

THE JEWISH STAR

Independent and original reporting from the Orthodox communities of Long Island



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IN MY VIEW

Truth and untruth

Lawsuit based on a big lie

BY ASHER MANSDORF

Last week, a federal judge refused to issue a temporary restraining order to block the closing of the Number 6 School. Why? Because she is of the opinion that this latest lawsuit by a small group of parents against the Lawrence school board has little chance of success on merit. The case is not over, though; further proceedings will take place.

Generally a suit by parents against a school board is unremarkable, but this one received national attention. It accuses the school board of trampling the separation between church and state, claiming, "The Orthodox (Jewish) majority on the Board of Education, in a concerted effort to divert public monies to support the religious precept of Yeshiva enrollment, and in order to establish Orthodox Judaism as the official religion of the Lawrence Union Free School District, has utterly abandoned its duties to the innocent public school children who they are elected to serve."

It also reinforces "The Big Lie." George Orwell defined "The Big Lie" in his classic novel, 1984, as "to tell deliberate lies while genuinely believing in them, to forget any fact that has become inconvenient, and then when it becomes necessary again, to draw it back from oblivion for just so long as it is needed."

You know how it works: Never allow the public to cool off. Never admit a fault or wrong. Never concede that there may be some good in your opponent. Never leave room for alternatives. Never accept blame. Concentrate on one opponent at a time and blame him for everything that goes wrong. Unfortunately, people will believe a big lie sooner than a little one, if you repeat it frequently enough.

This latest lawsuit, the most recent iteration of the distorted tale of the evils of the Five Towns Orthodox Jewish community, is "The Big Lie." It is more than idle gossip and rumor. It ignores fact. It attempts to legitimize bias in a socially acceptable form. It maligns an entire law-abiding community that happens to be different than the plaintiffs when it claims that Orthodox Jews are unfit to serve on the school board. It is racist. It is classically anti-Semitic. It is as overtly heinous as

See VIEW, Page 5

Dr. Asher Mansdorf is a trustee and past president of the Lawrence Board of Education. He practices dentistry in the Five Towns.

The Third Temple?



Photo courtesy Aish HaTorah

No, you didn't miss the memo about Moshiach. A scale model of the Beis Hamikdash was lowered by crane this week onto the roof of the new Aish HaTorah museum overlooking the Kotel. **Story on Page 7**

Eating disorders in the Orthodox get new emphasis

First kosher program tailored for frum women

BY TOVA ROSS

In a reflection of the rising rate of eating disorders in the Jewish community, the country's oldest residential facility for women with disorders such as anorexia and bulimia now offers a track specifically for Orthodox Jewish women.

Since it opened its doors some 25 years ago, the Renfrew Center in Philadelphia has maintained an inclusive atmosphere that welcomes patients of all faiths, but as the years passed, and as the number of Orthodox patients in Renfrew increased, the center's leaders decided it was time to create a program to accommodate the religious population. This past April, Renfrew officially launched a specific track for Orthodox women.

"The staff at Renfrew is well-aware of how close-knit the Jewish community is," explained Cindy Shore, Renfrew's assistant vice president of northeast operations. "Since familial and communal support is so important to the recovery process, we've started providing group programs sensitive to Orthodox Jews to give those patients an even better chance at recovery."

Eating disorders affect between 3-5 percent of the general population over their lifespan. According to Dr. Marcia Kesner, a psychotherapist who specializes in treating self-harming behaviors, and who works with Orthodox patients in Brooklyn and Manhattan, the numbers of girls in the Orthodox Jewish community suffering from eating disorders may be higher than in the general population.

"Shidduchim pressures," Kesner explained. "Boys are sophisticated enough and have learned what a size 2 is and they are asking through their parents or through their shadchanim for a girl who's that size." On a more positive note, Kesner added, the Orthodox community is better prepared to deal with such issues than it was a few years ago.

"A key component of this track is that it allows women to relate more comfortably in therapy groups with others who share their background and values," said Dr. Esther Altmann, a clinical psychologist and consultant to The Renfrew Center for its new program serving EATING DISORDERS, Page 8



Dr. Esther Altmann

How I spent my summer vacation



Noam Katz and his father, Marc, Bar Mitzvah-riding through Philadelphia

Philly to West Hempstead: Pre-Bar Mitzvah charity bike ride

BY MICHAEL ORBACH

Noam Katz found a novel way to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah: riding his bike to raise money for charity.

This past Sunday, he and his father, Marc Katz, drove down to Philadelphia and

See SUMMER, Page 10

Lawrence teachers lose bid to teach less

Arbitrator can't find 'the beef' in union grievance

BY MICHAEL ORBACH

An arbitrator has upheld the Lawrence School District's decision to divide the seven-hour school day into eight-periods instead of nine. The Lawrence Teachers' Association claimed a breach of contract because its members must now teach an additional nine minutes in each period. Each teacher now teaches a total of five periods of 51 minutes each, instead of just 42 minutes

under the old arrangement.

The change enables students to spend 20 percent more time with their teachers, who earn an average of \$95,000 annually, but the LTA claimed a breach of contract worth close to \$1 million dollars — based on the \$85 hour rate for teacher overtime in Lawrence.

"It is rather difficult to understand exactly what the beef is," explained

See LAWRENCE TEACHERS, Page 3



Photo by Susan Grieco

Baby not included

Leora and Nahva Bindiger check out children's items offered at the Cedarhurst Sidewalk Sale. **More photos on page 10**

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Shabbat

Candlelighting: 7:35 p.m. ■ Shabbat ends 8:37 p.m.
Torah reading: Parshat Re'eh

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That's Life

Edited by Miriam L. Wallach

Dear That's Life,

Admittedly, I am pretty cheap by nature. Coupons are close friends of mine and there is nothing that makes me happy like buying something off-season. However, as I have learned in my ripe old age, my time is worth money. Shopping online, for example, is not merely a convenience but a necessity. Making returns or bringing something back to a store has to be worth my while — one moldy kugel is not enough to send me to a customer service desk. I also, for example, would not wait on hold for an interminable length of time for a (lack-of) customer service representative to return a fraction of my bill to me, no matter how many other things I could be doing at the same time. There may be a method to my madness, but my madness does have its limits.

My friend, however, has much greater staying power than me. Bothered that her order from The Children's Place did not reflect the 10 percent discount automatically due to her for using a Children's Place credit card, she called the customer service number to request an adjustment to her bill. Don't get me wrong — she deserved the \$12 she wanted to see credited to her account. Where we differed was on the wait she endured to speak to a human being: an hour and 55 minutes later. No, that's not a typo, an hour and 55 minutes before the hold music was finally replaced by an actual live voice.

We cheered as her hold number moved from #59 down through the countdown. #24 seemed like a major accomplishment and #5 was downright thrilling. While I argued against spending her time and cell minutes on hold, listening to really bad muzak, she was determined to reach a real person and get her money back. We wondered if she'd even be speaking with someone in this country or if the wait time was so long because there was only one Bangladeshi woman tending to the customer service line.

