

THE JEWISH STAR

Serving the Orthodox communities of the South Shore

VOL. 7, NO. 9

FEBRUARY 29, 2008 | 23 ADAR I 5768

SOSUA: A DOMINICAN HAVEN

Museum exhibit explores refugee experience

Page 3

Arts & Entertainment

Special Issue

MAKING A MONTAGE

Your guide to creating the perfect slide show

Page 10

IN MY VIEW

Human problems

It's only a Jewish problem if it's ignored

BY RABBI YAKOV HOROWITZ

Cognitive dissonance: "The uncomfortable tension that may result from having two conflicting thoughts (cognition) at the same time...that conflicts with one's beliefs (dissonance is defined as 'lack of agreement, consistency, or harmony')... In popular usage, it can be associated with the tendency for people to resist information that they don't want to think about, because if they did it would create cognitive dissonance. They usually have at least partial awareness of the information, without having moved to full acceptance of it, and are thus in a state of denial about it" (Encyclopedia Britannica).



"It took a few deaths of frum kids from drug overdoses for our community to get their hearts in sync with the facts."

In the late 1990s, shortly after I began writing and lecturing about the topic of at-risk teens, a colleague informed me that Orthodox kids were selling significant quantities of drugs to other frum children. Here's basically the way it worked: if you were an adult or teen

who wanted to purchase drugs, you would go to designated pay phones in the Boro Park/Flatbush sections of Brooklyn and pretend to make a phone call. Then, using pre-arranged signals, you would indicate the type of the drug you wanted to buy. For example, placing a hand in your left pocket meant that you wanted to purchase ecstasy pills, while a hand in your right pocket signaled that you were looking for marijuana. Then, after you would flash hand signals informing the pusher of the exact quantity you requested, someone would approach you and close the deal.

After verifying from several sources that the 'intel' was correct, my colleague was faced with a dilemma: what to do with the authorities, he would be committing mesirah, turning fellow Jews in to the police. Additionally, we were raised to avoid anything that might cause a chilul Hashem — and having observant boys arrested for drug

See VIEW, Page 5

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

Blue Fringe

Jewish band's music appeals to wide audiences



BY YAFFI SPODEK

The Backstage club in Woodmere was rocking when Blue Fringe performed there for fans on Motza'ei Shabbat and Sunday. But the band's music resonates far beyond the Five Towns, since their songs can now be heard on Continental Airlines and will soon debut on national television.

"Two songs from our newest CD, 'The Whole World Lit Up,' will be played on Current, Al Gore's cable TV channel," disclosed guitarist Dov Rosenblatt, the group's lead singer and composer.

In March, a segment on Current about Jew-

ish orthodox weddings is to feature Blue Fringe's songs as background music. One is "Eishet Chayil," which Blue Fringe composed as an original melody with English lyrics and combined it with the chorus of a well-known traditional tune of the Friday night song. The second song is the band's own version of Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach's "V'shamru," which Rosenblatt described as being "a little more Death Cab for Cutie than Carlebach."

Death Cab for Cutie is just one of many

See BLUE FRINGE, Page 10

Shidduch lecture short on solutions

Mixed-seating weddings, mingling encouraged

BY YAFFI SPODEK

The shidduch crisis is a serious issue that our community is not willing to deal with, said Dr. Michael J. Salamon, addressing hundreds of people at the Young Israel of Woodmere on Monday night. However, he offered no practical advice about how to solve the problem that is plaguing the community.

"As a community, we're not doing enough to help singles," confirmed Rookie Billet, Rebbitzin of the shul, who was the second speaker of the evening.

"I don't have the answers...we all need to pray and put in our hishtadlut," she recommended.

Dr. Salamon is the founder and director of the Adult Developmental Center, Inc., a psychological consulting practice in Hewlett, N.Y., and the author of "The Shidduch Crisis: Causes and Cures," a book which attempts to explore the problems that exist with dating and matchmaking in the orthodox community. In the lecture, he cited rising divorce rates as proof that people are getting married for the wrong reasons, choosing spouses based on availability rather than compatibility. People also make these decisions based on the unrealistic and superficial criteria found on the ubiquitous "checklist" of so-called qualifica-

See SHIDDUCH, Page 6

Community concert notes many benefits

Musical event to raise money for Zev's Fund

BY MIKE CAPUTO

Debra Shershow and Gary Schall never met Zev Wolff, a cancer-stricken boy from Woodmere. Yet, both collaborated to organize an upcoming benefit concert for Wolff, to fund research to help find a treatment for the disease he has fought for the last two years.

In the School District 15 community, sometimes marked by differing educational opinions, the concert at Lawrence High School on Sunday, March 2, is expected to reap benefits beyond its philanthropic mission.

"It takes children to bring people together," said Shershow, who referred to members of both the public and private school communities.

Shershow, a music enthusiast from Far Rockaway, and Schall, Lawrence High School's music director, recently met by chance in a local music store. When Schall told Shershow about the concert, she felt

See COMMUNITY, Page 6



Mothers meet Tatiana Timoshenko (left) poses with her son's portrait, painted by artist Jodi Reznik (right). Courtesy NYPD

Art as consolation

Orthodox artist reaches out to mother of slain officer

BY MAYER FERTIG

After New York City Police Officer Russel Timoshenko was murdered last summer, artist Jodi Reznik couldn't get the 23-year-old out of her mind.

"I kept seeing his face," she said. So she decided to paint him.

"It was just the only way I could deal with this beautiful young boy's murder," Reznik said.

She downloaded his photo from the Internet — a thumbnail of him in his uniform.

"He just looked so handsome, so young and so fresh. I'm a mother. I have five kids. I have a son-in-law about his age. It was a catharsis for me."

Timoshenko, who was

born in Belarus, arrived in the U.S. in the early 1990s, when he was 9. He had been on the job just 18 months when he was shot twice in the face on July 9, 2007 during a routine traffic stop in Crown Heights. He died five days later.

The painting hung in Reznik's workshop, next door to a barber frequented by police officers who kept asking about it. Finally, she decided to give the painting to the young officer's mother, Tatiana.

"I wanted to communicate in some way and art really bridges all cultures and all languages," she explained.

Police Commissioner Ray Kelly's office arranged for the two women to meet in the office of Chief Joseph Fox, See ART, Page 6

Inside

Opinion4
Calendar7

Sports8
Classified9

Shabbat

Candlelighting: 5:27 p.m. ■ Shabbat ends: 6:28 p.m.
Torah reading: Parshat Vayakhel

PRST STD
US POSTAGE PAID
GARDEN CITY NY
11530
PERMIT NO 301



Sign up for FREE* home delivery of THE JEWISH STAR

Please check the box and fill out the form below and mail to 2 Endo Blvd., Garden City, NY 11530 or fax to 516-569-4942

*Only valid in Nassau County

YES! Please deliver The Jewish Star to me every week.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
DATE _____ SIGNATURE _____

THE JEWISH STAR
2 Endo Blvd., Garden City, NY 11530

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

17350

SOUTH SHORE ESTATES, INC. SALES & DEVELOPMENT

Looking For The Perfect Home? Imagine Yourself in a New Construction
View Plans for Arbuttle Ave./ Cedarhurst & Sealy Drive/ Lawrence - New Custom Designs
Call Susan Hollander for a professional consultation 516-569-4980

516-569-4980
 e-mail: southshoreestates@yahoo.com



EDITED BY MIRIAM L. WALLACH

Dear That's Life,

My sixth grader recently returned from a friend's house and asked me to buy frozen pizza crust. He had watched his friend make pizza and wanted to try it as well. On the night he decided to make his own pizza, he lined up the ingredients he needed. Out came the frozen crust and the grated cheese, and then he stood in front of an open fridge and called out to me, clearly searching for a main ingredient: "Mom, do we have any marijuana sauce?"

After I finished laughing, I said, "No, but we have *marinara* sauce!" And then I took the opportunity to explain the difference between two words that both begin with "m" but have very different meanings.

DEBBIE SCHREIBER
 Woodmere, NY

Dear That's Life,

Having done some research

recently for work on health care in the U.S., I took the opportunity to watch "Sicko," the Michael Moore documentary. While Moore's choice of footage and subjects were deliberately chosen to elicit feelings of frustration from the audience as to the plight of the insured (not even the uninsured) in this country, they certainly accomplish the goal.

I myself, one of the millions of Americans who are fortunate to have health insurance, have had insurance claims rejected and could therefore empathize with those featured in the film. The moment I enjoyed most in the film is when Moore visits the cashier in an English hospital. Believing he can find something wrong with the universal health care system of certain industrialized countries, he visits England in hopes of catching them 'red handed' and this is one of those moments. Why would a hospital have a cashier, he argues, if the English do not have to pay for healthcare? He thinks he has them, until he finds out that the cashier is where patients get reimbursed for travel expenses. In effect, the hospital pays them. How unique.

Having sat with a family member last week in a New York City hospital (man, was that ER waiting room dirty), I could barely tally in my head the cost of 24 hours in the

emergency room which included a battery of testing and a complete work-up. Thank G-d, I thought, that the patient was insured. Tens of thousands of dollars in bills were racked up in a matter of hours, but because of the thousands of dollars spent on annual dues and premiums, all would be taken care of — isn't that what all of this is for, anyway?

We were asked to visit the discharge office before leaving the hospital. Bags in tow, coats already on, we answered some more questions (hadn't we already answered these?), signed some more paperwork, and rose to leave. And as our

backs were turned and we thought we were home free, the woman behind the counter said, "Excuse me, but you have a \$50 co-pay."

MLW

Dear That's Life,

Overheard last week from the disgruntled parents behind a curtain in NYU's Day Surgery recovery room:

"Would you like Mommy to hold you while Daddy goes to yell at someone?"

