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Vol. IV No. 22 (#117) June 25, 2015 • 8 Tammuz 5775 Free

## Ateret Cohanim Honors Its Founder, Celebrates Silwan Properties At Gala Event In Queens

*Event also marked organization's 36th anniversary*



SEE STORY ON P. 28

## Altruism Meets Adventure: Orthodox Queens Teenager Set To Cover 3,000 Miles In Bike Ride For Charity



Ephraim Fruchter

SEE STORY ON P. 29

## New York State Assembly Passes Resolution Rejecting BDS Movement

*Resolution introduced by Assemblyman Walter Mosley overwhelmingly condemns BDS, supports Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state*



SEE STORY ON P. 55

<p><b>Middle Of The Road</b></p> <p><i>What I Want To Be – Or What I Ought To Be</i></p> <p><b>By R' Yehuda L. Oppenheimer</b></p> <p><b>W</b>e are living in strange times. More and more, it seems that it</p> <p>CONTINUED ON P. 41</p>	<p><b>Blue And White</b></p> <p><i>NFL In Israel</i></p> <p><b>By Shmuel Sackett</b></p> <p><b>W</b>hile my articles are generally about Israel and the need for Jews to be a strong and proud nation, this article may seem out of place since I will now write about... the NFL. Don't worry, I have not "fumbled the ball," nor have any of my ideas been "inter-</p> <p>CONTINUED ON P. 25</p>	<p><b>From Our Rabbinic Consultant</b></p> <p><i>Crazy Is The New Normal</i></p> <p><b>By R' Yoel Schonfeld</b></p> <p><b>E</b>lsewhere in this paper you will find a well-written article by Rabbi Oppenheimer on many of the unsettling innovations taking</p> <p>CONTINUED ON P. 21</p>	<p><b>Shabbos Inbox</b></p> <p><i>Worrying About Worrying</i></p> <p><i>Worrying is like paying on a debt that may never come due.</i> -- Will Rodgers</p> <p><b>By Eytan Kobre</b></p> <p><b>T</b>he people of Chelm could not help but worry incessantly about everything</p> <p>CONTINUED ON P. 11</p>	<p><b>Financially Forward</b></p> <p><i>Israel's Incredible Drought-Fighting Technologies</i></p> <p><b>By Gerald Harris</b></p> <p><b>G</b>ood news: Amazing new drought-fighting products, techniques, and technologies are starting to be commercialized. As a group, they will</p> <p>CONTINUED ON P. 23</p>
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## Stories Of Greatness

R' Dovid Hoffman

# A Tale Of Two Types Of Talmudic Scholars

In Eastern Europe close to one hundred years ago, most of the elite *yeshivos* were situated in Lithuania. R' Meir Shapiro zt"l, the Lubliner Rav, and a Jewish delegate to the Polish Parliament (Sejm), had a dream of creating a *yeshivah* of renown in Poland, to rival and even exceed the Lithuanian prototype. But before doing so, he felt the need to travel to Lithuania and meet with many

sion of Talmud study in Lithuania, with its characteristics of strong discipline, persistent, assiduous study, and an essential inner love of the Torah for its own sake.

One day, though, he was asked to detail the basic characteristic differences in the ways of study between Poland and Lithuania. Can the Rav define and pinpoint the deviations between a Polish scholar

*'Tell me, what are you thinking about? Why have you suddenly become so thoughtful?'*

of the venerable *Roshei Yeshivah* there to talk the matter through with them. With thoughtful consultation and wise counsel, he believed he would find the right way of study to implant in his *yeshivah*, Yeshivas Chachmei Lublin.

In its own way, R' Meir's journey throughout the *yeshivah* world proved to be a triumphal procession for the great *rav*. At every destination, he was welcomed with the utmost enthusiasm, even by the characteristically less expressive Lithuanians. There were those who initially had various doubts and misgivings, questions and misconceptions, about the grandiose scope of his projected *yeshivah*, but after they met him, they accepted it - and his dynamic personality - wholeheartedly.

He started in Radin, by the holy Chofetz Chaim zt"l, and from there traveled on to Baranovitch, Mir, Kletzk and Slabodka. It was a fulfilling trip and R' Meir learned a great deal, as well as imparted a flavor of Polish Chassidic Jewry. All who met him were impressed with his profound Torah knowledge and charisma. When he was finished, he returned home and gave a historical survey of the formation of the two groups of *yeshivos* in the two lands: Poland and Lithuania.

He described the substantive differences between the two, and showed how variations in their lifestyles had arisen out of the differences in the conditions of life between Poland and Lithuania. In Poland, he maintained, from a pupil's earliest years of Talmud study, the emphasis had always been on a clear understanding and retention of the textual material, and hence, not enough time could be spent on attention to profundity in the study and comprehension in depth. This, said R' Meir, was the historical reason for the formation and development of what came to be known as Polish *pilpul*.

In general, the Lubliner Rav brought back with him a very favorable impres-

and a Lithuanian scholar? "Of course," he replied with his charismatic twinkle and facetious wit. "It's quite similar to the basic differences that exists between a *chasid* and a *misnaged* (one who rejects the *chasidic* style). Let me explain what I mean with an illustrative example.

"One day, a *chasid* and a *misnaged* were sitting together and studying a portion of Masechta Sukkah, and they duly came to the well-known account: It is told about the holy Tanna, Rav Yonasan ben Uziel, that when he would sit and become deeply involved in his Torah study, any bird that flew over his head would be burned up immediately.

"At that, the study partners fell silent, each lost in thought. After a moment or two, the *misnaged* turned to his friend, the *chasid*, and asked, 'Tell me, what are you thinking about? Why have you suddenly become so thoughtful?'

"Replied the *chasid*, 'I was just meditating about the extraordinary, paranormal, superhuman degree of holiness that this Talmudic sage attained - enough to create such a profound physical alteration in the atmosphere over his head. And I keep wondering how a person can get to such a high level of sanctity. What is the way that leads to a holiness like that?'

"The *chasid* finished speaking and he, too, noticed that the *misnaged* was far away in the realm of pure thought. So he asked in turn, 'And what are you thinking about?' The other replied, 'I was wondering what the law should be about the bird. According to the Talmudic laws of damages, if that bird belonged to somebody, would Rav Yonasan ben Uziel have to pay him for it? Is this a case of *grama b'nezakin*, where he was indirectly involved in the damage to the bird, or *grama b'yadayim*, in which case he caused the bird's death as directly as if he had killed it with his own hands?'

"And there," concluded R' Meir with an elfin smile, "you have a clear illustration of the difference between the Polish and Lithuanian styles of Talmud study."

**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://israelbookshoppublishings.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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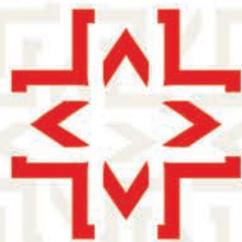


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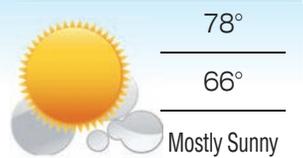
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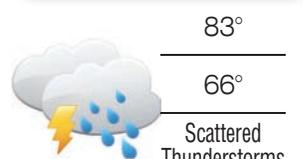
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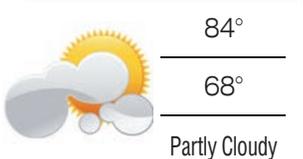
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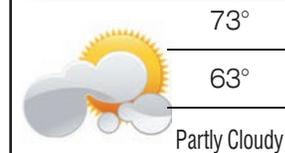
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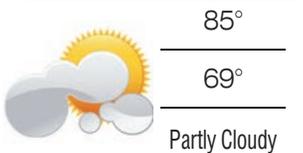
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# Worrying About Worrying

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

under the sun. So they called a town meeting to mull over the problem and potential solutions. In the end, they decided to hire Yossel, the town cobbler, to be the sole Jew in town authorized to worry on behalf of the entire community. For the job, Yossel would be paid a weekly salary of 5 rubles.

Just then, one elderly woman piped up, "Wait! If Yossel earns 5 rubles a week what could he possibly worry about?"

We Jews are natural-born worriers. If there is something to worry about, we're on it. Like the old witticism about a Jewish telegram: "Start worrying. Details to follow."

Now, don't get me wrong—as a people, we've had good reason to worry over the years. History has made sure of that. But on an individual basis there really is never a cause for worry. Worry is not real; it is self-inflicted. It accomplishes nothing. And what we worry about rarely, if ever, materializes.

Before entering the Land of Israel, the Jewish people learned this the hard way. After mourning the passing of Miriam and Aharon, the Jewish people complained to G-d and to Moshe that there was "no bread and no water" (Bamidbar 21:5). But, as a matter of fact, they had ample water from the well and were enjoying the Mann. They simply worried that they would not have water and bread at some unspecified point in the future (Mincha Belula, Bamidbar 21:5). They epitomized the faithless worrywart "who has bread in his basket yet asks what they will eat tomorrow" (Sota 48b). G-d immediately sent deadly serpents to kill many of them (Bamidbar 21:6).

Of course, inasmuch as worrying is a sign of sincere concern, it can be a good thing (Orchos Tzaddikim, Gate Ten: Gate of Worry). We should worry about spiritual matters (Tehillim 38:19; Sanhedrin 106b; cf. Berachos 60a [it is permissible to fear the potential forgetting of Torah]), and certain inauspicious forebodings should be cause for alarm (Yoma 88a). Only one who worries is privileged to be permitted to study certain mystical parts of the Torah (Chagiga 13a). Only the cynical Alfred E. Neumann, fictitious mascot of Mad Magazine, flipantly discounted all worry in mocking, "What, me worry?"

But worry essentially belies trust in G-d. One who truly trusts in G-d has no cause for worry (Chovos HaLevavos, Sha'ar HaBitachon; Michtav M'Eliyahu, vol. 2, pg. 262 and vol. 5, pg. 90). "Worry over attaining [or not attaining] anything in this world is extremely reprehensible and is not found at all in those who trust in G-d and believe in Him" (Orchos Tzaddikim, Gate Ten: Gate of Worry). Although one must make an effort to solve problems, worrying does not help. The stronger our trust in G-d, the less we worry.

"Worry and sorrow erode the heart and are the sickness of the body" (Orchos Tzaddikim, Gate Ten: The Gate of Worry). Worry is one of the three things that sap one's strength (Gittin 70a and Rashi *ad loc.*). And "anxiety kills even the most heroic of heroes" (Sanhedrin 100b). Worrying drains the life out of us (Menachos 103b; Keser Chochma 12:16). Indeed, R' Yisrael Salanter was wont to observe, "All worrying is forbidden,

except for worrying about being worried" (T'nu'as HaMussar, vol. 1, pg. 303).

Given the detriments of worry, we would do well to go out of our way to allay the worry of others.

R' Yisrael Salanter was accustomed to pray each morning at the same shul. One day, he failed to show at the designated time, and his worried students went to his house to check on him. When they arrived, they were told that R' Yisrael had left that morning at his usual time and he had not mentioned that he was going anywhere but his regular shul.

Now the students grew even more worried than before. Some stayed in town to pray for R' Yisrael's welfare, while others formed search parties and fanned out in all directions to find him.

Around midday, the students found R' Yisrael deep in the forest, still wrapped in Talis and Tefillin, sitting on a tree stump. The students began to sing and dance, joyful that their teacher was safe and sound.

When R' Yisrael asked why they were singing and dancing, the students explained that they had noticed his absence from shul that morning and grew more worried with each passing hour, and there were still people back in town who were worried about him.

Before the students could finish their account, R' Yisrael took off in the direction of the town. None of the much younger students could catch up to him until they all arrived breathless at the shul.

"Rebbi, why did you run so fast that even us youngsters couldn't catch you?"

R' Yisrael explained. "I went to the forest to spend time contemplating and improving my actions. When you told me that there were people still worried about me, I ran as fast as I could to ensure that no one worried for one moment longer than necessary."

But how do we unshackle ourselves from constant worry?

We must acknowledge the role we play in creating and perpetuating worry. We control our worries. They are not real. They are creatures of our imagination. We create them and we can dispense with them. "If there is worry in a man's heart, he should suppress it" (Mishlei 12:25)—*i.e.*, he should simply push it out of his mind or tell it to another person who will debunk it as nothing more than a figment of imagination (Yoma 75a). We can consciously choose to suppress it.

Our capacity to control whether and to what extent we worry is underscored by the attitude of R' Avrohom Borenstein, the Sochatchover Rebbe. Married to the daughter of the Kotzker Rebbe, he lived in dire poverty but never seemed to be concerned with his plight. His frustrated wife once asked him why their extreme poverty did not worry him. The Sochatchover explained, "Actually, I worry just like the next person. But, as you know, your father took me as a son-in-law because of my brilliant mind. What takes others an entire day to contemplate, I can think through in mere minutes. So while others spend their entire day worrying, I spend a few moments doing so. Then I get on with my day."

Worry also accomplishes nothing. "Worrying is like a rocking chair," observed Glenn Turner, "it gives you something to



do, but it gets you nowhere." R' Yechiel Michal of Zlotchov put it this way: "There are two things it is forbidden to worry about: that which it is possible to fix, and that which it is impossible to fix. What is possible to fix—just fix it, why worry? And what is impossible to fix—how will it help to worry?" (see also Pele Yo'etz, "Da'aga").

It is well known that when R' Elya Lopian waited for a bus, he would not turn

to see whether the bus was coming. He explained that there was no purpose in looking for the bus since his looking would not affect when the bus would arrive. Instead, he remained perfectly calm until the bus arrived.

Worry is pointless. It fails to achieve its purported intention—making tomorrow

CONTINUED ON P. 22

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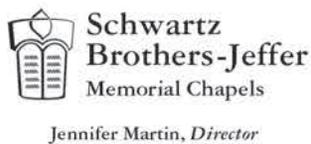
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## Faith And The Unknowable

*"This is the decree (hukkah) of the Torah, which G-d commanded saying: Speak to the children of Israel and they shall take to you a completely red cow, without blemish..."*

– (BaMidbar 19:2)

The law of the red heifer contains a basic contradiction. Its function is to purify the impure and yet the preparer of this solution becomes himself impure by touching it. How could the power to purify and its opposite, the power to defile, coexist in the same essence? Thus, Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai explained this paradox to his students: "Neither the corpse defiles nor the heifer or its waters purify. Rather, G-d said, 'I made a decree (hukkah) and you are not allowed to transgress my order'" (Tanhuma).

This law has become the paradigm of all the commandments. The Rabbis explain

this way the sentence that introduces the law of the red heifer: "This is the law (hukkah) of the Torah" rather than "this is the law of the heifer" means that the law of the red heifer contains all the principles of every other commandment in the Torah. Just as one may not understand the law of the red heifer, we may not comprehend any of the other laws of the Torah. Why would the Lawgiver create laws that Man may not comprehend? Are the laws irrational, lacking any meaning except the fact that G-d commanded them?

Rashi explains this verse as a debate between Israel and the nations. "Because Satan and the nations of the world torment the Jewish People by saying, 'What is this mitzvah of Para Aduma? What is the reason for it?'" Therefore, the Torah writes, "This is the hukkah of the Torah." It is My decree

and you are not permitted to comprehend it."

There are some who would explain this phenomenon as educating us into being obedient of the Supreme King. By simply following His commandments without our seeking the reasons behind them, we declare our subjugating our will to His. However, Rashi offers us a glimpse that a profound intellectual divide separates the faith of Israel from the other nations. The nations represent the philosophy that the only acceptable truths are those that can be explained by our reason, and everything outside of our logic is false. They believe that they should be able to grasp the logic behind any concept, and therefore demand the reason for the mitzvah. They are unwilling to subjugate their intellect to their Creator, while the Jewish people affirm a faith

that is radically different from this philosophy. This arrogance of the nations is precisely what the Torah wishes to counter by giving us laws we do not understand such as the law of the *Parah Aduma*.

This conceit and overconfidence inherent in Man's belief that he may understand everything is most evident in Western civilization and its source in Greek science and philosophy. The Greeks advanced scientific research by their curiosity in understanding physical phenomena and charting their development and causation. However, the driving force behind this research was the belief that the human mind could understand everything, that there was no mystery that human reason could not unlock.

This philosophy, represented by the philosopher Gottfried Leibniz, was called the theory of "sufficient reason," namely that everything happens for a reason. Modern science has begun to question this fundamental principle of Western civilization. In fact, many mathematicians today use mathematics to show that mathematics itself has limitations. Kurt Gödel demonstrated that there are certain true statements that may not be proved using the rules of mathematical logic (*Scientific American*, March 2006). In general, modern science is altering the simple assumption that Man is capable of understanding everything and that Reason has its limits. Our system of reasoning is incomplete, because some truths are improvable. The overconfidence in reason known as rationalism has placed upon logic and mathematics, law and morality, demands for consistency and completeness that can never be satisfied. Thus, a perfectly understood universe is beyond our reach.

This is the message of the Torah. The mitzvot have a reason; it is just that we cannot comprehend it. The Torah emanates from a Supreme Intelligence and therefore it is inconceivable that this Intellect created laws devoid of reason or meaning. Rather, we must believe that the reason behind the laws is beyond human understanding at this stage in our development.

The Vilna Gaon compared this concept to looking at a globe and seeing that one tiny dot represents an entire country. We see only a dot but the reality has numerous details, activity, color, and dimensions that are not visible on the globe. Similarly, every mitzvah is like a little dot: All we see is the tiny representation of an infinite universe that is beyond our intellect or imagination.

Rashi said that the attitude of the nations "torments" us with their criticism of our philosophy. Yet, modern science is showing that Israel's philosophy of recognizing the limits of reason and the acceptance of the unknowable is more harmonious with contemporary scientists than the previous simplistic philosophy of rationalism that prevailed until the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The submission to a Higher Intellect makes us more humble before the Creator and more "scientific" regarding the true nature of the Universe. This is the message that Israel delivers to the world: Accepting that you do not know everything enlarges you and connects you to a Higher Being.

**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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## Davening: The Third System

“And the Canaanite king of Arad who dwelled in the south heard that Israel had come by the route of the spies, and he waged war against Israel and took a captive from it.”

— Bamidbar 21:1

### The reputation of Yisrael

When Hashem took the Jewish nation out of *Mitzrayim* with an “outstretched arm,” most of Creation welcomed the news as a defining moment in history. The nation of *Amalek*, however, laid plans to attack Yisrael. The *pasuk* describes the “Canaanite king” who sat in the south and heard that Yisrael was coming. But Rashi points out that it wasn’t the Canaanite nation that lived in the south of Israel; it was *Amalek*. Why are they referred to as the “Canaanite?”

Rashi answers that according to the *Midrash*, the nation that attacked was *Amalek*. However, when they came close, they stopped speaking their mother tongue and switched to the language of Canaan. Their reasoning was that the Jews would hear them speaking and would assume that it was Canaan that was attacking them. The Jews would then *daven* to Hashem to save them “from Canaan.” Since these opponents were not from Canaan, the *tefilah* wouldn’t work. But their plan

failed because the Jews recognized something unusual. Yes, their enemies were speaking the language of Canaan, but they were dressed as *Amalekim*. Therefore, the Jews *davened* in neutral language: “Hashem, save us from this nation.” As a result, their *tefilah* was effective.

### The Question

It is clear from this Rashi that had the *Bnei Yisrael* *davened* incorrectly and said, “Hashem save us from *Canaan*,” their *tefilah* would not have worked. However, they were saved because they realized the trick and *davened* in a manner that included all possibilities.

This Rashi is very difficult to understand. What difference would it make what expression the Jews used? Hashem would know what they meant. The Jewish nation was in trouble, faced with an enemy attacking, and they called out to their Creator. Why would it matter whether they referred to the attackers as Canaan or *Amalek*? Hashem would know what they were referring to, and if they

were worthy of being saved, Hashem would listen.

The answer to this question cuts to the very underpinning of how prayer works.

### Why daven?

One of the most basic question that a person should ask about *tefilah* in general is, “Why should we daven?” Hashem is the ultimate Giver. Hashem is infinitely more generous and benevolent than any person. He loves every one of His creations more than we can ever imagine. That being said, why should we ask Hashem for anything? If what we are asking for is truly good for us, then Hashem would have

One of the most basic question that a person should ask about *tefilah* in general is, “Why should we daven?”

given it to us already. And if it isn’t good for us, why should we ask for it?

The answer to this question is based on understanding that *tefilah* functions in three distinct systems.

### The Growth System

The first is the “growth system.” By *davening*, we change ourselves. *Tefilah* is a method that allows us to recognize certain truths and to live them.

The reality is that we mortals get caught up in the ways of nature and tend to forget that Hashem is present and that it is He who runs the world. When we need something and recognize that we are incapable of filling that need, it forces us to reach out to our Creator. We then come to the core realization that He alone is in charge. That process changes us and helps us grow. So, it could well be that before we *davened*, we weren’t worthy of having our requests granted, but via the process of *davening* we *changed*, and now we merit it. For this reason, Hashem will often hold back things specifically so that man should ask, because that is what he needs to grow. This is the first system of prayer, whereby a person changes as a result of *davening*.

### The Mercy System

The second system of *davening* is the “mercy system.” Our relationship with Hashem is that of a child to a father. Hashem loves us and has great compassion on us. The second system of *davening* takes advantage of that relationship. We call out to Hashem to help us not because we are worthy, but rather as a son who calls out to his father and asks him to have mercy. This system recognizes that we may well not be worthy of receiving that which we ask for, not before *davening* nor after, but we ask Hashem to overlook who we are and to give us what we need. We attempt to arouse the *midah* of *rachamim*.

### The Avodah System

Chazal tell us that Hashem said to Moshe, “I will teach you something that you will need to know as the leader of this nation. There will be times when the Jewish people will be in trouble, and even their own merit and the merit of the *Avos* will not help them. When this happens, you are to call out the thirteen attributes of Hashem. Say the words, ‘*Hashem, Hashem Kel rachum v’chanun...*’ and I will forgive their sins.”

The question is: how does this work? *Klal Yisrael* didn’t change via that *tefilah*. They didn’t become more worthy because of it, and if it is just an issue of arousing Hashem’s mercy, why those specific words said in that specific manner?

The answer to this is that Hashem created certain systems of *avodah* that affect the world. Just as there are laws of nature and physical actions that affect the world, so, too, Hashem created an upper world, and various actions affect it. In the time of the *Beis HaMikdash*, if a person lived through a *Yom Kippur*, the *korbanos* of that day brought him forgiveness. Even if he wasn’t attuned to what was going on, even if he wasn’t in *Yerushalayim*, and even if he slept through the entire day, just the fact that he was alive while the *Kohen Gadol* did the *avodah* brought him a certain level of forgiveness for his sins.

However, there are certain rules to the system. The process is demanding and exact. Any deviation and it doesn’t work. Much like an otherwise-perfect radio can’t function if it is missing just one transistor, so too in the *avodah*. Any missing detail and the system doesn’t function.

This seems to be the answer to this Rashi. The *Amalekim* were very sophisticated and were aware of the powerful functioning of the upper world, and they did their best to interrupt the Jews’ use of that system. They tried to trick the Jews so that they would *daven* incorrectly and thereby negate the third system of *tefilah*, which might have made all the difference as to whether the *tefilah* worked.

Even though the Jews *davened* with *kavanah* and Hashem knew what they meant, that *tefilah* would not have carried the full power because it was inaccurate and couldn’t utilize the third system of *davening*.