But she was not frustrated by the wait, the wasted minutes on her phone ("My minutes are free") or the wasted minutes of her life. The moment we had been waiting for finally arrived. We almost couldn't believe our ears as a live person answered the phone: "Thank you for holding."

As my friend explained the purpose of her call she added that she had been on hold for an unfathomable length of time and wanted to speak with a supervisor. "They're aware," she was quickly told, and after asking for some sort of compensation for the time spent (and the torture the rest of us endured listening to tunes that make John Tesh seem like Beethoven), she was offered a half-off coupon for her next order. Time actually spent on the phone with a Children's Place representative? About 45 seconds.

Despite my steady commentary and relentless mockery during nearly two hours on hold, the coupon and the automatic adjustment of her previous order left my friend feeling completely redeemed and very forgiving. She was a happy camper, already looking forward to receiving that coupon and using it on a future purchase. So after all of that, I guess the customer service representative deserved a pat on the back and a "job well done." Not only did she refund the 10 percent but also she somehow managed to make my friend smile and feel successful regardless of the two-hour wait. Even Jewish mothers aren't that talented.

B If something happened to you "that could only happen around here," you've got to share! Was it funny? Outrageous? Hopefully, it wasn't too painful. No matter what, if you type it up and sent it to letters@thejewishstar.com you'll have a chance to win a \$25 gift certificate to Burger's Bar on Central Avenue in Cedarhurst — in other words, you could win an outstanding meal at one of Nassau County's most popular kosher restaurants. Submissions should include your name, your town, and your daytime and evening phone numbers. Sorry, but anonymous submissions cannot be considered. All decisions by the editors are final and all submissions become the property of The Jewish Star. In case you were wondering, Burger's Bar is under the supervision of the Vaad Hakashrus of the Five Towns and Far Rockaway, and plays music you can find on MLW's iPod.



Engagements

- Engagement of Arianna Mazurek (Great Neck, NY) & Adam Muskatt (Forest Hills, NY) — August 9, 2009
- Engagement of Sholom Ber Shuchat (Caracas, Venezuela) & Chaya Mushka Orenstein (Crown Heights, Brooklyn, NY) — August 2, 2009
- Engagement of Shael Sokolowski (New York, NY) & Sheera Berkowitz (Englewood, NJ) — August 2, 2009
- Engagement of Mordejai Davidsohn (Mexico) & Estrella Cattán (Mexico) — August 2, 2009

Wedding

- Wedding of Sarah Dray (Israel) & Adam Davis (Israel) — August 4, 2009

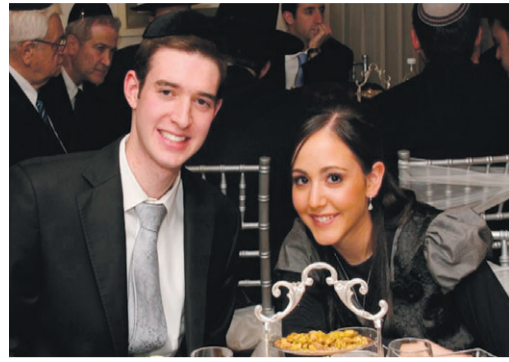
Aliyah

- Aliyah of Beth Finkelman (West Hempstead, NY) — August 3, 2009

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IN THE JEWISH STAR



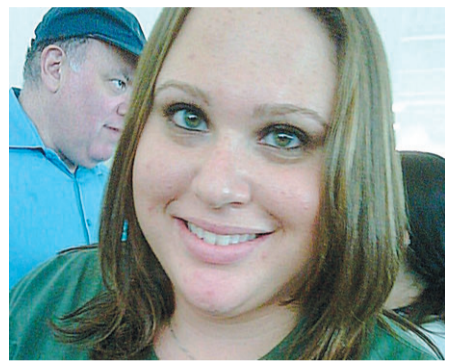
Mordejai Davidsohn & Estrella Cattán



Arianna Mazurek & Adam Muskatt



Shael Sokolowski & Sheera Berkowitz



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After-hours doc with a touch of Disney

New urgent care clinic for kids in Lynbrook will cut down trips to ER



Photo by Susan Grieco

Dr. Robert van Amerongen of Priority Pediatrics Urgent Care.

BY MICHAEL ORBACH

When Dr. Robert van Amerongen decided to open an own urgent care clinic for children he spent five years looking at the best clinics in the United States. Then, he went to Disney World.

Dr. van Amerongen, a Five Towns resident who is chief of the pediatric emergency department at New York Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn, even received a diploma from Mickey Mouse himself.

That partially explains why Priority Pediatrics, the clinic van Amerongen will launch by late August, offers a different slant to the standard medical model.

"When people go to Disney world, what's the most memorable experience? It's not a ride... What they almost always say is the magical moment is when a staff member helps them get on a ride, or took care of any hassles, or had a nice interaction [with them]," van Amerongen explained. "[At Priority] health and safety are number one, but number two, we're making this an exemplary experience. I don't want people to compare us to the emergency

room, and say how good we are. We want parents to compare it to any experiences they've had with their children and say what an outstanding experience it was."

An unlikely statement from a doctor whose clinic will treat asthma, Strep, ear infections, dehydration, broken bones and other maladies of childhood, but just to be on the safe side, Van Amerongen had a theme park company design the clinic.

Priority Pediatrics, the first urgent care clinic in the Five Towns area solely for children, intends to fill the gaps between regular office hours at the pediatric practices that treat its patients. It will be open on weekends and on weekday evenings from six to midnight.

"If your child gets ill or injured and it's after-hours and your pediatrician is closed, or it's on the weekend, or he's on vacation, you're only option is to go to the emergency room," van Amerongen explained. "But emergency departments are only designed for critically injured or ill patients and they're not as efficient when it comes to patients who are not as sick."

Van Amerongen described the idea as a "no-brainer" based

on his experience in the emergency room.

"90 percent of the children I see in the emergency department, we fix them up and send them home," he said. "90 percent of those children could just be easily served in an outpatient urgent care center."

He also added that hospitals make money on admission, and that there is a degree of pressure to admit children, but not at Priority Pediatrics.

"We're solely working for the good of the child," van Amerongen asserted.

He also stressed that all staff members at the clinic will be highly trained, unlike at emergency rooms that are sometimes staffed by medical residents who are still in training.

The clinic is not intended to replace pediatric offices and will not offer well-care services such as vaccinations or 'well checks.' Van Amerongen believes that

the clinic will work in partnership with local pediatric offices, sending them follow-up reports of their patients.

Dr. Joseph Rozenbaum, a pediatrician at Long Island Pediatrics in Cedarhurst, welcomed the development.

"I think it has a place in the pediatric population, because parents are much more worried about their kids having a fever. If an adult wakes up

with a 104 degree fever in the middle of the night, he'll go back to sleep," asserted Rozenbaum. "It's very rare for an adult doctor to get called in the middle of the night. It's us poor unfortunate pediatricians that get called."

In other words, doctors keep business hours; kids don't.