MAYER FERTIG

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



E-mail submissions to letters@thejewishstar.com, with your name and daytime and evening phone numbers. All decisions by the editors are final. All submissions become the property of The Jewish Star. Anonymous submissions will not be published. Burgers Bar is under the supervision of the Vaad Hakashrus of the Five Towns and Far Rockaway.

onlysimchas!

Celebrating Jewish Life

IN THE JEWISH STAR

Magid (Brooklyn, NY)- Feb. 21, 2008

Wedding

■ Wedding of Sara Marks (Cedarhurst, NY) & Yehudah Schochet (Fair Lawn, NJ)- Feb. 17, 2008

Birth

■ Birth of Shoshana Rachel to Efreim & Shuli Popel- Feb. 21, 2008

Engagements

■ Engagement of Shani Sklar (Teaneck, NJ) & Ariel Kopitnikoff (Elizabeth, NJ)- Feb. 23, 2008.

Bat Mitzvah

■ Bat Mitzvah of Chanie Shapiro (Chicago, IL)- Feb. 19, 2008

■ Engagement of Shmuel Chaim Padawer (Brooklyn, NY) & Rochel Leah



Sara Marks & Yehudah Schochet

To view entire galleries, please visit www.onlysimchas.com

CAHAL

THE COMMUNITY-WIDE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

is offering beautiful newly designed and colored



PURIM SHALOCH MANOS CARDS

Pack of 10 Cards : only \$18.00
 3 Packs (30 cards) : only \$50.00

Send PURIM greetings to family and friends while supporting this vital program for children with learning disabilities in the 5-Towns, Far Rockaway, and greater Nassau County.

Pick-up your cards today at:

CAHAL

540-A Willow Avenue, Cedarhurst, NY 11516
 (entrance in municipal parking lot)

Or to place an order, call 516-295-3666
 fax 516-295-2899

or e-mail: cahal@cahal.org

Visit our Web Site
WWW.CAHAL.ORG



HAFTR celebrated its 30th Annual Scholarship Dinner on Saturday evening, Feb. 23, at Woodbury Jewish Center. At left, Guest of Honor Helen Friedman shown with her son, Hillel (not shown, Mannes Friedman); Michael Schreiber & Scott Sulzberger, Co-Presidium of HAFTR



and Melodie Scharf & Monica Glaubach, PTA Co-Presidium. On right, Yachad Awardees Eli & Riva Goldschmidt, Scott Sulzberger, Co-President, Melodie Scharf & Monica Glaubach, PTA Co-Presidium and Michael Schreiber, Co-President.

Weissman REALTY GROUP, LLC
 335 Central Avenue, 2nd Floor
 Lawrence, NY 11559
 P: 516.791.6100
 P: 516.374.7059

Avi Newmark
 Managing Director
 917.512.5442

Jackie Friedman
 Licensed Sales Associate
 516.526.8841

www.weissmanrealty.com



Hewlett Open House
 397 Hamilton Avenue
 Sun. 3/2 • 12 - 1:30PM

- 5 Bedrooms
- 3 full bathrooms
- Master Suite
- Eat in Kitchen
- High Ceilings throughout
- Anderson Windows
- School District 14
- Close To All

50" PLASMA TV WITH PURCHASE

Asking \$749,000

New Construction in the Heart of Hewlett. Close To All

Sosúa: a Dominican haven for European Jews

A new bilingual exhibition at the Museum of Jewish Heritage explores the Jewish experience in a foreign country

BY LISA SCHIFFMAN

It was recently discovered that Sosúa, an abandoned banana plantation on the northern coast of the Dominican Republic, was the site of a refugee haven for European Jews during World War II. This discovery was made by the constituents of N.Y. State Senator Eric Schneiderman, who comprise the largest Dominican population in the United States. Subsequent research revealed that in response to pogroms against Russian Jews, the Dominican government extended an invitation to European Jews to resettle there.

Traveling to Sosúa in 2004, the senator saw stacks of boxes with documents pertaining to Sosúa at the Jewish museum there. "There was a long and completely unprecedented history in terms of a commitment on the part of the Dominican Republic to get Jews to come to their country," he told *The Jewish Star*. "I knew I had stumbled onto something of deeper cultural significance."

Realizing that few people in the Dominican or Jewish communities knew about Sosúa, Senator Schneiderman became determined to get the word out.

In 2005, in cooperation with the Senator's office, the American Jewish Congress, The Museum of Jewish Heritage, the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute, and the SOSUA Jewish Museum, the Sosúa Project was launched. That effort resulted in a new bilingual exhibit in English and Spanish — Sosúa: A Refuge for Jews in the Dominican Republic — which opened last week at The Museum of Jewish Heritage.

Through archival film, photos, original documents and settlers' videotaped testimony, the exhibit explores the Jews' experiences from 1940 to 1945, highlighting the role of the Dominican government in welcoming the refugees. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee recruited the refugees and supported the Dominican workers who helped the Jewish immigrants build an agricultural settlement there.

"It's a wonderful possibility to tell the story of a country willing to take in Jewish refugees when others didn't," said museum curator Ilona Moradof.

Despite Hitler's rise to power and the escalating violence in the 1930s, the Nazis still allowed Jews to emigrate. At the Evian Conference in 1939, the Dominican Republic, led by the country's dictator, General Rafael Trujillo, renewed an offer he had made back in 1935 to resettle European Jews.

Trujillo's offer was quickly embraced by President Franklin Roosevelt and American Jewish philanthropic organizations. The Dominican Republic Settlement Association (DORSA), a subsidiary of the New York-based American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, was established. Through their funding, the first group of European Jews arrived at Sosúa in 1940, with the goal of establishing an agricultural settlement. By the war's end in 1945, 500 Jewish refugees had found a safe haven there.

"We didn't know where to go — no country would take us," recalled settler David Kahane.

Sosúa offered the only chance for salvation. Travel documents on display reveal the harrowing trip the settlers took from Europe to The Dominican Republic, which often took weeks or months.

Ruth Kohn, 81, of Passaic N.J., who emigrated there from Germany with her family in 1940, described her experience being strip searched at the French border. "My parents had no money — we left Germany with \$10," she recounted.

Not allowed to bring valuables, Kohn wiped away tears as she spoke of how her father persuaded a border guard to let him bring the family's silver Shabbat candlesticks, which she still has.

The exhibit also depicts the difficulties settlers had upon their arrival, including their

unfamiliarity with the language and climate.

"There were two barracks and a few shacks, no electric lights, and the mosquitoes were humming," said Kahane, noting the primitive conditions.

Before going to sleep, settler Barbara Steinmetz described having to check under her bed for tarantulas. As urban, middle class Jews, most of the settlers had no agricultural background, and limited knowledge of the Spanish language. Homesickness for the European culture they had left behind compounded their misery.

Over time, with the help of their Dominican neighbors and DORSA, the settlers cultivated the land, transforming their settlement into a thriving community, complete with a school, hospital, meat and dairy cooperative, shops, cultural activities, and a synagogue. Kohn, who trained as a nurse at 16, worked in the hospital. "One hundred children were born in Sosúa," she said with pride.

The exhibit also explores the shifting allegiance of the U.S. State Department. Initially, they supported the then thwarted settlers' efforts to bring relatives to Sosua, partly due to

entrenched anti-Semitism of State Department officials. However, this can also be attributed to their fear that a "Fifth Column" of spies could be lurking among the settlers. Though the Dominican Republic was willing to issue visas, the State Department's unwillingness to procure the necessary transit and exit visas stymied many settlers' attempts to bring family members to Sosúa. One poignant example on display is a letter sent by settler Franz Blumenstein requesting that his wife and son be allowed to come to Sosúa.

By war's end, most Sosúa settlers left to rebuild their lives in the U.S. or Israel to find missing loved ones, to engage in their pre-war professions, and to give their children greater opportunity for education. Kohn and her late husband left for the U.S. with their son in 1951. Others decided to stay. Today, a small yet diverse community still exists there. Yet, whether they left Sosúa or stayed, the settlers expressed overwhelming gratitude and affection towards the Dominican people for embracing them without prejudice for being Jewish.

So far, the exhibit has generated excitement in both the



Life in Sosua, the Jewish community of the Dominican Republic, which served as a refuge for European Jews during World War II. Children going to school, above. A shul, below.

Dominican and Jewish communities, Senator Schneiderman said. He hopes that the story of Sosúa will serve to bridge these two vibrant yet diverse communities.

"The Dominican Republic has a unique history when it comes to the shrugging off the influence of anti-Semitism when it permeated the world in the early 19th and 20th centuries," he emphasized. "This is a story of bravery, generosity, compassion and mutual respect between these two peoples."



10th Anniversary Chizuk Mission to Eretz Yisrael Rosh Chodesh Nisan 5768 / April 2008

You've spent countless evenings staying up late for Limud HaTorah...

Dirshu



Anniversary

...JOIN US FOR A MOST SPECIAL EVENING

Learning, kollelim, yeshivas, bechinos, stipends... Dirshu has always been more than the sum of its parts. It is a family, a vision, a movement and a revolution that has energized limud HaTorah throughout the world. Your commitment to learning is the Dirshu ideal. That is why we hope you will join Dirshu members and lomdei Torah

from all corners of the map in celebration of Dirshu's 10th Anniversary and to strengthen limud Hatorah in all of Klal Yisroel. This milestone event will honor the phenomenal accomplishments of Dirshu members, including over 10,000,000 blatt Gemara and more than 100,000 simanim of Shulchan Aruch learned and tested.



Including a special address by Hagaon HaRav Matisyahu Solomon, Shlita, who will be joining Dirshu for this historic event.

Call 1-888-5-DIRSHU for more information.

