

# THE JEWISH STAR

Independent and original reporting from the Orthodox communities of Long Island

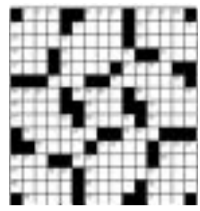
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## THE NO-FRILLS YESHIVA

The what?  
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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Introducing a new weekly feature  
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## OLD FLOUR, NEW DEAL

Yoshon now available nationally  
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### FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BENCH

## Our very own Jacob and Joseph

BY DAVID SEIDEMANN

In a few days I'll be celebrating another wedding anniversary with my wife. And while it's been a few years, when we meet new people, we are still asked, "So how did you meet? When did you know? What was it that he or she did that made you attracted to one another?"

Implicit in that question is the fact that a husband and a wife's mere existence, at least initially, is insufficient to open up the wellsprings of love and emotion. The love and emotion, which after a few years might be fueled by the other's mere existence, initially is triggered by



an external act. Something about that other person, beyond the fact that they simply exist, served as the impetus for the ensuing love.

Now contrast that with the following: We have four beautiful daughters, thank G-d. And yet no one has ever asked me, "So where were you when you first fell in love with your child?" No one ever asks, "so what exactly was it that first attracted you to your child?" No one ever asks if the love I feel for my children was "love at first sight, or developed over time?"

As powerful and as deep as the feelings are between a husband and wife, the relationship between parent and child is different; deeper. It does not depend on performance. And while some parents might, G-d forbid, say they disown a child or act as if they had, there is no mechanism

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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.

## Trophy season for Beth Sholom



Photo by Mike Felix

Congregation Beth Sholom of Lawrence beat Young Israel of North Woodmere 12-2 last Sunday in the championship game of the interschol baseball league led by Commissioner Eli Dworetzky. **More pictures on page 12**

## Tuition or mortgage

Choosing public school over homelessness

BY MAYER FERTIG

After years of talk about a tuition crisis, many families that scrimped and sacrificed to send children to yeshiva in the past have hit a financial wall.

"Many children will end up in public school as a result of all this," said Rabbi Shneur Wolowik, director of Chabad of the Five Towns. He says he is inundated with calls for help from parents who simply have run out of options.

"Parents have to choose between having a home foreclosed on or having a Jewish education. It's a very tough decision," he acknowledged.

An email he received this week from a woman in the Five Towns outlined her situation: "They have two children, she's pregnant with a third, they've all but cancelled the babysitter, have two old cars and a very simple home. She said it's either tuition or their home and they can't be homeless. She did the numbers with me and, unfortunately, she's right."

The children are now registered in public school.

The mother of a 17 year-old girl told The Jewish Star, "I registered my daughter in public school yesterday... I can't begin to tell you what that moment was. It was horrific."

The girl, who lives with her mother in the Five Towns, had gone to yeshiva her whole life. Her father, who is legally obligated to pay tuition according to the terms of a divorce decree, nonetheless elected to stop paying just before her senior year in high school and her mother lacked the means to pay it alone. Yeshiva officials insisted that the tuition must be paid anyway.

"I really understood their point of view," the mother said, "but there has to be a way."

In this case, there was. "When I told my parents I'm not fighting this anymore, I'm just putting [their granddaughter] in public school, they hit the roof," the mother related.

Her parents "called in all their trump cards," and exerted enough pressure that the school reversed its decision. An attorney friend will represent the mother at trial to try to force her ex-husband to pay up.

"What if someone doesn't have the kind of family I have, who can hustle and bustle and make miracles?" she wondered. "I love my children but they're not worth more than somebody else's."

Most schools contacted by The Jewish Star said they did not know of any students who would attend public school on account of a family's inability to pay tuition.

Hebrew Academy of Nassau County (HANC) expects "to have a school full of children for this coming year, despite these tough times," said President Lillian Borofsky. Any family that requires assistance would receive it, she said.

"That's always been the policy and I would imagine it's always been the policy in most yeshivot. I mean, come on, that's the business we're in."

See TUITION, Page 3

## The internet goes kosher

With over 15,000 products and free delivery, Kosher.com hopes to change the way we shop

BY MICHAEL ORBACH

On Monday, Cedarhurst becomes the center of the online kosher world.

That's the day the revamped Kosher.com goes live, offering free delivery of over 15,000 kosher products in Nassau County, Manhattan, Riverdale and parts of the Bronx and Brooklyn. Perhaps more importantly, after two years of development and advances in packaging, Kosher.com will be able to ship any of its goods worldwide — a kosher food happening that may be the best thing since sliced challah.

In the coming months, Kosher.com plans to expand its free delivery area to other parts of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

Chairman Chesky Kauftheil hatched the concept eight years ago during the dotcom era but felt it was "too early for its time." He held

off pursuing the idea until two years ago when he judged the market to be ready.

He originally thought to base Kosher.com out of Gourmet Glatt Emporium in Cedarhurst so as to have a source of fresh products with steady turnover. Negotiations fell through when the

See KOSHER, Page 11



## Holy chocolate cake, Batman!

Counselors at Camp Nageela, JEP of Long Island's sleepaway camp, raised more than \$14,000 at a bake sale in order to help send Camp Nageela campers to yeshiva. The bake sale will be in the Regency bungalow colony in the Catskills on the 21st and in Queens next week. For more information call Sarah Henya Dienstag at 516-732-9221.

## Five Towns students find career opportunities in Israel

BY BARUCH SPIER

Two Five Towns women have returned from Israel after a summer spent taking advantage of unique career opportunities there and strengthening their connection to the land. Each had an internship with an Israeli company that was arranged by Yavneh Olami's Summer Internship Program.

All participants in the six-week pro-

gram were set up with an internship in the field of their choice, with housing arranged in a dormitory as part of the deal. Yavneh Olami also brought the students on Shabbatons and provided a weekly group dinner.

"I'm really living here, doing everything on my own, taking a bus with everyone else working here," said Carly Rothenberg in an interview several days before

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### Shabbat

Candlelighting: 7:25 p.m. ■ Shabbat ends 8:26 p.m.  
Torah reading: Parshat Shoftim

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# Julia, Julie and me

## Dear That's Life,

It's rare to see part of your own life played out onscreen.

During my viewing of "Julie and Julia," a number of different moments on screen seemed to be actual moments from my life. No, I do not walk around saying, "Bon Appetit!" in a heavy accent nor have people complimented me on my Boeuf Bourguignon.

While I do like to eat and I really enjoy cooking for others who also appreciate good food, that's not what I mean. Rather, since many people have likened this column to the keeping of a blog, some of the lines that are hurled at Amy Adams (playing Julie Powell) remind me of things people have said to me since I began this column three years ago.

Julie's boss calls her into his office after she's basically been caught playing hooky. "I just don't want to end up on your blog," he tells her; she reassures him that he won't. Haven't I heard THAT before? What about the monosyllabic answers I receive all the time from people who think that everything they say is 'on the record' and so all of their answers are completely guarded?

It was quite funny when Julie has a fight with her husband and he angrily warns she does NOT have to write about everything that happens to her and that he does NOT want to read about this in her blog. I don't think anyone else in the theater found that scene to be particularly funny — why would they? My husband and I found it hysterical — we have had this conversation numerous times. The number of topics about which I am not allowed to write seems to keep growing.

I also completely appreciated the moment when Julie realizes that people are actually reading what she writes. As a blogger, I can imagine that it must be difficult to write your thoughts and feelings, send them out into cyberspace and then wonder to no end if anyone is out there, reading what you've written or sharing similar experiences. It must be very lonely sometimes.

For months after we started publishing this column, I could not believe people actually read it. Not that I didn't think the column was worth reading, but it still took me by surprise. I really enjoy hearing that I am part of some people's Friday night ritual: Shalom Aleichem, Kiddush and 'That's Life.' I love when people tell me, "Hey! That happened to me, too!" And I really appreciate it when someone tells me I simply made him or her laugh. While relatively few people write in, it's nice to know that readers are out there — the same way Julie is comforted when people begin posting comments in response to things she has blogged.

Thanks for reading.

