

THE JEWISH STAR

Independent and original reporting from the Orthodox communities of Long Island

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A GIRL TRIES TO MOVE ON THE WEDDING SINGER

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IN MY VIEW

Ba'alei Teshuva in co-pilot seat

BY BRACHA GOETZ

We got on board because we were striving for truth, and guess what? We're still striving! So please, make sure your seat belts stay fastened because we're sitting beside you now, and we hope to take you right along with us!

It was the most idealistic and dedicated who helped make us the people we have become. After deciding to be observant, however, we all inevitably realized that many frum people were not quite as purely committed as those who had initially inspired us. Varying degrees of disappointment and disillusionment are standard, but what happens after that is critical.

Witnessing "frum" people engage in corrupt behavior can be a deal-breaker for some, especially if the frum-appearing people wield authority in leadership positions. Unsavory business practices, the belittling of legitimate attempts at improvement, and "accepted" practices to cheat government agencies, can all lead to an earned ba'al teshuva (returnee to observant Judaism) being understandably turned off.

There are prevailing fears related to "change" in Orthodox spheres, for justifiable reasons, but these same fears also prevent essential progress from taking place.

It can be difficult for the voice of a quiet ba'al teshuva with a well-honed refinement to be heard when an arrogant insensitivity prevails. When children in public school seem to have more derech erez (respect) than those in many day schools, a need for reevaluation is indicated. Worries about reporting "frum" perpetrators who are dangerous to children are another example of

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Bracha Goetz is the Mentoring Coordinator at Jewish Community Services in Baltimore, MD. She is also the Harvard-educated author of ten children's books, including *Aliza in MitzvahLand*, *The Invisible Book*, and *What Do You See at Home?* For information about her presentations for both women and children, email bgoetzster@gmail.com.



Photo by Mayer Fertig

With an ancient sarcophagus in the background, Rabbi Yehuda Landy draws on Torah sources to illuminate Jewish history amid the permanent collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

'Tanach tour' uncovers Jewish history at the Met

Guide responds to bible critics with answers 'buried' in plain sight

BY MAYER FERTIG

On a sunny afternoon in Jerusalem in 1987 Rabbi Yehuda Landy was explaining the finer points of the famous large-scale model of the Beis Hamikdash, the Holy Temple, then located at the Holyland Hotel.

From memory, he confidently marshaled a stream of disparate Biblical and Talmudic sources to make his points. His intended audi-

ence was a large group of young men from Yeshiva Neveh Zion where Rabbi Landy, then unmarried, was a respected, popular young member of the faculty. But as his extemporaneous presentation unfolded a curious thing began to happen: members of a Christian tour group from Scandinavia standing nearby began to abandon their own blond haired, blue-eyed guide and drifted over to the group

See TANACH TOUR, Page 3



Harry Bloom designed a study to measure levels of long-range financial planning by Jewish Day Schools. Photo courtesy YU

Study finds few day schools plan properly

YU study pinpoints areas for improvement

BY YAFFI SPODEK

Fewer than a quarter of Jewish day schools have a long-range financial plan. That's the finding of an anonymous survey of the presidents of 70 Jewish schools. In addition, the presidents feel their boards of directors under-perform in the areas of fundraising and strategic planning, two areas they believe have the

most impact on overall school performance and affordability.

The Survey of the Governance Practices of Jewish Day Schools was conducted by the Institute for University-Partnership of the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration at Yeshiva University. It was designed to document how

See STUDY, Page 10

Economy shuts Ner Yaakov, at least for now

BY MAYER FERTIG

Yeshiva Ner Yaakov, a popular post-high school yeshiva in Israel for boys from modern Orthodox homes, will not reopen in September, The Jewish Star has learned.

Rabbi Yehoshua Liff, the Rosh Yeshiva who founded Ner Yaakov in 1988 called the decision "painful."

"After holding major discussions about the reorganization of the yeshiva in order to remain open, and under severe economic pressure, we made a decision to not open up for this coming semester," Rabbi Liff said in an interview from Israel late Monday night.

Ner Yaakov's kollel program would continue to function during the 2009-2010 term, and "we are keeping options open" to possibly — hopefully — resume the

See NER YAAKOV, Page 6



Photo courtesy Machon Hatorah

Shalhevet's first, and possibly, last class ended the 2009 school year on an upnote, enthusiastically saluting Israel.

HAFTR and Rambam to split

Dual effort to place Shalhevet girls, or possibly save new school

BY MAYER FERTIG

The three-year-old partnership between HAFTR and Rambam Mesivta formally known as Machon HaTorah is finished, according to Rambam's president, Yaacov Gross.

"Looking at it from the perspective of a Rambam parent there is no need to have a Machon because there is absolutely nothing that Rambam is getting out of the relationship," Gross said. His comments came a week after HAFTR said it would no longer fund the deficit of Shalhevet, the one-year-old high school for girls.

Shalhevet parents planned to meet Wednesday to consider if the school could be saved. A building in the Five Towns has been located for the 2009-2010 school year, if parents want it, Gross said.

Headmasters of other high schools, including Central, SKA, HANC, NSHA and Magen David "all have been wonderful, supportive and have demonstrated great compassion and sensitivity for the Shalhevet girls," said Rabbi Zev Friedman.

The result is a "grace period where the girls don't have to run to register right now. Parents have a short window to see if we can make a go of this realistically," Gross said. It's "up to the parents of Shalhevet, if this is a direction they want to take. We're saying we'll do what we can, making Herculean efforts to give Shalhevet the option to have the school if they want it."

The Machon partnership agreement said "clearly and expressly" that Shalhevet would be built and that HAFTR would pay its deficits, and also provide a gym and a Beit Midrash, said Gross. In exchange, Rambam's Rabbi Yotav Eliach and Rabbi Friedman would provide educational leadership. Ground was broken last year on a Beit Midrash-gym facility to be built on Central Avenue on the former site of the Nassau Herald building.

"The gym and Beit Midrash has not been built and I

See HAFTR, Page 3



Photo courtesy Rambam Mesivta

Rambam Mesivta students danced on Fifth Avenue at the Salute to Israel parade earlier this year.

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Shabbat

Candlelighting: 8:05 p.m. ■ Shabbat ends: 9:11 p.m.
Torah reading: Parshat Mattos-Masei

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Photos by Joshua Friedman

The Kosher Business Breakfast



Hildy Eliach

A dozen business owners and professionals gathered at The Jewish Star-sponsored Kosher Business Breakfast, organized by LearnThink Seminars, for coffee, bagels and pastries and presentations by Avi Fertig of Writers & Co. (above), Elana Lederman of Lany Benefits Inc. (right) and Hildy Eliach, a business financing consultant (left). The next breakfast is planned for late August.



Elana Lederman

onlysimchas!

Celebrating Jewish Life

IN THE JEWISH STAR

Weddings

- Wedding of Devora Jacobowitz (Staten Island) & Yoni Cohen (Staten Island, NY) - July 7, 2009
- Wedding of Fishy Cohen (Belgium) & Chanie Rosner (Brooklyn, NY) - July 7, 2009
- Wedding of Moishe Landau (Brooklyn, NY) & Sophie Lieberman (Brooklyn, NY) - July 5, 2009



Devora Jacobowitz & Yoni Cohen



Moishe Landau & Sophie Lieberman

Engagements

- Engagement of Shneur Gottlieb (Waterbury, CT) & Rivkala Erenthal (Lakewood, NJ) - July 6, 2009
- Engagement of Sruli Weisz (Waterbury, CT/Monsey, NY) &

Shoshana Ungar (Far Rockaway) - June 28, 2009

Births

- Birth of baby boy to Avraham & Jordana Baruchov (Clifton, NJ) - July 11, 2009

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

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*Tax, tags & DMV fees additional. Lease specials subject to Lexus Financial Service with very good credit (730 credit score). Lessee responsible for maintenance, repairs, excess wear, tear 25 cents per mile over 10k miles/year. Purchase option available. Total payments: IS250-\$12,564; ES350-\$14,364; RX350-\$17,964; GS350-\$21,564. Pictures for illustration purposes only. Offer expires July 31, 2009.