Special reduced travel rates are available in limited quantities.

If you are unable to attend and are interested in a video hookup of the Dirshu Tenth Anniversary Kinnus near you, please call 1-888-5-DIRSHU.

THE JEWISH STAR

Serving the Orthodox communities of the South Shore

MAYER FERTIG
Publisher, Editor-in-Chief
 YAFFI SPODEK
Assistant Editor
 PAUL SHAPIRO
Sports Editor

HELENE PARSONS AND KENNETH GOFFSTEIN
Account Executives

RABBI AVI BILLET, FELISA BILLET, MALKA EISENBERG,
 CIPI EISENBERG-SIMMS, MICHAEL FRAGIN, ALAN JAY
 GERBER, RABBI YAKOV HOROWITZ, LISA SCHIFFMAN,
 RABBI AVI SHAFRAN, DAVID SEIDEMANN, JONAH STEIN-
 METZ, MIRIAM L. WALLACH, CHANANYA WEISSMAN

Contributors
 ALYSON GOODMAN
Editorial Designer

The Jewish Star is an independent community newspaper. All opinions expressed are solely those of The Jewish Star's editorial staff or contributing writers.

2 Endo Blvd., Garden City, NY 11530
 (516) 569-4000 E-mail: Thejewishstar@aol.com
 fax: (516) 569-4942

The Jewish Star is published weekly by The Jewish Star LLC, 2 Endo Boulevard, Garden City, NY 11530. Postmaster send address changes to The Jewish Star, 2 Endo Boulevard, Garden City, NY 11530. **Subscription rates:** \$36 for 1 year, \$60 for 2 years, \$72 for 3 years within Nassau County. All other subscriptions \$54 per year. **Newsstand price:** \$1. Major Credit Cards accepted. **Copyright © 2008 The Jewish Star LLC. All rights reserved.**

Letters

Optimism turns tragic, local family in need of help again

To the Editor:

Last year a Far Rockaway family received considerable attention for a unique fundraising campaign launched on its behalf. The family sought financial assistance to buy a home in relative proximity to Yeshiva Darchei Torah, where their son, a young man with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a terminal degenerative disease that causes a progressive loss of muscle function, attends.

The fundraising goal included a down payment, retrofitting for wheelchair accessibility, and a pool of funds for the family's monthly mortgage payments.

Since last year, the boy's disease has progressed; he is completely wheelchair bound. But the campaign, which was a huge success, provided the parents comfort and security, even as they witness their son's rapid deterioration. Unfortunately, a number of unforeseen setbacks, financial and medical, have transformed their tentative optimism into deeper tragedy.

First, several earnest donors fell victim to the shifting economy and became unable to fulfill their substantial pledges. Then the boy's mother suffered a major medical event, which is ongoing, severely taxing the family's budget. With

the responsibility of running the household falling to the father, he is unable to earn wages to sufficiently support the family. Also, the need to hire daily health aid to care for the boy in lieu of his mother made matters direr still.

Construction has halted. While the original goal was comfort for the family within a suitable environment for a young boy stricken with disease, the issue now is the family's survival.

There are many things our community cannot do for this family. We cannot cure their son's disease nor assure the mother a complete refuah. And we cannot add hours to the day for the father to sufficiently provide for his family. But we can bolster the family's situation: relieve the unbearable pressure weighing on the father; provide the mother peace of mind needed to focus on her health, and grant them a measure of comfort and security they desperately need.

Every dollar they receive makes a difference. No doubt you are compelled to help. Simply acting on your desire will save this family.

Kindly direct donations to: Yeshiva Darchei Torah, and write "Mortgage Fund" in the memo.

Please mail checks to:

Yeshiva Darchei Torah
 c/o Mr. and Mrs. Mayer Gold
 917 Plainview Avenue
 Far Rockaway, N.Y. 11691

CHAIM & JUDIE HYMAN
Marine Park, Brooklyn

OPINION

What Lipa has in common with Death Cab for Cutie

Editorial

Art bears the power to inspire and to inflame. As if we'd ordered them up on demand, several stories in this week's issue — in which we take a modest look at aspects of arts and entertainment in today's Jewish world — allow us to compare and contrast opposing points of view.

The key question about art in the Orthodox world concerns the influences that are brought in to create something uniquely Jewish. Put another way, if the influences aren't uniquely Jewish, is the finished product sacred or, somehow, profane?

Two opposing points of view are clearly staked out on the front page.

Most fans of the popular Jewish band Blue Fringe are well aware that beneath the lyrics from Tanach and themes such as emunah, love for the land of Israel, and kibud av v'em, to name a few, lie some very varied musical influences. For example, in our

interview, a band member cited an obscure West Coast group called Death Cab for Cutie as an influence. Strange name perhaps, but the music it inspired — a new take on an old Carlebach tune — is beautiful.

On the other hand, our lead story looks into the background of a ban issued by a group of respected rabbanim that shut down a tzedakah concert before the curtain ever went up. Just before press time we learned that a deal to save the show had fallen apart and the event was cancelled.

The focus of the controversy is a chassidische singer named Lipa Schmelzer who has a lot more in common with Blue Fringe than you might suspect, were you to line him up next to the four Y.U. guys in the band. He draws on a variety of musical influences — in one

recently released tune he does a competent job as a lounge jazz singer — and that has definitely rubbed some people the wrong way.

Reporting that story was disconcerting; asking follow-up questions of a man recognized as a Gadol b'Torah is a delicate balancing act between studious derech eretz and professionally required persistence. Earlier that same day, another rav, also considered a Gadol, hung up as soon as the intended subject matter was made clear.

Also in this issue, a philharmonic performance — certainly not a uniquely Jewish art form — will soon raise money for a sick child, as will a yeshiva theater group; paint and canvas bring comfort to a bereaved mother, and a major museum exhibit examines a Jewish community where you might not have known that there was one.

Thanks for reading.

EYE ON ALBANY

Beware of buyer's remorse



Michael Fragin

It wasn't supposed to turn out this way for Hillary Clinton. With money, organization, endorsements and a demoralized Republican Party, Hillary was supposed to take her place as Clinton 44 as the book-end for Bush 43. In addition, she had a great asset in the person of her husband whose popularity among Democrats surpasses any other party figure.

Instead, it now seems as if everything has gone wrong for the junior senator from New York; despite wins in many of the biggest states in the nation, her campaign has been relegated to Rudy Giuliani pre-Florida status of "must wins" and firewalls. She has replaced her campaign manager and her deputy campaign manager. Her staff has been fighting openly in the press. Even Bill Clinton has turned into a campaign liability.

I am developing some sympathy for Clinton these days. It is clear that the public, the pundits, and the media have become enamored with the

phenomenon of Barack Obama. Clinton's team is trying desperately to bring everyone back down to Earth so that they can examine Obama based on record and not rhetoric.

The anger of the Democratic base, demonstrated by record turnouts in the primaries and caucuses of many states, has been fueled by anti-incumbent furor directed mostly at President Bush and the war. That fervor has had the effect of spilling over against anyone viewed as part of the establishment like Senator Clinton. Democrats have become increasingly enraptured with the call for change espoused by Barack Obama. The question to answer is: what does that change entail?

Voters should learn some caution from the campaign and slogans of our own Governor Spitzer, who clearly realizes after his first year of governing that change is easy to call for, but far tougher to accomplish effectively. During the Democratic primary of 2006, Tom

Suoizzi repeatedly challenged Spitzer's credentials as an executive saying that he was ill prepared to run New York State. John Faso repeated the same line in the general elections. However, Spitzer's lofty rhetoric and sterling reputation as an agent of change led him to a landslide victory.

In saying "Day One everything changes," Spitzer placed an impossible hurdle before himself. That hurdle has served as a stumbling block for the Governor, as seen in a new Siena poll which shows that a clear majority of New Yorkers have buyer's remorse over their 2006 choice and prefer someone else in 2010. Will voters feel the same about a future Obama presidency when changing Washington proves to be far greater a task than changing Albany?

♦♦♦

This week, the Board of Elections released the official numbers for the Feb. 5th primary. The Brooklyn numbers point to an alarmingly low turnout in the Orthodox community. The 48th Assembly District, encompassing Borough Park and Flatbush, came in dead last in turnout in the whole of Brooklyn. Whereas

many areas topped 40 percent, and one even had a 50 percent turnout, among registered Democrats, the 48th boasted a turnout of just slightly over 20 percent. That means that other communities had at least twice as much say in selecting the Democratic nominee.

We can put forward myriad excuses why our community did not vote. Perhaps voters didn't like the choices, maybe they don't care about the issues, or maybe they felt that they prefer to wait for the general election. All of these seemingly valid excuses are a profound disservice to the klal. It is an existential mistake to decline your right to vote. When experts from all political persuasions comb over the results, they will look carefully at who voted and who did not more than they will look at whom they voted for.

Much has been written about the perception of the power of an Orthodox bloc vote. If the Orthodox community continues to prove that vote to be an illusion we will see a significant decline in the amount of attention paid to its needs.

Michael Fragin is a veteran of many political campaigns, at all levels of government, who served in the administrations of Governors Pataki and Spitzer. He is now in the private sector and serves as a political advisor at Bottom Line Marketing Group. He lives in Lawrence.



Grand Opening
 MODEL NOW OPEN!
 OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 12PM-2PM

You Are Invited to A Home Staging Seminar

Thinking about selling your home this Spring? Join us for a free seminar on home staging. Interior design advisor Colette Whitney offers expert tips for styling your home to create a greater appeal to potential buyers.

Monday, March 3, 2008
 6:30 - 8 PM

Space is limited. RSVP required.
 Call 516-295-3605
 to reserve your seat.

