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**Friday, April 19:** Light Candles: 7:21 Shabbos Ends: 8:23

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on page 11

# QUEENS JEWISH LINK

Connecting the Queens Jewish Community Distributed every other week

Vol. II No. 8 (#31)

April 12, 2013-2 Iyar 5773

Free



Michael Sirota, Jane Zaturansky, and Nessim Tammam light the six memorial candles representing the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust

## Community Speaks Out At Sunday's Holocaust Vigil In Front Of Iranian Mission In Manhattan

by Jeff Klapper

Goebbels and Streicher would be very much at home in today's Tehran, where flaming anti-Jewish rhetoric lashes from state-controlled newspapers and TV, Zionism is a capital offense punishable by hanging. The official policy of the government is to annihilate Israel and take over the world with

its brand of radical Islam.

The Yom HaShoah Mobilization Committee of Great Neck thought it was altogether fitting to organize a Yom HaShoah vigil/protest in front of the Iranian mission on East 40<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan.

The vigil made up for its relatively small

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## KGH Library Expansion To Begin With Ceremonial Groundbreaking On April 19

by KGHCA Staff

After more than twelve years of advocating and planning, preparations have begun for the renovation and expansion

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## Professor Discusses Her Book, A Small Town Near Auschwitz, About Family Friend Who Turned Out To Be Nazi Official

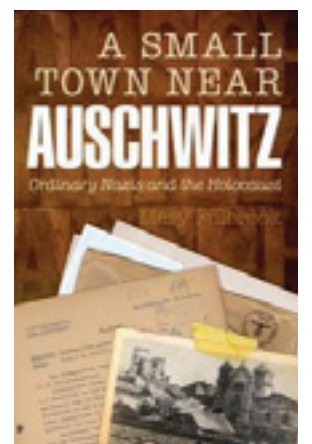
by Jeff Klapper

How does a decent lawyer and civil servant become a Nazi monster responsible

for the deaths of tens of thousands?

How does one relate to a family friend who one

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## Prominent Political Commentator Pamela Geller To Address Great Neck Synagogue

On Sunday Morning, April 14, at 10:00 a.m., the Great Neck Synagogue Men's Club presents Pamela Geller, Founder of the influential "Atlas Shrugs" blog and Executive Director of the American Freedom De-

CONTINUED ON P. 45



Pamela Geller

## 75 Years Later, YIKGH Commemorates The Kindertransport

by Jeff Klapper

Dr. Chaim Weizmann, brilliant chemist and future president of Israel, once said in the darkest and most hopeless days before the Holocaust, "The world seems to be divided into two parts: those places where Jews could not live and those where

they could not enter." In those dark days, the world offered sympathy but not sanctuary. Nearly every civilized country from Canada to Australia shut its doors to Jewish emigrants as the ground burned beneath their feet.

The Kindertransport (German for "transport of

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# Your Say • Readers Write

## Thank You, Rabbi Oppenheimer

I wish to commend Rabbi Oppenheimer for his courageous and his superbly articulated article on the situation with Chareidi attitudes in Israel today. Rabbi Oppenheimer managed to capture the feelings of many in the Chareidi community here and I suspect as well in Eretz Yisrael. For an entire community not to serve in the army, or at least take some nominal role in defending its people, flies in the face of explicit *p'sukim* in the Torah as well as the teachings of Chazal. When the Chazon Ish ruled that *yeshivah* students need not serve in the army, it may well have been a *horaas shaah*, an emergency measure employed to assure that Torah will con-

tinue to flourish in the fledgling State of Israel, and it succeeded, *baruch Hashem*, beyond all expectations. I don't believe that this was meant to assure that

Commandments) and many statements of Chazal in the Mishnah and Gemara. Indeed it is contrary to the very *k'subah* that every Jewish man agrees to at the

hold on what a Torah society should be in a world that is hostile to all the values that a Torah life teaches. But they too have to learn to live and contribute to the world around them. The way Chareidi life is structured now, it is not sustainable. Human nature will not tolerate this lifestyle, and the rank-and-file *chareidi* is well aware of this. The political leadership of that community owes it to their constituents to deal with the situation facing them in a responsible manner. I thank Rabbi Oppenheimer for his willingness to express this as openly and cogently as he did.

**Rabbi Yoel Schonfeld**

YIKGH

*When the Chazon Ish ruled that yeshivah students need not serve in the army, it may well have been a horaas shaah, an emergency measure employed to assure that Torah will continue to flourish in the fledgling State of Israel*

an entire community not serve by dint of their religious status.

The lack of a commitment to work also flies in the face of the Torah (in the Ten

point of marriage.

There is no doubt that the Chareidi community must continue to grow and be in the vanguard of keeping a strong

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We welcome letters to the editor. Share your thoughts, concerns, and topics of interest with the community that meets in the pages of the QJL. Please note the views expressed in these letters are the opinions of the authors and not necessarily the views of the QJL.



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# 8-Day Forecast



**FRI • APR. 12**



54°

42°

Rain

**SAT • APR. 13**



55°

39°

Sunny

**SUN • APR. 14**



56°

43°

P/Cloudy

**MON • APR. 15**



60°

51°

Sunny

**TUE • APR. 16**



62°

52°

Sunny

**WED • APR. 17**



63°

50°

Sunny

**THU • APR. 18**



62°

46°

Sunny

**FRI • APR. 19**



62°

46°

Sunny



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**Please have all submissions in for  
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our April 26th edition. If we have not  
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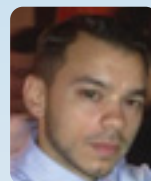


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# Stories Of Greatness

by R' Dovid Hoffman

## The Chief Rabbi's "Non-Handshake"

וביום השמיני ימול בשר ערלתו וגו' (ויקרא ג: יב)

The year 1929 (5689) was a year of pain and suffering for the Jews of Eretz Yisrael. The murderous and marauding Arabs attacked the small Jewish community of Chevron, including the renowned Knesses Yisrael Yeshiva, killing sixty-seven Jews and wounding another sixty. The savagery inflicted by the Arab killers was astounding, even by their own bestial standards, and Jews all over the world – and even decent gentiles – were appalled at the massacre that took place.

What was even more appalling was that the local British authorities seemed to indicate that it was the Jews' own fault that they were subjected to this treatment, and had they not insisted on living amongst the Arabs, there would have been no provocation to warrant such an attack. In fact, this was the distinct impression that Sir Harry Charles Luke – High Commissioner of Palestine and later deputy to the acting Chief Secretary – gave in his dealings and memoranda to local British officials, and it was

no secret that he favored the Arab minions over the Jews of the Yishuv.

At one of the numerous official cere-

The Chief Rabbi's actions became the topic of heated discussions all over Jerusalem and beyond. There were those

were upset with his actions and feared that the High Commissioner, as well as his underlings in the governing British Mandate, would now have even more reason to dislike the Jews, and thereby show greater favoritism to the Arabs. Who knows, they claimed, if this does not lead to more pogroms and more unrestrained incitement against the Yishuv, for the British would now have no reason at all to protect its Jewish subjects. A bitter war of words broke out among the various segments of the Jewish Yishuv, and it further splintered the small community into greater disunity.

During this period, a *bris milah* was held in Jerusalem, and the Chief Rabbi was invited to attend. When Rav Kook

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*The Chief Rabbi's actions became the topic of heated discussions all over Jerusalem and beyond. A bitter war of words broke out among the various segments of the Jewish Yishuv, and it further splintered the small community into greater disunity*

monies that took place in Jerusalem, not long after the 1929 massacre, the Jewish delegation, led by the Chief Rabbi, Ha-Rav Avraham Yitzchak HaKohen Kook zt"l, was met on the receiving line by the High Commissioner himself. Sir Harry Luke, prim and proper and totally devoid of warmth, held out his hand in greeting; however, Rav Kook refused to shake the hand of a person who so openly disregarded the Jews, and quickly walked on by. The slight was noticed by everyone present and the High Commissioner was mightily insulted.

who supported Rav Kook and felt that he was right in snubbing Sir Luke, for this was a way to show that he was most undesired and not respected by the bulk of his Jewish subjects. On the other hand, a great many of the Chief Rabbi's foes

**Rabbi Dovid Hoffman** is the author of the popular "Torah Tavlin" book series, filled with stories, wit and hundreds of divrei Torah, including the brand new "Torah Tavlin Yamim Noraim" in stores everywhere. You'll love this popular series. Also look for his book, "Heroes of Spirit," containing one hundred fascinating stories on the Holocaust. They are fantastic gifts, available in all Judaica bookstores and online at <http://israelbookshoppublishations.com>. To receive Rabbi Hoffman's weekly "Torah Tavlin" sheet on the parsha, e-mail [Torahtavlin@yahoo.com](mailto:Torahtavlin@yahoo.com)

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## Warning: Lashon HaRa Kills

While traveling from city to city selling his wares, a peddler approached the city of Tzipori and called out in a loud voice, "Who wants to buy the potion of life? Who wants life?" A crowd gathered around him. Rabbi Yanai heard the commotion and stood by watching. When he heard the man's offer, he said to him, "I would like to purchase some." The peddler responded, "It's not for you and your type." Rabbi Yanai persisted. Finally the peddler took out a T'hilim and opened it to the pasuk, "Who is the man who wants life? Guard your tongue from evil." Rabbi Yanai exclaimed, "All of my life I read that pasuk, and never appreciated how simple it was until this peddler revealed it to me!"

### What did the peddler reveal to Rabbi Yanai?

It seems that Rabbi Yanai learned a great lesson from this peddler, something so powerful that it impacted on both his outlook and his actions. The difficulty with this *midrash* is that it doesn't seem that Rabbi Yanai learned anything new. He clearly knew the *pasuk* before the peddler said it. He'd probably reviewed those words hundreds of times before. As he was a *Tanna* (scholar of the Mishnah, redacted c. 200 CE), he had mastered the entire Torah and understood the meaning, depth, and implications of those words. What new concept did Rabbi Yanai learn from the peddler?

The answer to this can be best understood with a *maschal* (parable). Imagine that a mother and father are looking for the right yeshiva for their son. After much investigation, they hit upon the perfect solution. It's got the right type of environment, the right type of boys, just the right blend – a perfect fit. But then they hear the news: The boys in that yeshiva smoke!

"Oh my goodness!" they both exclaim. "Now what? It may be a great yeshiva, and our son might flourish there, but everyone knows that smoking kills. It's a habit that's very difficult to quit. It's just not worth it."

So they decide not to send their son to that yeshiva.

While you and I may debate whether they made the right choice, no one would argue that they have a very valid concern. After all, bad habits really are difficult to break, and smoking does have serious health consequences.

Now let's play out the same scenario with just one little change: same young man, same yeshiva, same perfect fit... however, instead of the parents finding out that the boys smoke, they find out that the boys in that yeshiva speak *lashon ha'ra*. What would we anticipate the parents' reaction to be?

"Oh my goodness! The Torah warns us

against *lashon ha'ra*! With one conversation, a person can violate dozens of prohibitions. And worse, it can easily be-

*Smoking, which may kill, they fear, yet lashon ha'ra, which they know definitely kills, they aren't that concerned about. How are we to understand this anomaly?*

come a lifelong habit. *Lashon ha'ra* kills. It may be a great yeshiva, but forget it. We can't take the chance!"

Somehow it doesn't seem likely that that would be the reaction. More likely, their attitude would be, "Listen, it's not something we are happy to hear, but it isn't a reason to disqualify a good yeshiva."

Let's analyze the difference in their reactions. Assuming that these are well-educated people, they know that the Torah specifically, clearly, and definitively tells us that speaking *lashon ha'ra* kills, and that guarding one's tongue is the Torah's guarantee to long life. They have heard many "*shmuzen*" discussing the severity of this issue, and they don't question it.

On the other hand, they are aware that while smoking has a high correlation to various diseases, at the end of the day it is only a small percentage of people who actually die from smoking-related issues.

So smoking, which may kill, they fear, yet *lashon ha'ra*, which they know definitely kills, they aren't that concerned about. How are we to understand this anomaly?

The answer is that when medical science tells us something, we accept it as truth. These are the facts; this is reality. Unfortunately, when the Torah tells us something, it just isn't real. "Well... you need a lot of *emunah* to really accept that...I don't know if I am on the level to keep that..." And so in the parents' minds, "*lashon ha'ra* ... well, I mean... a mitzvah it's not, but it surely isn't as dangerous as smoking. Smoking really kills!"

This seems to be the answer to Rabbi Yanai. As great as he was and as much as he accepted every word of the Torah as completely true, on some level it wasn't 100 percent real to him. The peddler revealed to Rabbi Yanai that the Torah is teaching us "*lashon ha'ra* kills" in its most simple, direct meaning. It then became real to him.

### The greatest distance on earth is between the head and the heart

There are two great lessons for us in this. One is simply to understand the gravity of the words that we utter, their effects on others and on ourselves. The second lesson is much more broad-based and affects all areas of our growth.

We humans are motivated by that which we consider valuable. If we live in a culture that uses money and material pos-

One of the most important aspects of growth is making the Torah's values real: not in theory, not as some remote distant idea, but rather "getting it," understanding that every word in the Torah is true. While we may not feel it now, one day we will. One day, we will understand that every word of Torah learning is more precious than fine jewels. One day, we will appreciate that every callous remark that we ever made will come back to haunt us. And one day, we will recognize that every action, deed, and thought was being videotaped to be played back to us at the end of our days.

The more that we focus on the value system of the Torah, the more real it becomes to us, and the more motivated we will be by that which has eternal value and preciousness.

Born and bred in Kew Gardens Hills, R' Benzion Shafier joined the Chofetz Chaim Yeshiva after high school. Shortly thereafter he got married and moved with his new family to Rochester, where he remained in for 12 years. R' Shafier then moved to Monsey, NY, where he was a Rebbe in the new Chofetz Chaim branch there for three years. Upon the Rosh Yeshiva's request, he stopped teaching to devote his time to running Tiferes Bnei Torah. R' Shafier, a happily married father of six children, currently resides in Monsey.



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## The Mirage Of Self-Interest

*"We do not see things as they are, we see things as we are." -- Unknown*

I was recently engaged in a trial involving a family business and the four siblings who own it. Distilled to its essence, the litigation concerned the discovery by three siblings (my clients) that the fourth had used millions of dollars of company money to bankroll one of his personal hobbies, a hobby completely unrelated to the purpose of the company.

In his defense, the fourth sibling contended that the other siblings had benefited from his personal hobby, and that the money was therefore spent in furtherance of the objectives of all four siblings and, by extension, the company. In cases alleging self-interested transaction, there is nothing remarkable about such a defense.

What was remarkable was that this guy actually believed it.

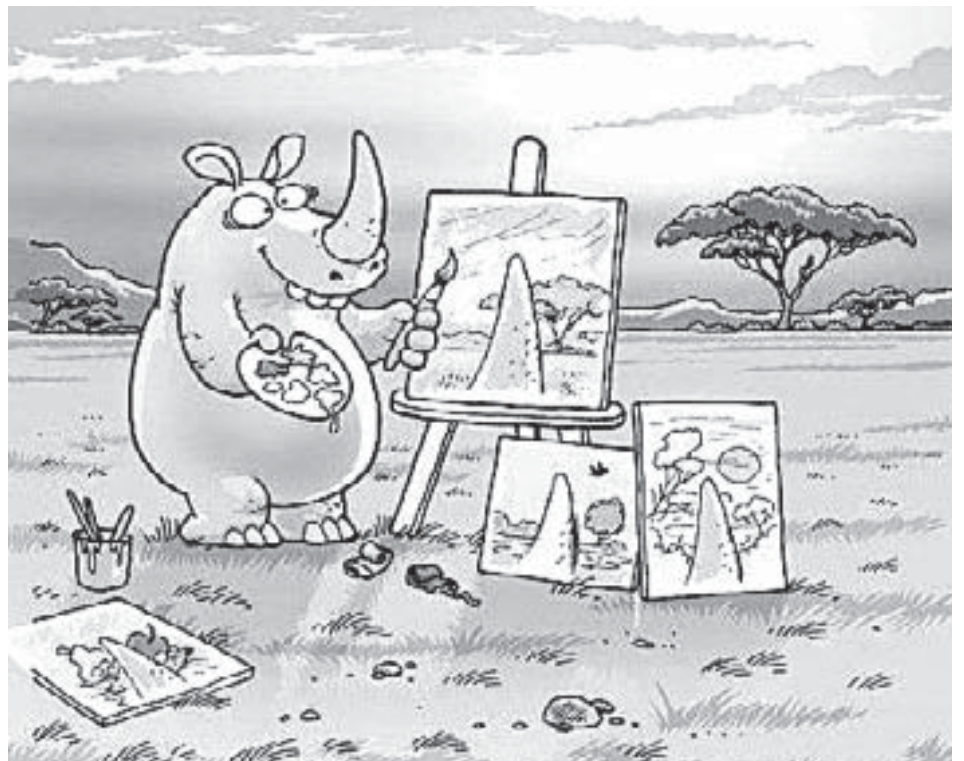
During cross-examination, when his sincerity was palpable beyond the capabilities of acting, it became clear that this was no show—the defendant truly believed that it was okay to blow millions of dollars of company money in pursuit

of his own hobby. I was struck by how sincerely blinded he became by virtue of his own self-interest.

In Torah terms, the human tendency to allow self-interest to taint one's objectivity is called *"negiyus."* When someone is a *"noge'a b'davar"*—i.e., they have some interest in the outcome of a particular decision or act—their objectivity is suspect.

One who is afflicted with *tzara'as* (leprosy), the Torah tells us, should "be brought to the Kohen" (Vayikra 13:9). The Mishnah derives from this that even a Kohen who is himself afflicted by *tzara'as* must get to yet another Kohen for the final adjudication of his status—i.e., he may not rule on his own *tzara'as* (and, according to some, nor may he rule on the status of his family members). *"Kol hanega'im adam ro'eh chutz menig'ei atzmo"*—"a person can see all plagues, except his own plagues" (Nega'im 2:5).

The Mishnah is quite literal. It is rooted in the concern that, given his self-interest in the outcome of whether he is impure, the Kohen will be unable to adjudicate his status objectively (see Rash, Nega'im 2:5). Likewise, continues the



Mishnah, one may release all vows, except for vows that affect him, and one may adjudicate the blemishes of all first-born animals (the firstborn animal must be given to a Kohen unless it is blemished) except one's own. All three situations described in the Mishnah stem

from the concern that self-interest taints objectivity (see Tiferes Yisrael ad loc.; Sheilos U'Teshuvos HaRivash 406).

But the Mishnah can be understood metaphorically as well. We are so astute

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**Eytan Kobre** is a lecturer, writer, and attorney, residing in Kew Gardens Hills with his wife and children. He can be contacted at [eakobre@gmail.com](mailto:eakobre@gmail.com).

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# A Shabbat Thought

by R' David Algaze

## Distorted Vision

*"If a person will have on the skin of his flesh a lesion...and it will become a tzara'at affliction on the skin of his flesh, he shall be brought to Aaron the Kohen." (Leviticus 13:2)*

The Torah announces in this verse that G-d will bring about a certain illness of the skin in order to aid Man to rid himself of spiritual "infections." This malady is called "tzara'at," which has been mistranslated as "leprosy." It has been amply demonstrated that, although the appearance on the skin of these white lesions resembles those associated with leprosy, the symptoms of this tzara'at are very different from those of leprosy. For this and other reasons we conclude that the affliction called tzara'at is not a disease of the body but rather the manifestation of a spiritual ailment. Our Rabbis teach us that the

word for a person afflicted with tzara'at, "metzora" is a contraction of the words "motzi shem ra" or one who spreads slander (Arachin 15b). Thus, the source of this sickness is anti-social behavior such as slander and other actions that show the insensitivity of the offender towards the

sensitive? Why would a person derive joy from hurting others, tell negative stories about someone, or be indifferent to other people's pain? The Sefat Emet explains that man's insensitivity developed as a result of Adam's sin, when G-d punished him and Chavah by enrobing

ements that G-d deposited in Man's nature that enable people to reach high levels of selflessness and abnegation. The love of a mother for her child, the sacrifice of soldiers helping comrades in combat, or the amazing altruism exhibited by some people are clear signs of the presence of these spiritual "openings" that G-d left in Man.

Therefore, even with the covering of skin, one can still have openings and allow outside stimuli to penetrate. When these pores are clogged, however, skin diseases occur. In the same vein, Man has at his disposal the ability and talent to feel for other people – these are the "openings" akin to the pores in his skin. If a person willfully shuts these "openings" and develops an indifference and hardness towards other people, the openings in his character – just as pores of his skin – become clogged and thus lesions appear. The lesions are then the consequence of the closing of the openings of his personality. The Zohar translates the word *nega* (lesion, patch) as "sgiru" meaning "closing."

The affliction itself becomes another of G-d's gifts. By allowing a person to experience clearly the illness that was lurking inside, he becomes aware of his spiritual narrowness and miserly character and is able to work on fixing himself. When he comes to the *kohen* for purification, he is made aware of the significance of the "eye." "And the *kohen* shall look at it and declare it contaminated." (Leviticus 13:3) The eye of the *kohen* and his oral declaration make a difference! Now the offender who looked at other people with jaundiced eyes and spoke ill-meaning words against them becomes aware of the significance of a good eye and good speech. Thus, as a result of his illness he finds the way to a cure and a perfecting of his personality.

The Zohar notes that the word *nega* (lesion) has the same consonants as the word *oneg* (pleasure). The person who cannot experience the pleasure of Shabbat with other people, the one who cannot feel pleasure at other people's good fortune, he turns the *oneg* into a *nega*; he who cannot experience pleasure with others is ultimately reduced to suffer illness alone. Thus, this affliction of tzara'at is a blessing, because it allows offenders to look at themselves and find a way to cure themselves.

G-d's boundless mercy with His creatures, even as He afflicts them, shows us that no matter how far we may be from G-d or good deeds, there is a always a door opened to us to return and improve.

*The affliction itself becomes another of G-d's gifts. By allowing a person to experience clearly the illness that was lurking inside, he becomes aware of his spiritual narrowness and miserly character and is able to work on fixing himself*

pain of other people. The cure for this conduct is isolation, to make the person who destroys the fabric of society to suffer the consequences of his philosophy, albeit for a limited time.

What makes a person become insen-

sitive? Why would a person derive joy from hurting others, tell negative stories about someone, or be indifferent to other people's pain? The Sefat Emet explains that man's insensitivity developed as a result of Adam's sin, when G-d punished him and Chavah by enrobing them with "garments of skin." (Beresheet 3:21). Originally, Man was endowed with a clear vision and a high level of sensitivity. However, after he sinned, G-d decided that Man's work would have to be in a state of "being covered" and obscure. This is the meaning of the Hebrew word "*ohr*," which can be read as "eever," meaning blind, sightless. After the sin, Man was assigned to do his spiritual work unaided by G-d's intense light and had to proceed in an environment where the Light was concealed and he had to labor in dense, opaque, and obscure conditions.

It is therefore understandable why the illness of tzara'at affected the skin, because it is in the skin itself that we perceive the covering with which G-d restricted Man's original perfect vision and his infinite sensitivity. However, we should not imagine that this limited vision was complete blindness. In His infinite mercy, G-d never punishes without the possibility of correction and redemption. Thus, even as He limited Man's sensitivity by clothing him in a "thick skin," He still made the skin itself not perfectly hermetic. Just as the skin has many pores and openings which allow passage in and out of the body, so a man's character – even in a limited form – contains many qualities of empathy, feelings for others, and compassion. It is these el-



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Therapist in Private Practice and Co-director, Lev Leytzan's ElderHearts

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**Rabbi David Algaze** is the founder and Rav of Havurat Yisrael, Forest Hills. He is a noted public speaker and author and is the President of the international Committee for the Land of Israel.



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## The Korban M'tzora

These *parshiyos* have never been easy ones to write about. When one starts learning them, one is soon swept up in a dizzying assortment of *n'ga'im* of different colors and sizes. These *n'ga'im* can also be found in different locations ranging from one's skin to one's clothing to one's home. Once one enters Parshas M'tzora, one is engrossed in the details of treating *tzaraas* of different types.

A key part of the purification process is via the *korban* of the *m'tzora*. The *m'tzora* must bring two birds, wood from the cedar and brush trees, and red dyed wool. Rashi interjects that the purpose of these elements are to instill the *m'tzora* with a sense of humility. By speaking *lashon ha'ra*, the *m'tzora* has arrogantly degraded another person's self-worth. Arrogance also led the *m'tzora* to become a constant source of idle chatter in order to prove that he or she is someone who is "always in the know" about the latest news. The offering of the two birds represents the *m'tzora's* atonement for this crime.

Rashi extends his ideas to include the purpose of the brush. The brush stands in opposition to the lofty cedar. The brush serves as a reminder to the *m'tzora* to regain a sense of humility as opposed to the arrogant attitudes that he or she had in speaking *lashon ha'ra*. The combination of the cedar and the wool tells the *m'tzora* that although it is important to be humble, the cedar is still necessary at appropriate times.

A role model for this dual approach to arrogance and humility is Rashi's grand-

son, Rashbam. Rashbam never shies away from critiquing his grandfather's *peirush* (commentary) on the Torah. In a famous comment in Parshas VaYei-shev, Rashbam quotes his grandfather as saying that had he had more time, he would have changed his *peirush* to resemble Rashbam's "*p'shuto shel mikra*" (simple meaning of the text) approach.

*The process undergone by the m'tzora should resonate in every one of us during this period of S'firah*

Yet at the beginning of his *peirush* on the *parshah* of *n'ga'im*, Rashbam admits that there is very little he could say on this topic, according to the *p'shuto shel mikra* or according to the *realia* of 12<sup>th</sup> century France. Therefore, continues Rashbam, one must rely on the *midrash halachah* of Chazal for the true analysis.

Although Rashbam does not hesitate to offer his own approach when he believes he has a more accurate reading, he does not pretend he can offer a closer reading on the topic of *n'ga'im* in order to maintain his reputation. Rashbam emulates the proper approach one must have of balancing "arrogance" in the war of Torah study, yet maintaining one's humility when realizing that he may not have the best approach to a certain issue. Had Rashbam not had the "arrogance" of approaching Torah study in a new way, the world of *parshanus* would have been a weaker place. The *m'tzora* is told to be humble, yet is also reminded

that arrogance in the proper context has its place.

The source of the red color of the wool comes from the blood of a worm. The inclusion of the worm blood tells the *m'tzora* that he or she will eventually end up in the same place as the one whom he or she said *lashon ha'ra* about. The *m'tzora* perceives him or herself as

dye, Hashem will turn it to the color of wool." Although the *m'tzora* has committed a grave sin by speaking *lashon ha'ra* about someone else, Hashem is telling him or her, via the red dyed wool, that the *m'tzora* can always do *t'shuvah* via regretting the *lashon ha'ra* and apologizing to the victim.

The process undergone by the *m'tzora* should resonate in every one of us during this period of *S'firah*. The students of Rabbi Akiva died due to their lack of respect for each other. Although they may have had the proper "arrogance" when learning Torah, they lacked the humility that was necessary for each one to be receptive to each other's alternative understanding of the Torah. The story of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai also teaches us about the evils of spreading *lashon ha'ra*, which lead Rabbi Shimon and his son to hide in the cave for many years. Yet when one reads the end of the story, Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai learns that the ordinary Jews of which he spoke negatively as not valuing the *mitzvos* truly did value them. *Lashon ha'ra* led him to hide in the cave; realizing the error of his own *lashon ha'ra* led him to restore what he destroyed in his anger at the people.