MLW

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

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

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



## Running for Sarina

A Great Neck man and three friends joined 10,000 runners in a half-marathon Sunday to benefit Chai Lifeline and Camp Simcha. They raised \$13,000 in memory of his baby daughter, Sarina (Sara Ruth Bat Ephraim z"l), who benefited from Chai Lifeline's services while hospitalized in Minnesota. "They made it a priority to make sure that we were taken care of, in terms of housing, meals, schooling, and much more, while my daughter was hospitalized so far from home," said Kami Kalaty, 33. He and friends Tony Carmili, 32, of Kings Point; Joshua Kashanian, 28, of Roslyn and Matt Livian 27, of Manhasset, all completed the race, running as Team Sarina. Livian, the fastest of the team, finished his run in 1:47:00. The runners were greeted and cheered on by friends, family and members of the Mashadi community. Team Sarina has set up a website at gomitzvah.org/go/TeamSarina.



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### Engagement

Engagement of Eric Samson (Teaneck, N.J.) & Michaela Bamdad (New York, N.Y.) - August 13, 2009

### Birth

Birth of Baby Boy to Yehuda and Gitty (Rieder) Schneider (Kew Gardens, N.Y.) - August, 13, 2009

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## TUITION OR MORTGAGE

Continued from Page One

But it seems clear that some parents whose backs are to the wall financially are being forced to make nearly impossible decisions.

"I have seen families decide which children are going to remain in yeshiva based on age group," said Mark Honigsfeld, co-president of Hebrew Academy of Five Towns and Rockaway (HAFTR). "There has been an emphasis on grade school and middle. Parents say, 'I need my kid to have a foundation.' You can educate two lower school kids for the price of one high school kid. You get more bang for your buck."

HAFTR is facing "desperate situations" that in previous years were solved by fund raising. "In the past there were always a couple of families who quietly, lishma [for its own sake], said, 'O.K., I'll take care of it,'" he said. Now, "it's like the perfect storm." Families that always paid full tuition and contributed to the scholarship campaign themselves have lost jobs and are struggling.

"We must take care of those families first," Honigsfeld said firmly. "Difficult decisions that have never had to be made by the past two generations by

HAFTR, on the finance side, must be made. We are, in essence, playing G-d: who is going to stay and who is going to go."

He couldn't quantify how many children who otherwise might have attended HAFTR or other yeshivas would instead attend public school, but Honigsfeld said HAFTR is examining the possibility of opening an afternoon Judaic studies program.

"It used to be called Talmud Torah," he said, referring to the after-school learning program that educated generations of Jews before the advent of yeshivas and day-schools. "We're exploring it. I don't know if there's a need for it. We've heard from other yeshivas that they are experiencing similar situations and, although I don't have direct knowledge from other schools of families that have left, we'll know in September." If there's a true need then a HAFTR afternoon program could be pulled together to begin right after the holidays, he said.

In Merrick, an Orthodox shul, Congregation Ohav Shalom, has operated an afternoon Judaic studies program for many years to service families in the community that send their children to public school. This year more than a dozen

new students from the Five Towns, and at least one from West Hempstead — most were yeshiva students — plan to attend.

"Every parent that speaks to me, I tell them, your kid belongs in Yeshiva," said Dr. Mel Isaacs, the principal of Ohav Shalom's after-school program, and the former director of education for HANAC. "It's very disheartening that they're taking them out. On the other hand, you have to provide a service. The kids can't go into a vacuum. It's my hope that as soon as this financial crisis winds down they're going to put their kids back in [yeshiva]."

In the meantime, Isaacs, a Long Beach resident whose after-school program stresses helping children "feel good about their Jewish-ness," plans to supplement the regular curriculum of Siddur study and the weekly Torah portion. Students newly transferred from yeshivas will be taught Chumash on grade level; fifth and sixth graders will learn Mishna.

The school will also participate in the Chidon Tanach competition as it used to do many years ago; once the school fielded a winner who went on to compete in Israel.

Several Orthodox families spoke to The Jewish Star about their experiences sending children to public school instead of yeshiva.

"It was a really difficult decision," said the mother of a 4-year-old boy who required occupational, physical and speech therapies. "We were on the fence pretty much until the day before school started. We enrolled him in both places."

Her older children are in yeshiva but she was afraid her 4-year-old would "slip through the cracks" in a yeshiva preschool. She had planned to send him to public school for just one year; he's registered in yeshiva for September.

A Long Beach family with nine children that moved from Los Angeles in 1994 placed two of the children in public school

to obtain special ed services, explained their mother, Debbie Wapniak, in an interview. The older one, now 25, is a married mother of two with a Masters degree in special education; and her brother, 22, attends college and is studying for semicha at Yeshiva Shor Yeshuv in Lawrence.

"I got him tutors in Hebrew. It's not like he didn't learn. He was bar mitzvah-ed; we're shomer Shabbos," Wapniak said. "But we had to teach him at home until he was able to get a chavrusa [study partner]. There was no Talmud Torah for him to go to. That really ticked me off. There should be a Talmud Torah for kids who can't go to yeshiva."

Elaine and Marty Wiener of Woodmere hosted an open house last week for families to learn about the after-school program in Merrick. They were preparing to marry off their daughter Allyson on Tuesday, a day after Elaine spoke briefly with a reporter.

"This is not in lieu of yeshiva," she stressed. "These are the kids who are forced to go into public school either because of financial reasons or learning reasons."

"When you're in a financial bind and your back is against the wall are you going to send your kids to yeshiva or are you going to put chicken on the Shabbos table?" she asked.

The Lawrence school district was "accommodating," she stressed, rescheduling school events away from Friday nights and providing kosher food, but she also described being in a "no-man's land."

"In the Orthodox world we're looked down upon because 'How could you take your kids out of yeshiva?' and in the public school world our kids are wearing tzniusdik [modest] clothing and don't participate in after-school Friday night programs."

This year her 10-year-old daughter, Julia, is going into the Lawrence Middle School; her twin 17-year old sons, Charlie and Jeremy, will be seniors at Lawrence High School. Both boys plan to go to Israel next year.

"My biggest fear," Wiener said, "is that my [younger] daughter didn't have the chance to have any kind of Jewish education." She will attend the after-school program in Merrick.

Her older daughter, Allyson, attended HAFTR and HALB but graduated from Lawrence High School after the family suffered severe financial problems. She remained active in NCSY and studied in Israel, "and she came home so to the right," Wiener said, sounding amused.

"People shouldn't be afraid," to send a child to public school, she said, "if they have done the right job in their home ... and Allyson is an example of that."

Rabbi Wolowik was less optimistic.

"There are very few children who will walk out of a public school setting being Shomer Torah and Mitzvos," he said. "You can't kid yourself. There is nothing in a public school for a Jewish child."

"No child likes to go to two schools in one day," he added. "Some children resent going to one school. At the end of a long day, to start doing Judaic studies — it's not going to work for long."

The mother whose high school-aged daughter was accepted back to yeshiva at a reduced tuition agreed: "It's so hard to keep them on track as it is, in our frum environment — and we have problems too. To put them in [public school in] an environment that would lead them to completely leave frumkeit (Torah observance), for a dollar? They have Bikur Cholim and Hatzalah — there should be just as big a benefit, that big a charity, for tuition, when it's just as important," she insisted. In public school, "You're just setting them up, and you can't tell me that a frum Jewish soul is worth risking, for money."

"I look at it as a matter of spiritual life and death, chas v'shalom," Rabbi Wolowik said. "And it's not only the parents' responsibility to give their children a Jewish education. It's the community's responsibility to give children a Jewish education. Because the Halacha is even if I have no children to pay tuition for, and let the yeshiva close from my perspective, I have my personal obligation to make sure that every yeshiva stays open and gives an education to every Jewish child."

He described approaching a man on behalf of a family in tuition crisis, who already pays his own hefty tuition bill. The man took out a home equity loan in order to help, Rabbi Wolowik said.

"This is a cry and a plea to those who have [resources]," Rabbi Wolowik said, "to come over to their rabbis. And if they don't know a rabbi they can call Chabad [of the Five Towns at 516-295-2478] and I will direct them to a rabbi or a family that is in need of tuition help. Make checks payable to Chabad's charity fund and 100 percent of the money will go directly to help pay tuitions. For that matter, if they wish, they can direct it to a Jewish institution of their choice."

"We are all into kiruv, kiruv, kiruv," Rabbi Wolowik added. "We also have to make sure we hold onto those we already have — those who are getting lost because we don't have the funds for Jewish education. If we don't want this child to marry out tomorrow, we have to get them a Jewish education today."