The Plaza

360 CENTRAL AVENUE
 LAWRENCE, NEW YORK 11559
 PHONE: 516.295.3605
 WWW.THEPLAZA360CENTRAL.COM

No Board Approval
 Luxurious Cooperative Residences
 All homes renovated with new kitchen and bathrooms.
 1BR, 1 BATH: FROM \$407,500
 1BR, 1.5 BATHS: WINDOWED EIK FROM \$440,000
 2BR, 2 BATHS: WINDOWED EIK FROM \$595,000
 2BR, 2 BATHS: WINDOWED EIK & FDR FROM \$670,000
 3BR, 3 BATHS: WINDOWED EIK & FDR FROM \$835,000
 Brokers Welcome—Appointment Recommended

EXCLUSIVE MARKETING AND SALES AGENT:
 THE MARKETING DIRECTORS, INC.

Sponsor: Chester 360 Central Avenue, LLC.
 The complete offering terms are available in an offering plan from new Sponsor.



21691



Ask For Mario Or Judy At The Fish Counter

FLOUNDER
 STUFFED WITH
 SEAFOOD SALAD
\$9⁹⁹
 LB.

TILAPIA
 FILLET
\$5⁹⁹
 FAMILY
 PACK LB.

OUR FAMOUS
 HOMEMADE
 SALMON
 BURGERS
\$8⁹⁹
 LB.

Come by
 Thursday
 Noon-2pm
 and see what new
 recipe or sample
 we are cooking up

The New Yeshiva Teen Minyan, located at 850 Broadway, Woodmere, under the leadership of Rabbi Nachum Dinowitz, will be davening Shacharis this Shabbos at 9am. All teenage boys are invited. Full Kiddush to follow davening.

Sale Dates: Mar. 2 - 7
 Located in Gourmet Glatt Emporium
 137 Spruce St., Cedarhurst

21691

FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BENCH

Demanding accountability



David Seidemann

I couldn't find a needle to stick in my eye, nor could I find any iodine or rubbing alcohol to pour on an open cut. Instead, I watched a Democratic presidential debate on television. No matter how many different questions were asked, the candidates always seemed to veer back to the one answer they wanted to give. It didn't matter that their favorite answer was unrelated to the question.

As an attorney, I ask a lot of questions. When the witness is unresponsive, I ask again and again, until I receive the desired response. The moderators of the debate, however, refused to press the candidates to answer the questions posed. Had they done so, there might have been some real memorable exchanges. I would love to read transcripts of old debates — the ones involving our founding fathers — to see if they were more substantive. It seems as if history marches on, repeating itself, with only the names of the players changing.

Because I believe that, I'm not particularly worried about Nasrallah's recent comments that Israel's disappearance is inevitable and only a few years away. G-d

has promised that no nation will destroy us. I wonder, however, if that promise extends to Israel not to destroy herself. I actually believe that only Israel can destroy Israel, and that there is a greater chance that America will implode from within than be obliterated by an outside enemy.

If I ever became really smart, I'd write a book about democracy entitled "Democracy Misunderstood." In it, I would trace the origins of the movement towards democracy by our founding fathers and how it continues to be perverted and misapplied as time moves on.

When the application of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness results in policies that encourage or sustain elements that don't want you to live, don't believe in liberty and don't want you to have happiness, you are not living in a state of democracy. Instead, you are living in a state of denial. You are not living in freedom; you are living in fantasy.

It is a slippery slope, this democracy thing, leading to the ironic reality that the United States and Israel, the two para-

digms of democracy in the East and the West, find themselves bending over backwards to provide cover and opportunity to the very people bent on destroying them. Israel provides electricity to people whose life objective is to kill her inhabitants. The United States, in a similar vein, turns a somewhat blind eye to porous borders.

The Torah commands us to keep the laws of one G-d and to "live" while performing the commandments. Yet, if confronted with idol worship, as Jews, we must give up our lives. Why? Because when your behavior stands in direct contradiction to the principles that you are supposed to live by, you are, in essence, not living.

When the Jew, the source of monotheism, worships an idol, the contradiction renders his life a non-life. When democracy leads you down the path of providing aid and comfort to those who wish to destroy democracy, the result is a non-democracy. The result is the antithesis of democracy and the creation of non-life, non-liberty, and non-happiness.

Then there was the absolute silliest exchange in the debate, when I actually began looking for a needle to stick in my eye. Asked by the panel whether English

should be this country's official language, pandering to the large Hispanic audience in Texas, both candidates said that English should not be the country's official language.

Senator Barack Obama's answer was a little bit more digestible, when he remarked that everyone should learn English, as well as a second language, but that English should not be the official language.

Senator Hillary Clinton's answer sent me running for the alcohol. "English should remain our common unifying language, but not the official language," she said. She boasted of having voted against efforts that would make English our official language. What does it mean for English to be the common language but not the official language? Commoners should speak English and Officials should speak Spanish. If everyone has to learn English, then why the heck not make it the official language?

"We have 70 languages in New York, so English can't be the official language," she continued. Why not? And why Spanish? Why not change the street signs in each community depending on the population of that community? Just think of how many languages you can learn driving from here to Monsey. Why not rotate? Chinese one week, Yiddish the next and Creole the week after that.

But the line of the night, which had me begging my wife to poke me in both eyes, was served up as follows. Playing on

the fears of the less fortunate and immigrants, Senator Clinton said, "I do not think that we should be in any way discriminating against people who do not speak English, who use facilities like hospitals, or have to go to court to enforce their rights."

Name one. Name one heart attack victim brought to any hospital, anywhere in the United States, who was forced to take the SATs before being hooked up to an EKG. It didn't happen. And if it would have happened, you would have heard about it. There would have been a law suit, and someone (with hopefully me as the attorney) would be a billionaire.

Similarly, I have appeared in court hundreds of times over the last 20 years. I've represented criminal defendants that spoke all different languages. Each and every defendant was provided with an interpreter who not only spoke their language, but their dialect. No one received an appointment with the electric chair because they couldn't read English.

Politicians will never change what they are serving us unless we change what we are ordering. They will not be accountable unless we demand accountability. Until then, I will keep my needles and rubbing alcohol within close proximity.

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

IN MY VIEW

Continued from Page One

pushing would certainly be a colossal one.

We decided that I would represent him and present the quandary to the leading gedolim of our generation, among them my great rebbe, Reb Avraham Pam z'tl, at a meeting that was to be held later that month on an unrelated matter. During their [private] meeting, I presented the information and was asked thoughtful, probing questions by the gedolim on a broad range of issues related to this matter.

After a few moments of silence, the gedolim turned to Rav Pam, who was the eldest of the group and revered by all. With great pain in his eyes, he softly but firmly said, "Zei ale hobin a din rodef," meaning that the pushers

were presenting a clear and present life-threatening danger to the public and must be stopped at all costs. Then, like a Sanhedrin, they each rendered their p'sak, unanimously agreeing with Rav Pam.

My colleague shared the information with the appropriate authorities, an investigation was launched, and within six months several frum kids were arrested along with the ringleader, a 50-year-old Charedi man who was caught selling the drugs in the basement of a Boro Park shul, of all places. The arrests made headlines in the New York tabloids and were the lead item on virtually every radio station in the New York metropolitan area.

I mention this story in the context of the "Protecting our Children" series, 'The Monster Inside' and 'Safe and Secure,' for two reasons. Firstly, to make public the da'as Torah of our gedolim as it pertains to setting aside mesirah

issues when lives are threatened. And although I did not raise the issue of abuse in that meeting, I did receive clear and unequivocal p'sakim from gedolei rabbanim that verified abusers must be reported, as that is the only way to ensure public safety. (Note: I am not issuing a p'sak, merely sharing the ones I received. As with other matters, every individual who has a sheilah should ask his Rav and not rely on second-hand p'sakim.)

Another issue of great importance was the reaction of our community to the arrests — which, I am sad to say, was a collective, "Wow, can you believe that? ... Please pass the salt." It is noteworthy that for many months before the arrests, several of us lectured to standing-room-only crowds in Brooklyn practically shouting that frum people were pushing drugs to our children.

We kept speaking about it, but people didn't seem to get it. It took a

while — and a few deaths of frum kids from drug overdoses — for people in our community to get their hearts in sync with the facts that their eyes and ears were telling them. It was a classic example of cognitive dissonance. After all, we were raised with the notion that these things just don't happen in our Torah community. So, when we were faced with irrefutable evidence to the contrary, part of our minds just shut down, not willing to accept the harsh truth. But, as we are painfully realizing, the problems we face don't shut down while we struggle to adjust to new realities.

In addition to the 'standard' cognitive dissonance described above, two factors contribute greatly to its staying power in our community. The first is the fact that we are, Baruch Hashem, surrounded by evidence of the astounding successes of our Yeshiva/Beis Yakov systems: thousands of wonderful, spiritual teenagers.

How can the negative information we hear about compete with the superb things we see?

Additionally, there is a virtual media ban in our charedi papers on any negative news. Few things add to the disconnect and cognitive dissonance more than hearing frightening things about an event such as the arrest of a frum drug dealer or pedophile in the secular media, while our papers completely ignore its existence. We ought to be enormously proud of the first factor, but I suggest that we must end the practice of the second.

The only way to combat cognitive dissonance is to discuss these matters in our public squares, painful as it may be, which is why publications like this one deserve our appreciation for publishing these columns. Trust me, I wish there was a more discreet way to do this, and if any of our readers have any suggestions for creating venues for this dialogue, please

contact me with them. But in the meantime, I will continue to write these essays, as I feel that straight talk and education is the only way to significantly improve things.

