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Vol. VI No. 1 (#193)

January 5, 2017 • 7 Tevet 5777

Free

The Jewish Genius Of Wall Street: Remembering 'Igo' On His 11th Yahrzeit



SEE STORY ON P. 49

Vleigh Place Fire Destroys 14 Businesses

Cause of devastating 5-alarm blaze currently unknown; building condemned



SEE STORY ON P. 29, AND 30/31

Governor Mike Huckabee Headlines Orthodox Jewish Chamber Of Commerce Knesset Symposium



From left: MK Mickey Zohar, who hosted the Knesset event; guest speaker Gov. Mike Huckabee; co-Vice President, Dr. Joe Frager

SEE STORY ON P. 51

Rabbi's Musings

Endearing Flexibility

By Rabbi Dani Staum

It was definitely one of the "most unique" gifts I ever received. Since it was given to me, I am hardly ever apart from it. This may sound funny, but when it's with me, I constantly feel embraced, as if in a bear hug.

CONTINUED ON P. 9

A Shabbat Thought

Miracles Around Us

By Rabbi David Algaze

The Torah is very precise in every detail, and yet here we find a flagrant discrepancy in the count. Although the verse gives the offspring of Leah as 33, when counting the names we get only 32! Rashi explains

CONTINUED ON P. 14

As I See It

Barack Hussein Obama's Final Salvo Stabs Israel In The Back

By Cynthia Zalisky

Alan Dershowitz, the famed Jewish attorney, was interviewed last week and

CONTINUED ON P. 25

Dating Today

Kallahzilla

By Goldy Krantz

Yes, the title of the article is a take-off of the term, Bridezilla. We've all heard the term, but what does it really mean? According to Wikipedia, Bridezilla may refer to: "a bride whose behavior is seen as demanding or unreasonable." The word uses the "-zilla" suffix de-

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Frontlines

Mr. Kerry: Israel Will Always Be A Jewish Democracy

By Dr. Joseph M. Frager

Last week, Secretary Kerry decided to end his political career by taking a parting shot at his perceived and imaginary nemesis, the State of

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The Czar's Query

Upon the death of R' Chaim Volozhiner, *zt"l*, in 5582 (1821), the leadership of the Volozhin *yeshivah* was transferred to his son, R' Yitzchok, or as he was known, R' Itzele Volozhiner, *zt"l*. During his administration at Volozhin, R' Itzele had a profound influence, not only on the *yeshivah* and its students, but upon all of Russian, Polish, and Lithuanian Jewry. He was considered a leader among his people, and like his father before him, became a spokesman for Torah Jewry.

The period in which R' Itzele lived was a very difficult one for Jews under czarist rule. Many were the decrees and plots carried out against the defenseless and oppressed Jews, and perhaps even more so were those plans that were foiled. R' Itzele once commented on the state of affairs by quoting a *pasuk* in Tehilim: "The nations will praise Hashem... for He bestows upon us His kindness." Why, he asked, would the gentile nations of the world praise Hashem for doing kindness to us, the Jewish people? R' Itzele's answer was apt for the times: currently there are so many decrees and evil plots hatched against *khal Yisrael* by the gentiles, that even before we become aware of them they are already foiled by Hashem. Only the gentile rulers know how many of their evil plots were meant to be and, ultimately, forestalled. It is they, therefore, who praise G-d, for they see how He guards over and protects His nation.

R' Itzele, *zt"l*, would often appear before the leaders of the government in Russia, meeting with various ministers on a whole host of issues. In most cases, he was called upon to defend the Jews in the face of official oppressive decrees that were frequently passed in that country. It happened on one occasion that R' Itzele appeared as the head of a rabbinical delegation at the Czar's palace. When they arrived, none other than Nicholas I, the Czar himself, ap-

peared and wished to address the rabbinic delegation. The Czar, known for his extreme cruelty toward his Jewish subjects, presented R' Itzele with the following query: "I know that you Jews say a prayer for the welfare of the Czar every Saturday in your synagogue. I have seen a translation of this prayer, in which you beseech your G-d to grant me success and victory in all my undertakings. At first, I was flattered. But now I know that it's all empty words, for I have become aware of the fact that Jews in other countries say the exact same prayer for their own ruler. How, then, can this prayer be explained? I have for several years been at war with the Kaiser of Germany. How can the Jews in Russia pray for my victory, while the Jews in Germany

pray for the victory of the Kaiser? Is this not a contradiction, rendering the entire prayer meaningless?" R' Itzele lost no time in responding to the Czar's question. "Your Majesty has said that he has seen the translation of the prayer," he began. "Certainly, then, Your Majesty is aware that it begins with the words, 'He Who makes paths through the sea, and passages through the mighty waters, may He exalt and uplift... the great

"is as follows. Imagine a sailor in the eastern part of the sea who wants to travel westward. He cannot set out upon his journey unless he has the cooperation of the wind. At that very same time, however, there is a sailor on the other end of the ocean who requires a westerly wind to carry him to the east. How, then, is it possible that boats do in fact travel from one end of the sea to the other, in both directions, at the same time? This is indeed a marvel of nature that shows the greatness of G-d's might in the world; that He can permit the existence of two opposite forces to operate at the same time. This same attribute is applied by Him in His Divine guidance of kings and rulers. The Almighty, in His great wisdom, can arrange that the Czar will be blessed with victory and yet, at the same time, the Kaiser will also be triumphant!"

R' Itzele's brilliant reply was enthusiastically accepted, and this encounter facilitated his mission, enabling him to benefit from a warm reception from the Czar, who was generally known to be a bitter antagonist of the Jews.

"How can the Jews in Russia pray for my victory, while the Jews in Germany pray for the victory of the Kaiser?"

Czar.' Of all the magnificent praises that we could say of the Almighty Lord, why is it that the prayer chooses this particular, rather unusual, description of G-d as the 'Guider of ships through the sea'? Why is this phrase, above all others, chosen to illustrate G-d's greatness?"

Nicholas I pondered this question for a moment. Then, he demanded an answer. "The answer," R' Itzele quickly countered,

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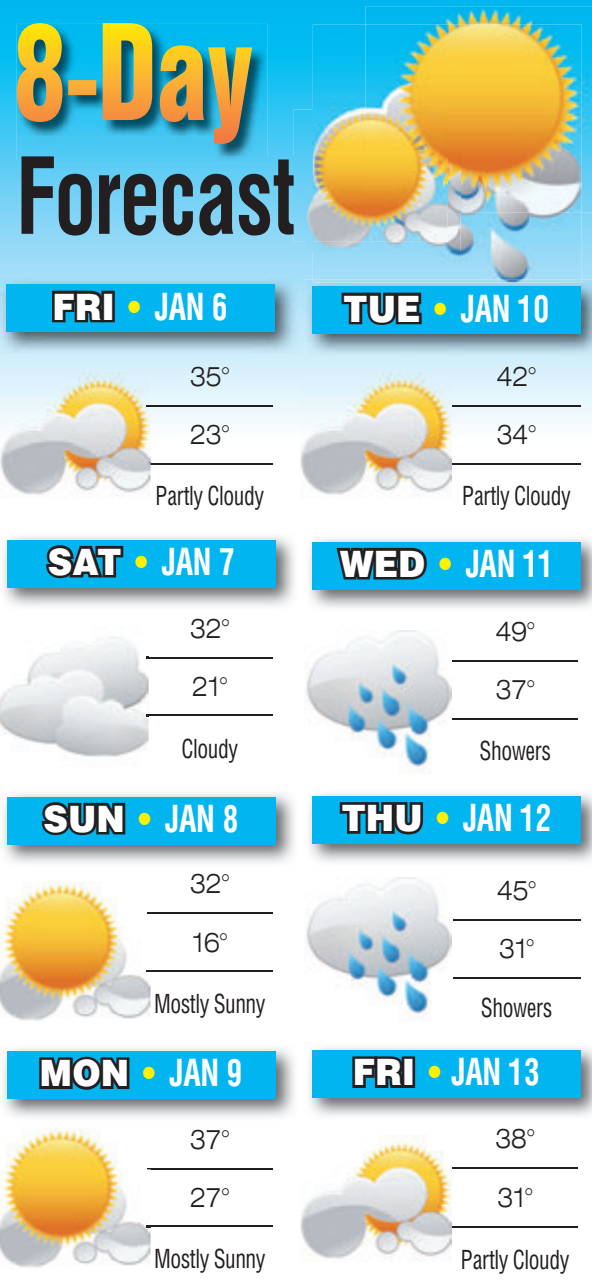
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Endearing Flexibility



CONTINUED FROM P. 1

This gift understands me and my needs better than anyone I know. It's flexible in the sense that, on days when I need space, it will grant it to me, and on days when I need a stronger connection it will provide that as well. It supports me in ways few others can, and never leaves my side, unless I want it to. I can enjoy the gift based on my own level. It's durable and uncompromising, and grows with me.

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Flexibility is one of the most important character traits necessary for all successful human relationships. The ability to compromise and not stand on principle is one of the keys to getting along with others.

And yet there are times when one cannot, and must not, compromise. There are situations in which one must be unflinchingly rigid and unbending. Those are times when one's ethics and beliefs are called into question.

Life is full of challenges wherein one must be able to walk a fine line, and not veer towards extremes. As a classic exam-

anyone who praises Yehudah for his compromise with Yosef is considered a blasphemer. Shimon and Levi had suggested that they kill Yosef, while Reuven wanted to save him. Yehudah had suggested that they sell him. Yehudah's compromise was deemed inappropriate. If Yosef was truly deserving of death (because they deemed him a *rodef* – see *S'forno*), they should have killed him. If he was worthy of being saved, Yehudah should have urged them to bring him home. But compromising ultimately accomplished nothing.

There is no time of year that serves as a greater reminder for this concept than Chanukah. In an age of political correctness, where everyone is afraid to speak the truth, the message of Chanukah is ever so vital. We are charged with being like the holy Maccabees, prepared to stand our ground in regard to our adherence to the precepts of Torah and *halachah*.

We would be wise to remember that we are not the defenders of the Torah; but rather the upholders of the Torah. We must never be apologetic for our beliefs.

Isn't it fascinating that the two compo-

Flexibility is one of the most important character traits necessary for all successful human relationships

ple, parents must be loving and accepting, yet they must also be demanding disciplinarians. Finding that delicate balance is never easy.

