

THE JEWISH STAR

Independent and original reporting from the Orthodox communities of Long Island

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THE INNER SHTETEL

David Seidemann
Page 5

SUMMER AMNESIA

A word from the principal ...
Page 5



BLUEBERRY HEAVEN

A slice of life
Page 10

IN MY VIEW

Defending Criminals

Another reason for the destruction

BY CHANANYA WEISSMAN

After five rabbis and more than a dozen other members of Orthodox Jewish communities in New York and New Jersey were arrested last week, I found one Associated Press photo particularly striking. In that photo several people

were being led away in handcuffs including a "rabbi" with his yarmulke sliding off the back of his hat, perhaps, I wonder, so no one would suspect he wasn't wearing one.

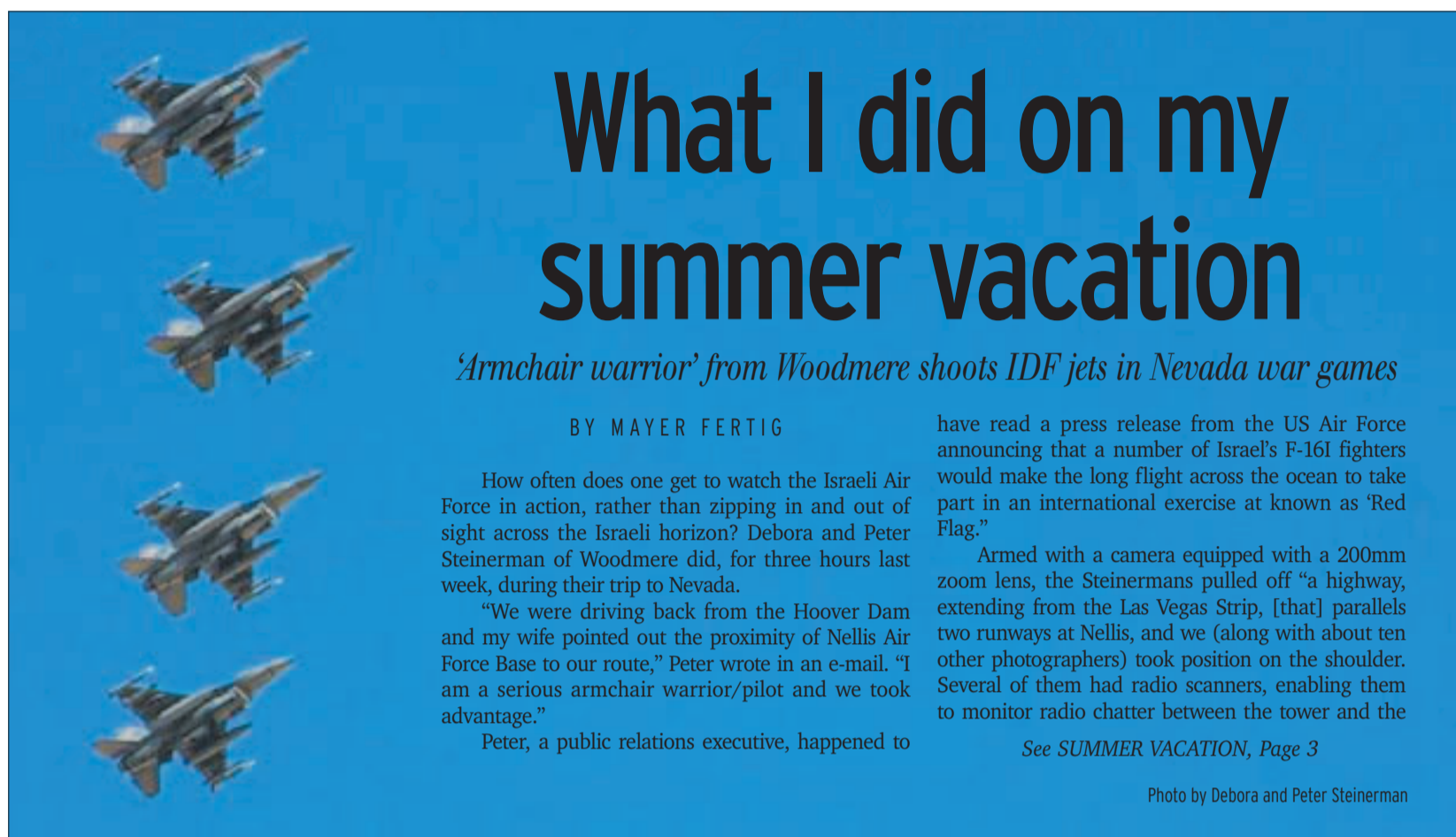
I am not going to wax dramatic about what a shanda this is, since that is so obvious it contributes nothing to the discussion. What concerns me far more is the reaction of many Jews to the breaking scandal.

VosIzNeias.com, a well-read Jewish news website that seems to attract more than its fair share of anonymous frummer-than-thous had dozens of readers comment on the story. Nearly all were outraged - but at the wrong people. They devised all manner of blame shifting and rationalization for low-life alleged criminals who have completely disgraced the Jewish people.

1) It's entrapment — as if we can't expect our rabbis to say no to a bribe. Does the biblical prohibition against accepting bribes, which is directed particularly toward community leaders, mention anything about entrapment or the intentions of the person offering the bribe? What dif-

See VIEW, Page 7

Rabbi Chananya Weissman is the founder of EndTheMadness (www.endthetmadness.org), a volunteer effort to rehabilitate the culture of the shidduch world. He may be contacted at admin@endthetmadness.org.



What I did on my summer vacation

'Armchair warrior' from Woodmere shoots IDF jets in Nevada war games

BY MAYER FERTIG

How often does one get to watch the Israeli Air Force in action, rather than zipping in and out of sight across the Israeli horizon? Debora and Peter Steiner of Woodmere did, for three hours last week, during their trip to Nevada.

"We were driving back from the Hoover Dam and my wife pointed out the proximity of Nellis Air Force Base to our route," Peter wrote in an e-mail. "I am a serious armchair warrior/pilot and we took advantage."

Peter, a public relations executive, happened to

have read a press release from the US Air Force announcing that a number of Israel's F-16I fighters would make the long flight across the ocean to take part in an international exercise at known as 'Red Flag.'

Armed with a camera equipped with a 200mm zoom lens, the Steinermans pulled off "a highway, extending from the Las Vegas Strip, [that] parallels two runways at Nellis, and we (along with about ten other photographers) took position on the shoulder. Several of them had radio scanners, enabling them to monitor radio chatter between the tower and the

See SUMMER VACATION, Page 3

Photo by Debora and Peter Steiner

After arrests, Sephardic community shudders

BY MICHAEL ORBACH

On a warm summer Friday in Great Neck — the morning after the chief rabbi of Syrian Jews in America was perp walked for the cameras with several other rabbis — Jenevieve Gold was angry. "It's a horrible thing that they did to the community!" she said, sitting in the office of Magic Home Realty. "People put their faith in them... How did they live on Shabbat?"

"You have to look at the positive...," consoled Yvette Zubli, the Iraqi born-owner of the 30-year old real estate agency.

"What positive?" Jenevieve, an Algerian Jew, asked in exasperation, "the rabbi was selling a kidney!"

While she didn't have the details exactly correct — a defendant is charged with organ trafficking — her sentiment was unmistakable.