In the darkest moments of our agonizing saga with the drug issue, I received a small measure of comfort and chizuk from a non-Jewish police officer who saw me close to tears during our discussions. "Rabbi," he said softly. "Your community is close-knit and family-oriented, so you were lucky to avoid the drug problem for an entire generation. The [19]90s for you is what the 60s was to us. This isn't a Jewish problem, Rabbi. It is a human problem. It only becomes a Jewish problem when it is ignored."

This column originally appeared in *Mishpacha Magazine*.
(c) 2008 Rabbi Yakov Horowitz, all rights reserved

**Don't Miss
These Upcoming
Special Sections in
THE JEWISH STAR**
**Mar. 14, Pre-Purim
Mar. 28, Pre-Pesach
April 18, Pesach Greetings**
**Showcase your services
or products to our loyal readers
in these sections**

**DEADLINE FOR
PRE-PURIM SECTION
Mon., Mar. 10th at 10am**

**To learn more contact our
advertising account executives**

**Helene Parsons
516-569-4000 x290
hparsons@thejewishstar.com**

**Ken Goffstein
516-569-4000 x292
kgoffstein@thejewishstar.com**

21689

Going to ISRAEL?
**The biggest and best
PHONE RENTAL
company is right here
in the 5-Towns!**



- No roaming fees
- Always be in touch
- Virtual US numbers
- Modem rentals
- Permanent SIMs
- ...and more!

**TALK
n'
save**

the leader in cell phone rentals for Israel



Talk'n'Save
207 Rockaway Tpke
Lawrence, NY 11559
www.talknsave.net
1-866-TALKNSAVE
(866-825-5672)
info@talknsave.net

NOW OPEN SUNDAYS 10 AM - 2 PM!

20750

BANNED

Continued from Page One

discussed] on the radio and in newspapers. It doesn't belong for the public to decide on issues that belong for Da'as Torah."

He refused to disclose the names of rabbonim he consulted.

"When we went out with the kol korei, every rosh yeshiva was tortured and made crazy — people were threatening them," Friedman claimed. Pressed for specifics about his claim of threats, he maintained that "it would be a chilton Hashem to write about it."

"Everything a person does has to be through Da'as Torah. Everything I do, I make sure to have Da'as Torah backing me," he claimed.

It seemed clear that Friedman risked embarrassment to the rabbonim he claims to revere, as the text of the ban was identical to that of a ban enacted in Israel last year, which succeeded in shutting down a joint performance of Mordechai Ben David and Avrohom Fried. It included references to Israel and called for a complete end to Jewish music concerts. That made it unclear if the document was intended to apply only to the Madison Square Garden event, or if American Charedi rabbonim intended to

follow the lead of Israeli colleagues and enact a sweeping prohibition against Jewish music.

In an interview with *The Jewish Star*, Rabbi Shmuel Kamenetzky, a rosh yeshiva in Philadelphia who signed the ban, said, "It is very general, you're right, but I don't think it will refer to all concerts. You have to have an outlet for kids."

Rabbi Kamenetzky confirmed that he had spoken to Friedman and said that he had understood that the request for the ban originally came "from rabbis in Eretz Yisroel. We didn't want to differ with them. It was expressed that certain performers...upset some people."

The Rosh Yeshiva was asked whether anybody had confirmed the origin of the request.

"It seems that it was a request from mouth to ear and everyone went along with them," he responded. "What they said was that it was a request from Rav Elyashiv and Rav Steinman. I didn't confirm that."

Asked if it is unusual for distinguished rabbonim to sign a kol korei on the say-so of one person, Rabbi Kamenetzky was candid: "Usually we meet together. This time, with time pressing, we did not get together. And maybe it was not the right thing."

The concert was supposed to have been a benefit for Simchat

Tzion, a group that makes weddings for orphaned brides and grooms in Israel.

Rabbi Avi Shafran, a spokesman for Agudath Israel of America, said he couldn't explain why the text of the ban would have been released without removing references to last year's concert ban in Israel, or why rabbonim would have risked jeopardizing their reputations by signing a document not carefully vetted for inaccuracies.

A second performer, Shloime Gertner, was said to have dropped out immediately, according to Hamodia, a Charedi paper that announced the ban. News of his withdrawal proved premature. As of Monday he was still in, although his name was removed from the concert web site on Monday night.

There's definitely a mystery here," said Shafran. "It wouldn't make sense for the rabbonim to say that somebody had pulled out if they are just setting themselves up to be disproved."

Late Tuesday afternoon Yeshiva World News (www.theyeshiva-world.com) reported that Schmelzer has also cancelled a concert scheduled for London in April.

Schmelzer, who lives in the Monsey, N.Y., area, was well received as the featured performer at a benefit performance in Hewlett Bay Park last year.

ART AS CONSOLATION

Continued from Page One

commanding officer of the NYPD's Patrol Borough Brooklyn South. Meeting Reznik and her husband, Jeff, who is her business manager, said Fox, reminded him that police officers are not all alone in an uncaring world.

"Russel Timoshenko's [murder] was a horrible tragedy and it becomes part of the scar tissue that we deal with," he said. "And sometimes we, in the police community, think that we're alone. We're not. The way that they were so personally touched is quite moving to me."

Recalling when the two women met, Chief Fox said, "Like true art, it cannot be described until you see it. No words can describe the pain, the emotion and love — mother to mother — when Jodi and Tatiana locked eyes."

The slain officer's mother "put out her hand to touch the picture," he recalled. "Her fingers were, perhaps, a sixteenth of an inch" away from the picture. "She didn't quite touch it, perhaps out of respect for the art. She said, 'It's him, it's him.'"

"When I met with Tatiana, it was almost like being menachem aveil," Reznik recounted. "There's nothing you can really say to a person to console them

for the loss of a child. But you want to know that there's something that you can give them."

Fox said he and his colleagues have almost a desperate, helpless feeling, in trying to console and help the Timoshenkos. "It's one of those things in life, you don't want it to be until you experience it," he said. "We can never do enough for Tatiana."

Now the families of other slain New York City police officers will see their loved ones memorialized in paint, as well. The Rezniks have committed to delivering a painting every number of months of an officer killed in the line of duty, known within the department as a Fallen Angel.

"With G-d's help we'll only go backwards," said Jeff Reznik. "We hope never to go forwards. Jodi has made a commitment to the police. The police have already brought us two more pictures."

The Rezniks sell Jodi's paintings as fine art and as unique gifts, and also offer custom framing services, and art classes, from their studio at 1305 E. 17th St. at Ave M. in Flatbush, Brooklyn. Their web site is www.jreznikstudios.com.

On cold days, officers assigned to foot posts in the neighborhood can often be found in the Reznik's studio, warming up for a few minutes.

The Rezniks are "friends of the NYPD, and friends of mine, forever," said Chief Fox. "They gave us a few minutes of feeling like we were part of bringing something good to Tatiana in honor of Russel."

SHIDDUCH

Continued from Page One

tions, he said.

Dr. Salamon believes that seminaries and yeshivas in Israel are partly to blame for teaching their students that there is no such thing as chemistry, and that the person only needs to match up to a laundry list of predetermined criteria.

"The checklist does not look at personality," he observed. "It looks at something totally divisive, such as how from a person is."

The speaker also expressed his disdain for the types of questions that are asked by the parents of singles when evaluating a potential date. He cited examples such as whether or not the boy wears jeans, if the girl davens in a minyan, and if they plan to have a television in their future home.

"We have given our children to systems in which we haven't kept checks and balances," Dr. Salamon

asserted. "This kind of approach forces us to refuse to deal with reality."

Dr. Salamon was advocating for the natural approach, saying that there should be more venue available at which singles can meet and mingle on their own in an appropriate setting, without the interference of a third party mediator or matchmaker.

He also questioned the widely accepted practice of monogamous dating: "I'd like to know the halacha that says you can only date one person at a time. According to the decision theory, a person needs to have options in order to make decisions."

"We are allowing our children to do this, and we are making no attempt to deal with this in a realistic fashion," Dr. Salamon continued, saying that much of the responsibility to rectify the situation rests with the parents.

After taking questions and comments from the audience, Rebbitzin Billet did encourage one pos-

sible solution, which was suggested by a woman in the crowd: mixed seating.

"If we make mixed seating at weddings for singles, that is one small step in the right direction," said Rebbitzin Billet. "If more people start doing it, it will become acceptable."

Another woman in the audience blamed the rabbonim and roshai yeshiva for perpetuating the shidduch crisis by discouraging mingling in natural settings. "The rabbis need to give permission for people to meet naturally," she said.

But, there is still the problem of singles who are not willing to attend these events in the first place, because of the taboo associated with them, another woman pointed out.

"It is up to the parents to teach their kids what love is all about," Rebbitzin Billet concluded, referencing "The Art of Loving" by Erich Fromm. "Love is not a feeling; it's a decision...It is hard work."

COMMUNITY CONCERT

Continued from Page One

compelled to participate in the event planning process.

"It is a nice way to show people you can raise money through music," she said.

Wolff, a five-year-old kindergarten student at HAFTR, suffers from neuroblastoma, a disease resistant to conventional drug treatments. Former school board president Dr. Asher Mansdorf, a neighbor of the Wolff's, helped spearhead a recent effort to raise money for medical research that may develop a new drug to help save Zev's life and the lives of other young patients.

On Dec. 25, a "Day of Learning" at the Young Israel of Woodmere raised more than \$160,000 for a charity effort that exceeded \$600,000 within a month's timespan.

Mansdorf described the District 15 community as "caring" and hopes events like the upcoming concert can be a step toward displaying the nature of "what the neighborhood really is" and dispel negative percep-

tions that are often raised.

Schall, a Woodmere resident who also leads the Lawrence Philharmonic, was approached by Mansdorf about the idea while organizing the group's schedule for this year. He happily obliged.

"There are so many levels to how this event serves the community," Schall said. "I fully appreciate an event like this [that] demonstrates how music can build bridges in the community."