In a similar vein, as Jews, we have an obligation to be gregarious, pleasant, and gracious. Being flexible, and swallowing one's pride for the sake of another, is of the hallmarks for living a Torah life. However, when our beliefs and adherence to *halachah* is challenged, we have to be obstinate and inflexible. After all, *halachah* is not ours to tamper with, but rather directives that we are bound to follow.

In *Parshas VaYeishev*, after Yosef was sold, the brothers banished Yehudah. The Torah states that Yehudah "went down from his brothers" and had to live away from his family for some time. That is when the whole ordeal with Tamar occurred.

The Gemara (*Sanhedrin* 6b) states that

nents of the Chanukah holiday contain these two polar opposite expressions. They went to war with a feeling of defiance and unrepentant religious zeal. The miracle of the Menorah, however, was only able to occur because the Maccabees subjugated themselves to the opinion of their leadership in deciding what to do with that one jug of oil – the delicate balance of inflexibility and subjugation.

I conclude by expressing again how thankful I am for the gift I received this Chanukah. After all, what is more embracing, supporting, and yet flexible than... a belt. (I could have thrown in that it's also hole-y, but that would have been corny.)

It may seem like a lame gift, but when you don't have a belt you really learn to appreciate its importance and value. And after a few doughnuts and latkes, its flexibility is all the more important.

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. His website is www.stamtora.info.

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Dear Editor:

I read Shmuel Sackett's column in your last issue ("The UN Vote: It's Not Obama's Fault") with a great deal of distress. In this article, Sackett claimed that there is only "one person responsible for this terrible UN vote. His name is Benjamin Netanyahu." He then launches into a distortion of the record, listing Netanyahu's shortcomings as having publicly supported a two-state solution, being unwilling to completely annex Judea and Samaria, having imposed a freeze on any settlement activity for some time and not having allowed new settlements, and arresting Jews for praying on the Temple Mount. Not only that, Netanyahu has publicly stated that "he is ready to sit any time and any place with PLO President Abbas to continue the peace process, and that he envisions a region where two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, live side by side in peace with secure and recognized borders." He finishes, as usual, by saying that only Moshe Feiglin and his employer, the Zehut Party, can save Israel.

Firstly, this is an awful and foolish thing to write at this time, when Netanyahu has to negotiate so many landmines in the – thankfully – final days of Barak Hussein Obama's presidency. (It is only surpassed by the brilliance of Israeli AG Mandelblit's decision to open a corruption investigation against Netanyahu now, and not wait at least a month.) More importantly, it belies a total lack of appreciation of the class, dignity, resoluteness, and wisdom that Binyamin Netanyahu has shown in the face of dealing with the hostility of the

Obama administration.

Now that the masks have been removed and the true nature of Obama and Kerry have been revealed, one ought to stand in awe of the way that Netanyahu has handled himself over these many years. It is easy to criticize from the outside. How would Mr. Sackett have been able to withstand, on the one hand, the enormous pressure of the international community, the UN, the Obama administration and –

*Our nation is at a low point,
and Mr. Obama is trying everything to disrupt and cause chaos*

worst of all – the Israeli Leftists, consistently demonizing Israel for its policies in the "Occupied Territories" and often for its very existence, while on the other hand, facing the anger and frustration of the Israeli Right and the residents of Judea, Samaria, and East Jerusalem demonizing him for not doing enough to support their agenda? How would he deal with a world press that is horribly biased and unfair with class and intelligence and with their grudging respect? How would Mr. Sackett deal with the rockets and terror tunnels and terrorists in protecting Israelis while at the same time dealing with a hostile hypercritical world that finds fault in everything that Israel does? Does not Mr. Sackett know and understand, as everyone else does, that when Netanyahu says that he is for a two-state solution, he knows that this costs him nothing (except for Sackett's approval), because there is no one on the Arab side willing to negotiate a real peace,

and that he, in effect, is only calling the bluff of both the Arabs and Obama/Kerry?

I have often thought that Mr. Netanyahu has the hardest job in the world, and he is remarkably good at it. Is he perfect? No one is. But he deserves our support, respect, and admiration, and not ridicule, especially at this time.

*Rabbi Yehuda L. Oppenheimer
Forest Hills*

voice of reconciliation, and I hope that time and mutual respect will overcome the hate and the darkness.

Richard Silverman

Dear Editor:

I was instrumental in establishing the Israeli National Skin Bank, which is the largest in the world. The National Skin Bank stores skin for everyday needs, as well as for wartime or mass casualty situations. The skin bank is hosted at the Hadassah Ein Kerem Hospital in Jerusalem, where I was the Chairman of Plastic Surgery. This is how I was asked to supply skin for an (Muslim) Arab woman from Gaza, who was hospitalized in Soroka Medical Center in Be'er Sheva, after a gas tank explosion.

We supplied all the needed homograft for her treatment. She was successfully treated by my friend and colleague Prof. Lior Rosenberg and discharged to return to Gaza. She was invited for regular follow-up visits to the outpatient clinic in Be'er Sheva.

One day she was caught at a border-crossing wearing a suicide belt. Her mission was to explode herself in the outpatient clinic of the very hospital where they saved her life.

This is only one example of the war between Jews and Muslims in the Land of Israel. It is not a territorial conflict; this is a civilizational conflict - or rather a war between civilization and barbarism.

Dr. Arieh Eldad

Dear Editor:

I read Rabbi Schonfeld's article ("Unity Now – just do it my way") with great interest.

Yesterday, I visited my friend. Over lunch, he related how his wife and daughter were at odds (at war) with him because he was conservative and a Trump supporter. They started marital counseling. The daughter is antagonistic, bad mouthing her father. Besides being a blue Democrat, she is gay. My friend says his life is a microcosm of our country. After eight years of identity politics, Barack Obama has divided America almost to the breaking point.

Our nation is at a low point, and Mr. Obama is trying everything to disrupt and cause chaos. He is pressing our hot buttons. I have hope that Mr. Obama will overplay his hateful hand and, just like that, G-d will step in and help us heal. Thank you, Rabbi Schonfeld, for being a



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By What Currency Do You Measure Success?

"And they related to him all the words of Yosef that he had spoken to them, and he saw the wagons that Yosef had sent to transport him; then the spirit of their father Yaakov was revived."

— B'reishis 45:27

For 22 years Yaakov Avinu was in a state of mourning. His beloved son, the one who most closely followed in his ways, the one whom he envisioned as the leader of the next generation, had been taken from him – and the boy was still a youth. For all those years, Yaakov was inconsolable. Now the brothers had come back with the news: "Yosef is still alive!" At first Yaakov could not believe it – it just couldn't be. The brothers convinced him that it was true by showing him the wagons that Yosef had sent.

Rashi explains that the wagons were a code. The last *sugya* (Torah topic) that Yosef had been learning with his father was *Eglah Arufah*, about a calf that is killed for atonement. The Hebrew word *eigel*, or calf, is similar to *agalah*, which means wagon. Yosef was using a play on words to refer back to the last topic that they discussed in their Torah studies. Once Yaakov saw the wagons, his mind was reminded of their last Torah discussion, and he knew that Yosef was alive. "No one else could have known



One of the secrets to the Avos' success was their clarity in values. They knew what was truly precious and how valuable it was

this. It's a clear sign that it's Yosef. He is still alive!

The problem with this Rashi is that it is difficult to imagine that Yosef would

expect his father to vividly recall a conversation that they had had 22 years earlier. Even if Yosef had sent back a clear message, it would be difficult to imagine that Yaakov would remember a conversation that far back. But that isn't what Yosef did. He sent the wagons as a cryptic hint. Why did Yosef assume that his father would recall their conversation from that? And how, in fact, did Yaakov make the connection?

The answer to this question lies in understanding the significance of certain events.

Where Were You When Kennedy Died?

Each generation has its defining moments. If you ask people who grew up in America in the 1960s where they were when Kennedy was shot, many will be able to describe not only where they were standing when they heard the news, but even the details of the wallpaper of the room they were in.

In more recent times, if you ask someone, "Where were you on 9/11?" many people will vividly recall the exact part of the office they were standing in and who they were talking to when they heard about the Twin Towers going down. The same person who can't remember what he had for breakfast this morning can clearly recall an event that happened years ago.

Certain events make an indelible impression upon us. Because of their significance and deep meaning, they become permanently etched into our minds. If we didn't understand the implications of the moment, or if we didn't view them as monumental, they would pass as just another one of the millions of events that we live through. But because we see these events as world-changing, as *moments in history*, they become part of us forever.

This seems to be the answer to this Rashi. The Avos (Forefathers) lived with a

very different value system than we do. To them, their words of Torah and novel understandings of it were earth-shattering. Because they understood the value of Torah and the change that it brought to them and to the world they lived in, they recognized learning as one of the most significant activities a human can ever engage in. And so, they lived those Torah discussions as epic moments in time.

For that reason, the *sugya* that Yaakov and Yosef last discussed was ever-present in Yaakov's mind. It wasn't just another detail in his day; it was a defining moment. That is why Yosef took it as a given that one of the first things that his father would think about when recalling him was their last Torah discussion, and therefore, the play on words would not be distant from his mind.

Changing Currency

One of the secrets to the Avos' success was their clarity in values. They knew what was truly precious and how valuable it was. This is very different from what we typically experience. Most people we meet spend their lives with ever-changing priorities; that which was so important at one stage becomes insignificant and irrelevant at another.

To a young boy growing up in America, sports are king. That's what really counts in his world. But it doesn't last. It is soon replaced by friends and being popular. As he matures, grades and what college he gets into become the measure of success. Within a short while, his career and making money are all that really matter. This phase passes, as well, and then he finds himself willing to trade away huge amounts of his wealth to build his reputation. As he nears retirement, his health and then his future nursing home become his primary concern. Throughout his existence, that which was precious and coveted at one point becomes devalued and traded away as new priorities take over. The currency is constantly changing. And so, while at each stage of life he may have done well, in the totality of what he has accomplished, it may not be much. Since he lived with an ever-changing system of values, he likely has not come even close to achieving his potential.

This concept applies to all of us. When we have done our job here, we will leave this earth, and we will view things from a very different perspective. Our currency then will be profoundly different from the way it is now. The amount of money that we had, the honor that we received, and even our place in the community, just won't matter to us. And we will then look back and realize that had we been focused on true values, we could have accomplished so much more and we could have become so much greater.

The Avos lived their lives with *Olam HaBa* (the World to Come) firmly in front of them. This clarity shaped the value system that motivated them in everything they did. We need to use them as a model so that we can learn to measure our accomplishments in a currency of eternal value.

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.