The waiting room of Priority Pediatrics is a children's mock-up of London, an idea which came to van Amerongen after his eleven-year old daughter suggested what would become the Priority Pediatrics logo: a teddy bear dressed as a Buckingham Palace guard.

"Kids like teddy bears," van Amerongen explained. "And he's guarding their health."

"We want parents to compare it to any experiences they've had with their children and say what an outstanding experience it was."



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LAWRENCE TEACHERS

Continued from Page One

Arbitrator Jack Tillem in his decision. "Yes, the teachers complain that the additional 9 minutes per period has created a heavy burden on them by requiring them to do more work at home preparing lessons and marking papers. Yet, in all candor I thought that teachers always had to do work at home."

Under the new schedule security employees replace teachers as hall monitors, the lunch period is increased and non-teaching time for teachers is increased as well.

"There is nothing whimsical or shooting from the hip about the change. It makes a lot of sense," Tillem wrote.

In explaining the change, School Superintendent John Fitzsimons mentioned the shifts occurring in the district, from an increase in poverty, judged by the 49% of the school population now on free and reduced lunches, and a new racial composition with 57-58% of the school district being Black and Hispanic and white students making up the minority.

"We were really anxious to see if we could take a look at what we were doing programmatically, and what we have some control over," wrote Fitzsimons. "We don't have control over the racial composition. We don't have control over the level of poverty. We don't have control over the fact that many [students] are recent immigrants. What we do have control over is how we distribute time."

David Sussman, a fifteen-year veteran of the school board, considered the decision a victory.

"This is a real win for the children and the taxpayers of the district. It vindicates the vision of our superintendent who believed this was within the confines of the contract and it would help the children. It's a real vindication."

Sussman also noted that Lawrence public school teachers are amongst the highest in the county, with the average salary at 95,000 per year, not including medical, dental, and pension.

"If one was to put all those factors in, our average compensation package is probably worth another twenty-five thousand dollars above that," he said. "Our compensation reflects our understanding of how valuable the job [the teachers] do."

Members of the LTA could not be reached for comment.

THE JEWISH STAR

Independent and original reporting from the Orthodox communities of Long Island

MAYER FERTIG
 Publisher, Editor-in-Chief
 MICHAEL ORBACH
 Assistant Editor

MALKA EISENBERG, TOVA ROSS
 Reporters

HELENE PARSONS, MAURY WARSHAUER
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RABBI AVI BILLET, ALAN JAY GERBER, MICAH D. HALPERN,
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 LACH, CHANANYA WEISSMAN

Contributors
 ALYSON GOODMAN
 Editorial Designer

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

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Letters

Pointing fingers

To the Editor:

If the Orthodox Jewish community in general, and the Syrian Jewish community in particular, ever wanted greater evidence of the mire and morass it presently wallows in, it need look no further than the recent article by Rabbi David Bibi missive labeled "Don't Point Fingers" (In my view; August 7, 2009).

The moral of the story evinced by Rabbi Bibi would be laughable if not for the sadism to our Torah that it breeds and champions. Does this rabbi actually believe that being an accomplice to murder is a true indication of friendship? To what end? What was the lesson learned? That the son can continue to get in fights at bars, kill those he chooses at his tainted discretion, taking solace with the knowledge that if he gets into trouble he can always count on his friends to hide the body? Friendship is not collaborating in a heinous criminal act. Rather, the son's true friends would be those who would shun the son at first sight so that he may come to understand that violence, murder, and the breaking of the law are not to be tolerated on our world.

Rabbi Bibi rhetorically asks what crimes the rabbis committed in merely helping a man who pleaded with them that his children had no food on the table. In the first instance, if food was the issue, give the man food to eat — not money to launder. Moreover, if food was the only concern, why the 10 percent fee which was retained by those who engaged in the transaction? Lastly, we must instill in the hearts of all that the ends simply do not justify the means. Irrespective of whatever good cause exists, we cannot evade and violate the law (and the halacha) in the process.

Rabbi Bibi ends his ignominious epistle by directly fingering the "traitor among us." To the contrary,

without the "traitor," these criminal and illicit actions would have remained unimpeded, and would have continued with no examination of the actions of the leaders of the community ever having been undertaken.

The fact that Rabbi Bibi has twisted and contorted the Torah to lend its imprimatur to these iniquitous actions is reprehensible for him. The fact that we as a community might allow Rabbi Bibi to remain in his position while he endorses such views is reprehensible for us. We can no longer afford to stand pat and must ensure that the honor and nobility of the Torah is restored. Silence, to the extent it ever was, is no longer an option.

NATIV WINIARSKY
 President,
 Congregation Magen David of
 Belle Harbor

Rule of law applies to everyone

To the Editor:

If a friend comes to my door dripping blood and asks me to bury the body, a) He's no friend of mine and, b) I'd call the police (Don't point fingers; August 7, 2009).

What kind of nonsense are you pushing? The people accused of these crimes aren't idiots or children. They knew darn well that what they were doing was illegal. They don't live in Jew-hating czarist Russia where Jews had no choice but to game the system in order to survive. They live in a free country where the rule of law applies to everyone.

The courts will decide their fate on earth. G-d will deal with their souls. Your attempt to white-wash the entire matter is pathetic.

TOM DRATLER
 North Miami Beach

Disgusting. Simply put, no other words are needed to describe the civil rights lawsuit recently launched by five parents in the Lawrence school district.

In the suit, the five parents — Tara Incantalupo, Stephen Jackson, Andrew Levey, Stacey Sullivan and Fu-Yun Tang — allege that the Orthodox Jewish residents of the Lawrence School District are engaged in a plot to control the Lawrence schools for their own sinister purposes. The allegation is bizarre; it reads like the plot of a fifties-era comic book or the script of a James Bond film. It would be quite funny were it not so serious. But it is serious, and a mockery of the civil rights the legislation was enacted to protect.

To whit, these parents accuse, "The Orthodox (Jewish) majority on the Board of Education, in a concerted effort to divert public monies to support the religious precept of Yeshiva enrollment... in order to establish Orthodox Judaism as the official religion of the Lawrence Union Free School District."

(Summon the Caped Crusader: The Joker is up to his evil tricks again.)

As a paper that covers the Orthodox

Editorial

Jewish community, we're disappointed that this is the first we've heard about this plot. Boy, we wish someone would've told us sooner. We would have written a story about it — page 3, at least.

The parents claim that an advertisement in support of Orthodox school board candidates that mentioned both high taxes and high yeshiva tuition is proof positive that the Orthodox majority is trying to raze the school district in order to finance yeshivas. To apply this "logic" in another way, America wants to capture Osama bin Laden and America wants lower healthcare costs. Therefore, America wants to capture Osama Bin Laden in order to save money on healthcare.

Has the Orthodox majority school board made mistakes? Sure. But there is nothing they have done or could do that would warrant this level of unremitting hate. The lawsuit is a black mark on our local history. Replace the word "Orthodox" with "Black" and the suit is a standard Jim Crow tract from the Civil War-era American South. Replace "Orthodox" with "Jew"

and the lawsuit is a stereotypical anti-Semitic canard. The allegations the lawsuit makes are so ridiculous that they leave one to wonder: if the Orthodox community has this much power, why waste time on a small, poorly funded school district? Shouldn't we have bigger fish to fry?