Led by Schall, the Lawrence Philharmonic headlines the concert, entitled "The Joy of Jewish Music." Yuval Waldman, an internationally renowned composer and violinist, is also set to appear as a guest conductor and performer.

The Lawrence Philharmonic, which enters its 14th year, comprises a group of community musicians that range from age 14 to 89. It is known as an "inter-generational" group and is one of only a handful in existence, Schall explained.

Shershow and Schall worked together to create a comfortable environment for all audience members, including



Zev Wolff has been battling neuroblastoma for the last few years.

those with strict religious requirements.

The event will be held in the Lawrence High School Performing Arts Center, 2 Reilly Rd., on Sunday, Mar. 2. The pre-concert will begin at 2:30 p.m., followed by the philharmonic concert, scheduled for 3:30 p.m.

The tax-deductible admission will be \$5 for adults, \$3 for the first two children, \$2 for the third child, and \$1 for any child thereafter.

Youth musicians from pre-K through college are encouraged to audition for the pre-concert performances.

For more information or to reserve tickets in advance, call the Lawrence Philharmonic at (516) 295-7084.

Call me today to hear about these new optional features: New Car Replacement, Accident Forgiveness and Deductible Rewards.

(718) 268 1700

MARTIN LEVY
103-20 METROPOLITAN AVENUE
FOREST HILLS
MARTINLEVY@ALLSTATE.COM

Feature is optional and subject to terms and conditions. Available in select states now and in most states by 1/31/06 (subject to regulatory approval where required). Allstate Property and Casualty Insurance Company, Northbrook, IL. ©2006 Allstate Insurance Company

Interior Decorator On Staff

Designer Discount Fabrics

Come Visit Us @ Our New Location In New Hyde Park

- Upholstery & Drapery Fabric
- Custom Reupholstery & Drapery
- Trims & Vinyl Foam
- Slip Covers • Wood Finishings
- Workshop Open to the Public

1,000's of In-Stock Fabrics

FREE IN STOCK FABRIC On All Jobs Expires 3/29/08

QUILTING & DRESS FABRICS

Cotton Poly Cotton Satin, Linings **\$1.99** Per yard Expires 3/29/08

Basic Seat Upholstery

*Fabric FREE **\$35*** Expires 3/29/08

Lynbrook 393 Sunrise Hwy. 516-596-9205

Sarah's Quilt Shop New Hyde Park 18 Jericho Tpke. 516-327-5565 Huge Selection of Quilting Fabrics

Making a Simcha?

PLATTERS • Fish • Deli • Vegetable • Fruit • Cake

For all your Simcha needs!

All Inclusive Packages Available For:

- Weddings • Bar/Bas Mitzvahs • Bris
- Sheva Brachos • Aufruf • Shabbos Kiddushim

DROP OFF OR FULL SERVICE

Special Rates Available When You Book Your Simcha At Congregation Beth David of Lynbrook

J.J. Weiss 917.417.7039

Under the Vaad of 5-Towns and Far Rockaway

34 YEARS OF HOSPITALITY PASSOVER 5768

Connect with family in Connecticut

1 hr. 20 min from NY;
1 hr. 45 min from Boston

Dellectable cuisine, superb accommodations and excursions await you in the picturesque setting of Litchfield Hills of Southbury, Ct.

Special Group Rate for 4 Rooms or More

RAFTING • BIKE TOURS • INDOOR TENNIS • GOLF • DAILY CHGL HAWMOED TOURS • DAY CAMP • NIGHTLY ENTERTAINMENT

CME CPE Credits While you vacation

Mandy VIM'S HOLIDAYS

IN NYC CALL 718.998.4477
OUT OF NYC CALL 800.464.VIMS
WWW.VIMSHOLIDAYS.COM

WWW.PARTYSOURCENY.COM

A complete party rental company

Deliveries to Brooklyn, Queens, NYC, All Long Island
We focus on Customer Service !!

THE PARTY SOURCE

Frozen China & popcorn machines, toasters, & of course, tables and chairs

Ballroom Chairs
Gold, Silver, Mahogany, White, Black & Natural

Hot Dog, Candy & Ice Cream Carts,
Mini Donut Makers, Cotton Candy & Pretzel Machines

Linen, Stages and Cooking Equipment

315 Pearsall Avenue, Cedarhurst
(Adjacent to Spitz & Peck and across from Stefan's)

516-569-PARTY (7278)
718-337-PARTY (7278)

THE JEWISH STAR

Please note our **Advertising Deadlines:**

- Monday at 10am
- To Reserve Your Ad
- All Artwork is Due Tuesday at 10am

To Reserve, Please Call **(516) 569-4000** and speak to: **Helene Parsons ext. 290** or **Ken Goffstein ext. 292**

Sharing the horrors of Sderot

BY MALKA EISENBERG

Alon Davidi was blunt.

"I am here to bring the story of Sderot to all the Jews of North America," he said. "We need to feel that you care, that all the Jews will be beside us and they will say 'you are our hero.'"

Davidi, a resident of Sderot and the chairman of the Sderot Security Committee, is on a mission to present the worsening situation in his town to Jewish communities in North America. His goal is to garner emotional and monetary support.

He'll join Rabbi Avi Weiss and Rabbi Etan Mintz at a demonstration in front of the United Nations and the Israeli consulate in Manhattan at 12:30 p.m. on Mar. 2.

That evening, Davidi intends to bring the horror and trauma of the ongoing war in Sderot to the doorstep of Jewish communities on Long Island and on the Rockaway Peninsula. He'll make his pitch at Congregation Ohav Tzedek, 134-01 Rockaway Beach Boulevard, in Belle Harbor at 7:30 pm.

"We need the support of all the kehilot," he said. "It's not just money. Do a mission to Sderot, not just to Jerusalem."

Established in 1951, Sderot has absorbed immigrants from Kurdistan, Iran, Morocco, Romania, Russia and Ethiopia. It is 900 meters from the Gaza Strip. Since the first Kassam rocket was fired toward Sderot on Apr. 16, 2001 nearly 7000 Kassams have been fired into the western Negev; over 400 rockets were fired in the two months of this year. Thirteen people have been killed. The emotional and economic toll on the people is devastating.

In a follow-up conversation with *The Jewish Star*, he noted that during an earlier interview a 10-year-old boy was seriously injured by a Kassam that scored a direct hit to the boy's house.

Davidi, who was born in Be'er Sheva, learned in the Hesder Yeshiva at Karnei Shomron and served as an officer in an elite unit in the IDF. He and his wife, Nurit, moved to Sderot 12 years ago. He is a winner of the Jerusalem Conference Prize for Jewish Bravery.

"It's not like the war in Lebanon that's over in three months," he said. "It's day after day. The children are afraid to go outside, they sleep on the ground in a bomb shelter, if they have a bomb shelter. We can't say it's not our problem. We have to care about our brothers."

At the beginning of his talks, many listeners are unfamiliar with the situation, but after a film and his descriptions they say, "Can you get us an apartment? We are coming on a visit, we want to stay in Sderot," he recounted. "We want to spend some time there while we are in for Pesach."

"We need you to help, to do activities to say that we are together, to feel like a big family," stressed Davidi. "Send postcards and letters. When my father was dying of cancer, my mother and I could not help him get better, but we could stay with him to show that we loved him and that we care." That's what we need, he continued, "maybe we can't solve the problem, but you can be with us."

"Hamas doesn't just want to kill the Jews in Sderot, they want to destroy Israel, they want to kill all the Jews in the world," emphasized Davidi. "The Israeli Government sacrificed Gush Katif and Hamas continues to want to destroy Israel."

"In the last seven years we have not had one silent minute," he said, "Day after day we are running to save our lives. We are heroes, but heroes can fall."

Sponsored by Americans for a Safe Israel and American Physicians Fellowship for Medicine in Israel. For more information go to: www.apfmed.org or www.natesderot.co.il. Donations may be sent to: One Israel Fund "Sderot", 1175 West Broadway, Suite 10, Hewlett, NY 11557.

ON THE Calendar

Cedarhurst - The JCC of the Greater Five Towns Teen Chessed Corps presents the award winning film Paper Clips on Saturday, March 1 at 8:00 p.m. The film will be followed by a question and answer session with selected members of our Holocaust Survivors Group, who participated in this monumental project. Light refreshments will be served. The JCC is located at 207 Grove Ave. in Cedarhurst. For more information or to register, call Sharona Arbeit at (516) 569-6733, ext. 218.

Long Beach - The Young Israel of Long Beach will host its annual Robert Chiger Scholarship on Motzaei Shabbos, March 1 at 8:30 p.m. The concert will feature the renowned musical entertainer Baruch Levine, child prodigy Simcha Levinstein and Benny Amar who will entertain the audience with their vast repertoire of popular Chassidish Jewish music. It will take place in an intimate setting at the YILB Social Hall, located at 120 Long Beach Blvd. in Long Beach. For more information or to order tickets, call Rabbi Chaim Wakslak at (646) 285-5301.

Lawrence - The JCC of the Greater Five Towns "Magic of Caring" family entertainment series presents "Magic Beyond Imagination" with Bob McEntee on Sunday, March 2 at 3:00 p.m. at Temple Israel. This unique program combines fun, magic, comedy, musical routines, storytelling and audience participation with an emphasis on positive values. Please bring a small magic trick or gift to be included with Mishloach Manot that will be distributed by our Teen Chessed Corps. The fee for this event is \$6. Temple Israel is located at 140 Central Ave. in Lawrence. For more information or to register, call Sheryl Wyszowski at (516) 569-6733, ext. 222.