This concept is very relevant to us. While we strive to make our *davening* passionate and vibrant, the reality is that there will be occasions when we will find it difficult to concentrate or to feel a real emotional connection to Hashem. It is at those times that we need to remember that *chazal* used a highly defined system to create the *tefilos* that we say. The effect of the words themselves is well beyond anything that we can imagine. While it is not the ultimate goal in *davening*, just mouthing the words can have a huge impact and change our destiny.

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Born and bred in Kew Gardens Hills, R' Ben Tzion 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.

## Here Comes The Bride, All Dressed In ... Toilet Paper?



The wedding dresses have it all -- long trains, full layered skirts, floral appliqués, ruffles and sparkling bodices. Their detailing is the kind you see on designer gowns made of silk and lace. But they're not. They're all made out of toilet paper.

The gowns were showcased at the finale of the annual Cheap Chic Weddings Toilet Paper Wedding Dress Contest in New York last Wednesday. Ten designers vying for a \$10,000 prize painstakingly putting them together from the most basic materials.

The rules were simple, according to contest co-creator Laura Gawne. "They have to use Charmin toilet paper, any kind of tape, any kind of glue and they can use needle and thread," she said.

"No closures, no Velcro, nothing. No attachment of fabric, nothing," said her co-creator, Susan Bain.

The sisters Bain and Gawne began the competition to promote their wedding site. The contest, now in its 11th edition, is held in conjunction with toilet paper brand Charmin.

This year, it was held at a bridal store which will turn the winning dress into a ready-to-wear gown.

Before the show began, designers applied the final touches as models held onto toilet rolls needed for the add-ons.

"We have 4,585 petals that were all hand-cut and traced," the designer who came in third place said of her floral dress. "We used tape, glue and Charmin."

The winner was a tuxedo-style halter-neck dress with a removable jacket, accessorized with a top hat and bow tie, by Donna Pope Vincler. She said it took her about three months, 22 rolls and lots of tape and glue to make.

"It's amazing how strong glue and toilet paper can be. After I made it I was hitting on it like a drum ... it's very sturdy," she said. "I don't even know how many layers (there are) - I just did it until I thought it would stay together."

## Man Captures Unbelievable Photo Of Raccoon Riding Alligator



Florida man says he snapped a picture that's truly "only in Florida" -- of a raccoon riding on top of an

alligator.

Richard Jones said took the photo while he and his family walked along a river in one of the state's national forests.

Jones said the raccoon must have been startled by the family, and hopped on top of the alligator near the river's bank.

"I snapped a lucky picture right when the gator slipped into the water and before the raccoon jumped off and scurried away. Without the context you'd think the raccoon was hitching a ride across the river. Pretty amazing," Jones said. "Definitely the photo of a lifetime."

## Prank Video Shows NYC Meter Maid Lifting 1.5-Ton Taxi Cab



YouTube pranksters rigged a vehicle made to look like a New York City taxi cab so a woman could lift it over her head without much effort.

In a promotional video for an application called Car Lister, two actors portrayed a cab driver parked illegally and a meter maid ready to enforce her authority. Pedestrians reacted with shock and disbelief -- one in particular uses his old rotary phone extension to report what he just witnessed to a friend.

After a brief verbal altercation between the two actors, the one dressed as a meter maid effectively lifts the front (and heaviest) end of the yellow SUV with a loud, prolonged scream. Each time, New Yorkers' jaws dropped with awe; there wasn't any obvious indication that the vehicle was doctored.

"How 'bout I show you how to move, huh?" she asked the driver in one scene. "It's the incredible Hulk!" a witness exclaimed. Afterward, the woman doing the heavy lifting allowed onlookers to try for themselves, revealing the illusion.

## German Man Cuts Possessions In Half After Bad Breakup

A German man recorded himself cutting shared possessions including a TV, an iPhone and a car in half after a breakup and posted the halved items on eBay.

The man wrote in accompanying text he was splitting his possessions in half after a breakup.

"Thank you for 12 'beautiful' years Laura," the text in the YouTube video reads in German, "you've really earned half!"

He then proceeds to cut through items including an iPhone, chairs, a flatscreen TV, a bed, and a car.

"Greetings to my successor!" he wrote in the video's description.

The man then posted the halved items on eBay with starting prices of a single euro, or \$1.14.

The items posted on eBay also include



halves of a couch, a bicycle, a cordless phone, a motorcycle helmet, a teddy bear and an Apple laptop computer.

## School Creates 'Texting Lane' For Phone-Focused Walkers



One Utah university is giving students glued to their cellphones a place to call their own: a designated lane for texting while walking.

The neon green lanes painted on the stairs to the gym at Utah Valley University were intended as a lighthearted way to brighten up the space and get students' attention.

And it worked. A picture of the lanes -- which divide the stairs into sections for runners, walkers and texters -- created widespread buzz on social media this month after it was posted online.

Though the lanes are limited to the school's recreation center, one student wouldn't mind seeing them catch on across campus.

"There's nothing worse than walking behind someone who's texting, and you can't get around them and go anywhere," she said. She added smartphone messaging -- whether through texts, Twitter, Snapchat or Instagram -- is a big part of how her generation communicates, and it's cool to see the college acknowledge it.

Another student says the lanes touch on a cultural reality in an age of ubiquitous cellphones.

"It's kind of funny. You walk down the hallway and instead of saying hi, everyone is walking and texting," she said. Though the lanes weren't designed to curb a texting problem on campus, about half of students who see the lanes really use them.

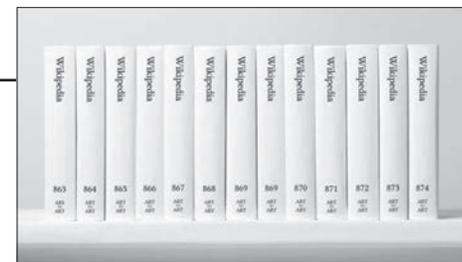
Though the concept hasn't been done at any other colleges, it's not the first time anywhere that it's been tried.

A Chinese city last year created a smartphone sidewalk lane that was intended to be ironic while also reminding people that staring at phones while on the go can be dangerous.

Officials said they got the idea from a similar stretch of pavement in Washington, D.C., created by National Geographic Television as part of a behavior experiment. The smartphone lanes attracted attention there too, but people using their phones generally didn't notice them.

## New York Artist Creating 7,600-Volume 'Print Edition' Of Wikipedia

New York artist's latest project is part of his larger quest to create a 7,600-volume print edition of Wiki-



pedia that would be sold for \$500,000.

Michael Mandiberg said he spent the past three years designing software to convert the 11.5 million entries on Wikipedia into a print-friendly format that will be uploaded to a print-on-demand website in a process visitors to an art gallery can watch as part of his "From Aaaa! to ZZZap!" exhibition.

The upload is expected to take about two weeks and will be projected for gallery visitors until July 2.

The exhibition is part of Mandiberg's ongoing "Print Wikipedia" project.

"Print Wikipedia is a both a utilitarian visualization of the largest accumulation of human knowledge and a poetic gesture towards the futility of the scale of big data," the project's website reads.

Mandiberg said the final product is expected to be about 7,600 volumes, with the contents comprising 91 volumes on its own.

"When I started, I wondered, 'What if I took this new thing and made it into that old thing?'" Mandiberg said. "What would it look like?"

The full set will be available for purchase for a measly \$500,000.

## 60 Pizza-Makers Create Nearly Mile-Long 'Pie' In Milan



The wait was on the long side for the pizza -- 18 hours -- but this was an extraordinary pie: 1.59545 kilometers, or nearly a mile long.

More than 60 of Italy's best pizza-makers worked through the night to create the pizza at Milan's world fair, Expo 2015. Their toil was rewarded with a proclamation by Guinness World Records judge that it was the world's longest pizza. Expo organizers said the record-setting pie, made with 1.5 tons of mozzarella and 2 tons of tomato sauce, weighed some 5 tons in all.

The creation topped the record of a 1.1415-kilometer-long pizza made in Spain.

Fair-goers could eat slices of the Milan pizza for free.

## Police: Man Drives Himself To Police Station, Asks For DUI Arrest

Authorities say a man drove under the influence of alcohol to a small-town Kentucky police station, where he requested that officers arrest him.

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The man drove last Tuesday night to the station and slammed on his brakes, nearly hitting a police cruiser. The man approached officers and said he was ready to go to jail for DUI.

He told police he drank a pint before driving to the station. Police say he also attempted to drink a closed bottle of fuel injector cleaning fluid, but officers stopped him.

He was charged with driving under the influence.

## Six-Year-Old Plays 100 Holes Of Golf For Charity



A 6-year-old Massachusetts boy has raised \$25,000 for cancer research by playing 100 holes of golf in one day in memory of a classmate who died of the disease.

Ryan McGuire completed the golf marathon last Wednesday.

Ryan played the 100 holes in memory of a kindergarten buddy named Danny, who died in April of a rare and inoperable form of pediatric brain cancer.

He got the idea to play 100 holes of golf because his mother is the program director

of Golf Fights Cancer, a nonprofit organization that encourages golfers to play and raise money for cancer-related charities.

Ryan said that he "just wanted to do it for Danny."

## Couple Runs Onto Airport Tarmac To Stop Plane



An Italian couple ran out onto the tarmac of Malta's international airport to stop a jet from leaving for Italy without them, a court heard last Thursday.

The couple got stuck in traffic on their way to the airport last Wednesday. By the time they arrived, the gate was closed and they were not allowed on board.

They went to the next gate, forced open a security door, ran to the apron and began signaling to the pilots to let them on the plane. The engines were running and the stairs had been removed.

The two were not allowed on board and were arrested by security staff.

The couple was fined 2,329 euros (\$2,656).

## Report Of Plane Crash Actually A Truck Bath



Ambulances, law enforcement officers and several emergency responders rushed to a property in southwest Missouri upon receiving a report of a possible plane crash.

Instead, they found a man washing his jet-powered semi truck - named "Shockwave" - last Monday afternoon.

Owner Neal Darnell's new neighbors called 911 after hearing the loud noise and seeing smoke over their tree line.

Darnell said he recently raced the vehicle, which can reach 376 miles per hour, on a dirt course so it needed to be washed. To wash the 36,000-horsepower truck, Darnell has to use its jet engines, which causes a lot of noise and white smoke.

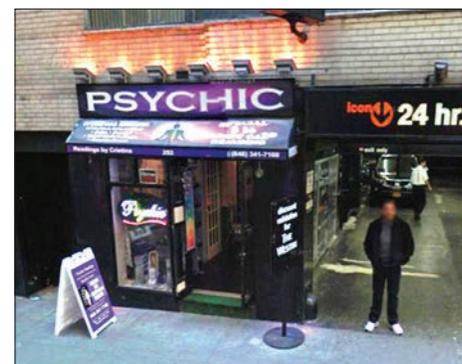
"We do it from time to time and it will usually generate a couple of 911 calls, but today for some reason it brought out a whole army of emergency vehicles," Darnell said. He also said he doesn't blame the neighbors for being concerned.

A sheriff's deputy said no citations were issued and that the 911 callers had acted in good faith because they believed someone might be in danger.

Darnell said he takes Shockwave to

truck shows across the country, where it does things like setting stacks of cars on fire or racing fighter planes.

## Man Says Fortuneteller Scammed Him Out \$700K



A New York man who sought help from a fortuneteller to fix a romantic relationship says she scammed him out of more than \$700,000.

Now the allegations have the Manhattan psychic, Priscilla Delmaro, and another person facing charges of grand larceny.

The 32-year-old Brooklyn man told police he consulted Delmaro in August 2013 who told him that evil spirits were keeping him from a woman he claimed to love and wanted to be with who did not share his same affections.

The man said that the 26-year-old psychic told him that he and the woman were being kept apart by negativity. Delmaro told him spirits talked to her, so he made multiple payments to her over 20 months.

CONTINUED ON P. 19

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LIC # 1467269

# Snippets Of Strange

CONTINUED FROM P. 18

According to the man, those payments included \$80,000 for an 80-mile bridge she said would trap evil spirits into another realm, a \$30,000 Rolex she claimed would cleanse the sins of his past and \$40,064 for a Tiffany diamond ring to “protect his energy,” along with other payments totaling as much as \$40,000.

The man told police he had spent hundreds of thousands of dollars before finding out in February 2014 that Michelle had died. But, the man said that Delmaro said she could be reincarnated.

More payments and a trip to seek out the “new” Michelle followed before the man said he decided to go to police. By then, he said he was out \$713,975.

Delmaro was arrested on May 26, and remains jailed.

## Pork-Eating Israeli Soldier Spared Detention After Outcry

An Israeli soldier was spared 11 days in detention for eating pork, the military said last Tuesday, after a public outcry.

Local media said the soldier, an American immigrant, was not aware that his ham sandwich, obtained off-base, was in breach of religious dietary restrictions enforced on military premises.

“Bottom line - we made a mistake,” armed forces spokesman Brigadier-General Moti Almoz said on Facebook of the sentence.

“There are tensions in Israeli society, and there are varied positions and opinions. In the IDF, there is room for everyone,” he said.

## Woman Reunited With Her Dog After 7 Years



A South Florida woman has been reunited with her Boston Terrier who ran away seven years ago.

Julie Arango got a call last Sunday saying her dog, Lola, who ran away from her home in Miami seven years ago after digging a hole under a fence, has been found.

A former veterinary technician said someone was giving Lola away for free on Craigslist after caring for her for almost seven years. The vet tech took Lola to a vet, discovered the info on the microchip and got in touch with Arango, her former owner. Arango says she never thought she would see her dog again.

Last Monday, Arango and her daughter drove to Fort Lauderdale to be reunited with their long-lost pet.

## Zoo Animals On The Loose In Georgia After Deadly Flooding

The country of Georgia mobilized its special forces last Sunday and warned residents in the capital not

to leave their homes after lions, tigers and bears — among other animals — escaped during floods that have claimed at least 12 human lives.

Heavy rains and wind hit the area overnight last Saturday, turning a normally small stream that runs through the hilly city into a surging river.

The surging floodwater destroyed enclosures at the zoo, killing some animals and letting loose others.

Helicopters were circling the city and residents were told to stay indoors except in case of an emergency.



A spokeswoman for the zoo said that many of the animals were killed in the flooding or by special forces, but it was not known how many remained at large.

“Not many animals are still on the loose but it is difficult to say how many are still out there,” she said.

Footage showed a hippopotamus roaming the streets, while a bear could be seen climbing around an apartment window. The hippo was cornered in one of the city’s main squares and subdued with a tranquilizer gun.

Six wolves were also shot in a yard at an infectious diseases hospital.

Some officials accused authorities of using unnecessary force against the wild beasts. The zoo director said one of the park’s most beloved attractions, a young white lion named Shumba, had been found shot in the head.

“Our Shumba is no more,” he lamented. “It’s simply possible that someone exceeded his authority.”

The nation’s Finance Minister estimated the damage bill was \$20 million.

## Driver Busted On Camera Eating A Bowl Of Cereal Behind The Wheel

A British cyclist wearing a helmet-mounted camera captured footage of an unusual type of distracted driver -- a woman eating a bowl of cereal at the wheel.

David Williams was riding his bicycle past slow-moving traffic when he spotted the motorist with one hand on the wheel and the other holding a bowl of cereal.

Williams circled the woman’s SUV and approached the passenger window.

“Put that down! You’re on camera -- you’re going to the police. I’ve got your number,” Williams said in the video, which he posted to YouTube and Twitter. “Absolutely ridiculous. Absolutely ridiculous -- you’re a danger.”



The motorist drove off with the bowl still in her hand, leaving Williams to have an incredulous conversation with the driver of a car behind the woman.

“She’s eating her breakfast, she’s eating a bowl of cereal,” Williams told the other driver.

Police said they have been in contact with Williams.

“When we became aware of the video, we direct messaged the original tweet-

er,” police said. “We have an officer going around to get the footage -- once we have it, inquiries will get under way. We are keen to use the footage as an example. We are well aware and the matter is in hand.”

## Would-Be Good Samaritan Back In New York Jail



A man whose failed Good Samaritan gesture landed him in jail is back behind bars.

Police say 31-year-old Christopher Ratcliffe was trying to get donations for a non-existent foundation on June 8, the same day he tried to free a man whose leg was trapped under a riding mower.

Police say Ratcliffe attempted to free the man by pulling the mower with a rope attached to Ratcliffe’s vehicle. Ratcliffe drove forward instead of backward and knocked the man and mower over a 12-foot embankment. The mower landed on the man, who suffered minor injuries.

Ratcliffe was ticketed for an uninsured, uninspected and unregistered vehicle.

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# President Obama's Supposed Jewishness

In a poll published last week by J Street – the uber-liberal, so-called pro-Israel group that generally backs President Obama's Middle East policies – has the president's approval rating is the mid-50s. As ratings go, it is definitely not bad, but what is interesting is that this poll follows a high profile and concerted effort by the administration to reassure American Jews that he has the best interests of Israel and Jews worldwide at heart. The White House launched this outreach in April after weeks of public tensions with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the emerging Iran nuclear agreement.

This survey was conducted between May 31 and June 3, involving 1,000 Jewish adults, which showed a gain of 2 points – well within the 3.1 percent margin of error – over an April 10 Gallup poll that gave the president a 54% approval rating among American Jews. But what is striking about the recent poll is that it was taken after Obama began a full-throttle

charm offensive, giving interviews to two prominent Jewish reporters – Thomas Friedman of *The New York Times* and *The Atlantic's* Jeffrey Goldberg – in which he discussed his closeness to Israel, and another with a leading Israeli television

values was inspiring," he said. "So when I hear that disagreements over policy belie a general lack of support for Israel, I must object and object forcefully."

The White House emphasizes that proof of this is the level of defense as-

shaped him.

Noted columnist Charles Krauthammer, in response to this outrageous comment, said: "Perhaps the judgment of Israelis, who six million of them are Jews have a pretty good idea of what a Jew is and more importantly have a good idea of what a friend is. I think the approval rating for Obama is about 15% among Israelis. The overwhelming majority of the Israelis know that this president has been probably the least favorable to Israel of any in Israel's history and at a moment where Israel's existence is actually in question."

This "Juden Freint" (friend of the Jews) was the first American president to publicly state that Israel should return to pre-1967 borders to enable the Palestinians to control more land and have Eastern Jerusalem as their own. This president is proclaiming that he is our best friend, and yet he is the one who is making a deal with a rogue nation – Iran – whose main objective is the eradication of Israel, something the mullahs have no compunction of saying at each and every opportunity that they can.

When I heard President Obama declare himself "the closest thing to a Jew that has ever sat in the Oval Office," I had a hard time figuring out what that meant. What kind of a Jew does he think he is close to? Who are the Jews whom he knows whom he wishes to emulate? Of course, the answer is liberal Jews – those Jews who are self-hating and do not show any allegiance to Israel. Was he trying to make sure that no one calls him an anti-Semite with the usual canard, "it can't be true because some of my best friends are Jewish," or was it to totally ridicule our place in the sun and show his disdain for us, as the Nazis told my mother as they were rounding up Jews in the cattle cars to take them to concentration camp, saying, "Dos is leibah, fahfluchteh hund" (This is love, you dirty dog). Either way, it is totally disingenuous. David Rubin, the former mayor of the Israeli city of Shiloh, commented after hearing Obama's interview that "He is not a friend of Israel and he is not a friend of the Jewish people." Obama's feckless foreign policy, especially in the Middle East, led to the impasse we now have in Syria and Iraq, the evolution of ISIS, and the distinct possibility that Iran will go nuclear. With friends like him, who needs enemies?

*When I heard President Obama declare himself "the closest thing to a Jew that has ever sat in the Oval Office," I had a hard time figuring out what that meant*

journalist, Ilana Dayan. He then marked Jewish American Heritage Month with a *kipah*-clad impassioned speech on May 22 at Adas Israel Congregation, a large Conservative synagogue in Washington, DC.

The theme of Obama's messaging is that he sees Israel as a key strategic ally and also has a personal emotional attachment to the country and the Jewish people." The example of Israel and its

sistance and cooperation between the US and Israel, which is unprecedented, and that casting disagreements over Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking and the Iran nuclear talks as "tactical and not strategic."

Forty-three percent of those American Jews polled agreed that Obama "unfairly undermines Israel's interests and does not sufficiently support Israel and has gone too far in his criticism of Prime Minister Netanyahu and that this criticism sends the wrong message to Israel's enemies." Mark McNulty, the spokesman for the Republican Jewish Coalition, said that the poll shows that Jewish Americans need more than rhetoric. "A charm offensive is not going to do anything to paper over the wounds that have developed over the last six years."

All of a sudden, after six years of indifference and exclusion, Obama wants to curry favor with the Jewish community. Former top aide to the President, David Axelrod, told Israel's Channel 2 that the president shares the "common bonds and common values" of the Jewish community. Axelrod went on to say that Obama confided to him, "You know, honestly, I think that I am the closest thing to a Jew who's ever sat in this office. All my values, the people who shape me and, you know, for people to suggest that somehow I would be anti-Israel or worse, anti-Semitic, it hurts." That logic is ridiculous and revisionist history. Obama's perception of Jewishness is as surreal and delusional as anything could be. Let's face it: This president has had a Muslim upbringing in Indonesia and then as an adult was influenced by the radical pastor Jeremiah Wright, whose audacious, inflammatory rhetoric was anti-American and often anti-Semitic. These are the influences that

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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## CORRECTION

As a follow-up to last week's article, "Healthy Smiles From Jamaica Estates to Uganda," there a few things that need to be cleared up. The coordinator of the *chesed* effort, D'vora Biderman, is a dental hygienist applying for admission to dental school, and is not yet a dental student. Dr. David Abramowitz set up the first dental clinic and administered the first dental x-rays in the Abayudaya community but he was not the first dentist to provide dental services for the community. Finally, the funds raised for D'vora Biderman's mission are used exclusively for the dental supplies provided to the community. Her family remains supportive of the project in paying for her transportation to Uganda as well as her accommodations.



## Crazy Is The New Normal

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

place in the society in which we live. A man wants to be a woman, so he is...and this is a trend you better respect or you will be considered from the dark ages if you do not. A woman wants to be considered black so she is. True, she was met with gradual opposition which ultimately forced her to resign as the head of her local NAACP chapter, but the discussion is still out there. As Rush Limbaugh cleverly remarked, "I want to be thin, so I am!"

Years ago, anyone who had an attraction to his or her same gender was considered "queer." Now celebrities get phone calls from the president of the United States when they declare their predilection openly. Just a few years back the thought of a marriage between the two was laughable. Now the objectors are ridiculed.

When I was in high school, every Jewish kid, religious or not, stood firmly with Israel. Now it's cool not to be. Jewish students in painfully large numbers join the local BDS (Boycott, Divest, and Sanction) movement against Israel. This despite the fact that the State of Israel embraces every modern value that today's college student stands for, while the Arabs and the Muslim religion stand in direct opposition to the liberal values the students claim to

espouse.

Crazy, huh? Well get used to it. It's coming to a theater near you. A well-known Orthodox university in Israel was pressured into holding a pride parade for those who openly are in violation of the Torah. Orthodox women are now receiving *s'michah* (rabbinic ordination), an idea unthinkable just a few years back. I

*Our next generation of Orthodox kids will move on from apathy where it is today to an anti-Israel bias*

remember, when I was studying in *yeshivah* years ago, I remarked to some friends that in another ten years we will see Orthodox women receiving *s'michah*, and I mentioned the rabbi who will be behind it. My friends thought I was hallucinating. Turns out I was fairly accurate. I was off by ten years and the rabbi I mentioned is not the lead one, but certainly a major role player in that movement.

