the project.

Others in the community have used the book campaign as a chesed project to celebrate a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, donating some of the money for the cause, whether to pay for books, postage or shipping.

The books are distributed in schools all over Israel, often through the AMIT organization, to children from a variety of ethnic backgrounds. Communities that have received shipments in the past include Sderot, Be'er Sheva, Kiryat Shmona, Akko and Beit She'an.

The Greenbergs — who store all the donated books in their own garage — send out the collected books in two large installments per year from a shipping yard in Brooklyn. The first was sent in January to Kibbutz Yavneh in Ashdod; they are now collecting in preparation for a second shipment in July, which will also go to Ashdod, and from there be distributed throughout the country.

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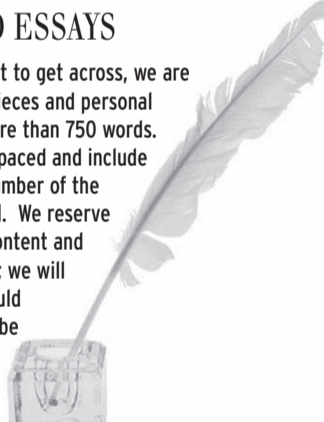


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SLICE OF LIFE

Marshmallows

BY EILEEN GOLTZ

There seems to be two kinds of marshmallow lovers: those that swear by the cute mini- or medium sized cylindrical spheres of sugar, or those that prefer the jar version of goo called Marshmallow Fluff. Now I'm not saying that one is better than the other, because obviously the winner in the marshmallow contest is the person who gets to eat the stuff.

Many people aren't aware that there actually is a plant called the marshmallow plant. In the olden days, marshmallows used to be made from the boiled extract of its roots combined with eggs and sugar. This process was extremely time consuming and tres expensive. Today, marshmallows typically are created by combining corn syrup, gelatin, gum arabic, egg and flavorings, and shooting them through a tube.

Now if this were my typical food column, I'd be telling you that marshmallows are always in season and they are available year round. They come in various shapes, sizes, flavors and colors and have a shelf life (if you keep them in an airtight container or bag, it's at least 6 months). When figuring out exactly what type or size of marshmallow you want, (or for what purpose you intend to use them) you want make sure they're soft (OK, you can squeeze them a little) and buy them.

Be warned, however, even though many commercial brands of marshmallows have a generic K on them, the gelatin they use is not considered kosher, as most gelatins are animal based. There are, however, marshmallows made by companies like Elyon and Emes that are specifically made for the kosher consumer.

With summer just a few days away, marshmallow sightings will become much more frequent. With this in mind and the term 'more allegedly standing for 'Gimme some more,' I say bring on the marshmallow recipes and let's get cooking.

COCONUT AND MARSHMALLOW CAKE (dairy)

- 1 cup flour
 - 1 cup self-rising flour
 - 5 eggs
 - 2 teaspoons vanilla
 - 2 cups sugar
 - 1 cup butter or margarine
 - 1 cup milk
- FILLING**
- 1 cup sugar
 - 1 cup milk
 - 1 lb. frozen coconut
 - 12 lg. marshmallows
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ICING**
- 2 cups sugar
 - 1/2 cup margarine
 - 1 sm. can 6 oz. evaporated milk

- 2 tablespoons cocoa
- Preheat oven to 350. Cream together 2 cups sugar and 1 cup shortening. Beat in eggs 1 at a time. Sift the flour together. Add to the sugar mixture, alternating with the cup of milk. Stir in vanilla. Pour into 3 greased and floured cake pans. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes. Meanwhile, place 1 cup sugar and 1 cup milk in saucepan and bring to a boil. Add coconut and marshmallows. Stir and boil for 5 minutes. Stir in vanilla and set aside. When the cakes are done let them sit for 5 minutes and then remove them from the pan. Spread the filling between the layers while they are still hot (you may want to use tooth picks to stabilize the cake). Let cool and frost.

Combine all ingredients and cook over medium heat. Stir constantly until thick and it forms a soft ball when small amount is dropped in cold water. Cool and frost top and sides of cake. Frosting for 1 cake. Serves 10 to 12.