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- 6) Getting back into Judaism

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# ספירת העומר

תשע"ג

Candle Lighting, Havdalah and Holidays	DONE	NIGHT OF	DATE	Count=Week+Day	
6:55	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tuesday	March 26	1=0+1	היום יום אחד לעומר
8:02	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wednesday	March 27	2=0+2	היום שני ימים לעומר
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thursday	March 28	3=0+3	היום שלשה ימים לעומר
6:58	<input type="checkbox"/>	Friday	March 29	4=0+4	היום ארבעה ימים לעומר
8:05	<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday	March 30	5=0+5	היום חמשה ימים לעומר
7:00	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sunday	March 31	6=0+6	היום ששה ימים לעומר
7:01	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monday	April 1	7=1+0	היום שבעה ימים שהם שבוע אחד לעומר
8:08	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tuesday	April 2	8=1+1	היום שמנה ימים שהם שבוע אחד ויום אחד לעומר
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wednesday	April 3	9=1+2	היום תשעה ימים שהם שבוע אחד ושני ימים לעומר
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thursday	April 4	10=1+3	היום עשרה ימים שהם שבוע אחד ושלשה ימים לעומר
7:05	<input type="checkbox"/>	Friday	April 5	11=1+4	היום אחד עשר יום שהם שבוע אחד וארבעה ימים לעומר
8:12	<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday	April 6	12=1+5	היום שתים עשר יום שהם שבוע אחד וחמשה ימים לעומר
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sunday	April 7	13=1+6	היום שלשה עשר יום שהם שבוע אחד וששה ימים לעומר
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monday	April 8	14=2+0	היום ארבעה עשר יום שהם שני שבועות לעומר
I Rosh Chodesh Iyyar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tuesday	April 9	15=2+1	היום חמשה עשר יום שהם שני שבועות ויום אחד לעומר
II Rosh Chodesh Iyyar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wednesday	April 10	16=2+2	היום ששה עשר יום שהם שני שבועות ושני ימים לעומר
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thursday	April 11	17=2+3	היום שבעה עשר יום שהם שני שבועות ושלשה ימים לעומר
7:13	<input type="checkbox"/>	Friday	April 12	18=2+4	היום שמנה עשר יום שהם שני שבועות וארבעה ימים לעומר
8:20	<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday	April 13	19=2+5	היום תשעה עשר יום שהם שני שבועות וחמשה ימים לעומר
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sunday	April 14	20=2+6	היום עשרים יום שהם שני שבועות וששה ימים לעומר
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monday	April 15	21=3+0	היום אחד ועשרים יום שהם שלשה שבועות לעומר
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tuesday	April 16	22=3+1	היום שנים ועשרים יום שהם שלשה שבועות ויום אחד לעומר
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wednesday	April 17	23=3+2	היום שלשה ועשרים יום שהם שלשה שבועות ושני ימים לעומר
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thursday	April 18	24=3+3	היום ארבעה ועשרים יום שהם שלשה שבועות ושלשה ימים לעומר
7:20	<input type="checkbox"/>	Friday	April 19	25=3+4	היום חמשה ועשרים יום שהם שלשה שבועות וארבעה ימים לעומר
8:27	<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday	April 20	26=3+5	היום ששה ועשרים יום שהם שלשה שבועות וחמשה ימים לעומר
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sunday	April 21	27=3+6	היום שבעה ועשרים יום שהם שלשה שבועות וששה ימים לעומר
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monday	April 22	28=4+0	היום שמנה ועשרים יום שהם ארבעה שבועות לעומר
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tuesday	April 23	29=4+1	היום תשעה ועשרים יום שהם ארבעה שבועות ויום אחד לעומר
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wednesday	April 24	30=4+2	היום שלשים יום שהם ארבעה שבועות ושני ימים לעומר
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thursday	April 25	31=4+3	היום אחד ושלשים יום שהם ארבעה שבועות ושלשה ימים לעומר
7:27	<input type="checkbox"/>	Friday	April 26	32=4+4	היום שנים ושלשים יום שהם ארבעה שבועות וארבעה ימים לעומר
8:34 / Lag BaOmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday	April 27	33=4+5	היום שלשה ושלשים יום שהם ארבעה שבועות וחמשה ימים לעומר
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sunday	April 28	34=4+6	היום ארבעה ושלשים יום שהם ארבעה שבועות וששה ימים לעומר
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monday	April 29	35=5+0	היום חמשה ושלשים יום שהם חמשה שבועות לעומר
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tuesday	April 30	36=5+1	היום ששה ושלשים יום שהם חמשה שבועות ויום אחד לעומר
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wednesday	May 1	37=5+2	היום שבעה ושלשים יום שהם חמשה שבועות ושני ימים לעומר
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thursday	May 2	38=5+3	היום שמנה ושלשים יום שהם חמשה שבועות ושלשה ימים לעומר
7:35	<input type="checkbox"/>	Friday	May 3	39=5+4	היום תשעה ושלשים יום שהם חמשה שבועות וארבעה ימים לעומר
8:42	<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday	May 4	40=5+5	היום ארבעים יום שהם חמשה שבועות וחמשה ימים לעומר
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sunday	May 5	41=5+6	היום אחד וארבעים יום שהם חמשה שבועות וששה ימים לעומר
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monday	May 6	42=6+0	היום שנים וארבעים יום שהם ששה שבועות לעומר
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tuesday	May 7	43=6+1	היום שלשה וארבעים יום שהם ששה שבועות ויום אחד לעומר
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wednesday	May 8	44=6+2	היום ארבעה וארבעים יום שהם ששה שבועות ושני ימים לעומר
Rosh Chodesh Sivan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thursday	May 9	45=6+3	היום חמשה וארבעים יום שהם ששה שבועות ושלשה ימים לעומר
7:42	<input type="checkbox"/>	Friday	May 10	46=6+4	היום ששה וארבעים יום שהם ששה שבועות וארבעה ימים לעומר
8:49	<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday	May 11	47=6+5	היום שבעה וארבעים יום שהם ששה שבועות וחמשה ימים לעומר
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sunday	May 12	48=6+6	היום שמנה וארבעים יום שהם ששה שבועות וששה ימים לעומר
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monday	May 13	49=7+0	היום תשעה וארבעים יום שהם שבעה שבועות לעומר
7:46		Tuesday	May 14	SHAVUOT שבועות	Visit us Online at <a href="http://www.CHAZAQ.org">www.CHAZAQ.org</a>





## Anger Management I

As is often the case, our society is influenced by fads or phases. In my experience as a psychotherapist for 30-plus years, I can attest to these gyrations as well. They often manifest themselves in the manner a client will introduce his or her presenting issue. I can clearly delineate several such patterns or as I refer to them as the “decade of.” So, we’ve had the “decade of self-esteem,” which would often present itself as I (or my spouse, son, daughter, mother, etc.) have a problem with self-esteem; do you deal with that problem? This was followed by the “decade of communication,” where similarly I (or we or him or her) have a problem with communicating. There are several other such “decades,” but let me turn to the current “decade” - the “decade of anger management.” Similarly the phrasing is some form of I (or my husband, wife, mother, daughter, or maybe mother-in-law, etc.) have a problem with anger management; can you help us?

What is somewhat interesting about all these “decades” is that they are albeit legitimate concerns, one would not classify them as a diagnostic category

or a particular pathology. Indeed, they could be classified as symptoms – but even in symptomatic terms they do not give us much of an inkling as to the nature of the problem. One may draw an analogy to a patient going to his or her internist and, when asked what was wrong, gives the response “I don’t feel

*When our Chazal refer to anger in derogatory terms, they are not referring to the presence or absence of the human emotion – as that would be inhuman. They are referring indeed to how we react, respond to, perceive, or deal with anger*

well.” Although, a true statement, it does not give the physician any more information than he had before. Of course, if I specify that my head, stomach, or leg hurts, I am providing more significant data. Nevertheless, be it a symptom or not, anger or anger management appears to be an oft-presented concern in our society. And for good reason, since it can invariably have a profound effect on almost every aspect of our lives. Our relationships, our mar-

riage, our children, our work, and most prominently we ourselves will all be impacted upon by the way we manage anger. In addition, a plethora of studies support how detrimental poor anger management is to our physical health and well-being.

So, if it’s not a disease, not a pathological entity, perhaps not a symptom, what is anger? It’s a human emotion, one that is inherent in the human psyche and created, as everything else,

deal with anger. In a word, how do we manage it?

In the ensuing weeks, we will begin to explore some important and fundamental aspect of the varying natures of anger and the role that our actions and thoughts play in understanding and subsequently managing it. As always, we will focus more on the pragmatic applications of these principles and how to integrate them in a manner that will make our lives *be”H* more peaceful and enjoyable.

Some of the questions we will explore will include:

- What is the function of anger?
- Are there positive components of it?
- How do we categorize our patterns of anger?
- Is anger management genetic?
- How does one help his/her children manage anger effectively?
- How does one live with someone who has an “anger problem”?
- Which strategies and techniques work best to manage anger?
- What is the relationship of anger to depression and other mental illnesses?

**Rabbi Yaakov Adler, LCSW**, is an internationally renowned psychotherapist and lecturer. He has treated a broad spectrum of the frum community for three decades. For information regarding consultations, appointments or upcoming workshops, please call the Queens office at 718.575.0308 or the Lawrence office at 516.239.3303.



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## Mayor Bloomberg: Oppressor Or Redeemer?

When I was in elementary school, probably about 6<sup>th</sup> grade, some of my classmates were made into cross guard monitors. I didn't feel that I should have to obey their crossing direction when I approached a street corner, since we were all the same age. So I ignored them. This however didn't sit well with one newly-minted deputized monitor, so he reported me to the principal's office. When I was asked why I didn't obey the classmate monitor, I answered that I didn't see what expertise the monitor, of my own age, had over me. The principal answered me with a question: "Why should I (the principal) have to obey a policeman? We're equals too." I was impressed with the answer and that's when I first thought about the idea that people can act against their own self-interests even if they know better, and that it sometimes takes an "authority" to protect people from themselves.

In 1984, when I started working for the Post Office, employees were allowed to smoke on the workroom floor even while handling the mail. There were ash trays set up by the letter cases. About seven years later, smoking was confined to some of the break rooms. Walking in one of them was like being in an incinerator, and you felt sorry for people who would spend more than a few seconds there (in other words, for the poor 'shmos' who were addicted to that destructive habit). Smokers knew that it was no longer their choice to smoke wherever they wanted but they didn't complain. In 1993, the Post Office banned all smoking from their buildings, and guess what? Some smokers had to run outside to catch a puff here and there, but it seemed that most smokers were actually pushed off of the habit entirely. I was a Democrat then and indeed I saw a positive force that regulation can have.

Since then, however, I've seen so many

cases of government meddling, including in my own real estate business, spending too many days in court having to deal with unfair judges in regard to dead-beat tenants. In 1996, when I was sufficiently fed up with the welfare mentality and crime that pervaded our city streets, I became a Republican. I've remained with the philosophy of small but effective

house. After he bought the house, however, he was confronted by local authorities who told him that he must cut down the tree because it was not on an approved list by the local Department of Planning and Development Services. This order was issued based on a "nuisance and property maintenance" ordinance. The homeowner ar-

ernment and it was their responsibility to unblock it. But due to a lack of manpower, the Feds authorized the couple to remove the logs themselves and indicated to them that the Feds would later reimburse them. So the couple unblocked the drain and the pooled water cleared away from the property. However the EPA had already determined at some point that their property was a "wetlands," due to the standing water, and ordered the couple to restore their property to its "wetlands" condition; in other words, block up the drainage again so the water should pool again. This would render their land unproductive because they wouldn't be able to build their house on a pool of water. In fact, they were to be fined \$37,000 per day for as long as the land was not restored. The couple had to sell the property and declare bankruptcy. This is Frankenstein government on steroids.

Society, however, readily accepts the war on drugs; according to DrugSense.org, the Federal government, this year alone, spent over \$3 billion on, while America still has the highest rate of marijuana and cocaine use in the world. John Kerry, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama have all violated drug laws that others serve time for. Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, and Miami, to name just a few major cities, have drug gangs, and thousands of people are killed each year over this "war," including many innocent bystanders, all because we created a black market. In Portugal, on the other hand, since all drugs were decriminalized in 2001, usage, addiction, and crime all went down significantly. The Cato Institute issued a study of Portugal's decriminalization act and found that after it went into effect, Portugal had the lowest lifetime marijuana use rate of the EU, that of 10%. The Cato report concluded that "Judging by every metric, decriminalization in Portugal has been a resounding success."

In our country, we accept that air bags, seat belts, and speed limits are mandated by law. We accept all types of zoning ordinances and laws regulating commerce. However, when it comes to Mayor Bloomberg's public health initiatives, we become intolerant. Michael Bloomberg has issued directives to ban smoking in bars and restaurants, to lower trans fats and salt in foods, to display calorie information in fast

CONTINUED ON P. 60

*"Nanny Bloomberg" is addressing serious issues in our society contrary to popular public sentiment. With the extra money that we save from his public health measures, we could easily make up for the \$240 million that Andrew Cuomo is slated to cut from city services related to developmentally disabled individuals and for essential infrastructure maintenance*

government ever since, but I'm not an absolutist and as I indicated above, I've noted to myself that regulations are useful and necessary in any society. Life isn't simple, and it's really a matter of judging each situation on the merits.

I think that John Stossel, who is a well-known libertarian, does a remarkable job with reporting government waste. He cites examples of police officers in different parts of the country, shutting down lemonade stands and Girl Scouts selling cookies, because the children had no permits. The rationale is that the public could be harmed if the children sold a customer tainted food or drink. A California woman complained that code enforcement stopped her from conducting a small Bible group in her home because she didn't have a permit for such a gathering. Obviously government is not being helpful here.

Stossel reports of a man in Arizona, a "red" state, no less, who had bought a home with a certain tree on the property that he was fond of, and the tree was even a factor in the decision to buy the

gued, and it was demonstrated in Stossel's report, that there were many such trees on other properties that were not being targeted at all by the authorities. The authorities were not swayed by the homeowner's argument, however, and he was told that he would be fined \$2000 a day and could be put in jail for six months for non-compliance. This was serious government meddling.

However, two reports of Stossel's report were really frightening to learn about. One was where a businessman in Florida was importing lobsters from Honduras for 15 years or so when one day, all of a sudden, agents from the FBI, Customs, IRS, and National Fisheries Service swarmed in and shut down his operation. The problem was that Honduras had a law that the lobsters had to be shipped in 40-lb. boxes, and he had shipped the lobsters in plastic bags, the same way the other seafood importers had done, and he claimed he didn't know about this law. The businessman had no prior record, but he was sentenced to eight years in prison, of which he served six! His business went under in bankruptcy, and his marriage didn't survive either. The businessman claimed that the government spent \$5 million to convict him. This is Frankenstein government.

The other case was of a couple in Idaho who had bought a parcel of land and had it approved for building a house on it. There were, however, some logs that had blocked drainage on their property and this caused a pool of water. The drainage belonged to the Federal gov-

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# The Mirage Of Self-Interest

CONTINUED FROM P. 17

when it comes to seeing the flaws in others, yet we are blind to our own. We can find numerous ways to justify our own actions, but never those of another person. "A person can see all defects, except his own defects."

Countless principles are founded upon this fear of self-interest. "A man never considers himself wicked" (Kesubos 25b); "a man never considers himself liable" (Shabbos 119a). Shlomo HaMelech, the wisest of men, observed that "Man's every way is right in his own eyes" (Mishlei 21:2). Indeed, we are taught that "kol haposel, b'mumo posel"—"all who invalidate (others), invalidate with their own flaws" (Kiddushin 70b). Several applications, one common denominator: the human tendency to be incapable of objectivity as a *noge'ia b'davar*, i.e., when we have a horse in the race or a dog in the fight.

And not only ordinary people fall victim to self-interest and subjectivity. The Gemara is festooned with examples of great people who were, or very nearly were, blinded by the smallest *negiyus* (Kesubos 105b). Ameimar, for example, was once sitting in the beis din over which he presided, when a feather fell onto his head. A man walked over and removed the feather. When Ameimar heard the man was one of the litigants who was to appear before him shortly, Ameimar recused himself. Similarly, someone spat in front of Mar Ukva, and another person came and covered up the saliva. The second person had a case scheduled before Mar Ukva, and Mar Ukva disqualified himself (*but see* Piskei T'shuva, Choshen Mishpat 9:1).

Now these were no great favors, and they benefitted no ordinary men. But if your initial reaction is anything like mine ("Removing a feather?? Covering some saliva?? What's the big deal?"), you've just confirmed the point. These great Amoraim were perceptive enough to understand how their objectivity could be clouded by even the slightest of favors. That we fail to so understand speaks volumes about our own propensity to be blinded by self-interest. In a sense, we are all judges all the time (see Aruch HaShulchan, Chosehn Mishpat 9:1; Emunah U'Bitachon 3:30). We view and assess everything around us. Every decision we make and action we take is the result of a judgment. And that has the potential to blind us.

The Shach (Shabbsai ben Meir HaKohen [1621-1662]) once appeared as a litigant before a beis din, which ultimately ruled in favor of the other party. Surprised by the ruling, the Shach pointed out to the judges a number of halachic authorities that supported his position in the case. The judges agreed that those authorities supported his position, but noted that the consensus of halacha was in accordance with other authorities—one of whom was the Shach himself! It seems that, convinced of the mer-

its of his position, the Shach forgot that he was disagreeing with his very own position.

Great mussar leaders made it a practice to institute "buddy" systems, whereby each buddy would frankly and bluntly critique the other buddy's character flaws. In a similar vein, the Netziv explained at his granddaughter's Sheva B'rachos, that one of the purposes of marriage is to provide each spouse with a fixed objective critic (think "eizer k'negdo"). After all, if "Man's every way is right in his own eyes" (Mishlei 21:2), who will ever tell him when he is in fact wrong?

The story is told of a woman who came to Warsaw from out-of-town, bringing her family's meager savings in search

of profitable business. As it happened, while she was staying at the local Jewish inn, thieves stole her money. When the local rabbis saw how distraught the woman was, they decided to confer with Warsaw's most notorious thieves to see if the money could be returned.

Surprised to be summoned by Warsaw's rabbis, the thieves agreed to a meeting. One member of the rabbinic delegation explained to the thieves the dire straits the victimized woman was in, and suggested that the thieves keep 30 percent of the money and return the rest. Upon hearing this, one thief flew into a rage. "We worked hard for that money, and we are not going to keep less than 60 percent!"

\*\*\*

*Author's note: In the previous installment of Shabbos Inbox, I wrote about the*

vital importance of transmitting our heritage to our children, and the Seder night's key role in that regard. The article included two pictures, one of which was captioned, "Passover in Buchenwald." The caption was long ago attributed to that photograph by an unknown source in error. Of course, the picture purports to be Pesach after the Buchenwald death camp was liberated. But the photograph could not be of a Pesach ceremony, as Buchenwald was liberated on April 11, 1945, and Pesach that year began on March 29. Rather, the photograph is of a Shavuot ceremony after the liberation of Buchenwald. Interestingly, the presiding rabbi photographed is Rabbi Herschel Schacter, who very recently passed away. The little boy seated on the far left between two American GIs is Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, former Chief Rabbi of Israel.



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# Financially Forward

## Looming Water Crisis Gets Attention Of Wall Street

by Gerald Harris

In the last issue of *QJL* we talked about the ongoing drought, which in some regions is the most severe in decades. The dearth of rain in the US and other countries and growing demand for water has escalated from a worldwide issue to global problem and could become a major crisis in the coming months. As a result, this week we'll update readers about the looming water shortage, explain how some of the most powerful players on Wall Street are rushing to buy water resources, and offer some ideas about how ordinary investors could invest in this industry.

When most people hear the word "drought," the first thing they worry about is having enough drinking water. That's very understandable, but it's not the only concern. Agriculture has already been affected significantly as thousands of small farms have turned into mini-dust bowls and crop production has been stunted at many more.

Industry is also watching the situation closely because water is an important component in the manufacture of many items. Fracking, a new technology being



used by the oil industry, is bringing an energy boom to North Dakota, parts of Texas, and other states, but also generates very huge demand for water, most of which can't be reused. And electricity, generated by hydropower in some regions, could also be affected soon because water levels in important water systems keep falling.

NBC News recently reported that despite the heavy snowfalls in some areas this winter, more than 50 percent of the continental US remains in a moderate to exceptional drought. The US Army Corps of Engineers recently said that water levels at three of the Great Lakes – Superior, Erie, and Ontario – have fallen to levels that were well below average.

And water levels at the other two Great Lakes – Michigan and Huron – are now at the lowest levels ever recorded.

It has been estimated that California has only a 20-year supply of fresh water left and New Mexico a 10-year supply of water. The US National Academy of Sciences warns that the US interior west is now the driest that it has been in 500 years.

*William Butler, top economist at Citigroup, said in 2011 that water would become the single most important commodity and that its market value would dwarf oil, copper, agriculture, and precious metals*

And the outlook is not encouraging. NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, has forecast hotter and drier than normal conditions for much of the US for the next three months.

This forecast is consistent with a report prepared by Global Water Security, which says that the global need for water will exceed the global supply by 40 percent by the year 2030.

### Billionaires See Opportunities

But on Wall Street, where everything is evaluated by dollars and cents, market movers and shakers are positioning themselves to rake in profits. Online publication *Market Oracle* reports that "the new water barons, the Wall Street banks and elitist multimillionaires, are buying up water all over the world at an unprecedented pace."

Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan Chase, Citigroup, Deutsche Bank, Credit Suisse, Barclays, and HSBC are just some of the banks that have invested billions in various sectors of the water industry in the last few years.

Both former President George H. W. Bush and Li Ka-Shing, one of the richest men in the world, have invested in water in a big way. So has Warren Buffett through Berkshire. T. Boone Pickens, who made many billions in oil, has shifted gears; he now owns more water than anyone else in America, having purchased the rights to drain 65 billion gallons a year from the Ogallala Aquifer.

William Butler, top economist at Citigroup, said in 2011 that water would become the single most important commodity and that its market value would dwarf oil, copper, agriculture, and precious metals.

### Can I Also Profit From Water?

There are many different ways to invest in the water industry. Citigroup projects that water desalination, reuse technologies, water utilities, membranes for filtration, and ultraviolet disinfection are just some of the areas that will benefit from the growing need for water. Other banks have come up with their own lists of favorite water businesses.

Credit Suisse became aware of the opportunities in water several years ago and a report it issued in 2008 urged investors to invest in companies geared to water generation, preservation, infrastructure treatment, and desalination.

JP Morgan Chase, one of the world's largest banks, has been aggressively pursuing a variety of investments in water in the US and abroad. Other major banks and big players have also taken significant positions in water-related companies.

What does all this mean to the average investor? For one thing, the price of water almost certainly will rise sharply in the next several years. Currently, drinking water costs a little over \$1/day in the US, but some influential players are eagerly eying a price of \$4/day, as well as higher prices for other uses of water. And under extreme circumstances the use of water could be restricted through higher taxes and rationing.

Numerous options for making investments are now available for investors to consider. The following water-related funds were listed by Jo-Shing Yang in *Commodities* magazine.

They include: the Calvert Global Water Fund (CFWAX); Allianz RCM Global Water Fund (AWTAX); PFW Water Fund (PFWAX); and Kinetics Water Infrastructure Advantaged Fund (KWIAX).

Jo-Shing also mentions many bank water funds, water focused hedge funds, and other companies in the industry for readers' information.

Although water-related stocks and funds may appear to be safe, those based overseas could entail political risk, all may be impacted by drought and pollution, or may be profitable companies whose stocks have gotten ahead of themselves or that are very volatile. As always, speak with your financial advisor before making any investments.

*(The investment ideas mentioned in this article are listed for informational purposes alone and should not be construed as a recommendation or endorsement in any way.)*

References: CBS News, NBC News, *Commodities Magazine*, *US National Academy of Sciences*, *Global Water Security*, and *Market Oracle*.

Gerald Harris is a financial and feature writer. Gerald can be reached at [geraldhrs@yahoo.com](mailto:geraldhrs@yahoo.com)



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# For What It's Worth

by Warren Hecht

## You Could Have Been A Star

**W**hen we were younger, there were people who we thought would become a big success. Years later we see that they are not doing as well financially as we had expected and they are "unknown."

We tend to consider them to be failures. Sometimes we look at ourselves or other family members that way. The problem is not that they are failures. It is that we are using the wrong measurement for success.

We determine success by a person's bankroll and their position in the community. This is a false measure. For example, a person who earns a lot of money and uses it to buy a big house or a fancy car and goes away to an exotic place for Passover is considered to be a success. If this person is using his money for his own gratification and not helping others in need, this person is not a success. This person was given the ability to help others and is squandering it by excessive self-gratification.

Likewise, one who is recognized as an important person in the community is considered a success. However, it

seen by the recent arrests of a few elected officials, there are those who are more interested in lining their pockets than helping out their constituents.

On the other hand, we have seen people who do not have a lot of money and

are not well known in the community who have really made a difference. They have given their time and effort to help others who are less fortunate than they are. These are truly those who are successful.

Success is not fame and fortune. Success is making a positive difference in the lives of others and reaching one's potential. If we realize what success truly is, then we would strive to reach that goal and respect those who have.

*Success is not fame and fortune. Success is making a positive difference in the lives of others and reaching one's potential*


depends on what the person does with the position. If the person is merely a self-promoter who is only interested in promoting himself and not in helping others, then that person is not a success. These are the people who get onto boards of organizations and do nothing except to use their position as a way to promote themselves. The person had the ability to help others but was only interested in helping himself. Sometimes this attitude permeates the entire organization, where the organization is more interested in promoting its name and its board members than actually helping the community. Another example would be those organizations that are "paper organizations." In other words, they exist on paper but do not do anything except to enhance the reputation of those who are on their boards.

This also applies to elected officials who have the ability to do great things for the community. Unfortunately, as

**Warren S. Hecht** is President of the Queens Jewish Community Council and a local attorney. He can be reached at [whecht@qjcc.org](mailto:whecht@qjcc.org).

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## Kiddush HaChayim

One of my favorite questions that I asked and usually stumped my students with in Jewish studies class was, "Which holiday comes historically first: Chanukah or Purim?" Inevitably, they would respond Chanukah, because it came first (in Kislev) in the Jewish calendar year, with Purim coming later in Adar. In actuality, Purim happened first, occurring between the destruction of the First Temple and the building of the Second Temple (4<sup>th</sup> Century BCE), while the story of Chanukah took place during the Second Temple (2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE). That always had them totally befuddled.

Another placement on the calendar that troubles me is the fact that Yom HaShoah and Yom HaAtzma'ut are a week apart consecutively. This fuels the misconception (perpetuated by mistake or by design) that our only relationship to Eretz Yisrael is just due to the tragic outcome of the Holocaust and not because of our ancient right to the land that G-d promised to our patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It denies the fact that the Jewish people have maintained ties to their historic homeland for more than 3,000 years.

It was therefore especially heartwarming that President Obama, in his remarks at the Hall of Children at Yad Vashem on March 22, during his official visit to the State of Israel, stated, "Here, on your ancient land, let it be said for all the world to hear: The State of Israel does not exist because of the Holocaust. But with the survival of a strong Jewish State of Israel, such a Holocaust will never happen again." Of course, he tried to clean up the mess that he created four years earlier in his much touted speech in Cairo when he seemed to link Israel's founding to the Shoah. The Cairo speech had a chilling effect on all of us. Yossi Klein Halevi, a research fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, was quoted as saying "The Holocaust doesn't explain why we're here. The Holocaust explains why we fight as fiercely as we do to stay here, but it doesn't explain our rootedness." It gave fuel to the Arab narrative that delegitimizes our right to Israel by making the conclusion that the Jews are outsiders who came to Palestine after being chased out of Europe and have transferred their revenge of the Nazis onto the Palestinian people.

With that said, seeing the president at Yad Vashem and having former Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Israel Rabbi Yisroel Lau express his gratitude to the American Army for liberating him from Buchenwald was personally very meaningful to me. My father was also liberated from that infamous death camp and never

forgot his *hakaras ha'tov* to America. He never wanted people to lose sight of that fact or take for granted the privileges that citizens of the United States enjoy. I fondly remember the look of respect that he showed for American soldiers when he took us to our hometown's Memorial Day military parade.