Last Thursday a decade-long FBI corruption probe in New Jersey and New York was wrapped up with the arrests of 44 men, including several prominent rabbis from the Syrian Jewish strongholds of Deal, N.J. and Brooklyn, N.Y. Most notable of all was Rabbi Saul Kassir, 87, of Cong. Shaare Zion on Ocean Parkway in Brooklyn. He is considered the leading rav of Syrian Jewry. Imagine any current charedi Gadol in handcuffs and you can imagine the shudders that went through Deal and Brooklyn.

The tight-knit medley of

Sephardic Jews in Great Neck, who range from Iranian to Syrian and Afghani, were taking the news personally.

Later, Zubli, who ten years ago waived her fee to help Shaare Zion, a Syrian shul, buy a building, sighed heavily. "All Jews, we're part of the same family," she said.

Joe Franco, the president of Shaare Zion, refused to speak about the arrests. Leon Manoucheri, who lives next door to the shul, described the arrests as "very sad."

"People look at the Jewish community as a whole," he asserted.

At Elias's Hair Design on Middle Neck Road, the feelings were the same. An older Syrian woman who moved to Great Neck this past year to be closer to her daughter was aghast.

"It's terrible what they did. To have a rabbi..." she trailed off and then asked not to be named in print. "It's a terrible thing."

Standing behind the counter, Elias, an Iranian man with Three Weeks stubble and a blue-and-white yarmulke, urged his two Syrian hairdressers to talk to a reporter. Both declined and quickly returned to curling their customer's hair.

"You never know how they say your words," one hairdresser explained to the other quietly.

"It's not the rabbis, it's beyond this," Elias stated, "Mad-off: It was not himself, it was a hand behind him. Jews have to

See ARRESTS, Page 9

I'M THINKING

The Israel missile crisis

Arrow II misses its mark

The threat of nuclear attack by Iran is real; it is as palpable in the corridors of Washington as it is on the street of Tel Aviv - and London and Madrid and Cairo. The only way world leaders could close their eyes and sleep at night was with the knowledge that Israel had developed a secret weapon, the Arrow II, an anti-nuclear missile.

All that has changed. It is no secret that Israel has been actively developing defenses to protect the country from hostile enemy attacks with



Micah D. Halpern

the greatest threat emanating from Iran. The Arrow II was Israel's answer to Iran's nuclear weapons program. Developed together with the United States, the Arrow II had all the hallmarks of a great defense system.

But last week, in three separate attempts, the Arrow II failed to engage.

Israel tested the accuracy and efficacy of the Arrow II with the US as a cosponsor. A fake Shabab, a US missile that closely mimics Iran's nuclear

See I'M THINKING, Page 3

Trouble in the Catskills

Kolko kicked out of one colony but finds another

BY MICHAEL ORBACH

In the Catskills this summer, worries about children's safety are extending beyond the swimming pool.

Yehuda Kolko, the rebbe who pleaded guilty to two counts of child endangerment and who is suspected of abusing dozens of children in his teaching career, moved into a summer home at a development in South Fallsburg, N.Y., on June 12. Pines Estates, where he is renting, is a popular summer destination for Orthodox families and is also inhabited year-round by families connected to the well-known Yeshiva of South Fallsburg, nearby.

On Kolko's first Friday night there, a summer resident aware of Kolko's history confronted him in the shul during Maariv

and told him to leave the neighborhood quietly, a witness said. When Kolko refused, the man interrupted the tefilah to announce from the bima that Kolko was a child molester and posed a danger to children. When congregants protested, the man at the bima, a student of Rav Dovid Feinstein, replied with multiple Halachic sources to support his action, one of which was Masechet Chullin 8a, which discusses the need to be strict when it comes to matters of danger.

The next day, Shabbat morning, at the Yeshiva of South Fallsburg nearby, the same witness said Kolko was welcomed and called to the Torah for an Aliyah.

Daniel Sosnowik, a resident of Pines Estates who has an eight-year-old son, was

See CATSKILLS, Page 9

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Inside

Parsha.....2
Opinion.....4

Calendar.....6
Classified.....8

Shabbat

Candlelighting: 7:52 p.m. ■ Shabbat ends: 8:56 p.m.
Torah reading: Parshat Va'etchanan

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PARSHAT VA'ETCHANAN

Timing is everything

BY RABBI AVI BILLET

Halakhah can be defined as "Jewish law," "a way of life" or, perhaps, "the way we do things." In one example of the latter definition, the Shulchan Arukh (following the Tur) declares, "[We read] Parshat Bamidbar before Atzeret (Shavuot), Tisha b'Av comes before Va'etchanan, and [we read] Nitzavim before Rosh Hashana. (428:4)" Does it really matter if we read in these orders? Probably not. But this is the way our calendar has been set up.

In his *Biur Halakha* commentary, the Chofetz Chaim (R' Israel Meir Kagan) writes that Tisha b'Av comes before Va'etchanan so that Devarim will precede Tisha b'Av, so that the messages of rebuke of Moshe and of Isaiah in the haftarah of Devarim (Chazon) will be read on

the Shabbat before Tisha b'Av.

Why the comment? Is this not obvious? If Tisha b'Av is to be followed by Va'etchanan, obviously it will be sandwiched on the other end by Devarim.

Furthermore, why doesn't the Shulchan Arukh follow the same format and list Tisha B'Av as a holiday (like Atzeret and Rosh Hashana) that follows Devarim?

Rabbi Kenneth Hain of Congregation Beth Shalom in Lawrence suggested in a sermon last year that the point is not so much to point out how the calendar works out. The message embedded in the way Tisha b'Av is presented tells us that the Jewish people do not look forward to Tisha b'Av, the ultimate symbol of destruction and depression. We are always meant to look at what comes after-

wards, to how we can rebuild.

To take the point a step further, we can look at the totality of Va'etchanan to see from where we can gather tremendous inspiration.

In an ironic twist, perhaps, the Torah reading of Tisha b'Av morning is taken from Va'etchanan. Sure, it begins on a depressing note, talking about what will happen if the Jewish people abandon G-d. But the down-sides are pushed away by the tremendous power of the penitent, those who seek to find G-d even as their "pintele yid" is the only thing still burning. They are told, "When you seek Him, you will eventually find Him." (4:29, five verses into the Tisha b'Av reading)

And Va'etchanan has it all: A model for beseeching G-d; encouragement for a

new leader; important instructions for the devout and committed; the down-sides of turning from G-d and suffering punishments; the merits of having great parents whom G-d wants to reward — leading Him to be kind to us out of His love for our forefathers. The parsha also repeats the Ten Commandments (with a few important alterations) and contains the cardinal principles mapped out in the Shema. There are promises of good things for those who do follow G-d's commandments (5:30).

On Tisha b'Av we remember millions who died over the millennium, as well as millions who died in World War II. It is very intense. The Kinot are heart wrenching, and can make us feel like the totality of the Jewish experience before, during, and since the exile has been doom and gloom.

Those who have a more intense Tisha b'Av experience walk away with a bad feeling, and even reading Devarim on the previous Shabbat can help us get into such a state.

But Tisha b'Av comes before Va'etchanan. It simply cannot under any circumstance — follow the uplifting message of Va'etchanan. The power is in our hands. We can love G-d with all our heart and soul. We can take to heart the message of how to fulfill

commandments, and how to understand the Ten Commandments. Were we to read them before Tisha b'Av we might become too disheartened and depressed on Tisha b'Av to remember their important messages.

Pay careful attention to this week's Torah reading. It is a formula for tremendous growth potential to those who take its words to heart and act upon them.



That's Life is taking a week off to enjoy ... life. It will return next week.