Here's my next prediction: Within three years we will (tragically) see a same-gender marriage performed by an Orthodox rabbi. And I would not be surprised if many people reading this article are wondering what's really wrong with such a union? These people are entitled to the freedom to marry like anyone else.

Yoel Schonfeld had better get with the program, they are thinking.

Well, my next prediction may be sobering to some. Our next generation of Orthodox kids will move on from apathy, where it is today, to an anti-Israel bias. Yes, Orthodox kids. It's all part of the craziness that has crept into all levels of society. Moshe Rabbeinu in *parshas Ha'azinu*

rade, and of course Yom Yerushalayim.

In fact, there really are no Religious Zionist movements to speak of any more. The Mafdal or Mizrahi political party no longer exists in Israel. It has been replaced by Naftali Bennett's party, which is hardly religious by philosophy, although most religious Zionists in Israel support that party for pragmatic reasons. In America, the Bnei Akiva movement, once a proud organization of young idealistic Religious Zionist youth, is now practically defunct.

It thus becomes incumbent upon our *yeshivos*, day schools, and high schools to seriously inculcate our young students with the history of the Jews, its Torah, Torah giants, the story of the struggle and birth of the Jewish State, a love for Eretz Yisrael, and Jewish pride. This is currently not on the curriculum, aside from some dancing on Yom HaAtzmaut. If this does not begin to happen *now*, then when our kids go off to college, they will be swept into the craziness that will make it normal to trash Israel and family values. Up will be down, down will be up. Good will be bad, bad will be good.

If beauty is in the eyes of the beholder, then craziness is in the mind of the thought police. We're in trouble.

**Rabbi Yoel Schonfeld** is the Rabbi of the Young Israel of Kew Gardens Hills, President of the Vaad Harabonim of Queens, and the Rabbinic Consultant for the Queens Jewish Link.

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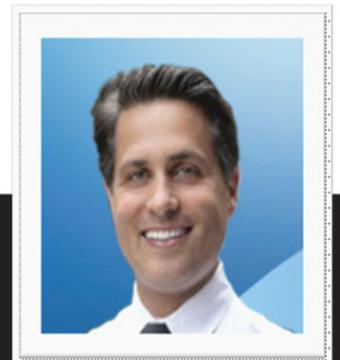


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## Say What You Need To Say

Are you able to put words to what you feel in your heart? Join the club. Most of us haven't a clue. But what's more important to a relationship than communication?

It's time to rap, recite, and remark. Just say it aloud. Remind each other of the best and sweetest times you've had together. It's okay to say: "I fell in love with you when..." "I knew you were going to be my best friend when..."

Serious swooning alert (Add the whipped cream on top): Next time you say, "I love you" (What do you mean you don't say "I love you"? heh); say: "I love you because..." **And give a reason.** "You're one of my dearest friends because..."

Telling your loved ones *why* you care – this will let them know you really mean what you say.

Uh-oh. Did your special someone just do something that really ruffled or tweaked you? Should you stay silent? Heck no. Let him know that even though he, ahem, "sometimes" does things that irk you, you still love him.

It's okay to abhor the behavior – just keep seeing the being. In other words, it's the behavior you are criticizing, not their entire being.

### Cherish Before We Perish.

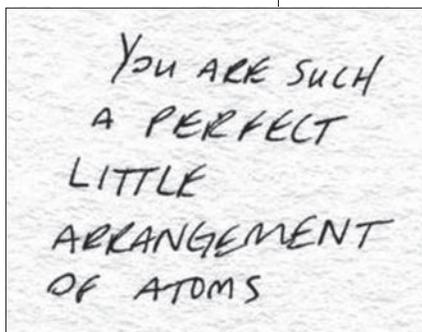
Havin' a grand ole time? Stop for second. Turn to your friend, wife, husband, or child and say: "No matter what happens in our lives, I will always remember and cherish this day, this moment, this time we are having together." Yes it's sentimental. There's a reason why Hallmark is a multi-million-dollar company, and it's not for being logical.

Tongue tied? Need some ideas? Caroline to the rescue. I shall sprinkle some goodies throughout. Feel free to jack them.

- Life without you is like a broken pencil, pointless." (ha)

- Just last night I looked up to the stars and matched each one with a reason why I love you. I was doing great until I ran out of stars." Mmm.

Okay. Things don't have to be sugary sweet for them to be well received. A simple: "Tell me about your day" will go miles with someone to show respect and care.



I like you a lottle.  
It's like a little, except a lot.



"How are you feeling?" Sounds simple enough, but how many of us actually ask that with any sincerity.

Next time, give her a dozen roses – 11 real and one fake. Then say, "I will love you until the last rose dies." (Can't beat that, can ya?)

Pick a topic, any topic...and ask, "What do you think about...?"

Or how about getting really soft-hearted, syrupy, and schmaltzy?

- God was just showing off when He created you. (aww)

- Before I met you, I never knew what it was like to smile for no reason.

- Last night I wanted to send you a message, but all I could write was "noh ss!w !" It didn't make much sense until I read it upside down. (Yea, g'head and turn the paper over now.)

- My knees are killing me because I fall for you every day. Heh.

If your friend is having a hard time, try: "Whatever it is, we can handle it better together."

"Do you know why G-d created spaces between our fingers? It is for someone else's fingers to fit them in."

Or for me: "You are like a pizza: Every slice of you is perfect." What could be bad with pizza in it? LOL

### Every Day is a Cabaret.

- Be aware of everyday acts of heroism.

- Praise her for self-control or bravery. Acknowledge his patience, grit, and determination.

- Be specific and say: "I am so impressed with how you handled..."

- Listen to content and respond directly to it.

- Here's a lil' hint: "I heard what you asked about the garbage and voilà! – I took it out!"

We all have a need to be heard, so prove you were listening. The formula: *I heard what you said. Here's what I did about it.*

Just say the words you may be thinking. You may not grasp how joy-inducing it can be for someone to hear them. Being real and vulnerable with someone is the most precious gift you can ever give them. Scary? Yup. That's what makes it so cherished.

"I think you're special" is one of my all-time favorites. Remind him why you think he is so special. "I love your style." Tell her why her style is adorable and how it was one of the first things you noticed about her, before you found out how spiritually awesome she was, that is.

Whatever it is, make it personal ("I love your..."). Pick your favorite thing about him and let him know what it is.

I love all of your feedback, sweet friends – e-mails, messages, questions, and comments. So feel free to keep 'em coming. Thank you.

**Caroline** is a licensed psychotherapist, Crisis Counselor, writer, and dance instructor. She has worked extensively with Jewish outreach and is an individual psychotherapist. She can be reached at 917-717-1775, Safehavenhealing@gmail.com, or facebook.com/pages/Safe-Haven-Healing.

## Worrying About Worrying

CONTINUED FROM P. 11

better—but it clearly makes today much worse (Michtav M'Elياهو, vol. 5, pg. 72). "The past is over, the future does not yet exist, and the present is like the blink of an eye, so why worry?" (Pele Yo'etz, "Da'aga").

And perhaps most essential is the realization that what we worry about likely will never come to pass. "Don't be worried over tomorrow's troubles, because you know not what the day will bring. Perhaps tomorrow will come, and not [the troubles], and you will have worried over a fate not yours" (Sanhedrin 100b; Yevamos 63b). Winston Churchill echoed this sentiment: "When I look back on all

these worries, I remember the story of the old man who said on his deathbed that he had had a lot of trouble in his life, most of which had never happened."

Once, shortly before a major concert, a member of Arturo Toscanini's orchestra approached the great Italian conductor with an expression of utter terror on his face. "Maestro," the musician stuttered, "my instrument is not working properly. I cannot play an E-flat note. What will I do? We are to begin in a few moments."

Toscanini placed an arm around the man's shoulders. "My dear friend," said the maestro, "there is no need for worry. There is not a single E-flat in any of the music you are playing tonight."

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## Israel's Incredible Drought-Fighting Technologies

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

get maximum mileage from every drop of water used, clean salty and polluted water, and make desalination cheaper. A very high percentage of these products have "Made In Israel" stamped on the bottom.

California and other western states will be happy to hear about these developments, and so will other drought-stricken regions of the world, such as huge parts of South America, Mexico, parts of China, most of Africa, Australia, India, and even North Korea.

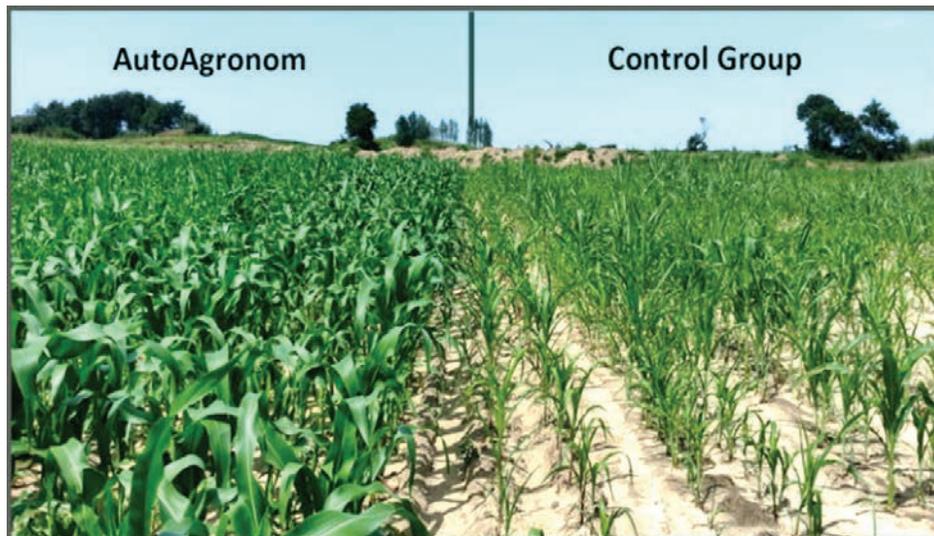
### Staying Fresh Longer

One of the most amazing of these breakthroughs is genetically modified drought-resistant plants. These plants may revolutionize food production because they will yield bigger harvests, require less water, and stay fresh longer than conventionally grown foods. And they could be grown around the world.

"Vegetables and fruits now last double and sometimes three times longer if they come from genetically modified plants," says Shimon Gepstein, Professor of Biology who made this discovery at the Technion in Haifa. "I took a modified lettuce home and it took 21 days for it to start getting brown, whereas normal lettuces started to go bad in five or six days."

These super plants, as they are called by researchers, can survive droughts, go for a month without being watered and need only 30 percent of the water conventional plants require. Gepstein adds that despite concern about genetically modified foods, these super plants are not dangerous to human health "because we have altered them using their own components, they have nothing added to them."

The World Food Program says drought



Single Root may be the only system that can make all the decisions for the farmer

is the single most common cause of food shortages in the world. According to an article on [nocamels.com](http://nocamels.com), super plants may ease drought-induced food shortages.

### Build This Wall Up

At a recent agricultural expo in Milan, Israel, had a live demonstration of how to deal with difficult geological and climate conditions. One of the solutions it showed is the "vertical garden," a 70 x 12 meters wall that is planted with rice, wheat, and corn and managed by a computer.

The produce grown on it has a number of advantages over farm-grown vegetables. One of those is a huge reduction in the amount of water the crops require. For example, it generally takes 5,000 liters of water to grow one kilo (2.2 pounds) of rice. However, when grown on a vertical garden, only 1,500 liters are required – 70 percent less.

According to Enrico Zilli, press officer at

the Israeli Pavilion, a vertical garden can be set up on the walls of ordinary residential buildings, saving not only water but also land.

### The California Connection

Prime Minister Netanyahu and Cal. Gov. Brown signed an agreement last year to share the latest water-saving technologies and expertise that both have learned over the years.

One of these is an Israeli-developed system for recycling and purifying wastewater and pumping it to farmers for irrigation. Ninety percent of Israel's wastewater gets recycled, with 75 percent used for crop irrigation. This translates to 400 million meters of recycled water a year, half of all the water used for agriculture. This approach is being studied carefully by California,

which uses four-fifths of its water for agriculture.

Another drought-fighting technology Israel is bringing to California is desalination. Although much more expensive than wastewater purification, Israeli experts believe California will need many desalination plants along its long coastline. Israel's IDE Technologies is now building the largest desalination plant in the US, and when it's completed in November it will provide San Diego with 50 million gallons of fresh water daily.

### Every Drop Counts

China is looking for new ways to feed its 1.4 billion people and tiny Israeli start-up AutoAgronom offers some solutions.

AutoAgronom has developed Root Sense, a technology that uses sensors to study soil and other conditions around the roots of produce. After analyzing this data, the system's controller provides customized irrigation and fertilization for each crop.

"We have been able to show tremendous traction with over 70 types of crops, significantly increasing crop yield, while reducing the need for water by up to 50 percent and fertilizers by 70 percent," says Vice President Usher Perry. AutoAgronom will start marketing this technology in California in November.

Single Root may be the only system that can make all the decisions for the farmer, allowing him to monitor the overall system and identify problems before they become very costly to repair.

There are many other incredible water-saving products coming out of Israel, and we'll discuss some of those innovations next week.

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

## Op-Ed



By Rory Lancman

June is one my favorite months of the year, for one reason: It's graduation season! The warmer weather is nice too, but one of the best parts of my job as an elected official is that I have the privilege to attend local graduations and say a few words to the kids and young adults who are our future.

Whether I'm speaking to over 10,000 students, families, and faculty at the Queens College Commencement, or congratulating preschoolers dressed as butterflies on their first of many graduations, I always enjoy these ceremonies.

## Advice To Our Graduates

(And this year I shepped nachas as my own daughter graduated from the Solomon Schechter School of Queens.)

Here's what I say to graduates of Jewish day schools:

Mazel tov! This is a special day for you and for your parents and teachers who have done so much to make it possible. It's also special for me as a Council Member. Today, you are taking the next step to becoming leaders in the Jewish community. One day, you will speak for the community on issues that affect all of us. We need you on many levels.

It will fall on your shoulders to ensure that our nation's strong support for Israel continues. Whether it's urging resolve in standing up to Iran's nuclear ambitions, or rallying for Israel's right to defend itself from terrorist, missiles and rockets, or reminding our national leaders of who our allies and friends really are, your voice will have to answer the call.

There are also issues at the local level where the Jewish community must speak up for itself. The state legislature has been debating a tax credit that is crucial to helping Jewish families educate our children in the schools we choose.

Right now, we're trying to get the city to provide NYPD school safety officers to nonpublic schools, including Jewish schools. Public school students already receive this im-

portant protection, but we must advocate for our community to ensure that we receive this service as well. We also must work to have programs like Universal Pre-K be truly inclusive, with half-day options that work for Jewish day schools and yeshivas

So many in this community came together to oppose the dedicated bus lane on Main Street in Kew Gardens Hills. This united voice showed the city that it was the wrong place for a bus lane and preserved the parking that our community needs. As you become more involved, you will find that you speak for your community on many different issues.

These are just examples of the kinds of issues that you will speak on as you move into the world. Our tradition teaches us, "kol Yisrael arevim ze lazeh - all Jews are responsible for one another." Your parents and teachers have prepared you well to meet this responsibility. Whether it is by being active in your shul, volunteering for organizations like *Tomchei Shabbos* and *Hatzolah*, taking a stand on national and local issues, or even holding public office yourselves, we know we can count on you to rise up to the challenge

Council Member Lancman represents the 24th District in Queens in the City Council.



## Phillips, Anyone?

I'm sure everyone has had the frustrating experience of looking for something inexpensive and fairly common, which nobody seems to have just when you need it. (Ever need change of a dollar for a soda machine?)

Last Friday our family arrived at Camp Dora Golding, where I am a Division Head and we are fortunate to spend our summer. After hastily unpacking and trying to create some order before Shabbos, I noticed a few light bulbs were out and I wanted to change them so it would be brighter on Shabbos. I just needed a Phillips screwdriver so I could get the covers off the light bulbs; 88 cents at Wal-Mart, didn't we leave one here at the end of last summer? Hmm, I guess not. No big deal. I'm sure one of the other families in camp has one. One neighbor had a flat-head screwdriver, but that didn't work. The others apologetically couldn't help me. The maintenance department must have one on the truck. Nope, none there either.

By now it's getting close to Shabbos and I realize that I'm going to have to give up. But then, I remember that while I was unpacking the car, I noticed a miniscule screwdriver rolling around in the trunk. I went back to the trunk and in-

deed found the forsaken screwdriver, which my son had won as part of a prize from his *rebbe*. Presto! It worked like a charm. I changed all the bulbs (that's about the extent of my maintenance abilities), we had light for Shabbos, and I had a Musings for this week.

*At the end of the day, all that our friends, family, and even specialists can do is help us realize that we have the tools within ourselves to persevere*

What lesson did I glean from the encounter? It may sound trite, but it really is an idea that we need to remind ourselves constantly. I was searching mightily for a specific tool that I needed to help myself. I asked neighbors, friends, and even the "specialists" (the maintenance people are very special). But in the end, the tool I needed was in my own trunk all along.

G-d, in His infinite world, has placed each of us in this world with specific abilities and weaknesses, and in a specific family and life situation. At times we feel overwhelmed and unable to cope with the challenges we encounter. And so we begin to search elsewhere for

ideas and new coping "tools."

Surely this is not to say that we cannot gain encouragement, ideas, and support from others. In the most trying times, we unquestionably need the love and encouragement of others. Still, at the end of the day, all that our friends, fami-

ly, and even specialists can do is help us realize that we have the tools *within ourselves* to persevere. We all have latent talents and abilities that we hardly realize we possess. Life often forces us to draw out those abilities and capabilities from "somewhere in our trunk."

David HaMelech stated (*T'hilim* 121:1-2): "I lift my eyes to the mountains, from where will my help come? My help is from G-d, the One who made the heavens and earth." King David does not ask, "From where will help come?" Rather, he

asks, "From where will *my* help come?"

Perhaps King David is referring to the many arduous moments during his life when he felt overwhelmed and defeated, yet somehow found uncanny internal strength to forge on and continue fulfilling his daunting responsibilities. He marvels at the fact that *he himself* was able to find the inner conviction and courage. And he lauds the fact that it was G-d – the same G-d who created heaven and earth – Who also created him with abilities he hardly knew he possessed.

King David was amazed that throughout his life, in moments when he was on the brink of despair, he always found the tools he needed "in his own trunk."

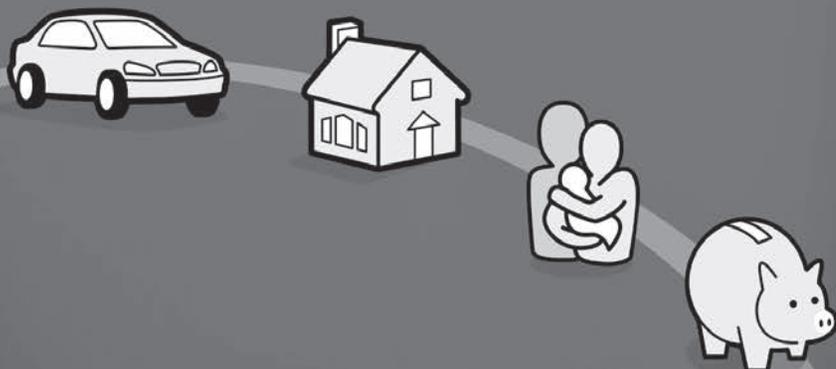
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By the way, as I was preparing to e-mail this column, someone asked over the camp radio if anyone has a Phillips screwdriver. I happily lent him mine. A minute later, he called me over the radio to tell me that, right after I lent him mine, he found his own Phillips screwdriver in his bungalow. I kid you not.

**Rabbi Dani Staum, LMSW**, is the Rabbi of Kehillat New Hempstead, as well as guidance counselor and fifth-grade rebbe in ASHAR, and Principal at Mesivta Ohr Naftoli of New Windsor. He can be reached at [stamtora@gmail.com](mailto:stamtora@gmail.com). His website is [www.stamtora.info](http://www.stamtora.info).

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## NFL In Israel



John Hannah wearing his \_Gold jacket\_ (NFL Hall of Fame trademark) in the City of Gold



The author with Jets legend Curtis Martin



Jack Youngblood signing an autograph for some fans in Jerusalem

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

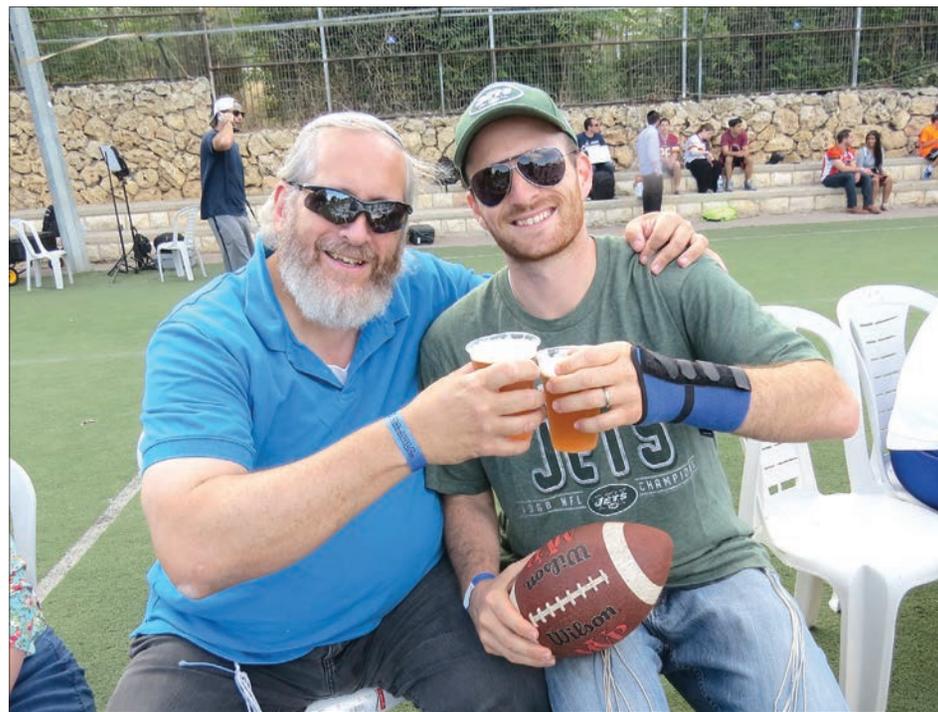
cepted"; I am simply going to write about an incredible event which I attended this week in the heart of Jerusalem.

The event was called "Touchdown in Israel: Mission of Excellence" and it was organized by Robert Kraft, owner of the Super Bowl champion New England Patriots. In 1999, Bob Kraft built Israel's first - and only - football stadium, located next to Gan Sacher, a 3-minute walk from Rehavia, Shaarei Chesed, and Nahlaot. As part of this trip, Kraft brought 19 members of the NFL Hall of Fame. To put that in perspective, you need to know that close to 30,000 people have played in the NFL but only 168 are alive today who are members of the Hall of Fame. Of those 168 Hall of Famers, 19 came to Jerusalem. Not bad!

These 19 men, plus Kraft and legendary CBS Sports announcer James Brown, hosted a great event - open to one and all... and for free - in the Kraft Family Stadium in Jerusalem. They spoke about their trip and the feelings they had towards Israel. They mentioned the hi-tech show they attended to see Israel's latest and greatest technology and the spiritual and Biblical connection they all felt in the Holy Land. Of course, they also spoke a lot about football and it is on this point that I want to focus because, as you will read, there's many things we can learn from the game of football to become better Jews. I am not kidding.