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Miracles Around Us

"These are the sons of Leah whom she bore to Jacob...all the people - his sons and daughters numbered thirty-three."
(Beresheet 46:15)

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

that the 33rd child was Yocheved, Moses' mother, who was born entering the gateway of the city in Egypt.

Ibn Ezra (1089-1164) is very troubled by this interpretation, because if Yocheved was born at this point, then she would have been 130 years old when giving birth to Moses. The calculation is as follows: The slavery in Egypt was 210 years long and Moses was 80 years old at the time of the Exodus. Since the sojourn in Egypt commenced when Jacob and his family entered Egypt and since Yocheved was born at that point, therefore, she must have been 130 years old when she gave birth to Moses. Ibn Ezra is extremely troubled by this interpretation because this would have been a greater miracle than Sarah's giving birth at the age of 90 and yet the Torah does not even mention it. Therefore, he suggests another interpretation - that the 33rd person was Jacob himself.

Nachmanides (1194-1270) sharply and furiously disagrees with Ibn Ezra. He asserts that "hidden miracles" are a fundamental concept in Judaism and that the fact that Yocheved's giving birth at 130 is not recorded is not unusual. There are

many miracles that go unrecorded and not mentioned in the Torah at all. Not every miracle is noted because, unlike common opinion, miracles are not that rare or infrequent. On the contrary, the entire Torah and all the events recorded in it are miraculous and not natural phenomena. Miracles are the norm, not the exception. The Torah assumes that miracles are in the very fabric of Jewish history.

The only times that miracles are explicitly mentioned are when a prophet

*A miracle does not have to look like a miracle to be a miracle.
This is an essential Jewish belief*

or an angel announces them and they are fulfilled. Therefore, we should not assume that something is not a miracle just because it does not appear to be so. This is the principle behind the concept of "hidden miracles." There are miracles all around us, even as we perceive them as natural occurrences. *A miracle does not have to look like a miracle to be a miracle.* This is an essential Jewish belief.

In Israel, we have witnessed many miracles in our time. The incredible rise of the State of Israel and the attendant events surrounding it, its surviving the attack of all Arab nations, its ability to withstand isolation and incessant hostilities and, of course, the Six-Day War - all point

to this fact: There are miracles around us, all the time. As we say in our daily prayers, "For the miracles and wonders that are with us every day, evening, morning, and midday..." A famous witty comment by an Israeli leader summed it up well. He said, "In Israel, to be a realist, you have to believe in miracles!" I recently came across a clever sign in a shop: "What is possible is already done; the impossible is in progress, for miracles, expect a 48-hour delay." For us, miracles occur every moment.

vivor, an illustrious rabbi in Lithuania - Rabbi Mordechai Prugmansky - who asked why there was no prophecy about the rise of a Jewish state before the arrival of the Messiah! The Rabbis prepared us for the many tribulations we are to endure in the period prior to the Messiah's arrival - the period called "the birth pangs of the Messiah." Why they did not inform us of this great development of the birth of the State of Israel? He answers that this is a period of testing of our faith and that the periods of testing are not revealed in advance. Our times are for the gathering of all Jews from around the world, in order to create a state that will respond to Jewish ideals and principles. This is our test today, and we must stand firm so that we pass the test that G-d has delivered to our generation.

Thus, not everything is recorded and explained. There are things that will remain hidden and unexplained. Miracles happen around us, tests are sent our way - it is up to us whether we view them as miracles or as natural and fortuitous events. Miracles do not come with greeting cards proclaiming what they are and who sent them. As we hold on to the belief that there are miracles around us all the time, we will be able to understand the world better and live with greater tranquility and faith.

Rav Moshe Sternbuch, a prominent rabbinical leader in Jerusalem, comments that Nachmanides' point applies especially to our generation - the last before the arrival of the Messiah. We have to accept that every development is ordered by G-d and we have to believe in His kindness. Therefore, as we acknowledge His design in every move and every occurrence, we also have to be grateful to Him for all His kindnesses and mercies without second-guessing Him or drawing any conclusions from His acts.

Rav Sternbuch quotes a Holocaust sur-

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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for Your miracles that are with us every day, and for Your wonders and favors in every season

Throughout our history, Hashem has performed many open miracles and even many more hidden miracles for *klal Yisrael*. Some of these open and initially hidden miracles are celebrated and “re-experienced” by us as we travel through time during the yearly cycle of *yamim tovim*.

HaRav Avigdor Miller zt”l, in his *sidur Tefilos Avigdor*, points out that we, in our generation, experience *nisim* each and every day, as we say in *Modim*: “for

most intolerable. As one of the younger boys in a *yeshivah* that was filled to capacity, he had to sleep on a cold, hard floor. In the frigid winter with no heat and no blankets, he was suffering.

“One Wednesday, he received a letter from his uncle inviting him to come join him in his business. He was a successful blacksmith with no children, and he assured his nephew that he would teach him the trade, and the business would eventually become his. His uncle asked him, “Why stay where you are in poverty and hunger? Work for me and your life will be set.” The young Rav Shach thought about it for a day, and by Thursday night, he decided his uncle was right. He was going to leave.

We are less cognizant of the miracles that occur to us at all times because they can be attributed to “nature.”

Your miracles that are with us every day.” The difference between the past open miracles, such as *Ytzias Mitzrayim*, and the miracles of today are that, in the past, these miracles were open and revealed to all, whereas today miracles are hidden, due to “*hester Panim*.”

The word “*nisecha*” includes both miracles that occur to the *klal* and miracles that occur to us as individuals. These are less frequent miracles.

Perhaps we are less cognizant of the miracles that occur to us at all times – “Your wonders and favors in every season” – because they can be attributed to “nature.” These miracles are more frequent and are disguised as “*teva* (nature).”

Each of us, in our own personal lives, experiences hidden miracles all the time. Many times, these are “small” everyday miracles, like finding a parking spot in an “impossible” area.

Often we don’t recognize these more frequent miracles. The following story comes from “*Emunah Daily*,” produced by Rabbi David Ashear:

“Rabbi Paysach Krohn told a story about Rav Shach, in his old age, attending the funeral of a woman in Haifa who had very few relatives. Upon inquiry, Rav Shach explained who the woman was. He said that when he was younger, learning in *yeshivah*, the conditions were al-

“The next morning, a woman came to the *yeshivah*, saying that her husband, a blanket salesman, recently passed away. She was in town sitting *shiv'ah* with his family, and she had a few extra blankets that she wanted to donate to that *yeshivah*. They were heavy Russian blankets, filled with goose down. One of them was given to the young Rav Shach. That Friday night, he was warmer than he had been all winter, and he decided to stay in *yeshivah*.”

“He eventually grew up to become the *Gadol HaDor*, a *rav* who impacted generations of people to live Torah lives. That woman never remarried. She lived a quiet and seemingly uneventful life. Little did she know that her small act of kindness changed the world. She will reap the rewards for eternity.”

Many of us ignore the blankets sent to us by Hashem, not recognizing the miracles in our lives. Let us learn from the way a *gadol ha'dor* recognized the miracles in his life, and the *hakaras ha'tov* he displayed for Hashem’s worthy messenger. Let us seek Hashem out and contemplate Hashem in our own lives more deeply, as we say in *Hodu*: “*bakshu fanav tamid* (seek His Presence always).”

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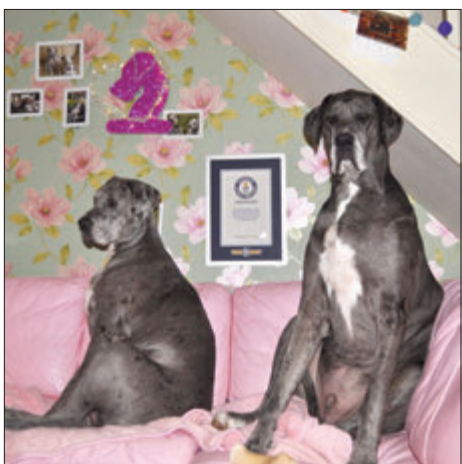
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Freddy The 7-Foot-Tall Great Dane Named World's Tallest Dog



A 7-foot-tall Great Dane in England was revealed as the new Guinness World Record holder for world's tallest dog.

Guinness World Record officials identified Freddy, who is 7 feet 6 inches tall when standing on his hind legs, as the world's tallest. His owner, Claire, announced the news of the record to the public two weeks ago.

Claire says she got Freddy as a puppy, and that he was the runt of the litter. She was stunned when he grew larger than his sister Fleur.

"I got him a couple of weeks earlier than I should have done because he wasn't feeding off mum, so he was feeling pretty poorly," Claire said. "He was half the size of

Light & Fun

Fleur when he was tiny so I had no idea he was going to be this big at all."

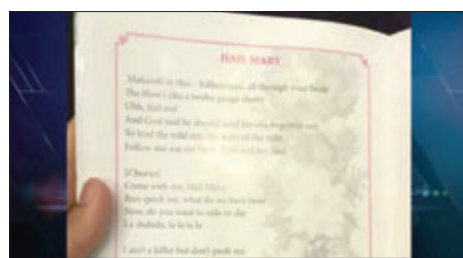
Claire says she spends about \$123 a week to feed Freddy a diet consisting of whole roast chickens and peanut butter on toast.

"I had no experience with Danes and how big they should be and no expectations," she said.

Despite the immense cost to keeping the massive dog fed, Claire said she is "utterly devoted" to Freddy, who also draws quite a bit of attention while out in public.

"If we go out in the daytime we get interrupted every five seconds," she said. "Cars brake and stop to look at him."

Rapper's Lyrics Printed In Church Program In Place Of Prayer



A priest in Sri Lanka apologized after the program for one of the country's largest holiday services contained rap lyrics instead of the traditional Catholic prayer, "Hail Mary."

Attendees at the church, during one of the country's largest services, said they discovered the "Hail Mary" printed in a middle page of the program for the service wasn't the prayer asking for the intercession of Mary, but rather the lyrics to a 1997 song of the same name by late rapper Tupac Shakur.

"A lot of people were in shock as whether it was a joke or someone would actually rap the song," said a man named Andrew, who attended the service. "A few of the older ladies in front of us could not stop looking at the printed booklet."

Andrew said the misprint, which contained numerous profanities, went unaddressed during the service.