**"Rabbi Wolowik described approaching a man on behalf of a family in tuition crisis, who already pays his own hefty tuition bill. The man took out a home equity loan in order to help."**



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OPINION

THE JEWISH STAR

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Even Bernie couldn't do this alone

Editorial

Even Bernie Madoff isn't completely to blame for the current crisis over yeshiva tuition. And he gets blamed for everything, including the weather.

Yes, the bottom fell out of the economy, and, yes, Madoff stole billions, including many dollars that would have eventually found their way to institutions of Jewish learning. Nonetheless, if the day comes when parents who sacrificed for years to send their children to yeshiva have no choice but to opt for public school — and for at least a small group of parents that day is here — then some of the blame must rest with the yeshivas themselves, and most of the rest of the blame lies squarely with the Jewish community as a whole. In other words, with all of us.

We believe it's fair to generalize and say that it was only very recently that yeshivas began to intensively seek ways to reduce overhead and cut costs. It's taken the Orthodox Union and Yeshiva University (separately, for some reason — more wasted resources) to begin sitting down with yeshivas and proposing money-saving solutions. The jury is still out on most of them, but at least the subject is finally being addressed.

The rest of us, at least those blessed to be parents and grandparents, fall into two general categories: paying tuition or used to be paying tuition. Do the schools that you are involved with send fundraising literature to grandparents? If not, why not?

Some older readers might have had this experience: the last child in the family graduates from a school and, just like that, you're purged from the mailing list. What kind of a foolish administrator or fundraiser allows that to happen? Does the word 'alumni' ring a bell?

In our current situation and moving forward, paying the freight for our yeshiva system simply cannot be the sole province of parents of school age children. Too much money is required and most families simply can't handle it, even on the two paychecks that are commonplace today. When a family bringing home \$200,000 or a quarter of a million dollars has to sweat the tuition, there's a big problem that can only be solved with a group effort, and that group must include grandparents and even non-parents.

Jewish education has been shown to

be the single strongest predictor of Jewish continuity — an Jewishly-educated Jew is most likely to marry a Jew, to remain involved in the community and to educate his or her own children as Jews, passing our Mesorah, our treasured heritage, down to the next generation.

In Chicago and, more recently, in Teaneck, endowment funds have been founded to amass money to ensure the future of local Jewish schools. It's unfortunate that in Nassau County, the nexus of so much charity and so many good works, our leaders have failed to step up and start such a fund. Someone must.

And each of us, rich and poor, can take a very important step to demonstrate that Jewish continuity is very much our concern, even if almost no one will know about it until after you're gone: change your will and leave 10 percent of your estate, at least, to support Jewish education.

The current tuition crisis may not be so easily solved; boys and girls may be tragically lost to Torah observance because of it. But the next crisis can almost certainly be prevented. It's in our hands.

PARSHAT SHOFTIM

The perversion of the blemished animal

There are many behaviors which the Torah describes as to'evot, translated as abominations or perversions. Other than in Acharei Mot and Kedoshim, all of the to'evot appear in Moshe's good-bye speech that is the book of Devarim. With an overview glance, only one of the to'evot — offering a blemished animal as a sincere sacrifice to G-d — seems not to fit in the general category of to'evot.

The to'evot can be summarized in the following: missionary and idolatrous actions, sins of sexuality, cheating in business, eating non-kosher animals, and utilizing witchcraft. As bringing a korban is not, in and of itself, a problematic activity, where does bringing an imperfect animal as an offering fit into this list and how is it considered repulsive to G-d?

Let us examine the other to'evot to see exactly why their perverse behaviors are considered repulsive to G-d.

In Vayikra 18 and 20, perversions of intimate relations, whether with close family relatives, same gender, or animals are all heaped into an overall category of abominable activities.

Devarim 7 categorizes idols which seem enticing as abominations. The idols, the Torah says, are not to be brought into one's home as a souvenir, even as spoils of war. The act of serving pagan gods, including the practice of child sacrifice, is called an abomination in Devarim 12. Missionary behavior — to proselytize away from



Rabbi Avi Billet

Judaism — particularly when undertaken by Jews, is considered abominable in Devarim 13.

A similar episode is described in Devarim 17, when either an individual man or a woman is responsible for causing others to turn away from G-d.

Before listing kosher animals in Devarim 14, the Torah says that eating non-kosher animals is an abomination. Witchcraft, necromancy and forms of idolatry that include child sacrifice are together categorized as to'evot in Devarim 18. The prohibitions against mistreating animals that belong to others and cross-dressing precede the statement of "It is an abomination to G-d, whoever does these things." Immedi-

ately afterwards, a compassionate treatment of an animal, sending away of the mother bird, is described as one of the few commandments in the Torah which guarantees a long life.

Prostitution is listed as a to'evah in Devarim 23 and in the event a woman marries a new husband after a divorce, if her second marriage ends in divorce or his death, she may not return to her first husband, as this is repulsive to G-d as listed in Devarim 24. The Seforno explains this as an abomination since the possibility of returning to an original marriage after a different one legitimizes "quickie marriages" done for the sake of experimentation. Cheating in weights and measures is considered repulsive in Devarim 25. Finally, a person who makes a sculptured or cast idol is cursed in Devarim 27,

for having carved an image that is repulsive to G-d.

With our list including idolatry, immoral behaviors regarding sexuality and business, and putting non-kosher items in one's mouth, the question of the blemished offering remains unanswered. Where does it fit in the to'evah scale?

The prophet Malachi says "When you present a blind animal... or a lame animal, is there nothing wrong? Offer it to your governor, will he be appeased? Will he show you favor? asks the God of Hosts." (Malachi 1:8) The questions are rhetorical, says Rabbi David Kimchi (Radak), as the foregone answer is, "He will hate you and become angry at you for offering him such a miserable present."

The Sefer HaChinukh (Mitzvah 286 — Emor) explains that a person is

moved by the strength of his actions. A person won't experience the value of the offering or sacrifice if it is a half-baked effort. A blemished animal smacks of an insincere service to G-d, while an unblemished, complete animal offering is indicative of a person's devotion and dedication to his Creator.

As we enter the month of Elul and start thinking of the ways in which we must improve ourselves in anticipation of Rosh Hashana and beyond, the larger categories of to'evot are obvious behaviors to avoid, however, it is the to'evah of Parshat Shoftim which is most in our hands to avoid and to improve upon. We can and must make our service to G-d, most notably as practiced in the synagogue, a sincere and respectful demonstration of our dedication to God.

Letters

Shidduchim disorders

To the Editor:

Your report about the rise of eating disorders among the young women in the Frum community came as no surprise to me (Eating disorders in the Orthodox get new emphasis; August 14, 2009). Over the past several years I have suspected that anorexia/bulimia had to be the only explanation for the sudden increase of size 2s around us. It is time to take a long and hard look at the fact that the cultural pressures of our society are forcing so many girls to risk their health, and

even their lives, because they believe they will not get a shidduch if they don't have that "emaciated" look.

Let us not forget that work must also be done in the boys' Yeshivas. A male relative of mine who was in the shidduch parsha (dating to marry) a number of years ago remarked to me that he couldn't be attracted to a girl who was not very thin. We must concentrate on teaching our children to rethink their values before we start seeing an increase of tragedy in our midst.

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I'M THINKING

# Arabs criticizing Arabs

"Radicalism begets radicalism."

That quote does not come from a Western source. It is from an editorial in al-Sharq al-Awsat, a London Arabic newspaper. It is a reflection on murderous events that took place in Gaza, conflicts that left twenty-four Palestinians dead and over eighty injured.



Micah D. Halpern

able to challenge Fatah leadership. Al Qaeda is struggling for a stronger foothold in Gaza, yet they too, will be a formidable challenge to Fatah.

The streets of Gaza are a mess and no help will come from the greater Arab world. Both Hamas and al Qaeda are despised by the greater Arab world.