THE JEWISH STAR

Good Health a special section soon in The Jewish Star



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Magen Dovid on each wing, F16l makes nice, crisp turn for landing at Nellis AFB.

SUMMER VACATION

Continued from Page One

aircraft," he explained.

Standing in 110-degree heat the couple fired off 200 or so photos of two flights of Israeli warplanes (call signs "Rocket" and "Chaka") as well as U.S. aircraft in action over Nevada last Tuesday, July 21.

"My wife and I were very deeply moved and very proud to watch these chayalim in action, something an American visiting Israel rarely (if ever) gets to see," Peter added in his e-mail. "During the Nine Days, this impressive element of the Jewish nation's strength should give us all cause for optimism. That said, we hope and pray this is as



A United State Air Force F-16 on "short final," preparing to land.

close to the real thing as these brave and talented airmen ever have to get."

Did you do have a particularly interesting or unusual experience on your summer vacation this year? Maybe we'll feature

you in the newspaper next. Send your best photos and a brief description to letters@the-jewishstar.com. Please make sure to include your name as well as daytime and evening phone numbers.



F16l brings air to air missiles, LANTIRN targeting pod to the (simulated) fight.



Photos by Debora and Peter Steinerman

Israeli Air Force F-16l swoops overhead outside Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada.



F-16l outfitted with white-tipped ("warshots") Sidewinder missiles.



IAF F-16l is "wheels down, locked and welded" as it is cleared to land at Nellis.



F16-1 sports desert camouflage, distinctive conformal fuel tanks, extended "spine" behind two-person cockpit.

I'M THINKING

Continued from Page One

delivery technology, was launched off the coast of California. The test was not performed in secret. Defense and military personnel and on-lookers waited for the Israeli secret weapon to launch and to strike down the attacking ordinance. And waited. And waited. It did not happen. The Arrow II detected the missile but did not launch to destroy the Shabab. Three times in a row it did not launch.

The system failed because all the variables were not met. This new Arrow II that failed to launch in California has a fail-safe system that is supposed to

prevent a misfire — that is supposed to prevent a computer from mistakenly shooting down a commercial airline jet that is thought to be a hostile bogie.


The test was a devastating blow to Israel's defense establishment. It was a wake-up call to defense experts and world leaders. It was a silent cry of victory from Iran.

These experiments should have taken place total under the military cloak of secrecy but they did not. Those in the loop were treated to a very clear understanding of the failure of the Israeli defense system. Iran now knows, along with the rest of the world, that there is no realistic check against their

nuclear development. The situation for Israel is bad, very bad.

Israel now knows that it has absolutely no significant tool with which to defend against Iran. That means the timetable that Israel established for staving off a nuclear attack from Iran is nowhere close to accurate. This means the West is in real trouble and Israel is on the front line.

It is not misplaced trust to continue to believe that Israel will defend itself — and by extension all other friendly nations — against nuclear attack. But it will not happen by way of the Arrow II. The nuclear clock is ticking.




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OPINION

THE JEWISH STAR

Independent and original reporting from the Orthodox communities of Long Island

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Sins of our fathers

Editorial

In April 2007, the Baltimore Jewish Times published the accounts of three victims of Ephraim Shapiro, a former congregational rabbi and principal of the Talmudic Academy in Baltimore. Their accounts of sexual abuse at Shapiro's hands were harrowing. Shapiro, a revered member of the community, had unsupervised access to hundreds of children.

By the time the article ran, Shapiro had been dead for over seventeen years — he died of Lou Gehrig's disease in 1989. Phil Jacobs, executive editor of the Baltimore Jewish Times, characterized it correctly: Shapiro's memory "remains 'alive' in the memories of so many. His collateral damage is everywhere."

The Baltimore Jewish Times was heavily criticized for publishing the story. Two prominent rabbonim had asked that Shapiro's name be kept out of print; Rabbi Moshe Heinemann demanded that his community prohibit the Baltimore Jewish Times in their homes. Jacobs, a survivor of sexual abuse himself, was ostracized.

"I was running into nuances wherever I went. I got emails. I never had my life threatened but I was asked to leave town. It impacted my family; it impacted my participation in the Jewish community as a practicing Jew. It hurt a lot

and it still does."

Later, more victims came forward to report sexual abuse they suffered at Shapiro's hands. The exact number of children molested by Shapiro remains unclear.

Less than a year later, Ephraim Shapiro's son, Yisroel Shapiro, was convicted of almost identical sexual abuse charges.

Yosef Kolko was arrested two weeks ago on charges of sexually assaulting a minor at a day camp in Lakewood, New Jersey. One source involved in the arrest suspected that Yosef had been abused by his uncle, Yehuda Kolko, who is thought to be guilty of widespread sexual abuse.

Michael Sabo, whose case we detailed last week, attended Yeshiva Torah Temimah where Kolko taught, and a sleepaway camp where Kolko once worked. Asked if he was one of Kolko's victims, Sabo told the Jewish Star that while he did not remember being abused and did not think he was abused, his therapist told him the abuse was "repressed."

By the time you read this, Tisha B'av may have ended. The month of Elul, and the Yamim Noraim, Rosh

HaShanah and Yom Kippur, are just ahead. We will again pray to be forgiven for our sins. This year, perhaps, we have new sins to add to our list — sins of negligence and ignorance, and through our negligence and ignorance, a new culpability.

If there is anything we, as a community, can learn from these horrific events, is that wounds still bleed. They not only scar, but fester. Sexual abuse does not go away. Most of the victims of Kolko, Mondrowitz, and Shapiro will lead happy meaningful lives, carrying their tragedies like unwanted baggage. Some will become outspoken heroes who seek to prevent sexual abuse like Phil Jacobs and Joseph, the father of Sabo's alleged victim. Still others will remain silent and keep their sorrow to themselves. And some may never find solace and may be accused of molestation themselves, creating still more victims in a truly vicious cycle.

There is no moral to this story, nor is there a happy ending. There is only vigilance and caution. As a community, we have sinned. Our fathers have sinned. As last week's Parsha states: "I, the Lord thy G-d, am a jealous G-d, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children."

We have only repentance left.

Letters

Apology Needed

To the Editor:

Yaacov Gross's statement that there is "absolutely nothing that Rambam gets out of the [Machon Hatorah] relationship" ("HAFTR and Rambam to Split"; July 17, 2009) is ridiculous. The agreement was that Rambam parents would pay a lower tuition than HAFTR parents the first year of Machon HaTorah and then from the second year on, Rambam and HAFTR tuitions would be equal.

That never happened. HAFTR parents have subsidized the tuition of Rambam students from the beginning since we paid higher tuitions. I would also remind him and Rambam parents that Rambam students reaped the benefits of having HAFTR's outstanding teaching staff as their educators. In addition, the two principals, Rabbi Friedman and Rabbi Eliach, spent more far more time at Rambam than they did in HAFTR, even though HAFTR has a much larger student body. And please let them not forget that HAFTR paid off their deficits when the two schools joined together. So, truthfully,

Rambam parents owe a HUGE thank you to HAFTR parents. As far as Shalhevet is concerned, HAFTR parents heavily subsidized their tuition as well, paid the expenses of their building, and provided them the privilege of being taught by our excellent HAFTR teachers. So Shalhevet parents, a thank you is also in order from all of you. I wish Shalhevet and Rambam

good luck. It is a shame that in this wonderful community in which we live, some people have to denigrate other yeshivot. I believe that we are blessed to have some many excellent yeshivot in the community from which to choose. I am proud to be a HAFTR parent and recommend this wonderful yeshiva to any families who want an extraordinary Jewish education that

teaches our children respect for all Jews.