North Woodmere - Congregation Ohr Torah will host a Defensive Driving Course on Sunday, March 2 at 10:00 a.m. The cost for this course is \$50. Upon completion of this Defensive Driving/Accident Prevention Workshop, participants will receive a certificate that will entitle them to get a 10 percent discount on auto liability, personal injury protection and collision insurance for three full years, as well as reduce up to four violation points from your NYS driving

record. This is a NYS-DMV approved six-hour course and all principal vehicle operators, regardless of violation or accident record, are eligible. Checks and payments should be made out to Congregation Ohr Torah, located at 410 Hungry Harbor Road in North Woodmere. For more information, contact Zamira Neuman at zneumann@ohrtorah.org or call (516) 791-7989.

Belle Harbor - Congregation Ohav Zedek will host of a visit by Alon Davidi, Sderot resident and chairman of the Sderot Security Committee, to discuss the worsening horrific security situation for the people of Sderot Israel on Sunday, March 2 at 7:30 p.m. This event is sponsored by AFSI and American Physicians Fellowship for Medicine in Israel. Congregation Ohav Zedek is located at 134-01 Rockaway Beach Blvd. in Belle Harbor. For more information, call Mike Frogel at (917) 478-7047.

Oceanside - The Young Israel of Oceanside will host guest speaker Cynthia Braun as she spends two hours helping the audience learn how to "Organize Your Life!" on

March 4 at 8:00 p.m. At this event, you can buy a raffle to win one hour of organization time, valued at \$75. This evening will include a PowerPoint presentation as well as handouts to use at home. The Young Israel of Oceanside is located at 150 Waukena Ave. in Oceanside. For more information, call (516) 764-1099.

Cedarhurst - The JCC of the Greater Five Towns Kosher Culinary Institute will host cooking classes throughout March. "Magically Transformed Leftovers" with Naomi Ross will take place on Wednesday, March 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. "Cold Buffet" with Riki Fishbein will take place on Wednesday, March 12 at both 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. The JCC is located at 207 Grove Ave. in Cedarhurst. For more information, call Sheryl Wyszowski at (516) 569-6733, ext. 222.

Lawrence - The JCC of the Greater Five Towns Israeli Film Series continues with "King of Beggars" on Wednesday, March 5 at Temple Israel at 8:00 p.m. Temple Israel is located at 140 Central Ave. in Lawrence. For more information or to register, call Sheryl Wyszowski at (516) 569-6733, ext. 222.

Oceanside - The Young Israel of Oceanside will host a pre-Purim three-part lecture series through-

out March. Rabbi Jonathan Muskat will speak on "Taanit Esther - Happy Day Or Sad Day?" on Wednesday, March 5 from 8:00 to 8:45 p.m. Rabbi David Friedman will speak on Wednesday, March 12 from 8:00 to 8:45 p.m. Rabbi Ozer Glickman will speak on Tuesday, March 18 from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. Men and women are invited to attend. The Young Israel of Oceanside is located at 150 Waukena Ave. in Oceanside. For more information, call (516) 764-1099.

Merrick - The Chabad Center for Jewish Life of Merrick/Bellmore hosts Tots 'N Challah, an exciting program for Moms & Tots, on Thursdays until March 13 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Join with your child and other moms in celebrating Shabbat through Challah baking, story, song and art activities. There is no admission fee for this event. All are welcome. The Chabad Center for Jewish Life is located at 2083 Seneca Gate in Merrick. For more information or to RSVP, call Chanie at (516) 833-3057 or visit www.ChabadJewishLife.org.

Cedarhurst - The JCC of the Greater Five Towns' Book Review will meet to discuss "Pearl" by Mary Gordon on Thursday, March 13 from 10-11:30 a.m. The JCC is located at 207 Grove Ave. in Cedarhurst. For details, call Sheryl Wyszowski at (516) 569-6733, ext. 222.

THE ZONE DIET ☆ ATKINS ☆ SOUTH BEACH ☆ CALORIE CONTROL

TOD

Look Great for Pesach! Discover Kosher Diet Delivery

Kosher Diet Delivery is the original Five Towns diet sensation that makes it easy and enjoyable to lose weight, eat healthy and look and feel your best. Our mouth-watering meals are prepared with love in our glatt kosher kitchen and delivered right to your doorstep every morning by 5AM! In each delivery, you'll find all of your **freshly prepared**, never frozen kosher meals for the day including breakfast, lunch, dinner, and incredible snacks and deserts!



Since 2003 Kosher Diet Delivery has helped thousands of people just like you achieve their goals by taking all the guesswork out of dieting! You won't have to shop, or cook, or measure and count calories either. All you have to do is eat the incredibly delicious food we send you and lose weight! What could be easier?

We'll take into consideration your goals, gender, height, weight, age, and physical activity level in determining your portion size and the makeup of your meals.

GET A FREE WEEK OF MEALS!

For a very limited time, new clients will get a **FREE WEEK** of meals added to their first 31 day program!*

Call now for a free consultation with a friendly and experienced nutritionist.


www.kosherdietdelivery.com
(800)354-3122

There is only one Kosher Diet Delivery. Please don't be fooled by our imitators.





* Free week offer limited to new clients. Limit one per household. Limited time offer. Other restrictions apply. Call for details.

Ogorek leads Wildcats to first round win

Senior guard drops 28 versus cross-town rival

BY ARI MIRZOEFF

Normally when a team plays five games in five days, they get worn out. However, the DRS Wildcats were a fine-tuned machine on Monday night when the North Shore Stars came to the Green House.

From the opening tip, this game was all DRS. Captain Mordy Ogorek seemed to be everywhere in the first quarter. The Wildcats' star guard nailed four three pointers in the first quarter alone to give DRS an 11-point lead going into the second quarter, 20-9.

In the second quarter, it was more of the same for the Wildcats. The team defense continued to cause turnovers,

leading to odd man rushes and easy lay-ups to extend the DRS lead to as many as 18 in the first half. Going to halftime, the Wildcats were on top 33-16, led by Ogorek's 22 first-half points.

To start the third quarter, the Stars went on a 6-0 run to cut the lead to 33-22. But the Wildcats didn't let the quick start by North Shore slow them down. DRS went on 14-5 run, which essentially ended the game and North Shore's season. The Wildcats went on to win this first round playoff game 62-43 and may have proven to themselves and the league that they are for real. Ogorek led all scorers with 28 points and center Yehuda Williams added 15 for DRS.

Williams attributed many things to the Wildcats' victory, including the fans

in the DRS Green House and the coaching staff, but he looked to Ogorek as the key to this win.

"The leadership that Ogorek took upon himself as soon as the game started was incredible, from start to finish," the senior center said.

Ogorek refused to take all the credit. "[The seniors] knew what was at stake," he said. "And we knew at the get-go that we had to get going early on [in order to beat a team like North Shore]."



DRS's Mordy Ogorek during Monday's 62-43 win over the North Shore Stars.

Stars sneak past Wildcats in JV contest

BY JONAH STEINMETZ

DRS and North Shore played another game earlier this week – a first round junior varsity playoff matchup on Sunday night. This was an extremely low scoring game, with neither team reaching the 20-point mark until the fourth quarter. The Stars led throughout the game, finally eking out a 27-26 victory, behind the solid play of leading scorer Andrew Haft and a great defensive effort from Nissim Nigri, who had three blocked shots in the afternoon.



Wildcats win second straight DRS-HALB Invitational Tournament

BY ARI MIRZOEFF

Over the weekend, DRS won the 2nd annual DRS-HALB Invitational Tournament. The tournament, which was held in

Tournament MVP Mordy Ogorek alongside Yehuda Williams celebrating the perfect weekend.

Woodmere on the Wildcats' home court, had a nationwide feel with yeshivas from Baltimore, Cleveland, and Memphis making the trip to Long Island.

On the first day of the tournament, DRS routed Cooper from Memphis. The team then escaped in a tight match up against the Fuch's Mizrahi

School from Cleveland on Friday, and, finally, the Wildcats defeated Rambam from Baltimore on motzei shabbos.

Going into Sunday's championship game against Rambam-Baltimore, DRS had beaten all of the other competition. The Wildcats now needed to stop a team looking for some revenge.

Led by the Wildcats' big three — seniors Mordy Ogorek, Yehuda Williams and Daniel Schindelheim — DRS coasted to a 72-55 win. Williams led all scorers with 18 points and Schindelheim followed with 12. Ogorek was named the tournament's most valuable player.

Playoff Results

Boys Varsity Basketball
No. 8 DRS Wildcats 62,
No. 9 North Shore Stars 43

No. 3 North Shore Stars 27,
No. 2 DRS Wildcats 26

No. 5 North Shore Stars

Boys Junior Varsity Basketball

Girls Junior Varsity Basketball
No. 4 Kushner defeated

Boys Varsity Hockey
No. 6 HAFTR Flames 2,
No. 11 Magen David Warriors 1



VIGNETTE
Modern Roman Shades

NEW! Versatile Light Control from Top to Bottom

Vignette® Modern Roman Shades with the new Top-Down/Bottom-Up design option offers top-down or bottom-up operation for flexible light control and added privacy. Contact us for a free consultation today.

Up To 6 Months
• No Payments
• No Interest

HunterDouglas

Lenny Koegel
516-594-6010

Serving the Five Towns and surrounding areas since 1988

©2007 Hunter Douglas Inc. Registered trademark of Hunter Douglas Inc. www.distinctivewindowfashions.com

Maintaining Happy Marriages

With nationally renowned speaker **M. Gary Neuman, M.S., LMHC**

Young Families for OHEL and the JCC of the Greater Five Towns Invite the Community to the Second of a Series of Three Lectures Focused on **Strengthening Families.**

When: Tuesday March 4th, 2008

Time: 8:00 pm

**Where: JCC of the Greater Five Towns
207 Grove Avenue, Cedarhurst, NY**

For more information or sponsorship opportunities, please call 516-569-0947

M. Gary Neuman, M.S., LMHC is a nationally renowned psychotherapist, Rabbi and captivating lecturer on the topic of elevating married life. An author of numerous books and professional articles, Mr. Neuman's work has received national media coverage including multiple appearances on programs such as Oprah, and Good Morning America.