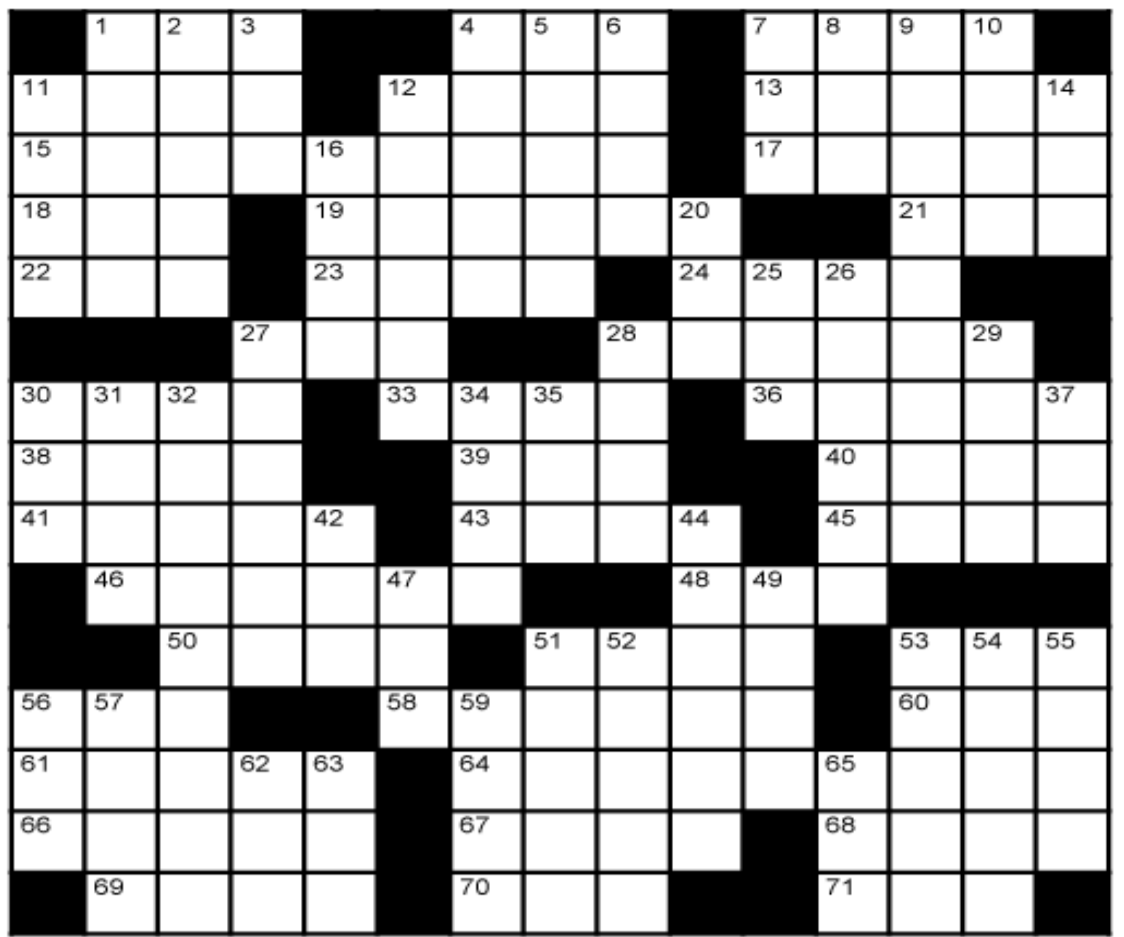
Al-Ahram, arguably the most important Arabic media in Egypt and maybe even in the entire Arabic world, has taken the Islamist movement to task. The lead editorial wrote that these Hamas/al Qaeda conflicts "were renewed proof that the chaos the Palestinians have had to endure since Hamas took over Gaza can only lead to more disasters for the Palestinian people."

Until Palestinians put down extremism and unite they will never be able to self govern. And yet, the wise men of the Western world are bent on allowing these extremists in Gaza to expand their foothold. They are asking Israel to negotiate with them and asking the rest of the Palestinians to incorporate them into the decision making process of negotiations.

When Palestinians kill Palestinians it does not usually make our evening news, not even on cable stations. Arabs criticizing Arabs doesn't make our news either. If the Arab media considers it important enough not only to cover the story but to editorialize about the event, it should be a sure signal to Western decision makers that what is happening is important.

I hope they are paying attention.

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



A C R O S S

- 1. Tool for Shawn Green
- 4. "Howie Do It" network
- 7. Dov \_\_\_ of Mezrich
- 11. "Racially \_\_\_"
- 12. Take on
- 13. Red sea port
- 15. Portuguese Bible commentator Don Isaac
- 17. Chevre Kadisha concern
- 18. Airport Kenny G flew out of when younger
- 19. How Solomon judged
- 21. Actor Ziering
- 22. Sip, as borscht
- 23. Shabbat benefit
- 24. Gain shekels
- 27. \_\_\_ Israel (camp founded by the Lubavitcher Rebbe)
- 28. Shlufn
- 30. IDF location
- 33. Democrat Steve Cohen's st.
- 36. Confess on Yom Kippur
- 38. \_\_\_ Smasher (Jewish superhero)
- 39. Israeli MIA Arad
- 40. Special at Saks

- 41. \_\_\_ Gan
- 43. He directed "Dave"
- 45. Brown-\_\_\_ (like most Jews)
- 46. Like Chana Szenesh
- 48. British Mandate, e.g.
- 50. Modes
- 51. "\_\_\_, from New York..."
- 53. Where Jesse Eisenberg works
- 56. Start of Petach Tikvah
- 58. Sixth word of a blessing
- 60. React to "Schindler's List"
- 61. Siren announcing Shabbat's arrival
- 64. Premier with a silver tongue
- 66. Aish Ha\_\_\_
- 67. Teheran's location
- 68. Number of times shofar is blown at the end of Yom Kippur
- 69. Seminary for girls
- 70. Encountered
- 71. Funnywoman Arthur

- philosopher
- 2. Order
- 3. It may be served hot with lemon and a sugar cube
- 4. Dressed to the \_\_\_
- 5. Star Trek star Spiner
- 6. Every Israeli seems to have at least one
- 7. Grovel
- 8. \_\_\_ on a G String
- 9. Mike Nichols's comedy partner
- 10. Abaye's discutant
- 11. "Remembrance of Things \_\_\_"
- 12. Nicer way of saying "ain't"
- 14. Sinai number
- 16. Nabokov's wife
- 20. Meaning of a nod
- 25. \_\_\_ mode
- 26. It parted, once
- 27. Where to find 10-Down
- 28. Dancer Sokolow
- 29. Holocaust museum shoes sight
- 30. Boy's mitzvah?
- 31. Second word of a blessing
- 32. "There's a place for us"

- song
- 34. Conservative Cantor
- 35. Month of partition announcement, 1947
- 37. Koppel or Kaczynski
- 42. Dreidel
- 44. Democrat Shelley Berkeley's state
- 47. Chazon \_\_\_
- 49. Moses Isserles's nickname
- 51. Like some slots in 44-Down
- 52. Beitar \_\_\_
- 53. Bit of work for Mel Brooks
- 54. Late philanthropist Jesselson
- 55. City south of Beirut
- 56. New York Senator Moynihan (1977-2000)
- 57. Longtime Haaretz newsman Amos
- 59. Artist Yaacov
- 62. With 63-Down, Joseph B. Soloveitchik
- 63. See 62-Down
- 65. Bugsy Siegel's group

Answers will appear in next week's issue

D O W N

- 1. "I and Thou"

## FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BENCH

Continued from Page One

in our religion, and in most societies, for the disowning of a child.

It is for this reason that the Children of Israel are instructed in Deuteronomy, that "you are children to the L-rd, your G-d." The love between parent and child exists merely because the parties themselves exist. Acts that enhance the love are just icing on the cake.

The pain of losing a child must be unexplainable and unfathomable. The pain of not knowing a child's fate: is he well, is he sick? Is he alive or, G-d forbid, not? Is he suffering, who is caring for him, is anyone caring for him? Has he given up? Those unanswered questions,

that lack of closure, might be the only thing worse than losing a child.

Our patriarch Jacob refused to be consoled about his son Joseph's disappearance because he did not know Joseph's ultimate fate. Was Joseph indeed killed or was he just sold into slavery? This not knowing, this lack of closure, must be torture.

Close your eyes but for a moment and focus on your children and their whereabouts at the very moment that you are reading these words. Imagine Gilad Shalit's parents and the paralyzing fear and worry they must live with, more than four years since his kidnapping.

I imagined it, and it disturbed me to the point that I picked up the phone and

dialled. I didn't expect to get through but I did. It was a few minutes before Shabbos and Noam Shalit, Gilad's father, came to the phone. We spoke for ten minutes; ten minutes that seemed like an hour.