ELLEN ARONOVITZ
Woodmere

Call to civility

To the Editor:

As both a Rambam and long time HAFTR parent, I am

embarrassed and offended by Mr. Kanefsky's comments last week ("HAFTR parent weighs"; 7/24/09) regarding the split between the two schools. I can certainly respect an opinion that questioned the original intent of Machon and the fact that it was not put forth before the parent body before it actually happened, as this was the feeling

See LETTERS, Page 6

The Distinguished Scholar in Residence program of the Young Israel of Great Neck is proud to host the noted "Zoo Rabbi,"

Rabbi Natan Slifkin

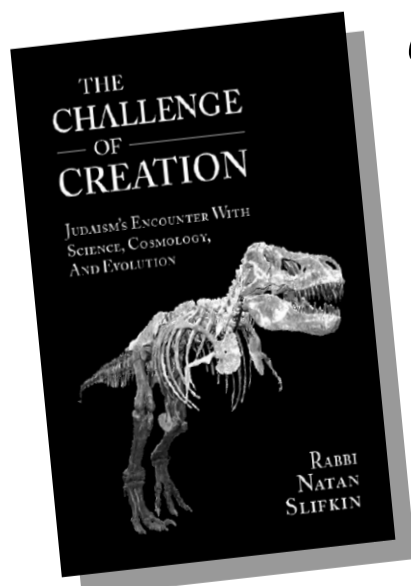
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FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BENCH

Finding your inner fiddler

Close to 3,000 performances over a 40 year span. Quite a run, or should I say dance, for Israeli-born actor Haim Topol playing Tevye in the all time classic, Fiddler on the Roof. When my parents took me to see Fiddler more than 40 years ago at the Ohio Theater, Zero Mostel was still playing the part, his beard and side curls



David Seidemann

struggling to dance in synch with his feet. Topol or Mostel, the story is ageless, the acting masterful.

Since then I have left the little "shtetel" of Columbus. I struggled to raise a Jewish family on foreign soil; watched my wife and daughters light the Shabbos candles, and yes, wondered aloud what life would be like "if I were a rich man".

I am sure that in certain parts of the world Tevye and his challenges are still relevant and the story line plays its way out on a daily basis. But with the religious freedom and tolerance afforded to us here in America, with palatial homes

here in the Five Towns and in other Jewish communities, Jewish education at our doorsteps, and intermarriage almost non-existent in our circles, does the story of Tevye and his family have any relevance to us at all?

Of course it does, and to a greater extent than in the original script. Of course it does, and with the potential for a catastrophic ending. Of course it does, and we don't even begin to see it like Tevye did because we are deaf to the footsteps of the Cossacks, blind to the fires they have set and unable to articulate the prayer for a more wholesome future.

Tevye spoke to G-d like a father speaks with a son and a son speaks with his father. We are content to leave voicemail messages and an occasional note in the "Wall."

When the American Jew, to his credit, emerged from the shtetel he clensed his essence of every vestige of the shtetel. That my friends, was a huge mistake.

There was no sequel to Fiddler on the Roof but anyone who has seen it knows that wherever Tevye would have found himself, in a poor peasant village in the Ukraine; in New York or in Israel, part of the shtetel would have remained with him. Which part? The part that I sense has left us; the part that acknowledges that our homes, cars, and vacations; our religious freedoms and our fancy diplomas hanging on the wall, are all a trap; a trap that Tevye sought to avoid.

Self accomplishment and accumulation of wealth: every Chaim, Moshe, and Yaakov finishing Daf Yomi or learning in Kollel; the best and brightest of us occupying positions of power have caused a dust storm to blow away the shtetel, and with that our ability and the necessity to remain connected in an Anetevka way to our heritage. It's too darn easy and that's a problem.

Don't misunderstand my words. No person or governing body has the right to impose the shtetel on us through overt or covert acts of discrimination. No outsider can tell us where to live, or how to live; where to build or when to build.

When the shtetel is imposed on us, we must unite and fight to break it. I speak not of the shtetel of discrimination but rather the shtetel of connection. I speak of the shtetel of deep connection to ourselves, our families, our friends, our communities, and our G-d.

When we leave that shtetel, our future is as shaky as a fiddler on the roof. When we lose that shtetel, the result is worse than intermarriage, worse than pogroms, worse than being uprooted from our homes. The net result of the pogroms, the homicide bombing, the intermarriage, the discrimination, is the awakening of the Jewish flame. Meetings are held, demonstrations ensue, legislation is passed and usually there is a brief rekindling of the Jewish shtetel. But when the Jew extinguishes his own inner shtetel, there is no one to rescue him. No one to rebuild.

If you read this and believe it does not apply to you, you prove my point. The more you think it doesn't apply to you, the more ravaged and ransacked your inner shtetel has become.

How does one build or rebuild his inner shtetel? That's an article in and of

Excellence in commentary — honored by the American Jewish Press Association & the NY Press Association

itself, if not two. But it starts with the premise, Tevye's premise that the Master of the Universe watches everything we do and as a result, we have unfettered access and unrestricted dialogue. (nights and weekends are free!) Any sociologist or student of history will tell you that the more man focuses on man, the less he focuses on G-d. And so the inner shtetel begins with a dose of humility.

Yes, Tevye saw no great shame in being rich. But he also sang of having a seat by the Eastern Wall. He dreamed of acquiring knowledge not to jettison away from his heritage, but to connect with it.

Like Mostel and Topol, one day all of us Tevyes must leave the stage and make way for the next generations of Tevyes. As we pack up our carts and saddle our donkeys, as we make that all important trek out of the shtetel, one can only hope that a piece of the self-made shtetel burns in our hearts with sufficient light to guide our children.

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.

Fighting summer amnesia

BY MICHELLE BERGMAN

The summer is whizzing by and camps are at their midway mark. Schools everywhere are actively involved in planning for a successful 2009-2010 year, and hoping that "summer amnesia" won't be too serious. What is this "malady" that seems to afflict students? What mysterious force seems to have created a "brain drain" during the mid-June-August hiatus? There really is no mystery about it, as researchers have long known. Once children are out of school, unless there are provisions made, there is a significant drop in retention/acquisition of new information. Some activities are created by schools, e.g. summer reading assignments; summer math packets; suggested writing activities, etc. Some activities are developed by individual families. I recently had a call from a parent who is dedicated to strengthening her child's mathe-

atics skills, and spends time daily teaching and reviewing. Yet other parents balk at the fact that their youngsters are asked to read a book or two. Are there ideas that are enjoyable to do together with your child(ren), that will help to "bear fruit" in September? Definitely, I'd love to share a few:

Reading

1. Be sure your child's summer reading diet includes a healthy assortment of reading groups: non-fiction, fiction (literature, please), poetry, reference (yes, kids do love to read the dictionary and encyclopedia, if exposed to them.) You'll soon see an improved vocabulary, grasp of concepts and inferences, and an improvement in general comprehension.

2. Read aloud to your children, no matter what the age. Dramatizing a story is a sure-fire way to draw the reader into the text. Try using different voices, dialects, etc. Tales such as Tom Sawyer or Harry Potter lend themselves to

such drama. You can also have older children read to younger children.

3. Shabbat is the perfect time to model for your children, as everyone sits around and reads. "Wow, listen to this..." from a newspaper or journal can be a jumping off point for great discussions.