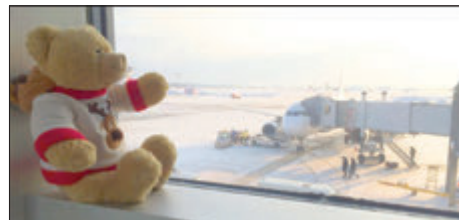
"No explanation was given [by organizers] at all," he said. "They didn't acknowledge it at the venue. To be honest, I don't think many people saw the booklet at all. The people that realized were shocked at first but then took it in good humor around me."

"To be honest, I was bursting inside," An-

drew said.

A priest who organized the service said a "young boy" volunteer had accidentally downloaded the lyrics to the rap song instead of the prayer while preparing the program.

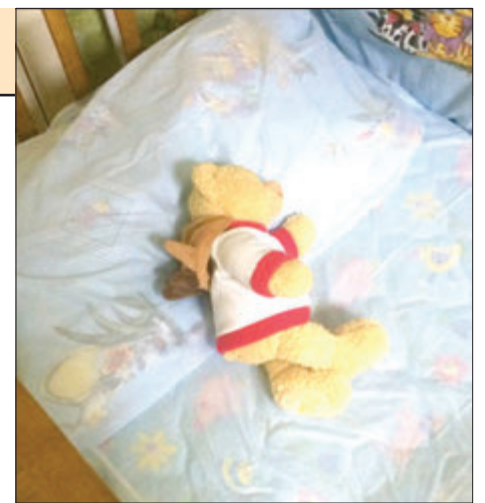
Young Girl's Teddy Bear Goes On Airport Adventure After Being Left Behind



A Russian airport shared photos of a young girl's teddy bear having adventures around the facility after it was accidentally left behind when the girl departed.

Koltsovo International Airport said in a Facebook post that the mother of a young traveler named Ulyana contacted airport staff Monday to tell them the young girl had lost her teddy bear somewhere at the facility before catching a plane to Thailand on December 25.

The airport's post said staff quickly located the bear and started snapping pictures of it around the airport to reassure

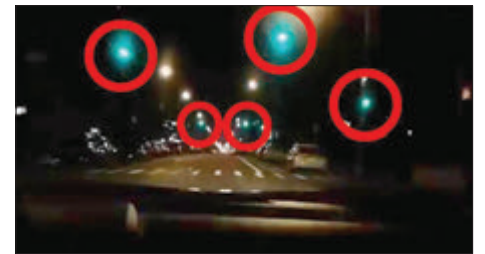


the girl that her stuffed friend would be okay until she returned to Russia.

"While you swim and sunbathe, he lives here," the airport said. "Here are some photos of how he spends his time."

The photos show the sweater-wearing bear enjoying a ride in a coin-operated rocket ship, having some honey cake, riding a rocking horse, sleeping in the "children's room," lounging about with some trees, and "waiting" for his young owner while watching planes out the window.

New York Uber Driver's Video Appears To Show Him Hit 236 Consecutive Green Lights



A New York Uber driver's dashboard camera video purports to show him hitting 236 consecutive green lights before stopping at a red.

Noah Forman posted a video to YouTube showing his 26-minute Manhattan drive in the early morning hours Dec. 6, hitting 236 green traffic lights before being stopped by a red light.

A friend posted a condensed version of the video, edited down to just over 4 minutes.

Forman, who became a cab driver in 2005 before turning to Uber, said the same friend got him interested in green light runs a few years ago and encouraged him on a 186 green light streak a few years ago, which he said was unofficially a borough record.

CONTINUED ON P. 19



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CONTINUED FROM P. 18

Forman's latest feat bested his own record by nearly 60 lights.

He started his 27-minute journey near Marcus Garvey Park in Harlem and took Fifth Ave. down to Washington Square Park.

From there, he took Sixth Ave. up to 59th St., headed crosstown to Second Ave., and drove south until he hit Rivington St.

He finally hit his first red light in nearly a half hour of driving at the Bowery and Prince St.

"Every now and then, I feel lucky and I give it an attempt, but this night I could tell right from the beginning it looked good," Forman said.

"It seems like you go with where the lights take you. The minute I think too hard and I veer off course... I just get hit with a red light somewhere."

The driver said his new goal is to double his current record.

"I would love to take it further," he said. "Not any time soon. Maybe in a year or two, see if I could get 500."

Pokemon-Crazed 6-Year-Old Uses Sleeping Mom's Thumbprint To Buy \$250 Worth Of Toys



An Arkansas mom thought her Amazon account had been hacked until her 6-year-old admitted to using the sleeping woman's thumbprint to buy \$250 worth of Pokemon.

Bethany said her daughter, Ashlynd, used her mother's thumbprint to unlock her iPhone while she was taking a nap and opened the device's Amazon app.

Bethany said that "\$250 later, she has shopped for all her Christmas presents on Amazon."

Bethany said she thought she had been hacked when she received confirmation emails for \$250 worth of Pokemon merchandise - Ashlynd's favorite - but the 6-year-old soon confessed to the shopping spree.

"No, Mommy, I was shopping," Bethany recalled Ashlynd telling her. "But don't worry - everything that I ordered is coming straight to the house."

"She is really proud of herself," the mother said.

Bethany said she was able to return four of the items, but the rest of the purchases were non-refundable.

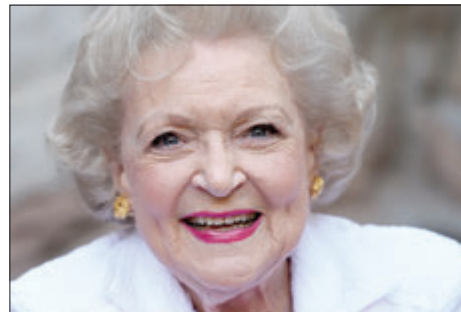
She said the Pokemon haul ended up as

Light & Fun

Ashlynd's holiday gifts.

"Well, Santa found out and that is what Santa is going to bring you for the holidays," she said.

South Carolina Man Starts GoFundMe To 'Protect Betty White From 2016'



A South Carolina man raised more than \$2,000 in a GoFundMe campaign to "protect Betty White from 2016."

A man named Demetrios started the crowdfunding campaign to "protect" the Golden Girls actress from the string of celebrity deaths that took place in 2016.

"Help 2016 catch these hands if it goes anywhere near Betty White! If she's okay with it I will fly to where ever Betty White is and keep her safe till Jan 1, 2017," he wrote.

In the likely event that White declined his "protection," Demetrios revealed that all of the funds from the campaign would be used to fund a local theater.

"Now, assuming she doesn't want a strange Greek standing guard outside her door all monies will be donated to the local little theater to help craft new stars of stage and screen to carry mantle of the legends that have left us this year," he said.

Word about the campaign quickly spread and it gathered \$2,141 from 201 individual backers within its first 19 hours.

Demetrios said he was inspired to launch the fundraiser after actress Carrie Fisher died on Tuesday and explained he has no connection to the theater apart from enjoying their work.

"2016 has taken so many great artists and the theater helps support and nurture new budding talent in our town," he said. "I'd like to think that Betty, Carrie and Bowie would be happy with any proceeds going to that cause, which I assure you it will!"

Vlogger Stress-Tests iPhone 7 By Having An Alligator Bite It



A California tech vlogger tested out the durability of the iPhone 7 by pitting it against the famously powerful jaws of an alligator.

The vlogger posted a video to YouTube showing him using a pole to entice an alligator, under the supervision of a handler, to bite down on an iPhone 7.

The phone, which had been covered



with tape to prevent injury to the reptile, takes two chomps from the alligator before he brings it back to examine.

The iPhone appears to still be functional, but its screen is shattered to the point of severely inhibiting the clarity of the picture.

The vlogger lowers the phone to the alligator one last time and the animal takes a firm hold of the device.

The final bite from the alligator, which took several seconds to release, renders the phone completely inoperable.

California Driver Places Plastic Zip Ties On Tires Instead Of Snow Chains



A driver in California baffled local police by fitting his tires with plastic zip ties to combat the snowy conditions.

California Highway Patrol shared a photo of the unusual placement for traditional snow chains, which officers spotted at a chain control stop in Truckee.

"Can officially say we have never seen this before," police said. "Seriously don't be this guy! Zip ties!"

Some commenters argued that the zip ties in the photo were a special variety that include grips to emulate the effect of snow chains, but police clarified that plastic ties are not legal in California.

"Not for driving on the highway," police said. "We have never seen anyone try and go through chain control with these before."

After Dead Birds Arrive In Mail, Woman Gets Living Canaries



The carnage of broken wings and dead canaries that arrived in an Alabama woman's mail have been replaced by the cheerful chirps and tweets of brand new birds — live ones.

The U.S. Postal Service paid for seven new canaries plus the postage needed to send them to Rhonda King, who operates a hair salon in Alabama.

King was crestfallen earlier this month, when she received a half-dozen dead canaries in a package marked with tire tracks.

Nothing can bring back the canaries from that first mangled package, whose tiny souls left this Earth somewhere between Houston, Texas, and northern Alabama.

But the avian horror of that first delivery has been replaced by soothing orchestral music, King said. The sound made by a canary is one thing she loves about them, but even better is the combined song produced by a flock, she said.

"They sound like small instruments of orchestra music," she said. "It's just beautiful, soft, harmonizing, orchestrated music."

Last Thursday, like seven small mythical phoenixes who rose from the ashes, the new birds arrived in Alabama.

"They're beautiful birds," King said a few hours after their arrival. "They're just picture perfect!"

"It's not going to replace the other birds, but they did the next best thing and I'm proud of them," King said of the Postal Service.

A postal manager who visited King named one of them "Carrie Canary."

Asked whether she'd use the Postal Service again, King paused for a brief moment and then said: "I would. I really would."

South Korea Shuts Website Mapping Women Of Childbearing Age



South Korea's government closed its website that drew fury for showing the number of women in childbearing age by each city district and region.

The Ministry of the Interior's website featuring the pink birth map remained closed last Friday, a day after its launch, showing instead a notice that the site is undergoing corrections to reflect public opinion.

The website had gone offline after just a few hours following criticism the government is trying to shame women for not having babies. Some said the government treated the birth rate issue as concerning only women, pointing out that no picture of men was used on the website.

Using pink as the main color, the site contained information on birth rates, benefits from local governments on child rearing, average marriage age, and other data. On top of the website, it showed a picture of a woman kissing a little girl.

In the birth map, the regions with a higher number of female residents aged 15-49 were colored in dark pink while the regions with a lower number of such women were shown in light pink. The site also featured a ranking of regions by the number of women aged 15-49.