To my surprise I didn't say anything awkward. I told Mr. Shalit that in a strange way his predicament teaches us perspective. We go to bed at night worrying about our children, our cars, our homes, our vacations, and our water sprinklers. He, on the other hand, goes to bed at night thinking only of his family.

I told Mr. Shalit that I feel at a loss; I want to do something but have no idea where to begin. We agreed to speak again after Shabbos and that perhaps over Shabbos an idea would enter my head.

And then it struck me. Moments after I hung up the phone with Noam Shalit, I saw my wife light the Shabbos candles and say the prayer on behalf of our children. It is a prayer that Jewish women have been saying for generations. It asks G-d to bestow all that is good, fine, proper and healthy for our children, now and for the future.

Immediately after Shabbos concluded, I called Noam Shalit again. I proposed the idea that women all over the world, when they light Shabbos candles and say the prayer on behalf of their children, pause and think for one moment about Gilad, and then pause for another moment and think about his parents.

Will it make the animals that hold him set him free? I doubt it. Will it cause G-d to bring a miracle that will set Gilad free and ease his pain and that of his

family? Perhaps. Will those moments of thought result in making Gilad's parents feel as if thousands of woman are uniting with their sorrow? Yes. Undoubtedly yes.

Noam Shalit told me that it was a wonderful idea, one that he would think appropriate, one that would provide comfort to the family. I began to share this idea with any and every rabbi I could find.

As I write this, I know of Orthodox, Conservative and Reform congregations that have suggested that women begin this practice. I hope and pray that the idea catches fire and spreads throughout the world and ends as quickly as it began, when Gilad is finally set free, to once again enjoy the bonds of love between parents and their child.

# If living in this economic downturn is like walking a tightrope, we're your safety net.

Coping with today's economic crisis is like a balancing act. If you've lost your job, which bills do you pay? How do you keep your home? How is your time best spent in finding a job? Those are the kinds of dilemmas that prompted UJA-Federation and the Jewish community to create Connect to Care.

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So, if you've hit hard times and need a little help to turn it around, we're here to help.

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# 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](http://www.thejewishstar.com).

### ONGOING EVENTS

**Stony Brook**- Sexual abuse and abduction prevention educational workshops- Parents for Megan's Law and The Crime Victims Center is now offering age appropriate sexual abuse and abduction prevention educational workshops for children, teens and adults. We'll come to your school or community organization. We've educated over 50,000 Long Island children and parents in public and private schools and in community organization! Call our Helpline for more information or to schedule a workshop today (631)-689-2672

**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 [mshhekaufman@gmail.com](mailto:mshhekaufman@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 Emenah, 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](mailto:nersarah@nersarahproject.com) or visit [www.nersarahproject.com](http://www.nersarahproject.com).

**Cedarhurst** - The JCC of the Greater Five Towns has scheduled free financial counseling sessions, (ie, credit card debt) through NYLAG (New York Legal Assistance Group) on Wednesdays, beginning July 29, 2009. By appointment only. For further information and/or to schedule an appointment one may call 569-6733, and ask for Chana Pfeifer or Judy Goldberg.

**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.

**Cedarhurst** - Every Tuesday, the JCC of the Greater Five Towns offers a social day program called "Remember When" from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at Sons of Israel in Woodmere. This program is especially designed for memory enhancement and socialization. The cost includes a full range of therapeutic activities, morning beverage, dessert, and a kosher lunch. Round-trip door-to-door handicapped accessible transportation is available on a limited basis. Registration is limited to ensure maximum benefits to each participant. For further information call the JCC at (516) 569-6733.

**Cedarhurst** - Every Tuesday, the JCC of the Greater Five Towns hosts a Parkinson's Support Group. The purpose of this group is to bring together Parkinsonians, spouses and their families in order to help them better understand the nature of the condition, gain confidence and join in community activities. For further information, please contact Cathy Byrne at (516) 569-6733, ext. 220.

**Cedarhurst** - The JCC of the Greater Five Towns hosts the Come Alive Program at Sons of Israel in Woodmere. This program provides an opportunity for homebound older adults to participate in social, recreational and intellectual activities. Kosher lunch will be provided and door-to-door transportation is available on a limited basis. This program runs on a summer schedule. For further information, please

call Linda Balch at (516) 569-6733, ext. 211 or Mary Sheffield, ext. 219.

**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 walking 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.

**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.

**West Hempstead** - Bereavement Support Group for widows and widowers will be held every Wednesday in the Jewish Community Center of West Hempstead, from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. There is a \$140 fee. The JCC is located at 711 Dogwood Avenue in West Hempstead. To join, please call Rachel Bruckenstein, LMSW at (516) 766-4341, ext. 131.

**Lynbrook** - Cong. Beth David's Thrift Shop is open every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. Bingo every Tuesday

from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Rabbi's Learning Group meets every Thursday evening from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Everything is free and open to the public. Beth David is located at 188 Vincent Ave in Lynbrook. For more information, call Galit Dardashtian at (516) 599-9464

**Woodmere** - Every Wednesday, the JCC of the Greater Five Towns hosts a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) group at Sons of Israel in Woodmere. The goal is to offer a safe haven where clients and family members feel accepted for who they are. For further information, please contact Chana Pfeifer at (516) 569-6733, ext. 213 or Lisa Barnett at ext. 210.


**Long Beach** - The Friedberg JCC hosts a free caregivers support group that meets the second Monday of each month at 1 p.m. at Temple Emanuel of Long Beach, 455 Neptune Blvd. For more information, please call Roberta at (516) 742-2050.

**Plainview** - The Friedberg JCC hosts a free spousal support group which meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Temple Chaverim, 1050 Washington Ave. For more information, please call Roberta at (516) 742-2050.

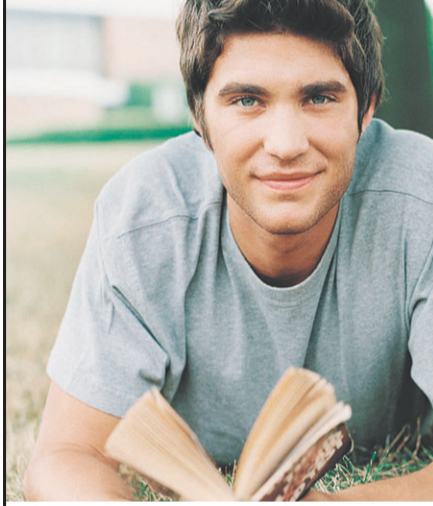
**Lawrence** - The JCC of the Greater Five Towns Rainbow School, an after school Enrichment Program for children from Russian families, meets on Wednesdays, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at Temple Israel, 140 Central Avenue, Lawrence, NY. For further information, please call (516) 569-6733, ext. 214.

**Forest Hills** - The Sid Jacobson JCC hosts a Cancer Wellness: Strength to Strength group, featuring physical fitness and discussion geared to the special needs of individuals recovering from cancer treatment or actively engaged in a treatment regimen. Caregivers are welcome. Meets on Monday 12:30-1:30 p.m. and Friday 12:30-1:30 p.m. Located at 300 Forest Dr, East Hills, NY. For more information, please call Partners In Community Care, (516) 484-1545, ext. 196.

**Lido Beach** - Lido Beach Synagogue will be holding a Rosh Hashanah seminar Wednesday evening, September 9th at 8 p.m. with Rabbi Mehlman. He will be discussing the whys and wherefores of the High Holidays. At Lido Boulevard and Fairway Road. Contact 516-889-9650




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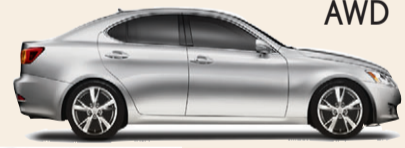




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### Huckabee in Israel

Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, a possible Republican presidential candidate in 2012, arriving in Israel earlier this week for a three-day tour accompanied by Dr. Joseph Frager of the Jerusalem Reclamation Project/Ateret

Kohanim, Dr. Paul Brody of Great Neck, radio host Zev Brenner of Long Beach and others. Huckabee made news Tuesday when he told reporters that establishing a Palestinian state in "the middle of the Jewish homeland" would be "unrealistic."