4. Have a parent-child book club. Whether your child is home or away at camp, you can both read the same book and speak or email about it. It's really important for you to know what your child is reading!

Mathematics

Math is all around us, everyday. In fact, one of the best-selling series of math textbooks is called Everyday Math. Some favorites:

In the kitchen

Following recipes — make half as much, twice as much, etc. (fractions)

Measuring out liquids — how many glasses of milk can we

get from this container? (liquid measure)

Estimating the number of beans in a package, grains of rice in a jar, etc. (estimating skills)

Shopping

Comparing sizes and weights of packages (measurement)
Figuring the price of one item if they are "two for" or "three for...." (multiplication)

Estimating the sum of the bill at the register (estimating/addition/percent)

Traveling

Estimating, then computing distance traveled in miles, kilometers (estimating/addition/multiplication)

Keeping a record of things observed along the way - e.g. number of blue cars, RV's, etc. passed in five minutes (data gathering, observation)

Tracking gasoline prices, taxes, etc. from area to area (basic operations)

Television

Yes, believe it or not, since television and its companions are here to stay, as parents, we need to become more involved in mak-

ing the medium relevant and educational. The key points to consider are these:

1. Decide, as the parent, how much time your child may watch TV on a daily/weekend basis. You know the research — it is not necessary to restate it. Be sure to leave time for active pursuits, e.g. bike riding, skating, and indoor activities, e.g. chess, arts and crafts, etc.

2. Since parents are prime role models, serve as an example by limiting your own TV viewing. Set aside a definite time for reading as a family. Remember the adage "do as I do..."

3. View TV selectively. Encourage your child to choose a specific program, then discuss the reasons for the choice.

4. Maximize television viewing by developing critical thinking: ask your child to describe favorite television characters, using a variety of adjectives. Use a thesaurus to expand vocabulary.

5. Compare a movie to the book — Which one is richer? Why? Identify the beginning action, conflict, turning point, closing action of each.

6. Develop a television-based crossword puzzle based on a theme (news terms, people, etc.) Then start your youngster on "real" crossword puzzles, an excellent way to develop thinking skills/vocabulary.

Someone once said, "The world could use more vision, and less television." Let's help our youngsters develop the skills to tame the "media monsters" as well as encourage them to pursue other forms of entertainment. (By the way, there's a special week in April called Turn off the TV Week.)

I hope these suggestions will help to ameliorate the "brain drain" that we so often see over the summer. Certainly, it will help students re-enter the atmosphere of the classroom more on top of things. Based on experience, it will also help your children grow in the right direction.

Michelle Bergman is the Associate Principal of General Studies, at HALB. She has served as an educational consultant, staff developer, and remediation specialist as well.

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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.

Cedarhurst - On Tisha b'Av afternoon, Thursday, July 30, the Young Israel of Lawrence-Cedarhurst (Corner of Spruce Street and Broadway, Cedarhurst) will host a community-wide program of shiurim on topics most relevant to the day, delivered by rabbonim from the Five Towns.

2:15 PM - Rabbi Moshe Teitelbaum, Young Israel of Lawrence-Cedarhurst, on "Livnot V'into'a, Personal Response to Churban, From Bayit Sheni To The Shoah."

3:20 PM - Rabbi Kenneth Hain, Congre-

gation Beth Shalom, on "A Torah Understanding of the Holocaust."

4:25 PM - Rabbi Aryeh Lebowitz, Beis Haknesses of North Woodmere, on "Courage Under Fire - Responsa From The Holocaust."

5:30 PM - Rabbi Yehuda Septimus, Young Israel of North Woodmere, on "Nachem: Prayer For The Past Or For The Future?"

6:35 PM - Rabbi Shaya Richmond, Bais Tefilah of Woodmere, on "Tisha B'Av - Feeling The Pain, Awaiting The Promise."

Ladies and Gentlemen are invited
Mincha 1:35 & 7:45 PM

Cedarhurst - Chabad of the Five Towns will be holding a Farbrengen for men and women on 15th of Av, August 5, 2009 at 8:30 p.m. An Inspirational lecture will precede the Farbrengen. Rabbi Jacobson will give a fascinating lecture on "The Mysterious Journey of the Lunar Soul: 15th of Av and its Empowering Message to Our Personal Lives." This lecture is being sponsored in memory of R' Hillel ben R' Dovid, father of Faivish Pewzner. At Chabad, 74 Maple Avenue, Cedarhurst. For more info: 516-295-2478 or online at www.chabad5towns.com.

Oceanside - The Friedberg JCC is hosting a parenting workshop, "Is it time to go back to school already?" on Wednesday, August 5 from 10-11

a.m. Come hear tips about helping your children make the transition from summer back to school. The event is free, and childcare is available for a small fee. Advance reservations required. The JCC is located t 15 Neil Court in Oceanside. For more information, please call (516) 634-4192 or e-mail khorowitz@friedbergjcc.org.

Cedarhurst - The JCC of the Greater Five Towns continues its seminars for Job Seekers. Please join us for the 2 remaining workshops. Thursday, August 6: Effective Job Search Methods. Learn the most effective job search technique. Discover how to access the hidden job market through networking. Discuss various networking techniques and the best way to spend your time when job hunting. Thursday, August 13: Strong Interviewing & Negotiations. Follow a step-by-step guide to navigating the interview process, from researching the company before you arrive to writing a stand-out thank you note once you leave. Discuss the when and how to negotiate your compensation package. All sessions will be held at the JCC of the Greater Five Towns, 207 Grove Avenue, Cedarhurst, beginning at 10 AM.

Lawrence - EndTheMadness is holding its 5th annual Lawrence Shabbaton on the weekend of August 7-8 at Cong. Beth Shalom. The age range is for singles between 25 and 35. The cost is \$35 per person, to be paid in advance. Space is limited to 48 participants. Meals will be held at homes of local families, with other programming and a kumsitz after Shabbos. For more information and to make a reservation, please contact Batya at salk1111@aol.com.

Cedarhurst - Chabad of the Five Towns will be holding a Farbrengen for men

on the 20th of Av on August 10th at 8:15 p.m. The Farbrengen will be in honor of the passing of R' Levi Yitzchak, father of the Rebbe. At Chabad. For more info: 516-295-2478 or www.chabad5towns.com

Great Neck - Young Israel of Great Neck is proud to host Rabbi Natan Slifkin, the noted "Zoo Rabbi," at the Young Israel as a Distinguished Scholar in Residence on Thursday evening Aug. 13, at 8 PM and for Shabbat, Parshat R'eh, Aug. 15, morning drasha, before Mincha and Shalosh Seudot. Rabbi Slifkin has achieved renown for his work in understanding the complex relationship of the natural world and animals with Torah, taking eager participants on zoological tours and African safari. He has taken on the challenges of Creation and evolution confronting Torah-true Jews within a Torah model, though not without controversy. Check out www.zootorah.com. Come and be both enlightened and entertained! Young Israel of Great Neck, 236 Middle Neck Road, Great Neck (516) 829-6040.

Cedarhurst - Chabad of the Five Towns will be holding a birthday Shabbat on August 15th for children who celebrate their birthday in Elul. Celebrate their special day with friends, family and cake. At Chabad. For more info: 516-295-2478 or www.chabad5towns.com

Cedarhurst - Chabad of the Five Towns' Friendship Circle Summer Camp begins August 24th and runs to the 27th. Friendship Circle Summer Camp is an opportunity for children with special needs ages 4 and up to socialize, go on day trips, do arts and crafts and much more. Fee is \$40 per day or \$150 for all four days. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Drop off and pick up at

Chabad. To sign up call 516-295-2478 *13 or email Batsheva@Chabad5towns.com

ONGOING EVENTS

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.