Forthcoming Lecture: Keeping Our Kids Safe, with Barry Horowitz, LCSW-R

A service to the community presented by the OHEL Long Island Office and the JCC of the Greater Five Towns

Ohel
Celebrating 100 Years of Service

OHEL acknowledges State Senator Dean Skelos for his continued support of this program.

The Association of Jewish Camp Operators presents the

2ND ANNUAL Jewish Camp EXPO & CONFERENCE

APRIL 1, 2008 • 1 PM - 8 PM
THE ROSE CASTLE
380 FLUSHING AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

The Event is targeting the hundreds of Jewish Camps & Day Camps in the USA, including the heavily concentrated Tri-State New York & New Jersey region.

Exhibitors will include a variety of services ranging from Attractions, Arts & Crafts, Beds & Bedding, Charter Buses, Kosher Food Service Providers, Kitchen Supplies & Equipment, Insurance, First Aid & Health Equipment, Telecommunication Services, Supplies & Furnishing, Judaica, Computer & Web Design, Credit Card processors, Pool Supplies, Prizes & Novelties, Video Presentations and much more.

If you provide services or would like to target this specific clientele, this is your chance to reach hundreds of decision makers,

- Owners • Operators • Directors
- Administrators • Managers • Purchasers
- Program Development & Staff

An Event by **SHAULE!**
events & marketing

TO EXHIBIT... TO ATTEND...
Tel. 718.633.0733 Tel. 718.633.5646
Fax. 718.633.5647 Fax. 718.633.5647
shaule@shaule.com events@shaule.com

www.shaule.com

Sponsored by **THE JEWISH STAR**



The ABCs of montage making

Photographer and filmmaker Judah S. Harris shows you the steps to create a winning montage for your next family celebration.

A slide show is a perfect entertainment addition to any occasion, be it celebration or special event. Using one of several software programs, including PowerPoint, anyone can create an original slide show, and even children can be involved in the production process. With a little practice and a lot of patience and creativity, you can combine photos, text, and music into something fun for your guests to enjoy and learn from.

It's crucial to keep the entire audience in mind. Limit the length to 10 minutes, not 15, and make things interesting by applying some of the following tips:

Structure your montage:

Every story has a beginning, middle and an end. When you arrange your photos, try to create a few or more "chapters," which are different in content or in pace. Look for ways to divide the montage into sections. Switch the music when the sections shift in subject or mood to signal this change to the audience.

Finding good photos:

As you wade your way through albums, shoeboxes and envelopes, or digital files in virtual folders, try to choose the photos that look the best to you. Search for pictures that have good expressions, a captured moment, and a clarity that is discernible in the print or in the digital file. Pictures that are out of focus or stained can be included if they are still able to impart a feeling. The presentation does not need to be perfect, only interest-

ing.

Try to select the photos that will best serve the montage. For a 10-minute presentation you'll need at least 120 photos. Figure about four or five seconds on screen for each photograph. But since you want to vary the pace of the show, some photographs will be on screen for less time, maybe two to three seconds. The music might dictate a quicker pace or you may be running through a series of images that can be digested quickly.

As a viewer, I want to meet your son or daughter in the montage. I'd like to get to know a bit about who they are and how they spend their time. Take some new photographs for the montage that portray unique aspects of your child's personality or interests.

Another idea is to have your child write down some of their feelings about this milestone. Choose some of these meaningful words and expressions and insert them as title slides at later points in the montage. The audience will appreciate hearing from your child and the text on screen will provide an occasional alternative to the many photographs being



Photo and design by Judah S. Harris

shown.

Sequencing:

Generally you'd want to start off in the earlier years of your child's life and progress from there. But, if you want to be clever, you can start off today, to establish the present, and then return to the earliest times in your child's life and proceed forward. When sequencing photographs, try to include different types of shots, some taken from further away and some closer up.

Transitioning between photographs:

Software applications used to create slideshows offer many types of effects and transitions. You can change the colors of your photos, flip them, overlay type, and do all sorts of fades and wipes and other types of alterations. My personal philosophy is to use effects minimally and transitions modestly.

Music:

Your best bet is to choose songs that

you and your child like. Your job is to match the music to the images on screen. Sometimes the themes of the songs or the styles of the melodies dictate where they are most appropriate. In most montages of the length we are discussing, you should have three or four songs in mind. Don't feel you have to use all of the song, from start to finish. Fade in and out at any point. In one montage, I mixed a country folk singer together with a Carlebachesque rendition on acoustic guitar, and added the Yeshiva Boys Choir's "Vahavta" at the end.

One of the important things you'll need to do once you have the music down is adjust the pacing of the slides. You want to change on the beat, so it's best to leave the transitions until a later stage.

Are we done yet?

When your slide show is completed, it's time to take a break for a couple of days and then come back to it with fresh eyes. You may discover changes, even subtle ones, which will improve the presentation. Titles and credits are also part of a montage. Credit the creators of the montage and the musical artists who sang or played in the background.

Check the specs of your particular slide show software for information about making DVDs of your finished montage. Some programs even let you upload directly to YouTube, iPods and BlackBerrys.

What I do:

Slide shows can be very effective and very moving, but I also like the idea of combining slides with video. For one Bat Mitzvah girl's celebration, I made a 10-minute film that included lots of family photos, four hand-picked songs, and original video footage. I opened the film

with a scene of the girl playing piano, and soon after we see her drawing. Later in the film, I showed her baking cookies with her brothers and her mom. Interspersed between these moments and the family photographs were a number of interview segments. I really wanted the audience to get to know the girl and to hear from her in her own words as she shared her interests in music, art, gymnastics, and her feelings about becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

A few days before the event, I showed the finished film to the girl's mom at the family's home. We watched on a laptop together, and though I had seen the film 18 or 20 times already, there is always an excitement I feel when presenting something to someone for the first time. After I hit "play," I watched both the screen and the mother almost simultaneously. Her reaction was one that makes all of the hours that go into these projects totally worthwhile.

Create a great montage for your event and you'll be able to experience the same thing.

Judah S. Harris is a photographer, filmmaker, speaker and writer. His work can be seen at www.judahsharris.com/visit and in a semi-frequent e-mail newsletter, combining essays and photographic projects, that circulates to thousands of readers. Readers can contact him at judah@judahsharris.com.

This piece is a short excerpt from a longer article. To learn more details about making the perfect montage and to get additional tips from Judah, connect with him online at www.judahsharris.com/montage-making.

BLUE FRINGE

Continued from Page One

bands which serve as role models for Blue Fringe, and which span the spectrum from Moshav to the Beatles to Dave Matthews.

"We very much identify with other bands who inspire us and who have taken the same route as us with what they've done and with the views that they express through their music," said guitarist Avi Hoffman.

Hoffman sings harmonies for the band, along with Rosenblatt. Rounding out the musical quartet is Hayyim Danzig on the bass, and drummer Danny Zwillenberg.

Since their inception in 2001, Blue Fringe has produced three CDs. Their first, "My Awakening" debuted in 2003, and included the popular song "Flipping Out." Their second, "70 faces," was released in 2005. "The Whole World Lit Up" came out in December and "was very different because as opposed to being origi-

nal music, it is a derivative of traditional melodies, like those of Carlebach," Rosenblatt explained. "Our intention was to modify those tunes."

With each of their albums, the band has been experimenting with different sounds.

"Overall we are just maturing a lot, and coming into our own and learning from each other's influences," said Hoffman. "As our tastes grow and change, our music is representing those changes and developments."

"All of us have such different

styles and musical taste, so that's part of our unique sound that comes from a combination of our unique styles — funk, pop, and rock — and when we combine all those genres, it helps," added Rosenblatt.

The group has already started working on their fourth CD, "which will go back to original songs," Hoffman confirmed. "People can look forward to something coming out soon."

"Since we're not on a record label, we work on our own time to make sure we are happy with

everything," said Rosenblatt. "We try to play as many shows as we can while working on new material."

In May, Blue Fringe has a gig scheduled in London. They have also performed in Israel, Australia, and South Africa, and across North America as well.

The band members are also pursuing other careers, both within the music industry and outside of it. Hoffman gives music lessons, teaching kids how to play guitar, while Rosenblatt is working on a folk pop genre of music

called "Fools for April." Danzig and Zwillenberg currently are enrolled in graduate school.

"It's been quite a trip to play in front of people who have really been into what we're doing and the art we're creating," enthused Hoffman. "What we all like best is making great music. We appreciate everyone's support and feel lucky to be able to enrich as many people's lives as we can. We don't take it for granted because not many people get the opportunity to be as lucky as we've been."



PURIM CARDS

All newly designed and brightly colored cards have been created and packaged by children with special needs.



YOUR PURCHASE PROVIDES

Valuable financial support to:

- enable KULANU to maintain its high academic standards.
- promote KULANU's programs to the families in and outside our community.
- honor the KULANU children who prepared these cards for you.

Kulanu Purim cards are sold in an assorted pack of 8 at \$18 per pack or 3 packs of 8 (24 cards) at a discounted price of \$50

TO ORDER

Call Rachael 516-569-6664

OR e-mail Rachael@kulanukids.org

KULANU
PO BOX 305

Cedarhurst, New York 11516
www.kulanukids.org

KULANU is a local Jewish organization that provides inclusion, support and advocacy services in social, religious and educational areas to individuals and families with special needs.