In our view this lawsuit is not only frivolous, but hateful. It strains credulity and stains the credibility of Barnes and Barnes, the law firm representing the parents.

Like numerous previous suits launched by a small, vindictive group of parents, this, too, is likely to fail outright, but there are real victims nonetheless: the children these parents claim they are trying to help, and who are named in the suit. Dollars the district must spend on legal fees are dollars that could have been spent on extra-curricular activities. Money that should have been an investment in those children will be spent in court instead.

Far worse, though, is the hate these children are likely being imbued with by their parents. Hate for people who are different from them; the hate and fear they may experience whenever they see a religious Jew.

Disgusting.

Missed key point on rebbe's repentance

To the Editor:

Your excellent editorial "Required Viewing" (August 7, 2009) missed a critical point. The Spinka Rebbe NEVER apologized for his crime, aveirah [sin] and severe chilul Hashem. He appeared to wink, nod and almost enjoy the limelight he was receiving. There was no teshuva or recognition that he is an utter embarrassment to the Jewish community. I am sickened that he was given a prominent role at the Agudah's legal symposium and was so warmly received. Baruch Hashem, Mr. Brafman understands the severity of the problem. In a heart wrenching speech, he described the seriousness of these issues. He outlined a multitude of problems with this disgusting behavior. Unfortunately, given the Spinka Rebbe's speech, Mr. Brafman's fear that there will be another gathering in one or two years discussing the same issues appears inevitable.

TOD J. ROTHSCHILD
 Oceanside

Why is Seidemann so negative?

To the Editor:

We are fortunate to live in a country where our democratically elected President convenes a meeting with Professor Gates and Sergeant Crowley in a relaxed, informal setting at the White House (From the other side of the bench; Hope for the President; August 7, 2009). Adding Vice-President Biden indicates the importance that President Obama places on peace. The initial awkward arrest has been

changed into something very positive. The event reflects the best of American values: optimism, flexi-

bility and the can-do attitude. There is much our own community can learn from this episode. G-d

bless America.

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FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BENCH

Cash for the other clunkers

By now everyone is familiar with the "cash for clunkers" program administered by the government of the good old USA. The gist of the program is that if your willing to trade in your old clunker to purchase a newer fuel efficient vehicle, the government will pay you \$4,500.00. Not a bad idea except that there is a credit crisis these days. Who knows if the people taking the \$4,500.00 can afford the monthly payments on the cars.



David Seidemann

is replaced by a more efficient one. You are free to choose the politician of your choice or you may select from the choice provided to you by the clunker "czar".

Now my plan has nothing to do with bribing elected officials. Someone else already invented that program and it seems to be working quite well. No, my plan is completely above board. The money is a one time stipend to have the clunker step down and be replaced by a more "fool efficient" one. Everyone knows about the arrangement before hand so it can hardly be deemed a bribe.

As with all federal programs, there is a long waiting line for this clunker program. There are so many clunkers out there that need to be replaced but, hey, we have to start somewhere.

We are a two clunker family so my wife and I are both in line to pull the hook on two such politicians who really don't need the \$4,500.00 but a deal is a deal. My first check goes to Nancy Pelosi, the Speaker of the House. In the midst of this awful and crippling recession, (gas went up 16¢ last week) Ms. Pelosi is seeking to order 200 million dollars worth of airplanes to ferry her fellow Congressmen and women around the globe. There's a woman who feels our pain!

My second clunker I'll exchange is Hillary and whomever else from the administration who sent her to summon the Israeli Ambassador. She publicly chastised him and Israel for improperly evicting two Arab families from homes that every piece of proof possible establishes; and after years of open court proceedings prove without a doubt, that those two homes belonged to Jews. How dare she!

How dare she lay the blame for the current lack of progress of "peace talks" at Israel's doorsteps. Israel, who has evicted thousands, yes thousands of its own families, from the Sinia, Yamit, Gush Katif and Hebron. The reason why this "eviction" made news is that it's the first time I can remember, that the Israeli Courts actually sided on the side of her own.

In a week where Abbas and company once again ruled out recognizing Israel as the Jewish homeland, how dare Ms. Clinton and whomever sent her stir the anti-Zionist pot. The Arab world's response? As expected, the Clinton tongue lashing of Israel was followed up immediately by the release of the Arab hit single, "we're the mouse, they're the cat, Israel poisoned Arafat".

Like the auto exchange program, I fear this program of mine will run out of money long before all the clunkers are gone.

These two politicians acted and spoke without any regard to how others with real sensitivities, would react. Now contrast that lack of sensitivity and perspective to the following story I heard this week.

He never received below a

95 in any of his Hebrew and English subjects. It all came easy, without any effort, without even trying. His best friend however couldn't break a 70

no matter how hard he tried. The friend was frustrated, had no self worth and was ready to drop out of Yeshiva and attend public high school.

A few days before graduation, the A+ student received a phone call from his principal that he was to receive an award at the upcoming 8th grade graduation. Mr. A+ adamantly refused. "I will not walk up on stage in front of my best friend who is sad, frustrated and on the verge of giving up. I will not walk on stage, and receive an award that might make my friend feel even worse".

This A+ student begged the administration to give the award to the boy who was barely passing. "He needs it, I don't" said this wise 13 year old. The school was insistent that they wanted to recognize scholarship. Perhaps the

school was right. That's not the issue. The point is that this young man at age 13 understood that we do not act in a vacuum. And so when the school insisted on awarding him, he insisted as well. This 13 year old boy did not attend his own graduation so that he could spare his friend possible frustration.

If those politicians are the clunkers; that 13 year old man; yes man, is the cash. I met that 13 year old last week, only he's no longer 13 years old. Today, he heads one of the great Torah institutions in America, where he looks after the feelings of hundreds of young men destined to become as great as he.

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.

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IN MY VIEW

Continued from Page One

The Protocols of the Elders of Zion.

Who would dare accuse any other racial or religious group of being unfit to participate in local government? Only a bigot would do that. But that's exactly what the plaintiffs' have done. Imagine the public outcry if these parents had claimed that there were too many Blacks, Hispanics, Asians or Catholics on the board? But, to these parents, being an Orthodox Jew is a disqualification from elective office.

I am sure that, if asked, the plaintiffs would say that it's OK to be Orthodox and to be different. It would be socially unacceptable and politically incorrect to say otherwise. But their lawsuit reveals their true feelings. It is OK to be different - as long as you're different on their terms: Yes, you must pay school taxes, but no, you cannot have a say in how those tax dollars are spent. Yes, you can live in our community, but no, you cannot have any say in community institutions. Yes, you can send your children to a Yeshiva, but no, they can't use publicly funded buildings. Yes, you can vote, but no, you can't vote for candidates who represent your views.

The centerpiece of the lawsuit is its very biggest lie. It accuses the school board of starving the public schools and diverting funds to the yeshivas. Public school education is in decline. The school district is being taken apart brick-by-brick to be sold to yeshivas.