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Photo courtesy of Yavneh Olami

Carly Rothenberg of Woodmere planted a tree in a Jewish National Fund forest in Aminadav during one of many trips with Yavneh Olami's Summer Internship Program.

### FIVE TOWNS STUDENTS

Continued from Page One

her flight have to New York. She mentioned her daily commute on four buses to travel back and forth from her internship.

Rothenberg worked for the head of the Department of Archeology at the Israel Museum, categorizing various findings and helping to make the website more user friendly. She reported no issues with language at the office because most of the staff speaks English as a mother tongue.

"It's always nice seeing someone who successfully made Aliyah," said Rothenberg admiringly about her boss, "and she's a woman."

Rothenberg, who was visiting Israel from Woodmere, just finished her first year studying English and psychology at Queens College.

Atara Rubin, who flew back to Lawrence earlier this week to continue her studies in graphic design at Stern College for Women, learned a firsthand lesson about daily life in Israel while on the program.

"Now I realize that it's going to be hard to live here," said Rubin who interned for a printing company in an office full of Hebrew speakers.

Rubin and Rothenberg both finished their first year in university before starting their internships, and were impressed by the positions offered at their respective companies.

"Yavneh Olami found this internship for me even though I didn't have any experience," said Rubin. She was thankful

that the company she interned with, Ayalon Print and Graphics, was willing to speak to her in English and teach her graphic design despite the fact that she was leaving the country at the end of the summer and was therefore unable to significantly contribute to the company.

"I was actually a little surprised because of the stereotype of Israelis being impatient," said Rubin about working in close quarters with Israelis. "They were willing to take time out from their own work."

The program brought the students on a number of outings, such as a visit to the Foreign Ministry and planting a tree in a JNF forest.

Rubin has considered Aliyah since attending Camp Moshava and had a one-word answer to why she didn't continue studying in Israel after finishing a year abroad at the seminary Midreshet Amit.

"Parents," she said, then reconsidered and added, "Also, I wanted to get married first."

Rothenberg has a hard time seeing herself living in America for the rest of her life, and has envisioned herself as part of Israeli society ever since her parents bought an apartment in Jerusalem.

Both Rubin and Rothenberg gave 'O.K.' as their current Hebrew level at the end of the summer, right before they left for America. However, Rothenberg seemed slightly embarrassed when she admitted that she still ordered hamburgers in English, despite a strong enough vocabulary to dine in Hebrew.

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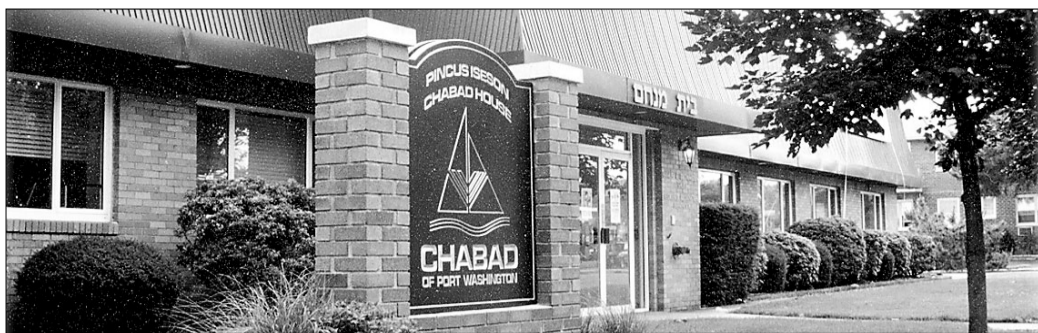


Photo courtesy of Schwartz Torah Academy

The Max and Ruth Schwartz Torah Academy in Port Washington

# No frills? No problem

Port Washington's answer to the tuition crisis

BY MICHAEL ORBACH

A so-called "no frills" yeshiva is one of the solutions proposed to solve the tuition crisis threatening Jewish education.

A recent attempt to create a day school without commonplace "extras" such as small class sizes, sports teams and other extra-curricular activities failed to gain traction in Bergen County. However, one such school may already exist on Long Island.

"It's certainly a no-frills price," said Rabbi Shalom Paltiel, dean of the Chabad-run Max and Ruth Schwartz Torah Academy in Port Washington. "We don't have a choir or an orchestra or a uniformed football team. It's a gorgeous campus and we're doubling our facility to include a high school gymnasium and a science lab donated by the Gruss foundation. Our principal's last job was as an assistant superintendent of the Manhasset School district. Our teaching staff is excellent and we keep them with pensions and salaries that can compete with anyone. If you call that no-frills, then we're certainly no frills."

The Schwartz Torah Academy, founded twelve years ago by Rabbi Paltiel and his wife Sara, is blurring the strict demographic line between public schools and yeshivas. Initially founded as a preschool, the school expanded to a full-fledged elementary school with the help of donors including Henry Schwartz, founder of Elmhurst Dairy, and now has 200 students. While the school's original mission was to lure children from public school to yeshiva, with a price tag of \$7100 per child, close to three thousand dollars less than the average yeshiva or Jewish day school in the Five Towns, Rabbi Paltiel has been fielding inquiries from Five Towns parents who are strongly considering sending their children to Port Washington.

"Our missions statement is to keep kids out of public schools — the non-Orthodox families who are interested in yeshiva — so we priced it accordingly," Paltiel explained, evaluating that the cost to educate each student is far higher than what he charges. He noted that given the current turbulent economic climate, the school's clientele "may extend to the orthodox families who are having a hard time."

Class-sizes range between sixteen and twenty children per class. Rabbi Paltiel keeps his

cost down by not having too many extra-curriculars, like sports teams or after-school programs. Similar to Chabad operations across the world, Rabbi Paltiel relies on extensive fundraising. He estimates that he fundraises roughly one million of his three million dollar budget.

"I'm blessed with a powerful board of directors and they just buy into this place," Rabbi Paltiel said, "Families that benefit become your biggest allies."

Rabbi Paltiel does not view the Schwartz Torah Academy as a rival to the mainstream yeshivas and day-schools.

"I don't see myself as competing with any of these yeshivas, if you can afford the Lexus you're not going to take the Avalon. We're not a Hyundai," he laughed. "An Avalon is a Lexus without a tuxedo."

As for attracting Orthodox families, Paltiel considers it a natural consequence.

"I don't think anyone else is giving affordable excellence. There's a lot of affordability and there's a lot of excellence. There's not a lot of affordable excellence," Rabbi Paltiel explained.

Rabbi Paltiel's experience stands in contrast to a grim study published in July by the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish education in conjunction with Yeshiva University, that found less than a quarter of Jewish day schools had a long-range financial plan. Conducted through emails with 70 day school presidents, The Survey of Governance Practices of Jewish Day Schools, also found that most presidents felt that their boards under-performed in fundraising and strategic planning.

"The affordability challenge is bigger than anyone thinks," Harry Bloom, an Azrieli doctoral candidate and the study's designer said in a conference after the study's publication.

Elie Rosenfeld, a board member at The Yavneh Academy in Paramus, N.J., a modern Orthodox school in Bergen county, was candid about the possibility of more no-frills yeshivas.

"I want to know if these people are having trouble paying their mortgage and grocery bills, in which case the yeshiva administration should do everything possible to keep these kids in yeshiva. If the parents can't pay, or if the parents don't see the value — are these people

saying 'I don't value yeshiva education enough to stop driving a fancy car and going on vacation' — there's a big difference."

According to Rosenfeld, there isn't any easy solution to the affordability issue since close to 80-85% of a yeshiva budget is spent on payroll and benefits and the only way to cut costs is by giving up something.

"The only way to change the model we have in the modern Orthodox yeshiva system is to decide that we're going back to a model of increased class size and take away assistant and rotating teachers in certain classes. Yeshivas in

Brooklyn, Monsey, and Queens that have lower tuitions are putting 30 boys in a classroom with one rebbe; the HAFTRs and HANCs and HALBs are putting 22 kids in a class with a morah and an assistant. There's your tuition crisis," asserted Rosenfeld. "Decide you want 30 kids in a classroom with one teacher and drop your tuition. You just saved yourself a salary and probably more."

Allen Roffe, a dentist who lives in Hewlett, is moving four of his six children to the Schwartz Torah Academy this coming year.