Brown asked Jack Youngblood to come onto the stage. Depending on your age, that name may or may not ring a bell but it certainly meant a lot to me. Youngblood played for the Los Angeles Rams from 1971-1984 and was one of the greatest defensive ends to ever play the game. I played tackle football in my high school days and he was one of the stars I looked up to. I, too, played on the defensive line and Youngblood was my hero. He was as tough as they came. Experts have said that he was the toughest man in NFL history! I watched him closely through the years and studied his movements, and now, many years later, had the wonderful opportunity to listen to him - and take a picture with him - in the heart of Jerusalem!

Brown told the crowd the famous story about how Youngblood played in the playoffs and the Super Bowl with a



The author with his son, Gabi at Kraft Stadium's NFL day

broken leg!! He asked him, "Jack, why did you play football with a broken leg?" Youngblood's answer was simple and directly to the point: "Because it was Sunday! I played football on Sunday and nothing - but nothing - stopped me from doing that. I was the captain of my team and I had a responsibility to lead!" He said that his doctors told him he was crazy and his answer was, "Tell me something I don't already know!"

Why am I telling you this? Because that same logic needs to be applied in our lives as well. If this guy can play football in the NFL with a broken leg because "it was Sunday," then we can go to *shul* in the snow because "it is Shabbat." If "nothing - but nothing" stopped Jack Youngblood from his responsibilities to his team, then we must let nothing - but nothing - stop us from our responsibilities to our "team," which is our nation and our King!

The next player that Brown asked to come on stage was John Hannah, who played for the New England Patriots from 1973-1985 and was voted offensive lineman of the league four years in a row!! Hannah was elected to ten Pro Bowls, and Brown asked him to comment on the fact that NFL experts refer to him as the greatest offensive lineman to ever

play the game of football. "How do you feel when people say that about you?" asked Brown. The answer John Hannah gave was another lesson in life for me, and hopefully for you as well. "People say whatever they want, sometimes good and sometimes bad. I never get involved in that. I just do my job - to the best of my ability - and refuse to get caught up in what is being said." Wow!! Just do your job. Be the best Jew you can be. Serve Hashem with every ounce of strength in your body and don't worry about what is being said about you - good or bad - just do your job!

Finally, after the football stars spoke, each one went to a different place on the field and the fans were able to get autographs and speak to each one personally. I made my way over to Rayfield Wright, who played for the Dallas Cowboys from 1967-1979. This superstar played in five Super Bowls and played in 200 games! He showed me his Super Bowl rings and said, "Not bad for a guy who didn't make

his high school football team!" I couldn't believe what I heard. "You didn't make your high school team but ended up as a Hall of Fame player in the NFL? How did you do that?" He said, "Simple. I had a dream and I didn't let anybody take it away from me." Please read that again... and again. Rayfield Wright had a dream and he wasn't stopping until that dream became reality. That is what we must do as Jews. We need to dream about King David's dynasty coming back, about the *Sanhedrin* sitting in judgment, and about the *Kohen Gadol* in the *Kodesh HaKodashim* on Yom Kippur... and we must never let anybody take that dream away from us.

Before I went home, I paid honor to the one New York Jet that was at this event: the great running back Curtis Martin. (Note: Yes, I am a Jets fan...) Number 28 played a total of 10 years, seven of them with the Jets, and he would have gone longer but a career-ending knee injury ended his playing days. Curtis was mobbed by the crowd of fans, but he took pictures and signed autographs for everyone who asked. He even signed my son's Jets hat and took pictures with kids of all ages, smiling all the way through. I asked him what he thought of Israel and he simply said, "It's a beautiful country. You should be very proud of what you have." And then, even though I am already a *zayde*, I took a "selfie" with Martin. I guess the kid inside of me is still alive and well.

So there you have it: the NFL in Israel teaching us about life through the experiences and wisdom of some of the greatest men to ever play the game of football. Who would have ever thought that I would meet the people I listed above plus Mel Blount, Raymond Berry, Tim Brown, Floyd Little, Andre Tippett, and more... in the center of Jerusalem!! Well, I guess that is a lesson too. The *Beit HaMikdash* is called a "House of prayer for all Nations," so when that great day comes we will be meeting *lots* of amazing people in Jerusalem. May that day come very soon, *amen*!!

**Shmuel Sackett** is a 100% product of Queens. He was born in Middle Village and moved to KGH shortly before his bar-mitzvah. He graduated from YCQ (1975) and YHSQ (1979). He was *Havurat Yisrael's* first Youth Director (4 years) and started the first 2 NCSY chapters in Queens. Shmuel made aliyah in 1990 and co-founded *Manhigut Yehudit*, together with Moshe Feiglin. His website is [www.JewishIsrael.org](http://www.JewishIsrael.org) Sackett is married with 6 children and 4 grandchildren. He lives in Herziliya Pituach.



# Not Attending A Friend's Simchah

Before I married my husband, I was what is referred to as an "older single." I didn't feel old, but because I reached the ripe old age of 25 and then 32, I, and all those in the same age bracket, were labeled as "older singles." I didn't care for the title, but I couldn't do much about it. By the time I got engaged, I had gone through four sets of friends. I would become friendly with a few girls and then one by one they would get engaged and married, then I would find a new set of friends. I would joke with others, "Wanna get married? Be my friend and within 6-8 months you'll be engaged."

That being said, it is fair to say that I have attended my fair share of *vorts*, bridal showers, and weddings. In the beginning it stung a bit. I would attend several *vorts*, showers, and weddings in a month and always waited for the time I would be the *kallah*. But very quickly that feeling faded because I had *bitachon* in Hashem that He would send me my *bashert* in the right time - *b'sha'ah tovah* - and not a moment sooner. I genuinely smiled and wished *mazal tov* to my friends and their parents. I attended every *simchah* I was invited to, all while knowing my time was on its way.

Unfortunately, that is not the case for all. I personally know people who do not attend a friend's *vort* or wedding specifically because they were upset that it wasn't their *simchah*. They, too, are wait-

ing for their *bashert*- and they, too, are being referred to as an "older single." (Words hurt, people. Stop it!) These people are happy that their friends found their *zivug*, but they have an aching in their heart to find their *bashert* as well. "When will my

I just can't do it anymore!"

I felt this girl's pain. I had gone through the same type of situations. I knew exactly what she was saying. I, too, saw the looks given to "older singles" at *simchos*, but I chose to ignore them. Maybe I have

*I find it sad that a friend had to call another asking permission not to attend a vort because she couldn't "take" the looks of others*

turn come? How can I attend the wedding when I am crying on the inside?" I have heard a few friends ask that question. My heart aches for that friend. I couldn't put myself in that position because I had a different mindset. Yes, I had my moments, but for the most part I stayed positive, knowing that Hashem will send me my *zivug*, and I could not dwell on the fact that someone reached the *chupah* before me.

I discussed this with someone recently. That person had decided not to attend the *vort* of a friend - a friend she has been close with since tenth grade. The two girls are now in their mid-30s and now one friend can't bring herself to attend the other's *vort*. "I'm happy for her. I am. But I just can't attend another *vort*. It's too much! And then everyone looks at me standing there and says, 'Im Yirtzeh Hashem by you.'

a tougher skin or a different outlook on things, but I could never stay home and not show up to a good friend's *simchah* because I was depressed about my own situation. My friends were genuinely happy and invited me to partake in their happiness; I had to put my feelings aside and attend, even for half an hour.

When I attended the *vort* that my friend opted out of, the *kallah* said, "I really wish \_\_\_\_\_ was here. She called me and explained that she just couldn't come. It was too hard. I gave her permission not to come. Hope she comes to my wedding. I really want her there." It may seem odd or unheard of to others, but I have heard of friends asking other friends if they can *not* attend their *simchah* because it would be too painful for them. Do I think it's correct? No, but I am in no position of judging others or their feelings.

What is the solution to this issue? There is none. Can it be for the public at large to stop calling singles of a certain age "older"? Maybe. The title is not loved by any who it refers to. Can we stop calling it a "*shidduch* crisis" if a 30- or 35-year-old is not married? Maybe. You can say "*shidduch* emergency." I never liked the idea that it was a "crisis" that I was 30 and not married, because the word "crisis" has such a negative connotation. Many non-Jews don't look to settle down with a spouse until they are 30-35, but in the *frum* world a single at 32 is at a crisis level. You can refer to it as a "*shidduch* emergency." The word "emergency" doesn't have such a negative connotation as the word "crisis" does. All that we as a society do to help singles may not be helping them as much as we would like. Don't just look to find them a spouse. Make sure we are nurturing them emotionally as well. I was a single until I was 33. I attended every *Shabbaton*, singles event, *shidduch* group meeting, etc. that I found out about.

I know what is out there. I know first-hand what people say. I was told on more than one occasion when I was still in my 20s, "Don't worry, you will find someone." I was in my 20s, not 70s! Why were some people already looking at me with pity in their eyes? Single people are people just like the rest of us, with feelings and sensitivities.

Would changing the way we speak of singles of a certain age help my friend who didn't attend the *vort*? Probably not. But it's a good place to start. My friend and others can't stand the looks of pity they perceive from married people. They can't stand when they are told, "Don't worry, you will find someone." The pressure to be married by the age of 25 is felt by all, emanating from none other than the ones trying to "help." All of this affects them to the core! Unfortunately, the one friend I spoke of who didn't attend the *vort* isn't the only one I know of doing such things. I have heard and know of several people not going because they ache on the inside to find their *bashert* and can't bring themselves to go to a friend's *simchah* - a friend who *davened* just as hard as they did, who wanted a spouse just as much as they did - but who got engaged first.

Do not misunderstand my words. I am not blaming society for people not being able to attend a friend's *simchah*. I am just letting the readers know that this is happening and we must try to fix the situation. Is the solution to change the way we speak and the terms we use? I honestly don't know, but it's a good place to start. Sometimes, the easiest way to make a change is to do it gradually. Start with changing the way we speak of singles and to singles and it can evolve from there. I just find it sad that a friend had to call another asking permission not to attend a *vort* because she couldn't "take" the looks of others, coupled with the aching in her own heart.

To all the singles feeling this way: I am truly sorry and I don't say that out of pity. I am sorry that you are aching and feel as if no one can understand your pain. But please try to look at it from a different perspective. When your time comes and you invite friends to your *simchah*, don't you want all to attend? Don't you want all to help you celebrate? Your friends want the same. Think of it this way: Maybe someone will see you at your friend's *simchah* and think of a potential *shidduch* for you. You never know!!

Goldy Krantz is an LMSW and a lifelong Queens resident and author of the *shidduch* dating book, *The Best of My Worst*. She can be contacted at [bestofmyworst@hotmail.com](mailto:bestofmyworst@hotmail.com)



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# Ateret Cohanim Honors Its Founder, Celebrates Silwan Properties At Gala Event In Queens

Event also marked organization's 36th anniversary

By Sergey Kadinsky

Until recently, it was not commonly known that in ancient times, the city of Jerusalem used to extend beyond the present-day southern wall. That extension occupied a ridge on which David HaMelech had his palace and where a Yemenite Jewish neighborhood existed a century ago before being uprooted in the 1936 riots. Through the Ateret Cohanim organization, properties along the ridge are returning to Jewish ownership as residences, schools, and a synagogue. Likewise, the Old City neighborhood known as the Muslim Quarter, formerly known as the Kotel Quarter, also had a sizable Jewish population prior to the riots.

On Monday night, June 22, American Friends of Ateret Cohanim had its annual dinner at Terrace on the Park in Flushing Meadows, honoring founders Mati and Etya Dan, Five Towns supporters Mark and Naomi Rubin, and D. Bernard and Ann Hoenig. Among the staunchest supporters of Ateret Cohanim, the Hoenigs have supported the organization for 32 of its 36 years. It began when Ann Hoenig took her husband to the Muslim Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City in search of a *yeshivah* that dared to challenge the status quo of a divided city by encouraging Jews to purchase properties in Arab neighborhoods that had Jewish residents decades ago. "We were the only Jews on the streets of the Muslim Quarter," said Dr. Hoenig. "We went up the steps and found a thriving *yeshivah*."

A *kohen* by ancestry, Mati Dan



**KEEPING JERUSALEM UNITED WITH JEWISH LIFE:** Celebrating the 36th Anniversary of Ateret Cohanim on June 22 at Terrace on the Park, (L-R): Josh Frumkin and father Dr. William Frumkin, 6th generation descendant of Israel Dov Frumkin, founder of the Yemenite Village in the Silwan; Guests of Honor Mati Dan HaKohen, Founder & Chairman of Ateret Cohanim, and wife Etya; Dr. Gail Frumkin Notovitz, 6th generation descendant of Israel Dov Frumkin; Shani Hikind, Executive Vice President, American Friends of Ateret Cohanim; Drora and Dr. Paul Brody, Executive Council Member, who introduced the Frumkin family to Ateret Cohanim; Dr. Joseph Frager, Chairman Executive Council.

Photo Credit: ThreeStarPhotographers



**THUNDERING FOR JERUSALEM:** Dynamic Guest Speaker Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, holding Israeli flag, who captivated the large crowd at the gala Dinner celebrating the 36th Anniversary of Ateret Cohanim, is flanked by (from left) Councilman Bruce Blakeman; Shani Hikind, Executive Director, American Friends of Ateret Cohanim; Founder & Chairman Ateret Cohanim, Mati Dan HaKohen; Executive Council Member Dr. Paul Brody (holding flag); Chairman, Exec. Council, Dr. Joseph Frager; Chairman JCCWatch, Richard Allen and long-time Ateret Cohanim supporter, Simon Falic.



**MAKING THE OLD CITY YOUNG AGAIN:** Guests of Honor Mark and Naomi Rubin of Lawrence (standing 8th & 9th from left), celebrating the Chanukat HaBayit of Beit Rubin in the heart of the Old City of Yerushalayim, at the Ateret Cohanim Dinner, are flanked by their beautiful family (standing from left), and (standing from right) Dr. Paul Brody, Executive Council Member, American Friends of Ateret Cohanim; Chairman, Exec. Council, Dr. Joseph Frager; long-time supporter, Steve Adelsberg; Dinner Coordinator & V.P., Mel Wadler; long-time supporters Simon Falic and Saadia Shapiro, Esq.; Keynote Speaker, Amb. John Bolton, and Chairman Mati Dan, Guest of Honor. Seated (L-R): D. Bernard Hoenig, Esq. and wife Ann, Ohev Yisrael Awardees; Executive V.P., American Friends, Ateret Cohanim, Shani Hikind, and Etya Dan, wife of Mati, Guest of Honor.

was an idealistic veteran of the Six Day War who sought to bolster the Jewish presence in the Old City through a *yeshivah* that promotes rituals and customs particular to *kohanim*. Its rosh yeshiva is Rabbi Shlomo Aviner, a prominent voice in the settlement movement.

In the decades since, Ateret Cohanim quietly purchased old homes from Arab owners, renaming them after their Jewish owners from an earlier time in an attempt to establish historical continuity. Near the Flower Gate, Beit Volero honors the memory of Turkish *oleh* Rabbi Yaakov Volero, a *shochet* (ritual slaughterer) who established Jerusalem's first bank in 1835.

Another famous property in the Muslim Quarter is Beit Wittenberg, which was purchased by Ariel Sharon in the 1980s. Its namesake was a family that purchased the home a century earlier in a deal brokered by Hebrew linguist Eliezer Ben-Yehuda. In Silwan, the Yemenite Village was built in 1859 by Israel Dov Frumkin, who founded the early Hebrew newspaper *Havatzet*. The Silwan began to be reclaimed by Ateret Cohanim in the early 2000s, and dedicated Beit Frumkin there in 2014, together with other buildings. Among the supporters at the dinner were Great Neck residents Dr. Bill Frumkin and his sister Dr. Gail Frumkin Notovitz, sixth-generation descendants of Israel Dov Frumkin, together with Bill's son Joshua. The Frumkins were introduced to Ateret Cohanim by their friends and neighbors, Ateret Cohanim Executive Council member Dr. Paul Brody and his wife Drora.

"Initially, the Old City was the only place where Jews lived," said Frumkin. "As the city became crowded, neighborhoods were built outside its walls." While Mea Shearim and Mishkenot Sha'ananim are famous as the first Jewish neighborhoods beyond the walls, Kfar HaShiloah, as Silwan is known in Hebrew, is not as well known. It was there that, in 1882, a contingent of Yemenite Jews settled alongside Israel Dov Frumkin and established a thriving community that lasted until 1936. That year, the British authorities expelled the Jewish residents, promising them that they would return when the riots dissipated. The promise was not kept and as Silwan's Arab population grew, the prospect of Jews returning appeared politically unfeasible.

Only in 2004, did the first Jews

CONTINUED ON P. 53

## Altruism Meets Adventure: Orthodox Queens Teenager Set To Cover 3,000 Miles In Bike Ride For Charity

By Boruch Shubert

Most people who enjoy riding bicycles will typically take a spin around their neighborhood, or – when they have more free time – might opt for a leisurely ride through some scenic countryside for a couple of hours. But 18-year-old Kew Gardens Hills resident Ephraim Fruchter is preparing to employ his bicycling skills on a level that is unprecedented for most people – he will be embarking on the “Bike 4 Friendship,” a ride that will cover over 3,000 miles and see him passing through a dozen states throughout the US, an effort designed to benefit an organization that provides much-needed social services to special needs children.

A recent graduate of Rambam Mesivta in Lawrence, Ephraim first became involved with the Friendship Circle while a younger student at the Yeshiva of Central Queens, when a representative of the organization came to speak to the students. As two members of his wider family have mental disabilities, the work of the Friendship Circle “hit close to home,” the teen says, and he became an active volunteer. “There are too many children who are written off because they labeled as different from everyone else,” declares the altruistic Fruchter. “In fact, these children have the same hopes, dreams, and wants that regular children have. The Friendship Circle, an organization that creates lasting friendships between special needs children and teenagers, continues to change the way we see our special needs children. Every child deserves to enjoy the feelings of happiness and pleasure of being accepted by fellow peers within a larger community.”

While he already has significant bicy-

cling experience, Ephraim has never previously taken such an extensive ride. The hard-driving yet thrilling six-week adventure – which runs from the end of June through early August – will take the teenager and his cohorts through twelve states in all. These include California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, with a concluding ride through New York. Of course, the riders are primarily motivated by the charitable cause they

*“When I bike onto Brighton Beach in Brooklyn at the end of the trip, I’ll know that I’ve made a difference in people’s lives”*

are embracing – each participant is meant to raise a certain amount of money before the ride and the proceeds of the fundraising go towards funding Friendship Circle. The trip also raises awareness of the cause because of the sheer length of the ride.

To be sure, one does not accept such a physically daunting challenge without some very serious preparation. “We were given a training schedule to follow, which culminated in two straight days where we were meant to ride 100 miles as a test,” Ephraim explains to the *Queens Jewish Link*. “The training started out with one hour on an exercise bike, increasing to eight hours. Recovery is very important, so I made sure to stretch for enough time after a workout and to have protein which would rebuild muscles. Training also involved looking for the steepest hills, to help us be better prepared. Because Queens is on Long Island, there aren’t so many hills, so I found myself having to ride upstate in such areas as Bear Mountain and Monsey.”

In addition to the riding and the sightseeing of America’s natural beauty that comes with it, Ephraim and the numerous other trip participants will be able to enjoy a great deal of socialization and stimulating get-togethers. “There are going to be something like 15-plus events with the different Friendship Circle branches across the country,” the enthusiastic youngster notes, “to give us a better glimpse into the impact we are making. We are also going to be meeting with different public of-

officials, such as mayors.” The impact that Ephraim speaks of is truly noteworthy – the Friendship Circle serves 5,000 children nationwide, with a staff of 11,000 volunteers. Since its inception 18 years ago, the group has “graduated” 55,000 alumni.

As a devoted member of the Orthodox Jewish community – he regularly attends *minyanim* at the Young Israel of Kew Gardens Hills, and will be attending Yeshivat Har Etzion in Israel next semester – Ephraim will be able to enjoy the various religious amenities provided throughout the Bike 4 Friendship by the sponsoring organization. “We are going to be staying at local families in these communities on Shabbat,” he reveals. “It is an Orthodox trip, so there will be kosher food and *davening*.” Ephraim comments that he is especially looking forward to mingling with the diverse Jewish communities across the twelve states. “I took a Jewish history class year and my appreciation for Jewish communities across the US has grown. I can’t

wait to see the different *shuls*. I’ve never been to the West Coast, so the opportunity and privilege to do so and see the Jewish communities is great.”

Ephraim’s head is totally in sync with the rest of his body while he is biking for a good cause. “When I’m on my bicycle training for the trip,” he muses, “my mind always jumps to thinking about how every pedal stroke, mile, and hill is helping a child with special needs in my neighborhood.” He also appreciates the sensory experience of his repeated bike rides. “When you have to work for every mile, you appreciate getting to the top of a bridge and looking out onto the glistening water and the people in their cars passing by.”

In another display of his refined character, Fruchter does not hesitate to voice his gratitude to his family and friends for being tangibly supportive in advance of the herculean effort he is about to undertake. Furthermore, he cites the many local businesses that “stepped up” to help special needs children in the area, particularly J&Z Couture Fine Clothing and On the Marc Dry Cleaners, both located on Main Street in Kew Gardens Hills. “It was heartwarming to see the community come together in support of this amazing cause,” he says. “When many individuals combine their collective power, their ability to impart meaningful impact is amplified.”

Ephraim sums up the entire experience with a blend of pride and heartfelt compassion. “When I bike onto Brighton Beach in Brooklyn at the end of the trip, I will know that I have made a difference in people’s lives,” he insists.

The young man with a penchant for pedaling – and caring – exhorts readers to log on to [bike4friendship.org/teamfruchter](http://bike4friendship.org/teamfruchter) and make a donation to this very worthy cause.



## First Annual JCLL Marc Katz Memorial Championship Series Held At Queens College Ball Field



Ceremonial first pitch thrown by Marc's grandson, Josh Katz



From left to right: Marc's widow, Gloria; son Jonathan (and grandchildren); son David, JCLL Base Umpire Dovi Kirschner, JCLL Chief Umpire Paul Gorel, Crew Chief Frank Bossio, JCLL President David Kirschner, JCLL Base Umpire Jacob Rosen, and son Daniel Katz

By Jennifer Jaffe

Despite 90-degree weather, ball players from three divisions of the Jewish Community Little League (JCLL) turned out for the JCLL Championship games on Sunday, June 21. Thanks to the ongoing support for the league and of the community by City Councilmember Rory Lancman, the games were moved from their previous years' location at St. John's University to the beautiful ball field at Queens College.

This was the first of the Marc Katz Memorial Championship Series games, named for Marc Katz, founder and president of the league for 26 years, in memory of his dedication to the kids and the community. Throughout his years of service, Katz assured that the youth of Queens and its surrounding areas would be able to play ball in the only Sabbath-observant franchise in the National Little League System. Katz

was a man who dedicated his life to his family, the league, and the greater Jewish community. He was the heart and soul of the JCLL. According to Sam Hershkowitz, friend and series coordinator, "By renaming the tournament the Marc Katz Memorial Championship Series, Marc's name will be forever linked to our league and the values it stands for."