MARSHMALLOW BLUEBERRY CREAM PIE (dairy or pareve)

- 1-1/3 cups vanilla wafer crumbs
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 2-1/2 cups blueberry pie filling
- 1 cup whipping cream or non-dairy whipped topping
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups mini marshmallows

Combine crumbs and butter or margarine; press onto bottom of 9-inch square baking pan. Cover with pie filling; chill. Whip cream with vanilla; fold in marshmallows. Spread over filling. Chill several hours before serving.

WHOOPIE PIES (dairy or pareve)

This is a recipe I've had for years. I got it off the back of the Fluff jar and it's as good today as it was when I first made it.

- 1 egg
- 1/3 cup oil
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 cups unsifted flour
- 1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup milk or non-dairy substitute
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Filling (recipe follows)
Heat oven to 350. Grease two large cookie sheets and set aside. In a large bowl with mixer at medium speed beat egg and vegetable oil. Gradually beat in sugar and continue beating until pale yellow in color. In another bowl, combine flour, cocoa, baking soda and salt. In a measuring cup combine milk and vanilla. Add flour and milk mixtures alternately to eggs and sugar, beginning and ending with dry

ingredients. Drop by tablespoons onto cookie sheet. These will spread a lot, so make 6 cakes per sheet at a time. Bake about 5 minutes or until top springs back when lightly touched with finger. Remove to wire racks to cool. When cool, use filling and two cakes to make sandwiches. Makes 15.

FILLING

- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1 cup Marshmallow Fluff (about half of a 7 1/2-oz. jar)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

In a medium bowl with mixer at medium speed, beat butter and remaining ingredients until light and fluffy.

ROCKY ROAD POPCORN (pareve)

- 1 cup plain popped popcorn
- 1 cup mini marshmallows
- 1 cup salted peanuts
- 1 pound semi-sweet chocolate, chopped

Coat a 12-cup mini muffin pan with cooking spray. Divide popcorn, marshmallows and peanuts evenly among the cups. Place the chocolate into a microwave-safe container. Heat on high for 45 seconds, then continue to heat at 15 second intervals, stirring each time, until chocolate is melted and smooth. Pour into the muffin cups, filling to the top. Gently tap the pan on the counter to release any bubbles. Refrigerate until chocolate is set. Unmold and serve. Makes 12. This recipe can be doubled or triple and made in larger muffin tins.

MARSHMALLOW FROSTING (dairy or pareve)

- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) margarine or butter, softened
- 1 jar (7 oz.) Marshmallow Fluff
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 pkg. (16 oz.) powdered sugar
- 1 to 2 tablespoons milk or non dairy substitute, divided

In the bowl of an electric mixer combine the margarine, fluff and vanilla. Beat on medium speed until well blended. Gradually add the sugar, beating until well blended. Blend in 1 tablespoon of the milk. Add remaining 1 tablespoon milk if necessary for desired spreading consistency. Recipe makes enough to fill and frost a 2-layer cake. Makes 2 cups

BUTTERSCOTCH BARS (dairy or pareve)

- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine
 - 1 cup white sugar
 - 1/4 teaspoon salt
 - 1/3 cup half-and-half cream or non dairy substitute
 - 1 cup miniature marshmallows
 - 1 cup butterscotch baking chips
 - 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
 - 1/2 cup peanut butter
 - 1 cup roasted Spanish peanuts
- Line an 8x8 or 9x9 inch square pan with waxed paper. In

a medium saucepan, combine butter, sugar, salt and half and half. Heat until boiling, stirring occasionally. Boil for 5 minutes, stirring enough to keep from scorching. Remove from heat and stir in the marshmallows, and butterscotch chips. Press the mixture into the prepared pan. In the microwave or in a metal bowl over a pan of simmering water, melt chocolate chips, and peanut butter together stirring frequently until smooth. Spread over the mixture in the pan. Refrigerate for 2 hours before cutting into squares. Serves 12.



Photo by Mayer Fertig

Impromptu marshmallow roast Sunday over an open fire; a way to enjoy marshmallows with virtually no preparation at all.

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