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.



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Letters

Continued from Page Four

shared by many parents. Mr. Kanefsky talks about the lack of respect the board showed to the parent body at that time. However, by stating in his letter that from a Rambam perspective "it was all about what we can take, grab, borrow or steal," I'm not sure Mr. Kanefsky quite understands what respect actually means. I hope this helps!

MICHAEL WIESEL
Cedarhurst

Money where your mouth is

To the Editor:
With the news that \$150,000 has been found to save Shalhevet, the obvious question is if Machon HaTorah was a true partnership, why weren't these funds made available to HAFTR in order to save Shalhevet and the partnership? What was obvious to HAFTR parents when Machon HaTorah formed, but apparently not to the desperate albeit demographically challenged HAFTR Board is now clear to all of us: Rambam and its parent body were not and are not willing to put their

money where their Hashkafah isn't!

JACOB STEINER
Woodmere

A call for help

To the Editor:
I write this letter to you and your readers after much contemplation and hesitation. A health professional, a caregiver who used to freely donate hours to help the needy has himself become needy. After suffering a series of debilitating diseases, including diabetes, stroke, open heart surgery and kidney failure, he was forced to spend all his assets on medical treatments and equipment, much of which was not covered by his insurance. In addition, he is struggling to pay his monthly rent, utilities and food bills. He faces certain eviction unless funds are raised now. Rachmanim Bnei Rachmanim, during this period of Bein HaMetzarim, please open your hearts to a relative of members of the community to help him in his struggle to "stand on his own feet," until he gets a kidney transplant, for the chance to, once again, lead a normal life. His local Chabad in Carlsbad, California, a non-profit organization, is aware of his anguish and is accepting donations to help him prevent further deterioration and eviction. Contributions can be made to: Chabad At La Costa, 1980 La Costa Avenue, Carlsbad, Ca. 92009, At: Rabbi Shapira (Tel. 760-943-8891). Please specify in the check's Memo: "Moshe Kidney Patient."

For online donations, please go to: www.ChabadAtLaCosta.com, click on 'Donate' and enter "Moshe Kidney Patient" in the Comment Box.

Thank you for participating in the important mitzvah of helping to save a life.

DRORA BRODY
Great Neck

Best article on the subject

To the editor:
I just wanted to take this opportunity to compliment Tova Ross on her superb article about our upcoming Mashgiach Training Seminar for Woman (This mashgiach doesn't wear tefillin; July 24, 2009). I have worked for the Star-K for over 27 years as one of the Rabbinical Administrators and have been interviewed many times for a variety of articles. Often the facts and the tone of the final 'product' have been less than anticipated or desired. My phone interview with Miss Ross and her subsequent inquiries/clarification by e-mail were handled well and on point. In fact, many of us at the Star-K who read her article in the The Jewish Star felt that hers was BY FAR the BEST article on the subject. I would not hesitate to be interviewed again by Miss Ross anytime that she wishes to write another article about kashrus.

RABBI MAYER KURCFELD
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In brief

Summer in the lab

Two Yeshiva University students from Long Island are spending the summer paired with researchers and professors at YU's Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Yona Saperstein of Lawrence and Motti Friedman of West Hempstead each received the prestigious Roth Scholarship, which includes a stipend and housing.

Friedman, a Rambam Mesivta graduate, is studying the way light affects the growth of pigmented fun-

gus. Saperstein, who is examining the effects of oxygen on polymerization, is a graduate of DRS. He is pre-med, entering his fourth year at Yeshiva University, and said he was happy to be spending his summer in a lab.

"I'm not such a camp person," he said.

Subway largest kosher restaurant chain

Subway may have succeeded where others have failed — or at least where others have not done particular-

ly well. Numerous attempts by both kosher-owned restaurants and chains like Nathan's have not come nearly as close to what is emerging as a highly successful kosher franchise, according to Menachem Lubinsky in his Kosher Today newsletter.

The first kosher Subway opened in Cleveland several years ago before the concept expanded to New York. Today, the chain is far larger than Mendy's, Kosher Delight or Dougie's, each with up to a handful of stores. Kosher Subway stores operate in Cedarhurst, Flatbush and eight other locations. The 11th is soon to open for business in

North Miami Beach, at the Michael-Ann Russell Jewish Community Center; the 12th may soon follow in Miami Beach, the report said.

Tour offers Masters in Accounting

Accounting students will be able to earn a Master of Science degree from Touro College's Graduate School of Business for the first time. The program, being offered in both Brooklyn and Manhattan, will meet the new cri-

teria established by New York State's guidelines requiring prospective accountants taking the Certified Public Accounting (CPA) exam to have 30 additional credits on top of their undergraduate credits in accounting. Classes begin in September.

IN MY VIEW

Defending Criminals

ference should that make to us?

2) Why are they going after elderly rabbis? I wonder, do the foolish hordes say the same thing about going after elderly Nazis? Did they say the same thing about Madoff being prosecuted late in life? Does the Torah have a statute of limitation? Are people past a certain age exempt for all wrongdoing? If their age didn't prevent them from doing the crime, why should it prevent them from doing the time?

3) These rabbis are such fine, wonderful people. I hear the same thing said about mob bosses by their neighbors. They made such nice barbecues for the block! They were so nice to our kids! Yeah, they are also ruthless criminals who hurt countless people. For the mitzvos they get reward, for the sins they get brought to justice. One doesn't cancel out the other.

4) The money they laundered went to support yeshivos. Yes, someone actually submitted this defense. Do I even need to comment?

5) The FBI is anti-Semitic. Well, if things like this keep happening, I'm going to become anti-Semitic too. And, I'm afraid, so will G-d.

6) It's all the fault of the Jew who was involved in the sting operation. He should rot in hell for all

eternity, etc. Sure...he's the bad guy here. The worst one. The only one, even. I guess he didn't make good barbecues for the block or wear the right kind of hat. (May I point out that if the people he 'stung' hadn't been breaking the law this wouldn't - couldn't - have happened?)

These kinds of reactions are not limited to a few nuts. They seem to be the norm in many parts of the community that only see the good in "their own" and only see the bad in the rest of the world. This is the corruption that disturbs me most and ultimately does the greatest damage to our community.

In every community where arrests were made Jews should hold an emergency communal meeting. The purpose of this meeting should not be damage control but, rather, to determine how they could allow such corruption to flourish in their midst, and how to prevent this from ever happening again. They should go through all their records and determine how much their institutions have benefited from ill-gotten money, then raise this sum for city-wide charitable works. The best way to disassociate from the criminals and their crimes is to refuse any benefit from their deeds.

It is high time we did more about corruption in

our midst. We should demand transparency from all our institutions. We should insist on knowing how our schools spend their money, how our kashrus organizations conduct their affairs, and on what basis rabbis, teachers, and community leaders are hired and fired. We know there is plenty of garbage out there. We need to clean it up.

Everyone knows that the second Bais Hamikdash was destroyed because of baseless hatred. Not everyone knows that this was only one reason of several for the churban (destruction). The Tosefta at the end of Masechet Menachos cites two reasons, with baseless hatred being second. The first reason was that the Jews loved money. This does not come from an anti-Semitic work, but from our own tradition. Considering how little has changed, we should not be dismayed that we have yet to be redeemed.