Back in April, on opening day of the JCLL for the 2015 season, field number 4 at Cunningham Park was dedicated in a ceremony in honor of Katz for all he has given to the JCLL, as well. This came to fruition with the support and hard work of the Katz family, Council Members Rory Lancman (District 24) and Marc Weprin (District 23), former Council Member Jim Gennaro, Assembly Member David Weprin, and the NYC Parks Department.

Katz's oldest grandson, Josh Katz, threw the ceremonial first pitch for the Marc Katz Memorial Championship Series. Katz's

wife Gloria, sons Jonathan, David, and Daniel, and their wives and children were all in attendance to mark this special day in JCLL history.

The first game played was the Minor Division game, Grades 3-4, Great Neck vs. Mashadi Jewish Center (MJC), with MJC winning the Championship. Game two was the Major Division, Grade 5-6, also Great Neck vs. MJC with MJC taking the Championship. The final game, the Junior Division, Grades 7-8 was a close-knit game throughout the innings with Great Neck taking the Championship from Kew Gardens Synagogue in the final innings. Ball was played all afternoon with friendly competition, hard work, and a lot of team spirit. The scoreboard was maintained and players' names announced by Peggy Gorel, and trophies were awarded to all.

The games were umpired by Dovy Kirschner at first base, Paul Gorel (umpire coordinator) at second, Noah Hakinian

at third, and Frank Bossio at home plate. Bossio has been an umpire for over seven years for several different leagues and age divisions and for the JCLL for the past two years. "I have been an ump for men's and women's teams; however, I find the kids in this league to be very polite. They show a lot of talent and I have seen some amazing pitching skill on all levels," said Bossio. "These kids in the JCLL are good kids. I've never really had any problems with them or their coaches."

Throughout the games, a concession stand, prepared by A&A Gourmet, had food available for purchase, and players and other league members were treated to food and drink vouchers. With the cheering and laughter from the bleachers, the sound of the ball and bat meeting, and the smell of hot dogs from the concession stand, the Championship series really brought the nostalgic feeling of the all-American game to Queens College and the Jewish community.

## Memorial For Reuven Israelov Held In Forest Hills

By Susie Garber

At Beth Gavriel, on June 7, Chazaq sponsored a meaningful and inspiring memorial for Reuven Israelov, a 23-year-old community member who tragically passed away on June 2. Yaniv Meirov, Operations Manager of Chazaq, opened the program by noting how Reuven touched all of us with his smiles and hugs. He was a very active participant in Chazaq programs, and learned every morning and night with Chazaq men's learning programs with Rabbi Ilan Meirov, Chazaq founder. It was clear from the speeches delivered at this program by the various *rabbanim* that he was someone who truly lived a life of Torah values and the community will miss him.

Avi Alishayev, a Chazaq teacher, stated, "He was a good friend of mine, I knew him for 15 years. My heart goes out to his family. It was always nice to have Reuven around." Avi noted that Reuven was always going to *shul*. He was someone who walked in total faith. His faith carried him on. He learned Torah. He attended the *neitz minyan* (prayer service at dawn). He was always thinking of holy things. He did everything he could do to serve Hashem. Avi Alishayev's voice filled with emotion when he recalled how Reuven always asked about his son with special needs and he always gave his son a bless-

ing. He noted that he taught this *kiruv* class for 14 years and Reuven was always there.

Next, Rabbi Moshe Matzadeh pointed out that Reuven used to go from *shul* to *shul*. He liked to get a taste of everything. Rabbi Matzadeh shared that when people ask why he doesn't move to Monsey or Lakewood or Israel he always responded that he had family here. This family he is speaking about was Reuven. His voice broke. "I couldn't leave Reuven." Rabbi Matzadeh stated that this holy soul came to our community. We didn't know his greatness. We didn't know the caliber of the shoulders we stood on. He told a story of the Baal Shem Tov. The idea in the story is that we stand on each other's shoulders. We need each other in a community. He taught, "We are a community. We are standing on each other's shoulders." We strengthen and uplift each other. He explained that the strength in our community comes from our unity. Reuven wasn't fooled by a false world. He was only interested in everyone being truly happy. When something bad happened in Israel it hurt him. It made him happy to see other people happy. He loved to share good news.

Next, Rabbi Shashua taught that it is never late. A person can always grow. We should take his memory and his naiveté

and *t'mimiyus* (pure wholeness) with us.

Following this, Rabbi Ilan Meirov noted that Reuven possessed true *ahavas Torah*, *ahavas chinam* (loving people unconditionally), and *ahavas Yisrael*. He always came to *shiurim* with tough questions. He always came prepared. He enjoyed the answers. "You felt energy in the room when he walked in. You could feel his warmth from a distance."

Rabbi Meirov strove to derive lessons that we can learn from Reuven's life. The Rambam taught that when a community experiences tragedies we all have to do *t'shuvah*. We all have to realize and internalize the fact that life is a precious gift. We should not take it for granted. We don't take anything for granted. There is no written contract. No one knows what will be. We just pray. We have to be grateful for what we have. We need to increase our attachment to Torah, which is the tree of life. Reuven had a joy for learning. We need to bring that joy and smiles to everyone including our families. Always give a smile and a good word to them. We have to value life and all the gifts Hashem gave us that are so beautiful.

Finally, Rabbi Israel Itshakov imparted that Reuven smiled with his heart. He had an unforgettable happy laugh. The *Zohar* teaches that tragedies come when



we don't show enough respect to the *Beis HaK'neses*. In *shul*, we must silence cell phones and not talk of mundane things.

This memorial inspired everyone to emulate this special young man who had such a positive impact on our community, and reminded everyone of the importance of appreciating every gift Hashem gives us. It was an uplifting program with important messages. May Reuven's *n'shamah* have an *aliyah*, and may his family, our community, and *klal Yisrael* know no more *tzaar* (troubles or sorrows).

This event can be viewed on [Torahanytime.org](http://Torahanytime.org).



Photo Credits: Aharon Katz

# JCLL's First Annual Marc Katz Memorial Championship Series at Queens College - Sunday, June 21, Kew Gardens Hills



## Rabbi Zecharia Wallerstein Speaks For Chazaq In Queens

By Susie Garber

When we do something wrong, we rationalize and then it becomes right. Rabbi Zecharia Wallerstein spoke on behalf of Chazaq at the Young Israel of Queens Valley on Monday evening, June 15. Rabbi Wallerstein focused on the danger of rationalizing. He began by quoting the *mishnah* in *Pirkei Avos* that outlines our traits in human beings:

What is mine is mine and what is yours is yours.

What is mine is yours and yours is mine.

What is mine is yours and yours is yours.

What is yours is mine and mine is mine.

He taught that the first one is the way of S'dom. We might think the fourth one is the way of S'dom. The answer to this question became clear by the end of the lecture. The second one is the idea of a fool. The third is the way of a righteous person and the fourth is the way of a wicked person.

Rabbi Wallerstein continued: Why did Hashem destroy S'dom and proclaim it could never be rebuilt? He quoted *Rabbi Shimshon Dovid Pincus*, who explained that Sodomites actually believed that their

immoral cruel laws were righteous and good. In their twisted view, if a person gave charity to a poor person, then he was a sinner and deserved death. They felt this person was going against what G-d wanted, since G-d made that person poor.

Rabbi Wallerstein explained that this illustrates the concept of rationalizing. They wanted to follow immoral values, so they rationalized and said these were correct. Hashem turned away from S'dom because if people rationalize, then they won't change.

Rabbi Wallerstein went on to highlight this idea with examples from his own personal counseling experience. Individuals often send him people who are supposedly embracing atheist views and have questions about G-d.

Rabbi Wallerstein suggests that a person's desires or misconduct comes first before the questions about G-d. Once, someone sent a man to see him. This was a man who had a wife and family and a job and a home. This man supposedly had a list of questions about G-d for Rabbi Wallerstein. Rabbi Wallerstein thought about this man's situation and he began the meeting by say-



ing, "I want to ask you a question first." He then asked the man, point blank, how long he had been seeing a non-Jewish woman. The man was flabbergasted and wanted to know how Rabbi Wallerstein knew, as he had not told this to anyone. Rabbi Wallerstein hit on the truth because this man was rationalizing his immoral behavior with atheism and questions about G-d. This is the strength of the evil inclination. It makes a sin a *mitzvah*. This is what ISIS does. This is the most dangerous behavior, because these people have no guilty conscience. Their religion promotes murder

and that is a religion like S'dom.

Rabbi Wallerstein taught that anyone who believes what is mine is mine and what is yours is mine is evil, but he is capable of *t'shuvah*, returning to G-d. This is because this person is not rationalizing his behavior. Whereas, the person who says what is mine is mine and what is yours is yours is rationalizing. He has an opinion. He is saying I don't need to help you. This person will never change. This is the philosophy of S'dom. First comes the wicked behavior and then comes the rationalization that this is the correct way.

Rabbi Wallerstein reminds us that we need to be alert in order to avoid rationalizing in every aspect of our lives. He pointed out that we recite a short sentence before we *daven Sh'moneh Esrei*. That sentence comes from Psalm 51, which was written by King David. In this psalm, King David asks Hashem to cleanse him and to protect him from rationalizing. This is what we ask Hashem before we *daven*.

He concluded with a blessing to the audience that everyone should have the ability to resist rationalizing and to bring Hashem close into himself/herself.

## Senate Committee Almost Doubles Funding For Security Grants, Bill Headed For Floor Vote

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved a \$25 million allocation for the Non-Profit Security Grant Program (NSGP), a significant boost from the current funding level of \$13 million. The program, which is administered by the US Department of Homeland Security, provides funding for security equipment for non-profit institutions, in selected cities, at high risk of terrorist attack. *Shuls*, *yeshivos*, and other Jewish community institutions have been among the major beneficiaries of the program over the years.

The \$25 million level is significant because it represents the original allocation when NSGP began in 2005. Since

that time the program has suffered steady cuts, reaching in one annual budget as low as \$10 million.

"The Committee's action is a profoundly important development," said Rabbi Abba Cohen, Agudath Israel of America's Vice President of Federal Government Affairs and Washington Director. "It would provide more security to more institutions vulnerable to terrorist threat – particularly high-risk Jewish targets – at a time of increased tensions and anti-Semitic and anti-Israel activity in many American cities."

Agudath Israel and several other Jewish community groups, in an effort orga-

nized by the Jewish Federations of North America, played a leading role ten years ago in the creation of NSGP. Since that time, Agudath Israel has continued to be deeply engaged in this initiative, working with Administration officials and congressional leaders to maintain and strengthen the program.

Bringing NSGP back to the \$25 million allocation has been a priority for Agudath Israel and other supporters. Earlier this year, Agudath Israel mobilized its nation-wide membership to call on Congress to return to the \$25 million. And it has been the subject of many Capitol meetings, including those conducted sev-

eral months ago as part of the group's National Board of Trustees Mission to Washington.

"At a time when budgets are getting tighter and spending is being dramatically cut, the Committee's action represents a meaningful 'vote of confidence' for the program," Rabbi Cohen asserted. "The members understand that the risk to American lives is real and continuing, and that the safety and well-being of those lives must rise above political differences – that, in today's world, more resources need to be devoted to increase the level of protection of our vulnerable institutions and populations, not less."

## Moshe Alpert - A Father Who's Going Further

With two young children at home and another on the way, Moshe Alpert already knows a bit about fatherhood. But, of course, it is one thing to co-parent a busy family, and quite another to do it while attending college full time.

After four and a half years of studying in Israel, Alpert returned to New York last summer with his wife, Rivky, and two young sons, Yosef and Mordechai, and enrolled in the fall at Lander College for Men (LCM) as a finance major.

"Coming from *yeshivah*, I wanted to keep up my education in Jewish studies. My situation is unique in that I am attending college at a relatively later stage in life and it took time to readjust. However, Lander provided assistance and personal attention with regard to my circumstances. It was the perfect place for me. Their Torah study program is top notch and the college offers a very good secular education as well."

Alpert, who lives in Far Rockaway, has completed one year at LCM and has some intense work ahead of him. So far, he is on



the fast track to making that happen. He is currently interning at Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance as a trainee in financial planning, an opportunity he found while attending Touro College's Parnassah Expo career fair this past spring. "My main focus is getting a good job, and to do that, I am interning at a good company."

Alpert is also pursuing the Judaic program. "Lander College has a well-organized and highly academic rabbinical track that awards a rabbinical ordination after completion. This is a great opportunity as I am looking to further my religious studies to a higher level."

Despite the inherent stress one would expect from fulfilling simultaneous roles as father and student, Alpert, with the unwavering support of his wife and extended family, has embraced his roles with unbridled enthusiasm and is grateful to LCM's faculty and administration. "I am really thankful to them. They came at the right time and place. It is good for my family to see that I am happy."

## Chabad Of Rego Park Dedicates Sefer Torah



The *huppah* was carried aloft on Sunday, June 21, honoring a new sefer Torah dedicated by Chabad of Rego Park. If a visitor went back in time to 1997, when Moscow-born Rabbi Eli Blokh and his wife Shulamis founded the outreach center, one would have to rub shoulders

in a tight space that is their home, where a *beit kneset* took up the first floor of the attached townhouse. Since then, the family has grown to 10 children and it was less than two years ago that Chabad of Rego Park moved into a larger meeting space at 97-17 64<sup>th</sup> Road.



With a larger office, Chabad has expanded its programs for all ages, assisted by prominent supporter Vladimir Fulman, educators Rabbi Shlomo and Leora Nadtochy and neighbor Mordechai Boxer, who donated the center's third sefer Torah. "Older Ashkenazi Jews have

moved on and the Russian Jews have done a great job in filling the void in Rego Park," said Boxer.

The Torah is stored inside an *aron kodesh* designed to resemble 770 Eastern Parkway, the global Lubavitch headquarters.

## Rabbi Oelbaum Gives Community-Wide Shiur On Taanis

By QJL Staff

HaRav Noach Isaac Oelbaum *shlita*, Mara D'Asra of Khal Nachlas Yitzchok, delivered a *shiur* on Thursday morning, June 18, on behalf of the Agra D'Pirka Kollel, located at Nachlas Yitzchok in Kew Gardens Hills.

Rabbi Oelbaum discussed the predicament when someone eats on a fast day by accident. Should you stop immediately and throw out what is in your mouth, or should you swallow the first bite in order to satisfy the *bracha* obligation? On the one hand, the Chida says that when someone accepted a fast day upon himself and ate something by accident, he should only eat the first bite. That still satisfies the fast day obligation since you really didn't break the fast. But eating something also saves you from violating the rule of *brachah l'vatolah*.



Others opine that you have to spit out the food in order to satisfy the fast. In that case, you are violating the *brachah l'vatolah*, since you did not end up consuming anything.

This issue has many other applications. These include (1) if you make a *brachah* by

accident over meat during the nine days, and (2) if you accidentally make a *brachah* over milk an hour after eating meat. Finally, it also applies if you wash for bread before you make *Havdalah*. In all these cases, the issue comes down to the view of the Rama, who says that you should wash and

be concerned about the issue of *brachah l'vatolah*. The *Magen Avraham* argues and says: First make *Havdalah* and only then finish with washing. It is preferable to abide by the rule of "Sheiv v'al taaseh."

The Queens community is blessed with many wonderful regular *shiurim*, such as the unique program of Agra D'Pirka, a morning *kollel* program held from Monday to Thursday, every week, based in Rabbi Oelbaum's *shul*. This program, now in its sixth year, consists of multiple *shiurim* geared to local professionals, business owners, retirees, and anyone interested in serious *limud haTorah*.

There are two learning tracks, with one class located in the main *shul*. Rabbi Henoah Savitsky gives the daily *shiur* for this group. In the other track, Rabbi Ilan Meirov gives a daily *shiur* in the social hall downstairs. For more information, call Agra D'Pirka at 212-661-9400.

## Photos From Last Week's Meeting Between Ronald Lauder And Michael Douglas In Jerusalem



World Jewish Congress President Ronald S. Lauder (left) and actor Michael Douglas met today at Jerusalem's King David Hotel. Lauder told Douglas he admired the actor's efforts against anti-Semitism, BDS, and the attempted de-legitimization of Israel and that he has been a longtime fan.

Photo Credit: Shahar Azran

## Touro's Lander Colleges Celebrate 41st Commencement Congratulations, class of 2015!



Dr. Robert Goldschmidt, Vice President and Dean of Students at Lander College of Arts and Sciences, was presented with the first Touro College Gold Medal of Achievement at the 41st Commencement Exercises of the Undergraduate Schools of Touro College on May 31, 2015 at Lincoln Center. In making the presentation, Board Chairman Mark Hasten cited Vice President Goldschmidt's exemplary leadership of the College's re-accreditation Self-Study in 2014-2015, which resulted in what Hasten described as "An A+ report from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education Team." Left to right: Board Chairman Mark Hasten, President and CEO Alan Kadish, Vice President Robert Goldschmidt, Vice President Stanley Boylan, and Executive Vice President Moshe Krupka.

**T**ouro College celebrated its 41st annual Commencement exercises at Avery Fisher Hall in Lincoln Center on Sunday, May 31, awarding a total of 647 baccalaureate and associate degrees to graduates from Lander College for Men in Kew Gardens Hills (LCM); Lander College for Women-The Anna Ruth and Mark Hasten School in Manhattan (LCW); Lander College of Arts & Sciences-Flatbush (LAS Men's and Women's divisions); the School for Lifelong Education in Brooklyn; and

Machon L'Parnasa-Institute for Professional Studies.

In his message to the graduates, Touro College President Dr. Alan Kadish discussed the concept of daring to take chances in one's professional life: "Whether you'll be entering the field of business, law, or healthcare, the ability to innovate, and not be afraid of failure, is a marker of success in the modern economy."

"Our responsibility is not to be afraid of the negative outcomes of the future—



LCM graduates Binyamin Weiss and Jonathan Yousefzadeh



LCW graduates Brittani Hirsh and Aliza Weiss

the outcome is dependent on Hashem, on serendipity—but to worry about whether we're making the right choices. If you make choices that are right personally, right hashkafically, and right economically, then the end result, even if it takes a couple of shots, will be positive."

President Kadish conferred honorary doctorates upon Alan Schoor, Touro College's senior vice president for operations, and Jay Sexter, Touro College provost for osteopathic medicine and pharmacy education. Schoor was recently named CEO of The Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty and Sexter has retired after a long and distinguished career in higher education. Dr. Mark Hasten, chairman of the board of trustees of Touro College, awarded a Gold Medallion to Dean Robert Goldschmidt for "his stalwart navigation" of the recent Middle States Accreditation process, which earned Touro College an exemplary report.

The program included addresses from the four Touro College valedictorians: Moshe Jacob of LAS men's division, Naomi

Broker of LAS women's division, Aliza Meisner of LCW; and Simcha Himmel of LCM. In her remarks, LAS-Women's valedictorian Naomi Brokor left a thoughtful parting reminder to her fellow graduates.

"Today, we receive our diplomas. Tomorrow, we decide what to do going forward. But don't ever mistake what you do for who you are. Who are you going to be? What will you value? How will you treat those around you? Will you do the right thing, even when it's hard? What are your intentions?" The answers to these questions, she argued, are far more significant than any response to the oft-asked "What do you do?" query to young professionals.

At the conclusion of the 2015 commencement season, the Touro College and University System is expected to have awarded approximately 6,500 doctor of philosophy, doctor of osteopathic medicine, doctor of pharmacy, juris doctor, master's, baccalaureate and associate degrees to students from 32 schools and colleges located in the U.S. and around the world.

## Councilman Rory Lancman, Chazaq, And QJCC Host Community-Wide Carnival

**O**n Sunday, June 14, Councilman Rory Lancman teamed up with the Queens Jewish Community Council (QJCC) and the Chazaq Organization to put on a huge outdoors fair for the Queens community.

With a bounce house, moonwalk, bouncy castle, carnival games, snow cones, balloon animals, cotton candy, clowns, and even Elmo, there was something for every kid in the neighborhood. The yard of the Yeshiva of Central Queens, where the carnival took place was held, was packed with kids and their families throughout the event.

A surprise hit was the old favorite "musical chairs," which, at the repeated demand of excited children, was played over and over again with Chazaq President Yaniv Meirov emceeding and DJ Amnon providing the music. Rides were provided by Traveling Tykes, and entertainment by Avi the Kosher Clown.

In attendance were Councilman Lancman, Assemblyman Michael Simanowitz, Assemblyman David Weprin, QJCC President Rabbi David Keehn, QJCC Executive Director Cynthia Zalisky, and Congresswoman Grace Meng's representative, Rabbi Daniel Pollack.

For more information about upcoming Chazaq events and programs call Chazaq at 718-285-9132 or email [Info@Chazaq.org](mailto:Info@Chazaq.org).



(Photo Credits: Izzy Peskowitz)

## YCQ's Graduating Classes

It is that time of year where students pack up their desks, clean out their lockers, and say good-bye to teachers and friends for the summer. For nursery, kindergarten, and Grade 8 students, a new leg of their academic journey is about to begin. During the nursery school "moving-up ceremony," students' families were treated to a presentation depicting everything they learned from their *moros* throughout the year preparing them for Kindergarten.

The Kindergarten classes performed a play with singing and dancing for their families. The performance incorporated all the different things their *moros* taught them during the school year. They are very excited to begin Grade 1 in the fall.

With family, friends, teachers, and administrators looking on, the Grade 8 students stood with pride in their caps and gowns as they received their diplomas at the YCQ commencement ceremony. Valedictorians Dina Inoyatov and Jonah Rocheeld addressed the graduates and the audience with well-thought-out *divrei Torah* as well as words to their fellow classmates wishing success in their future endeavors. The salutatorians, Mordechai Flamenbaum and Rachel Aranov, lead *t'hilim* to set the tone for the evening's

events. The boys' choir, under the direction of Rabbi Moshe Hamel, sang beautifully, and the girls performed dance routines led by their instructor, Mrs. Tzerel Goldschmiedt. Principal Rabbi Mark Landsman and Assistant Principal of General Studies Mrs. Lauren Golubtchik spoke to the students about their time here at YCQ and the privilege they had in watching them mature from small children, beginning their education, into the beautiful young men and women they have grown to be. They closed by wishing *hatzlachah* to the students in their chosen high schools, and *mazal tov* to the parents who have supported them in all they do.



HS Salutatorian Mordechai Flamenbaum and Kindergarten graduate and Binyamin Flamenbaum of KGH and family



## Bnos Malka Bakers

The third and fourth graders of Bnos Malka Academy experienced *Parshas HaShavua* in a hands-on way. In connection with *Parshas Sh'lach*, where the Torah instructs us on the *mitzvah* of *Hafrashas Challah*, the young bakers joined together for a special challah-making activity. The girls were first given an overview of the *halachos* pertaining to this *mitzvah* and then enjoyed the story from the Gemara about the wife of Rabbi Chanina ben Dosa whose sticks miraculously turned into loaves of delicious-smelling challah.

The girls then paired off and worked as teams to shape their own pieces of dough into challah loaves. They were taught



how to make four- and six-braid challahs. While they weren't all perfectly shaped, they were certainly creative in their designs.

It was very special, as the girls demonstrated their family's unique traditions and methods in shaping and braiding challah. The

project also included decorating a card containing the *brachah* and special *t'filah* said when doing this *mitzvah*.