My father, Rabbi Isaiah HaKohen Kenigsberg zt"l, was an extraordinary man. He was definitely a man for all seasons. He was a Gerrer Chasid, a *talmid chacham* who had learned in *Litvishe yeshivos* and had a beautiful *baal t'filah* voice, whose heartfelt renditions of Hallel and N'ilah left all who heard them spellbound. He was handsome, distinguished, charming, and had a smile that could not only light up a room but an entire neighborhood. He did not take professional parenting classes, but he was the best father one could ever have. He had a special relationship with each of his three distinctly different children. Each of us considered him our best friend. I have two wonderful and gifted brothers, but each has half of his attributes and talents. My father could do anything he set his mind to do. He had a very strong sense of *Kiddush HaChayim* (living for the sake of G-d). This exhibited itself during the Holocaust. If the Nazis wanted him dead, he was going to do everything in his power to stay alive and *frum* to spite them.

At my older brother's Bar Mitzvah quite a few years after the war, my father told an autobiographical story that he kept to himself since the Shoah. He made my brother promise in front of the entire congregation (he was a pulpit rabbi) that he would put on *T'filin* all his life. This was a no brainer for a yeshiva kid like my brother, so why did he make such a big deal about it? My dad went on to relate that in one of the concentration camp barracks someone smuggled in a "yad" portion of *T'filin*. Men would quickly put it on in the middle of the night and say the *brachah* figuring that they had an opportunity to do one more mitzvah before they would surely die in the gas chambers the next day. One day a capo (a Jewish prisoner appointed by the SS to supervise other prisoners) told the group that they were switching barracks. That brought terror to them, because they knew that the Nazis would customarily ransack the room on these occasions and would inevitably find the precious *T'filin*. Fifty men bribed the capo with their daily ration of a slice of bread to remove the *T'filin* before the Nazis came barreling in. For the capo, 50 pieces of bread was a feast, and some of the group of 50, many whom were already barely alive, would die of hunger. My father was one



The author's father, Rabbi Isaiah HaKohen Kenigsberg zt"l, whose Kiddush HaChayim saved him several times during the war

life but was one of eleven children and saw his mother do it many times. Needless to say, he pulled it off. The next trial was when a Nazi asked who was a tailor. Again reasoning that it would buy him a little more time, he announced that he was a tailor. Aside from darning his socks in yeshiva, he had never sewn anything, but again with true grit, he succeeded in fooling the Germans. The third time was the charm. The Nazi asked who knows diamonds. This was tricky - either one evaluated the gem correctly or not. How did anyone know if the Nazi already knew the answer and was testing? But with his strong sense of *Kiddush HaChayim*, my father stepped up and said he was a maven. He pulled all kinds

of the 50 men. It was *m'siras nefesh* (life-threatening) to put on *T'filin*. He wanted my brother to feel the passion that he felt for this mitzvah.

*Kiddush HaChayim* saved him several times during the war. One such example occurred in one of the camps in which he was imprisoned. The Nazi commandant asked if there was anyone who was a barber. Figuring that it would give him a few more days to live, my father raised his hand. It wasn't that he feared dying; he just wasn't going to give them the satisfaction if he could prevent it. He had never cut hair in his

of theatrics using the jeweler's glass to determine that the diamond was of pure quality. Hashem was with him and again he succeeded.

Baruch Hashem, my father's legacy is that we now have the fourth generation in the family that ranges from Gerrer Chasidim, *b'nei Torah*, to true Litvaks and everything in between. Every one of us is *shomer Shabbos* and *shomer Torah u'mitzvos*, which is a definite testament from the model of *Kiddush HaChayim* that he conducted throughout his life and became a template for us to follow.

Cynthia Zalisky is the Executive Director of the Queens Jewish Community. She can be contacted at [czalisky@qjcc.org](mailto:czalisky@qjcc.org)

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## The Obama Agenda

A few days before Pesach, President Obama made his first official trip to Israel since becoming president. The media in both the United States and Israel waxed poetically on the huge success the trip was for both countries. Obama's mea culpa was brokering a call between Prime Minister Netanyahu and Turkish Premier Erdogan, in which Netanyahu was humbled into apologizing for the death of nine Turkish citizens in the 2010 flotilla incident. This call was hailed as bringing a detente to the Israel-Turkey relationship, which had been frozen for the past three years. What really was the purpose of the trip and what happened on this trip?

Obama is a master politician when he chooses to be. His trip to Israel and the seeming love-fest was nothing more than a cover for him to personally deliver a somber message. The United States had failed miserably in its efforts to stop Iran from acquiring a nuclear bomb. Despite numerous assurances and red lines, the United States is not

going to attack Iran and Israel should not attack Iran. Israel is just going to have to live with the fanatical mullahs and the bomb as the United States has to live with the fanatical dictator of North

insane, but in his twisted mind he still wants his country to survive. He is just delusional in his belief that the United States will not wipe North Korea off the face of the earth even if North Korea

*It is truly amazing that after four and a half years of leading a superpower and watching how the real world works, that Obama cannot grasp the Arab hatred for the Jewish people and the State of Israel*

Korea and his bomb.

It is truly amazing that after four and a half years of leading a superpower and watching how the real world works, that Obama cannot grasp the Arab hatred for the Jewish people and the State of Israel. That people will blow themselves up so that they can get 72 virgins in the next world is beyond insanity, yet hundreds if not thousands of Muslims have done so in the past ten years alone. North Korean leader Kim Jong-un is irrational and may medically be termed

were to launch a nuclear attack against the United States or its allies. Once he grasps that concept, he will back down. Iran and its Mullahs have no such qualms. They would gladly have their country wiped off the face of the earth as long as they had the satisfaction to know that Israel no longer existed. We are not dealing with a rational or irrational actor who is interested in self-preservation; we are dealing with the Muslim unhinged.

This lack of understanding on the part

of President Obama is most disconcerting. Israel has no choice but to act. A threat of this magnitude on the people of Israel must be averted. President Obama sees any Israeli attack on Iran as a threat to world peace and stability. The Iranians will respond with an all-out war on Israel and an attempt to block the Straits of Hormuz. There will be attacks on American targets throughout the world and a fuming Obama will blame Israel.

What can we do as ordinary citizens? We need to pressure our Members of Congress to try to reach out to President Obama and explain to him the real threat that Iran is both to Israel and the world. The Republican-led House has passed a resolution that Israel has a right to attack Iran. Unfortunately, this is all but symbolic as they do not control the US military.

As we said in the Haggadah this past Pesach, "V'hi she'amdah la'avoseinu v'lanu." It is in Hashem's hands, and we will rely on his mercies to save us from the latter day Hamans of the world.

## City Elections: Why Should We Care?

by Manny Behar

Some of our elected officials, from both parties, are in the headlines again for all the wrong reasons. After reading about the alleged crimes of Malcolm Smith, a Democratic State Senator, and Dan Halloran, a Republican City Council Member, it is easy to understand why so many people are disgusted with politics. Why should we be involved in such a dirty game?

The reason we need to be involved is because our ability to live within the framework of a Torah-observant community depends on decisions made by our elected officials. Our community has grown and thrived because we have been able to build a community infrastructure of shuls, yeshivos, mikvaos, eruvim, and chesed organizations. We have been able to build this network, in large part, because of a constructive working relationship with our elected officials.

Let me give you a few examples from my own experience in the Queens Borough President's office, in the New York City Council Speaker's office, and as Executive Director of the Queens Jewish Community Council.

The establishment of an eruv requires permits from various city agencies and utilities and a proclamation from the Borough President's office. When the eruvim in Queens were established during the 1970s and 80s, my predecessor

in the Borough President's office, Steve Orlow, and I coordinated the process of obtaining the necessary permits. There were objections to eruvim in many neighborhoods then, as there are now in places like the Hamptons. While elected officials in other areas have frequently

office's response to the issue. The Borough President stood firm in his support for the eruv. Claire Shulman, then the Deputy Borough President, pressed some reluctant city agencies to grant the necessary permits. We arranged for the City Corporation Counsel's Office to de-

*Many of our community institutions depend on government funding. In my years working at the City Council, I was able to help direct more than \$4 million a year in discretionary funding to Jewish institutions*

been an obstacle to eruvim, the Queens Borough President's office has always been firm in its support.

The most serious challenge to an eruv in Queens came in Belle Harbor. Opponents of the eruv charged that we were trying to transform Belle Harbor into a "designated Jewish area" in which only religious Jews would be allowed to live. As absurd as this may sound, similar opposition has prevented the establishment of eruvim and the building of shuls and yeshivos. Opponents urged the Borough President not to issue the proclamation, pressured city agencies not to grant the permits, and sued in court to invalidate the eruv, alleging that it violated the separation of religion and state.

I coordinated the Borough President's

fend the eruv in court, along with one of the most capable defenders of Jewish legal rights, Dennis Rapps of COLPA. The result was a New York State Supreme Court decision upholding the validity of eruvim under secular law.

In most cases, autopsies are forbidden by halachah. Yet for many years, the New York City Medical Examiner's office insisted on performing autopsies on bodies of people who died at home. New York State adopted a law proposed by then Assembly Member Sheldon Silver to allow families to object to an autopsy on religious grounds. The Chief Medical Examiner can perform an autopsy over the religious objections of a family only on the basis of a court order that public safety or public health requires it. In

Queens, the Medical Examiner was making it difficult for families to object on religious grounds. Then Assembly Member Nettie Mayersohn organized a meeting in the Borough President's office between Jewish community leaders and the Medical Examiner. A procedure was worked under which I would coordinate requests for the Medical Examiner's office in Queens to release bodies to families for burial. When the procedure was first instituted I received several calls a week, often in the middle of the night, from families complaining that the Medical Examiner's office was refusing to release the bodies of their loved ones. In each case, I would call the Medical Examiner's office to prevent the autopsy and release the body. Within a few months, the number of calls went down significantly. Within a year they stopped completely. The Medical Examiner realized that I was ready to fight them and win on every case, and that they would have to comply with the law. The right to burial according to halachah was saved in Queens.

When Hatzolah applied for a permit to operate citywide, there was widespread opposition from local volunteer ambulance corps throughout the city, especially in Queens. Opponents said that there already were volunteer ambulance corps in many neighborhoods and that peo-

CONTINUED ON P. 60



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# 75 Years Later, YIKGH Commemorates The Kindertransport

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

children") was a ray of light in the void.

The Kindertransport allowed around 10,000 children from Nazi-occupied central Europe to escape to safe countries, primarily England. The idea of rescuing at least the children from the Nazi inferno came in the aftermath of Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass), when Nazis rampaged throughout Germany and Austria burning synagogues and sending Jewish men to concentration camps.

A Jewish delegation pleaded with Prime Minister Chamberlain to allow 15,000 Jews into Mandatory Palestine. The British Parliament nixed the Palestine proposal but agreed to permit Jewish children to enter England waiving many immigration procedures. The children had to be under 17 and could not be accompanied by their parents or any adults. Their stay would be temporary until after the war, and Jewish organizations had to pay 500 British Sterling surety so that the children would not become wards of the state.

At war's end almost all the children were orphans. The tearful waves from the train platform would be their last glimpse of their parents and family. Around 10,000 children, mostly Jewish, were saved by means of the transport.

The Young Israel of Kew Gardens Hills paid tribute to the heroism of the organizers of the Kindertransport and the gentile host families who put them up. For Rabbi Yoel Schonfeld, the commemoration touched home. His daughter, Debby Spero, is a docent at Yad Vashem, and his father, Rabbi Fabian Schonfeld, owes his life to the Kindertransport. His namesake, Rabbi Shlomo Schonfeld, was one of the organizers of the Kindertransport.

Before a packed audience, Debby Spero showed slides of farewell scenes at railroad platforms across central Europe where children would tearfully say goodbye and parents would wave to the train windows as the trains pulled out of the station. These heart-wrenching scenes played out in Prague, Vienna, and Berlin. Both sides knew that they

would be saying goodbye forever. The points of departure where the children left on the Kindertransport have been memorialized by bronze sculptures from the Israeli sculptor Frank Meisler, himself a transport "Kind" (child).

Rabbi Fabian Schonfeld was born in Vienna and remembers a normal childhood until

the Anschluss (Nazi invasion of Austria). The Anschluss was on Shabbos, and the scene of rabbis being forced to wipe the sidewalks on Shabbos burns in his memory 75 years later. "A thousand years of Jewish life (in Austria) came to an end overnight," he recalled. Former friends instantly became mortal enemies, such as his soccer buddy Kurt Koenig, who called him a "filthy Jew" as he

plunged a knife into his leg. A neighbor working for the Nazis warned the family to get out in time before they would be on the next roundup.

Rabbi Fabian then sang a few bars of the Yiddish folk song "Vu ahin zoll ich gehen" (Where should I go, all doors are closed) bemoaning the "wandering Jew." It was the theme song of his wanderings through Europe a minute before midnight. He entered Luxembourg where a Nazi saw his *t'filin* in his suitcase. "Vas is Das - Gebet Riemen" (prayer straps); he threw it into

the trash. In France he didn't know enough French to attend school. Finally, he was put on a list for the Kindertransport.

The travails of the transport children weren't over when the boat landed in England. The children originating from countries conquered by the Axis were declared "friendly-enemy Aliens" and many were deported overseas to Canada, Australia, and elsewhere. In England, they had to contend with a foreign language and culture and suffer the wartime

CONTINUED ON P. 34



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## 75 Years Later, YIKGH Commemorates The Kindertransport

CONTINUED FROM P. 33

bombings and hardships of the English people.

The BBC broadcasted an appeal for host families for the children, and close to 500 British families eagerly offered their homes with open arms despite wartime hardships (the late Margaret Thatcher's family was one of these). Many of the host families were sympathetic gentiles. Rabbi Schonfeld recalls that when the kids were farmed out to families in the British countryside when London was blitzed, the townspeople of Sheffield welcomed the children with a big sign "Welcome the children of Israel."

What does an Orthodox boy do in a gentile environment with no shul or yeshiva? How does one keep kosher and Shabbos and holidays? Rabbi Schonfeld, like others, had to improvise and survive by his wits. He humorously recalls erecting a makeshift *sukkah* in a drainage ditch. It was the enduring value of Torah that he and the other children kept Judaism in a "goyish" home. He glowed with pride that the children kept their Torah values and *tz'nius* in a Jewish vacuum. They reinforced each other in Judaism, teaching each other Torah in the absence of *yeshivos* or teachers. They helped each other with secular subjects as well, since the Brit-



The first of the thousands of Kindertransport refugees arriving in Essex, England, in 1938

ish teachers were off fighting the war. Rabbi Schonfeld says his being a *Gerrer chasid* gave him the moral courage and *bitachon* to overcome all his hardships.

At war's end, Rabbi Schonfeld was one of the few not to be orphaned, as his parents and older brother escaped to England.

Rabbi Yoel Schonfeld, Rabbi Fabian's son and successor at the Young Israel, likened the transport children to grasses (*asavim*) "that can sprout cedars." He cited an interesting *halachah*: that at a destroyed or converted synagogue one

should not pluck the grass on the site in order not to destroy the possibility of future growth.

Many of the transport children have indeed become cedars, taking center stage as internationally known artists, physicists, and attorneys. Perhaps the best known is Dr. Ruth Westheimer, also known as "Dr. Ruth." Seventy-five years later, they look back from their physics laboratories, boardrooms, and brokerage houses to that fateful farewell at the train station. They remain forever the transport children.

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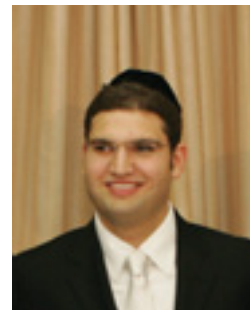
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## Appreciating Our Introverted Kids

Just finished reading the book, "Quiet: The Power of Introverts In A World That Can't Stop Talking." I really enjoyed it; it's good to know that the thinkers and dreamers do a lot of good in the world. Introverts are great leaders, true friends, innovators, writers and philosophers. The world cannot do without them.

So we need to cherish our quiet, sensitive, careful and dreamy kids. We need to appreciate their strengths and cultivate them. We also need to find ways to nurture our relationships with them. How can we do that? Here are some ideas:

### 1. Change your goal:

Parents many times feel they are not connecting with their kids unless they are talking. There are other ways. Cultivating a good relationship with children can actually be done silently. Cuddling, sitting next to them on the couch while they are watching TV, having their favorite food for dinner creates connections with kids. Those actions are probably more important than actual speech.

However, many people connect with

others specifically through the act of talking. If you are one of those people, it is helpful to understand that not all people, and more so kids, need to talk in order to build relationships. (This is usually harder for women than for men.) If you need to talk to connect, try following the activities that interest your kids: basketball, ice-skating, soccer, and the mystery series they're reading. Look up that article online about the burrowing habits of prairie dogs or J.K. Rowling's next project. Kids are egocentric and will be more likely to talk about the things they love.

### 2. Lose the questions:

Parents spend a lot of time innocently asking kids questions. Queries like: "What did you do today; what did you learn; did your friends like your new sweater?" Or, "Do you have any homework? How was gym today - did you get

a turn to bat? Did you have outdoor or indoor recess?"



These questions seem benign and politely conversational, but children find them to be intrusive and bothersome. Children want the liberty to talk when they feel like talking. That's why children generally respond to these questions with one-word answers or a shrug of their shoulders. This can annoy us parents to no end, especially since we think we are being so nice and friendly.

To really relate to our kids and help them start talking we need to avoid the questions and instead say: "Welcome

home; I am glad to see you!"

### 3. Silence is golden:

There are a lot of quiet, shy kids out there who just don't love to talk. If you have a quiet kid, don't force them to chat with you. American culture values people who are talkative and outgoing and these kids do not get a lot of appreciation. Make sure to cherish them for who they are and remember, "Still waters run deep." Instead of talking, make sure to give them lots of hugs and kisses. Let them know that they are loved for whatever personality they have.

Understanding how kids connect with others, avoiding questions, and appreciating your kids for who they are will go along way in building a positive relationship with your introverted child - even if he won't talk.

**Adina Soclof**, a certified Speech Pathologist, worked as a Speech Pathologist in preschools for the developmentally disabled in the New York area. She then worked as a Parent Educator for Bellefaire Jewish Children's Bureau facilitating workshops. She has been featured at numerous non-profit organizations and private schools in Cleveland. Adina developed TEAM Communication Ventures and conducts parenting and teacher workshops via telephone nationwide. For more information, visit [parentingsimply.com](http://parentingsimply.com).

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## Beautiful Brows

**P**erfect brows are a product of nature and nurture, which is why going after the latest trend does not work in this instance. Brows may be pencil thin one season and ultra natural the next, but we all know it can sometimes take ages to grow them back. It is therefore best to stick with what works for you individually.

The following guidelines work for the three most common arches. Find the one that most closely resembles your own, then get grooming.

### If You Have A High Arch

*How to maintain it:* Women with high arches have to be careful about over plucking since the sharp curve can look severe. Less is definitely more, when it comes to cleaning them up. Carefully tweeze just the stray hairs below the arch, never digging into the middle. A high arch that is too thin leaves a wide gap between the eyelid and the brow, and will make you look hollow-eyed. If after plucking, your lines do not look clean, put away your tweezers and use brow scissors to control them. Then comb hairs up at an angle with a brow brush and snip the tips. Never over-trim or you will lose the shape. Finish off with a clear gel to keep stray hairs in place.

### If You Have A Medium Arch

*How to maintain it:* These brows look most flattering with a slightly elongated shape. Tweeze stray hairs just underneath the highest point of the arch, but avoid pulling out any hairs above your natural brow line, which will flatten your shape. To accentuate your arch, you need to slightly lengthen the tail end. Use a stiff angled brush to apply brow powder with short light strokes from the eyes' inner corners to a bit past the ends. Then comb through with a spiral brush to blend.

### If You Have A Low Arch

*How to maintain it:* Low arches require low maintenance, since the shape looks most natural with soft lines and imprecise edges. Tweeze only the errant hairs that sprout beneath the brow bone and above the bridge of your nose. Resist temptation to over-tweeze, since you

will make your face look fuller by taking off too much. Avoid brow gel, since it can make the shape look too stiff. Instead, opt for a waxy brow pencil to fill patches and give soft hold.

Some of the biggest brow mistakes include:

1. Being too thin – Skinny brows are aging and will make you look heavier

2. Zooming in – Using a magnifying mirror can make you over-pluck, since you wind up obsessing over every hair.

3. Matching – Brows should complement your skin, not match your hair. You may tint them two shades lighter or darker, but no more.

If, as the cliché goes, “eyes are the windows to the soul,” then brows are the



shutters. A brow gives balance to the face, makes everything look neater and more symmetric, has almost as dramatic an effect on your appearance as surgery, and is certainly a lot less scary.



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## Young Israel Praises Decision To Cancel NY Event Featuring Anti-Israel Music Star

The National Council of Young Israel today applauded the decision to cancel an event that was to have featured Roger Waters, a lead member of the band Pink Floyd and a noted critic of the State of Israel. The event, which was to be held on April 30 at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y in New York City, was called off after pro-Israel groups voiced opposition to having Waters appear at a Jewish venue.

In October 2012, Roger Waters called on New York's Carnegie Hall to cancel an upcoming performance of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. Waters has successfully urged artists, including Stevie Wonder, to boycott Israel. Waters has made repeated outrageous and maligning comments towards Israel, including falsely accusing Israel, at the United Nations, of ethnic cleansing.

"The National Council of Young Israel

strongly supports the decision to cancel the event featuring Roger Waters," said Farley Weiss, the president of the National Council of Young Israel. "With his history of maligning Israel in the public arena, Roger Waters should not be welcomed with open arms at any venue that is associated with a Jewish group or organization. Those who urge boycotts of Israel should themselves be boycotted and not be invited to speak. We are



Roger Waters

pleased with the decision to cancel Waters's planned speech."

## OHEL Bais Ezra's Annual Chol HaMoed Adventure Brings Smiles To Children And Respite To Parents

This Chol HaMoed Pesach, over 70 individuals from OHEL Bais Ezra's many day programs enjoyed fun and excitement at Six Flags Great Adventure!

The children with various developmental disabilities, who were accompanied by a team of OHEL volunteers and professionals, came from throughout the five boroughs and got to hang out in the wonderful sun, go on scary and exciting rides, and even say hello to some of their favorite cartoon characters!

The abilities and needs of each child were attended to, with some enjoying the fast roller coasters, others the less intimidating rides, and some groups who just enjoyed walking around the park, shopping, and watching the great shows

offered by the theme park.

All in all it was a day of sun, fun, and a lot of picture taking, when all got to meet their favorite cartoon characters at the park and see some of their favorite movies come to life on the rides.

OHEL Bais Ezra provides a range of innovative programs and services for those with developmental disabilities. The Chol HaMoed trip is part of OHEL's many recreational and respite programs throughout the year for children and individuals aged 5-21.

For more information about OHEL Bais Ezra programs, or other OHEL services that you can benefit from, please contact OHEL today at 800-603-OHEL, askohel@ohelfamily.org, or ohelfamily.org.





# Community Recent Happenings

## Agudath Israel Hails Landmark NY Transportation Bill Putting Children And Safety First

by Judith Dinowitz

For years, Agudath Israel of America has pressed New York State lawmakers to address the inequitable and dangerous denial of transportation services for New York City's school children – including many yeshiva students – who are dismissed from school in the late afternoon. The failure to provide busing for such children, requiring them instead to use public transportation, posed significant safety concerns for the youngsters – especially during the winter months when dismissal takes place after nightfall. The alternatives required parents to pay out of pocket for private transportation services or personally carpool their children, which created significant expense or hardship.

Agudath Israel's advocacy led to a number of stopgap measures that partially addressed the problem over the past several years. However, serious gaps of service remained.

Those gaps were finally closed last week, when Governor Andrew Cuomo signed off on a new budget bill that once-and-for-all addresses this serious problem. Agudath Israel expressed appreciation to the Governor, the Senate, and the Assembly for amending the state's school transportation law in a manner that will be welcomed by yeshiva and day school families throughout New York City.

The new law does three things: It guarantees transportation from New York City public or private schools for all children from kindergarten to sixth grade, even those dismissed after 4 p.m.; it mandates that all bus stops be no more than 600 feet from a child's house; and, in the case where two or more school-age children in a family attend more than one school, it authorizes the family to pick one bus stop for all children involved.

Rabbi Shmuel Lefkowitz, Agudath Israel's Vice President for Community Services, said getting these changes approved is an outstanding achievement for long-suffering families. It demonstrates the sensitivity that the legislature has for the safety of our children.

State Senator Simcha Felder made this an issue of high priority, and with diligence and determination was able to deliver it. Working closely with veteran *askanim* Shimon and Shiya Ostreicher, whose role in promoting the new law was pivotal, the important issues were identified, the wording of the bill was drafted, and support was generated.

The transportation issue was brought to the attention of the State government



leaders at the annual Agudath Israel mission in February and amplified to Senate Majority Coalition Leader Skelos at a recent Agudath Israel Community Breakfast in his honor. "Senator Skelos understood the importance of this issue and went into the budget negotiation room and fought for our community," Rabbi Lefkowitz commented. Working together with Senator Skelos were Senate Co-Leader Jeff Klein, Senators Martin Golden, John Flanagan, and Andrew Lanza.

In the Assembly, under the leadership of Speaker Sheldon Silver, veteran Assembly Member Helene Weinstein undertook to get a transportation bill passed that addressed the safety needs of children and families. Assembly Member Weinstein, working together with Agudath Israel activist and board of trustee member Chaskel Bennett, drafted and shepherded a bill that was supported by Speaker Silver and her colleagues. Assemblyman Dov Hikind was involved in the process and pushed it because he said that he did not want to ever see another Leiby Kletzky tragedy again. Also strongly supporting the bill were Assembly Members Phil Goldfeder, Michael Simanowitz, and Steven Cymbrowitz. "Speaker Silver's determination to make this happen proved critical in the budget negotiation process," commented Rabbi Lefkowitz.

Parents who have benefited from the late dismissal busing during the 2012-13 school year expressed their enthusiasm for the service. One working mother of four, whose sixth grader attends Yeshiva Toras Emes Kaminetz in Brooklyn, said, "I'm thrilled beyond words! I don't have to rush out of work and lose money. I couldn't even believe it was true; I had to double-check with a couple of parents." Last year she had to leave work


early to pick her son up; now she can do a normal nine to five without worrying about his safety.

Mrs. Giladi, a mother of six whose sixth grader goes to Yeshiva Ahavas Torah in Brooklyn, said, "When you have

a large family with a lot of kids, it makes a difference, especially in the wintertime." She explained that before her son's 5:30 bus, she would have to run out to pick him up while waiting for younger kids to come on the school bus. "I cannot divide myself. At this time, I have to be home for the rest of the kids who are coming, and it's impossible to make sure of his safety and to get him also. So a very big burden came off of me."

"Sometimes," Rabbi Zwiebel remarked, "it takes years before advocacy efforts translate into legislative success. We are grateful that the Governor and the legislature recognized the pressing equity and safety concerns at stake here, and that they finally enacted these vital reforms in this year's budget. Taken

together with the increase in this year's mandated services reimbursement allocation and other initiatives for the non-public school community, New York's new budget gives our community much to be thankful for."



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# Community Recent Happenings

## Congregation Etz Chaim Hosts Communal Seder With A Personal Touch

by Susie Garber

The Kew Gardens Hills community is a warm, inviting place; Pesach emphasizes this warmth. Rabbi Moshe Rosenberg, Mara D'Asrah of Congregation Etz Chaim, has run a beautiful communal seder at Congregation Etz Chaim for the past twenty years, since he first started as the rabbi of the shul. The goal is to provide a first seder for anyone who needs it. People come for a variety of reasons, including the fact that almost half of the attendees are regulars, who wouldn't miss it and who look forward to it each year.