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That's Life

Edited by Miriam L. Wallach

Dear That's Life,

Several months ago, beyond exhausted after two days of Yom Tov, my four-year-old son, Naf-tali, was crying because he wanted his cousin's candy ring. To calm him down, I promised that I would take him to the candy store after school the next day to buy his very own candy ring. That led to this exchange:

"I don't want to go to school. I want to stay home with Daddy."
 "It's a work day for Daddy."
 "Then I want to stay home with Dovid."
 "It's a school day for Dovid."
 "Then I want to stay home with Leora."
 "It's a school day for Leora."
 "Then I want to stay home with you."
 "It's a work day for me, too."
 "Then I want to stay home with myself."
 "You can't stay home by yourself, but I promise that I will take you to the candy store when school is over."
 "I want to go to the candy store by myself."
 "But how will you get there?"
 "You'll take me."

CHANI FERTIG

Dear That's Life,

When did it become okay to reach out and rub a woman's pregnant belly?

And why doesn't that constitute some form of sexual harassment?

Having passed Kindergarten, I can tell you that, 'Keep your hands to yourself' is a really good piece of advice, as is, 'If you have nothing nice to say, don't say anything at all.'

I truthfully believe that people mean no harm when they make comments that, often, must have sounded better in their head than they do when it comes out of their mouth. And, trust me, I am certainly guilty of having said things that I wished I had not. But only when someone admits they have a problem

can they actually receive help - at least I know I have a problem.

On that note, the following is a Top-10 list of comments I have heard in relation to this and my previous pregnancies. Enjoy - and I know, many of you have heard these yourselves. Don't worry; you're not alone.

10. No, really - when are you due?
9. I can barely tell you're pregnant from behind.
8. So, how many?
7. You must be retaining a lot of water.
6. My - haven't we grown! (WE?)
5. Your nose hasn't changed at all.
4. Did your mother carry this big?
3. How long does it take you to lose all the weight?
2. Are you still fitting into the clothes you wore at the beginning?

And my favorite...

1. Well, you look ready!

MLW

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

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

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

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'TANACH TOUR' AT THE MET

Continued from Page One

led by the bearded rabbi. One by one, two by two, they came, until the Christian guide stood by himself.

22 years later Rabbi Landy still casts the same type of spell. Friendly and approachable, with a wry sense of humor, and an encyclopedic knowledge of Tanach (Five Books of Moses, Prophets and Scriptures), Talmud and Jewish history, as well as of the secular academic field known as bible criticism, he offers guided tours by appointment only at a number of the world's great museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Oriental Museum in Chicago, the British Museum in London, the Louvre in Paris and, of course, the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Landy, never without a sefer with which he puts "downtime" to good use, said his Tanach Tours, as he calls them, can "show the Torah world there is plenty of archeology that is worth knowing," while at the same time providing an educated response to those who would cast doubt on the Torah's account of history.

"We live in a world with bible criticism where they say, 'We don't have the evidence,' Rabbi Landy observed. "Well, there's plenty that has been found. There are plenty of archaeological artifacts that match what we know from Tanach."



Photo by Mayer Fertig

Bricks from the palace of Achashverosh.

He also lectures annually at HANC using PowerPoint to illustrate his subjects, has taken MTA students to the Met and, several years ago, delivered a series of four lectures at Yeshiva University.

On a warm Sunday in late April, 40 people, including several families from West Hempstead, followed Rabbi Landy around the Metropolitan Museum of Art in Manhattan. Most had been there before, some many times. But each saw the collections he toured through new eyes — Jewish eyes, if you will.

In the Near East Department he traced "the footsteps of Avraham Avinu" — Avraham's journey from Ur



Photo by Mayer Fertig

'Tanach Tours' at major museums effectively counter anti-Torah bible criticism, and demonstrate "to the Torah world there is plenty of archeology worth knowing."

Kasdim to Charan — and discussed the findings of an archaeological dig at Ur Kasdim called, "The Royal Tombs of Ur." Standing in one transplanted room from "a typical, massive Assyrian palace" discovered in the 1850's, he described the kings who ruled that part of the world in the 7th and 8th centuries B.C.E — kings who, upon their deaths, were buried with all of their (poisoned) servants.

"This was the society that Avraham Avinu was born into," Rabbi Landy noted.

Pointing out intricately carved lions from the time of Nebuchadnezzar ("no doubt a megalomaniac") he explained that interested parties could see more of the lions where they had come from originally, in Iraq ("not recommended," he said).

The Metropolitan Museum of Art has a fair amount of material related to Purim, including several colorful bricks excavated from the king's palace at Shushan, where the Purim story took place.

Referring to a king known as Chashriash, mispronounced by the Greeks as Xerxes, "Most believe he is Achashverosh," Rabbi Landy said.

Strongly disputing claims by some academics that Megillat Esther was written in the Hellenistic period — "That's nonsense, in my opinion," he said firmly — Rabbi Landy pointed out that the Megillah is replete with Persian words, "but not one Greek word."

The tour spun on for more than two fascinating hours — touching on Egypt (Ramses II is "believed by most scholars to have been king" when the

Jews left Egypt), the Dead Sea Scrolls, the missing 10 tribes, and the destruction of the second Bais Hamikdash.

"I thought it would be interesting to see [the Met] through a Jewish perspective, through the Tanach," said Dina Selesny of West Hempstead. She's been through portions of the museum four times in the past, including trips with HANC sixth graders. On her fifth visit she saw it "in a whole different light," she said.

"I haven't been here in a while," said her daughter, Elizabeth Selesny, who is going into 11th grade at Central. Now, "I see it through a more mature perspective; through a Jewish perspective."

"I was fascinated to see how he brought out the Jewish history," said Teaneck resident Susan Presby. "If you think about it, there is no 'Jewish era,'" just Jewish history in every time and place. She and her husband, Lenny, visit the museum once a month or so "and we've walked right by this," he said.

Rabbi Landy will be in the U.S. for about ten days this month, leading Tanach Tours at museums in NY, Chicago and possibly Baltimore. Schedule permitting, he is also available to deliver PowerPoint presentations about the Three Weeks (Bein HaMetzotrim) at shuls, bungalow colonies and summer camps. For information, rates and reservations e-mail him directly at nzion@smile.net.il. He plans to lead a tour at the Metropolitan Museum of Art this Sunday, July 19. Email to reserve a slot. Rabbi Landy also leads tours around Israel.

RAMBAM AND HAFTR TO SPLIT

Continued from Page One

have no reason to think that it will be built," Gross said. He does not expect the dissolution of the Machon to impact Rambam, which "made it on its own for the first 14 years."

Gross called the Shalhevet deficit a "tiny, tiny number."

"The idea that the deficit was the reason to close Shalhevet — especially for someone really familiar with the numbers as I am — seems harder and harder to justify," he said. Rather than a truly new school, "Shalhevet is really just an expansion of the existing program at Rambam. I would say that the biggest thing in the Shalhevet deficit was the rent on the Beth El building, which HAFTR had for years and years."

A number of Shalhevet instructors are HAFTR faculty, he added. HAFTR is "left with the salaries of the teachers that they're going to have to pay." Even tuition disparities could remain, if any Shalhevet students enter HAFTR High School at their existing tuition level.

"I think the HAFTR parents have been sold a bill of goods, that the high tuition bills of the HAFTR parents was a result of the Shalhevet deficit," Gross said.

HAFTR co-president Yaron Kornblum called the comments "unfortunate."