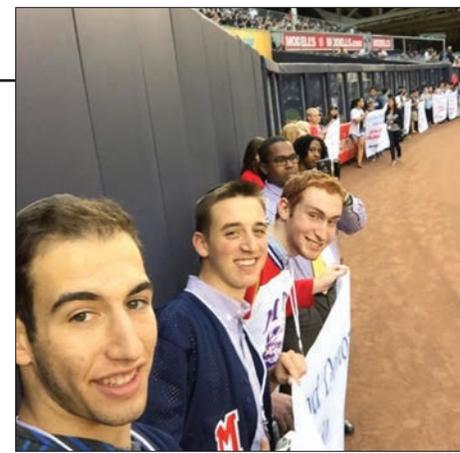
## NY Blood Center Invites MTA To Mets And Yankees Games

This year, MTA's Arista Honors Society embarked upon multiple blood drives to support New York Blood Center. The students and staff went above and beyond the minimum donation requirements, and, as a thank-you, the Blood Center invited MTA students to both a Mets

game on Monday, June 15th and a Yankees game on Wednesday, June 17th.

Additionally, some student representatives were invited onto the field prior to the start of the game. Menachem Gans (15), of New Jersey, who spearheaded the blood drives, was invited to lead the MTA

contingent, alongside Steven Stein (14) and Zev Markowitz. In total, MTA enjoyed ten tickets to see the Mets come from behind in the 11th to beat the Blue Jays 4-3, and thirty tickets to see the Yankees edge out the Marlins 2-1. It was a truly nice perk for an incredibly admirable effort.



## Yeshiva Ketana Zichron Chaim U'Bina Recent Activities

In the last two weeks, Yeshiva Ketana Zichron Chaim U'Bina has been the scene of a whirlwind of activity in its General Studies programs.

On June 1, the seventh graders held their second science fair of the year. Aside from our winning entries on density, dry ice, and popcorn's absorption of liquid, Shragi Harris led a group of boys in a fascinating study on "Who can hear sounds of different pitches?" It was humbling to hear that people of a certain age can no longer hear many sounds in pitches that were easy to hear when they were teenagers – one more reminder of the joys of old (or middle) age.

On June 4, Mrs. Gruza and Mrs. Bern-

stein took their students on an informative and interactive visit to the Queens Botanical Gardens. As a culmination to the desert unit that the teachers had worked on, the second graders planted desert plants. May all our plants thrive.

On June 10, Mrs. Susan Bernstein's second graders had a great deal of fun with their book reports, entitled "Book in a Bag." The boys dressed up as characters who might have stepped out of their novels in order to regale us with the story of the book they were inhabiting. As each child related a short summary and critique of a novel, the audience of parents and fellow students sat attentively. The Yeshiva thanks

Mrs. Bernstein and all the parents who helped make the afternoon a delightful one.

Our fifth grade state fair was held on June 15. The fifth graders had sent away to the chambers of commerce in the states they had chosen to cull information on their states, such as tourist attractions, populations, geography, and current events. The students also researched current events as well as historical events, with a concentration on the Jewish history. They then wrote up their reports and created gorgeous showboards. On June 15, the boys brought in visual aids along with their showboards and taught our younger

students all about their states. One especially interesting showboard, executed by Akiva Bolsom, highlighted the halachic discussion of Shabbos *z'manim* in Akiva's state of Alaska.

In this past week, our Pre-1A classes held their ABC parties. Our parents found out how their young sons learn and play when they squeezed themselves into small chairs and engaged in typical Pre-1A activities that celebrated the alphabet that their boys had recently mastered. Especially interesting was noting that in one class a full third of the class had fathers participating in the ABC party because moms were at work. Wonderful role models, all.

## Hats Off To This Year's Bais Yaakov Of Queens Graduates

By Susie Garber

On Tuesday evening, June 16, the graduating eighth graders of the Bais Yaakov Academy of Queens smiled as they proudly marched down the aisle at the Young Israel of Hillcrest in their navy-blue graduation caps and gowns. The administration of BYQ offered inspiring messages and blessings to the graduating class of 2015, which reflected the philosophy and goals of the Bais Yaakov Academy of Queens.

Family and friends witnessed the strong bond the students have with each other and the special relationship that they have with their teachers and principals.

Rabbi Mordechai Gewirtz, Dean of BYQ, greeted the crowd. He offered heartfelt thanks to all of the staff and the Parents Association and everyone else

who works so hard on behalf of the BYQ students. He shared a *d'var Torah* about Avraham Avinu. When Avraham asked Hashem to save S'dom and Amorah, he stated his request in the present tense. He says, "I am dust and ash..." He should have said, "I could have been dust and ash. I could have been dust from the war with the five kings and ash from being thrown into a fiery furnace." Rav Yitzchok Zilberstein explains that this teaches us the two aspects of gratitude: a) gratitude for the past and b) taking that gratitude for the past and widening it into the future. Graduation night, Rabbi Gewirtz shared, is a time for celebration, but more importantly it is a time to focus on achievements and accomplishments. It is a time for students to express gratitude towards family and teachers for all they have given

them. He offered the graduates a blessing that this *hakaras ha'tov* should remain with them always throughout their lives.

Next, the Hebrew English valedictorian, Avigayil Marcus, spoke eloquently. She expressed her thanks to her fellow students, teachers, principals, family, and to Hashem.

Following this, Mrs. Nechama Jurkowitz, *Limudei Kodesh* Principal, offered beautiful words of blessing and *divrei Torah* to the graduates. She noted that the word "graduate" derives from the Latin word "*gradis*," which means step. She then explained how graduation is a step to the next level. She shared the idea of Yaakov's ladder planted firmly in the ground, but reaching to lofty heights. We ascend one level at a time. "Our lives are all about internal and external movement.

This night represents movement upwards for you."

She praised the graduating class for their noteworthy *achdus* (unity). They seek to know, to learn, and to grow. She shared that the girls came to school last week after school was officially ended for them, in order to learn just for the sake of learning, and they plan to do that again next week. She imparted that this class excelled in *derech erez* (proper ethical behavior). Her blessing to the class was that they should continue on their trajectory to go up and up to higher and higher levels.

Next, Mrs. Sarah Bergman, General Studies Principal, offered an inspiring *d'var Torah* and blessing to the graduates. She shared how the spies in *Parshas Sh'lach* were witnesses to the splitting of the Sea and the war with Amaleik. They saw so many miracles. They were righteous men, yet they fell so low. In contrast, Rachav, in the *haftarah* of *Sh'lach*, was a non-Jew steeped in immorality, yet she recognized Hashem and she helped the spies. According to the Midrash, she married Yehoshua and gave birth to children who were prophets. Two forces exist in nature: growth and decay. These apply to the spiritual realm as well. Mrs. Bergman explained that a large beautiful tree could have decaying roots that will destroy it, while a slim sapling could be deeply rooted and headed for tremendous growth. The idea is that it doesn't matter where a tree is in the present. What matters is if the tree is in a state of growth or decay. The question we must ask ourselves is where are we going, not where are we now. Rav

*Hebrew and English Salutatorians:* Chava Beckerman, Tehila Hecht, Rena Tanenbaum  
*Hebrew Salutatorians:* Esther Levant, Esti Pogrow  
*English Salutatorians:* Shira Axelrod, Shandy Koster  
*Chesed and Middos Awards:* Sara Gastwirth  
*Memorial Awards:* Bracha Rosenberg  
*Governor's and Comptroller's Awards:* Shani Bennett, Peril Lisker, Rivka Gray, Rivky Frank

Yerucham HaLevi Levovitz taught that what characterizes growth are being energized, learning, and changing. Rashi highlights that the sin of the *m'raglim* was that they didn't learn from the incident with Miriam. She pointed out that the word "*naaseh*" has a double meaning: It means that which was done and that which we will do. Also, the word "*nishma*" has a double meaning: It means what we learned and what we will learn.

Mrs. Bergman turned towards the graduates. "Take the love and experience from the Bais Yaakov of Queens and look confidently towards future accomplishments. We look forward to future *nachas* from you."

Following this, Mrs. Karen Reisbaum, Assistant Principal, introduced an engaging video of the graduates, which traced their journey through BYQ from preschool to the present.

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# First-Ever Queens Hatzolah 'Premier Men's Event' To Benefit Lifesaving Work

Upcoming community-wide event will feature Lipa, BBQ, raffles, and more



By Jennifer Jaffe

With skill, compassion, and professionalism, the volunteer members of Queens Hatzolah are there when we need them. Whether it is during their Pesach Seder, Yom Kippur davening, or a Shabbos meal, the young men on the Hatzolah team are prepared and ready to respond immediately to all medical emergencies. Their arrival time as first responders is approximately 2-3 minutes. This quick response means the difference between life and death for many, as the survival time for emergencies such as heart attacks is 4-6 minutes from the point the heart stops beating. According to the US National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health, reducing am-

balance response times to 5 minutes could almost double the survival rate for cardiac arrests and other emergencies.

Queens Hatzolah is made up entirely of volunteer community members and currently boasts more than 180 volunteers responding to around 6,000 calls per year. Each volunteer receives comprehensive training to prepare him to handle a myriad of medical emergency situations. The volunteers are prepared to handle emergencies from minor ones to mass casualty situations.

Queens Hatzolah was founded in 1978 and initially transported patients in a station wagon until 1981, when they purchased their first ambulance. Today, there are eight operational ambulances in Queens alone, containing the most ad-



vanced state-of-the-art emergency equipment in the country. Two of those ambulances are four-wheel-drive, to allow for safety in response during inclement weather, and several are equipped with lead cardiac monitors and semi-automatic defibrillators. When the average New York City ambulance can cost patients hundreds of dollars per trip, Hatzolah is there to provide top-quality pre-hospital emergency medical treatment and transportation at no cost.

On Wednesday, July 1, at 6:30 p.m., Queens Hatzolah will present a star-studded program for their Premier Men's Event, being held at the New York Hall of Science. Lipa will be performing live, and a lavish BBQ-by-Greenwald is sure to be an evening highlight. There will also

be an impressive lineup of sleek prizes for the raffle, which will include smart watches, a plane ride around New York City, awesome gift certificates, and more. This event will be the first ever community-wide event for Hatzolah. It is expected to raise much-needed funds to help cover the \$1,000,000+ annual budget and enable them to make crucial upgrades to their equipment to help keep us all safe and healthy. One hundred percent of all donations go directly to the operating budget of the organization.

Just as Hatzolah members were the first responders on 9/11, they will be the first to respond if you should ever need them as well.

You can RSVP for the upcoming event online at [QueensHatzolah.org](http://QueensHatzolah.org).

## Chazaq Holds Two Events In One Night



R' Michael Gitik speaking for CHAZAQ

On Sunday night, June 21, Chazaq hosted two fascinating lectures on the same night.

In Forest Hills, Chazaq and Congregation Beth Gavriel hosted Rabbi Michael Gitik for a lecture in Russian,

on the topic, "How Do You View Life?" Many Russian-speakers attended. Rabbi Gitik comes from Israel, and runs the Russian language organization "Jewni-versity."

In Kew Gardens Hills, Chazaq pre-



R' Michael Gitik speaking for CHAZAQ

sented Rabbi Moshe Meir Weiss with exciting inspiration at Khal Nachalas Yitzchak (Rabbi Oelbaum's shul). Rabbi Weiss is the Rav of Cong. Agudas Yisroel of Staten Island, writes weekly Torah articles for numerous publications,

and has recorded thousands of Daf Yomi tapes for Dial-A-Daf.

For more information about upcoming Chazaq events and programs, call Chazaq at 718-285-9132 or email [Info@Chazaq.org](mailto:Info@Chazaq.org).





# Karma Chameleon

Two widely reported stories have involved Rachel Dolezal and Bruce Jenner. What they have in common is that they want to be something that they are not. Dolezal wanted to be black and Bruce Jenner wanted to be a woman. Dolezal changed her appearance to look black, while Jenner changed his appearance to look like a woman.

When Dolezal, after living for years as a black woman, was discovered to be white, she was subjected to universal condemnation. She was forced to resign from her position as president of the NACCP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) branch in Spokane, Washington, and by a vote of the city council was booted off the Spokane police oversight board. However, Jenner was portrayed as a heroic person with courage, and anyone who dared even to make a joke about his change was attacked. A man can find his inner woman but a white can't find her inner black. As to why there is a different standard, people can draw their own conclusions. I have addressed the issue of the power of the LGBT crowd in a prior column.

There are probably blacks and other minorities who try to pass themselves off as



*A man can find his inner woman but a white can't find her inner black*

white. They are not the only ones who are attempting to pass themselves off as something or someone they are not.

People have cosmetic surgery to enhance or reduce portions of their body.

Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush are also trying to market themselves as something they are not. Jeb Bush, whose father, George

Warren S. Hecht is a local attorney. He can be reached at [whecht@aol.com](mailto:whecht@aol.com)



HW Bush, and brother, George W. Bush, were presidents, and whose grandfather, Prescott Bush, was a senator, is trying to portray himself as a Washington outsider.

Hillary Clinton and her husband have made over \$25 million in fees for speaking engagements since the beginning of 2014 (Disclosure Forms reported in *Washington Post*). Yet, Hillary portrays herself as the champion of the middle class and the poor.

The common theme of all of these individuals is that they are not happy in their current state. They have created a new persona. Each has his/her own reasons. Some do so because they have psychological issues, they are unhappy about how they look or who they are, and others have economic or political agendas.

In order to grow, an individual cannot be satisfied with the status quo. However, the change should be in their actions and not through the creation of a new persona.

## Unprecedented Demand For July Poland Trip With Rabbi Paysach Krohn - Only Few Rooms Remain

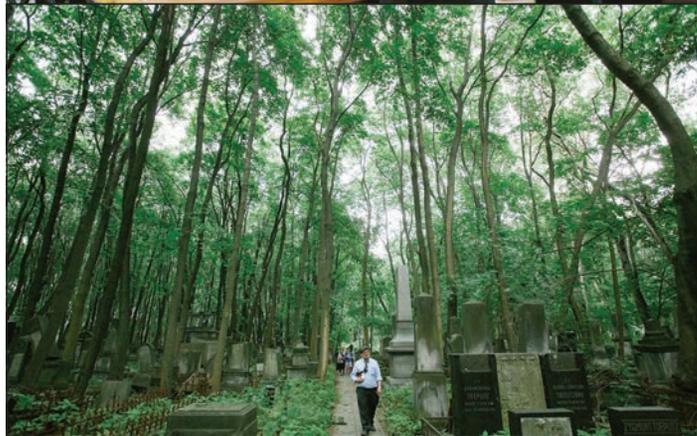
The Project Mesorah Trip to Poland is almost sold out

By Yaakov Mandel

This is your last opportunity of the summer to go on the renowned Project Mesorah Trip to Poland. Describing the emotions felt on Project Mesorah's recent trip to Poland is hard to put into words. In fact, all 120 attendees all said the same thing, that "they never experienced anything like it in their entire lives". The truth is a trip to Poland with Rabbi Paysach Krohn through Project Mesorah is a special experience unlike any other. Project Mesorah led by the inimitable R' Ari Scharf has become the go-to-place for inspirational and all-encompassing trips to Poland.

While 120 people made it to the past trip, Project Mesorah was inundated with calls from people who wanted to attend the Mesorah Trip to Poland. In order to accommodate the many people who called, Project Mesorah has arranged a new trip to Poland with Rabbi Paysach Krohn this July 7-12. Rabbi Krohn's inimitable ability to weave inspirational stories coupled with life changing Torah messages make this trip one you will not want to miss.

Come on the Mesorah Trip and you will have the rare opportunity to visit Warsaw, Ger, Yeshivas Chachmei Lublin, Majdanek, Schindler's Factory, Auschwitz-Birkenau and spend an uplifting Shabbos in Krakow. This year's trip will also be joined by Rabbi Shlomo Cynamon, Rav of Khal Bnei Torah Flatbush. Rav Cynamon will be delivering shiurim as well as provide historical background



on the places visited on the trip.

As this year's trip marks the 70th year since the liberation of Auschwitz, walking on hallowed ground promises to be an emotional and transformative experience.

You will be able to daven at the kevarim of such great tzaddikim as Reb Elimelech of Lizhensk, Reb Chaim Brisker, The Netziv, Sarah Schenirer, The Remah, the Chiddushei Harim & Sfas Emes,

the Chozeh of Lublin, the Tosfos Yom Tov, the Bach, the Megaleh Amukos and many more. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for yeshuos in all areas of our lives.

While the trip is an inspirational as well as spiritual journey, Project Mesorah ensures that all other aspects are covered in the highest quality. Gourmet meals, luxury coach busses as well as lodging in upscale hotels ensure that you will have

the ultimate all-encompassing experience.

Seeing firsthand the mighty destruction as well as the visible Kiddush Hashem sanctified by our forefathers will leave an indelible impression on you, inspiration to last a lifetime. Space is limited and there are only a few rooms left.

To make a reservation or for information call Project Mesorah at 845-642-3819, visit [WWW.PROJECTMESORAH.ORG](http://WWW.PROJECTMESORAH.ORG) or email [poland@projectmesorah.org](mailto:poland@projectmesorah.org)

# Taking Requests

It's summertime: time to pack up your car and drive to some destination – it doesn't matter *what* destination, as long as you get to stay in a hotel. Because once you're there, you don't have to get anything yourself. You can just call down to the front desk.

We've all done that. Mostly, we've asked for *sane* things, such as soap. Hotels give the tiniest bars of soap that are smaller than the bar you have at home the very last time you use it.

We also ask for more towels. We peek into the bathroom when we get to the hotel and see this nice big pile of towels, and then we get out of the shower and discover that the entire pile is washcloths. And one hand towel. Who needs this many washcloths? Is this instead of soap? And what are we supposed to dry ourselves off with? The hand towel?

Another thing we ask for is more pillows, because these hotel rooms definitely don't take into account the size of a Jewish family. Who has only two kids? Most of us, by the time our two kids are both old enough to sleep in a bed, have two *more* kids.

So we call downstairs, because we picture the hotel having a whole stash of pillows right under the front desk that they're saving just for the people who ask. Rather than sneaking into someone else's room and giving you *their* pillows. Or their towels. Is that what's happened to *your* towels?

But the hotel staff is asking for it. After all, if they didn't want us to request things, why did they say, "If there's any way we can be of service, don't hesitate to ask"? What do they even mean by that? Can you test them? Can you ask for, say, a neigel vasser dish? Or do you have to use the ice bucket?

But according to a new survey of hotel managers, some guests have really been testing that offer. So hotels really have to work on rephrasing that.

For example, at Spain's Hotel Puente Romano, one guest requested that hotel staff cut the legs off his bed to make it shorter. Apparently, he was having problems getting in.

I don't know why he couldn't just invert the ice bucket.

Meanwhile, a visit from members of The Tall Persons' Club of Great Britain had to be put on hold after a hotel was unable to locate enough seven-foot beds.



*A guest at a Spanish hotel found the sound of the sea so irritating that he actually asked hotel staff if they could stop it*

Yes, there's a Tall Persons' Club, where people walk in and bump their heads on the doorway and discuss things like fitting into airline seats and raising the mechitzah in their shul and how their cubicles offer as much privacy as an open shoebox, and how everyone's always asking them to get things down, and having people assume, back when they were in grade school, that they were several years older than their classmates. And how they always had to stand in the back in class photos. But there's a lot to talk about – enough for at least two days and one night – and they couldn't very well get together to discuss those things in a hotel where the beds weren't long enough. This gave them something else to discuss, but nowhere to discuss it.

But a lot of rooms have two beds. Can't they just turn them end to end?

*Not if the cleaning staff insists on tucking in those sheets.*

Of course, not everyone has a complaint. Sure, sometimes the beds are too tall, and sometimes they're too short, and sometimes a family of bears comes in while you're sleeping. ("Hello, front desk? Someone's been sleeping in MY

bed. Hang on; my wife wants to talk to you.") But sometimes, the beds are just right. One family at the Shanghai Mansion had such a restful night that they asked if they could buy the bed -- pillows and all -- and have it shipped back to Europe. This is probably why there are no comfortable beds in any of the hotels by the time you get there.

But really, you never know who used the bed before you. One couple checking into the Swiss Diamond Hotel booked two suites. And when the bell-boy asked who the second suite was for, they said, "It's for our beautiful dog, of course."

Um... So did they not want to sleep with the dog, or did the dog not want to sleep with *them*?

Of course, you shouldn't *always* bring your dog. One guest in the Beau-Rivage Palace (also in Switzerland) asked if he could bury his dog on the hotel grounds. The story I read didn't specify whether he'd brought his dead dog on vacation, or if he brought a live dog, gave it its own room, and then forgot about it.

But the hotel refused, so he had to load it back into his car and drive home. Or figure out how to get it onto a plane.

And at one hotel in Edinburgh, Scotland, a guest asked, "Can we keep 20 sheep in your car park while we stay at the hotel?"

You know how it is when shepherds go on vacation. Sometimes you have to bring your work with you. These sheep sure aren't watching themselves. At least they didn't ask if they could rent an extra room for all the sheep.

But not all guests love nature. One guest at a seaside villa in Greece, after hearing birds singing peacefully upon his arrival, demanded that there be no chirping outside his window the next morning. Like sending birds to every-

one's window was a service the hotel provided.

Wow. It must be fun to go on vacation with *him*.

I don't know how he thought they'd keep away the birds, other than having the staff stand outside his window waving their arms and making noises to scare them away. Which is arguably worse. Should they just stand out there with a shotgun?

*Just wait until he finds out there are 20 sheep in the next room.*

Also, a guest at Spain's Gran Hotel Elba Estepona found the sound of the sea so irritating that he actually asked hotel staff if they could stop it. Which is weird, because most people *love* the ocean. In fact, one guest at a hotel in England requested a room with an ocean view, even though the hotel was 107 miles from the nearest ocean. The best they could do was put him on that side of the hotel and give him a telescope. Kind of like facing mizrach to daven. ("It's *that* way.") You kind of have to have kavana.

I don't know how this guy expected them to turn down the ocean, though. Waving their arms won't help here. Nor will a shotgun.

Some requests, though, are easier to accommodate. One Best Western hosted a lawnmower convention, whose organizers asked if attendees could test their mowers on the hotel grounds.

*Bump.* "Is something buried here?" The hotel agreed, because they decided that the benefits of getting their lawns mowed for free far outweighed all the guests calling the front desk to ask them to keep the lawnmowers down.

Another guest requested "a room large enough to park my motorcycle". Also, it should preferably be on the ground floor.

"Do we have any rooms with an empty space that big? What about that couple who bought a bed?"

I don't know why he couldn't just park his motorcycle *outside*. It's not like the sheep are going to steal it.

And some guests should probably sleep outside too. For example, one guest at a hotel in Istanbul was claustrophobic, and he wanted to keep his door open at night. Your kids do that all the time. They say they're scared of the dark, when you know very well that they just want that crack of light so they can jump around and make your chandelier shake.

But you can't just leave your door open in a hotel, unless you want your other guests complaining about the view. So he asked the hotel to provide security guards outside his door so no one would come near the room. Though all those extra people right outside probably made him even *more* claustrophobic. Maybe he should have gotten a guard dog. And then put it in its own room, with the door open.

So my point is that whatever you're bothering the concierge for, they've seen worse. I wonder what kind of destination they go to when they need a vacation. Probably not a hotel.

**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)



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## What I Want To Be – Or What I Ought To Be

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

must be the pre-Messianic era, as foretold in the dicta of the famous final  *mishnah* in *Sotah* 49b regarding the end of days, when social norms will be overturned, all modes of behavior accepted heretofore will be discarded and vice versa, and we will be left only with our faith in our Father in Heaven to guide us.