Users could look up how many women who can have a baby resided in their neigh-

CONTINUED ON P. 21

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Lots Of Change Coming To Your Money



Why are so many countries trying to eliminate cash? Is it because cash can easily be lost, stolen, and is difficult to trace? Or is there a more sinister explanation? Whatever the answer, the trend is unmistakable in the U.S. and is even more evident in numerous other countries.

A survey taken in 2014 by Vouchercloud found that 57 percent of Americans “never” carry cash, that 17 percent carry it just “sometimes,” and only 10 percent “always” carry cash. According to CNBC, even back in 2013, 80 percent of U.S. consumer transactions

were electronic, and cash was used only for small-ticket items. What does all of this mean? That cash is already well on the way to being phased out and has taken a back seat to other methods of making payments.

Whether we like it or not, efforts toward implementing a cashless society are accelerating

dangers. Here’s how one of them explained the issue. “[A cashless society] is being pushed as a crackdown on those who break the law, but the reality is it’s all about the government wanting to obtain 100 percent control over the financial system.”

There are some mainstream critics who share those concerns. “A cashless society will certainly permit governments to exercise incredibly powerful control over all human behavior,” Scott Shay, a founder and former chairman of the board at Signature Bank, told CNBC.

Without question, there are benefits to a cashless society. First, stores, companies, and large organizations would not have to spend a great deal of money to track their cash and keep it safe. And ordinary consumers would not have to carry lots of dollars when shopping or traveling at home or abroad.

Unlike real money, plastic cards representing cash can easily be canceled if stolen, which not only adds a measure of protection but also deters their theft in the first place.

And there are even more benefits. Revenues to local, state, and federal governments would increase since the underground economy would come to an end. Billions could be saved by not having to print new money, and the problems caused by very sophisticated counterfeiters would be eliminated. Also, the absence of cash would make doing “business” very hard for drug dealers and other criminals.

With so many benefits to people, governments, and companies, it seems as if a cashless economy would be the best thing since sliced bread.

But it also could introduce potential problems. For example, if a technical mistake were made in recording your money it can quickly vanish or be withheld from you – and technical glitches certainly happen.

Conspiracy theorists warn of even worse

What does this mean? If a government staff employee suspects an individual of misconduct or finds that person’s politics or speech unacceptable, by simply pushing a few keys on a computer an individual could be denied access to his funds; they can even be transferred to the government. “A cashless society would cause an incalculable cost to our humanity... We would lose our freedom to make decisions,” Shay adds.

Ready Or Not, It’s Coming

Whether we like it or not, efforts toward implementing this policy are accelerating. Just take a look at these recent headlines:

*Sweden is leading the way in Europe in the race to become a cashless society. Close behind are its Nordic neighbors: Norway, Denmark, and Finland;

*According to an analysis in the *Harvard Business Review*, the following countries have the greatest potential for becoming a cashless society: the U.S., The Netherlands, Japan, Germany, France, Belgium, Spain, the Czech Republic, China, and Brazil;

*Citigroup’s Gold Expert Demands a Cash Ban;

*The War on Paper Currency Officially Begins: ECB Ends Production of 500 Euro Bill;

*The Shift to A Cashless Society is Snowballing

Surprisingly, it is India that has taken the lead in this race. On Nov. 8, it pulled 86 percent of its cash out of circulation, a very dramatic move since more than 90 percent of

CONTINUED ON P. 25

Gerald Harris is a financial and feature writer. Gerald can be reached at geraldhrs@yahoo.com

CONTINUED FROM P. 19

borhood for the past 10 years.

Many users reacted with wonder and anger, saying they do not understand what the number of women who can get pregnant has to do with encouraging people to have more babies.

“I felt so angered that it blatantly showed how the government saw women’s body as the country’s reproductive tools, not that belonging to the woman,” said a 24-year-old feminism writer. “I felt like nothing has changed and the hatred of women that I have experienced appeared again.”

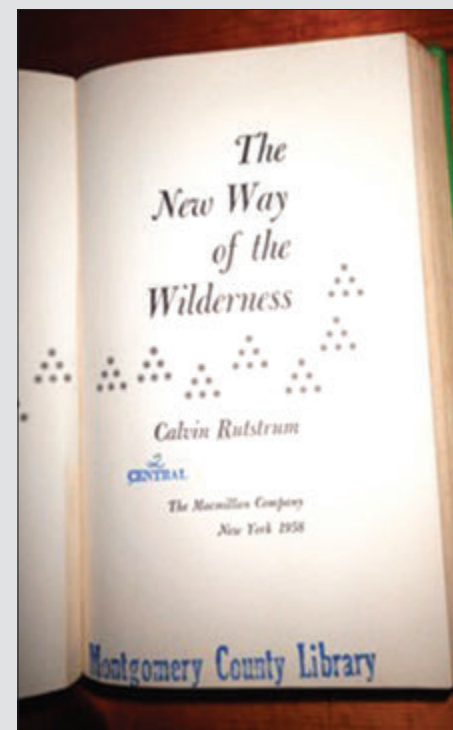
The government had touted it as a tool to increase the public’s understanding of the country’s low birth rate and compare the benefits from local governments for having a baby or raising a child.

“It was established to encourage local governments to learn and compare other governments’ benefits and to promote free competition,” the ministry said in the press release at the time of its launch.

South Korea is struggling to boost its rock bottom birth rate, one of the lowest among rich countries. This year, the country also saw growth of vocal feminist movements protesting misogynist views reflected in government policies and pop culture.

Massive Late Fee? No Problem: Check Covers Library Books 40 Years Later

A library lover who found two books more than four decades overdue at a vacation cabin in Canada is mak-



ing a donation to cover the late fees — at the 1970s-era rate of a nickel a day.

The Minnesota man and his family gave the Maryland library a check for about \$1,550 to cover the fees.

Jon Kramer says he was searching through his deceased parents’ library last month at their cabin when he found a camping book and a cookbook that had been checked out from a Maryland library in the 1970s.

Kramer remembered family library trips fondly and sent a \$1,552.30 donation.

Kramer says he’s keeping the books but is willing to continue paying late fees in the future.

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Thank You and Tizku Lemitzvos

January 1-7

It is said that those who do not know their history are condemned to repeat it. This, when you think about it, is actually fairly challenging, given that new history is made every day. At the end of a year, we become the most aware of this, I think, as people often recap the events of that year. Now, as we welcome a new one, let's take a look back, while also maybe paying some more attention to the new history made in 2017.

1942: United Nations is created



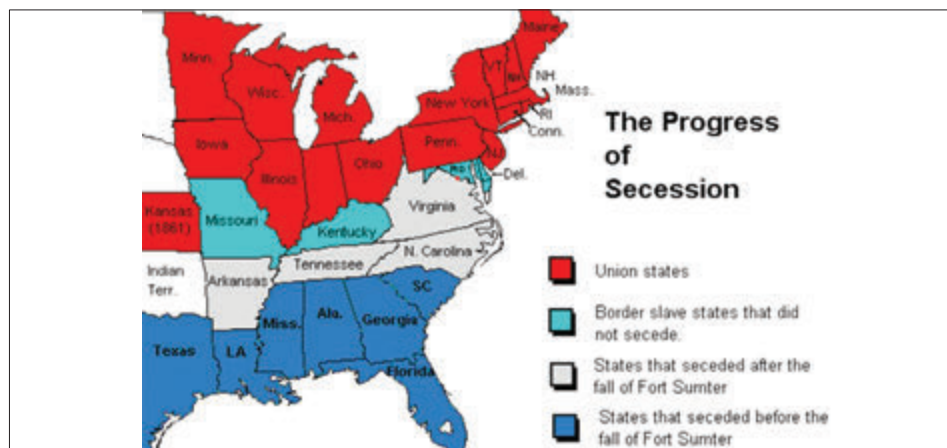
We begin this week, as chance would have it, on January 1, specifically **January 1, 1942**, the date on which the United Nations was created. On this day, US President Frank D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill issued a declaration, which was signed by representatives of 26 countries, and called the "United Nations Declaration." The nations that signed the declaration committed to create, after the war, an international peacekeeping force. This declaration grew out of the Arcadia Conference between the two men regarding a unified war strategy and post-war peace plans. Now that the US had entered the war (following the Pearl Harbor attack), both leaders of the two main adversaries of the Axis saw the need for close coordination. They created a combined general staff and began to plan the invasion of the European continent, which would ultimately lead to the 1944 invasion of Normandy. The United Nations agreement, however, arguably had the longest reaching impact. Under the leadership of the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union, all of the signing countries agreed to do the utmost to defeat the Axis as a united front, and that none would seek a separate peace with Germany, Italy, or Japan. More important, they committed to the future organization, which would be dedicated to ensuring "life, liberty, independence, and religious freedom, and to preserve the rights of man and justice." Unlike its predecessor, the League of Nations, the United Nations would endure, and, for a time, at least, do its job.

1863: Battle of Stones River in the Civil War concludes



We next hop back almost a century to **January 2, 1863**. On that date, the Battle of Stones River in the American Civil War concluded, with a Union victory. The battle, which was fought at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, was a crucial victory for the North, which had been starved for success. The Union Army, under the command of William Rosencrans, had been attempting to drive the Confederates, commanded by Braxton Bragg, out of central Tennessee for some time, but for numerous reasons a full confrontation had been delayed. Finally, on December 26, Rosencrans moved his force south, and the armies clashed on December 31 along Stones River. In the cold morning fog, the Confederates, who were the smaller force, attacked the Union's right flank, and managed to drive them back, but failed to break them, failing to secure the quick victory that was required in the bitterly cold weather as both sides suffered heavy casualties. On January 2, the Union launched its attack, and Bragg's force was defeated, in part because he attacked against the advice of his generals and lost the confidence of his forces. Following its defeat, the Confederates were pushed back to Chattanooga, leaving the North in control of central Tennessee, and in possession of a needed morale boost after the Union defeat at Fredericksburg, Virginia, in December. The Battle of Stones River was an extremely hard-fought battle, with high casualty rates. The Confederates lost 33 percent of their force, and the Union suffered a 31 percent casualty rate. In all, there were nearly 25,000 combined casualties.

1861: Delaware rejects a proposal to secede from the Union



For another Civil War-related event, we step back slightly to **January 3, 1861**. On that date, two weeks after South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union, Delaware rejected a proposal to secede. Delaware, while technically a slave state, had been expected to side with the North. By this time, slavery was not at all widespread, with only 1,800 of the state's population of 20,000 being slaves. Still, the state had southern sympathizers, and like many other states, a secession proposal was put forward, but the Unionist-dominated state government overwhelmingly voted to remain a part of the United States, and provided a temporary reprieve from what had been a parade of seceding states – by April 1861, ten states would secede in addition to South Carolina.