Most of the actual facts are inconvenient for the plaintiffs, and thus ignored. Only the limited facts that suit their purpose are repeated.

Yes, it's true that Orthodox Jews comprise a majority of the members of the school board. This first occurred in May 2004. Previously, parents who sent their children to public school, private

school and parochial school, or had no children in any school in the district, controlled the board. What happened for 20 years under their tenure? There were no major capital projects. The Middle School roof leaked. No improvements were made to the fields. The heating systems degenerated and the foundation of the Number 6 School was eroded by water. No one voiced any concern that the Number 5 School had a blacktop schoolyard and no grass. The water and gas in the Middle School's labs were shut off 20 years ago and never repaired. The Number 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 Schools were not made accessible to the handicapped and the Middle School elevator was constantly out of order. We suffered skyrocketing taxes as the district illegally amassed an \$18 million surplus, when the legal limit was less than \$1.2 million. The school board funded an illegal \$5 million dental reserve fund. The board spent \$1 million on a software program that was never installed, bought Palm Pilots that were never distributed and supplied board members with personal laptop computers. In short, the entire infrastructure of the school system was permitted to decay.

Most importantly, educational performance was in free-fall. Nonetheless, the board voted salary increases and benefits packages for the teachers that placed the District at the very top of teacher compensation in New York State. An average teacher's salary in our district is approximately \$95,000 plus benefits.

"The Big Lie" always ignores inconvenient facts. Here are a few more that have been conveniently ignored.

In the last five years, while the majority of members of the board are Orthodox Jews, the district has achieved remarkable results.

- For the first time in more than 20 years academic scores are on the rise.
- The only full day Pre-K program

in Nassau County was instituted and has resulted in tremendous academic gains for children now entering first grade.

- The High School graduation rate is up and truancy is down.
- Every building will be handicapped accessible and every building is undergoing renovation. More than \$17 million is being spent on infrastructure repairs without an increase in taxes.

- All the labs are being upgraded and will be current.
- The phone and computer systems have been replaced, enabling the broadest possible use of the Internet by students, faculty and staff.
- All of the buildings are going wireless, allowing each classroom be a computer lab.

- Most classrooms already have smart boards — technology that allows teachers to have real-time Internet access in the classroom — the rest are slated to get them.
- The football field is being replaced with an all-weather playing surface, at a cost of \$1 million.
- There are more elective High School courses now than there were five years ago.
- A Fine Arts, Music and Dance Academy was founded and funded. We are the only the school district in the Five Towns that has an advanced fine arts program.

- Despite several years of contingency budgets no athletic programs were eliminated.
- The sports program is thriving in our district unlike in many other Long Island communities that are moth-balling their programs to save money.

The only antidote to lies is the truth. I hope that this lawsuit will be the vehicle for positive change by emphatically debunking "The Big Lie" and chastising those who tell them. Fair-minded individuals will not be swayed by scurrilous and baseless lawsuits. They will always be guided by the truth. That is the American way.

I'M THINKING Gestures of ill will

Nicolas Sarkozy, president of France, recently sent a letter to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. In his letter, Sarkozy made an appeal to Netanyahu to release Salah Hassan Hamori.

Salah Hassan Hamori, a French citizen, was arrested and imprisoned for attempting to assassinate the former Chief Rabbi of Israel, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef. The attempted assassination attempt took place in 2005. Sarkozy wrote that releasing the would-be-assassin would be an important "gesture of good will."

The letter was made public in the massively popular French newspaper Le Figaro.

The paper also revealed that there was a tremendous amount of pressure being placed upon the French president to make this appeal to Israel's prime minister.

The pressure on the president comes from pro-Palestinian sources in France. The pro-Palestinian factions are saying that because Sarkozy so ardently advocated for the release of Gilad Shalit who was captured by Hamas in June 2006 and who holds French citizenship, Sarkozy must also lobby on behalf of this Palestinian prisoner held in an Israeli prison who also holds French citizenship.

The argument is made on the basis of even-handedness and Sarkozy accepted the argument on face value. But the difference between Shalit and Hamori, a difference the pro-Palestinian factions glibly pass over, is that Hamori was arrested, tried, convicted and then imprisoned. Hamori is in a prison that provides him with three square meals a day, medical care, and allows him family visitation rights.

Gilad Shalit's whereabouts are kept



Gilad Shalit

secret. His condition is unknown although it is public knowledge and has been made known to his captors that he suffers from a medical condition. Experience tells us that Shalit has probably been tortured and is most probably a shell of his former self. Shalit's captors have no accountability even to the heads of Hamas - they are independent rogue forces.

Diplomats have problems when dealing with the Middle East. The problems stem from a basic lack of understanding of the region. They simply do not understand the basic rules that govern the Middle East and they do not understand what makes the people of the Middle East tick or what ticks them off.

Politicians are at an even bigger disadvantage than diplomats. Career diplomats spend at least some time studying the specific customs and traditions of the country in which they serve. Politicians and heads of state deal in generalities.

Sarkozy fell into a classic trap. Rather than research the situation, he was swept away by the argument of relative morality. Had he paid attention to what was really being asked of him, the president of France could have taken his own moral high ground and used the situation as a tool to further the battle against terrorism. Instead, albeit unwittingly, Sarkozy has allowed himself to further the terrorists' cause.

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

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PARSHAT RE'EH

Perversions hated by G-d

BY RABBI AVI BILLET

With all the discussion about healthcare in this country, we can make the argument that Jews have valued human life more than anyone through the millennia. While ancient Greeks left unwanted babies to die, and some civilizations did not care for the elderly, the stereotype of the "Jewish doctor" and the reputation of Jews to seek the best medical attention are not just punch lines of a Jackie Mason comedy routine.

Even Darwin's idea of "survival of the fittest" goes against our sensibilities as far as real questions of life and death are concerned. Biblical warfare aside, the history of the Jewish people - starting with King Solomon - was always

meant to be a story of peace and tranquility, unless there was a need to fight against an invading enemy. Even under such circumstances, some Jews in our long history chose death over fighting, perhaps preferring to die to sanctify God's name or perhaps to avoid having to take anyone else's life.

However, one thing is made abundantly clear in the Torah. We have no notion of human sacrifice; we never did have a notion of human sacrifice; and we will never have a notion of human sacrifice.

The late Rabbi Mordechai Breuer writes (Pirkei Moadot, Volume II "Jerusalem") that Abraham was told to sacrifice his son on Mt. Moriah specifically because God wanted to explicate

once and for all, that Judaism and monotheism have no room for child sacrifice. God does not want us to kill innocent humans. We do not give up anyone's life for anything, except in very specific circumstances, such as if an enemy army is looking to wipe out a city and requests a specific person in exchange for sparing the city.