"In today's economic environment, the losses were going to increase significantly for Shalhevet. By any measurement, these are not 'tiny' numbers. If Shalhevet were to continue another year, the losses would have severely affected operations at HAFTR and Rambam," said Kornblum. "Despite the disparaging remarks made about HAFTR, we are confident that HAFTR will be continue to be a leading Modern Orthodox yeshiva for many years to come."

Jack Margareten is a father of three boys who attend HAFTR and a board member who voted to stop funding Shalhevet because "to have done anything else would have been reckless and would have led to the demise of HAFTR as a viable institution. To me it was plain as day," he said.

"You should be very clear — in that room there were plenty of supporters of Machon. I know people that were pro-Machon who voted to stop the funding of Shalhevet. They were separate issues."

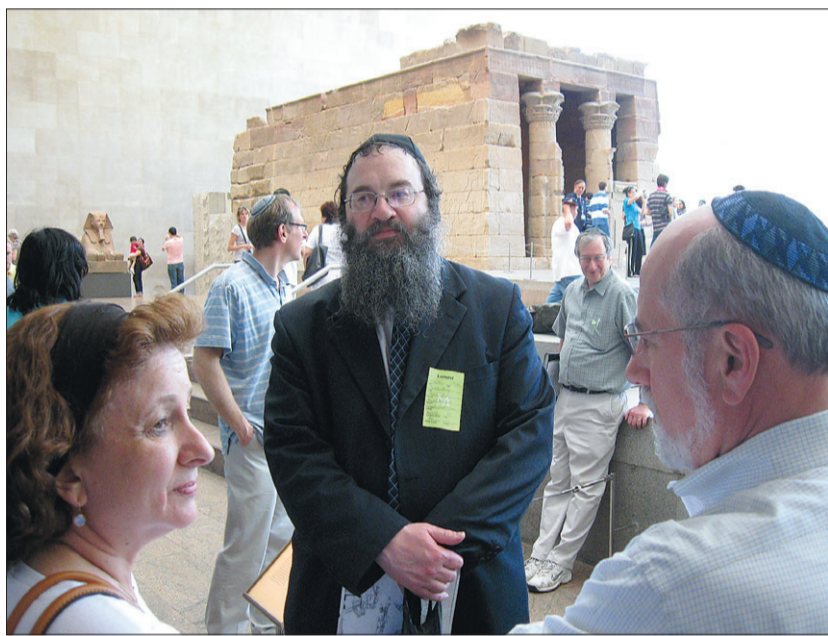


Photo by Mayer Fertig

Pausing while tour participants take in the Temple of Dendur at the Met.

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Letters

What it feels like to survive abuse

To the Editor:

I sat next to you in class, I live on your block. I went to your camp, I studied with you for tests. I am a regular girl.

A regular girl with a huge secret.

When I was six years old, my father's friend took me down to my basement to play. He used the privacy of the basement to do inappropriate and untzniusdik (immodest) things to me. It took me years of suffering in shameful silence to come out and admit the horrific truth: I had been abused. The full extent of the evil deeds this man had committed didn't hit me until years and years later. Now, as a young adult, standing on the threshold of my adult-

hood, I am forced to deal with the daily reality of what this means to me, so many years later.

As I sit and think about what this man has caused, about the ramifications this has had, and will have, on my life, I am engulfed by masses of feelings.

I feel...

Ashamed. Ashamed of how my body was used, how my body was abused. Ashamed of how I am different. Ashamed of the things that I've gone through.

Lonely. Lonely? Can you imagine the feeling of being surrounded by friends, yet unable to get help from any of them? Can you imagine the feeling of being the post popular girl in the class, yet staring at all of the admiring girls from behind a huge glass partition? Can you imagine the feeling of being surrounded by masses of

Some of the most deeply unpleasant people in the world are the ones who bear grudges. You know the type — she still bad-mouths you because you spilled soda on her shirt in 1982 or he still give you the eye because you stepped on his foot in 1988. They can't let anything go. (If you're one of them you'll probably never forgive us for this, but we digress). To recap: Holding a grudge? Not nice. Still, there are some situations where holding a grudge is not only useful, but quite desirable. More on that in a moment.

Have you ever heard it said that voters have short memories? It's true, they do. And voters have another fault, as well. No matter how lousy they know everyone else's elected official to be, when it comes to their own person... well, he's not so bad, she's not so bad.

Here's where the holding-the-grudge thing come in.

(We're writing this very slowly so

OPINION

Holding a grudge

Editorial

everyone can follow along).

Next Election Day, and the one after that, and so on: Throw. The. Bums. Out.

It's all but certainly a pipe dream, we know, but after the fiasco in Albany that locked up the State Senate for more than a month, the perfect, just outcome would be for there to be an entirely new Senate sworn in over the next few years. As each of the current clowns comes up for re-election, Hold. A. Grudge. And toss them out on their fannies, free to seek other employment as ex-state senators.

The likes of the recent spectacle — a pair of lawmakers of highly questionable character tying Nassau County, New York City and the rest of the state into knots while they carried out a naked grab for power — should never be seen again.

And the way to lock that in is to institute the power of recall. Not only should New Yorkers elect a whole new group of senators but it would be nice to see someone with the money to make it happen start the ball rolling on the legal niceties of ensuring that voters have the right to rid themselves of an elected official who so blatantly shows his or her election to have been a mistake. As have all — really, all — our current senators.

Remember: in this one instance, Hold. A. Grudge. And Throw. The. Bums. Out.

Pretend they stepped on your foot.

■■■

Correction: Due to an editing error, Hugo Chavez was mistakenly referred to in this space last week as the president of Argentina. He is the president of Venezuela. We still don't like him.

Letters

girls, dancing in a happy circle around the radiant Kallah, yet feeling like I am the only one who isn't part of the joy?

Angry. Angry? Sure I am angry with my abuser, but it's more than that. I feel angry at the world. Angry with the people who have created a society where I have to be ashamed, to keep HIS secret.

Hurt. Hurt? Yes, physically hurt. This man hurt me, but it was more than that. I am also hurt at those few people who know my secret, who are privy to my pain. Hurt at their lack of support. Hurt at their lack of understanding.

Shocked. Shocked? Shocked that this could happen to a "regular" girl like me. Shocked at

the way one man can change the entire course of my life. Shocked that people aren't doing more to stop it.

Frustrated. Frustrated? Frustrated that people think I did something wrong. I was *six years old* at the time. Frustrated that people pity me. I am still a regular girl. Frustrated that people think it doesn't happen in "our" world. Frustrated that we can't talk about such things. Frustrated that people are sweeping a problem that is such a big part of my life under the rug.

Hopeful. Hopeful? Hopeful that some day in the near future I won't be forced under a blanket of shame. Hopeful that Hashem will continue to give

me the strength to grow from my challenges and use my experiences to help others in similar situations. Hopeful that frum publications will continue to help raise awareness by printing my letter.

HAPPYGIRL

Editor's note: Name withheld by request due to the sensitive, highly personal nature of the letter.

Shalhevet can't close

To the Editor:
 Shalhevet High School can't

close! It is our home! We as Shalhevet students have a bond that cannot be explained in words. We also have a bond with our teachers, one that is special and unlike anywhere else. We can't split up. Is there anything we can do to keep our school/family alive?

Shalhevet is a home away from home. If you were forced out of a place you loved, how would you feel? Our school is filled with warmth, friendship and tons of Chesed. Life is all about Avodat Hashem, which is what we pursue in Shalhevet. Shalhevet has to open up again this fall; it just has to!

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FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BENCH

The lesson of giving is a keeper

I took a week off from writing last week, as my wife and I were busy marrying off a daughter. O.K., so she isn't our daughter, she is our niece. But it sure felt like we were marrying off a daughter. And no, we didn't have to pay for the wedding but we gladly would have. She moved into our home and hearts a year ago after graduating from Stern College. We have always been close to her. She was a flower girl at our wedding fifteen years ago and, this time, at her wedding, our two youngest daughters served as flower girls for her entourage.