1999: European Union unites Europe with the euro



Our next event relates to a different kind of Union, and one that ultimately may have far more trouble remaining such. I am, of course, referring to the European Union, which united Europe with a common currency, the "euro," for the first time since Charlemagne in the ninth century, on **January 4, 1999**. The currency was launched in 11 European Union (EU) nations (Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain), with a total population of 290 million people, hoping for increased economic growth and integration in Europe. It had a positive launch, closing at 1.17 US dollars on its first day and looked to be a force to be reckoned with in a global economy. The cash itself, which was decorated with images of architecture, symbols of European members states and of European unity, went into circulation three years later, on January 1, 2002, and replaced the Austrian schilling, Belgian franc, Finnish markka, French franc, German mark, Italian lira, Irish punt, Luxembourg franc, Netherlands guilder, Portuguese escudo and Spanish peseta. Additionally, Monaco and Vatican City, non-EU members, adopted the Euro as well. Of course, there was controversy around this as well. There were concerns that while there would, of course, be benefits, the changeover process would be costly, chaotic, lead to counterfeiting and inflation, in addition to taking away the ability of individual nations to control their economic policies. As a result, Great Britain, Sweden, and Denmark chose not to adopt the Euro. On the other hand, Greece, after first being rejected, joined the Eurozone and adopted the Euro currency in 2001. In the following years, ten countries would join the 12 Eurozone nations: Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia.

1895: The Dreyfus Affair takes place



Remaining in Europe for the moment, we go to France for an event many of us have some familiarity with. On **January 5, 1895**, what is commonly referred to as “the Dreyfus Affair” took place. French army officer Alfred Dreyfus, accused and convicted of passing military secrets to Germany, was stripped of his rank in a public ceremony outside of Paris’ Ecole Militaire. Dreyfus, who was Jewish, and had been an artillery captain, had been convicted on flimsy evidence in an irregular trial, and began serving a life sentence in the Devil’s Island Prison in French Guyana four months later. However, the incident did not end there, and the case became a clear example of anti-Semitism in both the French military and general public, which supported the verdict. Following the verdict, interest in the case waned until 1896, when new evidence implicated French



Major Ferdinand Esterhazy. The army tried and failed to suppress this knowledge, an uproar ensued, and they had to try Esterhazy. However, in 1898, he was almost immediately acquitted. In response, French novelist Emile Zola famously penned an open letter in a newspaper titled, “J’Accuse,” accusing the judges of being controlled by the military. That day, 200,000 copies were sold, and a national division was born of the scandal. Later that year, the officer who had initially implicated Dreyfus admitted to forging much of the evidence and committed suicide – and Esterhazy fled France. Dreyfus had a new trial, another show trial, where he received a ten-year sentence, but a new French administration pardoned him and, in 1906, his conviction was overturned. This debacle heralded several changes in France: increased liberalization, a reduction of military power, and a formal separation of church and state.

1996: Blizzard of ‘96 begins



For a much more recent event, we move to **January 6, 1996**. On that date, snow began to fall in Washington, DC, and along the Eastern seaboard, beginning the infamous blizzard of 1996 that killed 154 people and caused more than \$1 billion in damages by its end. The blizzard, which began unassumingly with a cold front from Canada meeting a warm one from the Gulf of Mexico, caused a formidable mix of snow and wind. Snow began to fall in DC that evening, and within 24 hours, 12 inches had accumulated; in Lynchburg, Virginia, a record 20 inches fell in one day. Between the snow and up to 50-mile-per-hour winds, huge snowdrifts formed, making travel almost impossible. The storm moved northeast, setting yet more records, dumping 28 inches of snow in Newark, New Jersey, 32 in Providence, Rhode Island, and 30 in Philadelphia. In unprepared Philadelphia, schools were closed until January 16 due to snow. Heavy snows also caused structural damage, collapsing barn roofs in Pennsylvania and a church roof in Harlem. The storm was responsible for many traffic accidents, which was one of the largest causes of death, along with fallen trees and hypothermia (among homeless people), and some people trapped in cars died of carbon monoxide poisoning. Most deaths took place in Pennsylvania. The federal government was forced to shut down for almost a week due to the storm, and President



Bill Clinton declared DC and nine other states to be disaster areas, as the estimates of damages ranged from \$600 million to \$3 billion.

1979: Khmer Rouge is overthrown in Cambodia



We conclude this week over in Cambodia, on **January 7, 1979**. On that day, the brutal, oppressive communist Khmer Rouge regime, led by Pol Pot, was overthrown by (communist) Vietnamese troops as they took control of Phnom Penh, Cambodia’s capital. Pol Pot’s Khmer Rouge group had been formed during the 1960s in the Cambodian jungle, and advocated a violent Communist revolution to wipe out Western influences in the country and establish an agrarian society. In 1970, with the aid of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops, they began a major insurgency against Cambodian government forces, and quickly took control of almost a third of the country. By 1973, the Vietnamese forces were forced out of Cambodia by secret US bombing, creating a power vacuum that was filled by the growing Khmer Rouge movement. By 1975, they captured the capital, overthrew the pro-US government, and established the Kampuchean People’s Republic. Now the ruler of the country, Pol Pot began to create his agrarian utopia. Cities were evacuated, schools and factories were closed, and currency and private property were abolished. Anyone considered to be an intellectual, including anyone who spoke a foreign language, was killed. Additionally, skilled workers, as well as anyone caught with eyeglasses, a wristwatch, or any other modern technology, were also killed. By use of violent forced marches, millions who had been unable to escape were moved into rural collective farms. Over the next three years, approximately two million Cambodians died of execution, forced labor, and famine. In 1978, the Vietnamese invaded, and by January 7, 1979, took control of the capital, forcing the Khmer Rouge back into the jungle. The organization survived, in a lesser form, and in 1985 Pol Pot “retired” but remained in effect the head of the Khmer Rouge, which continued carrying out guerilla actions against Cambodia’s new government. However, in 1997, he was tried by his own organization after an internal power struggle, and he was sentenced to life in prison by what many saw as a show trial. In a later interview, Pol Pot declared his conscience clear. While many hoped to see him extradited to stand trial for his crimes against humanity, Pol Pot died of apparently natural causes while under house arrest in 1998.

That’s all for this week; I hope you found the events interesting, and that as we start a new year we give a bit more attention to the events taking place around us that will eventually become the next year’s history. Apart from that, I hope you will also continue to join me next week...in history.

Yakov Merkin was a lifelong resident of Forest Hills, prior to making aliyah in August 2016. He holds a Bachelor’s Degree with Honors in History from Queens College, as well as a Master’s Degree in History, also from Queens College. He is a writer of science fiction, fantasy, and historical fantasy novels, and discusses writing and history, among other things, on Twitter @yakovmerkin. If you would be interested in supporting the publication of his first book, visit his GoFundMe campaign at [gofundme.com/br-help-me-publish-my-first-novel](https://www.gofundme.com/br-help-me-publish-my-first-novel).

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Frontlines

Joseph M. Frager

Opinion

Mr. Kerry: Israel Will Always Be A Jewish Democracy



CONTINUED FROM P. 1

Israel. Why in the waning days of a lame-duck presidency after a crushing defeat, the secretary of state decided (more on this in future articles) that Israel had to be the target and focus of his pent-up frustrations and tempestuous wrath is not entirely clear. Could Iran be paying for both the president and secretary of state's future libraries and foundations (this would be the ultimate kickback from the Iran deal)? As Charles Krauthammer framed it, Secretary Kerry made a "tossed salad"

Mahmoud Abbas, Israel does not receive a word of praise from the president or secretary of state. Israel gets barb after barb. It only gets more demands and more edicts. Can Israel just be left alone, even for a day? The president and secretary of state had to use their precious little time left to beat up Israel? Instead of learning any lessons from the election on November 8, the president digs in deeper to blame Israel for all his colossal troubles. The American people have spoken. They don't want Israel treated this way. The president and secretary are manifesting deep patholo-

*It is an utter shame that both
 the president and his secretary of state don't get it.
 Their tenure could not come to an end soon enough*

of the Middle East. I might add it did not qualify as gourmet. It was an incoherent tirade against Israel ostensibly in support of President Obama's premeditated use of the United Nations Security Council to hurt Israel. The former DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz characterized the U.N. "assault" as unnecessary and inappropriate. She further said, "I don't think you can solve a problem with a friend by flogging them publicly." There were many problems with Kerry's "tantrum." One that was particularly galling was his remark that "if the choice is one state, Israel can either be Jewish or democratic. It cannot be both." Israel is the only real democracy in the Middle East. Israel has bent over backwards and forwards to try to make peace with an irascible and intransigent foe. In return for concession after concession the past 23 years (since Oslo was signed in 1993), Israel has gotten increased terrorism and incitement with over a thousand killed at the hands of suicide bombers, bus bombings, stabbing sprees, truck attacks, deliberate arson fires, and rockets. Israel gets a raw deal.

Despite numerous overtures to make peace with first Yasser Arafat and now

gy. Both are taking out all of their anger from collective failures around the globe, whether ISIS, Syria, or Iran, and rising worldwide terrorism, on the State of Israel. Why blame themselves when they can blame Israel?

Israel has been and will always be a Jewish state. When Ben Gurion decided on a name for the State of Israel, he could have kept the name Palestine. (The *Jerusalem Post* used to be called the *Palestine Post*.) Because the founding fathers of the State of Israel wanted their new state to be a Jewish state, they used the name "Israel," since it was the name given to our forefather Jacob and the name applied to the Jewish people throughout the Bible. As to democracy, Thomas Jefferson based the United States Constitution upon the Torah – The Holy Book of Moses.

The forever-Jewish State of Israel remains the bastion of democracy in the Middle East. Secretary of State Kerry should be thanking Israel for the stability it has brought to the Middle East. It is an utter shame that both the president and his secretary of state don't get it. Their tenure could not come to an end soon enough.

Joseph M. Frager is a physician and lifelong activist.



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Barack Hussein Obama's Final Salvo Stabs Israel In The Back

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

mentioned that prior to Barack Obama assuming his presidency eight years ago, he met with his old Harvard professor. At that time, he stated to Dershowitz that "he would watch Israel's back." Dershowitz remarked now that it is obvious that he wanted to watch Israel's back in order to be able to take a knife and stab her there with it.