We are commanded against taking children and offering them as sacrifices to idols (Vayikra 18:21, 20:2-4). It is unclear to me where the desire to sacrifice one's children or one's own life to a god comes from. It is an entirely different matter to enter the battlefield prepared to give one's own life for one's country, in order to save many more lives in the defense of freedoms we hold

dear. But even soldiers in a battlefield would sooner have someone else take their life in battle than purposely give up their own lives for the sake of the possible success of a mission - with "success" being loosely defined as more deaths on the other side.

The Torah tells us at the end of Devarim chapter 12:

"When God excises the nations to which you are coming, and drives them away before you, you shall expel them and live in their land. After they have been wiped out before you, be very careful not to fall into a deadly trap by trying to follow them. Do not try to find out about their gods, saying, 'Now, how did these nations worship their gods? I would also like to try [such practices].' Do not worship God your Lord with such practices. In worshipping their gods, [these nations] committed all sorts of perversions hated by God. They would even burn their sons and daughters in fire as a means of worshipping their gods!"

On this last verse, Rashi records Rabbi Akiva's account of an idolator who had tied up his own father in front of a dog he was worshipping, thereby allowing the dog to eat his father. In the civilized world, child sacrifice as a form of idolatry has largely disappeared. But child sacrifice in the name of God is all too alive and popular. History has shown that the suicide attack was relatively uncommon until its advent as a means of warfare by Japanese kamikaze pilots in World War II. Arabs in Israel, and media-labeled "insurgents" in Iraq, have brought the method of "sacrifice" to new heights. This is not our way. The Chizkuni says even if we were to do such a thing in the name of God or in order to serve God, it is an abominable behavior detested by God in the strongest of ways.

May those who view these forms of murder as excusable and righteous perish from the earth, for only when they cease to exist will there be a chance for peace in our world.



Bake sale this week

Carnival at Camp Nageela, the day camp of the Jewish Educational Program (JEP) on Long Island. Counselors are holding a bake sale to raise money to send sixteen campers to yeshiva. The sale will be held at the Lamm residence, 634 Oak Drive in Far Rockaway, on Wednesday, August 12, and Thursday, August 13.

ON THE Calendar

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

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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@nersarahpro-

ject.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.

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

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

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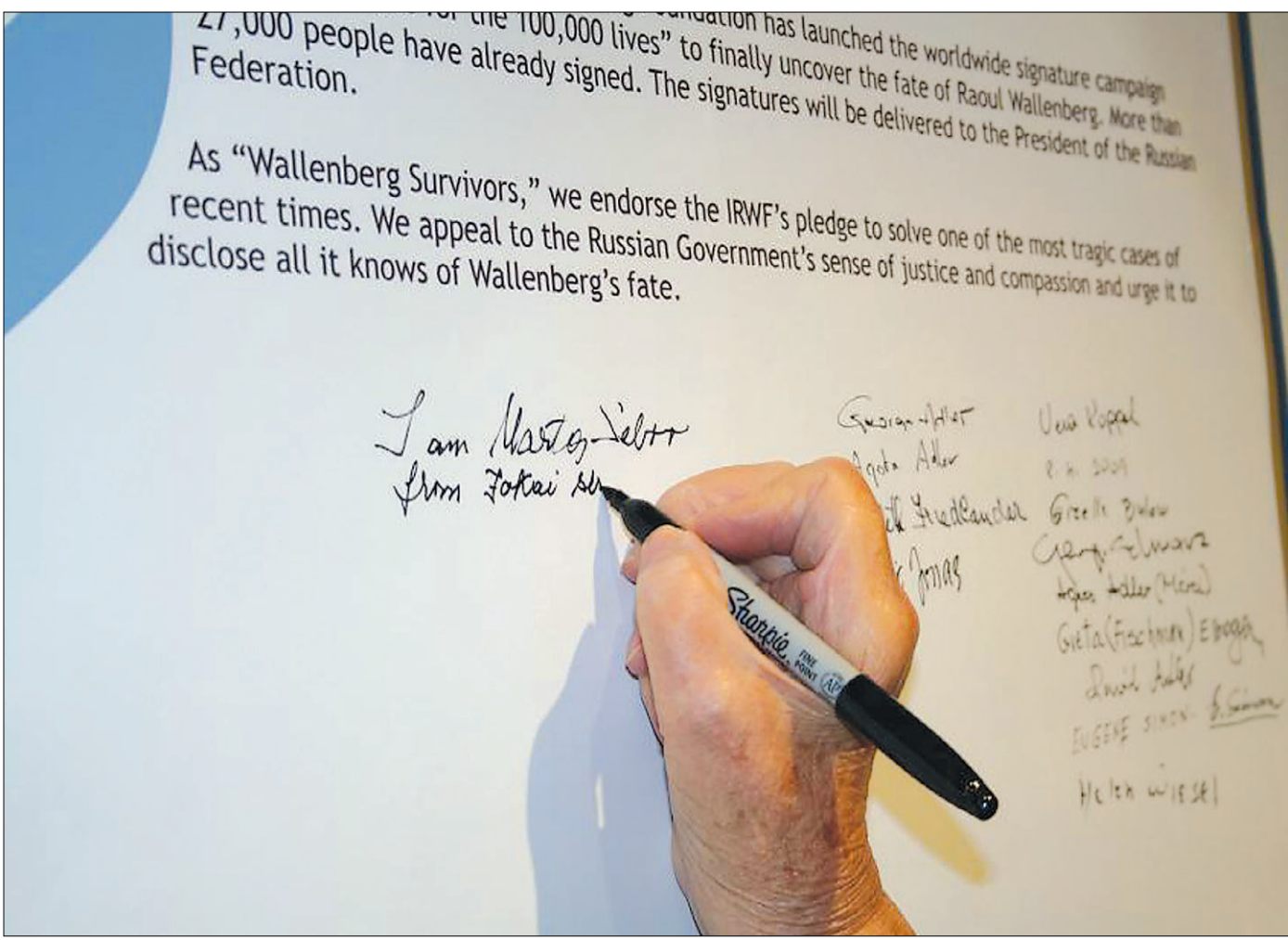
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A petition seeks the answers behind hero diplomat Raoul Wallenberg's disappearance behind the Iron Curtain during World War Two.

Still missing

Wallenberg on his 97th birthday

BY MICHAEL ORBACH

Over sixty years later, the Jews saved by Raoul Wallenberg during World War II are still looking for their savior. Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat, provided passports to tens of thousands of people during the war. In 1945, he was captured by the Red Army and never heard from again. On August 4th the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation held events across the world to celebrate what would have been his 97th birthday.

During the war, 77 year-old Manhattan resident George Schwarz's family was saved with a passport from the Swedish

consulate. He recalled how his mother, about to be deported by Hungarian authorities, was personally rescued by Wallenberg.

"There was this man in a suit and we knew it was Wallenberg," Schwarz said. "He personally came with a few cars and he took them to Budapest. My mother showed up at one o'clock. I wanted to thank this wonderful man."

More than 27,000 people have already signed a petition to be sent to the president of the Russian Federation seeking the truth behind what happened to Wallenberg, according to the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation. While Wallenberg's fate is still unknown, Schwarz



Daniel Adler and George Schwarz

says that Wallenberg's message is clear: "Sometimes under the most dire conditions a human being can do so much if he puts his effort and mind to it."