Rabbi Rosenberg's children grew up

with this seder. They share their melodies and songs from school with everyone. This year, Rabbi Rosenberg typed up questions and answers and distributed them at the tables under everyone's plates. The participants received either a question or an answer. When the question was read, the person who had the answer had to volunteer to read it. Some of the questions included: Why does the Haggadah say, regarding Rabbi Eliezer, that he was *like* 70 years old as opposed to he *was* 70 years old? Which word criticized the wicked son according to Rashi, and what was the highest number of plagues calculated and by which rabbi?

The seder even includes the singing

of "Chad Gadya" at the end with proper sound effects.

The seder is set up with tables with individual seder plates. Rabbi Rosenberg directs the overall reading of the Haggadah. Rabbi Rosenberg noted, "It's gratifying to see my own children as well as my congregants who started as young children, now grown and able to lead the seder themselves. Also, people who started as guests are now running and coordinating it."

Allan Sherman and Danny Noble, two volunteer coordinators, set up the seder. Rebbetzin Rosenberg made sure everything ran smoothly and took care of so many details as well as any last-minute

emergencies. The Rosenberg family kept a lookout at the first seder to see who might need a second one, and then an invitation follows. This year a man showed up at the shul on the second night thinking that this was the night for the communal seder. The Rosenbergs happily invited him to their family seder at their home.

The seder receives a mixed group at all different levels. Often, beginners join. The policy is that anyone who wants to be at a seder has one. No one is ever turned away for financial reasons. Congregants sponsor people. The best thank you note is that people come back year after year.

## Save The S'farim Foundation Reaches New Heights

by Susie Garber

As noted earlier in an article in January in the *Queens Jewish Link* about an organization called Save the Sefarim Foundation, if you attend a bazaar, flea market, or estate sale, you may meet Mrs. Debbi Portnoy there. She'll be there for one express purpose: searching for hidden s'farim. This is a passion and a mission for Mrs. Portnoy. At a flea market in Manhattan, she saw a little silver siddur amongst a pile of *National Geographics*. This find was the spark that ignited the idea for this foundation. Mrs. Portnoy has sent many leather-bound siddurim to the women's section at the Kosel. Her organization has also redeemed six sifrei Torah. It started as a small organization in 2006 and it grew to finding the right place for the right sefer.

Mrs. Portnoy's organization has grown and expanded to new heights as it has

now played an integral role in donating s'farim to a warehouse created by Achiezer and NIVNEH to help those devastated by Hurricane Sandy. She is also donating s'farim to Columbia Presbyterian Hospital to include English s'farim for the Jewish Library. This is a true chesed for family members who are there in the Bikur Cholim room. She would like to donate to other Jewish libraries in hospitals, etc., as well.

The following is an excerpt from a thank you letter that Save the Sefarim Foundation received, thanking the foundation and its Queens donors for donating s'farim to Hurricane Sandy victims. Mrs. Portnoy credits the first article about Save the Sefarim Foundation, which appeared in the *Queens Jewish Link*, as a catalyst that allowed the donors to reach out to her organization, supplying them with many s'farim that were sent to the NIVNEH warehouse, re-

supplying Hurricane Sandy victims with s'farim that they lost.

Dear Debbi:

*On behalf of all of the families that were victim to Hurricane Sandy, we would like to thank you for your generous contribution of s'farim to Project NIVNEH. So many people were devastated by the loss of book collections that were accumulated over many years, and your donation of so many s'farim will go a long way in alleviating some of the pain. Project NIVNEH has helped over 800 families to rebuild their homes and*

*their lives through your kindness.*

If anyone has any unused s'farim to donate to the organization, we will pick them up and find new homes for them. Mrs. Portnoy can be reached at dp147@verizon.net or 917-326-9678.

Mrs. Portnoy notes, "The organization is not looking for funds or sheimos at this time. We are in need of unused, good condition s'farim to donate to those who have lost their s'farim in the Hurricane, as well as to other places in need of s'farim."

## Avella Donates Matza To Senior Center

On Friday, March 22, Senator Tony Avella donated matzah to the Selfhelp Clearview Senior Center in Bayside in preparation for Passover. Every year during Passover, Avella donates matzah to a senior center in the district.



Linda Naomi Baron-Katz

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# Community Recent Happenings

## Changes In New York State Budget Good News For Jewish Families

by Judith Dinowitz

**R**ecently, Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Assembly and Senate reached agreement on the New York state budget for fiscal year 2013-14, with changes that will make a difference to Jewish families who send their children to yeshivos and day schools.

Changes to the budget include an increase of funding to the Mandated Services and Comprehensive Assessment Policy (CAP) programs and a new line in the budget allotting money specifically for security equipment for religious and independent schools.

Mandated Services and CAP are programs that reimburse nonpublic schools for the cost of certain services required by the New York State Education Department. Under the leadership of Rabbi Moshe Sherer z"l, the late president of Agudath Israel of America, Agudath Israel played a major role in establishing the

legislative obligation to reimburse nonpublic schools for these costs, and Jewish schools across the state receive millions of dollars annually under this law.

Agudath Israel and other advocacy groups made a major push this year for significant increases in these funds. These efforts bore fruit, as this year's budget allocates \$94 million for Mandated Services, which is \$3.6 million more than last year, and \$43.5 million for CAP, which is \$10.3 million more than last year.

Jewish school students account for approximately 30% of a total New York State nonpublic school population. So yeshivos and day schools across the state can expect to receive approximately \$40 million of the total Mandated Services/CAP allocation.

"We are thankful for the funding that the Governor and the Senate and Assembly members have provided for Mandated Services and CAP," said Rabbi Shmuel Lefkowitz, Agudath Israel's Vice Pres-

ident for Community Services. "This helps yeshiva students and their parents by paying for services that the state requires, which would otherwise inflate yeshiva tuitions, creating a bigger burden on parents."

However, though the increase in funding is welcome, this year's budget allocation for CAP still does not cover the full costs of the program. The original CAP formula, which more accurately estimates the costs of these services, puts expenses at approximately \$59 million annually, about \$15 million less than the total allocated in this year's budget. CAP has been underfunded for many years, resulting in a debt owed by the state to nonpublic schools that has been estimated at about \$210 million prior to the enactment of this year's budget. Language in the current budget requires an analysis by the State Education Department for its prior-year obligations under CAP, and reiterates that, beginning with the 2011-12 school year expenses,

the state must revert to the original CAP formula.

Mrs. Deborah Zachai, Agudath Israel's Director of Education Affairs, said, "We cannot rest until the state pays this debt to yeshivas and nonpublic schools across the state – they are entitled to the funds and they need them to survive."

Like Mandated Services and CAP, funding for security equipment in nonpublic schools was a major item on the agenda of Agudath Israel's mission to Albany in February 2013. Commenting on the budget's inclusion of \$4.5 million for such equipment, Mrs. Zachai said, "This will help to make our children safer. In the aftermath of the tragedy in Newtown, public schools in New York State received a boost in funding for security equipment; this helps level the playing field for security in yeshivas and other nonpublic schools. We are grateful that it made it into the budget, and we thank our lawmakers in Albany for their help in getting this passed."

## CM Gennaro Praises Indoor Smoking Ban, 10 Years Later

**J**ames F. Gennaro (D-Fresh Meadows) marked the 10-year anniversary of the passage of Mayor Bloomberg's Smoke-Free Air Act, which despite generating heavy criticism at the time, has made workplaces safer for employees, reduced the city's smoking rate, and saved thousands of lives.

In New York City, the smoking rate among adults decreased from 21.5 in 2002 to 14.8 percent in 2011 and from 17.5 to 8.5 percent among youth. Life expectancy has reached an all-time high of 80.9 years and employment in the City's bars and restaurants has increased by 48 percent.

"Ten years later, there's no doubt about the effectiveness of the Smoke-Free Act in clearing the air for employee and patrons of bars and restaurants throughout the city. Further, it has also had a measurable impact in inducing smokers to quit and non-smokers to never start," Gennaro said. "At the time, Mayor Bloomberg took a lot of heat from critics who predicted a big hit to tourism and hundreds of closed busi-

nesses as a result of the indoor smoking ban. In fact, since the bill passed a decade ago, the number of new establishments is still on the rise and tourism to this city has never been better."

On March 18, Gennaro joined Mayor Bloomberg at The Queens Hospital Center to speak out in favor of tough new legislation before the City Council that would limit displays of tobacco products that entice kids to smoke and to stamp out cigarette smuggling.

Gennaro has also lent his support for tackling another health crisis – obesity – by strongly backing the Mayor's efforts at sensible portion control of sugary drinks.

"It's my belief that, ten years from now, we will look upon the Mayor's portion control initiative covering large sugary soda drinks in much the same way as the ban on smoking indoors at restaurants and bars," Gennaro said. "Like the Smoke-Free Air Act, the benefits of sensible portion control will only grow and become more obvious with the passage of time."

## Direct Support Professionals (P/T)



Ohel Bais Ezra's Community Habilitation and Respite Programs are looking for creative dedicated and responsible male and female staff to work one-on-one with children or adults with developmental disabilities who live at home in various locations throughout Queens. Experience and driving strongly preferred but not required. Good English communication skills a must. Flexible part time, after school hours.

For more information, please contact  
**718-686-3487**  
or [communityservices@ohelfamily.org](mailto:communityservices@ohelfamily.org).



# Community Upcoming Events

## Council Member Peter F. Vallone Jr. Hires Jonathan Schenker As An Advisor To His Campaign For Queens Borough President; Will Focus On Outreach To Jewish Communities

New York City Council Member Peter F. Vallone Jr. Tuesday announced he has hired Jonathan Schenker to serve as an advisor to his campaign for Queens Borough President. Schenker will be conducting outreach to various ethnic groups in Queens, with a particular focus on Queens' Jewish communities.

"Council Member Peter F. Vallone Jr.'s deep roots in the borough and hard work on behalf of his constituents make him the clear choice for Queens Borough President. Peter is a dedicated Catholic who shares the Queens Jewish community's understanding of the major role faith plays in people's lives," said Schenker. "His chairmanship of the Public Safety Committee demon-



strates that the security of New York City residents is of utmost importance to him and that the interests of communities targeted by hate-driven violence will be well served by his leadership."

Schenker served four years in the office of the New York City Comptroller in varied capacities, most recently in the Bureau of Asset Management handling the NYC Pension Funds. He then moved on to political advisory work. As Political Director on the successful Robert Turner Congressional campaign, he

worked closely with the district's Jewish community, which comprised one-fourth of registered voters making Schenker's outreach efforts instrumental to the victory. He stayed with Turner as a Congressional staffer until January of this year.

"I am very pleased that Jonathan Schenker is joining our team. Jonathan's years of experience in New York City government and his attention to the needs of Queens's Jewish community will further cement our campaign's foundation on the dream of one, united Queens," said Vallone. "If honored with election to the office of Queens Borough President, inclusion of and representation for all Queens residents will always be a priority of mine."

## Ping Pong Sensation Will Not Play On Shabbos...Again

Eleven-year-old Ping-Pong sensation Estee Ackerman of West Hempstead has been

right to be nominated by their national association to attend a week of training at the Schlager Table



Estee Ackerman with members of the 2012 Gold Medalist Team from China



Estee Ackerman with USA #1 female Ariel Hsing (L) and World's #1 female Ding Ning from China

selected by the United States Table Tennis Association to play in the 2013 ITTF-North America HOPES Challenge, to be held April 20-21 at the Westchester Table Tennis Club in Pleasantville, NY. Ackerman is one of only four girls in the USA to receive this invitation and she will compete against the top four girls from Canada. The Hopes challenge is a separate event for boys and girls under the age of twelve. The winner of the Hopes will get the

Tennis Academy in Schwehat, Austria, from June 9-16, 2013. This training academy brings together the best kids in the world by age groupings for a week of intensive training and instruction. The Hopes is scheduled to start on Saturday, and Ackerman, who does not compete on Shabbos, is trying to see if the tournament committee will accommodate her to play either Friday afternoon or after Shabbos.

## New Hyde Park To Participate In OU Jewish Communities Home And Job Relocation Fair For First Time On April 21

New Hyde Park will join 40 Orthodox Jewish communities from across the United States when it

participates for the first time in the Orthodox Union's **Jewish Communities Home and Job Relocation Fair**, to be held

Sunday, April 21 in New York. This is the fourth year that the OU Fair has been presented, with the largest number of communities in participation yet.

The original program, in 2008, was attended by 14 communities, followed by 23 in 2009 and 37 in 2011. This year, 41 communities from 18 states will be represented, covering all areas of the country: the Northeast, the Southeast; the Midwest; the Southwest; the Rockies; the Pacific Coast.

"What is being emphasized is affordable living," explained Rabbi Judah Isaacs, director of the OU's Department of Community Engagement, which produces the Fair. "Each of the communities offers the ability to live a more affordable lifestyle, with good paying jobs and reasonably priced housing."

"It is not possible to visit every community, so the Fair offers a unique opportunity for 'one stop,' shopping, to learn about each and their unique characteristics," Rabbi Isaacs added. "These communities offer a better quality

of life for a young Orthodox Jewish family. Interested people will be encouraged to visit communities for Shabbat following the Fair, to learn more and to meet residents."

Although in some cases retirement is the reason for moving, young families are such an important part of the constituency for the Fair, that a stroller parking area is a must.

Particularly since the 2009 Fair, after the economy crashed, jobs have been the key. The OU Job Board, under the leadership of International Director Michael Rosner, has worked with each of the participating communities to locate white-collar positions and to promote them at the Fair. Preparing for the upcoming event, Mr. Rosner said, "The Job Board will be displaying every community's jobs as well as reaching out to communities which may need help finding jobs in their back yards. We will also post blurbs about each community on each job. In addition, we have sent out mass mailings and have started social media networking."

## TEACHERS

Yeshiva Tifereth Moshe, Queens, NY is seeking the following General Studies Teachers beginning September 2013:

- 6th Grade Math and Science Mon-Thurs 1-4 PM, Fri 11-1
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# Community Upcoming Events

## Prominent Political Commentator Pamela Geller To Address Great Neck Synagogue

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

fense Initiative (AFDI) and Stop Islamization of America (SIOA). She is the author of *Stop the Islamization of America: A Practical Guide to the Resistance* and *The Post-American Presidency: The Obama Administration's War on America* with Robert Spencer (foreword by Ambassador John Bolton). She is also a regular columnist for World Net Daily, Andrew Breitbart's *Big Government and Big Journalism*, *the American Thinker*, and other publications.

Through her writings and frequent television and radio appearances, Geller has driven numerous stories, particularly the controversy surrounding the

"Ground Zero Mosque." Geller was the organizer and keynote speaker at the rally against the proposed mosque on September 11, 2011, making her a lightning rod for the resulting media firestorm.

Geller received the Annie Taylor Award for Courage in 2010 from the David Horowitz Freedom Center. In October 2011, the United States Marine Corps presented her with the flag flown on September 11, 2011 over Camp Leatherneck, "amid the battlefields of Afghanistan during decisive operations against enemy forces in Helmand Province."

Geller will be joined by Greg Buckley, whose son, Lance Corporal Greg



Lance Corporal Greg Buckley, Jr

Buckley, Jr., was one of three Marines killed in a "Green on Blue" insider attack on his military base in the Helmand province, Afghanistan on Aug 10. Greg's murderers were immediately captured and the gruesome killings were concurrently celebrated as his killer shouted, "I did Jihad." Last year there were over 50 "Green on Blue" murders of our soldiers in Afghanistan and the numbers continue to climb. Greg Buckley Sr. is calling for swift justice for the murderers of his son and demanding prosecution on American soil as terrorists.

Admission is complimentary, and open to the public. A valid photo ID is required for entry into the synagogue.

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# KGH Library's Expansion To Begin With Ceremonial Groundbreaking On April 19

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

of the Kew Gardens Hills Branch of the Queens Library. On Friday, April 19, at 1:00 p.m., a ceremonial groundbreaking will take place in front of the current library located on Pat Dolan Way (formerly Vleigh Place) in Kew Gardens Hills. How appropriate it is, given that this project was initiated and relentlessly pursued by the late Patricia Dolan, who served as the longtime president of the Kew Gardens Hills Homeowners Civic Association until her untimely passing in 2011. Everyone who knew Pat admired her staunch advocacy on behalf of the Kew Gardens Hills community, and respected her tenacity. It was that tenacity that eventually earned approval of the renovation and expansion. At the time, Pat was quoted as saying, "[w]e didn't just ask for this [and receive it] . . . That's not the way things work" (Dal Molin, David. "Kew Gardens Hills Library Pushes Expansion." *Queens Chronicle*, 27 Nov. 2008: 18).

The Kew Gardens Hills Branch was al-



Artist rendering of the renovated and expanded Kew Gardens Hills Branch of the Queens Library



ways among Pat's most salient interests. In 1996, she successfully lobbied for restoration of its Sunday service, particularly to serve the needs of the large Orthodox Jewish population unable to visit the library or benefit from its services on the Sabbath (Saturday). Interestingly, the library was not always known as the Kew Gardens Hills Branch. In fact, when originally constructed in 1967, it was named the Vleigh Branch because the front door of its first home was on Vleigh Place in what is now the Queens County Savings Bank. When the library moved to its current home, the name went with it. But in 1997, Pat led the effort to change the name to the Kew Gardens Hills Branch. In a letter to the Queens Library director, Pat said "[t]he name is confusing since it gives no indication of the community where it is located. Most branches are named for their neighborhoods. It is time that our library, the most respected and esteemed public institution in our neighborhood, bear the name Kew Gardens Hills Branch." With her advocacy, and assistance from then Council Member Morty Povman, it became a reality.

Then, in 2000, Pat gathered more than 500 signatures in support of a petition

to restore funding for seven-day service. Again in 2011, she went to bat for the community to restore Sunday service in lieu of Saturday, and to no surprise, she succeeded. But her most zealous library campaign, the current renovation and expansion, began in 2001 after reading an article in the New York Times, entitled "Library Moves Beyond 'Shh' (and Books)" (7 Mar. 2001), which boasted that in 2000, more than 500,000 people participated in 30,000 programs throughout the Queens library branches. In response, Pat penned a letter to the editor of the New York Times in which she wrote:

The Kew Gardens Hills branch of the Queens Borough Library is one of the neighborhood's most valued public institutions. We only wish it had room to accommodate the programs and activities "Library Moves Past 'Shh' (and Books)" . . . describes.

As the Kew Gardens Hills Civic Association's president, I hear constant calls from local residents for a new building that will provide seating for Internet users, adequate shelf space for books, periodicals, CDs, and a separate children's room. Dancing and open mike nights are beyond the capacity of our 1960s vintage library.

Pat certainly had a point. In 1967, the Kew Gardens Hills population was approximately 20,000. It has since swelled to more than 30,000. But in the ensuing years, her renovation and expansion campaign was met with multiple denials. In fact, at one point she received a letter informing her "that expansion of the Kew Gardens Hills branch was scheduled for consideration in the year 2039" (see Dal Molin, *supra*). Undeterred, Pat persevered. Finally, in 2008, her years of lobbying city officials for funding paid off when Borough President Helen Marshall agreed to fund approximately 64 of the 7.6 million dollar cost (Rhoades, Liz. "Kew Gardens Hills Plan Hailed for Design." *Queens Chronicle*, 29 Jul. 2010: 5).

When construction is complete, the new facility will be expanded by 30%, or 3000 square feet, for a total of 11,000 square feet with its walls along 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Vleigh Place moved closer to the street. The exterior will be more contemporary-looking, and the interior will be entirely rearranged. Perhaps the most distinctive feature of the new library will be the "green roof" along the perimeter of the roof on the 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue side with a belt of flowers and grass. It is worth noting that the newly designed building was the product of architects Amale Andraos and Dan Wood of WORKac, which was one of 13 projects honored by Mayor Bloomberg's 2010 Design Commission's Annual Awards for Excellence, and the only Queens recipient that year. (See Dal Molin,

Rhoades, *supra*).

The library building will remain closed during construction, but service has been temporarily relocated across the street at 71-34 Main Street (the former Paper Palace). According to Jennifer Manley, Vice President for Government and Community Affairs of the Queens Library, the "swing space" opened in March and welcomes approximately 250 visitors and loans more than 300 items a day.

Everyone is encouraged to attend the ceremonial groundbreaking for this momentous occasion in Kew Gardens Hills. On behalf of the Kew Gardens Hills Homeowners Civic Association and the entire Kew Gardens Hills community, we express our sincerest and deepest gratitude to Borough President Helen Marshall, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Senator Toby Ann Stavisky, Assembly Member Michael Simanowitz, and Council Member Jim Gennaro for their indispensable backing and support; it would not have been possible without them. Last October, they, along with City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, stood in front of the library and officially renamed the block on which it stands from Vleigh Place to Pat Dolan Way. On April 19, they will return to Pat Dolan Way in celebration of Pat's realized dream: to move beyond 'shh' and books. As a way of demonstrating our appreciation as well as commemorating Pat's efforts, everyone is encouraged to attend.

**David Kirschner** and **Jennifer Martin** are co-presidents of the Kew Gardens Hills Homeowners Civic Association. **Meshulam Lisker** is chairperson of the board of the Kew Gardens Hills Homeowners Civic Association.



# Community Upcoming Events

## Shalom Task Force To Hold Twentieth Anniversary Brunch On April 14

**S**halom Task Force (STF)'s Twentieth Anniversary Brunch will take place on Sunday morning, April 14, at 10 a.m. at the Sephardic Temple, 775 Branch Boulevard, in Cedarhurst.

STF was launched over 20 years ago to address domestic abuse in the Jewish community. Since its inception, more than 16,000 women have taken the first

steps toward regaining their dignity and reshaping their destiny by gathering the courage to call the STF confidential hotline.

The brunch will help STF continue to provide its many services, including the hotline, legal counseling, educational programs, and marriage workshops. This occasion will also recognize the follow-

ing outstanding individuals who have contributed so meaningfully to STF since its inception:

*Rose Aftergut* (Lifetime Achievement Award)

*Dr. Hylton & Leah Lightman* (Hakaras HaTov Award)

*Sharron Russ* (Dedicated Service Award)

*Susan Falk Taub* (Founders Award)

*Rabbi Dovid Weinberger* (Rabbinic Leadership Award)

Tribute to Zev Wolfson z"l

For more information, or to make your reservation, please call 516-773-3399 or e-mail [stfbrunch@gmail.com](mailto:stfbrunch@gmail.com). To learn more about STF's wide range of services, please visit [www.shalomtaskforce.org](http://www.shalomtaskforce.org)

## RIETS Dinner To Honor Leaders And Educators In Jewish Community

### *Hyman and Ann Arbesfeld of Kew Gardens to receive Etz Chaim Award*

**R**abbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS), an affiliate of Yeshiva University, will honor dedicated leaders and educators of the Jewish community at its Annual Gala Evening of Tribute on Wednesday, May 1, at The Grand Hyatt in New York City. Honorees include Rabbi Hyman (Hy) and Ann Arbesfeld, Etz Chaim Award; Rabbi Hershel Schachter, Guest of Honor; and Rabbi Eliezer Zwickler, Distinguished Rabbinic Leadership Award.

"I have always believed that RIETS is the heart and soul of Yeshiva University," said Joel Schreiber, chairman of the RIETS Board of Trustees. "It is blessed with the finest *roshei yeshivah* that have produced outstanding scholars of Torah and Jewish thought. For over 100 years it has embodied the philosophy of Torah U'Mada and has been at the forefront of Modern Orthodoxy in America and beyond. This year, we are privileged to honor leaders in Torah, *chesed*, and service to community."

Hy, a Bronx native, attended Talmudical Academy, the earlier name of Yeshiva University High School for Boys, and went on to Yeshiva College, where

he graduated summa cum laude. Rather than accept one of several fellowship offers following graduation, he went to RIETS, becoming a student of Rav Joseph Soloveitchik, and received *Semichah* in 1956. Hy joined the RIETS Board of Trustees in 1982 and became vice chairman in 2007. Ann served as national president of the Yeshiva University Women's Organization for ten years and is currently a member of its executive council.

The Arbesfelds have endowed YU's Sunday morning Abraham Arbesfeld Kollel Yom Rishon and the Millie Arbesfeld Midreshet Yom Rishon learning program in honor of Hy's parents, and most recently, endowed the popular *YU Torah To-Go* series in memory of Ann's parents, Benjamin and Rose Berger. The Arbesfelds live in Kew Gardens, NY, and have four children: Benjamin (and Sara), Michelle (and Eli Salig), Pnina and David, all alumni of YU high schools, colleges, and graduate schools. The Arbesfelds' grandchildren are recent graduates and students of YU schools.

Founded in 1896, RIETS is the leading center for education and ordination of



The Arbesfelds

Orthodox Rabbis in North America. To learn more about the RIETS Annual Dinner of Tribute, make a reservation, or to

participate in the Scroll of Honor, visit [www.riets.edu/dinner](http://www.riets.edu/dinner), call 212-960-0852, or e-mail [rietsdinner@yu.edu](mailto:rietsdinner@yu.edu).

## NY NCSY 7th Annual Men's Basketball Tournament To Be Held Sunday, April 21st

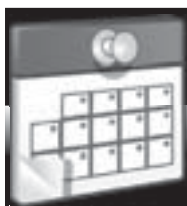
**J**oin the Jewish communities of Long Island, Westchester, and the Five Boroughs in supporting NY NCSY on Sunday, April 21st, 2013. This

competitive basketball tournament features both 5-on-5 and 3-on-3 players. From 9 am - 12 pm teams play throughout gyms in the Five Towns area and come togeth-

er for the Sweet Sixteen, Final Four, and Championship Games at 1 pm at Lawrence High School, 2 Reilly Road. Join for a competitive basketball tournament,

children's entertainment, and a raffle for 2 round-trip tickets to Israel! For more information, please visit [www.ncsybasketball.com](http://www.ncsybasketball.com) or call (516) 569-6279.





# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Compiled by Rebecca Wittert

## APRIL 2013

Thursday

11

At 6:00 p.m., the **Brandeis Association, a bar association of Jewish legal professionals, will hold its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Yom Hashoah Program**, featuring a talk by Dr. Della Peretti on "Aristides de Sousa Mendes: Unknown Hero" and music by violinist

Randall D. Unger, Esq. At Queens County Civil Court, 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11432. This event is co-sponsored by the Queens Jewish Community Council, the Kupferberg Holocaust Remembrance Center, Stephanie Goldstone, Esq. and Barry Seidel, Esq. Reservations required. Register online at [www.brandeisassociation.org](http://www.brandeisassociation.org) or email [contactus@brandeisassociation.org](mailto:contactus@brandeisassociation.org).

Sunday

14

From 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., **Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary and Yeshiva University** will host a **special day of learning** on the life and legacy of The Rav: Commemorating The 20th Yahrtzeit Of Rav Yosef Dov Soloveitchik, zt"l. Event will take place

at Yeshiva University's Wilf Campus, 500 West 185th Street, New York, NY 10033. To register visit [www.yu.edu/the-rav](http://www.yu.edu/the-rav).

At 10:00 a.m., **Shalom Task Force will hold its Twentieth Anniversary Brunch** at the Sephardic Temple, 775 Branch Boulevard, Cedarhurst, NY. The brunch will help Shalom Task Force continue to provide its many services to victims of domestic abuse, including a confidential hotline, legal counseling, educational programs and workshops for engaged and married couples. This occasion will also recognize several outstanding volunteers, lay leaders, and supporters. For more information or to make your reservation, please call 516-773-3399 or e-mail [stfbrunch@gmail.com](mailto:stfbrunch@gmail.com).