"We started feeling what we're paying for was not commensurate with the education we were getting," said Roffe, whose sixth grade son was having trouble with basic Hebrew skills and was unhappy in his modern orthodox yeshiva. "My children need to know that the world is not a Jewish place, Chabad teaches them to be proud that God made them a Jew. So you don't know all of Shoftim? Who cares? You'll learn it in seventh grade. First you need to appreciate it. All they're getting [from their old school] is resentment."

"We're hearing kids going to public school. We hear parents complain about the tuition every week. With the money I'm saving, I'll be home more, my wife will be home more, and we won't have that financial tension that permeates a house. With the money we're saving we can fly to Israel three times a year."

Roffe estimated that he will save close to \$13,000 by the move and he isn't modest about his feelings for the move.

"I don't think it's a home-run," Roffe said. "I think it's a grand slam."

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## OU and Agudah petition court

The Orthodox Union and Agudath Israel have submitted a 'friend of the court' brief to the New York State Appellate Division asking that court to defend a beit din's verdict in a case between HAFTR and a faculty member, Rabbi Nachum Brisman.

As reported in the Jewish Star in January, Rabbi Brisman was dismissed from his teaching position at HAFTR over Hashkafic [philosophical] differences. He took HAFTR to the Beth Din of America, which found in Brisman's favor and awarded him \$50,000 in back pay. The beit din also doubled Brisman's salary to \$100,000, reinstated his tenure and ruled that any future termination of Brisman must go through the beit din itself, thus exceeding the limits of the agreement between HAFTR and Brisman to submit to the beit din's authority.

When Brisman's lawyer sought to register the verdict with the secular courts, a routine matter, Justice Bruce M. Balter of Kings County Supreme Court overturned the decision and called it "irrational" and "violative of public policy."

The 24-page brief issued by the Orthodox Union and Agudath Israel does not side with either Brisman or HAFTR, but argues that the appellate court ruling should be overturned since, among other reasons, it interferes with a case whose merit was decided based on religious law.

Nathan Diamant, public policy director of the Orthodox Union, wrote, "The lower court's ruling in this case undermines the long-established and appropriate relationship between secular and ecclesiastical courts."



THE KOSHER BOOKWORM

# Torah from the heart

A cardiologist's commentary collection

This week's review will focus on a very interesting anthology of rabbinic insights and practical advice for daily living. It was compiled by a Woodmere native, born and bred on the South Shore. With doctors and medical



Alan Jay Gerber

the rabbis, and the second focusing on making the parsha more meaningful in terms of practical application and musar.

The great rabbinic luminaries whose insights grace the two volumes, which total 488 pages, span from legendary rabbanim like Rashi and the Vilna Gaon to present day luminaries like Rav Hershel Schachter and Rav Yaakov Neuberger, altogether representing the entire range of Orthodox Jewish thought.

issues making front page news daily, I thought that it would be most appropriate to bring to your attention this excellent "likkut" of both classic and contemporary commentators on the Chumash, organized in the order of the parshiot and compiled by a medical doctor; a cardiologist, to boot.

Titled "Joyous Torah Treasures" (Devora Publishing, 2008) and compiled by Dr. Samuel Friedman, this is a "heartfelt" anthology, written in a most attractive and attention gathering manner. The book brings to the average layperson a vast range of comments and insights into the deeper meaning of the weekly Torah readings. Each parsha commentary consists of two essays, one dealing with numerous writings by

Dr. Friedman was educated at the Yeshiva of South Shore under the leadership of Rav Binyamin Kamenetzky. After graduating Yeshiva University High School and Yeshiva University, Dr. Friedman learned under Rav Joseph Soloveitchik, zt"l, and Rav Herschel Schachter.

Today, Dr. Friedman is an internist/cardiologist living in Teaneck, NJ, and a member of Congregation Beth Abraham in Bergenfield, under the spiritual guidance of Rav Yaakov Neu-

berger. Dr. Friedman still maintains his Five Towns connections, especially with Rav Binyamin Kamenetzky and with former classmate Rav Mordechai Kamenetzky, who originally brought this learned work to my attention.

Among the commentators cited by Dr. Friedman in this work is one very distinguished communal rabbi whom I have enjoyed a particularly warm relationship with for over forty years, Rabbi Herbert W. Bomzer of Yeshiva University. The following is an example of Rav Bomzer's Torah scholarship.

In last week's parsha, Eikev, (my bar mitzvah parsha) Rav Bomzer is quoted extensively by Dr. Friedman concerning what defines and constitutes "the fear of G-d," and its application to today's world, especially as it applies to the education and the proper parental role in the rearing of our children.

Drawing his teachings from the example of Moshe's learning fear of the Almighty from his mother, Yocheved, and sister, Miriam, Rav Bomzer notes that Moshe learned by example. Rav

Bomzer infers that any child who grows up surrounded by the fear of G-d will be sustained in his beliefs for the rest of his life. Rav Bomzer writes:

"The lesson to be derived is obvious. Fear of Heaven, reverence for the word of G-d; emulation of G-d's attributes of graciousness, kindness, love, mercy, patience, and tolerance are character traits that must be learned at home... The important thing is to give our children the opportunity to absorb 'yirat Hashem' [fear of Heaven] so that the call of G-d will be easily answerable by them as it was by Moshe."

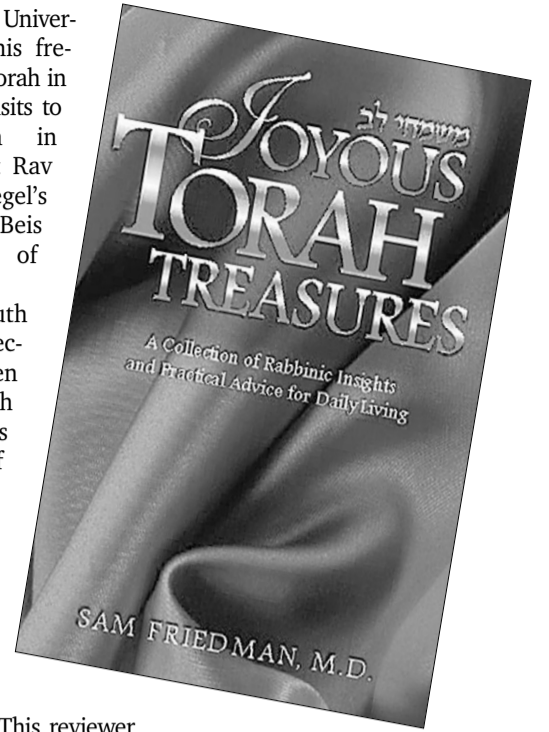
This clear message is one that is most opportune on the cusp of the new school year and should be taken to heart by every parent in our community, for without a spiritually stable home environment, almost no amount of intensive yeshiva education will have the immediate desired affect upon our children.

Rabbi Bomzer's many years as a Young Israel rabbi and educator in Brooklyn is indeed reflected in these remarks. He continues his teachings to this

day at Yeshiva University, and in his frequent Divrei Torah in his Shabbos visits to his children in Cedarhurst at Rav Dovid Spiegel's famed Beis Medrash of Cedarhurst.

This South Shore connection, taken together with Dr. Friedman's selection of the many other Divrei Torah make these two volumes an excellent addition to anyone's Torah library. This reviewer particularly appreciated Dr. Friedman's inclusion of Rav Bomzer's learning.

In conclusion, I would like to make special note of the role played by Devora Publishing and Five Towns native Yaakov Peterseil in making this particular work available to the Jewish reading public in so attractive a



format. This effort is a true literary hiddur mitzvah. Hopefully, this effort will encourage other baaleh batim to compile similar works of literate Torah scholarship to be shared by all of us.

## NEXT WEEK

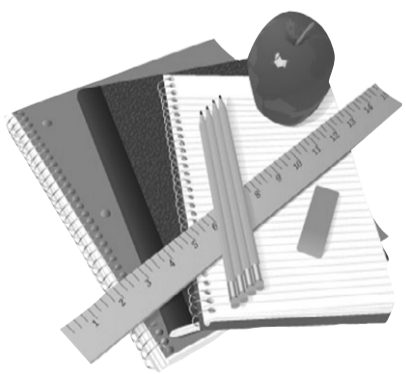
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BY TOVA ROSS

In yet another sign of how important the kosher market segment is becoming, ConAgra Foods, in a joint venture with Kof-K, is designating an entire facility for the production of yoshon flour.