Massive model Temple mounted on rooftop

Aish builds 'Beis Hamikdash' in Old City of Jerusalem

BY MICHAEL ORBACH

Waiting for the Third Temple? It isn't here yet, but thanks to Aish HaTorah, you can have what might be the next best thing: the largest scale model of the Beis Hamikdash in the world.

The model will be a part of the new Aish museum, The Exploratorium, scheduled to open later this year. Created by Russian-born engineer Michael Oznis, the 4' by 10' model weighs 1.2 tons, according to Ephraim Shapiro, director of Aish. The museum will focus on how Jewish ideas changed the world; the model will be located on the roof of the museum overlooking the Kotel.

"In order to understand the meaning of the Wall, [people] need to understand the Temple," explained Shapiro. "This gives us an opportunity to give people a sense of what the Temple

was and why the Temple was so central to the Jewish people; what it was supposed to accomplish and why we mourn its loss."

Not content with just showcasing the outside of the Beis Hamikdash, Oznis equipped the model with a remote-controlled hydraulic elevator to raise the entire inner chamber of the Beis Hamikdash, including the Holy of Holies.

"Ki mi'tzion teitzei Torah" — the Torah will come out of Zion, Shapiro quoted. "All the great Jewish concepts were formulated in the Temple, inspired by the Jewish message of wisdom and truth: values of love thy neighbor and justice for all. This was the heart of this," he said.

The Exploratorium is scheduled to open on December 1, 2009. Shapiro expects over 300,000 people to visit the museum each year.

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EATING DISORDERS

Continued from Page One

ing Orthodox patients.

"I think programs that are more culturally sensitive to patients' religious and ethnic identities enhance their feelings of being understood, which facilitates the collaborative effort between patient and therapist that is so fundamental to successful treatment," Altmann said.

Some parents in the Orthodox community are wary of sending daughters into treatment programs where secular patients could influence them.

"Oftentimes, patients in residential eating disorder treatment programs discuss their experiences with casual sex, recreational drugs and alcohol use, as well as make general cultural references that the Orthodox community tries to shield their children from," said Shore.

This program aims to make religious parents more comfortable and at ease with the knowledge that the new track offers a space that, in Altmann's words, is "more consistent with the mores of their community."

The track itself consists of therapeutic group meetings of Orthodox patients, as well as having the patients partake in Orthodox-only communal meals, which given kashruth requirements, allows a more comfortable environment for the participants. Traditional Jewish foods like chicken soup and kugels are incorporated into the patients' menu to help them transition from the program back to their families and communities.

One common theme of the group meetings is "bishvili nivrah haolam" - "for me the world was built" - which focuses on building self-esteem in young women who may feel lost within the strict confines of the Orthodox community. Dating

and marriage is another common theme; the world of Orthodox matchmaking and dating is fraught with enough pressure and anxiety without the added stress of an eating disorder.

While some of the therapists who coordinate the groups are observant, even those who are not Jewish are aware of the sensitivities of young Orthodox women. Dr. Altmann frequently consults the Renfrew staff on matters relating to Orthodox life, such as the priority on dating and marriage at relatively young ages; observance of kashruth, Shabbat, and holidays; and the common experience of growing up in a large family, often taking responsibility for many younger siblings.

A former patient of the Orthodox track at Renfrew, who asked to not be named, said she found herself impressed by the environment.

"When I first got there, I found that I didn't have to worry about being able to continue my traditions in residential treatment, and never had to worry about technicalities having to do with kashruth. I was always able to speak my mind and [the] staff and patients were never anything but respectful and welcoming," she said.

"The fact that the Renfrew program had a track geared toward Orthodox girls, and was therefore able to deal with concerns and issues I had, made all the difference."

Renfrew also offers outpatient and intensive day programs at nine locations including New York, New Jersey and Florida. For more information go to renfrewcenter.com or call 1-800-RENFREW.

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RESULTS - WEEK 7 AUGUST 9

RED 11	V	B.T.	6
YIH 15	V	ISLAND	1
CHABAD 18	V	SHTEEBL	9
B.S. 8	V	YINW	2
FINAL STANDINGS			
BETH SHOLOM	7	0	
YI NORTH WOODMERE	5	2	
CHABAD OF 5 TOWNS	5	2	
SHTEEBL	4	3	
YI HEWLETT	3	4	
BAIS TEFILAH (EDWARD)	2	5	
ISLAND	1	6	
RED	1	6	

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SEMI-FINAL 9:00 AM
FIELD 1 SHTEEBL V BETH SHOLOM FIELD 2 CHABAD V YI NORTH WOODMERE

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THE KOSHER BOOKWORM

A hidden chapter of American Jewish history and Ellis Island

Were I to survey readers and ask them to identify Benjamin Harrison, I'm certain many would not be able to offer a correct answer. Yet, though little known and even less hailed, U.S. President Benjamin Harrison played a crucial role in the immigration of Eastern European Jewry to this country in the 1890's and into the early decades of the 20th century.



Alan Jay Gerber

Journalist and historian Vincent J. Cannato recently published, "American Passage: The History of Ellis Island" (Harper Collins, 2009). In this comprehensive 487 page history detailed facts, stories, personalities, and geographic as well as political details spell out the history of one of the most fabled islands on the American continent, Ellis Island.

To American Jewry, especially those who came from Eastern Europe from the late 1880's to the late 1920's, Ellis Island with its backdrop of the Statue of Liberty, represented the portal to a new world, a world of religious and economic freedom never before experienced by Jews in the Diaspora.

This book, in part, tells their story.

One particular episode in this book not only drew my immediate attention, it truly came to represent all that America has come to mean to me as one who cares so much for the welfare of this blessed republic.

In 1891, President Harrison appointed a special commission to investigate what motivated the mass immigration of millions of Europeans to the United States. He also, through this commission, wanted to know to what extent criminals, paupers, the insane and those afflicted with dangerous diseases were encouraged to emigrate to these shores.

As if these legitimate concerns were not enough to concern the Harrison Administration, there was another concern that bothered Harrison, that of the increasing number of Russian Jews landing on these shores.

As a reward for his help in getting him elected in 1888, Harrison appointed his Civil War buddy John B. Weber as commissioner of immigration at the Port of New York and, in addition, to oversee the construction of new immigration intake facilities at Ellis Island. In addition to all the above, Harrison entrusted into Weber's hands the chairmanship of the special commission. This was to prove to be a most fateful decision to the future of American Jewry.

Before Weber set sail for Europe, Harrison called him to his seaside cottage at Cape May, N.J., where he was vacationing, to task him with one additional mission: to personally investigate the condition of Russian Jewry and to report back directly to him on this matter.

On his way to Europe Weber was joined by his traveling companion, Dr. Walter Kempster, a fellow Civil War vet who fought at Gettysburg.