David Seidemann

In the year or so that she lived with us, she served as a role model for our four daughters and we already miss her. Her groom, an exceptional young man, is both respectful and insightful. Together, we know they will serve as role models to other couples. I am not abashed to say that they inspire me to be a better partner to my wife. They personify the trait of "giving."

In my role as a rabbi years ago and now as a lawyer who, among other areas of law, practices matrimonial law, I have had occasion to witness many couples. I have observed different qualities of relationships. When both spouses are "takers" the relationship is doomed to fail. When one spouse is a giver and the other a taker, similar gloom is on the horizon. The giver will ultimately resent always giving and the taker will never be happy. The insatiable need of the taker to have their spouse fill the void created in their childhood can never be fulfilled.

When both give to each other, one would think that would be a model for success. But,

truth be told, the "mutual perpetual givers" are also headed for tough times for a variety of reasons. After a while one partner is bound to feel that they have given more than the other. So while giving to the other to make the other happy has its virtues, it is still not the ultimate.

The best relationship is one whose giving is predicated on the premise that giving makes the Master of the Universe happy. One who gives for that reason can never feel cheated because G-d has always given more to that giver than the giver has given to G-d. That outlook is a recipe for success in a marriage and in life; and it was a theme that, as you are about to read, unfolded at my niece's wedding.

Ten minutes into the first dance set the groom's sister, who is also a long time close friend of the bride, fell and hurt her ankle. An ambulance was called; she was placed on a stretcher and taken to a hospital. She was in tears because of the intense pain but more so because she was going to miss her brother's and her best friend's wedding.

Through man's new best friend, the cell phone, her status at the hospital was monitored, as was her expected return time to the wedding hall. What was thought to be a fracture was diagnosed as a severe sprain and she returned at 11:30 p.m., on crutches with her foot tightly wrapped. She returned long after most of the guests had left, after all the tables had been cleared, after the floor had been swept and after the band had packed up and gone home.

She returned to a semi-darkened hall that exploded into joyous dancing when she hobbled out of the cab. The family and twenty or so friends danced her into the wedding hall where the bandleader, Shloime Dachs,

remained by himself without musical backup and sang a capella for twenty minutes. He sang for twenty minutes so that this young woman could dance with her brother and her new sister-in-law. For me, those twenty minutes were the best part of the wedding.

Sheer joy, whose source was a giving of the highest and deepest quality, was on display.

As I put pen to paper for this column, I heard a similar story of giving that is so beautiful and inspiring that I want to share it as well. A local hamburger joint somewhere in Oklahoma sponsored a contest. Little 12-year-old Stevie was the winner and became the proud new owner of a ten-speed bicycle. Since he already had a bike, he gave the new one to a neighborhood child who did not have a bike.

When the owners of the hamburger joint heard of little Stevie's benevolence, they invited him back to the store and, with reporters and television cameras looking on, presented him with a \$100 check. Stevie promptly cashed the check and purchased kneepads, wrist guards and a helmet for the boy to whom he had given the new bicycle.

Sometimes we learn "giving" from veterans of marriage, sometimes from new brides, grooms and friends of the couple. Sometimes we learn giving from a paid entertainer who stays long after others have left to provide joy to one who missed out. And yes, sometimes we learn the art of giving from twelve-year-olds. No matter the source, the lesson is one to be taken to heart.

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.



I'M THINKING

Enemy of my enemy

When the Sunday Times of London reported that Israel has secured permission from Saudi Arabia to fly over Saudi airspace if and when it was necessary to attack Iran, the office of the Israeli Prime Minister denied the agreement. So did the Saudis.



Micah D. Halpern

While these heads of state may be attempting to keep the plan a secret, it is certainly no surprise. People who follow the goings on in the Middle East have been watching this plan unfold for a long time - even before the Obama administration became a part of the Israel/Iran mix.

A year ago, serious and reliable rumors surfaced that Israeli fighter aircraft were on the ground in Saudi air-force bases, allowing Israeli pilots to familiarize themselves with the Saudi terrain. It is also rumored that during Israel's operation against Hamas in Gaza, Egypt and Saudi Arabia received almost daily recaps on relevant issues and important decisions. The sequence of this Middle East version of the game "telephone" is hard to tie down, but the calls probably went from Tel Aviv to Cairo to Riyadh, with Egypt relaying information with the blessings, if not at the behest, of Israel.

Now, this report asserts that the chief of Israel's Mossad, Meir Dagan, has come to a very clear agreement with Saudi leadership about flying over Saudi Arabia. I am not suggesting that Israel is about to embark on an aerial raid on Iran, but I have no doubt that plans are in the works and include all varieties of access and attack points.

The United States has made no secret of the fact that they are not giving a green light to Israel. Sarkozy of France refers

to such plans as cataclysmic for the region. The reaction of the international community to what may very well be an inevitable act by Israel is significant not only diplomatically, but also practically and militarily.

If Israel uses Saudi airspace to attack Iran it does not need permission from the United States and does not need US flight codes. Israel would only need to fly south and quickly east into Saudi Arabia, across the Persian Gulf and into Iran. Permission for Israel to use Saudi air space alleviates potential pressure that the US could apply on Israel not to act against Iran.

The fact that the Saudis are willing to give Israel permission to use their air space is in itself a blow to Iran. It sends a message to Iran that neighboring nations are willing to step up and help Israel stop nuclear proliferation. It tells Iran that its neighbors, other Arab countries whom it considered allies, view Iran as a greater threat than they view Israel. It is a critical announcement to the region. And Iran has received the message even if Israel and the Saudis deny the assertion.

That message was compounded last week when Egypt permitted Israel to bring its Dolphin series nuclear sub through the Suez Canal. Iran cannot deny that the powers of the Middle East are uniting against it. Iran has never been a country to just wait and watch. We must monitor how Iran counters these moves.

Micah D. Halpern is a columnist and a social and political commentator. Read his latest book THUGS. He maintains The Micah Report www.micah-halpern.com. Reach Micah at: 917 399-4468

MATTOS-MASEI

Anger by design

BY RABBI AVI BILLET

As difficult as it is to comprehend warfare and the tactics required to ensure survival of your side, Biblical warfare is a different playing field in which G-d calls the shots. On the most simplistic level, the rules are out of the realm of our understanding.

"Moshe spoke to the people, saying, 'Detach men for armed service against Midian, so that G-d's revenge can be taken against the Midianites'....They mounted a surprise attack against Midian as G-d had commanded Moses, and killed all the [adult] males. Along with the other victims, they also killed the five kings of Midian... The Israelites took captive all the women of Midian and their children..." (31:3-9)

To further the difficulties of Biblical war, after the men return not having followed Moshe's instructions completely, they are commanded, "Now kill every male child, as well as every woman who has been involved intimately with a man. However, all the young girls who have not been involved intimately with a man, you may keep alive for yourselves." (31:17-18)

Those who gathered in Geneva in August 1949 for the "Convention for the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War," would likely cringe over these instructions. After all, civilized countries do not allow any kind of mistreatment of prisoners beyond their imprisonment.

Barring a direct command from G-d, I would not suggest that anyone kill enemy soldiers who have laid down their arms (imprisonment is a different story), or seek out male children or possibly pregnant females in order to destroy all male progeny. (In the case of Midian, many of the women were guilty of causing Israelites to sin and die over Baal Pe'or.)

Even Moshe's soldiers were sensitive to this idea, which is why they needed to be re-instructed in 31:17-18 to finish the job. Before their reeducation, however, "Moshe was angry at the generals and captains, who were the officers returning from the military campaign." (31:14)

Why did he get angry over their sensitivity to human life?