From 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., the National Council of Young Israel, Lev Leytzan's ElderHearts, the Margaret Tietz Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, and the Young Israel of Jamaica Estates will present a program entitled "**Humor & Healing**" which will focus on care giving for loved ones with Alzheimer's and dementia. The program will enable caregivers, professionals, and family members to learn important strategies from experienced professionals. Program will take place at the Young Israel of Jamaica Estates, 83-10 188th Street, Jamaica Estates. For more information, please contact NCYI Director of Programming Rebbetzin Judi Steinig at 212-929-1525 x100 or at [jsteinig@youngisrael.org](mailto:jsteinig@youngisrael.org). Online registration is available at [www.youngisrael.org/healing](http://www.youngisrael.org/healing)

Sunday

14

At 8:30 p.m., CHAZAQ in conjunction with Beth Gavriel will present **renowned lecturer R' Benzion Klatzko** in Queens. The talk will be preceded by refreshments at 8:00 p.m. Men and women are invited. Admission is free. At Beth Gavriel Community Center,

66 - 35 108th Street, Forest Hills. For more information, please call or text 917-617-3636 or contact [Info@Chazaq.org](mailto:Info@Chazaq.org).

Monday

15

At 7:15 p.m., **Great Neck Synagogue will celebrate the 65th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel**. Special guest speakers will be Susie & Rabbi Stewart Weiss, Founders of the Jewish Outreach Center in Raanana, Israel; *Jerusalem Post* columnists, and parents of Israel Defense Forces Sgt. Ari Weiss, killed in battle with a Hamas terror cell during the Second Intifada. The program will bridge Israel's Memorial Day, observed on Monday, April 15, with Israeli Independence Day, observed on Tuesday, April 16. The formal program will be followed by a falafel reception. Admission is free and open to the community. RSVP Required to 516.487.6100 or [mtwsky@gns.org](mailto:mtwsky@gns.org).

Thursday

16

At 8:00 p.m., Shiffy Glikman and Hennie Kenigsberg will host a **tea for Kimpatorin Aid** at 72-33 136<sup>th</sup> Street, Kew Gardens Hills. The guest speaker will be Mrs. Estee Hebel. This tzedaka was started over 30 years ago by the Spinka Rebbe and supporting this tzedaka is said to be a segula for singles to find their basherts. For more information, please contact Hennie at [henna.k@gmail.com](mailto:henna.k@gmail.com) or call 917-324-7250.

Wednesday

17

At 9:30 a.m., Mrs. CB Neugroschl, Head of School, Samuel H. Wang Yeshiva University High School for Girls will speak on "**Religious Zionism: What Was the Dream Then? What Is the Dream Now?**" at the home of Judith and Alvin Segal in Holliswood. The shiurim are open to women and men. For more information or to make a reservation, please contact Mrs. Yvette Finkelstein, Director of Community and Alumnae Relations at [finkelstein@yuhsg.org](mailto:finkelstein@yuhsg.org) or 212.960.5400, ext. 6960.

At 7:45 p.m., the Rabbi Israel D. Rosenberg Educational Institute of Congregation Etz Chaim will present its **Shiur Ha'Chodesh at Etz Chaim for Women by Women**. This month, Rebbetzin Abby Lerner will speak on "Secrets of Sefirah: Making Sense of the Annual Seven Week Ritual." Suggested donation: \$4 shul members, \$5 others. At 147-19 73 Avenue, Kew Gardens Hills.

Friday

19

At 1:00 p.m., a **ceremonial groundbreaking for the new Kew Gardens Hills branch of the Queens Public Library** will take place in front of the current library located on Pat Dolan Way (formerly Vleigh Place) in Kew Gardens Hills.

Sunday

21

From 10:00 a.m. through 1:00 p.m., The Young Israel of Queens Valley Chevra Kadisha and the National Association of Chevra Kadisha will hold a **Yom Iyun on "The Tahara Process"** for all Chevra members and possible Chevra members. At the Young Israel of Queens Valley, 141-55 77 Ave., Kew Gardens Hills (Corner of Main Street & 77 Ave). Registration \$18.00 per person. For more information, please contact the Vaad office at 718-849-9700, Lisa Lederer at [lisa@nasck.org](mailto:lisa@nasck.org), or Avi Schoemann at [aschoemann@nasck.org](mailto:aschoemann@nasck.org).

At 5:00 p.m., YESS! **Yeshivah Education for Special Students will hold its 21st Annual Dinner** at Beth Shalom of Roslyn. Guests of Honor The Orlow Firm, Educator Awardee Simona Feldman, Parents of the Year Chedva and Shmuel Abrahamson, and Community Service Awardee Geraldine DePaola, Branch Manager Chase Manhattan Bank Kew Gardens Hills. For further information, please call 718-268-5976.

**NY NCSY will be holding their 7th Annual Men's Basketball Tournament**. This competitive basketball tournament features both 5-on-5 and 3-on-3 players. From 9 a.m. - noon, teams play throughout gyms in the Five Towns area and come together for the Sweet Sixteen, Final Four, and Championship Games at 1 p.m. at Lawrence High School, 2 Reilly Road. Join for a competitive basketball tournament, children's entertainment, and a raffle for 2 roundtrip tickets to Israel! For more information, please visit [www.ncsybasketball.com](http://www.ncsybasketball.com) or call (516) 569-6279.

At 7:30 p.m., there will be a **Haschalas Sefer Torah** at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dovid Tanenbaum, 137-58 71st Avenue, Kew Gardens Hills. The new Sefer Torah is being written in memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel K. Tanenbaum and Mr. and Mrs. Simon Zucker and will be donated to the Ahavas Torah Center of Henderson,

Nevada. For more information, please call Dovid Tanenbaum at 917-328-1302.

At 8:30 p.m., the CHAZAQ Women's Division in conjunction with Beth Gavriel will **present lecturer and author Gila Mansolon** in Queens. Admission is free. Women only. At Beth Gavriel Center, 66 - 35 108th Street, Forest Hills. For more information, please call 646-541-6833 or contact [Info@Chazaq.org](mailto:Info@Chazaq.org)

Wednesday

24

At 9:30 a.m., Mrs. CB Neugroschl, Head of School, Samuel H. Wang Yeshiva University High School for Girls will speak on "**Religious Zionism: What Was the Dream Then? What Is the Dream Now?**" at the home of Judith and Alvin Segal in Holliswood. The shiurim are open to women and men. For more information or to make a reservation, please contact Mrs. Yvette Finkelstein, Director of Community and Alumnae Relations at [finkelstein@yuhsg.org](mailto:finkelstein@yuhsg.org) or 212.960.5400, ext. 6960.

Saturday

27

At 9:30 p.m., Midrash Ben Ish Hai in conjunction with Ohr Natan will host an inspiring lecture by the internationally renowned speaker, **Rabbi Ya'aqob Menashe, on the topic, "The Apps and Maps of Life: Using your Spiritual GPS."** Mingling and hot buffet at 9:30 p.m.; lecture at 10:00 p.m. At Ohr Natan, 98-75 Queens Blvd. Forest Hills. Men, women, singles and teens welcome. Free admission. For more information, please see [www.midrash.org](http://www.midrash.org) or call 516-487-6676 or 646-379-4527.

Thursday

30

At 7:45 p.m., the Kew Gardens Hills Civic Association will present a **national-ly recognized safety program: "Avoiding Identity Theft,"** led by Ardelle Kasdan and Dignity Memorial Smart & Safe Living. At the Young Israel of Kew Gardens Hills, 150th Street and 70<sup>th</sup> Road, Kew Gardens Hills. This is a free community service presentation - light refreshments will be served.

## MAY 2013

Wednesday

1

**SHUVU will hold its Annual Queens Reception** at the home of Yossi Hoch. More details will follow.

At 7:45 p.m., the **worldwide annual Bnos Melochim Event will take place at the Young Israel of Kew Gardens Hills**. This tzniyus event for women and high school girls will feature speakers Rebbetzin Rina Tarshish, Rebbetzin Aviva Feiner, and Mrs. Baila Freidmann, as well as a comical drama and personal narrative. The program will run for 1 hour 15 minutes. For more information, please call 917-653-9225.

Sunday

5

**Yeshiva Kesser Torah**, Rabbi Elyakim G. Rosenblatt, Rosh HaYeshiva, will hold its **annual breakfast** at Yeshiva of Central Queens. Details to follow.

The **Young Israel of Kew Gardens Hills will hold its 62<sup>nd</sup> annual dinner**. Honorees Daniel and Melissa Maurer, Dr. Simon Lopata z"l, Rabbi Meyer Leifer, Esther Steinerman, and Gavi and Tali Hoffman. For more information, please contact the shul office at 718-261-9723.

Wednesday

8

The Rabbi Israel D. Rosenberg Educational Institute of Congregation Etz Chaim will present its **Shiur Ha'Chodesh at Etz Chaim for Women by Women featuring Dr. Tova Ganzel**.





## Postscript: Obama's Visit To Israel

The charm offensive orchestrated recently in Israel by the president may have buffed his image with the Israeli public but did little to change anyone's mind of the president's true intentions. The president's supposed one tangible accomplishment, as reported by the pundits, was pressuring the Prime Minister into a reckless and inappropriate apology to Turkey's number one bad boy troublemaker, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Ostensibly, this was done so that America could shore up its NATO allies, including Turkey, as Syria begins to overheat. It was also ostensibly done so that both America and Israel can use Turkey's airspace and possibly their airstrips in the event that Iran's nuclear reactors are bombed. This is doubtful to be the case, given Erdogan's new lease on life buoyed by Israel's apology. He is back to his old tricks. Time will tell. The president apparently made a deal with Prime Minister Netanyahu that would allow Israel to bomb Iran's nuclear reactors if Israel establishes a PLO state within it. Whether this is a quid pro quo or just a general agreement also remains to be



seen. There is no question that this type of discussion took place.

Netanyahu has already set in motion his willingness to establish a PLO state. What the president may not understand is that with the new coalition, establishing a PLO State will be much harder. This is one thing Naftali Bennett is very solid on. He left Netanyahu as chief of staff over this very issue. Of course, PLO President Mahmoud Abbas has limited pow-

er and will not agree to the plan the president is pushing. The plan is similar to the one President Bill Clinton was peddling when Arafat refused. Abbas, who has less credibility with the Arab street than did Arafat, will have an even harder time agreeing to anything vis-à-vis Israel. What the world refuses to acknowledge is that the Arabs ultimately want to erad-

*The president apparently made a deal with Prime Minister Netanyahu that would allow Israel to bomb Iran's nuclear reactors if Israel establishes a PLO state within it*

icate Israel. They do not want to have Israel next to them, "two states, side by side." They clearly do not want Israel to exist. Clearly the president wants to play good cop/bad cop, with Secretary of State John Kerry as the bad cop, hence the charm offensive on the part of the president.

Essentially nothing has changed, except that the president decided that being cantankerous, irascible, and downright dictatorial when it came to Israel simply did not work. He will leave that up to John Kerry's scour and bellicosity. Those in the know realize that the president is as sharp as a tack, and they are not fooled for one minute by his killing-with-kisses strategy. He remains the most anti-Israel president ever.

**Joseph M. Frager** is a physician and lifelong activist.

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# Middle Of The Road

by Rabbi Yehuda Oppenheimer

## Looking For The Middle — From The Right And From The Left

In the last edition of the *Queens Jewish Link* I had the honor of having my column “A Post-Chareidi Election” published, and I am gratified to report that I received a lot of positive feedback from our readers. As I wrote then, it is my position that the opinions presented were not new or novel, but merely gave voice to views that are shared by a great many, who for whatever reason are reluctant to state them publicly.

Indeed, there is a great middle ground of serious people who are now referred to as “Chareidi,” who feel repelled by many of the statements and actions of others who claim to be speaking for “Chareidim,” and wish that they were not ascribed blame for these positions by association. That is to say that while others who think and feel differently may express themselves as they wish, and take responsibility for their own bringing honor to Hashem and His Torah (or Heaven forbid the reverse), we should not be blamed or implicated by those actions.

In particular, I was very gratified to

receive a positive response to the article from one of our most distinguished Queens *rabbanim*, Rabbi Fabian Schonfeld, shlit’a. He noted among other things that one great *rav* who we both hold in great admiration, namely Rav Samson Raphael Hirsch, zt”l went to great lengths to avoid labels such as Chareidi-Judaism, or Modern-Orthodox, preferring to refer only to “Torah-True” Judaism. This, of course, is as it should be. One ought to feel comfortable, as I did today, davening in the Shtar Beis HaMidrash in Williamsburg in the morning, proceeding from there to Yeshiva University to attend a seminar with *rabbanim* of various *hashkafos*, and then finishing the day at our Young Israel at a Yom HaShoah commemoration with Jews of an even greater variety of observance and outlook. We ought to be able to look at ourselves as comprising only one large group, that of Torah-true Jews.

Nevertheless, the reality is that there are many serious hashkafic differences among Jews, and although we are

all bound by the same Halachah, there are significant differences in many matters that affect our approach to life. In broad strokes there are *Ashkenazim* and *Sefardim* and *Eidot HaMizrach*; *chasidim* as opposed to *misnagdim*; those looking to embrace all that was good in the secular world as opposed to those that are looking to stay away from anything in the secular world that isn’t absolutely necessary; those who see Zionism and the State of Israel as a great blessing and those who see it as a cause of much turning away from Torah; and everything in between. This is nothing new. In fact many of the great commentators point to the division of Israel into twelve tribes as being not only of genealogical interest, but as indicative of different paths to *avodas Hashem*, each of them equally co-valid and complementary, wherein different people could find their own way in the service of Hashem that speaks to the needs of their own *n’shamos*. We know more about the differing paths of Yissachar and Zevulun, or Yosef and Yehudah, and certainly that of Levi, than about the ways of the others, but the message is clear: It is only by recognizing and validating that there are different people with different sensitivities, talents, thought patterns, resources, abilities, and spiritual needs that we come together as a great diversified nation united by Halachah and loyalty to Hashem. It is up to individuals to fulfill the dictum of Pirkei Avos: *Asei L’cha Rav* (Establish a Rabbinic Guide for Yourself – and find the spiritual path that match-

es their *n’shamah*, within the halachic world.

Given that this is the case, and that both for the purposes of self-identification and for that of our children we need to feel that we belong to a particular group within “Torah-True Judaism,” it is necessary that the groups be drawn neither too narrowly, but also not too broadly. On the one hand the group needs to be broad enough that there are shades of variety and diversity within that group, or else the dangers of insularity, group-think, and defensiveness will create people who are devoid of the ability and need to appreciate and understand others, and will stifle originality, creativity, and growth among its members. On the other hand the group needs not to be drawn so broadly so that it includes extremes so far beyond the pale of the beliefs and views of the more moderate members that they are appalled to be associated with those positions. It is to that phenomenon that my last article spoke.

I wish to add that this phenomenon is not limited to the Chareidi, or so-called “Ultra-Orthodox,” world. (I used to object to the pejorative nature of the term “Ultra-Orthodox,” given that the dictionary defines the word “ultra” as “going beyond due limit,” and offers helpful synonyms such as “extremist, fanatic, rabid, radical,” etc. More recently I have begun to question my objection.) A similar issue is very present in the Modern Orthodox world as well. As a recently term-limited-out member of the Executive Committee of the RCA (Rabbinical Council of America), I had a front row seat to many of the struggles that go on within Modern Orthodoxy between those who, on the one hand, are seeking to push innovations such as female

CONTINUED ON P. 60

**Rabbi Yehuda L. Oppenheimer** is the Rav of the Young Israel of Forest Hills. He has a background in Jewish outreach, as well as in Engineering and Law. Before coming to Queens he was the Rav of a growing community in Portland, OR, for ten years, and lived extensively in Israel as well.

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## One Small Step

One of the most annoying things about being a parent is the undeniable urge to teach your children to do things that will invariably make your life more difficult. You teach them to crawl, to walk, to talk, and to drive, and it's all for their own good, but no parent goes, "Whoo hoo! My son finally knows how to drive! Now I can rest easy."

That's what's currently happening with our youngest son, Gedalyah. Gedalyah, who is fifteen months old, has just learned to walk, and he does so in that stumble that babies do that look like they had a little too much to drink. Now obviously, it's great that he's walking. My oldest daughter didn't learn to walk until well after her brother was born. And she weighed twenty-five pounds. So whenever my wife wanted to leave our basement apartment when I wasn't around, she would have to pick up both children, as well as any packages or baby supplies she would need, trudge up the stairs (which were outside the building), walk to wherever we parked the car, and figure out how to unlock the door with a baby under each arm.

But now that he's mobile, Gedalyah is *everywhere*. It's like when he first learned to crawl, and we went from having to baby-proof a three-foot circle on the living room rug to having to make sure none of our other kids ever drop anything smaller than a baseball. Or like when we taught him to climb stairs, and then he'd just go up on his own and I'd hear random noises up there while I was trying to work. And he just loves pushing buttons. One time I came up to find him suspiciously crawling out of his room, and I couldn't figure out what he'd done, but I figured that once I was up there, I would put him in for his nap. An hour later, the alarm clock in his room went off. Apparently, he had a meeting or something that he wanted to get up for.

Another thing that he sometimes does is crawl under my desk while I'm working, usually to follow a dropped toy, and then, once he's down there, he will decide to turn off the power strip. That the entire computer is plugged

into. So I'm working, not bothering to save anything – I'm going to keep hitting *save* every ten seconds just in case? – and suddenly, everything goes black. I don't know why they design those strips so that the "off" button glows when it's on. That's just a magnet for baby fingers.

But now that we've taught him to walk – and don't get me wrong, we're happy for him – he can reach everything in the entire house up to three-and-a-half feet off the floor. Not that he's three-and-a-half feet tall. He just takes things off surfaces that are higher than him. Like you'll see his little tuft of hair that sticks up, going by the other side of the dining room table in his drunken swagger, and you'll think, "Aww, how cute!" (That's how babies

*It turns out that having a 15-month-old baby in your house that can walk but not talk is kind of like having a really short, slightly-insane foreigner living with you, who spends his days poking your food with his finger and handing you things*

get you.) Then you see a hand come up, grab an open box of Cheerios, and suddenly it disappears, and you hear all the Cheerios falling out onto the floor. Then you see the tablecloth start disappearing over the side of the table. It kind of reminds me of when I used to make ice cubes back when I was younger and shorter, and I'd fill the tray with water, lift it up to the freezer, and get a shower of water.

One of the main incentives that got him to start walking, I think, was the realization that he would finally be able to carry things. It used to be that if we gave him a lollipop, he'd crawl around with it and rub it on the floor, and it would get covered in dirt and occasionally a four-foot strand of hair, and he'd still be happily eating it. So now, when we give him a lolly, he licks it and walks around with it, and we cringe every time he comes near the sofa.

He has also discovered that he can carry things that are like five times his size. He comes over to me carrying

an enormous plastic stepstool, puts it down right next to my desk and stands on it, staring at my monitor and watching letters magically appear on the screen.

Yes, that's how my columns get written. The letters magically appear on the screen. I definitely have nothing to do with it, because I'm spending the whole time trying to get him to leave. And it doesn't help that every time he gets on and off the stepstool he manages to hit the caPS LOCK BUTTON WITH His elbow. Sometimes he also tries to help me type. I guess he figures there are a lot of buttons, and he should at least help me press some of them. He also spends a lot of time touching all of the stuff on my desk, such as my pad, my lunch, my paper clips, and my folders.

Like he's playing "Duck Duck Goose."

"Hey! Why is everything sticky?"

"Why don't you go play with your toys?" I keep asking him. And he looks at me as if to say, "Why don't you go play with my toys? Obviously you think that what you're doing is more interesting! Hey, is that article writing itself? Who's typing 'Q' over and over again?"

Another thing that he does, when he comes over to me while I'm working, is give me things to hold. That's his main hobby, these days. He will not be happy until he has handed me everything in the entire house. I take what he gives me because I know that if I ignore him, he lets go anyway, and the item rolls under my desk. And the last thing I want is for him to go looking under my desk. And I can only put him in for so

many naps.

So for example, right now, as I type this, I am holding a Sippy cup, two cars, three Fisher Price Little People, a set of fake keys, a children's snow shovel, and a pair of shoes that are neither his nor mine. (No, I don't know how I'm typing this either.)

"Here," he seems to be saying. "You hold my toys, and I'll sit here and push all these buttons."

It turns out that having a 15-month-old baby in your house that can walk but not talk is kind of like having a really short, slightly-insane foreigner living with you, who spends his days poking your food with his finger and handing you things. And he's one of those foreigners that don't seem to be aware that you're not speaking the same language that he is. (I get phone calls from these people all the time. I pick up and say, "Hello?" and they go off into a whole long rant in some other language, and I'll say, "I'm sorry, sir, you've got the wrong number," like it's my fault that he can't dial a phone. And then he goes on in his other language, like the fact that I told him it was a wrong number *in English* wasn't at least a *clue* that I don't really know Spanish. And I'll say, "Look, sir, I don't speak Spanish. Even if you got the right number, there's no way we can have a conversation like this. Why is the phone sticky?"

And it's the same with the little guy living in your house. You're like, "Sir, go play with your toys. I don't need you making tiny finger holes in my sandwich." And he'll say, "Gah! Oogah! Mah!" Like he thinks you're going to say, "Well, in that case, keep making holes."

I suspect that he does understand a lot of what I say, but based on our recent conversations, I'm not sure that he fully understands the word, "No." I think the next thing we should concentrate on with him should be that word: "No." It's not one of those things we'll regret teaching him, is it?

**Mordechai Schmutter** is a weekly humor columnist for *Hamodia*, a monthly humor columnist for *The Jewish Press*, and has written three books, all published by Israel Book Shop. He also does freelance writing for hire. You can send any questions, comments, or ideas to [MSchmutter@gmail.com](mailto:MSchmutter@gmail.com)







## 40th Anniversary Of First Ever Call From A Cell Phone

**T**he world is celebrating the 40th anniversary of the first call from a cell phone, which was made in New York City on April 3, 1973.

That momentous first call was made



by Motorola employee Marty Cooper, who used a prototype known as a DynaTAC to call rivals Bell Labs (then a division of AT&T) to inform them that they had been beaten in the race to achieve the technological breakthrough.

Cooper, then 44, reportedly said: 'I'm ringing you just to see if my call sounds good at your end.'

The Motorola DynaTAC was nine inches tall, weighed 2.5lbs, had a talk-time of 35 minutes and took 10 hours to recharge.

It would be another 10 years before Motorola finally introduced the DynaTAC 8000x, the first commercially available mobile phone weighing 1lb, with a one-line text-only LED display and costing \$3,995.

Few would have predicted 40 years ago that what was then perceived as a niche device for businessmen would blossom into a global industry with annual revenues of \$1,200bn.

From 1990 to 2011, worldwide mobile phone subscriptions grew from 12.4 million to over 6 billion, penetrating an estimated 87% of the global population and bringing telecommunications to people in some of the poorest parts of the world.

Today's market is dominated smartphones manufactured by Samsung and Apple which people use for internet access, social networking, maps, morn-

ing alarms, games, apps, to take photos, watch video clips - as well as talking and texting.

Back in 1973 when he took the prototype phone for a walk around New York City, Marty Cooper recalls the reaction from passers-by was one of complete bewilderment.

Mr. Cooper, now 84, recalls: 'As I walked down the street while talking on the phone, sophisticated New Yorkers gaped at the sight of someone actually moving around while making a phone call.'

'Remember that in 1973, there weren't cordless telephones, let alone cellular phones.'

'I made numerous calls, including one where I crossed the street while talking to a New York radio reporter - probably one of the more dangerous things I have ever done in my life.'

At the time Mr. Cooper was general manager of Motorola's Communications Systems Division.

As he walked around New York that day, his made his first call to Dr. Joel S Engel, his rival and head of research at Bell Labs phone company.

Mr. Cooper called his office landline to break the news that Motorola had beaten Bell in developing the first mobile

phone.

He then let reporters make their own calls to verify that the invention actually worked and that they weren't the victims of an elaborate hoax.

It had long been Mr. Cooper's vision for phones to become portable, in an age when even James Bond dared not dream of making a phone call outside of a vehicle. For that was as portable as phones had become up to that point.

## Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg Faces \$1 Billion Tax Bill

**F**acebook's stock market debut left founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg with a paper fortune currently valued at \$13 billion — and a 2012 tax bill of around \$1.1 billion.

Zuckerberg's whopping tax hit stems from his move last May to increase his stake in Facebook. On the day of Facebook's initial public offering, Zuckerberg exercised a stock option and purchased 60 million Facebook shares at a "strike price" of 6 cents each.

For Zuckerberg, that means reporting income last year of nearly \$2.3 billion from his stock options alone. Add together the top 2012 federal tax rate of

35% and the top California rate of 13.3% — the highest in the nation — and you get a total tax rate of 48.3%. Even if those shares are never sold, the IRS treats them as ordinary income at the time the options are exercised. The rationale is that such options are a form of compensation, just like regular wages.

That's before factoring in some deductions — like, say, for the \$500 million charitable donation he made in December to the Silicon Valley Community Foundation — and any other income Zuckerberg collected last year. Only Uncle Sam and California's tax agency know exactly what's in Zuckerberg's return, but three California CPAs ran the numbers and believe Zuckerberg's bill for the year will probably exceed \$1 billion.

That's really unusual ... even for billionaires.

The Internal Revenue Service doesn't comment on the returns of individual taxpayers, but each year it releases aggregate data on the 400 U.S. tax filers with the largest reported incomes. The average top earner had income of \$202 million and a federal income tax bill of \$41 million for 2009, the most recent data available.

To cover the giant bill he knew was coming, Zuckerberg dipped into his trove of Facebook stock. He sold 30.2 million shares during Facebook's IPO, taking in \$1.135 billion. At the time, Facebook said in a regulatory filing that Zuckerberg planned to use the "substantial majority" of those proceeds to cover the taxes on his stock-option purchase.

And Zuckerberg has another big tax hit looming: He is still sitting on 60 million unexercised options that expire in late 2015. At Facebook's current share price, those options would generate taxable income of \$1.6 billion if he cashed them in. At today's tax rates, that would amount to an \$826 million bill.

The U.S. Treasury will benefit from Zuckerberg's taxes. So will California, which is getting a windfall as thousands of Facebook employees cash in on stock grants and options. California expects to collect roughly \$1.5 billion in tax revenue tied to Facebook's IPO, according to the latest estimate from the state's Legislative Analyst's Office.

So how do you pay a tax bill that's bigger than some nations' entire annual GDP?

California requires an electronic payment for all tax bills larger than \$80,000, but the IRS will take a paper check for any amount.

## Obama To Return 5 Percent Of Salary

**P**resident Obama will return 5 percent of his salary to the Treasury Department, a sign of solidarity

with the federal workers who face furloughs due to the sequester cuts.

"The president has decided that to share in the sacrifice being made by public servants across the federal government that are affected by the sequester, he will contribute a portion of his salary back to the Treasury," a White House aide said.

The president's salary is set by law at \$400,000 a year, and he will give back about \$20,000 this year. The 5 percent cut is the same reduction level that non-defense federal agencies took when the sequester started.

Obama's total income according to his 2011 tax returns was \$789,674. That figure includes his investments and book sales, which are not part of his 5 percent give back.

The president will cut a check to the Treasury Department each month. The 5 percent cut started on March 1, but the president will write the first check this month.

Earlier last week, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Deputy Defense Secretary Ashton Cartor announced that they would return a portion of their salaries in a sign of solidarity with the Pentagon's civilian employees who will be furloughed for 14 days due to the sequester. Carter said he would take a 20 percent pay in reduction through the end of September, but it is unclear how much of a cut Hagel will take.

## Study: We Check Our Smartphones Way Too Much

**I**t's official: We're addicted to our smartphones. A new IDC study, sponsored by Facebook, revealed some statistics on how often we use our smartphones and what we do with them.