For those unfamiliar with the concept of yoshon, it literally means "old," and refers to grains that took root prior to the first day of Passover. Halacha states that those older grains are the only that may be eaten in the current year. Grains that took root after the second day of the holiday were to be stored until the next year's grain offering was brought; only then could they be used.

Until now, yoshon flour was available only as frozen stock or for bulk purchase and was notoriously difficult to obtain. Observing the halacha of yoshon in the US was a strenuous endeavor, according to Rabbi Dovid Gorelik, a yoshon expert at the Orthodox Union, "If both cholov yisroel and yoshon products are not readily available in a community, an individual committed to observing both stringencies can afford to eliminate dairy from his diet," Rabbi Gorelik maintained. "However, grains are a major food component and encompass many products, such as bread, pasta, pizza, and cake. What will this person do for Shabbos challah?"

The relative dearth of yoshon products in the US is easy to explain given the intricacies of kashrut law and the effort needed to produce yoshon flour, all for a market that is relatively small. Though no hard numbers exist of how many Jews in the U.S. keep yoshon, it is an acknowledged minority. Coupled with the very real threat of insect infestation, which has the potential to wipe out stockpiled frozen flour, mills could not be guaranteed any significant return on their investments.

The new supply of yoshon flour is the brainchild of Rabbi Michael Brukman of the Kof-K, who decided to make yoshon his cause celebre after witnessing families struggling to keep the halacha. "Families were buying up thirty, forty boxes of yoshon cereal to tide them over the season," recalled Rabbi Brukman about a recent Pesach in Brooklyn.

Rabbi Brukman met with ConAgra officials last November to make the case for the large-scale distributor to devote time and resources towards producing yoshon flour. Met with skepticism, Rabbi Brukman continued with several other projects, and in the midst of a business visit to China, received a call from a ConAgra official giving the go-ahead for the project. In the interim, ConAgra initiated an intensive marketing campaign among kosher consumers to determine whether yoshon products were marketable.

Peter Bisaccia, ConAgra's director of sales, was surprised

See *NEW TWIST*, Page 11

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The ConAgra facility in Denver

## NEW TWIST ON OLD FLOUR

Continued from Page Ten

by the reaction in the Jewish community.

"The customers we polled were very receptive to the idea of having fresh yoshon flour more widely available, so the company decided it was a viable option for us to pursue," he said. "Since we began shipping yoshon flour on August 10, people have been so positive in

their response I'm getting a bit nervous we might run out of supplies this year."

Right now, all shipped flour travels to ConAgra's bulk transfer terminal in the Bronx, but due to the overwhelmingly response, Bisaccia said there are plans to ship flour to ConAgra's facility in Martins Creek, PA, which it will package the bulk product into 50 lb. bags avail-

able for truckload purchase. The sack flour will be available after September 1.

Keeping with the strict kashruth laws, ConAgra's milling and storage plant in Denver will have a kashruth supervisor on-site to ensure the milling and storing the flour is done correctly according to Jewish law. The trucks used for delivering the flour to the Bronx are also regularly checked for cleanliness by another kashruth

supervisor, and they are sealed after each cleaning until they reach the purchasing bakeries. As the flour is fresh each week, the question of infestation is severely limited.

Rabbi Gorelik believes that this new initiative will have a snowball effect in the Jewish community.

"Yoshon is like anything else," said Rabbi Gorelik. "When it becomes easier, more people are likely to fulfill it."

A screenshot from the redesigned Kosher.com website

## THE INTERNET GOES KOSHER

Continued from Page One

store's previous owners became embroiled in a messy dispute with the Vaad HaKashrus of the Five Towns and Far Rockaway, so Kauftheil bought Gourmet Glatt and now Kosher.com's operations are based out of the store's warehouse.

"Glatt is a good anchor," Kauftheil explained. "We're using a lot of the same merchandise. We're bringing a very high quality product out to Kosher.com."

"The kosher market is viewed as a niche market, but it's a massive niche market," said CEO Aaron Dobrinsky. "You'll hear numbers from \$40 billion to \$200 billion. And the demand is always there so, to me, we're solving a need in the marketplace. The demand is there, the necessity is required and we're facilitating the ease of delivery."

45% of kosher consumers live outside of the major metropolitan area, Dobrinsky said, and while they have access to common kosher goods available in common stores, more specialized items are harder to get.

"Maybe they can get Empire frozen chickens but they can't get fresh meat or Osem croutons or Middle Eastern couscous. Do they have a kosher bakery? Do they have anything more than challah?"

He wouldn't discuss numbers but Dobrinsky said that the unpublishized test version of the site already has three trucks going into Manhattan daily.

"If Kosher.com is capable of delivering even a fraction of what Amazon does for the consumer world or what FreshDirect does for the general produce world, Kosher.com should be revolutionary," said Dani Klein, head editor of the kosher travel blog Yeahthatskosher.com and a social media marketing consultant.

Elie Rosenfeld, CEO of Joseph Jacobs Advertising, a ninety-year-old communications firm specializing in the Jewish market, was equally positive.

"Kosher consumers in the metro New York-area have been looking for a convenient, upscale opportunity to buy groceries and kosher provisions. With a well-thought out and strategic plan from Kosher.com it seems like that is really in sight," Rosenfeld said. "Other people have failed doing this in both the kosher and general market," he noted, "and the people that are out there, Fresh Direct and Peapod, in their cur-

rent form, have learned from many of the mistakes. The opportunity for Kosher.com to build on that seems to be great."

The redesigned website also hopes to become the center of a vibrant online kosher community.

Jamie Geller, dubbed "the Kosher Rachel Ray" by the Miami Herald for her popular "Quick and Kosher" cookbook, has been named CFO — Chief Foodie Officer, that is — and will oversee a steady offering of articles, recipes and forums, as well as video features about "the kosher life-style."

"We're the world's largest supermarket, but in essence, we want to be the singular destination for all things kosher," Geller explained.

Geller will draw on her background as a senior writer and producer at HBO where, among other responsibilities, she ran marketing campaigns for popular television shows like The Sopranos.

Geller views Kosher.com as a combination of FreshDirect for the local market and an Amazon with an extensive inventory that can be shipped anywhere, at prices that she says will be competitively in the range of most kosher groceries.

She also believes that the site will attract a wide demographic, appealing not just to the Orthodox kosher consumer, but to traditional Jews, and even non-traditional kosher consumers.

"It's not just people who are keeping kosher to the strictest level; [People] interested in some connection to Judaism, on Rosh Hashana they'll be searching for gefilte fish recipes. This is some aspect of their heritage they want to connect to and we're here for them. If it's kosher meat or just challah or wine, or exploring what it means to be kosher," Geller said.

"And it's not just kosher. It's vegetarians; it's [Muslims for] halal; it's people who are interested in ethnic, the same way they're interested in Mexican and Thai food. People believe [kosher] is healthier. I have tons of non-kosher neighbors who only bought meat from the kosher meat section."

Geller expects a diverse community on the site's forums.

"People who love food come in all shapes and sizes," she said.

In separate conversations, Kauftheil, Dobrinsky and Geller, all who whom are Orthodox, mentioned a religious aspect —

the mitzvah of making kosher food more accessible.

"We're not doing charity here," Kauftheil said, "but we're doing business that is good. We're bringing kosher food to people who don't have it. There are people who are leaning towards kosher but they just don't have access. I hope we make a lot of money, but if we can get several people to make that step [of becoming kosher], it'll be worth it."

So far, the early version of Kosher.com has seen its share of interesting orders, including shipping a complete Passover Seder to Afghanistan and kosher jelly doughnuts to a prison in Hawaii.

"Three days to get there," Kauftheil remarked. "Somebody in the prison needs jelly doughnuts for Chanukah."

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# SPORTS

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It was a hot day on the baseball diamond for the final round of Inter-shul play, on Sunday, August 16, and all the teams put in their best effort. A final thought from a very

tired Commissioner Eli Dworetzky: "We all had a great summer, made new friends and brought achdus to the playing field. Let's bring that good feeling to everyday life: do a mitzvah and help a fellow person. Until next year: Shana Tovah."

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## RESULTS

19 V SHTEEBL 6  
10 V CHABAD 6

12 V YI NORTH WOODMERE 2



Photos by Mike Felix

Some of the exciting action at the final game of the inter-shul baseball league season, a faceoff between Cong. Beth Sholom of Lawrence and Young Israel of North Woodmere.



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