Rashi says because when a leader has the power to reproach, he is responsible for the failures of his people. When Moshe delegated G-d-ordered responsibilities, he put the jobs in the hands of others in order that they be carried out. As Colonel Nathan Jessep said in the play "A

Few Good Men," "We follow orders, son. We follow orders, or people die." Moshe's anger, it seems, is well placed.

The Midrash (Sifrei 157) states, "Elazar the Kohen said to the soldiers who came from the battlefield, 'This is the law of the Torah: Moshe - because he got angry, he made a mistake.' Rabbi Elazar ben Azaryah says, 'Moshe got angry three times and made a mistake each time because of it. In Vayikra 10:16-20 he got angry with Elazar and Itamar when they didn't follow the instructions for administering the korban correctly. In Bamidbar 20 he got angry and called the people rebels over the water incident. And here he got angry, causing Elazar to have to teach the laws to the people (31:21-24)."

While it seems the midrash is critical of Moshe, it raises an opinion that Moshe went to an extreme in order to give Elazar a platform from which to speak and teach, so that after Moshe's death people would not be able to say, "During Moshe's lifetime you never said or taught anything. What gives you the right to speak now, just because he is no longer around?" If Moshe seems to be unreasonable, which may be by design, then Elazar can teach in his stead.

The common denominator of each instance where Moshe lost his temper was his fear that people, for not having followed instructions, would die. This is understandable. I've seen many parents lose their cool when their children are careless near a street or a swimming pool, or in other potentially dangerous situations. While anger is not a good quality, in such cases it is often a natural impulse. And this anger's "existence, while grotesque and incomprehensible to you, saves lives." (Col. Jessep)

Whether anger is a good quality (or not), it conveys an important message when coming from someone who - as the midrash paints it - only got angry (erringly) three times in 40 years. (Moshe also became angry in Shmot 16:20, but he was right that time, and was also concerned that people might die.) If we were to use anger sparingly, perhaps that rarity would cause it to have its desired effect.

But the other lesson of the midrash is equally important. A friend of mine once told me, "I never want to be in a position where a younger person is waiting for me to croak in order to take over doing something I do." Any person whose job is secure should be able and willing to

give a younger person a platform from which to shine.

Whether a senior rabbi to an assistant, or an executive owner or partner to a younger partner or to a person rising through the ranks, it takes tremendous strength of character to say, "I've accomplished a lot in my time, and I want the next generation to have a shot." Shul roles, such

as gabbai, Torah reader, ba'al tefillah, etc, also fall into this category. It does not mean the more seasoned person must retire early or ride off into the sunset.

As Moshe realized, however, it does mean being able to pull yourself out, either by rouse or design or openly, to share the limelight with the next generation.

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ON THE Calendar

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

Cedarhurst - The Young Israel of Woodmere is hosting a lecture on Thursday, July 16 at 8:30 p.m. as part of their Dilemma, Discussion and Dessert series. Rabbi Aaron Glatt will speak on the topic of "Could a Churban Happen in our Lifetime?" at the home of Judy and Steven Stulberger, 559 Harbor Drive in Cedarhurst. For more information, call the shul at (516) 295-0950.

East Hills - The Sid Jacobson JCC is presenting a seminar entitled "Survivor's Survival Kit" on Tuesday, July 21 from 10:30 a.m. until 12 noon. Presented by Martha Kolodkin, this

seminar shows you how to minimize the stress on your surviving family members after you're gone through the development of a Survivor's Survival Kit. The cost is \$10 for non-members and free for SJCC members and Passport Holders. For more information, please contact Donna Bernstein at (516) 484-1545 ext. 134.

Lido Beach - AMIT presents its Annual Yom Iyun - Day of Learning Seminar - "For Women by Women" at the Lido Beach Synagogue at Fairway Road and Lido Boulevard in Lido Beach, on Wednesday, July 22, Rosh Chodesh Menachem Av, from 9:30-1:30. The Seminar is titled, "Family Redeemed, Exploring Biblical and Present Day Paradigms of Family Relationships." The presenters will be noted lecturers Ann Leifer, MA and Rebbetzin Dina

Rabhan, LCSW. Call the AMIT office at 212-477-4720 or the synagogue office at 516-889-9650 for more information.

Fleischmanns, NY - Executive directors, fundraisers, development professionals, and organization lay leaders: take advantage of two days of seminars, lectures and networking opportunities with peers to help make your fundraising program more productive. Wednesday, July 22, Thursday July 23, at Oppenheimer's Regis Hotel in Fleischmanns, NY. Topics to be addressed include: What's for Dinner? An Insider's View on Running an Effective and Successful Dinner Campaign; The Check is in the Mail! Is Direct Mail Right for You?; Proven Time Management and Donor Retention Techniques; and Tough Decisions for Tough Times: Running Your Fundraising Machine at 25% Below Budget. Presenters include Herschel Leiner, president of H. LEINER & Co.; Yitzchok Saftlas, president of Bottom Line Marketing Group; Rabbi Tzvi Bider, executive

director of Chicago Center for Torah & Chessed; Rabbi Yonah Weinrib, Judaica Illuminations; Rabbi Tzvi Chaim Pincus of Tiferes Stam, and others. For reservations or more information, contact Mrs. Esther Saftlas at 718-412-3520 or NYseminar2009@gmail.com.

Oceanside - The Friedberg JCC is hosting a lecture on "The Baseball Talmud" on Thursday, July 23 at 7:30 p.m. Join author and radio personality Howard Megdal as he discusses his new book, a historical narration of Major League Jewish Baseball in America. Cost is \$6. For more information, please call (516) 634-4154 or e-mail mlevi@friedbergjcc.org.

Oceanside - The Friedberg JCC is hosting a day trip to Northport on Sunday, July 26. The day will begin with a Living History Tour at the Vanderbilt Mansion where actors play the roles of the Vanderbilt family and their famous guest. Then, we stop for a three-course luncheon. After lunch, we head over to the new John W. Engeman Theater for the

Gershwin musical "Crazy for You" Cost is \$132 for the day, with luxury coach bus transportation included. Register by June 20. The trip will be leaving at 9 a.m. from the JCC, 15 Neil Court in Oceanside. For more information, please call (516) 766-4341 or go to www.friedbergjcc.org.

Rockville Centre - Mercy Medical Center will present a free one-hour lecture on "My Parents Are Aging. What Do I Need to Know?" on Wednesday, July 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the Mercy League Lounge on the hospital campus. Mercy's Director of Geriatric Medicine Dr. Muhammad Ramzan, and Adult Health Nurse Practitioner Margaret Amodemo, will discuss signs of aging that should be of concern, care and assistance that is available, and issues of importance that people might not even consider. The presentation will include information about Mercy Medical Center's Geriatric Assessment Program, nutrition, prevention of falls, and the broad affects that an aging parent has on all members of a family. Registration is not required. The Mercy League Lounge is located in the building opposite the hospital's Emergency Department. For parking, follow the signs to the lecture. For more information, call (516) 62MERCY or visit

www.mercymedicalcenter.info.

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

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

3:20 PM - Rabbi Kenneth Hain, Congregation Beth Shalom, on "A Torah Understanding of the Holocaust."

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

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

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

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

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Photo courtesy Yeshiva Ner Yaakov
Yeshiva Ner Yaakov's headquarters in Jerusalem's Geulah neighborhood.

ECONOMY SHUTS NER YAAKOV

Continued from Page One

post-high school program in 2010-2011. The yeshiva is located in Jerusalem's Geulah neighborhood.

"The decision is a painful one for all those who appreciate all that Ner Yaakov has done in the past two decades in the field of Jewish education," Rabbi Liff said.