As part of the study, IDC surveyed 7,446 U.S.-based iPhone and Android users between the ages of 18 and 44 about their smartphone usage.

Here some interesting stats:

- Within the first fifteen minutes of waking up, 79% of smartphones users look at their phones.
- 62% of smartphone users immedi-





ately grab their phones after waking up.

- 70% of smartphone users frequently visit Facebook - more than half of them check it every day.
- 78% of smartphone users check their email on their devices.
- Smartphone users on average visit Facebook 13.8 times throughout the day, spending two minutes and 22 seconds on it during each visit.
- Over the weekend, smartphone users check Facebook more than they text.
- 46% of smartphones users check Facebook while shopping or running errands.
- 48% use their smartphones at the gym.

## Study: Prescription Drugs Cost Least At Costco And Most At CVS

Some of the most popular prescription drugs that recently became available in generic form are sold at the lowest prices at Costco and at the highest prices at CVS Caremark, according to an analysis by Consumer Reports.

Failing to comparison shop for drugs - such as generic Lipitor to lower cholesterol or generic Plavix to thin the blood - could result in overpaying by \$100 a month or even more, depending on the drug, the report said.

The article will be available in the May issue of Consumer Reports.

Consumers may find good deals at local independent pharmacies, Consumer Reports said.

One of the big takeaway messages from the analysis is that the customer must ask the pharmacist for the best price, the publication said.

"Especially for the independent pharmacies, if they want to retain your business and loyalty, they will help you get the best price," Lisa Gill, an editor at Consumer Reports, said.

One reason for the wild cost fluctuations may be that different types of stores have different business incentives, she said.

"It really comes down to a store's business model. For example, big box stores tend to use their pharmacies as a way to get consumers through the door with the expectation that they'll buy other things," Gill added.

Victor Curtis, senior vice president of pharmacy for Costco, said the retailer does not sell below costs and that its pharmacy is a contributor to Costco's overall profitability.

Consumer Reports conducted its

analysis by using "secret shoppers" who called more than 200 pharmacies throughout the United States to get retail prices, without using insurance, on a month's supply of five blockbuster drugs that have recently become available as generics.

The drugs were diabetes drug Actos (pioglitazone); antidepressant Lexapro (escitalopram); cholesterol fighter Lipitor (atorvastatin); blood thinner Plavix (clopidogrel); and asthma drug Singulair (montelukast).

There was a difference of \$749 between the highest and lowest priced stores.

For example, one month's supply of generic Lipitor costs \$17 at Costco, Consumer Reports' secret shoppers found. The same drug cost \$150 at CVS. Rite Aid and Target had similarly high prices.

Consumer reports recommends getting refills for 90 days instead of 30 days, as most pharmacies offer discounts on a 3 months' supply.

## Rubio Denies 'Path To Citizenship' Will Cost Taxpayers Billions

Legalizing illegal immigrants could cost Americans billions of dollars every year, especially if they used their new status to apply for Medicaid and Obamacare, Senate Republicans said last week.

GOP members on the Senate Budget Committee, led by ranking member Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama, said that taxpayers could spend as much as \$40 billion in 2022, "just for Medicaid and Obamacare" alone.

"The net costs would be enormous and only increase once citizenship is granted," Sessions' office said in a statement. The costs were estimated by the staffs of the GOP committee members.

The planned legislation includes a path to citizenship for as many as 11 million illegal immigrants. Medicaid and Obamacare benefits are among the many eligible to green-card holders and U.S. citizens.

But Rubio has insisted that limits would be placed on federal benefits to illegal immigrants. They first would get a nonimmigrant visa - not a green card - "and you don't qualify for any federal benefits under that. You don't get federal benefits," he told Fox News in January.

That would change once they obtained a green card.

The GOP senators also expressed concern that a "public charge" law, which seeks to prevent immigrants from coming to the U.S. solely to obtain benefits, was not included in the Gang of Eight's forthcoming plan.



## Israel's Jewish Population Passes 6 Million Mark

Israel's population has crossed the eight million threshold over Passover, the Yedioth Ahronoth reported last week. With six million Jews, Israel has become the world's largest Jewish center.

The remainder of the population is comprised of 1.6 million Arabs, 350,000 non-Arab Christians and others, mostly olim or relatives of olim from the former USSR, whose religion is not listed in Interior Ministry's census.

At the start of 2012, Israel was home to 7.836 million people, after a growth of 1.8% from 2011.

Over the last year, 170,000 babies were born in Israel and 17,000 olim arrived, but naturally, one has to account for those who passed away as well, and Israel's population at the start of 2013 amounted to 7.993 million, crossing the 8 million mark only now.

It is noteworthy that at least half a million registered Israelis reside abroad - studying, travelling, working, or otherwise engaged.

For the first time, Israel has become the world's largest center of Jewry, with the United States in second place with 5.5 millions Jews - two million in New York City alone.

Well behind at third place is France

with 500,000 Jews, most of them in Paris. Canada is next in line, with 380,000 Jews, most of them residing in Toronto.

Britain numbers 290,000 in the Jewish community, mostly in the capital, London.

"In the world today there are 13,800,000 Jews," said Professor Sergio Della Pergola, an expert on Jewish demography from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, who collected the data.

"Israel has indeed experienced a growth in the number of Jews last year, but world Jewry outside Israel did not fare so well.

"On the contrary, world Jewry has experienced negative growth," he said.

## Israeli Hospitals To Serve Tastier Food

The Health Ministry has issued for the first time uniform standards for food served in Israeli hospitals, aiming to guarantee that patients receive more wholesome and tastier meals.

The quality of food served in Israel's hospitals has a bad reputation among anyone who has ever been hospitalized in the country, causing many patients to turn up their nose at the sight of the trays placed in front of them. Now it turns out that not only is hospital food not tasty, but it is also not very nourishing.

An inquiry conducted by the Health Ministry three years ago revealed that 40% of hospital patients are at risk of developing malnutrition during their hospitalization period, which could increase the chance of sudden death.

The most common explanation provided by patients asked why they lost weight during their hospitalization that they were unable to finish the food on their plates.

In surgical and heart wards, for example, less than half of the patients reported finishing their entire meal. In the general surgery unit in one of the examined

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hospitals, not a single patient managed to finish the breakfast served to them. One can only imagine the reason.

Now the Health Ministry has decided to take a significant step towards improving the quality and taste of hospital food. A memo released by Health Administration Director Prof. Arnon Afek determines that hospitals must ensure reduce the quantities of salt and oil in their menus and serve wholegrain bread.

In order to encourage patients to eat, Afek recommends giving them the option of choosing from a number of menus.

According to the new instructions, which will take effect on July 1, the daily menu of hospital patients who do not require a special diet will contain 1,800-2,000 calories. About 50% of the calories will come from carbohydrate, 15% from protein, and about 35% from fat.

Each patient will receive up to 300 milligrams of cholesterol a day through the food (not including one egg a day), and 75-90 milligrams of vitamin C. The menu must include about 25 grams of dietary fibers.

Patients will be able to order a vegetarian menu or any other special menu according to the instructions of a dietician.

So what will patients be able to eat in hospitals soon?

Breakfast will include fresh vegetables in a variety of colors, whole-wheat bread, challah, eggs in different forms, white cheese, cottage cheese, olives, tahini, oatmeal and jam. Fruit will be served at around 10 am.

For lunch, nurses will serve a variety of soups, including chicken soup (without soup powder), bean soup or vegetable soup. For main course, patients will be able to choose between grilled chicken, fish fillet, pot roast or fish cakes, in addition to cooked vegetables, fresh vegetables and a side dish such as baked potatoes, mashed potatoes, couscous, bulgur or buckwheat. Fruit will be served for dessert.

Dinner will comprise of whole-wheat bread or challah, a selection of cheese, yogurt, fresh and cooked vegetables, different kinds of quiches, and a variety of spreads: Tahini, avocado, hummus salad and eggplant salad.

If they're still hungry, the night meal will include biscuits, crackers, fruit and cakes made of wholegrain flour and canola oil - for example, carrot cake, apple cake or cheesecake. Coffee will be served with whole milk.

The Health Ministry has also decided that hospitals must use low-fat poultry and fish products, and dairy products containing up to 5% of fat. Ready and

processed food like schnitzel and meatballs may be served to patients just once a week. Bon Appetite!

## Report: Israel's Navy Seeks \$760 Million Gas Field Defense Force

Israel's navy is scrambling to assemble a force of new warships worth \$760 million to protect the country's natural gas fields in the Mediterranean as the production from the first field discovered in 2009 went onstream this past weekend, reports UPI. The navy wants 2-4 patrol-class vessels as well as unmanned aerial vehicles to detect threats such as suicide frogmen and anti-ship missiles.

Due to defense budget cuts Israel is hoping that the U.S. will foot some of the bill, a plausible expectation considering that an American company-Houston's Noble Energy - is operating the gas fields.

According to UPI, the navy wants four 1,200-ton, long-endurance warships equipped with defensive missile systems to intercept anti-ship missiles, possessed by Syria and its Lebanese ally Hezbollah, aimed at production platforms.

Naval officials say the Defense Ministry has been in touch with several foreign shipbuilders, but no decision has been made on contracts.

UPI adds that to cover the area, which will have to cover an area larger than the size of the state itself, the navy is expected to acquire long-endurance unmanned aerial vehicles. Another possibility is the missile-armed, remote-controlled robotic boat developed by state-owned Rafael Advanced Defense Systems of Haifa. Military sources say the craft, with a maximum speed of 42 miles per hour, could be useful against suicide boats manned by Hezbollah or Iranian Revolutionary Guard teams.

"The gas fields spanning a large area west of the coast of Israel significantly broaden the challenges facing the Israeli navy," the Defense Ministry said in a recent statement. "The protection of these strategic assets requires increased resources and extensive preparations."

## Palestinian Inmates Treated Better In Israel Than In PA

"Palestinians who are imprisoned in Israel have access to excellent medical care, and are allowed visits by International

al Committee of the Red Cross officials. Prisoners in Palestinian Authority prisons do not enjoy such conditions," the Israeli Prime Minister's Office said this week via Twitter, rebuffing accusations that a deceased prisoner had been denied proper treatment for a terminal condition.

"Unfortunately, the Palestinian Authority seeks to exploit the death of the prisoner, who died from cancer, and bring about an escalation; this is hypocritical on its part," read the statement, which was posted in Arabic by the PMO's spokesman to the Arab media, Ofir Gendelman.

Maysara Abu Hamdiyeh, 64, had been sentenced to life in prison for his part in an unsuccessful 2002 plot to bomb a cafe in Jerusalem. He was convicted of attempted murder, membership in a terrorism organization and the illegal possession of weapons. After being diagnosed with terminal cancer in February, he was hospitalized in the Soroka Medical Center in Beersheba, where he died last Tuesday morning. Israel Prison Service spokeswoman Sivan Weizman said the prison service had petitioned to have Hamdiyeh released on medical grounds last week, but the appeal was still pending when he died.

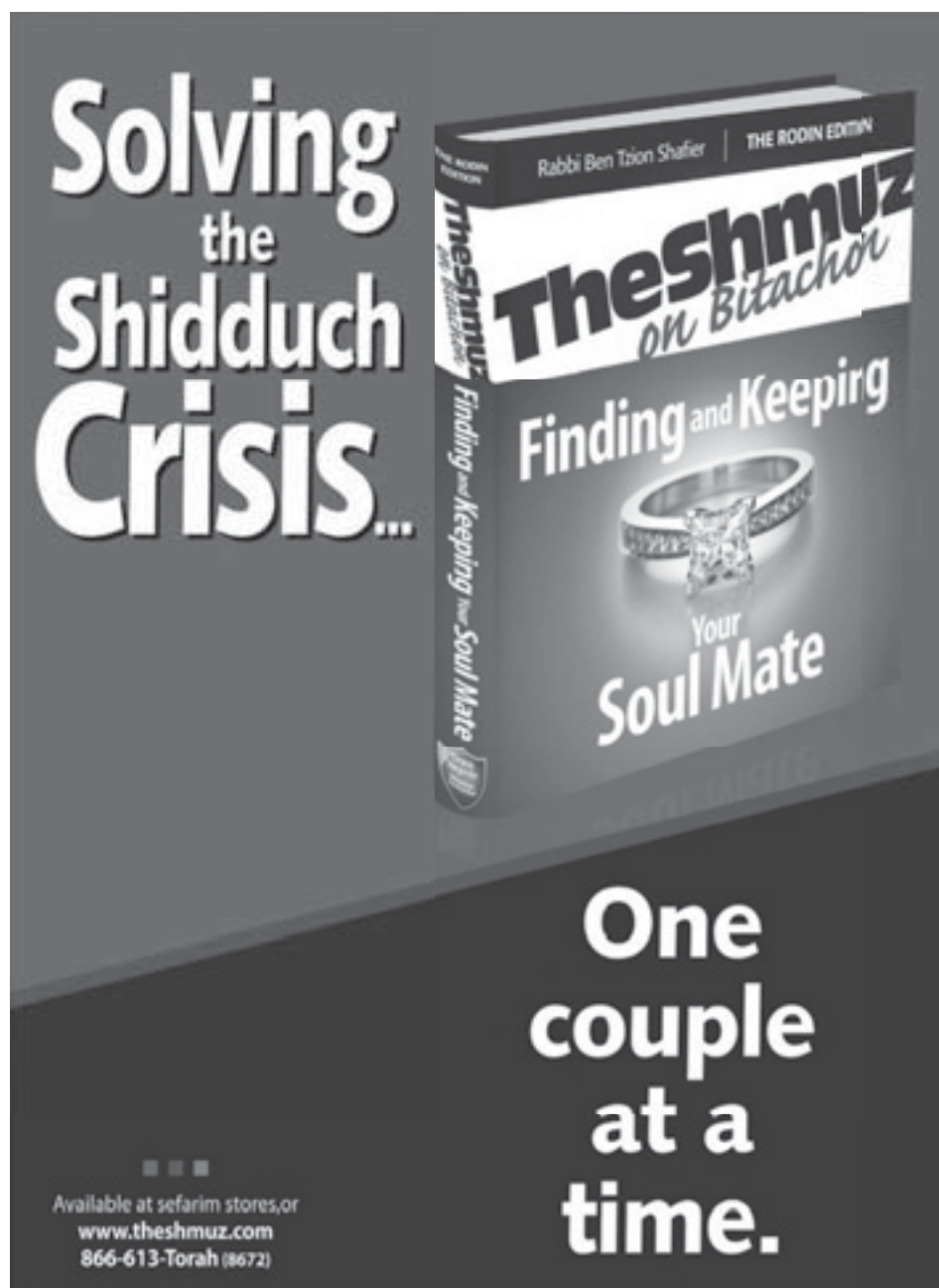
News of Abu Hamdiyeh's death sparked prison riots in the Eshel, Ramon and Nafha correction facilities. According to the prison service, the rioters, Palestinian inmates who have been incarcerated due to their involvement in terrorism, caused "unrest and disturbances," banging on cell doors and throwing objects at the guards. Six prison wardens and three prisoners suffered from minor injuries following their exposure to tear gas, which had been used as part of the efforts to quell the riots.

In February, similar riots broke out after Arafat Jaradat, a Palestinian detainee, died in the Megiddo prison, shortly after he was arrested.

Israel Radio reported last Wednesday that nearly all Palestinian prisoners refused to eat their breakfast to protest Abu Hamdiyeh's death, a day after 300 inmates refused to eat their lunch at Hashita prison.

The news of Abu Hamdiyeh's death also sparked demonstrations in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In Hebron, Palestinian protesters lobbed 12 Molotov cocktails at an Israel Defense Forces checkpoint in the city, with other skirmishes taking place in nearby villages. The soldiers used crowd control measures to disperse the riots, and no injuries or damage were reported. A small riot also broke out near the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem, with some protesters hurling rocks at Israeli forces.

IDF officials noted that the riots had been successfully contained.



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## Claim: Germany Spends \$110 Billion To Delay Global Warming By 37 Hours

Danish author and environmental writer Bjorn Lomborg claimed on a television show last week that money isn't being spent well to combat "global warming":

"The Germans are spending about \$110 billion on subsidies for these solar panels," said Lomborg. "The net effect of all those investments will be to postpone global warming by 37 hours by the end of the century."

"All those billions, for 37 hours delay?" asked Stossel.

"Yeah," said Lomborg, "so remember them in [the year] 2100 and say, 'Wow.'"

Stossel clarified, "You believe in global warming and man-made—"

"Global warming is real," said Lomborg, "and it is we need to fix. But we should fix it smartly, and not in a very, very costly way as we're doing it now. Germany is probably spending \$660 for every ton of CO<sub>2</sub> they're cutting."

## Air France Fined For Forcing Non-Jewish Passenger Off Flight

A French court has convicted Air France of discrimination for removing a Palestinian activist from a plane as she traveled to Israel to attend a rally.

Patrick Baudouin says his client, Horia Ankour, was en route last April from France to attend a "Welcome to Palestine" rally. Baudouin said Air France asked Ankour whether she was Israeli or Jewish, then ordered her off the plane after she acknowledged she was neither.

He said the court last week found Air France guilty of discrimination, and ordered it to pay 13,000 euros (\$16,700) in fines, damages and interest.

Air France lawyer Fabrice Pradon said the airline would appeal. He said the Is-

raelis had told Air France she would not be allowed in and there was no intention to harm her.

## Obesity Linked To High Food Prices

Food prices have dropped since peaking six months ago but remain near record levels, pushing the world's poorest people toward "undernutrition" and obesity, the World Bank says.

"Unhealthy food tends to be cheaper than healthy ones, like junk food in developed countries," said Otaviano Canuto, World Bank Group's vice president for poverty reduction and economic management.

"When poor people with some disposable income in developing countries try to cope with high and increasingly volatile food prices, they also tend to choose cheap food that is high in calories but without much nutritious value."

Between October and February, world food prices dropped by four percent overall, driven in part by wheat (minus 11 percent) and sugar (minus 10 percent), due to weaker demand for wheat feed and reduced maize consumption for ethanol as well as improved harvest conditions, according to the World Bank.

But they remain at very high levels and are just nine percent less than historic levels in August.

In February alone, prices increased one percent overall for a year-long period. The increases were especially notable for rice and corn (five percent each), two staple foods in many developing countries.

The World Bank also worried about "uncertainties" that remain in the world food supply.

Last year, global stocks of cereals dropped by three percent, mostly driven by a decline in the supply of wheat and coarse grains. Persistently dry conditions in Argentina, Australia and South Africa could also further hamper supplies in the months ahead.

Meanwhile, oil prices have been rising for three consecutive months, reaching their highest levels in February since April.

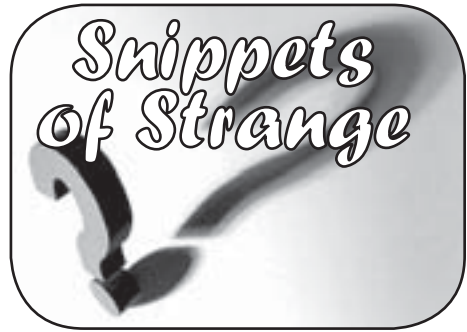
"In the 'new normal' of high and volatile food prices, millions will continue to suffer from poor nutrition, whether it is hunger, undernutrition or obesity which can cause premature death," the bank stressed.

In 2008, there were 1.46 billion overweight adults, including 508 million who were obese.

That number could rise to 2.16 billion for overweight adults, and nearly double to 1.12 billion for the obese by 2030 across all regions and in fast-developing nations such as China and India, said

the bank in citing "even conservative estimates."

"Half of the world's overweight people live in just nine countries — China, United States, Germany, India, Russia, Brazil, Mexico, Indonesia and Turkey — evidence that obesity is not an epidemic restricted only to rich countries," added Canuto.



## Oops! Macy's Marks Down \$1,500 Necklace To \$47

Attention, unemployed copy editors: Macy's may soon have a job opening.

The department store giant mailed a catalog to customers earlier this month that mistakenly offered a \$1,500 sterling silver and 14-karat gold necklace for just \$47. The heading: "SUPER BUY."

The actual sale price was supposed to be \$479, but Macy's printed the 44-page circular without the last digit.

Customers flocked to the Collin Creek Mall in Plano, Texas, to buy them before Macy's was able to catch the error.

Robert Bernard, a latecomer who went to buy the necklace as an anniversary gift for his wife, arrived too late for the accidental sale—a customer in line in front of him had bought the store's remaining necklaces, Bernard said. But a clerk offered to have two of them shipped to his house. According to a local news station, his receipt read "Total Savings was \$1,400."

But a couple of days later, a Macy's call center employee left him a voice mail:

This item has the wrong price for \$47. The correct price is \$479 dollars and because of that pricing error, your order has been canceled and I apologize.

"When the mistake was caught, signage did go up in the fine jewelry department and on store doors alerting customers that a mistake had been made,"



a Macy's said. "For those customers who bought the necklace at the \$47 price, they were fortunate. For the gentleman you spoke with, he was not so fortunate. We are sincerely sorry he was disappointed and unable to buy the necklace at the \$47 price for his wife."

## Dog Sent To Ireland On Wrong Flight

An English Springer Spaniel named Hendrix ended up taking a serious detour on his way from New Jersey to Phoenix last week.

He ended up in Ireland after being put on the wrong flight.

United Airlines spokeswoman Megan McCarthy says the 6-year-old dog was traveling in cargo last Thursday when the mix-up happened. When the error was realized, she says the airline took immediate steps to get Hendrix back to his owner.

The first word owner Meredith Grant got about the mix-up was in a phone call from the airline before Hendrix's original flight was supposed to land in Phoenix.

Grant says she felt like someone punched her in the stomach after finding out her dog had been sent overseas.

Hendrix was returned, and the airline apologized and offered a full refund.

## Homeless Man Wins Lottery But Wants To Stay In His Tent

Dennis Mahurin has been homeless since around 1978, living in his tent. And he plans to stay there despite having won a \$50,000 lottery off a scratch card ticket.

"I scratched it off right here in my tent," Mahurin said.

However, the Bloomington, Indiana native does have a plan for how he'll spend the money: dental work, visiting his son and putting away some of the winnings into savings.

He's also considering an upgrade to a new tent, saying he's "happy as can be in my nature," with no desire to move into a more traditional home.

After taxes, he'll take home about \$35,000. A jackpot total that relatively small would not normally make international headlines. But it's Mahurin's plan to give away some of his cash that has roused the most attention.

"With all the other homeless people around here, I've made up my mind," he said. "I'm gonna give them



each \$100.”

Mahurin says he has eight fellow homeless men in mind that he plans to give \$100 to, but he jokingly says he is leaving open the possibility of donating more with all of the new “friends” he’s likely to make as his story spreads.

Tales of generosity are not uncommon when it comes to freshly minted lottery winners. But Mahurin’s truly humble lifestyle, and his insistence on sharing the relatively small lottery winnings, reflect his kind spirit according to locals who know him.

“He’s a very, very nice guy. He’s one of the sweetest people I’ve ever met,” said Emmarie Cross an employee at the Circle K where Mahurin bought his winning ticket. “I’ve been telling everybody, this couldn’t have happened to a nicer guy.”

## Billboard To Honor Women Pictures Only Men

**A** Nova Scotia billboard that advertises a women’s wall of honor is baffling motorists by picturing a trio of men.



The billboard in downtown Halifax reads, “We celebrate remarkable women,” and solicits donations to build a women’s wall of honor at Mount Saint Vincent University.

“We certainly weren’t looking to offend anybody,” said Kelly Gallant of Mount Saint Vincent University. “We hope that it’ll get people thinking about who they want to honor in their lives.”

Gallant said the idea is to encourage men to make donations for the wall,

which will be placed in a new building at the school.

“The focus really is women,” Gallant said. “We’re just choosing to share the message perhaps in a slightly different way.”

Some motorists said they were perplexed by the billboard.

“Your first reaction is ‘something’s weird here,’” said Derrek Ord, who spotted the ad while driving. “This was just uncomfortable.”

## County Offers Overnight Stays In New Jail

**O**fficials in a Nebraska county are offering overnight stays in a newly constructed jail for \$30 donations.

Lancaster County officials said donors will be allowed to spend the night Thursday, Friday or Saturday to help the county ensure everything in the facility is functioning properly before it is put to its intended use this summer.

The donations will be given to Operation Santa Claus and the Child Advocacy Center, officials said.

## Deputy Leaves Gun In Macy’s Dressing Room

**A**uthorities in Virginia said disciplinary action is being taken against a deputy who forgot his gun in a Macy’s dressing room.

The Norfolk Sheriff’s Office said the deputy, whose name was not released,

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accidentally left his gun at the Macy's in Norfolk and immediately informed his superiors last week.

"The deputy realized as soon as he returned home that he had left his weapon behind and immediately notified the store and the Norfolk Sheriff's Office's Professional Standards Division," the sheriff's office said in a statement. "The Norfolk Sheriff's Office considers this a very serious and unacceptable situation and has taken immediate and appropriate disciplinary action against the deputy."

Sheriff's spokeswoman Paula Miller said the gun was recovered.

## Judge Orders Birther To Pay \$177G In Costs

**A** New York man who filed several lawsuits claiming President Obama wasn't born in the United States says he will appeal a judge's order that he pay \$177,000.

Civil Supreme Court Judge Arthur Schack imposed the penalty, *the New York Daily News* reported. The judge mocked Christopher Earl Strunk's claims.

"I'm going to have this thing overturned and I'm not going to pay a dime," Strunk said after the hearing.

Strunk, a Brooklyn resident, refers to Obama as Barry Soetoro, using the name of his Indonesian stepfather, and the "Usurper" on a Website and suggests Obama is backed by a Jesuit conspiracy. He has filed several lawsuits seeking to have Obama's presidency declared illegitimate.

His New York lawsuit, filed in 2011, named Obama and the New York Board of Elections as defendants. Schack ordered Strunk to pay \$167,000 in legal fees to law firms that represented the defendants and an additional \$10,000 penalty.

Schack said Strunk's claims are "fanciful, delusional and irrational."

"If the complaint in this action was a movie script, it would be entitled 'The Manchurian Candidate Meets The Da Vinci Code,'" the judge said.

## 'Just Looking' Fee Charged To Store Customers In Australia

**A** store in Australia has a simple message for anyone who wants to just window shop: pay up or get out.

"It's not extreme," said the owner of Celiac Supplies, "because people are coming into the shop, they say, 'I'm just

looking,' but what they're saying is, 'I want information, I want it free.'"

A sign on display at Celiac Supplies – a gluten-free store – says a \$5 fee will be charged for anyone who is "just looking."

The shop owner says she's trying to stop "showrooming," where people come in, get information from her and then buy the same product online or elsewhere for less.

The owner adds, the \$5 fee will be deducted from the bill when a customer buys something.

## Belgium's Chocolate Stamps Offer Lick With A Kick

**B**elgians who feel like having chocolate at Easter in Belgium can send a letter and really lick that chocolate-flavored postal stamp.



The Belgian post office released 538,000 stamps last week that have pictures of chocolate on the front but the essence of cacao oil in the glue at the back for taste and in the ink for smell.

Belgian stamp collector Marie-Claire Verstichel said while the taste was a bit disappointing, "they smell good."

Easter is the season for chocolate in Belgium with Easter eggs and bunnies all over supermarkets and specialty stores.

A set of five stamps costs 6.2 euros (\$8) but might leave a customer hungry for more.

## Iowa Museum Finds Missing Tortoise In Elevator

**A**n 18-pound African leopard tortoise who went missing from an Iowa museum has been found alive in an elevator in the building.

Officials at the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium in Dubuque believe the tortoise named Cashew was stolen, but that the thief quietly returned the animal.

The museum says a visitor found Cashew on the elevator floor last week. She appears to be in good health.

The museum discovered Cashew was missing last Tuesday from an exhibit with a 4-foot glass wall. Museum officials suspected she was taken as a prank or to sell.