Every community has criminals, even those who play the "looking frum" game. If nothing else, let us have enough integrity to admit the faults of our community, take responsibility for them, and do whatever we can to clean them up — really clean them up. Otherwise we deserve the scorn of the goyim.

Closed for the Nine Days

Roughly half of all kosher meat restaurants in the area close during the nine days, according to Elan Kornblum, publisher of Great Kosher Restaurants Magazine. The Jewish Star caught up with the owners of three of those eateries in the Five Towns to ask how they would spend their vacation.



daughters."

Mitch Krevat – Burgers Bar

"We're cleaning the restaurant. This is our week: we're coming up with new recipes and I'm enjoying my



Moshe Orlofsky – Off the Grill

"I'm going to the gym to lose some weight and [work on] wedding preparations. I'm getting married on August 18th."



Eli Klinkowitz – King David

"I go to Camp Simcha Special for almost two weeks."

— Michael Orbach

SPORTS

Inter-shul baseball

| STANDINGS | W | L | RESULTS | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|--------------|---------|-----------|---|
| B.S. | 5 | 0 | WEEK 5 - JULY 26 | | | | |
| YINW | 4 | 1 | B.S. | 7 | V | B.T. | 2 |
| CHABAD | 3 | 2 | YINW | 15 | V | RED | 8 |
| SHTEEBL | 3 | 2 | SHTEEBL | 13 | V | YIH | 2 |
| YIH | 2 | 3 | CHABAD | 20 | V | ISLAND | 7 |
| B.T. | 2 | 3 | SCHEDULE FOR WEEK 6 - AUGUST 2 | | | | |
| ISLAND | 1 | 4 | FIELD 1 | | FIELD 2 | | |
| RED | 0 | 5 | 9AM | YIH V CHABAD | RED | V B.S. | |
| TOP 4 TEAMS MAKES THE PLAYOFFS | | | 10:30 | B.T. V YINW | ISLAND | V SHTEEBL | |

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THE KOSHER BOOKWORM

Kindness and Bereavement

How To Respond To Grief With Chesed and Torah Learning

Two recent books deal with the untimely death of a close one, each in a unique and different way. One involves the victim of an act of terror, the other the death of a young person through illness.



Alan Jay Gerber

Close relatives of the deceased wrote both books — in one, a husband, in the other, a father. Each drew from

their respective loss a positive lesson that they wished to share with others. That was to be their consolation and their way of sharing and extending the life of their departed relative.

“A Daily Dose of Kindness: Stories From The Heart — A Response To Terror,” was compiled by Shmuel Greenbaum in tribute to

his late wife, Shoshana, who, with their unborn child, was murdered in the bombing of a Jerusalem restaurant on August 9, 2001. Four months after the tragedy, Shmuel met with a group of friends to discuss a fitting memorial to his wife. The theme of the memorial was to revolve around what they could do to make the world a better place. From that meeting came the idea of a daily email newsletter to offer readers sto-

ries of kindness. The newsletter came to be known as “A Daily Dose of Kindness.” Eventually, an organization was formed called “Partners in Kindness.”

Over time, their efforts evolved into an anthology of short, to-the-point stories written by people whose busy lives prevented them from going into lengthy orations. Despite their brevity, each story adheres to the basic theme: how to make this world a better place. Among

the many personalities inhabiting the book's 280 pages is one of the prime founders of the Far Rockaway Jewish community: Rabbi Nachman Bulman, of blessed memory, the founding rabbi of the Young Israel of Far Rockaway.

Rabbi Bulman, a distinguished student of HaRav Joseph Soloveitchik of Yeshiva University, from whom he received his smicha, was a gifted teacher, lecturer, writer and translator of numerous Hebrew works into English. He was a fervent Zionist whose life's goal was to eventually settle in Eretz Yisrael, a goal which he attained for the last 25 years of his life. In Israel he was to continue serving as a rav u'manbig (spiritual guide and leader) in Migdal HaEmek in the Galil and later at the Nachliel Shul in Jerusalem, where his home became a center of Jewish learning and scholarship. Rabbi Bulman's daughter, Toby Katz, now of Miami, submitted a story in tribute to her father (see sidebar below).

For more information about Partners in Kindness visit the organization online at www.partnersinkindness.org.

The next book under review is “In The Grip of Bereavement: An Analysis of Ten Aggadic Legends in the World of the Sages” by Dr. Chaim Licht (Geffen Publishing House, 2009).

Dr. Licht was the devoted father of Danit, his beloved daughter, who passed away on November 15, 2000, one month shy of her 30th birthday. At the age of twelve she was diagnosed with brain cancer and she was to battle this disease with a determination that was nothing short of inspiring. In those years she was to graduate high school, serve in Sherut Leumi (national service), earn a bachelor's degree in education and become a teacher to her last days.

The book was prepared by her grief stricken father as his tribute both to her memory and to her life's work. Despite its title, it is not a halachic work on grief but a book of learning, a unique study as to how grief was confronted by our Sages.

Profiled herein are six stories in the world of the Tannaim (compilers of the Mishna) and four stories in the world of the Amoraim (compilers of the Tal-

mud). Among the Tannaim are treatments of the death of the son of Rabban Yohanan ben Zakai; Rabbi Eliezer's illness; the illness of Shimon, the son of Rabbi Akiva; the deaths of children in the time of Rabbi Akiva and the deaths of the sons of Rabbi Yishmael and Rabbi Meir.

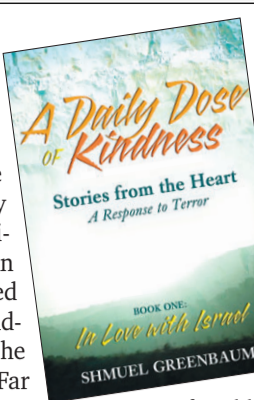
Among the Amoraim are detailed the death of the son of Hiya ben Abba; the death of the daughter of Rabbi Hanina; the deaths of the sons of Rav Huna's neighbor and the death of the daughter of Rav Shmuel ben Yehuda.

This is not only a book that consoles by example but is a book to be learned and studied from. It is a valuable book of history and aggadita, presenting in clear and concise language events in the lives of personalities who live with us till this very day in the pages of our Talmud. In addition, this is a scholarly work containing 200 detailed footnotes that enhance the content of the text, and a bibliography of twelve pages broken down by the categories of primary sources, encyclopedias, dictionaries, reference works, electronic databanks and commentaries. It is a veritable treasure trove and resource for every layperson to learn from and be further enriched from our people's heritage. The author, Dr. Chaim Licht, is to be commended for this excellent work; the memory of his daughter, Danit, is well served.

Other notes: The new edition of Hakirah: The Flatbush Journal of Jewish Law and Thought should be available in local bookstores. Back issues can also be ordered.

Also on tap is “And You Shall Surely Heal: the Albert Einstein College of Medicine Synagogue Compendium of Torah and Medicine” (Ktav, YU Press, 2009). Among those involved in this great effort is my dear friend, neighbor and fellow worshiper at The Red Shul, Rabbi Dr. Edward Reichman. This too, should be available in our local bookstores across Long Island and Queens.

Expected soon: “Aspects of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik's Philosophy of Judaism: An Analytic Approach” by Rabbi Dr. Shubert Spero. It's due from Ktav after Labor Day.