Particularly lately, the news has gone from strange to stranger. For weeks, the headlines have been dominated by the (to me sad) story of Bruce Jenner, former Olympic Champion, then peripheral player in the First Family of the Absurd (the Kardashians), who has now finally liberated his inner soul by displaying him/herself on the front pages of fashion magazines as Ms. Caitlyn Jenner. The news media and liberal intelligentsia have been falling over themselves to sing the praises of his/her heroism and courage; the same media that routinely disparages and minimizes the sacrifices of our brave soldiers in the Armed Forces who routinely perform real acts of heroism and courage, while being demonized by our cultural elites as brutes and savages. The upshot: One's gender is what one wishes it to be, and woe to the "hateful" person who might disagree.

One would think that is as strange as it gets. Not by a long shot.

We then hear from our fearless leader that he feels entitled to criticize Israel, and knows better than Israel what is good for Israel, as he is "the closest thing to a Jew that has ever sat" in the White House and, thus, any implication that his opinions are not consistent with Jewish values and the good of Israel are ridiculous and hurtful. The upshot: One's nationality is what one wishes it to be, and woe to the "hurtful" person who might disagree.

But it gets better yet.

Just this week, the strange story of the former head of the NAACP appeared, in which Rachel Dolezal, who was born to two white parents and grew up as a red haired, freckled teen, has in fact spent years disguising herself and telling everyone that she is really black, as she rose through the ranks of the NAACP. When challenged about this, she defended herself as really being a black person inside, as that is how she feels about herself. In fact, "Race as a construct has a fluid understanding. So I would say no, I have not lied about it." The upshot: One's race is what one wishes it to be, and woe to the "hateful" person who might disagree.

So there you have it. Even heretofore immutable inborn factors regarding a person such as gender, nationality, and race, are now matters of personal choice. It is no longer how I was born, but who I feel myself to be inside that governs.

One might think that this ethic has only affected the non-Jewish world. Wishful thinking. Just the other day, the Canadian Jewish National Fund canceled an invitation for Gov. Mike Huckabee – as wonderful and loyal a friend of Israel as any – to speak at their annual dinner, claiming that he "spread degrading hatefulness towards and about transgender people." His sin? Saying in a speech to a Christian audience that "there's something inherently

being grateful to G-d for making me according to His Divine will and striving to develop that potential as fully as possible, the goal is now to become not how G-d made me, but as I wish to be.

This short essay cannot deal with all of the complicated arguments for and against the ordination of women as rabbis. I focus here only on the underlying desire that causes people to wish to be that which they are not, rather than fully deepening the limitless potential of

to impose the law G-d has given us upon our own drives and energies, to realize in it all that we do and refrain from doing... Like all other living creatures, only within the confines of Divine law can we attain individual freedom and independence. *The whole Torah is nothing but the mitzvah of le'mino that was given to the man of Israel...* G-d needs in His world the blade of grass as well as the cedar, the ear of corn, as well as the grapes of the vine. He has given to each its own law, within which each is to live its own appointed life, without questioning why it is a blade of grass and not a cedar, an ear of corn, and not a vine. Each leaves the planning of the world to G-d, and is happy to make its own contribution to the whole... G-d's purpose will be attained only if each will fulfill the mission and obey the law that G-d has assigned to him. Through the performance of duty he will make the contribution that is required of *him* for the common good." (See there for a beautiful connection with Parshas Chukas.)

It may surprise the reader of these lines, but I consider myself a feminist, and indeed consider the Torah in general as feminist. Of course, one must define one's terms, to be properly understood. If feminism means that women should be treated with equal respect, given equal pay for equal work, celebrated for their knowledge and wisdom, and treated with dignity more than equal to the way men are treated – then I am firmly a feminist, and join with my sisters in decrying any and all manifestations of women being treated as "less than" in any way.

But if feminism means that men and women ought to be one and the same, that they were brought into the world to fulfill the same roles, and are expected to perform the same activities and share equally in all roles in life when not limited by differences in biology, then I am decidedly not a feminist. The radical feminism of Betty Friedan and the feminist movement of the sixties and seventies, although having achieved some important gains for women in the afore-

CONTINUED ON P. 46

*We need our women to be great women  
and our men to be great men,  
and not confused hybrids who strive for that which they are not*

wrong about forcing little children to be a part of this social experiment," in which one might object to having one's young daughter greeted in the ladies' room by a forty-two year old man who feels more like a woman than a man," and furthermore wondering what high school might have been like had the same rules applied in the locker room when he was growing up. Perhaps they will invite another pro-Israel speaker to replace him. Perhaps they will invite a leading liberal intellectual who is too brilliant to be pro-Israel. But at least he won't question the propriety of celebrating transgender people.

Well, so much for the non-Orthodox Jewish world, many of whom think that liberalism and Judaism are one and the same. But surely in the Orthodox world – surely here they still cling to traditional mores and notions in matters of personal identity! No such luck.

Dr. Elana Sztokman wrote last week in *"The Forward"*: *The past two weeks have been historic for Jewish women. Orthodox women in both Israel and New York were ordained as clergy – although with a variety of titles from Maharat to Rabba to Rabbi, but effectively all as rabbis. While Yeshivat Maharat is now the veteran institution with five years of experience at this, Yeshivat Har'el appears more liberal in calling women "rabbi" or "rabba." Israeli Orthodoxy thus effectively caught up with and then surpassed American Orthodoxy, creating a bizarre and beautiful historic twist in which organizations seem to be racing against one another to demonstrate the greatest commitment to women's advancement in religious Judaism.*

And so we have arrived, in the Orthodox world, at a time when we have young women encouraged by certain rabbis and Jewish leaders to be that which they are not, and cannot be. A time that we are told that one's identity is determined not by who I am, but whom I "feel" that I am or whom I wish to be. Rather than the classic Jewish goal of celebrating *"She'Asani Kirtzono,"*

the way G-d created them.

I want to be understood clearly. Of course, I do not mean to denigrate the striving of women to deepen their learning and *avodat Hashem*, and see a world of difference between the spiritual motivations that underlie their striving and the disturbing thoughts that exercise the absurdities of Jenner and Dolezal and their ilk. I am *not* drawing a direct comparison. Having said that, I cannot help seeing it as unfortunate that these women strive to be not merely great Jewish women and students and teachers of Torah, but to be rabbis and *dayanos*, and although very different, it is nevertheless another example of people who wish to be something other than as they were created by the Almighty, who created us in our diverse roles, and determined for us who we are and what we are supposed to be doing in His world.

Rav Samson R. Hirsch spends much time in his commentary on Chapter 1 of Bereishis on the recurring theme of *le'mino*, "according to its species." He writes, "We see, beginning from the simple plant, a law all-pervading and all-embracing, that of *le'mino*, allowing each plant species to develop only within the limits set for it...this law governs the whole organic world...and underlies the strong prohibitions we find in the Torah against *kilayim*, the intermixing of species... These *mitzvos* warn us to keep this law also as regards our own species,

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**Rabbi Yehuda L. Oppenheimer** is the Rav of the Young Israel of Forest Hills. (The opinions expressed are solely his and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or position of the YIFH). He also practices law and mediation. Before coming to Queens he was active in Jewish outreach, particularly as the Rav of a growing community in Portland, OR, for ten years, and lived extensively in Israel as well. His writings can be found at [libibamizrach.blogspot.com](http://libibamizrach.blogspot.com)



# Ateret Cohanim Is Now 36 Years Old

Jerusalem is stronger than ever because of the incredible vision, endless energy, and boundless creativity of Mati Dan HaKohen, the founder of Ateret Cohanim, now 36 years old.

I have had the privilege and honor of working with Ateret Cohanim for 30 years. Bernie & Ann Hoenig and Mel

Wadler started the American Friends organization in the United States in 1982. I joined in 1985, in time for the very first Annual Dinner in Manhattan, featuring Bibi Netanyahu. Jesse Maryles was the organization's first president. Jack Friedler, of blessed memory, took over in 1990. He and Joe Mermelstein, who

was chairman of the board, asked me to be president in 1991. Shani Hikind started then.

In 1988, General Ariel Sharon moved into his apartment in Jerusalem's Wittenberg House (This building, only in the past few years, has been found to be the hotel that Mark Twain stayed in, in 1867,

and President Ulysses S. Grant stayed in subsequently). The move by Ariel Sharon was one of Jerusalem's finest moments in modern Israel. It re-focused the world on Jerusalem as the eternal capital of Israel.

In 1989, Ariel Sharon was the keynote speaker at the Annual Dinner of the American Friends of Ateret Cohanim. His speech at the dinner was featured as a full-page ad in *The New York Times*. He called Jerusalem the "heart and soul" of the Jewish people. Ariel Sharon was responsible soon after the dinner for rounding up the necessary funds to purchase St. John's Hospice. In 1990, Ateret Cohanim moved in. The move into St.

*The organization revolutionized and rejuvenated Jerusalem like none other. It continues to do so to this very day*

John's Hospice was met with worldwide criticism but was one of the many milestones and crowning achievements of Ateret Cohanim. The organization revolutionized and rejuvenated Jerusalem like none other. It continues to do so to this very day.

In 1995, Beit Hatzalem (House of the Photographer) was purchased. It was the tallest building in the so-called Muslim Quarter (actually should rightfully be called the Old Jewish Quarter). As a result, the main Israeli Army Outpost to protect Jerusalem is stationed there. Until the acquisition, many including former Mayor of New York Ed Koch were pelted with rocks and stones. Ed Koch had spoken at the American Friends annual dinners a number of times previously.

All of the homes and buildings, including Beit Hatzalem, acquired by Ateret Cohanim are used to house students, teachers, and staff of Yeshivat Ateret Yerushalayim, run by the Gaon Rabbi Shlomo Aviner. Some of the properties have been set up for *kollelim* and Advanced Talmud Training Facilities.

The purchase of Beit Hatzalem was particularly poignant. We had a deadline of August 1, 1995, to raise the necessary funds. The Arab owner said that if we did not come up with the funds in time, he would sell the home to Hamas instead. Needless to say, American Friends came up with the funds in time. The rest is history. Jerusalem has never been safer due to the efforts of Ateret Cohanim.

The Israeli government has heavily invested in an elaborate security system to maintain the safety and security of Jews and Arabs throughout the Old City of Jerusalem. This would never have happened without Ateret Cohanim's presence.

Much has been accomplished these past 36 years, but much more still needs to be done. It is up to all of us to guarantee Jerusalem's continued growth and revival.

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

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## Tenants And Landlords - Navigating The "Shidduch"

**A** working relationship between a tenant and landlord, most especially when they reside in the same property, is similar to making a "shidduch" in the sense that it is part mazel and part "checking out." When both sides "click," it may be a productive living arrangement for all those involved.

When a landlord is considering a tenant who will reside in a separate property, the relationship part is not as vital but still important. What is important is to try to ascertain the tenant's ability to be a good (understatement) renter. Checking in to their background and history of paying rent, other bills, their references regarding their character and behavior in business dealings are all good places to start. Once all of that is in order and their income and credit have been checked and found to be suitable, there should be a meeting to set the stage for a future productive relationship. This is where people must be careful to trust their feelings. We are given our intuition as a "gift." Trust it.

A tenant who will not reside in the same property as the landlord should inquire about the landlord as far as behaving responsibly in case of necessary repairs, unexpected events, or other potential pitfalls. If there is an "absentee" landlord, meaning the landlord is far away, out of state, or overseas, the tenant should check in to whoever is responsible for the property's maintenance on a daily basis. I unfortunately have heard horror stories from tenants who later came to me to help them find other solutions. I have been fortunate not to work with landlords who are not ethical and responsible property owners.

When a landlord and potential tenant will reside in the same property, many more considerations must be taken in to account. The character of each matters more. A potential tenant who will reside in the same property as the landlord must be very carefully checked out. Here is not the place to just meet and base a future relationship on a first chance meeting. Remember, everyone

is on their best behavior initially. Check carefully into their ethics and behaviors, "even when nobody's looking." There

He ran from trouble (think: Popiphar's wife) in order to avoid temptation or succumbing to any negative behaviors. Alter-

I pass no judgment on either method and I would dare even say, "Whatever works." Each person has to know himself

would be Yehudah's approach. These approaches can be used in our landlord-tenant transactions as well. We can use the checking out, interviewing part as preventive measures. Once we are in a landlord-tenant relationship, and something occurs, we can admit errors and correct them. As a bit of encouragement to ourselves that we can display both of the above approaches, my calendar this month reads: "You're braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think." Use it for good.

*I would caution anyone who considers a landlord-tenant relationship based on an online connection, without an in-depth in-person meeting first*

are ways to accomplish this and it is vital. As far as landlords, when they reside in the property they are more likely to be careful about caring for repairs as they themselves may be affected by anything in disrepair. An in-person meeting should be arranged and others should be present in order to give their opinion later as to the intent and character of the potential tenant. Important, focused questions should be asked of employers, references, prior landlords, and others who may provide insight.

I would caution anyone who considers a landlord-tenant relationship based on an online connection, an email exchange, or even with any of the "shuls list" respondees, without an in-depth in-person meeting first. I have heard of very difficult situations arising out of these brief or not-at-all in-person meeting arrangements. Very careful rules should be laid out and explained in writing in leases or other documentation. At the very onset, before 30 days have passed, landlords should carefully consider whether the relationship is a good one, a good match, and if not, consider making a change. This would be more easily accomplished where there is no lease or no long-term lease, and rather a short-term situation or a month-to-month or other agreement. Where a lease specifies an amount of time, ideally there should be some "backdoor" clause if a relationship does not prove fruitful. Many landlords will only give a new tenant a one-year only lease for this very reason - to wisely test the waters.

In *shul* last Shabbos, the rabbi spoke about different approaches to avoiding or dealing with difficulties. He said that Yosef used the "great escape" method.

natively, Yehudah, when confronted with an embarrassing error on his part, stood up and admitted his mistakes. He took responsibility for his actions.

best. But since all people will ultimately err, as is human nature, the approach to successfully dealing with something difficult and then moving on

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## What I Want To Be – Or What I Ought To Be

CONTINUED FROM P. 41

forementioned areas of positive feminism, particularly in the workplace, has done great damage to society and caused untold misery for millions of young men and women who were convinced to pursue unnatural goals and face a world where men were prevented from being men and women could not truly be women. We need our women to be great women and our men to be great men, and not confused hybrids who strive for that which they are not.

In a recent article, Orthodox “*s’michah*” student Eryn London writes, “My reasons

for wanting *s’michah* and to be interacting on a halachic level have nothing to do with wanting to be a man... It has to do with the fact that I think that my voice (and of other women as well) should be heard in the Jewish conversation... There has to be a balance between both the feelings of being part of the community but also how Halachah is actualized.” While I sympathize with her feelings and agree that serious Modern Orthodox women are far too often excluded from having a voice in Jewish communal affairs, that is not reason to ordain women as rabbis. People ought not get *s’michah* in order to “have their voice heard.”

Rather, *s’michah* is a holy undertaking, to be a guardian of our traditions, one who is the bulwark to uphold the *mesorah*. If the purpose of getting *s’michah* is to be able to transform the *mesorah* and lead to a different type of Orthodoxy than exists now (which is the gist of most of the rest of her article), perhaps it would be better not to get *s’michah* at all, whether a man or a woman. What should motivate a budding spiritual leader is not to have the ability to innovate or to have one’s voice heard, but rather to be a conduit to transmit, as selflessly as possible, what has been entrusted to us by the *mesorah*, and to inspire loyalty to it.

As a friend of mine put it, there is a major difference be-

tween getting a PhD and an MD. A PhD seeks to break new ground, to think of novel ideas, to develop new paradigms that were never considered before. As an MD, however, one innovates only most rarely. The goal is to preserve the patient’s health, allowing the natural innate powers of the body to heal itself and expunge outside influences that have invaded the system, thus causing sickness and poor health. The role of a rabbi is like that of being a physician – watching over people’s spiritual health, helping them to appreciate and see the beauty of our 3,500 year old *mesorah*. It is about modeling what it is to be an *eved Hashem*, a servant of G-d, who seeks to carry out the Master’s wishes, not to seek to

project “one’s own voice” and to perform whatever service that one feels driven to offer. It is about fulfilling a mission. It is not about my personal spiritual fulfillment or even my connection with Hashem. It was and is about bringing the world to its fulfillment, creating a home for Hashem here on this earth, and raising this world up to Him. What one brings to the profession is enthusiasm, knowledge, ideology, and commitment; innovation is limited to finding new ways to inspire adherence to ancient wisdom, not to change halachic norms.

I am all for celebrating the advancement of women’s learning and of their contribution to our society. Let us be thrilled that women in our time – freed by technology from the burdensome domestic chores of our grandmothers – can engage in far more learning and scholarly pursuits, and have much to share of their special perspective on Torah and life. I believe firmly that women today can be not only great mothers and wives, but also great contributors to our discourse on Torah and all the great issues of the day. As a rabbi who has benefited greatly from the Torah taught by Nechama Leibowitz, z”l, and has learned much from some of the great women Torah teachers of our day such as, *tibodlu l’chaim*, Rebbetzins Faige Twerski, Tzipora Heller, Leah Kohn, Shira Smiles, and Esther Wein – I have nothing but the greatest respect, not only for their vast knowledge, but also for the sensitive insights that they contribute, specifically with their feminine viewpoint. As an attorney, I have nothing but the highest regard for the female attorneys, judges, and fellow law students I have come to know who are fully adept at complicated legal reasoning and possess knowledge of the law on par with, or greater than, any of their male counterparts. Clearly there are many individuals of either gender who possess great intellectual gifts, and society benefits greatly if they are put to good use.

I think that I understand, as much as a male can, that it must be frustrating for some women who might wish to function as *rabbanim* and *dayanim* to be told that the *halachah* and *mesorah* preclude this, for reasons that I cannot go into in this article. As *ovdei Hashem*, it behooves all of us, men and women, to follow Rav Hirsch’s words quoted above, that “G-d’s purpose will be attained only if each will fulfill the mission and obey the law that G-d has assigned to him” or her. There is no question that women have an enormously important role to play in our society. But as Great Women, not as men.

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## Super Smoothies

Smoothies are a favorite treat any time of day in our house. I make them very often for breakfast, and many times for an accompaniment to a dairy dinner as well. I usually buy fruit that is very soft and very ripe. If I see persimmons that are soft and mushy, I buy a whole bunch and freeze them. When mangoes are in season, I buy the soft ones, or alternatively leave them on the counter until they're very ripe. I cut them into cubes and freeze them on a baking sheet, laid out in a single layer. Once frozen, they go into freezer bags. This method prevents them from sticking together and becoming one big clump, making it easier to take out what I need.

**Ingredients**

**Yield: 3-4 servings**

- 1 cup vanilla yogurt
- 1 cup orange juice
- 1 cup almond breeze or low-fat milk
- 2 cups frozen fruit chunks (I use persimmons, mangoes, and a few strawberries. Bananas, pineapples, and cantaloupe are all favorites, too.)



**P**lace all the ingredients into a strong blender and blend until smooth and then a full minute more. If it's too thick, add some more milk or orange juice to thin it out a bit. (In our house, when it's thick, the kids get excited ... they get "ice cream" for breakfast, and they eat it with a spoon.)

## Chocochino Smoothie

I used to buy these all the time until I discovered how easy they are to make. Now I just buy them some of the time and make them the other times.

**Ingredients**

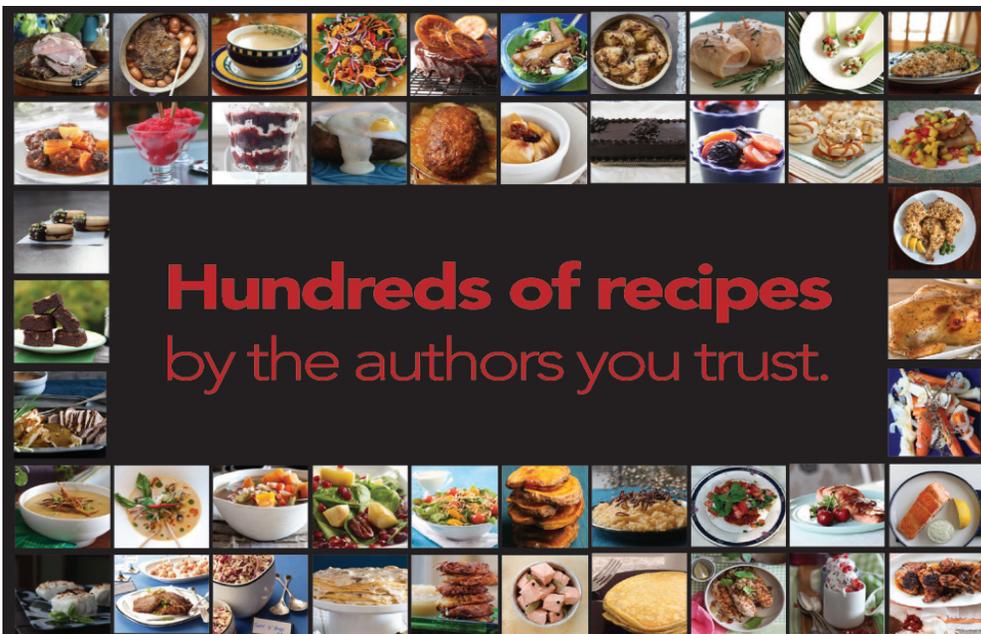
**Yield: 3 servings**

- 4 teaspoons instant coffee
- 2 tablespoons hot water
- 1 packet or 2 teaspoons sweetener or sugar
- 1 cup milk
- 3 cups ice
- Good quality chocolate syrup

**D**issolve the coffee in hot water. Add the sweetener or sugar and stir to dissolve.

**P**lace coffee, milk, and ice in a blender designed to crush ice or a smoothie machine, and blend until smooth. There should be small crystals of ice remaining.

**P**our chocolate syrup down the sides of 3 glasses and pour smoothie inside. Serve immediately.



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Meira E. Schneider-Atik

## How To Get Maximum Use Out Of Your (New And Old) Wardrobe

**Myth:** Once you've gotten what you need, all you have to do is put it away.

**Truth:** You have to make sure it all works well before you put it away.

You've gone through your wardrobe and you've weeded out everything. You've been out shopping and you've gotten what you need and even a few goodies that you want. Now, you may be wanting to try it all on and see how fabulous it really is.

Guess what? That's exactly what you're supposed to do.

From me, you get the truth.

Okay, I'm sure that there are some of you who just want to put your new clothing and accessories away and be done with all of this. But your wardrobe needs to be 100 percent organized so that you'll be able to find what you need each day and get dressed and look great with a minimum of effort. So it's not just a matter of putting things away.

You start by trying on your new things, both together and with the keepers that are still in your wardrobe. Put this top with that skirt. Try that jacket on with this dress. Try your suit first with your pearl necklace, then with your multi-strand chain necklace, then with your drop earrings. Try on different shoes, scarves, head coverings, and more. Model it in front of your full-length mirror. If you like what you see, go ahead and admire your fabulous self. If you don't like the outfit, tweak it. Change a little something here and a little something there until you do like it. Then admire your fabulous self.

With the exception of anything that's black-tie formal and specifically for that context, each clothing item you have should be part of at least three different outfits. This will get you the maximum wear out of each item and will reduce the cost-per-wear. That new suit of jacket + skirt should work with at least three different underpinnings. Plus, you should also be able to wear the jacket with at least two other skirts and/or dresses. And you should

be able to wear the skirt with at least two other tops.