Museum officials are reviewing surveillance video to try to figure out exactly what happened and find a possible suspect.

## Paris Hires Sheep To Mow City Lawns

**W**ill the future see flocks of sheep baaing beneath the Eiffel Tower and bleating by Notre Dame cathedral?



Paris is enlisting a few hungry sheep to keep the city's grass trim, replacing gas-guzzling lawnmowers.

The initiative, which started last week, sees four sheep from an island in Brittany put to work munching the bountiful grass of the Paris Archives.

The eco-experiment, which could expand around the capital from October, follows on from a stint last year by two goats that the Louvre hired to mow the lawn of Paris' famed Tuileries gardens.

Already, private companies have hundreds of operational sheep mowing lawns of big companies around Paris.

"(It's) efficient... and cheap," says Paris City Hall's Fabienne Giboudeaux. "I can imagine this very easily in London. And New York... even Tokyo."

## Man Wins \$8K After Disney 'Small World' Breakdown

**A**n attorney says a disabled man was awarded \$8,000 by Disneyland after the "It's A Small World"



ride broke, stranding him for a half hour while the theme song played continuously.

Lawyer David Geffen says Jose Martinez didn't medically stabilize for three hours after the ride broke down in 2009.

Disneyland spokeswoman Suzi Brown said the Anaheim theme park believes it provided appropriate assistance during the incident, and is disappointed that the court did not fully agree.

Geffen says Martinez uses a wheelchair, suffers from panic attacks and high blood pressure.

Geffen says half the award ordered Friday is for pain and suffering, and the rest is for a violation of disability law. Brown says the violation has been addressed.

## Giant Game Of Pong To Take Place On Philadelphia Skyscraper

**T**he Cira Centre, a 29-story skyscraper in Philadelphia, is about to become the surface upon which a giant game of Pong takes place. This will be achieved using many hundreds of LED lights that create a playable version of the classic Atari game, taking many residents through a trip down nostalgia lane. The game will be up from April 19 to the 24, with players selected via a lottery.



The project is the brainchild of Frank Lee, professor of game design at Drexel University. He said: "Pong is a cultural icon, cultural milestone. This is my love letter to the wonders of technology as seen through the eyes of my childhood." And what better reason to do something like this? About 150 people are estimated to get to play over the course of a few days.

The paddles and ball will be created using LED lights, while players stand far back on the Philadelphia Museum of Art's steps to ensure they get a clear



# News Roundup

sight of the building. While the majority of the players will be selected via the lottery, a lucky few have reserved gaming slots – namely, students in the technology, engineering, science, and math fields.

One such individual is Brad Denenberg, who won a reserve slot in a random drawing via Tech Week, which is part of the event that took 5 years to make happen. What goes through the mind of someone destined to play the largest, possibly most-public game of Pong ever? “My biggest fear is that I’m going to play

against some 8-year-old who will destroy me,” he said.

## **Samoa Airline Says Pay By Weight Plan “Fairest” Way To Fly**

**A** Samoa airline that says it is the world’s first carrier to charge passengers by their weight rather

than per seat defends the plan as the fairest way to fly, in some cases actually ending up cheaper than conventional tickets.

Samoa Air, which opened in 2012, asks passengers to declare their personal weight during booking, which is then charged per kilogram (2.2 lb) at a rate dependent on flight length. The customers will also be weighed at the check-in counter.

“The industry has this concept that all people throughout the world are the

same size,” Samoa Air CEO Chris Langton said. “Airplanes always run on weight, irrespective of seats.”

“There is no doubt in my mind that this is the concept of the future. This is the fairest way of you travelling with your family, or yourself.”

Though the airline instituted the plan last November, it caught attention last week when the carrier began international flights to neighboring American Samoa and coincided with the publication of a report by a Norwegian economist suggesting that airlines should charge obese passengers more.

The Pacific Islands contain some of the world’s most prevalent countries for obesity, many ranking in the top 10, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Samoa is ranked number four, with 59.6 percent of the population considered obese, said the most recent 2008 WHO report.

According to Samoa Air’s latest schedule, the airline charges up to WS\$1.32 (\$0.57) per kg for domestic flights and WS\$2.40 (\$1.03) per kg for its only international flight to American Samoa, around 250 miles (402 km). A 150 kg person flying one-way internationally would be charged \$154.50.

Children under 12 are charged 75 percent of the adult rate, with fares also based on weight. Any overweight baggage is calculated at the same rate as the passenger’s personal weight.

The plan could actually prove cheaper in some cases, such as for families travelling with small children, and Langton said customer feedback has mainly been “amazingly positive.”

“When the initial shock has worn off, there’s been nothing but support,” said Langton. “People who are up around 200 kg recognize...they’re paying (for) 200 kg, so they deserve to get 200 kg of comfort,” he added.

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# Never Look Back

by Alti Bukalov

**Previously:** Atara fantasizes about the secular world, and then David validates her thoughts by connecting with her struggles. Shmuel fights up the courage to go to Raizy's house.

## Part 22

### Atara

Her legs crossed in a pretzel, Atara sat crouched over on her bed, studying the letter Shira had left in her locker. She wasn't sure what her emotions meant. Turbulent waves, crashing against fragile grains of sand. Washing up scattered sea shells. She somehow couldn't collect the shells fast enough... Atara wiped away the salt water from her face.

Shira had always been her best friend, she admitted. But things were different now. Pretty much no one understood her, she observed. No one felt the deep hurt eroding away at her heart. No one knew how hard she tried. They just saw her as an angry teenage girl, fighting for friends and popularity.

Swallowing, Atara shook her head. She was drowning, she decided. Drowning from all the pressures thrown onto her that she couldn't deal with alone. Somehow everyone wanted so much, never explaining why. Drowning in waves of school, cold. Drowning in a home so salty. Drowning without a friend to even notice her breathing quickening.

No one ever heard the violent cries, as Atara struggled in the waves, while they cruised the beach, calmed by the soft sand under their feet and staring ahead at a magnificent sunset. Somehow even when the sun came up again, the next morning, Atara still was out in the waves, thrown against rocks, struggling to keep her head above water. And no one got it. No one heard her. No one.

Except David, she finally admitted.

Thinking of his soothing smile, her heart began to settle. He related to her struggles. He looked at her and saw straight through her. Her friends managed to stay blind, even when she told them straight out, but David...he just understood. Atara looked back down at the crumpled paper in her lap. She stared blankly at the cursive letters, dancing across the paper. "No," she told herself, "Shira will never understand, no mat-

ter what she tells me."

Atara reached out for her phone, slowly dialing the number she had been so afraid to call for so long. She listened as the phone rang. A long silence, broken by piercing rings, almost like the sea-crows calling out. Moving the phone away from her ear, Atara was about to

Raizy looked away, staring blankly at the window.

"Raizy?" Shmuel's voice echoed in the silence.

Biting her lip, she looked back in his direction. "You wouldn't understand," she muttered, shaking her head.

"I want to understand," he insisted. "Raizy, I want you to be

over her mind, deaf to half the things Shmuel was saying.

"Raizy," he started again, his blue eyes shining genuinely. "They all told me not to come, but I...I couldn't just live not knowing." Shmuel's heart began beating even faster, almost audible in the still silence. "I want you to know that I, uh,"

ment. She blinked as she bit her lip nervously, suddenly afraid of what he would say.

"They told me I shouldn't do this," he continued. "But Raizy," he took a deep breath. "I don't care. You don't have to change yourself for me," Shmuel demanded. "I was going to marry you anyways."

Shmuel looked down, staring at his shoes as he noticed what he said.

"Marry me?" Raizy whispered.

Closing his eyes for a moment, Shmuel replayed the conversation over. He had said what he was so afraid to ever say out loud. It slipped from his mouth.

Looking up he smiled. "Yes, marry me."

*Somehow, even when the sun came up again the next morning, Atara still was out in the waves, struggling to keep her head above water. And no one got it. Except David, she finally admitted*

press "End" and that was when she heard an answer.

"Hello?" David answered.

### Shmuel

Shmuel fidgeted his hands in his pockets as he watched Raizy shyly come down the stairs. It felt almost like the old days. He would come and pick her up. He would stand and wait for her to come down, anxious and excited. Her face was paler than usual, he noted. Her hair was gathered in a thin pony, so different from the way he usually saw her. Her long and baggy tee-shirt hung on her shoulders. Shmuel looked down, afraid to meet her eye, suddenly scared.

Raizy looked away when she finally descended the stairs. They both stood, facing one another, staring at the floor. Shmuel took a deep breath as he scratched his forehead and finally whispered, "Raizy?"

Raizy looked up at him quickly, letting their eyes meet for a moment before hurriedly looking away. Biting her lip she shook her head.

"You're probably wondering why I, uh," Shmuel looked away again, "why I came," he continued.

"Maybe we should, you know, maybe we should move into the, um, the living room?" Raizy finally suggested. Shmuel shrugged as they made their way to the couch.

"Look Raizy," Shmuel tried again. "I'm here because I want to know why..." Shmuel stopped before continuing. The words he wanted to say suddenly wouldn't come out. Almost choking him inside. "To eat," he awkwardly swallowed.

Raizy looked at him quizzically, "Eat?" She stood up. "I should have offered you something."

"No, no," Shmuel insisted. "I want to understand what happened."

able to tell me everything."

Raizy swallowed as she looked away again. She covered her eyes, as she tried calming the spinning thoughts taking

he paused, looking away a moment, "I think you're perfect the way you are."

Raizy looked up towards him, her eyes meeting his for a mo-

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# The Chief Rabbi's "Non-Handshake"

CONTINUED FROM P. 13

arrived, the accusations and finger-pointing began in earnest, and the heat of the arguments threatened to disturb the celebration. Finally, Rav Kook called over his attendant and told him how to respond to the naysayers.

The man stood up and spoke. "Rabbo-

sai, the baby is about to arrive and when he does, he will be greeted by the customary 'Baruch HaBa.' It is interesting to note that we do not welcome a Bar Mitzvah boy, or a *chasan* and *kallah* with 'Baruch HaBa.' Only a tiny baby. Furthermore, we do not send off the baby after the conclusion of the ceremony with 'Baruch HaYotzei' – a parting blessing to

see him on his way."

The hall was now quiet. The fomenting arguments had ceased. Everyone was listening with rapt attention. "My friends, when a baby is brought in, he is not yet circumcised. He is an *areil* – for all practical purposes, he is not Jewish. So people are so impressed by the sight and polish of a non-Jew, that they will show extra respect and greet him with extra salutations. Once the baby is circumcised, however, he is a Jew like all

other Jews, and then people are not all that impressed anymore!" The crowd began to buzz heatedly at the response of the gabbai, but he quieted them down.

"My friends, obviously I am joking. But we can all learn a lesson from the matter at hand. Why should we let a gentile treat us wrongly and then show him our respect? A gentile must know that he cannot treat a Jew as he pleases and that the Jew will just accept it!"

## Mayor Bloomberg: Oppressor Or Redeemer?

CONTINUED FROM P. 24

food joints, to ban sugary drinks larger than 16 oz. (which contains 27 cubes of sugar), to produce an education campaign about loud music from ear buds, to the latest: that store managers hide cigarettes from public view (to lower impulse buying).

"Nanny Bloomberg" is addressing serious issues in our society contrary to

popular public sentiment. For instance, regarding the ear bud education campaign, a study by Dr. Joseph Shargorodsky, as reported by CBS News, shows that today's youth have a 30% hearing loss over youth measured in 1988. Obesity, on a national level, costs us close to \$200 billion per year. ABC News estimated back in 2009 that an obese individual pays an extra \$1,500 per year in health care, which we all pay for, of course. Six-

ty-five percent of Americans are overweight or obese.

With the extra money that we save from his public health measures, we could easily make up for the \$240 million that Andrew Cuomo is slated to cut from city services related to developmentally disabled individuals and for essential infrastructure maintenance. We don't have the money to spend for people's medical care and disability, of their own doing, and also for society's legitimate needs. If we were, G-d forbid, in a major war and we had to ration, the way America did during WWII, we wouldn't think twice

about doing that. In our time and circumstances, we don't have to ration food but we do have to ration financial resources.

So I am weighing in, perhaps with the disapproval of my comrades on the right, in favor of Bloomberg's "Nanny State." The Torah admonishes us not to be a *zolel v'sovei* (glutton) and *u'shmartem l'nafshoseichem* (to watch our health). As long as Mayor Bloomberg stays on the right side of the law and prevails in court on his measures (we shall see if he wins on appeal with the big cup soda ban), I think he has the Torah's nod of approval.

## City Elections: Why Should We Care?

CONTINUED FROM P. 30

ple interested in saving lives should join those volunteer corps and help to improve emergency medical care for all the people in the neighborhood. The Borough President was under strong pressure to prevent *Hatzolah* from obtaining the permit. I went to the Borough President and explained the importance of *Hatzolah*. He agreed to approve the permit and *Hatzolah* now operates citywide.

The New York City Board of Education proposed increasing the distance children must live from the school in order to qualify for free school bus transportation. Had the proposal gone through, free school bus transportation would have been eliminated for most yeshiva students. Heshie Baron, then the Pres-

ident of the Queens Jewish Community Council, and I organized a group of community leaders to meet with Carol Gresser, then the President of the Board of Education. We explained that yeshiva families pay taxes to support the public school system and that school bus transportation is one of the few educational services that these families receive for their tax dollars. The proposed changes in school bus transportation were rejected and yeshiva families continued to receive free transportation.

When the City Planning Department proposed the most comprehensive change in the city's zoning code since 1961, the proposal included a requirement that public facilities, like shuls, would have to provide on-site parking. This would have vastly increased the

cost of building new shuls by requiring them to provide space for parking, which they don't need, since people can't drive on days when attendance in shul is highest. The proposal would have to pass the City Council in order to be adopted. Melinda Katz, then the Chair of the City Council Land Use Committee, played an important role in amending the proposal. Houses of worship in which the overwhelming majority of members of the congregants live in close proximity were exempted from the parking requirements.

Many of our community institutions depend on government funding. In my years working at the City Council, I was able to help direct more than \$4 million a year in discretionary funding to Jewish institutions. During the time I worked with then Speaker Gifford Miller on the City Council budget, three of the five largest recipients of Council dis-

cretionary funds were institutions from our community.

These are just a few examples from my career working on behalf of the community. Other people involved in *askanus*, can tell similar stories. The bottom line is that there are interactions every day between our community and the people elected to serve us. The productive working relationship with our elected representatives is an important factor in building and maintaining the communal institutions and infrastructure that enable us to live a life of *Torah u'mitzvos*.

What is at stake in this year's election is whether that relationship will continue to thrive as we face new challenges over the next four years.

During the next few months I'll be looking at some of the crucial issues and at the people seeking to represent us. Stay tuned, be active, and cast an informed vote on Election Day.

## Looking For The Middle – From The Right And From The Left

CONTINUED FROM P. 50

rabbis, prayer groups for women that include Kaddish and K'rias HaTorah, or of "partnership minyanim," acceptance of homosexual couples as full members of the community including having a "mazal tov kiddush" when they adopt a child, pushing lower standards for conversions, no longer saying the blessing of "She'lo Asani Ishah" as offensive to women (and even whether "She'lo Asani Goy" is offensive as politically incorrect), and more broadly, introducing secular, academic, and non-traditional sources when considering halachic *p'sak* (dec-

sion making); and those, on the other hand, who strongly resist and resent those efforts. It is a struggle, as well, between those who look to *g'dolim* such as Rav Aharon Lichtenstein, Rav Hershel Schachter, Rav Mordechai Willig, and Rav Gedaliah Dov Schwartz (all shlit'a) as the standard bearers of the M'sorah in our time, and those on the far left, particularly those associated with Rabbi Avi Weiss and Yeshiva Chovevei Torah who have their own standards as to the future of what ought to be within the pale of Modern Orthodoxy.

I have friends and colleagues who

have the same angst at being known as Modern Orthodox as I do at being known as Chareidi, if Modern Orthodoxy includes the extreme innovations of those on the left. They, too, suffer uncalled-for criticism that makes them cringe. I remember attending an Agudah convention some years back, when one of the *roshei yeshiva* attacked "Centrist Judaism," the term then in vogue for Modern Orthodoxy. Citing some of the excesses of some of the more left-wing rabbis, he thundered "If that is centrist, than what is to the left of them, Reform Judaism??" How shameful it must have felt for serious *talmidei chachamim* and *Y'rei'ei Shamayim* within the Modern Orthodox world to be pronounced one step removed from Reform Judaism! That is the danger when a pub-

licly identified group is too large – the inevitable extremists taint the mainstream and traditional members with their excesses.

I do not know what the answer is to all this is, other than for a re-emergence of a true Centrist Judaism group, one that is broad-based and comprised of "Torah-True Jews," that will not tolerate either the extremists of the right or the left in speaking for them or setting the agenda for the *Klal*...one in which its leaders will be serious *talmidei chachamim* of a true diversity of *hashkafos* and styles, but possessing mutual respect and dignity in speaking to those both within the community and without in ways of pleasantness and inspiration. With apologies: "Perhaps I am a dreamer, but I'm not the only one."



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# Community Speaks Out At Sunday's Holocaust Vigil In Front Of The Iranian Mission In Manhattan

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

numbers with political clout and heavy hitters from the Jewish street.

The speakers and demonstrators were by no means all Jewish. David R., a young Catholic protester from New York, said, "This is a modern Arab Axis; this is not the Arab spring but the Muslim winter," citing a famous quote. "We have to be keenly aware of the growing threat of Islamic terror and the world must be vigilant."

David Ibsen, representing "United Against Nuclear Iran" said his organization tries to clamp down a complete economic boycott against Iran, ala the de-

but not the curses. The continuing anti-Jewish and anti-Israel attitudes espoused by Iran are pure evil and a modern day witch-hunt. "If the Jews moved to Antarctica, the deranged people would go after the Jews." Jeff Weisenfeld, a CUNY trustee and the Master of Ceremonies, interjected, "We would never take over Antarctica from the penguins and seals."

Mr. Weisenfeld was the first to address the crowd from the Jewish/Israel side. First he acknowledged the presence of the two-dozen black-clad Neturei Karta protesters across the street, who were there venting their rage not against Iran but Israel. While acknowledging

from destruction at the hands of the Moslems. Europe, with a large Islamic presence (around 7 percent of the population, higher in Western Europe) and a virtually negative low birthrate, is ripe for an Islamic takeover. If not for Israel, the Muslims would be at the "gates of Vienna" (echoing the furthest penetration of Islam in the Middle Ages). "It's clear what they want to do they will do."

No Jewish/Israel demonstration is complete without the presence of the telegenic Rabbi Avi Weiss of Riverdale, whose lifelong work reads like a resume of Soviet Jewry and Israel protests from the UN to Auschwitz to Jerusalem. He needed no in-

from two aircraft carriers to one.

Invoking the Nazis rise to power, he said that in the beginning the Third Reich tested the world's reaction to events in Germany, and when they saw indifference from Washington to Melbourne, they stepped up their campaign of world domination and the extermination of the Jews of Europe. Similarly, Tehran feels that Obama's soft stance is an invitation to murder and Iranian aggression, a fact seized on in the Iranian press. Wearing a *yarmulke*, Mr. Klein blessed the crowd and said we must remain strong, for G-d will never abandon Israel.

Six memorial candles were lit and *Ani Maamin* was hauntingly chanted, using the same tune that Jewish martyrs sang while being marched to their deaths. A lone policeman kept guard at a flimsy barrier as traffic zoomed down Third Avenue.



Pastor James David Manning (ATLAH World Ministries)



Assemblyman David Weprin



Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov (Rabbi of Tehilat Sephardim in Queens and one of the leaders of the Bukharian Community in Kew Gardens Hills)



Attendees (Front right: Helen Freedman, President of Americans for a Safe Israel)



Jeff Wiesenfeld (Master of Ceremonies)



Rabbi Avi Weiss (Hebrew Institute of Riverdale)

cade-long American embargo of Cuba, to make Ahmedinejad's regime a pariah with no footing in the civilized world. Ibsen pressures hotels to prevent them from giving Ahmedinejad any quarter (according to him, last trip there was only one hotel in New York that agreed to host him).

Ibsen runs a "name and chain" campaign of identifying firms that trade with Iran, such as Komatsu and Caterpillar, companies that supply engines and industrial equipment. Ibsen says the organization focuses less on Iran's high profile oil trade since that is the job of Congress, which his organization routinely lobbies.

Pastor James Manning from Harlem added a colorful gospel twist to the stern demonstration. "Hashem had a 'fail-proof' program for Abraham," he said. "Those that bless his descendants will be blessed and those that curse them will be cursed." Speaking as if still at his Harlem church pulpit, he lamented the fact that the blessings were liberally bestowed,

that he wasn't going to waste one minute of the program on them once it started, Mr. Weisenfeld did take the liberty of giving them a tongue-lashing before the program began.

Mordechai Levy from the Jewish Defense Organization worked the crowd, incognito, giving out leaflets calling for Jewish defense. According to Levy, the "Neturei Crapa" is not a harmless loony fringe but is Ahmedinejad's "Public Reactions Department." Levy claims the Iranian government spends a million dollars to fly each Neturei Karta member to Tehran to do the regime's nefarious bidding and undermine Jewish unity.

Mr. Weisenfeld said only a firm military response can contain Iran, and that Tehran has absolutely no intention of negotiating, expressing its contempt by abrogating every single treaty and nullifying 14 rounds of negotiations with western powers. Mr. Weisenfeld said while Europe is often hostile and critical of Israel, it is in fact Israel that is saving Europe

trodition. "Words are words and deeds are deeds, but sometimes words lead to deeds." Unlike 70 years ago in the depth of the Holocaust, Jews can now defend themselves, and Jews must never let anyone take away that right of self-defense. "The world is trying to tie our hands."

Rabbi Weiss expressed personal outrage at the Iranian-instigated bombing of the Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires in the early 1990s. It was the "height of outrage" that the Iranians were part of the subsequent truth-seeking commission set up after the attack.

Morton Klein, head of the Zionist Organization of America, compared the West's appeasement of Iran to the appeasement of Nazi Germany by the West in the 1930s. Klein blasted Obama for his soft stand on Iran when he should stand firm against Iran's "radical Islamization of the world" and providing a "nuclear umbrella" for Iran's proxy terrorists such as Hezbollah. He sharply criticized Obama for reducing its naval presence in the Persian Gulf

Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, spiritual leader of the Bukharian Kehilat Sephardim of Kew Gardens Hills, himself originating from Bukhara, addressed the crowd in thickly accented English, alternating with Russian. He stressed that, as a Bukharian Jew, he is particularly sensitive to the Iranian menace, as Bukhara was part of greater Persia, sharing similar languages and cultures.

Though *Sefardi*, Bukharian Jews shared the fate of their Ashkenazic brothers. Hitler's armies in the Caucasus were not far from Bukhara, and Bukharian Jews fought with the Soviet armies fighting Hitler along with 1.2 million other Jews. Bukhara was part of the Soviet Union, and the Jews suffered from the same regime as refuseniks in Moscow. The Rabbi recited the Prayer for the Welfare of the State of Israel in Hebrew in a lilt that combined Central Asian and vaguely Sephardi. The crowd then broke into "*Hatikvah*" and the vigil dissolved.

Photo credits: Stanley Barth





## Halachos Of T'filah For Women

Since the days when our Matriarchs wept for children, since the moment when Chanah whispered her prayer in the Mishkan, there has been a profound link between Jewish women and T'filah. There is even something natural about a woman in prayer. When we reminisce about our mothers and grandmothers, many of us picture them in their chosen corner of the house, clutching their worn and tattered siddurim, pouring their hearts out in silent devotion. However, there are many halachic questions that arise, some of which reflect new challenges and new modes of life.

The following series will focus on many of those questions. How much are women obligated to daven? Which parts of davening are more important than others if one is short on time? Should they skip parts of davening in order to catch up to the congregation? Let us analyze, with Hashem's help, these and many other halachos for women in T'filah.

**How much, and how often, does the Torah obligate a person to daven? And is there a difference between a man and a woman with regards to T'filah?**

The Rambam (Hil. T'filah 1:1-2) writes that there is a Torah commandment to pray every day. He references the verse "Va'avadtem es Hashem Elokeichem" – And you shall serve Hashem your G-d (Sh'mos 23:25). Additionally, the Torah commands "U'lavdo b'chol l'vavchem" – And serve Him with all your heart (D'varim 10:13). Chazal explain (Taanis 2a) that serving Hashem from the heart is the service of T'filah, prayer. It is elementary that mental and emotional concentration is an essential component of prayer. In fact, Rambam (ibid 4:11) states, "Any prayer recit-

ed without concentration is not considered prayer." (We will be"H see more about that particular halachah in future columns.)

The Rambam continues that this obligation is fulfilled by any verbal expression of a "shevach, bakashah, and hodaah" – a praise, a request, and a thanksgiving. The Rambam says that this can be done at any time during the day. Therefore, it is not considered a mitzvah aseil she'ha'zman grama, a time-bound mitzvah, and women are obligated in this short prayer just as much as men. See Shulchan Aruch 106:1, with Mishnah B'rurah 4.

The Ramban (Sefer HaMitzvos, Asei 5) disagrees. He feels that the Torah only requires t'filah when an individual is in an eis tzarah, a time of distress. Whether one is in need of good health, sustenance, forgiveness, or a shidduch, they would have a Torah requirement to call out to Hashem and beseech Him. This, too, is identical to men and women alike. Moreover, Rav Moshe Feinstein zt"l writes (Igros Moshe OC 2:25) that a gentile, as well, has this obligation when he is in need of something specific. It is part of the basic faith in the Almighty that everything one has in this world comes from Him, and that He decides whether we will receive our physical needs and when we won't. As a matter of fact, Shlomo HaMelech, King Solomon, makes reference to gentiles coming from distant lands to the Beis HaMikdash to pray to Hashem (See M'lachim Alef 8:41-43).

**How much, and how often, does one need to daven mi'd'rabanan, as a Rabbinically ordained obligation? And is there a difference between a man and a woman with regard to that requirement?**

The Poskim assume from the opinion of the Rambam that all of the requirements of a specific text of T'filah (i.e. Sh'monah Esrei), such as the number of times a day to daven and the time of day to daven, are all Rabbinic enactments. Since they are bound by time, only men are obligated in those prayers and not women (See Mishnah B'rurah ibid). In other words, for women, the Rabbinic law remains the same as the

Biblical obligation, that they required only in a short prayer consisting of a shevach, bakashah, and hodaah. They are exempt from all other requirements of T'filah.

Ramban is of the opinion that the whole concept of davening every day is Rabbinic in nature. This includes Sh'monah Esrei twice every day, the ones of Shacharis and Minchah. (We will discuss in a future column, be"H, the custom regarding women davening Maariv.) Yet, although it has time-bound characteristics, it is equally incumbent on men and women. The Gemara (Brachos 20b) explains that this is because it is essentially a request for Divine mercy. Women have as much need for mercy as men have.

**How do we pasken in regard to this dispute?**

Most Poskim conclude that the halachah follows the opinion of the Ramban, as brought in the Mishnah B'rurah 106:4. Therefore, continues the Mishnah B'rurah, women should be instructed to daven Shacharis and Minchah every day. A similar view is found in Yalkut Shim'oni (Shmuel Remez 280) "And Chanah prayed," this is a source for a woman's obligation to pray, for Chanah recited the Sh'monah Esrei. For Sephardic women, some Poskim rule that they are obligated to recite one Sh'monah Esrei each day (See Yabia Omer 6:17, and Ohr L'Tzion 2:7:24).

**Are there any leniencies for a mother who is involved in raising a family?**

Yes. The guidelines for this and similar scenarios will be discussed, be"H, in the next issue. But keep in mind: When a woman finds the time to daven, in addition to fulfilling her obligations, she will be enriching the spiritual atmosphere of her home. Seeing their mother take time for prayer will definitely make a strong impression on children. She should not be overly concerned if she cannot concentrate properly during the entire Sh'monah Esrei. In strained circumstances, she can fulfill the mitzvah of t'filah even if she only concentrates during the first blessing (See Shulchan Aruch 101:1; the details of that law will also be elaborated on in a future column, be"H).