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Candles of Light
Excerpt from *A Daily Dose of Kindness*
My father was Rabbi Nachman Bulman. He taught Torah in Jerusalem for the last twenty-five years of his life, and counseled thousands of people from all walks of life.
Yesterday, when I lit my father's yahrtzeit (memorial) candle at the onset of the Sabbath, a story came to mind that he once told me. It was a small incident, but worth remembering.
About twelve years ago, when my father was the spiritual leader of a community in Migdal Ha'emek, he underwent surgery in nearby Haifa. There were complications. My father was very ill; he drifted in and out of consciousness for two or three days. My mother, or one of my brothers, stayed with him almost constantly, but late on Friday afternoon, my mother went home to make the Sabbath and my father found himself alone. As far as anyone knew, he was unconscious, but in fact, he was partly awake at times.
He knew that it was close to the Sabbath, and he was very, very depressed. He was thinking that he was all alone in the hospital and that there would be no Sabbath for him — nothing to make this day different from any other day in the ICU. While he was immersed in black and gloomy thoughts, two nurses came into his room.
One of them said, in Hebrew, “I am going to light candles in here.”
The other one said, “What for? The patient is unconscious, anyway.”
The first nurse said, “Even if he is, he is a big rabbi and spiritual leader and would want Sabbath candles in his room.”
Although his eyes were still closed, my father heard her light the candles and say the blessing. She said, “Shabbat Shalom” and left the room. At that moment his spirits were enormously lifted, and the oppressive gloom was gone.
My father recounted this story as an example of how a seemingly small act of kindness can help someone in a very big way. It was also, for him, an example of the kind of thing that distinguishes life in Israel. That nurse was not religious, though she was perhaps traditional, but she had respect for a rabbi and sensitivity to what he needed, beyond his immediate medical needs.
My father was tremendously grateful to her. He could not pray or make the Kiddush blessing on the wine on the Sabbath or do anything for himself. Without that nurse's thoughtful gesture, he would have had no Sabbath at all.

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CATSKILLS

Continued from Page One

shocked. Sosnowik is a captain in the New York City Police Department.

"We have hundreds of kids here," Sosnowik told the Jewish Star. "Kolko doesn't belong here."

When Sosnowik spoke to the gabbai of the yeshiva minyan he was told that Rabbi Tzvi Abba Gorelick, the dean and owner of Yeshiva of South Fallsburg, had declared Kolko to be "kosher." That night, residents of Pines Estates visited Kolko and apologized for their neighbor's actions the previous night. When Sosnowik met with Rabbi Gorelick to express his concerns Rabbi Gorelick maintained that the yeshiva must be "neutral" regarding Kolko, Sosnowik recalled. He quoted Rabbi Gorelick as saying that the issue was complicated by the "stigma" associated with child abuse.

One of Kolko's sons attended Yeshiva of South Fallsburg, Sosnowik said he was told.

"Am I the only one crazy here?" Sosnowik asked, "How could parents do this? How could yeshiva leaders do this?"

Rabbi Elya Ber Wachtfogel, the rosh yeshiva, vigorously

denied that Kolko was welcomed.

"We just said we can't throw him out; nobody knows him!" he exclaimed. "I don't even know him! I met him for the first time! People are making these assumptions [about the yeshiva's dealings with Kolko], they are making up things. I heard years ago about him [Kolko]. Some people say yes, people say no..."

Asked if he felt Kolko was a threat to children, Rabbi Wachtfogel replied, "I don't know."

"You can ask Binyamin Hirsch," Rabbi Wachtfogel said, then hung up.

He was apparently referring to Ben Hirsch, president of Survivors for Justice, an organization that advocates for and assists victims of child and sexual abuse in the Orthodox community.

Chaim Bloom, who attends the Yeshiva of South Fallsburg Kollel and lives in Pines Estates said that he wasn't comfortable with Kolko being around.

"I try to keep away from these things. To be honest, that's why I live in South Fallsburg and not Lakewood," he explained. "I didn't welcome him. I'd never welcome a child molester."

"I think people are paranoid or afraid of him because of the label he's been given, which has

never been proven in a court of law," said Jeffrey Schwartz, the attorney who defended Kolko against three criminal charges. "That has nothing to do with any sex-related offense. He was not registered as a sex offender. He never did admit to any sexually inappropriate conduct to any child."

Schwartz added that he believed that Kolko posed no danger and was "just a sick old

man, and should be left alone." He would let Kolko be with his own kids, he claimed.

Before moving to Pines Estates, Kolko lived in the summer-home community of Mesorah Woods in Woodridge, NY. On July 5, a community activist, Rabbi Levi Goldenberg, said he was asked by a concerned parent to help get Kolko out of the community. He described the parent as "very anxious."

"They seemed afraid of the

guy," he said. "The women were very concerned, watching their kids and not allowing them out of their sight."

Goldenberg said there were no legal means to force Kolko out of Mesorah Woods, since Kolko's plea deal with the Brooklyn District Attorney's office did not require him to register under Megan's Law, the registry of convicted predators.

"Maybe he did teshuva," one resident told Goldenberg,

"but let him do teshuva somewhere else." Kolko was persuaded to leave Mesorah Woods and moved to the Pines Estates on July 12th.

Sosnowik, the NYPD captain, was disheartened by the entire episode.

"Kolko pleaded guilty to child abuse charges. He didn't have to. He is guilty. If it's good enough for the criminal justice system it should be good enough for us."

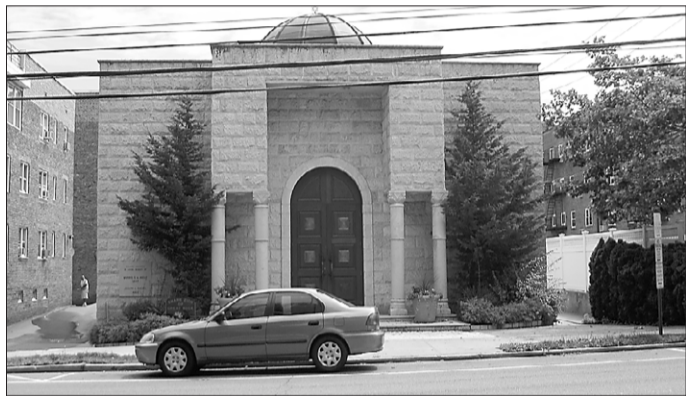


Photo by Michael Orbach

Shaare Zion, a Syrian shul in Great Neck

ARRESTS

Continued from Page One

go buy property in Israel for the future of Jews."

Much of the evidence was gathered by 30-something former real estate mogul Shlomo Dwek. He went to work for the government in 2006 after he was arrested for depositing a bogus \$25 million check at a bank drive-in window, then quickly wiring the money elsewhere.

In one recorded exchange between Dwek and a defendant, laundered money was referred to as "Gemarah." On another occasion, \$97 thousand was handed off in an Apple Jacks cereal box. A separate investigation also led to the arrests of a number of politicians including the mayors of Hoboken, Ridgfield and Secaucus. The latter resigned Tuesday night.

Rabbi Arnold Marans of

Sephardic Temple in Cedarhurst said the Sephardic community here is not "monolithic" and that his shul was European Sephardim and not close to the Syrian Jewish community.

"As a rabbi I feel embarrassed," Rabbi Marans said. "Am I going to call it a chillul Hashem? Let the trial take place."

Albert Edery, a prominent Syrian businessman sent out an email to his community on the day after the arrests.

"This has nothing to do with our Dear Rabbis it has to do with the Almighty showing us a sign," he wrote. "With the internet, print and TV the world can now know everything and unfortunately the people around us in Deal and Brooklyn will now ask What Kind Of People are These Jews..."

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