When dealing with neutrals, color coordination need not be a serious issue. Remember that neutrals go with every other color, including each other. Don't be afraid to try your navy jacket with shells in brown (neutral), ivory (neutral), green (brighter), pink (brighter), and others. As long as the colors themselves flatter you along with the combinations, you don't have to worry about the old rules of what goes with what.

Issues of shape and flattery might come up here. First, always keep in mind the idea of "long over short/short over long." The idea here is that your body will be divided into thirds, instead of in half, which is much more flattering. The longer/wider your top, the shorter/narrower your bottom should be. That means that a longer jacket or top looks best with a straight JBTK (just below the knee) skirt. A blousy top looks best with a straight skirt. The opposite is also true - the shorter/narrower your top, the longer/wider your bottom should be. A shorter jacket or cardigan looks good with a longer skirt. And an A-line skirt looks best with a closely fitted (but not skin-tight) top.

Second, along with the above idea, you have to consider your own proportions. If you have a longer torso combined with shorter legs, then you'll want to stick with shorter tops and jackets with longer skirts. And if you have a shorter torso and longer legs, you'll do best with JBTK skirts mixed with longer tops and longer lines on top to elongate.

Third, different items may look different when mixed and coordinated. Your jacket might look fantastic with at least three skirts, but it might not look right with a dress. Your skirt might look great with some tops but not with others. All of this means that you have to try everything on and see what works and what doesn't



As long as the colors themselves flatter you along with the combinations, you don't have to worry about the old rules of what goes with what



A longer jacket or top looks best with a straight JBTK (just below the knee) skirt

Put this top with that skirt. Try that jacket on with this dress



work.

Even if you're not into clothes and would rather just put the things away, take some time to try them on and put out-

fits together. When you know how your clothes will work, it will be much easier to get dressed each day.

To be continued...

**Meira E. Schneider-Atik** is a wardrobe organizer and personal shopper. She helps women weed out their wardrobes, shop smartly, put together outfits, and save time, effort, and money, all within tz'nius. Her writing on fashion and style within tz'nius has been published both in print and online. She is also a jewelry designer and co-founder of RenaMei Jewelry - Designed Just for You. Her pieces can be seen on [www.etsy.com](http://www.etsy.com) (just look up RenaMei). She can be reached at 718-644-6135 or at [MESAtik@gmail.com](mailto:MESAtik@gmail.com).

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Risselle Naimark

## Thinking Outside Of The Bottle

### Pay Attention To Your Marks

Most grownups probably have between 10 and 40 moles dotting their body. Differentiating between an innocent beauty mark and a cancerous spot is often difficult. Because life is so busy for everyone, most of us don't take the time to notice slight changes. It's a wise idea to scan your skin monthly for any visible moles and to visit a dermatologist if any marks have changed, or grown rapidly. The following markings can pose a danger and must be checked out immediately.

**When It Looks: Pink, flaky, usually on the face, hands, or arms and grows back rapidly**

**It Could Be... Actinic Keratosis.**

Twenty percent of the time these pre-cancers lead to squamous cell carcinoma. Patients may mistake the scaly patches for eczema.

**When It Looks: Pink, shiny, typically on the head, neck, or ears**

**It Could Be... Basal Cell Carcinoma.**

The most common skin cancer rarely metastasizes, but growths on ears or lips

risk spreading to the lymph nodes and then to the lungs.

**When It Looks: Red, flaky, raised, often on the head, neck, ears, lips, hands, or arms**  
**It Could Be... Squamous Cell Carcinoma.**

The lesions tend to look like sores that won't heal. Those on lips and ears have a higher risk of metastasis, and in very rare cases, they can be fatal.

**When It Looks: Asymmetrical, with uneven borders, and color; forms anywhere on the body**

**It Could Be... Melanoma.**

This is the deadliest skin cancer. The growths are usually the size of a pencil eraser or larger. The uneven coloring can include deep blue or red, dark brown, and black.

In 2011, the FDA approved an in-office-held scanner that analyzes irregular moles. MelaFind identified 98 percent of melanomas compared with 78 percent by dermatologists alone. It's like having a second opinion, and helps diagnose more accurately. When in doubt, always check it out, because an ounce of prevention is always worth more than a pound in cure.



Twenty percent of the time these pre-cancers lead to squamous cell carcinoma



Squamous Cell Carcinoma tends to look like sores that won't heal. In very rare cases, they can be fatal



The most common skin cancer rarely metastasizes, but growths on ears or lips risk spreading to the lymph nodes and then to the lungs



Melanoma is the deadliest skin cancer



MelaFind identified 98 percent of melanomas compared with 78 percent by dermatologists alone

**Risselle Naimark** is a Professional Freelance Makeup Artist and Skincare Consultant. She carries an extensive line of personalized skincare, cosmetics, and anti-aging products. Risselle is also available for weddings, Bar Mitzvahs, makeup lessons, and all of your beauty needs. She can be reached at 718 263-5517.

## Ateret Cohanim Honors Its Founder, Celebrates Silwan Properties At Gala Event In Queens

CONTINUED FROM P. 28

return amid heavy security, to Beit Yehonatan and Beit Dvash, the first Ateret Cohanim properties in the neighborhood. In the past year, Ateret Cohanim had its largest growth in Silwan, in terms of new properties and residents. They live alongside approximately 50,000 Arabs.

A video shown at the dinner showed the difficulties of life in the reclaimed properties. Children play on rooftop playgrounds, metal bars guard windows, and private security guards keep watch for rock throwers. The rooftop *sukkah* of Beit Yehonatan is probably the only one in the world that has a rabbinic *heter* (permission) to have iron coverings atop its schach for protection. The security for the Jewish residents of the neighborhood is funded by the state and was challenged in the Israeli Supreme Court by left-wing activists, who demanded that Arab residents receive funding for guards as well. Dan successfully argued that Jewish residents do not throw Molotov cocktails at Arabs and there is no need to defend the Arab residents from settlers.

Dan humbly accepted the award, but before making his remarks, he enumerated the names of courageous Jews who were either wounded or murdered *al kiddush Hashem* (sanctifying G-d's name) in the so-called Moslem Quarter. He was preceded by Ambassador John Bolton, the keynote speaker, who did not disappoint. Bolton briefly served

as the US Ambassador to the United Nations during the second Bush Administration. "In most other countries, buying properties and residing in them is considered a natural activity. It is not hard to understand once you leave the media bubble," said Bolton. He referred to the internationally-backed two-state solution as "delusional" and based more on ideology than reality. "Boundaries that were drawn 100 years ago are disappearing. I don't think the state of Iraq exists anymore. I don't think that Syria exists anymore. Is this the moment to talk about a two-state solution? It will increase the risks."

In speeches given at the dinner and video interviews by Jewish residents of eastern Jerusalem, the two most effective means of helping Ateret Cohanim rebuild and redeem Yerushalayim are financial partnerships and one's physical presence. The organization welcomes supporters to follow the example of the Hoenigs and the Rubins by taking tours with Ateret Cohanim in the Old City and meeting the brave families and *yeshivah* students who are restoring Jewish life throughout all neighborhoods in Jerusalem.

For further information, please contact Shani Hikind, Executive Vice President, American Friends of Ateret Cohanim at 212-216-9270, or e-mail [ateret@juno.com](mailto:ateret@juno.com). To arrange for a fascinating tour, or to learn more about Ateret Cohanim, visit [www.jerusalemchai.org](http://www.jerusalemchai.org).

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# New York State Assembly Passes Resolution Rejecting Anti-Israel BDS Movement

Resolution introduced by Assemblyman Walter Mosley overwhelmingly condemns BDS, supports Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state



Walter T. Mosley introduced the resolution

By Brian Chernigoff

On Thursday, June 18, the New York State Assembly, in a voice vote, passed a resolution rejecting the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, condemning the boycott movement against the State of Israel and supporting Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state. The resolution, introduced by Assemblyman Walter T. Mosley (D-Brooklyn) and co-sponsored by 74 other members – including Queens Assembly Members Phil Goldfeder, Nily Rozic, Michael Simanowitz, and David Weprin – concludes with its primary message and purpose: “[T]his Legislative Body reaffirms their support for the State of Israel as a Jewish State, oppose[s] all attempts to economically and politically isolate Israel within the international arena, and oppose[s] efforts to assault the legitimacy of Israel as the sovereign homeland of the Jewish people.”

With the passage of this resolution, New York State has now joined a growing nationwide effort by state legislators to stand firmly opposed to efforts from the BDS movement against the State of Israel.

The resolution further condemns all activities that contribute directly or indirectly to the delegitimization of the sovereignty of Israel as a Jewish state and reaffirms the Assembly's support for the State of Israel as the sovereign homeland of the Jewish people.

Commenting on this, Assemblywoman Rozic (D-Queens) said, “At the core of the BDS movement is a quest to delegitimize Israel as a sovereign, democratic, and Jewish state. This bipartisan resolution sends a strong message that New York will not tolerate increasing anti-Semitism, anti-Israel, and anti-Zionist campaigns.”

At its core, BDS is just what its

name implies: an organization dedicated to putting economic pressure on Israel, with the stated goal of forcing Israel to make peace in the Middle East. This includes forcing Israel to dismantle the wall around the West Bank, which would then make Israel's borders indefensible. So in actuality it wants to destroy Israel entirely and deny its right as a State.

Since the beginning of the Second Intifada in 2000, various Palestinian organizations have risen, promoting a policy of boycotting Israel, among them BDS. It has especially gained power since the war last summer between Israel and Gaza. To gain supporters, BDS compares itself to the anti-apartheid movements of the 1980s. It claims that Israel is oppressing the Palestinian people the same way that the South African government oppressed blacks during that decade. It claims that Israel is an imperialistic, aggressive country seeking to dominate the Palestinians and oppress them. According to the BDS July 2005 call, BDS urges its followers to boycott Israel until it “complies with the precepts of international law,” by “ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantling the Wall; recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and respecting, protecting, and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN Resolution 194.”

BDS' claims, though they have swayed many to join their cause, are unfounded. Palestinians have been oppressed in every single country that they have dwelled in, *except* Israel. They have been massacred in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt, yet no movements have risen to boycott those countries. But in Israel, Palestinians have free speech and the basic



Demonstrators hold up signs during a BDS protest in Melbourne, Australia, in 2010

civil rights of any democratic country, yet movements have risen that are calling for boycott. In 2006, after Israel pulled out of Gaza, it left the infrastructure in Gaza intact for the Palestinians. Israel left roads, highways, schools, hospitals, factories, and greenhouses all ready for Palestinian use. But what did they do? They ravaged and destroyed them, despising the very good that Israel had done for them. Can Israel truly be blamed for its stance regarding the Palestinians?

With its boycott of Israeli companies, BDS is actually hurting Palestinians more than it is hurting Israelis. Most Palestinians are in fact dependent on the Israeli economy. Many Palestinians who were employed by SodaStream, manufacturer of machines for making fizzy drinks at home, which achieved some fame for recruiting actress Scarlett Johansson as its pitchwoman, have been laid off because the sanctions forced the company to close its West Bank factory.

BDS has expanded recently after Israel's war with Hamas in Gaza last summer. Many BDS supporters claim that because of the disproportionate death toll, Israel targets civilians and is guilty of war crimes. What these people fail to realize (or ignore) is that Hamas endangers their own civilians by shooting rockets at Israel from highly populated civilian areas. And when Israel threatens to retaliate to destroy the rocket launchers, it sends messages to civilians warning them to escape, yet Hamas forces them to stay. How can Israel be guilty of war crimes when Hamas itself is the cause of civilian casualties and it instead should be charged with war crimes?

Because of these reasons, the New York State Assembly has decided to not recognize BDS and remain strong in its support of Israel. Said Assemblyman Walter T. Mosley: “As the proud

prime sponsor of the anti-BDS resolution – a legislative act denouncing the anti-Israel global campaign that strikes directly against Israel's sovereignty and statehood – I want to commend my colleagues in the New York State Assembly for making a clear and resounding bipartisan statement against this anti-Semitic movement. While we, as trustees of our great state, seek to ensure that any level of bigotry and prejudice does not go unchallenged, this unequivocal and definitive statement of support for Israel is a necessary first step in our clear opposition to this movement and its so-called supporters.

In a passionate speech regarding the passing of the anti-BDS resolution, Assemblyman Simanowitz (D-Queens) explained why the Assembly must remain steadfast in its support of Israel. “I believe the Palestinian people want to live peacefully. I believe the Israeli people want to live peacefully. But as long as the Palestinians are ruled by Hamas, Islamic Jihad...the gamut of terrorist organizations, there will be no peace and they will not live peacefully.” BDS' goal is to sanction Israel until it complies and agrees to make peace with the Palestinians. While the Palestinian people may want peace, as long as they are ruled by Hamas, peace will not be achieved and the efforts of organizations such as BDS are therefore misguided.

“This is a very proud day for the New York State Assembly,” said Assemblyman Goldfeder (D-Rockaway Beach). “With partisanship often preventing action, support for Israel is one issue that continues to unite elected officials all across the country.”

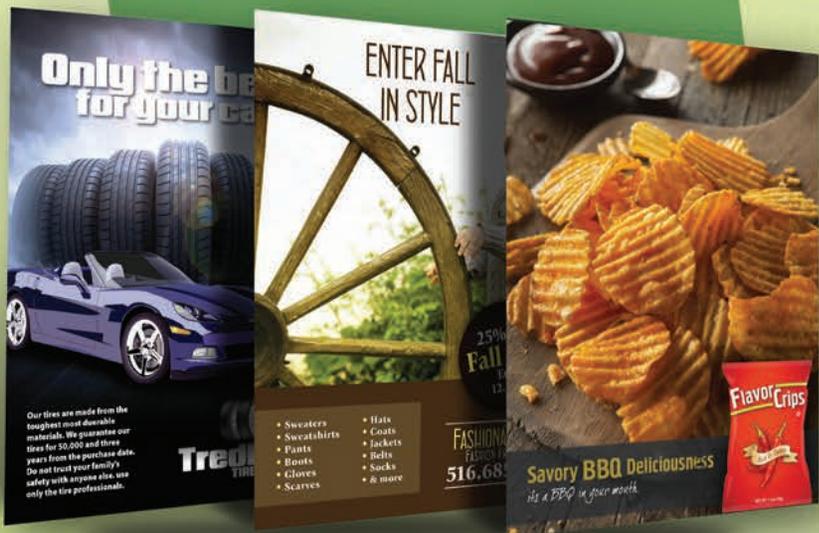
With growing anti-Semitism in the world, it is comforting to know that our elected officials are united on this issue and continue to give their unwavering support for Israel.

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# The Fun Side

SIDE-SPLITTING STAND-UP

Emerson College officials said that starting in 2016 they will offer students the opportunity to major in comedy. Or, you can just take your tuition money and burn it in front of your parents.  
- Seth Meyers

A new study claims that poor posture caused by texting is becoming an epidemic. I'm not sure if I've been affected, but I have a hunch.

- Seth Meyers

It was a beautiful weekend in New York. This is how nice the weather was: I went outside without sunscreen for about an hour, and I was elected to run the Spokane NAACP.

- Seth Meyers

The Apple Watch is one of the hottest products in the world right now. It's amazing. It's a phone, it's the Internet, and it can read your heart rate. There's even a rumor that it can tell time.

- James Corden

Yahoo! announced last week that after eight years of operation it's shutting down Yahoo! Maps. Also announced this week — there's something called Yahoo! Maps.

- Jimmy Fallon

According to a new study, the recommendation that people need eight glasses of water per day is a myth. I think we figured that out when we never once drank eight glasses of water and still survived.

- Seth Meyers

Hillary Clinton signed a note this week for a nine-year-old boy, explaining to his teacher that he was missing school to meet her. In exchange, the kid wrote Hillary a note saying his dog ate her emails.

- Jimmy Fallon

Donald Trump is running for president, which so far is everything I could have hoped for and more. He made his announce-

ment in front of a packed crowd of supporters. But according to The Hollywood Reporter, his camp hired actors to go and then hold up signs and cheer for him. Well, Trump did say he was going to create jobs.

- Jimmy Kimmel

Trump's people deny these allegations. But the casting agency that supposedly sent out the job listing refused to comment. I don't blame Trump. It's embarrassing. It's the political equivalent of paying kids to come to your birthday party.

- Jimmy Kimmel

The Golden State Warriors beat the Cleveland Cavaliers to win their first NBA title in 40 years. Andre Iguodala of the Warriors was named the MVP, which is great news for everyone except whoever has to engrave that name on a trophy.

- Jimmy Kimmel

It was a devastating loss for Cavs superstar LeBron James. He lost both the NBA Finals and 40 percent of his hairline. It's times like these when it really helps that you make \$65 million a year.

- Jimmy Kimmel

At his campaign launch, Donald Trump apparently paid extras \$50 to cheer for him at the rally. Trump said, "Usually when I pay a person to like me, it's my wife."

- Conan O'Brien

Olympic figure skater Michelle Kwan is now a full-time paid staffer on Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign. While Tonya Harding was hired to take care of any other Democrats who enter the race.

- Jimmy Fallon

# "The Courage of Their Convictions"

By David Benkof  
DavidBenkof@gmail.com  
Difficulty Level: Challenging

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66						67					68			
69						70					71			

## Across

- 1 She played Alice in "Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice"
- 5 Prussian city where Heinrich Graetz earned his doctorate
- 9 Relish at the deli?
- 14 "\_\_\_ Nagila" (a New Jersey synagogue's regular coffee klatch)
- 15 A challah's outline, more or less
- 16 You might have a Pesach set of it
- 17 Adelson's kind of machines in Macau
- 18 Word to start making something chosen
- 19 Sports under the chuppah?
- 20 She was convicted on March 29, 1951
- 23 Course where you can let your sins function?
- 24 \_\_\_-balls (product the Hostess company says contains "pork-sourced" gelatin)
- 25 He was convicted on March 12, 2009
- 32 Nail the bagrut
- 33 Carrie's royal role
- 34 In Ancient Israel, one talent measured 30
- 37 Israel: po :: Diaspora: \_\_\_
- 39 What Jews do for Jerusalem from their captivity, per Yehuda HaLevi

## See solution in this issue on page 42

- 42 Ginsburg garment
- 43 Parts in the cantata "My Name is Anne Frank"
- 45 Raw material for alchemist Mordecai Modena
- 47 "Stay, \_\_\_" (translation of the Hindi word Gokul - the name of St. Louis's kosher vegetarian restaurant)
- 48 He was convicted on November 21, 1990
- 52 "\_\_\_ Hayom" (song to end the camp day)
- 53 Alum of 2-Down
- 54 They were convicted on September 10, 1924
- 62 Akamol alternative
- 63 7th of \_\_\_ (date of Moses's birth and death)
- 64 Like a set of kosher silverware that can be used for both meat and milk
- 66 "\_\_\_ the harsh-tongued, melancholy bell": Emma Lazarus
- 67 Onetime Tel Aviv mayor Roni
- 68 Lake \_\_\_ Monsters (Colby Cohen's first pro hockey team)
- 69 Disraeli and others
- 70 It might help close a kittel
- 71 Gets some schach from a tree

## Down

- 1 They may play at bar mitzvah parties
- 2 Hebrew was a required freshman course there in the 18th century
- 3 Bereishit trio
- 4 Joan of grub
- 5 Original "Wicked" Wizard
- 6 Yeshiva of Shem and \_\_\_
- 7 Kind of particle discovered at Hebrew U. that's shaped like a Star of David
- 8 Model Miller who dated Jake Gyllenhaal
- 9 Dope
- 10 King who rebuilt Jericho
- 11 Jaws of note
- 12 \_\_\_ off (how electricity shouldn't be turned once Shabbat begins)
- 13 Used a telephone
- 21 It once used the slogan "Tasti fantasti"
- 22 Well-done part of the brisket
- 25 Kenny Aaronson played it with the Rolling Stones
- 26 Heschel's "Israel: An \_\_\_ of Eternity"
- 27 Ahasuerus's ranged from India to Ethiopia
- 28 Important article in Yiddish
- 29 \_\_\_ Adumim (settlement in Samaria)
- 30 Cedar alternative
- 31 "Your teeth are like a \_\_\_ of ewes that came up from the washing": Song of Songs
- 35 Mitch Miller took it up as a teen
- 36 Darned
- 38 Piggy question?
- 40 Part of HUC-JIR: Abbr.
- 41 Go from Alecia Beth Moore to Pink?
- 44 Ruth and Esther, but not Daniel
- 46 Kosher \_\_\_ Spears
- 49 Prince of the stage
- 50 Jane of the settlement house movement
- 51 "Oom-Pah-Pah" composer-lyricist Bart
- 54 Tiberias or Tahoe
- 55 Fierstein character Turnblad
- 56 Pass \_\_\_ (eschew)
- 57 Tablet
- 58 Talmudist who's about to score in tennis?
- 59 Lioness who was in love with Matthew Broderick's character
- 60 It got you four shekels in 2001, six shekels in 2007, and four shekels in 2015
- 61 A U-boat on a radar screen, perhaps
- 65 Moonves who greenlighted "Friends"

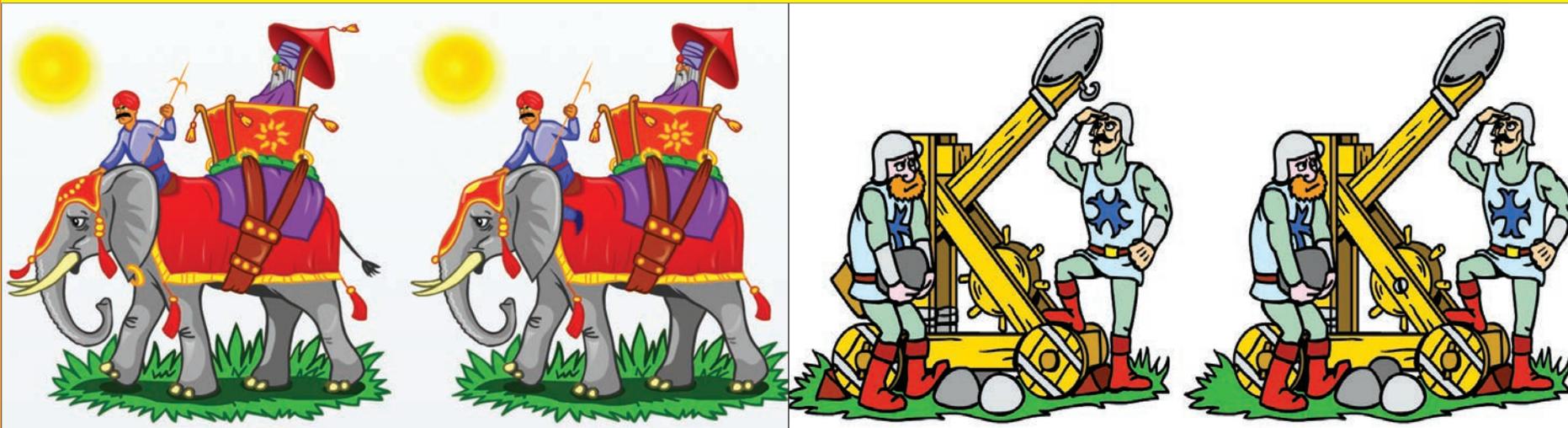
# SUDOKU

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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SEE SOLUTION IN THIS ISSUE ON PAGE 42

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