For each of the last ten years Ner Yaakov has begun a new term with 70-80 students, on average. There were 60 young men at the beginning of last year but for the upcoming semester just 18 students were registered, said Rabbi Liff.

Ner Yaakov is "the kind of yeshiva the community can't afford to lose," said Rabbi Brian Thau of West Hempstead. His son, Yori, 19, was planning to go back for a second year.

"The yeshiva transformed my son, and Yori is not unique," he said. "He went from Rambam to HANC. HANC was able

to convince him to go to Eretz Yisrael for the year and the rest, as they say, is history. They [Ner Yaakov] just inspired him."

He was "very fortunate" that his son had rebbeim (teachers) who "took the time to reach out to him." Ner Yaakov is "one of the only yeshivas that take kids other yeshivas won't handle and turns them into find Bnei Torah," Rabbi Thau said, adding that he was "distracted" to learn that the yeshiva would not reopen in September.

"I've been in chinuch for many years and I've never seen a school like this," he said.

Ner Yaakov will help students to make other arrangements, Rabbi Liff said. All tuitions that have been paid will be refunded. It would be up to individual faculty members to choose whether to remain affiliated with the yeshiva during what he hopes will be a temporary hiatus, Rabbi Liff said. Some faculty members, he expects, will leave.

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IN MY VIEW

Continued from Page One

how our fears have led to unnecessarily increased problems with disastrous consequences.

Following a shocking experience like being intimidated after making sincere abuse allegations, there may be no viable way to keep the victims or the parents of the victims from leaving the frum community. But the resilience of the neshama (soul) is truly miraculous, and even some of these extraordinarily determined survivors have managed to stick with their frum communities, to work toward significant change.

Baalei teshuva are often especially discerning. After all, we have taken the best from our backgrounds, then sought to incorporate that into the best way of life we've ever found. So we are discerning about what's wrong with the standard frum lifestyle as well, and see no useful reason to ignore significant problems, whitewash, or cover them up.

Baalei teshuva often are used

to politeness and friendliness from our previous incarnations. Exemplary friendliness, like greeting newcomers to shul, seems unfortunately to take a back seat in many frum communities. After moving beyond the warm welcome of initial kiruv experiences, a ba'al teshuva may often be stunned by a lack of welcoming encounters thereafter. He may soon end up becoming acclimated to this less-than-sunny style or, hopefully, he may admirably try to upgrade the status quo with an infusion of his own warm ways, if they don't become overly stifled.

There are many examples of how baalei teshuva, in a steadfast resolve for truth, have already affected frum communities. The demand for upgraded special ed services, more professional therapeutic standards, and even healthier eating patterns have been indefatigably and successfully advocated for by baalei teshuva previously schooled in ways that could substantially benefit the frum lifestyle. "Why acquiesce to children getting junk food and sodas as prizes in school?" baalei teshuva may, not surprisingly, ask.

It is not at all easy to ruffle feathers and confront authorities that have become entrenched in some outmoded and harmful habits, but baalei teshuva are often now leading the way, thank G-d.

I guess it all comes down to this: there are some inappropriate behaviors in our frum communities that baalei teshuva may not tolerate as complacently as others, and we are more willing than most to take the initiative to work on constructive change. Whether it's lax attitudes about yeshiva students smoking, a lack of outrage about perpetrators of abuse, or even just a general lack of ready smiles, we are the ones, more and more, gaining the confidence (and knowledge from the complex "Pilot's Manual") to get up there on our soapboxes, and work to clean up some acts. The vast majority of us are sticking around, and when we come face to face with problems that need work, we don't have to pretend all is fine and dandy, just as we couldn't pretend that in our past lifestyles either. We're sticking around because we're family now, and when members of our family need help, we

feel more committed to them than ever. We are here because we want to help make this extraordinarily worthwhile way of life even healthier, even happier and even more responsible.

We want to thank you for every single difficult effort you have ever made to preserve

what's most meaningful. Thanks to all you did, we were able to transform our lives and regain our heritage. We hope you can see that providing refreshing outlooks, generating renewed enthusiasm, and promoting increased accountability are some of the ways we have to give back to you.

This striving for truth is certainly challenging, but that's just what we have always been deeply yearning for — and we've never stopped. So keep those seat belts fastened — tightly. We want to keep soaring, G-d willing. May we have a long and exhilarating journey together.

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Unified Partners with Andersen

Unified Window Systems Inc. of New York has partnered with Minnesota-based Andersen Corporation to bring a new, custom-made Andersen window to the market place. Known for quality wood windows since 1903, Andersen has always produced stock-sized windows mainly designed for builders and new construction. Recently the company decided to design a completely custom made wood window with all their best features. Hence, the Andersen Wood Wright line of windows was launched.

Having serviced Long Island, Brooklyn and Queens for the past 20 years, Unified has built its reputation as a top quality company. All the products sold are measured, custom made, delivered, fully installed, and fully warranted by Unified and the manufacturers it represents.

"The partnership was perfect," said Steven DiMare, Chief Executive Officer of Unified. "We have always admired the Andersen name and this window is perfect for our customers. Being able to offer a top quality Andersen window with the surety we won't have to disrupt the exterior or interior of the customer's house to get it installed is perfect. That can only be done with a custom made product to fit the home exactly."

Unified has put the window on display in all three of its showrooms and has trained its in-home sales people on the new product. The showrooms, located in Hempstead Village, Huntington, and Patchogue, are open seven days a week and the in home estimates are free.

"This window is perfect for homes with an immaculate decor and fine furnishings," Vice President of Unified Chase Peres said. "Before this product, those customers would have to pay double what the window cost trying to put the house back together after all the carpentry. With this window, they hardly know we were there once the job is completed."

When considering home improvement, the work "confusion" probably best describes the mindset most shoppers. Between fast talking salesmen and manufacturer statistic sheets, some people lose sight of their most valuable shopping asset — common sense. DiMare provides the following tips on shopping for home improvements.

Cornering The Market



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Never buy anything from any person you don't trust and feel one hundred percent comfortable with. Trust your instincts.

Sometimes, what sounds good in description and looks great in pictures turns out to be a total disappointment. Do not sign a contract without seeing the product first and never be afraid to tell your salesman just that. An honest salesman will understand apprehension and welcome you to go to the showroom before signing a contract.

A company's reputation says it all. Always inquire how long a company has been in business and how many jobs they complete each year. This information will give you a good idea about a company's experience. (Unified completes approximately 5,000 jobs per year and has been in business over 20 years. That's over 100,000 happy customers since the company was started.) Always check with Consumer Affairs when the company was first licensed to be sure they didn't change names along the way.

Never buy a product or home improvement from a person or company that does not work out of a showroom, factory, or professional storefront. Even

though the price will be lower, anyone who works out of a house, truck, or post office box, can seem to disappear into thin air: Visit the place of business, even if the contractor comes to give you an in home estimate.

If a company and salesman are really honest, you should be able to get answers over the telephone, including exact prices and descriptions without having to give your name or address and without talking to a specific person. An honest company should have nothing to hide.

Before signing a contract, make a quick list on your own of everything you expect in the job and everything the salesperson promised you. Compare your list with the contract to be sure each item is clearly written. Don't hesitate to have the salesman add what is missing.

Unified Windows, Doors, Siding and Roofing will be opening a second main facility in Westchester by late 2009 or early 2010. Much like the Hempstead Village location, Westchester will be all in one large complex. The new complex will service the areas from the Bronx up to Monroe, NY, and Ramsey, NJ, to Danbury, CT.

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Israeli exhibit brings the Olympics to life

BY NOAH D. GUROCK
Exclusive for *The Jewish Star*

TEL AVIV-For Americans who watched Michael Phelps win eight gold medals last year at the Olympic Games in Beijing, or who remember Michael Jordan and Magic Johnson leading Team USA to the Gold in the 1992 games in Barcelona, the excitement of a single Olympic medal may pale in comparison. But when you see how Israelis cheered when Shay Oren Smadga (Bronze in Judo) and Yael Arad (Silver in Judo) won the nation's first-ever Olympic medals in 1992, or how

the giant Israeli flags waved when Gil Fridman won a Bronze in sailing in Atlanta in 1996, you might change your mind.