**Rabbi Eliezer Krohn**, of Passaic, New Jersey, is a Halachah teacher in the Bais Yaakov of Passaic, in the NY Seminary in Brooklyn and gives classes in Halachah and Hashkafah to married women as well. His classes can be found at [torahanytime.com](http://torahanytime.com). He is a full time mohel, and the son of Rabbi Paysach Krohn. Questions or comments can be sent to [ekbris@gmail.com](mailto:ekbris@gmail.com).



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# Monkeys, Marriage And Morality

by Rabbi Avi Shafran

Amid the ongoing avalanche of political conversions, punditry and testimonials on behalf of redefining marriage was a recent op-ed piece in The New York Times by a professor of biology, David George Haskell.

The professor's contribution to the effort to bring public pressure on the U.S. Supreme Court as it hears two cases concerning the meaning of marriage was to note that some plants, lichen, snails and bees do not mate in ways that we would characterized as male-female pairs. In fact, Dr. Haskell informs us, even apes in the rainforest may form same-sex bonds.

Of course, that hardly constitutes "nature's case for same-sex marriage," the title that ran above the professor's piece. At least not if society wishes to continue to disapprove of things like thievery, murder and cannibalism, all easily spotted in the wild. (There's a reason, after all, it's called the wild.)

To be fair, Dr. Haskell's true target (despite his piece's misleading title) is only the argument that, as the 18th-century English jurist William Blackstone wrote, marriage should be "founded in nature."

That's a straw man, though, and one

that might benefit from a lit match. What is or is not "natural," at least from a classical Jewish perspective, is not the measure of right and wrong.

Discussion of right and wrong these days in this land, at least where there is no obvious human victim of the action at issue, is complicated by the formidable church-state wall that has been

While Jewish laws can be applied (by expert authorities committed to the Torah's truths and impervious to the Zeitgeist) to different cases in different ways, they are not affected by societal mores or contracts.

The vast majority of the Torah's laws are incumbent only on Jews. But there are seven fundamental laws that the

is that moral tradition which underlay the broad societal disapproval of homosexual acts that informed the American public before the Stonewall riots in 1969 and the entertainment industry's subsequent embrace, and eventual celebration, of "nontraditional" personal relationships.

Truth be told, although the legal meaning of "marriage" has already been changed by several states and is currently being discussed by the Supreme Court, most Americans, including most American legislators and jurists, would still consider things like incestuous unions or multiple-partner arrangements to fall far short of deserving the name "marriage." That, despite the fact that the only grounds for disenfranchising such arrangements – or, for that matter, for refraining from killing compromised newborns or the terminal elderly – are the tenets of humanity's moral tradition, the Noahide Laws.

Which leads one to wonder, and worry, about the future. The republic's Founding Fathers were certainly wise to seek to prevent laws "respecting an establishment of religion." But a societal embrace of the opposite pole, the dismissal of the very concept of a universal moral code is, or should be, deeply disturbing.

*The professor's contribution to the effort to bring public pressure on the U.S. Supreme Court was to note that some plants, lichen, snails and bees do not mate in ways that we would characterized as male-female pairs*

erected over the years by our country's courts. The First Amendment's rule that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion" has, for better or worse, come to mean to many that nothing based in the human religious tradition may have any impact on any law in the land. That construct, however, does not change reality, at least not as understood by Judaism.

The Jewish religious tradition consists of the G-d-given Written and Oral Torahs' teachings as transmitted by the Jewish sages over the generations.

Torah mandates for all human beings. They were known to and accepted by all people in antiquity – hence their appellation "The Laws of Noah's descendants" (or "Noahide Laws"). Among them are laws prohibiting certain sexual unions, male-male ones among them.

That ancient moral tradition underlies many religions' disapproval of homosexual acts. Judaism is not the only belief system that harbors such disapproval; so do many Christian churches, Islam, Mormonism, Sikhism and the Bahai church among them. And it

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# Professor Discusses Her Book, A Small Town Near Auschwitz, About Family Friend Who Turned Out To Be Nazi Official

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

discovers was such a monster?

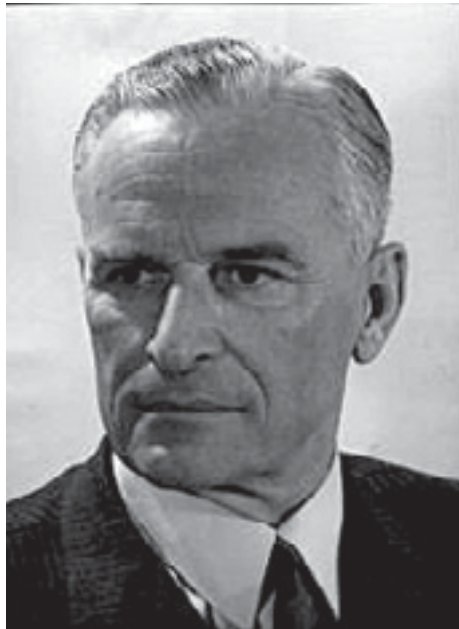
Mary Fulbrook, professor of German history at University College in London, recently spoke at the Central Queens YMHA about her new book, "A Small Town Near Auschwitz." The author, though not Jewish, is vicariously traumatized by the Holocaust.

Fulbrook's mother came from Germany and her closest school friend was a Christian girl named Alexandra. Though the author's mother was not Jewish (she married a Jew), she was a socialist of Jewish descent, and after the Nuremberg anti-Jewish laws were passed in 1935, she saw the writing on the wall and fled for England "for political and racial reasons."

After the war, the author's mother and Alexandra quickly became friends again and the author would visit Alexandra and her family. Alexandra was married to Udo Klaus, a Catholic lawyer and civil servant. Fulbrook sensed that Klaus was hiding a terrible past but was afraid to ask for fear of revealing some terrible secret that would destroy the friendship between the two families.

"One part of me wants to yell back at Udo [Klaus], posthumously to scream that without him Hitler could never have wrought such destruction. Another part of me wants to protect the family friends, the surviving members of the Klaus family. Silence was a condition of friendship."

Fulbrook's tension between her role as an objective academic researcher and



Udo Klaus

her emotionally tortured relationship to Klaus reverberates throughout the book and her talk. The author is never sure how to present herself, as a detached narrator or as an interested party. Her emotional involvement may compromise her academic objectivity but makes the book so much more compelling.

Fulbrook came across the terrible truth about Udo Klaus when a memorial book to Alexandra came out that mentioned Bedzin. A quick Google search revealed that Bedzin was 25 miles from Auschwitz and that the Landrat (regional Nazi administrator) responsible for the fate of tens of thousands of Jews was none other than Udo Klaus, Alexandra's husband. The author then discovered let-

ters written by Alexandra to her mother, who lived in Berlin during the war. The letters speak of her troubled state of mind on witnessing German massacres and deportations of Jews. "It (the roundup in 1942 accompanied by random murder) was so terrible that one would have liked to leave the place immediately oneself." The author's mother died before Klaus's terrible past came to light and the author is glad that her mother never found out. "I wonder what would have happened had she found out," Fulbrook reflected.

What comes out from Alexandra's letters and the author's talk with many survivors, both Polish Catholic and Jewish, is a depiction of the Holocaust so different from the deathscape cliché of ghettos, death camps, and piles of bodies presided over by sadistic Nazis. The scene here is not the Warsaw Ghetto but the faceless, dreary town of Bedzin. There are no Gestapo thugs with attack dogs but faceless Nazi administrators personified by Klaus.

Bedzin 1939 was a "shabby, dilapidated" town of 54,000 of whom about half were Jewish.

Polish anti-Semitism was felt in the streets and schools, but life was tolerable and there was a strong Jewish family and community life.

Things changed overnight when the Germans invaded the town in September 1939 and immediately began to terrorize and attack the local Jewish population. Within days the local synagogue was burned down with dozens of Jews burned alive. Fulbrook says such atrocities belie the popular version that the Holocaust started only with the German invasion of Russia in spring 1941.

Udo Klaus defies the image of a stereotypical wild-eyed Nazi. He did not carry a whip and shoot helpless Jews. Nothing indicates he was a rabid anti-Semite or racist. He was a "desktop perpetrator" who helped implement Nazi orders. He was a careerist who used the Nazis to advance his legal and civil service career. He had almost no contact with the individual Jews who fell victim to his orders. Klaus wrote a post-war account of his role as Landrat in 1980, and 35 years of hindsight helped him sanitize his role. He claims he knew nothing about the murders at Auschwitz when one could smell the stench of seared flesh in the streets.

Fulbrook's role, she says, is not to indict or exonerate Klaus but to understand the mind of the Nazi bureaucrat.

Atrocities such as Babi Yar and Treblinka are known to everyone, but Fulbrook prefers to focus on what she calls "daily

racism" – the daily diet of beatings, undernourishment, forced labor, and random unrecorded murders. This "daily racism" wore down the Jew physically and psychologically and prepared him for extermination at Auschwitz.

The atrocities of 1942 were getting even too much for a Nazi administrator, and Klaus may have felt that the regime may have crossed a red line. According to Alexandra's letters, Klaus's conscience was troubled and when things got too much for him, he would escape to the army where he fought in an elite unit on the Eastern front.

Klaus's time-worn excuse of "I was just obeying orders," according to Fulbrook, worked. His family bought it and so did the West German authorities who promoted Klaus to a senior position in the civil service in the Rhineland.

Fulbrook blames the German post-war attitude of "Shame and responsibility but not guilt" over the Holocaust for allowing the likes of Klaus to be rehabilitated and even to continue in their old jobs. Fulbrook expresses outrage that, of the 116,000 war criminals on record with German authorities, over 100,000 have not been brought to justice.

Fulbrook believes the same "pattern of denial" and selective memory affects not just Nazi perpetrators but colors the Polish narrative. Fulbrook says the Poles in their Catholic tradition portrayed themselves as martyrs often to the exclusion of the Jewish victims. In Bedzin, Fulbrook is outraged that there is not even a plaque to commemorate the mass deportation of 15,000 Jews at the Jewish Sports ground or any of the hangings or the sight of Gestapo headquarters. In the nearby town of Celiny, the Poles commemorate the 32 "innocent people" who were shot in reprisal, omitting the three Jews shot at the site. Fulbrook believes that the ultimate Polish sacrilege was turning destroyed synagogues into cinemas or bowling alleys without even a mention of their past.

What more can be said about the Holocaust seventy years later with an infinity of books, dissertations, and documentaries on the subject?

Fulbrook presents an insightful psychological perspective of the perpetrators: the victims, the mechanism of murder, and perhaps most importantly, the post-Holocaust narrative shaped by the viewpoints of those affected, whether German, Jewish, or Polish.

Fulbrook's personal connection to the Holocaust and her emotional conflicts with Klaus drive the book and prevent it from being yet another antiseptic historical dissertation.

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Rabbi Haimoff has spent his early years studying in Jerusalem in The Jerusalem Kollel under the leadership of Rabbi Yitzchok Berkowitz, Shlita, from whom he ultimately received Semicha. Rabbi Haimoff has received training in Ner La'Elef, providing him with the tools he currently utilizes to educate and lead his Kehillah and the community.



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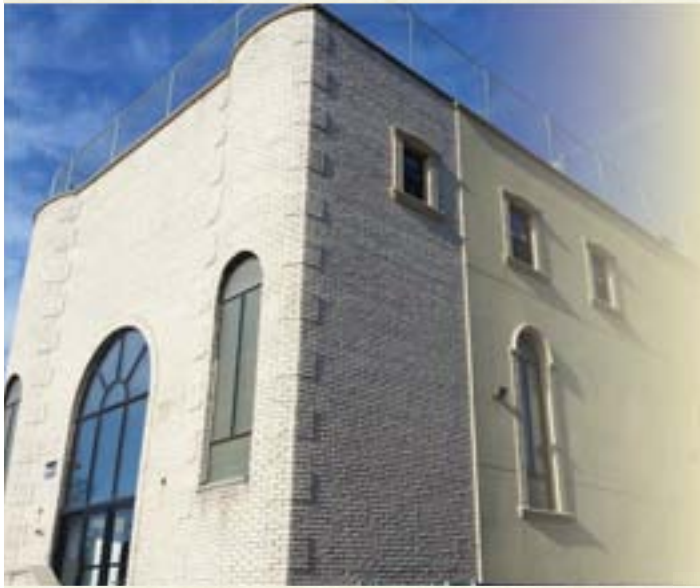
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# Shuvu Brings Simchas Yom Tov To Thousands

Once again the Shuvu network of schools in Eretz Yisroel prepared its thousands of students properly for Pesach, before the children left on their vacation.

In addition to the routine frontal instruction of the Halachos of the Yom Tov, the dozens of Shuvu schools throughout the country also performed Model Seders for the children, with many having the parents participate as well. In these Model Seders, Shuvu staff members and the School Rabbis conducted full Seders as the participants sat around beautifully set tables with Matzah, lettuce for Maror, Charoses, eggs and grape juice. The children in turn read pieces from the Hagaddah, ate and drank with Haseiva, sang the songs, and learned themselves how to conduct a Seder for their own



families.

In other pre-Pesach activities, Shuvu distributed thousands of packages of Matzah and grape juice to its students. Without Shuvu's providing these essential products, many Shuvu families would simply not have them for Yom Tov either due to lack of understanding of their importance, or lack of ability to pay the high prices.

Pesach is also a time that Shuvu an-



nually appeals for special funds to purchase furniture and electrical appliances for graduates in need. Mrs. Brocha Weinberger, Shuvu's Educational Director contacted a number of these Shuvu graduates who have made the transformation and now lead completely Chareidi lifestyles, and asked how Shuvu could help them. She was in awe when hearing the responses of these graduates who live on practically nothing, as their



lives are now devoted to full time Torah learning. "The first reaction of many couples when I asked how the Shuvu Family could help them was 'We are Baruch Hashem managing.' They expressed the great feeling of HakorasHatov, and one Yungerman even exclaimed 'Shuvu gave me Olam Habah and Olam Hazeh! What can I give Shuvu should be the question, not the other way around!'"

Mrs. Weinberger concluded "What a Zechus and privilege to have such Talmidim. My feeling is sincerely that we are not helping them out for Pesach, just the other way around. The Ribbono Shel Olam is giving us the opportunity to have a share in helping these families have a Simchas Yom Tov!"

The assistance this year included a table and chairs for one couple, a closet and a Seforim shrank for another, gas ranges, a twin carriage, a crib and dresser for a newborn baby, hot water urns and much, much more. Each couple naturally had their specific need, which was filled thanks to Shuvu and its generous supporters.

Shuvu's sense of *Achrayus* towards its families continued on during Pesach itself as actual Seders were conducted by Shuvu personnel for the families in the cities of Hadera and Ashkelon. In other cities of Shuvu Schools including Ashdod, Bat Yam, Akko, Natzeret Illit, Netanya and Rechovot, Shuvu arranged for families to join communal cities in the city, all in central locations to allow families to walk to them and back. Shuvu funded its families' placements at these events.

Many families reported back later delightfully of the wonderful Pesach experiences they had had thanks to Shuvu. Indeed, Shuvu helped assure that its thousands of students and families would have both a Chag Kasher and also a Chag Sameach.

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# The Fun

## Side-Splitting Stand-Up



"North Korea is now threatening the United States with all-out war. You can see they're stepping it up. In fact, they released 10 more photos of Kim Jong Un looking through binoculars."

- Jay Leno

"A new poll shows that 64 percent of New Jersey residents don't care about New Jersey Governor Chris Christie's weight. That's mostly because Chris Christie IS 64 percent of New Jersey."

- Conan O'Brien

"Passover is the time every year when I'm forced to spend eight days and eight nights writing all my own jokes."

- Conan O'Brien

"Today happens to be Vaffeldagen. That is Swedish for Waffle Day. Every year on March 25, the people of Sweden get out of their Volvos, turn off their ABBA CDs, and start making waffles."

- Craig Ferguson

"As far as I'm concerned, there are two types of people in this world. People who love waffles — and al-Qaida."

- Craig Ferguson

"Tensions continue to mount in this North Korea situation. The U.S. has moved a Navy warship off the coast of the Korean Peninsula. Is that going to scare the North Koreans? If you really want to scare them, don't send a warship. Send a Carnival cruise ship."

- Jay Leno

"The island nation of Cyprus is now considering a 10 percent tax on every individual savings account in that country. They'll take 10 percent of your money right out of the bank. To which President Obama said: 'You can do that?'"

- Jay Leno

"The White House has now put together a website for kids. It's a website to teach kids how to manage a budget responsibly. The website is called 'Irony.gov.'"

- David Letterman

"Jay Leno passes the torch to Jimmy Fallon. OK. Does anybody know what the return policy is on a yacht? - because

I could be in a lot of trouble."

- Jimmy Kimmel

"Today was opening day for Major League Baseball. And it's a big deal here in New York. Yankees fans were like, 'Let's win it.' Mets fans were like, 'Let's have fun out there, you guys.'"

- Jimmy Fallon

"Former President George Bush has invited President Obama to the opening of his presidential library later this month. President Obama said he's looking forward to going through the library to see if there was anything else he could blame Bush for."

- Jay Leno

**"In Kentucky, a teenager was arrested for falsely yelling 'Bingo' in a Bingo hall. It's being called the first-ever arrest that actually diminished someone's street cred."**

- Conan O'Brien

**"The Sweet 16 starts tomorrow. I watch these college kids play basketball and I think to myself, 'I hope they're not neglecting their school work.'"**

- David Letterman

man brain. And believe me, if anybody needs a map to find their brain, it's Congress."

- Jay Leno

"Yesterday President Obama shot baskets at the White House and made only two shots out of 22. Even Dick Cheney was like, 'That guy needs to learn how to shoot.'"

- Jimmy Fallon

"President Obama went only two for 22. It's tough times for Obama — one minute, he's asking Congress to raise the debt ceiling; the next, he's asking them to lower the hoop."

- Jimmy Fallon

"President Obama is getting ready to unveil his new budget nine weeks after its original due date. Or as his dog Bo put it, 'Yeah, yeah. I ate the first draft. I know the drill.'"

- Jimmy Fallon

"Happy birthday to former Vice President Al Gore, 65 years old today. But sadly, he could not enjoy his party because he was so obsessed with how fast the ice cream was melting."

- Jay Leno

"Yesterday President Obama told reporters that his NCAA tournament bracket is busted. Obama said they were the worst picks he's ever made — then he looked at his economic advisers and said, 'Ehh, maybe not.'"

- Jimmy Fallon

"The Jews left Egypt and went to Florida. And they're still there."

- Conan O'Brien

special. They referred to each other as New Pope and Pope Classic."

- Craig Ferguson

"The Republican National Committee announced that it will spend \$10 million to reach out to Hispanic, Asian, and African-American voters — you know, to ask them not to vote."

- Jimmy Fallon

"A NASA official told Congress that if a meteor was on track to strike the U.S., Americans should pray. Even Pope Francis was like, 'That's your Plan A.'"

- Jimmy Fallon

"The Associated Press, the largest newsgathering outlet in the world, will no longer use the term 'illegal immigrant.' That is out. They will now use the phrase 'undocumented Democrat.'"

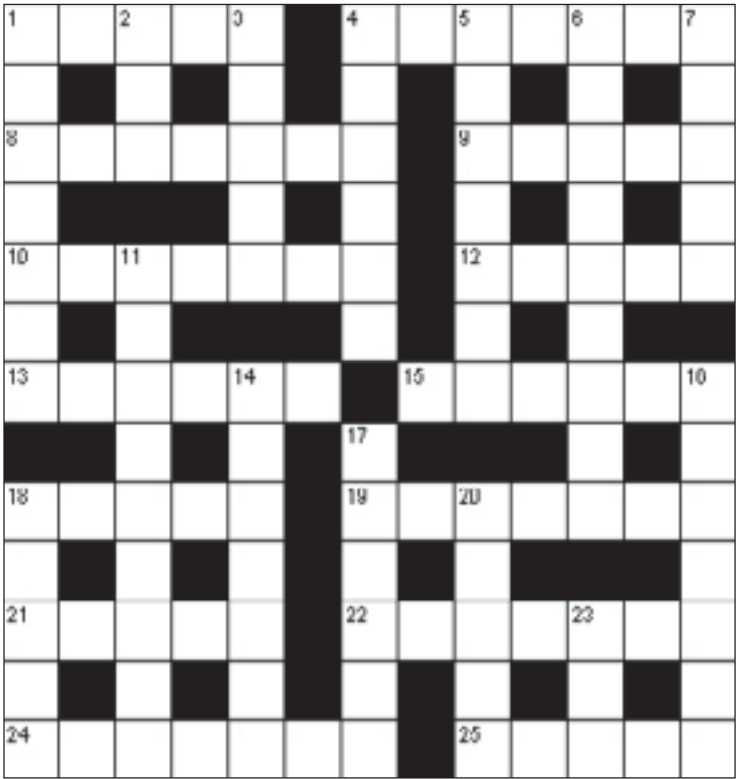
- Jay Leno

"Today President Obama asked Congress for \$100 million to map the hu-





silly sign



Across

- 1. Danger (5)
- 4. Percussion instrument (7)
- 8. Deliberated (7)
- 9. Molten rock (5)
- 10. Marine mollusks (7)
- 12. Similar (5)
- 13. Martial art (4,2)
- 15. Rigorous (6)
- 18. Assumed name (5)
- 19. Accumulated (7)
- 21. Similar to a giraffe (5)
- 22. Dizziness (7)
- 24. Perpetual (7)
- 25. Book of maps (5)

Down

- 1. Security device (7)

- 2. Bone (3)
- 3. Supple (5)
- 4. Plain (6)
- 5. Fortification (7)
- 6. Enlarges (9)
- 7. Astound (5)
- 11. Consortium (9)
- 14. Mode (7)
- 16. Irksome (7)
- 17. Wonder (6)
- 18. Repent (5)
- 20. Artery (5)
- 23. Unwell (3)

Solution will appear in next issue.

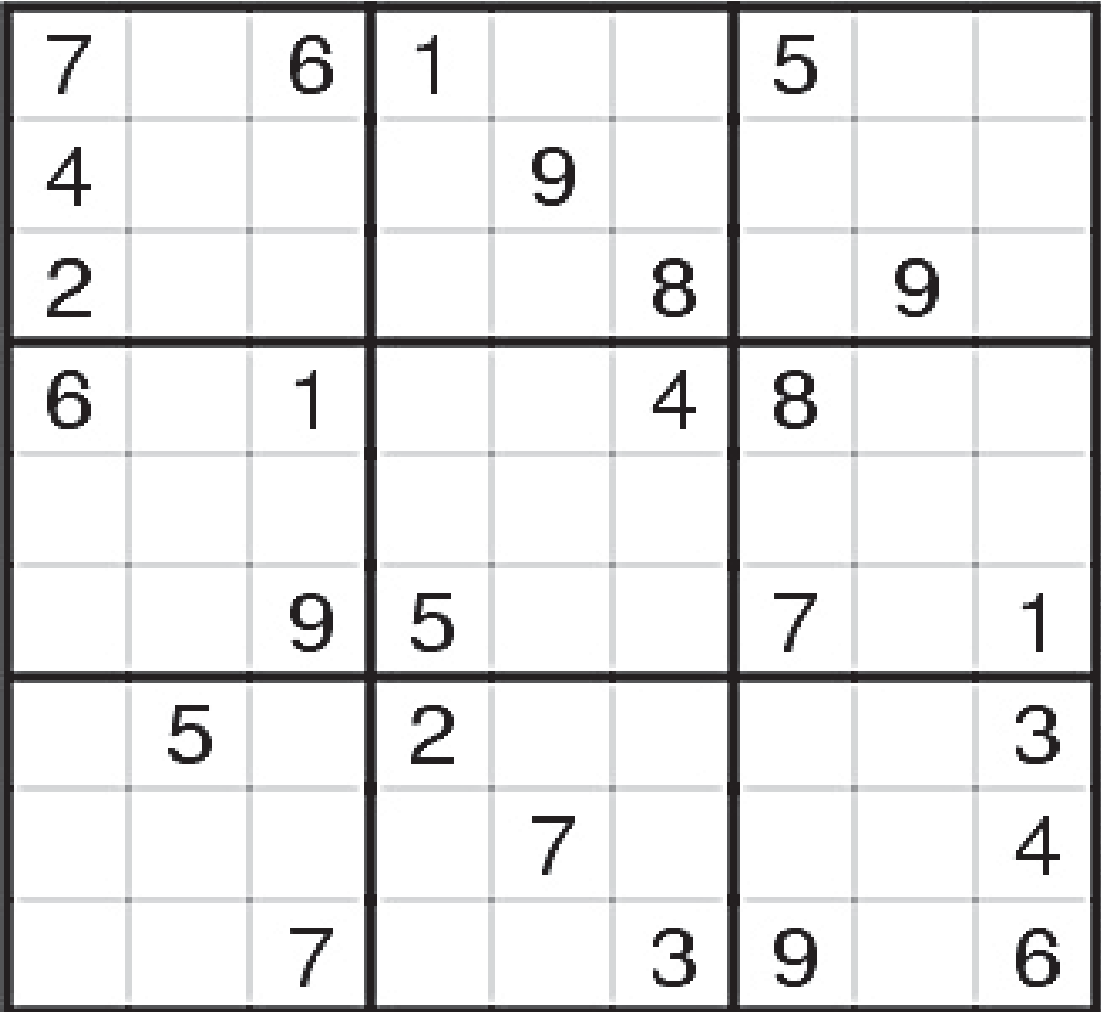
Solutions to last issue's puzzles



Especially those decked out in orange..

Sudoku

has a unique solution that can be reached logically. Enter numbers into the blank spaces so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

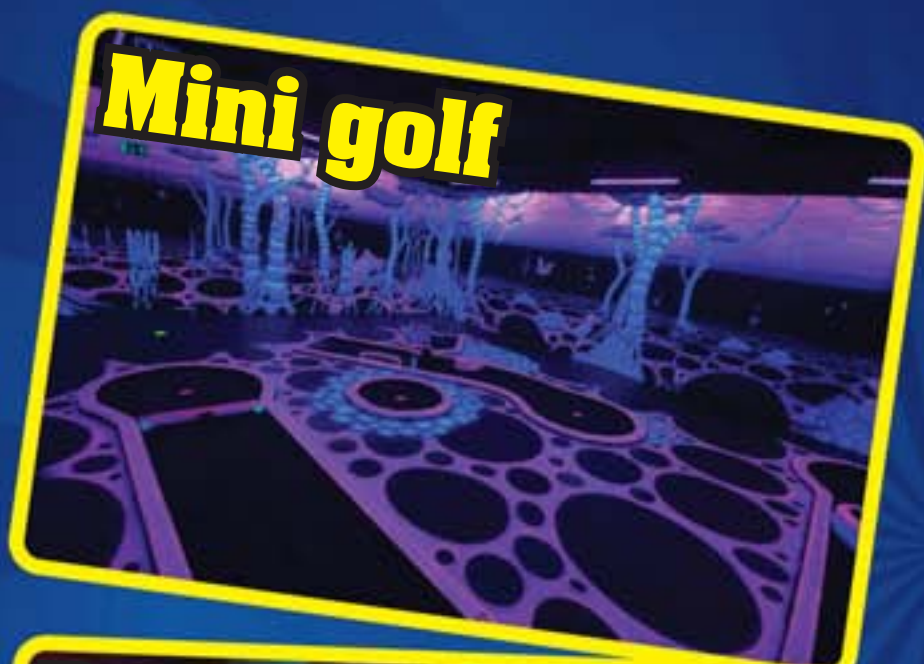






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