Together, according to Cannato, they city-hopped from Liverpool to Paris, Antwerp, Amsterdam, Berlin and then on

to cities not normally on the itineraries of American diplomats in that era. They then visited St. Petersburg, Moscow, Minsk, Bialystok, Vilna, Grodno, Warsaw, Cracow, Budapest, and Vienna. They ended up in Bremen, Germany.

During this trip they met with members of the U.S. diplomatic corp in each city and country, visited local Jewish neighborhoods, and spoke with officials from the various steamship lines. It was a grueling yet productive fact-gathering mission for President Harrison.

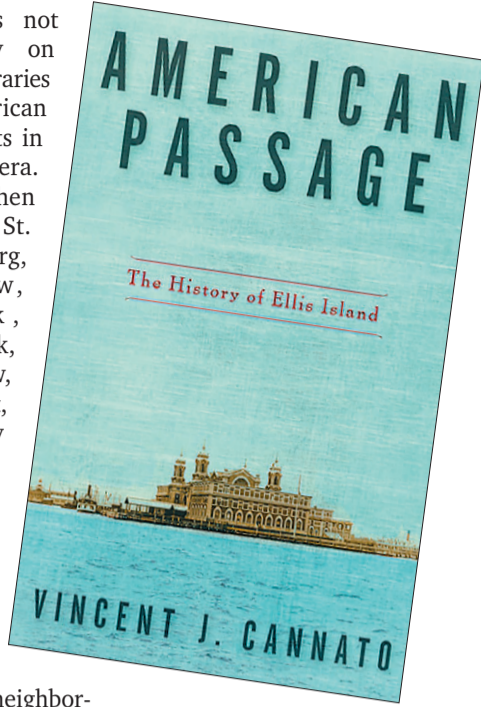
Weber and Kempster issued their report in January of 1892. They came to the conclusion that people left Europe largely because of "superior conditions of living in the United States." The future immigrants received this impression from others, including friends and relatives who preceded them to these shores. The report also detail the horrid conditions under which the Jews of Russia lived.

Cannato noted that, "following his instructions from Harrison, Weber paid special attention to the plight of Jews. The situation in Russia was beginning to have repercussions for the United States. Mary Antin had already emigrated and wrote a memoir of her family's journey from Russia to America. During those bleak times, she wrote, 'America was in everybody's mouth. Businessmen talked of it over their accounts... people who had relatives in the famous land went around reading their letters'. The number of immigrants coming from Russia, the vast majority Jewish, was increasing dramatically...."

The author goes into great detail as to what motivated this human deluge and of the anti-Semitic reaction here to this. Weber and Kempster did not hide their sympathy for the Jews they encountered in the Pale of Settlement and were very candid with Harrison about what they witnessed. In effect, the Weber-Kempster Report was a sharp and severe rebuke to those bigots who wished to curtail and ultimately restrict Jewish East European immigration in its infancy.

We have a lot to be grateful for to President Benjamin Harrison and his appointees, Weber and Kempster, for their personal resolve and exercise of true leadership, and for their sincere acts of brotherhood toward our people in a time of dire distress. What they did, did not have to be done. They could have easily played along with the mob and restricted Jewish immigration, and thus prevented the establishment of the large American Jewish community of which we are a proud part to this very day. Let us not forget this fact, and of the personalities who played crucial roles in making this possible.

If you have not yet visited Ellis Island and its museum, do



so, with your kids, before the end of summer vacation. It will be an experience that you will never forget.

And, while you are at it, do read "American Passage" and enjoy the scholarship of a most gifted journalist and historian, Vincent Cannato. This will surely help enrich your visit to Ellis Island, and reinforce your love for our country and its history.

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Today, Stuie & Enny continue to open their home for Shabbos to anybody who needs, but B"H it's a little more crowded with their 9 year-old triplets, Ari, Tova, and Shira pitching in.



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-Rebbe Nachman of Breslov

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Pavement purchases at Cedarhurst Sidewalk Sale

More than sixty businesses participated in Cedarhurst's annual Sidewalk Sale — a tradition for nearly 30 years. It wrapped up this week but not before many shoppers took home a bargain. Browsers and

buyers alike took advantage of the opportunity to examine merchandise right at curbside, without even having to enter a store. The downside of this convenient arrangement? No air-conditioning.



Alizah Fuchs and son Yaakov A. Fuchs check out the bargains at David's Den.



Lenore Stamm admires the crystal at the sidewalk sale.

Photos by Susan Grieco

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SCHOOL DISTRICT	SUBJECT	% LEVEL 1	% LEVEL 2	% LEVEL 3	% LEVEL 4
Entire Nassau County	MATH	2.2%	6.2%	49.1%	42.4%
John Philip Sousa School (Port Washington)	MATH	3.3%	1.1%	53.8%	41.8%
John F. Kennedy School (Great Neck)	MATH	0.0%	1.1%	23.0%	75.9%
Manorhaven Elementary	MATH	3.8%	5.1%	52.6%	38.5%
SCHWARTZ TORAH ACADEMY	MATH	0%	0%	12.5%	▶ 87.5%!

SCHOOL DISTRICT	SUBJECT	% LEVEL 1	% LEVEL 2	% LEVEL 3	% LEVEL 4
Entire Nassau County	ELA	2.7%	10.2%	69.3%	17.8%
John Philip Sousa School (Port Washington)	ELA	1.2%	10.5%	59.3%	29.1%
John F. Kennedy School (Great Neck)	ELA	0.0%	1.1%	82.8%	16.1%
Manorhaven Elementary	ELA	4.1%	11.0%	67.1%	17.8%
SCHWARTZ TORAH ACADEMY	ELA	0%	0%	62.5%	▶ 37.5%!

* Level 4 - Exceeds the standards / Level 3 - Meets all the standards / Level 2 - Meets some but not all the standards or partially meets the standards / Level 1 - Shows serious academic problems

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Marc Katz, his father Gary, Noam, and younger brother Ami (in front)

SUMMER VACATION

Continued from Page One

began pedaling their way back home to West Hempstead. They hoped to finish the 140-mile ride by Wednesday night and in the process raise a thousand dollars for their rabbi's discretionary fund at the Young Israel of West Hempstead. The fund, administered by Rabbi Yehuda Kelemer, helps community members in need.

"I wanted to do something for tzedaka," Noam told the Jewish Star after Monday's punishing 41-mile ride in 100-degree heat. Noam's grandfather, Gary Katz, and younger brother, Ami, are riding behind them in a support vehicle, a Toyota Sienna.

The adventure began at the Philadelphia Museum of

Art (home of the popular Rocky Steps). The pair made their way to Washington Crossing, before hitting Highland Park, N.J. From Highland Park, they planned to ride to Fort Lee, in the shadow of the George Washington Bridge, and from Fort Lee back to West Hempstead.

"My son and I are not bike riders," Marc said with a laugh. "I think G-d is testing me."

Noam is preparing to lain Parshat Ki Tavo on Sept. 5, kicking off a more traditional Bar Mitzvah celebration over the Labor Day weekend. He plans to donate a portion of his Bar Mitzvah gifts to the rabbi's fund as well. Wednesday night he's looking forward to practicing his parsha and sleeping in his own bed.



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