Scenes of Israeli athletes erupting with emotion after winning gold, silver or bronze were rarely, if ever, shown on American TV. But they explode on the giant screen as part of "The Olympic Experience," a spectacular multi-media show soon to open here in Tel Aviv.

The Jewish Star was given an exclusive preview of the show last week, an exciting one-hour interactive extravaganza that took three years to conceive and another three years (and 15

million shekels) to put together. The tour was in Hebrew, but an English language version will be ready very soon.

Originally called an Olympic "museum," the five-room show (corresponding to the five Olympic rings) follows a young female athlete ("Shir") and her coach ("Yael") as she prepares to compete in the Olympic Games. "Shir" is worried about being ready to face the stress of the competition. We learn about the modern Olympic champions in one room (including Jordan, Magic Johnson, Jesse Owens and Mark Spitz, among others, and what



Michael Kolganov, as he talks about his Olympic medal

it takes to be a champion). It's a theatre in the round, 360 degrees of excitement as you

stand in the middle of the room and watch images blast onto giant screens all around you.

We were joined on our tour by a group of 12 year-olds from a school in Ramat HaSharon. These boys and girls were thrilled and dazzled by the experience, even though the names and faces of the athletes were unknown to them.

In the second room, we are taken back to ancient times, as we join Shir and Yael in learning about the origins of the Olympic Games.

In the third room we sit in the middle of the Olympic "ring" as the stories of Israel's champions are projected, told through their own words and state of the art holograms. We are moved from one side to the other, transfixed by the stories of the six athletes who won a total of seven medals (Fridman won a Gold in sailing in 2004) and hear their stories of a life of training, striving and courage.

That's one of the goals of the show, explained Shlomi Stein, the manager of The Olympic Experience, who insists you don't have to be a sports fan to be dazzled by it. The real message, Stein told us, is that "you can have a dream and proceed to fulfill it." And that's what you hear from all of the Israeli Olympians, in their own words, as you re-live their moments of Olympic glory.

For those of us who lived through the tragedy of Munich in 1972, the fourth ring, a memorial to the 11 Israeli Olympians who were murdered by Palestinian terrorists, tells a story which still brings tears to your eyes. The video clip of Golda Meir warning the world that "no Israeli will ever be safe anywhere," if Israel gives in to terrorist demands, brought back memories of the story we covered for days.

The historic video clip of ABC's Jim McKay telling the world that, "Our worst fears have been realized tonight. They've now said that there were eleven hostages. Two were killed in their rooms yesterday morning; nine were killed at the airport tonight. They're all gone," is something no one should forget.

The stories of the murdered Olympians are narrated by Israeli track and field star Esther Roth-Shachamorov, a member of the 1972 Israeli Olympic Team who was housed in a different part of the Olympic complex. The stories are emotional tributes to those murdered, so much so that Roth-Shachamorov breaks down as

she ends their stories.

But something is missing. Although she is identified as a survivor, no mention is made of the five Israelis who survived the actual attack.

The theme of the fifth ring room is the future, with a giant sound and light globe to inspire everyone to live the Olympic theme of "faster, higher, stronger."

And to help young people better understand that, there is a room full of interactive activities. You can test yourself against someone else in sprinting off the starting blocks, or get on a treadmill and see just how fast you would have to run to compete in a Marathon. You can also take an interactive quiz on the Olympics and Israel's Olympic history.

The show "is excellent to explain the Olympic spirit to youngsters, and to motivate them for hard work to try to reach the goal of participation in the Olympics and Israel's Olympic history."

And to help young people better understand that, there is a room full of interactive activities. You can test yourself against someone else in sprinting off the starting blocks, or get on a treadmill and see just how fast you would have to run to compete in a Marathon. You can also take an interactive quiz on the Olympics and Israel's Olympic history.

"The history of the Israeli participation is long, interesting, full of devoted and non-devoted individuals, volunteers, politicians and officials, joys, intrigues, failures and successes," he told the Jewish Star.

Ladany was one of the five Israeli athletes who escaped the Munich massacre and relives the terror every day. He said of "The Olympic Experience": "It provides a good platform to memorialize the 11 Israelis massacred in Munich. It presents a proper view of the Olympic-medal winning history of Israel."

"The Olympic Experience" is located at the Hadar Yosef Sports Building, 6 Shetrit St., Tel Aviv. You can make reservations to see the multi-media show by e-mail OlympicE@nocil.co.il or by phone 011-972-3-649-8385. It will be open to the public after the conclusion of the 18th World Maccabiah Games now underway.

Noah D. Gurock is News Enterprise Manager at WWOR-TV/My9 News. As a newspaper reporter, he covered the 1968 Olympics and reported on the Munich Massacre in 1972.



Scene from the opening part of the multi-media show, in which Shir is awed by the prospect of competing in the giant arena

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THE KOSHER BOOKWORM

What to read for the Three Weeks (part two)

The Legacy of Irving Bunim

While the popular jingle goes, "Summertime and the living is easy," for the Jewish people, the summertime has proven to be a hot time of the year, literally as well as figuratively. Beginning with the destruction of the First Temple and for many summers thereafter down through history, there was and is nothing easy, ritually, about the summer. Fully, three whole weeks during the heart of summertime are taken up as a collective mourning period for disasters that occurred over two millennia, from the Crusades to the many pogroms that have dotted our people's troubled history ever since.



Alan Jay Gerber

Framed by two fasts, this period of time has generated an array of literature that has served to remind us of the contemporary nature of persecution and woe that has overtaken our faith unto this very day.

This week, in line with that theme, I bring to your attention a new book that relates to the personalities of those religious leaders whose lives were touched by the twin evils of Nazism and Communism.

Titled, "Heroes of Spirit: 100 Rabbinic Tales of the Holocaust" [Israel Bookshop, 2009] by Rabbi Dovid Hoffman, this book details, in a series of one hundred brief essays, the stories of our religious leaders, most of whom survived the terrible years of World War Two and the rule and ruin of World Communism to serve as witness to the evil and destructiveness of these ideologies and to the eternal indestructibility of our people.

The great leaders highlighted include such luminaries as Rav Aharon Kotler, Rav Josef Breuer, the Klausenberger Rebbe, the Bluzhever Rebbe, Rav Moshe Feinstein, and Rav Yisrael Gustman, all of blessed memory. Among those who did

not survive are the Piaczeczna Rebbe, Rav Elchanan Wasserman and Rav Menachem Ziemba, Hy"d.

Among those abroad, the author gives a brief but detailed account of Rav Eliyahu Lopian who, having settled in England in 1925, helped as its new Rosh Yeshiva to establish the Etz Chaim Yeshiva in London as a premier center for Torah learning.

It was Rav Lopian's destiny to spend the war years in London and to witness, first hand, the destructiveness of the Nazi Blitz. One particular story of his activities during that time is given prominence in this book, serving as an apt example of the chessed Rav Lopian was known to exercise as part of his religious regimen. I am certain that the members of his family in Bayswater will take particularly special pride in this legacy.

In addition, the author also saw fit to include several leaders who, from the shores of the United States led the heroic Vaad Hatzalah effort to help assist those of our brethren in dire distress. Among them are Mike Tress and Irving Bunim.

While their activities have long ago been treated to literary tribute, their inclusion in this volume serves as an appropriate and fitting tribute to their contribution to the war rescue effort. This will now serve as a lead in to the following notice concerning an upcoming community event.