I have been wondering for some time now as to what makes Barack Obama tick. Is he just your run of the mill anti-Semite or is he some sort of a Manchurian candidate in the clutches of Islamic radicalism. As implausible as that may sound, it is the only explanation for his fostering the lopsided Iranian nuclear deal that gave Iran billions of dollars to promote their radical Islamic terror and future nuclear development all over the world, in particular targeting Israel's very existence. He is also planning to release some of the most vicious terrorists from Gitmo for no logical reason. These men are so violent that no country except the Muslim radical states wants them. To compound that theory even further, two weeks ago at the United Nations Security Council, the United States allowed for the first time without vetoing a resolution condemning Israeli settlement construction to pass, even though President-elect Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu stood resolutely together to stop the measure in its tracks. As the resolution passed on a 14-0 vote with the US abstaining, there was an obscene applause in the chamber, which was a blow for Israel as the world effectively lined up to pronounce its settlement building in the West Bank and East Jerusalem as illegal and an obstacle to the stalled peace talks and the establishment of the two-state solution guaranteeing a Palestinian state. This diplomatic ambush would define Judaism's holiest site (the *Kosel*) as occupied Palestinian territory, and encourage nations to boycott goods made by Jews in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. It also negates the legitimacy of Jews living in the Jewish Quarter - something that has been going on for thousands of years.

The UN declaration sparked outrage in Israel and led to a new low in the already strained relationship between Netanyahu and Obama. In reaction to the UN vote, Netanyahu's statement read: "At a time when the Security Council does nothing to stop the slaughter of half a million people in Syria, it disgracefully gangs up on the one true democracy in the Middle East, Israel, and calls the Western Wall occupied territory. Israel rejects this shameful anti-Israel resolution at the UN and will not abide by its terms." The Israelis made clear their intense disappointment with the US over the shameful move against the State of Israel, which calls on Israel to immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says he plans to defy the United Nations resolution that bans his country from building settlements. Netanyahu announced that, "Israel rejects the shameful anti-Israel resolution." The resolution reiterates that settlement activity in the West Bank is illegal and counterproductive. Bibi said, "Friends don't take friends to the Security Council."



I used to think that no one could be worse than Carter; now I know better

The Israelis have accused the Obama administration of abandoning a longtime US ally and has made no secret of their optimism at the prospect of a new administration under a more positive-leaning President Donald Trump. Netanyahu's office said in a statement: "Israel looks forward to working with President-elect Trump and with all our friends in Congress, Republicans and Democrats alike, to negate the harmful effects of the absurd resolution." Obama's antagonists in Israel and in Congress, meanwhile, stressed the fact that by failing to veto the resolution, the outgoing President was turning his back on diplomatic precedent under which Washington has shielded Israel at the UN from the outset. President-elect Trump tweeted that, "we cannot continue to let Israel be treated with such disdain and disrespect. They used to have a good friend in the US - not anymore. The beginning of the end was the horrible Iran deal and now this UN. Stay strong Israel, January 20 is fast coming." The dangers of this new development are so serious that the Simon Wiesenthal Center declared the UN Resolution condemning Israel as the top anti-Semitic incident of 2016. This UN action gives the Palestinians the go-ahead to claim these territories as theirs through delegitimization and economic means that could impair Israel for years to come.

Although Obama's advisers maintained that his team did not make a final decision on whether to veto or abstain from voting on the resolution until Friday, Netanyahu accused them of colluding with Israel's enemies at the UN. Netanyahu told his Cabinet on the Sunday after: "From the information that we have, we have no doubt that the Obama administration initiated it, stood behind it, coordinated on the wording, and demanded that it be passed." A senior Israeli official said that, "President Obama and John Kerry secretly cooked up with the Palestinians an extreme anti-Israeli resolution behind Israel's back, which would be a tailwind for terror and boycotts and effectively makes the Western Wall occupied Palestinian territory."

The passing of this action has emboldened Israel's enemies. Hamas expressed appreciation to the Security Council. Hazem

Kassem, a Hamas spokesman, proclaimed, "We praise the countries that voted for the resolution; we emphasize the need to turn such a resolution not only to halt settlements but to eradicate Israel's occupation in all forms." The Palestinians definitely feel that they have the upper hand in this issue. Mustafa Barghouti said, "This is a victory for the people and for the cause, and it opens doors wide for the demand of sanctions on settlements." Mahmoud Abbas said that he would resume negotiations "the minute the Israeli government agrees to cease all settlement activities."

The UN's action has caused a large outcry in the US, which is traditionally aligned with Israel and considers the country one of the few real allies in the unstable Middle East. A large segment of United States senators and representatives from both parties have denounced the resolution out of deep loyalty to Israel. Senator Charles Schumer said, "It is extremely frustrating, disappointing, and confounding that the administration has failed to veto this resolution." Senator Lindsey Graham, who mans a subcommittee that oversees United Nations funding by the United States, threatened to take steps

that could "suspend or significantly reduce" that financing. The US subsidizes more than 22% of the UN's budget. Bibi stressed that he is "encouraged by the statement of our friends in the United States, Republicans and Democrats alike. They understand how reckless and destructive this UN resolution was; they understand that the Western Wall isn't occupied territory." Netanyahu went on to say, "We will do all it takes so Israel emerges unscathed from this shameful decision."

Senator Tom Cotton of Arkansas said that he held President Obama directly to blame for the resolution. "President Obama is personally responsible for this anti-Israel resolution. His diplomats secretly coordinated the vote, yet he doesn't even have the courage of his own convictions to vote for it. This cowardly, disgraceful action cements President Obama's richly deserved legacy as the most anti-Israel president in American history."

I agree with Senator Cotton. History will not be kind to Barack Obama and he deserves our contempt. I wish Barack Obama a long life so that he can wallow in the knowledge that he is the worst president that we ever had. I find it amazing that this all happened on Chanukah - and just as the little Maccabean army defeated the mighty Syrian-Greeks, so too in our time, the small Jewish country, Israel, will overcome the large anti-Israel forces, led by Barack Obama and John Kerry, who wish to destroy her. We need "savlanut" (patience) and faith. It is going to happen.

It is very important for all of us to respond to this travesty. We need to write to our representatives in the Congress to severely punish the UN and the countries that participated in this abomination. We need to prevent Barack Obama from making money after January 29 at any forum that we can protest and object to his appearance. He needs to become the same kind of pariah that Jimmy Carter is. I used to think that no one could be worse than Carter; now I know better. Barak Obama will outdo him in that respect. I am confident that he will be eventually publically discredited so that no one in his right mind will give a hoot about what he says or thinks. Once his Arab lovers will realize that, they will have no use for him either.

Cynthia Zalisky is the Executive Director of the Queens Jewish Community. She can be contacted at czalisky@qjcc.org

Lots Of Change Coming To Your Money

CONTINUED FROM P. 21

all transactions made in that country have been made with cash.

Although it may be lessening crime, it is also having unintended results: farmers can't afford to buy the seeds they need, property sales are slowing, manufacturing in many regions is down sharply, day workers who depend on cash to buy food are going hungry, and even the number of weddings, historically made in cash, are down sharply. Gold, which has been a prized possession in India for millennia, has been effectively banned.

These developments in countries around the world are all part of a very large and complicated jigsaw puzzle. Even

though the pieces are starting to fall into place at an accelerating pace, it's still not clear what the picture at the end will look like.

Maybe there is no ulterior motive; maybe everyone should just relax and enjoy the benefits they bring. But it will be hard to convince conspiracy theorists and other skeptics of this. They believe something shocking, historic, and life-changing may be imminent. Who can say with certainty that they're wrong?

Sources: cbsnews.com; cnbc.com; hbr.org; infowars.com; makemoneyinlife.com; quora.com; reference.com; theguardian.com; vox.com; zerohedge.com.



Fame Is Fleeting

There is a fascination with celebrities. We look at the life of a celebrity as being glamorous and exciting, forgetting that these are real people who go through the same struggles as we do.

These were two stars from two different generations. Reynolds was known for many roles on stage and in movies. The most famous was in the movie Singing in the Rain, in which she co-starred at the age of 19 in 1952.

The worst thing that a parent has to deal with is burying a child, no matter what age. One can only imagine the pain that Reynolds was going through when she learned of her daughter's death.

Although both mother and daughter were stars, they had many problems that they had to try to overcome.

For Reynolds, it started with the

breakup of her marriage, when her husband Eddie Fisher, whom she had married in 1955, left her for another famous celebrity, Elizabeth Taylor. Taylor ended up being married eight times.

Reynolds continued working in show business but ended up having financial

problems. Reynolds, after being divorced from Eddie Fisher, married two other men. One of them had a gambling problem and she ended up divorcing both of them. The third husband was a terrible businessman. Ms. Reynolds later bought a hotel and ended up having to declare bankruptcy when it failed.

Carrie had problems with drugs, alcohol, and depression. She was also diagnosed as suffering from bipolar disorder.

There were problems between mother and daughter. They did not speak to each

other for 10 years. They later became so close that they lived right next to each other. Carrie wrote a semi biographic novel, Postcards from the Edge, and a biography, Wishful Drinking, which addressed her relationship with her mother and her alcohol and drug use.

Mother and daughter did not speak to each other for 10 years, but later became so close that they lived right next to each other

There is much that we can learn from their story. Fame does not equal happiness and success. It is possible to overcome adversity. Relationships can be repaired if people are willing to take the effort to try to make it work. The fact that they were celebrities was not a benefit for them trying to improve their lives and overcome the obstacles before them.



scope of tabloids watching what they are doing.

If they can overcome their challenges, there is no reason why non-celebrities can't also try to make their lives better.