For many years Irving Bunim was a resident of our community, and to this day his son, Amos Bunim, holds a prominent place as one of the most important elder statesmen of the Jewish community of the South Shore and Far Rockaway. Further details as to the Bunim legacy will be dealt with at a special "Nine Days / Rosh Chodesh Av Asifa" on Wednesday July 22, 2009, at 7:30 PM at The Red Shul of Cedarhurst, on Oakland Avenue off West Broadway. Rabbi Yair Hoffman will present an audio-video tribute to the life's work of Irving Bunim. Also featured will be Rabbi Yaakov Feitman who will host the evening's program together with Stuart Nussbaum on behalf of The Red Shul.

Admission will be free and the entire community, both men and women, are invited. Mark this evening down on your calendar and try to make it there. Not only will you be paying tribute to the memory of a great man, but you will be personally enriched by learning about some of the greatest events in our people's history.

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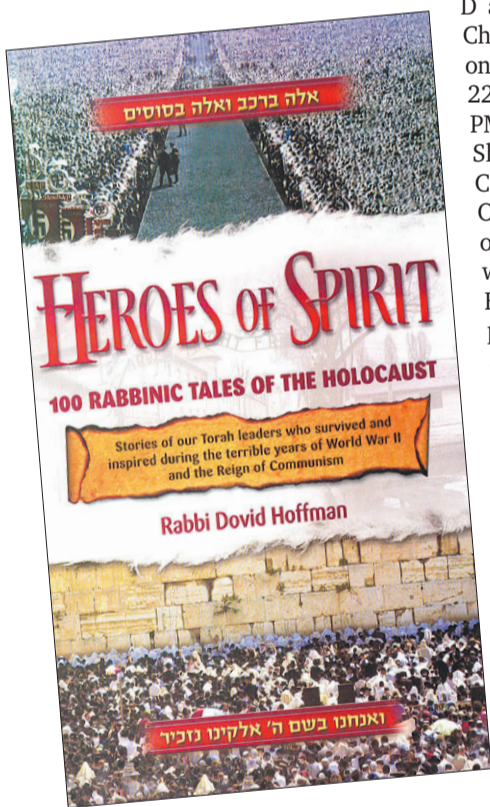
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SPORTS

Inter-shul baseball

RESULTS
WEEK 3 - JULY 12

B.T.	13	ISLAND	5
YINW	7	CHABAD	6
YIH	17	RED	15
B.S.	11	SHTEEBL	4

STANDINGS	W	L
B.S.	3	0
YINW	3	0
B.T.	2	1
ISLAND	1	2
SHTEEBL	1	2
CHABAD	1	2
YIH	1	2
RED	0	3

SCHEDULE FOR WEEK 3 - JULY 12

FIELD 1	FIELD 2
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Kulanu Movie Night on the Lawn

It was like a drive-in but without the cars. Members of Kulanu's Young Leadership relaxed in camping chairs in front of a big screen on the lawn of Ariel and Baruch Glaubach, in Lawrence, last Tuesday, July 7. Hot dogs, popcorn, pretzels and candy were served up by Barbara Goldenberg of Woodmere, a co-chair of the event.

Local vendors including Herbal Mist, Gourmet Glatt, Gabe Boxer and Smart, Safe and Sound made donations that allowed all ticket and raffle sales to go directly to Kulanu and the programs and services it offers to children with disabilities. For information about Kulanu call 516-569-3083 or visit www.kulanukids.org.

DAY SCHOOL STUDY

Continued from Page One

closely current boards of directors hew to accepted good practice, and to examine whether there was a relationship between these practices and school operational performance.

Close to one third of school board presidents strongly agreed that board members give their schools their top personal philanthropic gifts or that they generated financial support for school events. Only about one quarter felt that board members were actively engaged in identifying and cultivating potential major donors.

School boards can play a pivotal role in addressing the day school affordability crisis, particularly in the areas of financial planning and fundraising, the study suggests, potentially saving millions of dollars each year.

It pinpointed several ways to reduce the growing affordability gaps, said Azrieli doctoral candidate Harry Bloom, director of planning and performance improvement for the Institute, and the study's designer. He explained the findings at a conference Monday on YU's Beren campus in Manhattan.

"The affordability challenge is bigger than anyone thinks," Bloom said. "We need to create vital support for day school educational funding, and help our schools use the board as lever to help generate what we believe is \$100 million a year."

Bloom outlined a four pronged approach designed to address the problem, which included communal fundraising, interschool and inter-communal collaboration, maximizing government support for day schools, and better financial management on the part of the day schools themselves. Once those measures are in place, "we will be able to really start making a dent in the affordability problem," he said.

The survey is the first ever of day school board presidents and its findings have practical implications for improving the day school system," Bloom believes.

"What makes this study unique is that it is one of the only ones grounded in a graduate program of Jewish education," added Dr. David Schnall, the dean at Azrieli. "We are not just focusing on the business and financial aspects, but on the educational components as well... looking at the correlation between the board doing their job and the educators implementing their ideas."

"In the context of the affordability crisis that day schools are facing, these relatively low ratings represent a source of significant opportunity for improving day schools' financial pictures, particularly if supported by strong work...to identify prospective Board members ... with wealth or connections to wealthy individuals, federations or foundations," the study observed. "Board members need to understand that one of their most important responsibilities is ensuring that schools have sufficient resources to fulfill their missions and that this responsibility cannot be relegated to the Development Committee or to staff professionals."

The focus on school board presidents and their contribution to the success of the school has taken on even greater significance in light of the economic downturn.

"The issues of tuition and affordability are not just a year old, but they now have a particular energy because of the unfortunate circumstances of last year," noted Bloom. "To improve affordability without quality of education is shortsighted... and we want to document what is going on in different areas of education, so there can be a great synergy between the commitment to affordability and upholding the quality of education."

Bloom explained that while each school has a fixed cost, and certain components that make it distinct, there are also resources that can be shared, and he believes that now is the time to tap into them.

"We want to preserve the parts of a school that make it distinct, but we also need to figure out what things can we do together to share resources that don't touch the students," he said. "It's incumbent for us to work together to put those issues on the table."

Dr. Scott Goldberg, the director of the Institute, highlighted the ability of the various schools to unite and "come together, across the denominations, in this important initiative."

"Too often we hear calls for cutting core educational components of schools, from teacher salaries to professional development," he said. "While schools must find ways to cut spending, this survey suggests that we can help preserve the educational core of the school and maintain school quality by maximizing fundraising and strategic financial planning."

Other topics the survey explored include committee effectiveness, efforts to educate board members, fulfillment of fiduciary responsibilities, and board-head of school relationships.

Though the survey was conducted anonymously via e-mail, each school was offered the opportunity to receive an individual summary of the results as well as a consultation on how to take advantage of the findings. In addition, the Institute has been providing free ongoing consulting services to several local yeshivas, including HAFTR, TAG, and Yeshiva Ketana, to "look at economic models, and identify opportunities to increase revenue and reduce costs," Bloom said.

"What's great about the work we're doing in the Five Towns is the phenomenal spirit of cooperation between the different schools," he added, referring to several recent meetings held for heads of 15 local day schools. "The schools keep coming back for follow-up sessions and they are really taking everything to heart and implementing our recommendations for improvement."

The Institute is also providing consultative services in Bergen County, NJ, and Philadelphia, PA, with plans for expansion in the coming months. "We want to be able to make recommendations for each school to maximize affordability and cooperate with each other to improve," Bloom said.

This summer Bloom plans to mount a "roadshow" of sorts, traveling to Chicago, Los Angeles, and other major cities to work with schools and educational agencies to advance the Institute's message. "We want to take this out there and cause this to be an impetus for change," he said. "It's a great time to implement the findings and we view this as great news and think it can be a huge force of change."

The complete survey and analysis can be viewed at www.yu.edu/schoolpartnership.

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