Warren S. Hecht is a local attorney. He can be reached at whecht@aol.com

Asara B'Teves 5777
YOM HAKADDISH HAKLALI
For Tefillos And Kaddish In Memory of The Victims of the Shoah
Words of Welcome: Rabbi Yoel Schonfeld
Introductory Remarks: Rabbi Ephraim Glatt, Esq.
Guest Speaker: Rabbi Nosson Scherman
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SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF QUEENS
In the Matter of the Application to dissolve the Briarwood Jewish Center
Pursuant to Sec. 18 of the Religious Corporation Law
NOTICE OF APPLICATION
Index No: 14673/16
SIRS: PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that upon the petition of a majority of the trustees of the Briarwood Jewish Center a religious corporation verified the 31st day of October 2016 the Affirmation of Charles Zolot, Esq. affirmed to the day of November 2016 will on the 7th day of February 2017 at 2: 15 pm or as soon thereafter as counsel can be heard apply to the Supreme Court of the State of New York County of Queens at the CMP Part 88-11, Sutphin Blvd, Jamaica, NY for an Order decreeing the dissolution of the Briarwood Jewish Center and for that purpose and after providing for the ascertaining and payment of debts of said corporation and the necessary costs and expenses of such sale and dissolution so far as the proceeds of such sale shall be sufficient to pay the same and decreeing that the balance to be transferred as set forth in the petition annexed hereto and for such other and further relief as to this Court is just and proper.
Dated: December 28, 2016
Jackson Heights, NY
Charles Zolot, Esq.
Attorney for Petitioner
37-06 82nd St., suite 301
Jackson Heights, NY 11372
718-779-6545



Every Jew Is A Kohen Gadol

I have always said that if I could be a “fly on the wall” during any story in *Tanach*, it would be in this week’s *parshah*, when Yehudah faces off against the Number Two man in Egypt – who turns out to be Yosef. The *mid-rashim* on that encounter are simply incredible. As part of that story, Yosef did something he had never done before. The *Nesivos Shalom* points out that the whole time when Yosef was with his brothers – accusing them as spies and everything else he did to them – there were *always* people in the room around him – his slaves, bodyguards, servants, Egyptian officers... he was *never* alone with his brothers. Yet, in this *parshah*, when he wants to reveal himself to his brothers and tell them who he *really* is, the first thing he does is send everyone out of the room:

“And he cried out, ‘Have everyone leave my presence!’” (*B’reishis* 45:1)

Why all of a sudden did he need to be alone?

Think about it for a second. When is there a time in the Jewish calendar when someone is all alone? Nobody is around. Nobody – not even the greatest rabbi or prophet – can accompany this person. He must be all by himself. When is that??

It’s Yom Kippur – when the *Kohen Gadol* enters the *Kodesh HaKodashim*, the Holy of Holies. He must be alone. The *k’dushah* in that room, the connection to Hashem is so awesome that he simply cannot share it with anyone in the world.

That was the feeling that Yosef wanted to experience when the time came to reveal himself to his brothers. It wasn’t just a brother saying, “Hey, guys, it’s really me!!” It was “Yom Kippur.” Yosef was like the *Kohen Gadol* and his



I am known as a “fast davener” ... in all areas except Sh’moneh Esrei. During that amazing tefilah I take my time

brothers were the Aron – the Ark – that is inside. Nothing else is there... except holiness and being one with Hashem. He wanted to feel that “*Kohen Gadol* moment” when he told his brothers the truth.

People think that this special feeling is only once a year, for one person in the world – the *Kohen Gadol*; but

the *Nesivos Shalom* revealed an amazing secret: *We can have that feeling every single day. Every single one of us! We can enter – all by ourselves – the “Kodesh HaKodashim” and be one with Hashem... and we don’t even have to be a kohen to do it!*

It’s called *Sh’moneh Esrei*. It’s one of the most precious gifts known to Jews – the gift of praying to Hashem.

Take your time in *Sh’moneh Esrei*. Close your eyes and see yourself all alone... just like the *Kohen Gadol* on Yom Kippur. Just like Yosef in this week’s *parshah*. During those few moments, there’s no world politics, no NFL playoffs, no school, no business deals, there’s nothing going on... it’s just you and Hashem.

I realize that we are all in a rush and I too am known as a “fast davener”... in all areas except *Sh’moneh Esrei*. During that amazing *tefilah* I take my time. I connect to our Father and King. I make those moments count and do the best I can to be just like the *Kohen Gadol* on Yom Kippur. You can do the same. No special skills are necessary... just a loving heart and a burning soul, which every Jew possesses. Let’s get to work!

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 Sackett is married with 6 children and 4 grandchildren. He lives in Herziliya Pituach.

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BESTSELLER!

GREAT CHANUKAH GIFT!

Chanukah Brunch For 25th Anniversary Of YESS!

By Susie Garber

“I think this is the best school I’ve ever been to. They really help me learn and I am surprised nobody ever taught me like this before, but there is something special about this school that no other school ever had.” A student from YESS! (Yeshiva Education for Special Students) voiced these accolades about the school. These words encapsulate the story of the YESS! Program, which is housed in the Yeshiva of Central Queens building. As Neva Goldstein Hellman, Founding President of YESS!, points out, “At YESS!, we are not just engaging minds academically, although we do that with utmost distinction, but we are engaging souls spiritually. Our students thrive especially because they are being educated in a Jewish environment in which their *n’shamot* feel at home.”

On Sunday morning, December 25, the first day of Chanukah, a large crowd of community supporters, parents, local *rabbanim*, and local politicians gathered at the Young Israel of Hillcrest to show support for the YESS! school and to hear an uplifting lecture from Dr. David Pelcovitz.

One parent commented about the school: “My daughter has made a lot of progress in the three years she has attended YESS!. The teachers and administrators meet individual needs of students. They go out of their way to help each student grow to his or her fullest potential. My daughter comes home very happy and she is always eager to go to school.”

Another parent who has two students in the school and a third who graduated from YESS!, commented that she loves the school. “It was a big help for my children who have learning disabilities.”

Mrs. Neva Goldstein Hellman addressed the crowd first. She thanked and welcomed Rabbi Yitzchak and Rebbetzin Faye Sladowsky. “Many people did valiant work to get YESS! started, but none more than Rabbi

Sladowsky, who, as diplomat extraordinaire, forged the working relationship between YESS! and YCQ. With parts of the Youth Building of the Young Israel of Kew Gardens Hills already promised to YESS! by Rabbi Fabian Schonfeld and his magnanimous congregation, Rabbi Sladowsky secured the critical mainstreaming relationship with YCQ. That relationship has flourished over these 25 years and continues to give the children of YESS! a dimension to their special education of unsurpassed value. That legacy is yours, Rabbi.”

She also thanked the presidium, Gail Keren and Jesse Rosenbaum, and the vice president for outreach, Rebecca Wittert, whose commitment helped YESS! to come into existence and who continue to support YESS! She also thanked the esteemed Principal of YESS!, Rabbi Yaakov Lustig, and the Directors, Mrs. Leora Hecht and Mrs. Gittie Rothschild.

She then spoke about the child-centered, academically excellent, developmentally appropriate, individualized *yeshivah* education that students receive at YESS!. YESS! is open to all Jewish children. It is wheelchair accessible and includes walkers, sign interpreters, and safety aides. Mrs. Hellman pointed out, “Our students continue to have the opportunity to encounter *Chumash*, *Navi*, *Halachah*, *Mishnah*, and *Gemara* in ways that they can learn. They come to love the texts of our traditions and share that learning at their own Shabbat tables, as do their siblings and friends.”

One special aspect of the program is that since it is in the Yeshiva Central Queens building, students can be mainstreamed into some classes in YCQ. Also, the art program at YESS!, under the direction of Mrs. Corey Franco, brings crafts to YESS!. Students at YESS! decorated the gorgeous vases on display on the tables at the brunch.

She shared how learning disability diagnosis is so difficult for parents to deal with, as well as for students as it leads to school

failure, but YESS! is a game changer for success. At YESS! children and parents can dream again. YESS! opens other dreams. Many graduates of YESS! and older alumni learn in *yeshivah*, work full-time or attend college. All contribute to our communities.

Following this, Mrs. Hellman introduced Dr. Pelcovitz: “Dr. Pelcovitz holds Yeshiva University’s Straus Chair in Jewish Education. He is Professor of Psychology and Education at the Azrieli Graduate School and of Pastoral Counseling at RIETS. Dr. Pelcovitz lives and inspires an amalgam of the teachings of Torah and the science of psychology. He has been a dear friend of YESS! for all 25 years.”

Dr. Pelcovitz then spoke about instilling civility in our children. He offered key ways to do this, and he shared moving anecdotes as well. He began by sharing a study done by a psychologist who was a Holocaust survivor and who studied what makes a hero. He interviewed righteous non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust.

He found that they grew up in a similar way. None of them felt that they were doing anything remarkable. Consistently, their parents were calm and clear when they conveyed to their children that this is what we do in our family. This is our standard of behavior. Their parents showed confidence that their children could do this. So, Dr. Pelcovitz stressed that parents need to calmly explain the proper behavior with clarity and repetition. Screaming and losing it will not teach this message.

Dr. Pelcovitz said we need to see how we handle wrongdoing in our children. We want to capture the uniqueness of our child and fan the flame of her uniqueness. We must be calm, but firm. Sometimes we need to pull back. We must not get pulled into screaming and criticism. If you pull back, that is the key to *kavod*. We must choose battlegrounds. We have no control over our child’s behavior, but we have control over consequences.

He pointed out that three people in *Ta-*



Dr. David Pelcovitz

nach withdrew or pulled away. Yaakov ran away. Moshe ran away, and David HaMelech ran away. The Midrash teaches us that we must determine when to pull back and when to find time to deal with the challenge. When consequences for behavior are administered, they should flow from the misbehavior. They should be short. The key is to be unemotional.

We need to show respect to others as a model to our children to respect us. We must demonstrate respect to our spouse, relatives, friends, neighbors, etc. Do we complain about anybody in front of our children? If we show respect for others even if we disagree with them, then our children will grow up instilled with the attribute of *kavod*.

He spoke about a *Shabbaton* for parents of children off the *derech*. One boy had shared with his therapist that he refused drugs because of the image of the love in his father’s eye when he gave the boy a blessing Friday night.

Rabbi Pelcovitz also told the story of the grandson of Rav Shimon Bar Yochai who was misbehaving terribly and involved in *z’nus*. The behavior was changed in three ways: They assigned him a mentor. They moved him to a new town. They gave him *s’michah*.

Dr. Pelcovitz concluded that we as parents should appreciate that unique spark in each of our children. We must show our gratitude to YESS!, which is an incredible *yeshivah* that brings out the unique spark in each student.

History Professor Sergey Kadinsky Speaks At YIKGH About The History Of Chanukah In America

By Susie Garber

Did you know that George Washington knew about Chanukah? Mr. Sergey Kadinsky, reporter, author, history professor, and speaker, shared a fascinating talk about Chanukah in America at the Young Israel of Kew Gardens Hills on Friday night, Parshas VaYeishev.

Mr. Kadinsky explained that Chanukah was historically a minor holiday with few traditions associated with it. He noted that the nationalistic aspects were downplayed so non-Jews would not misinterpret it.

He went on to illustrate how the Jewish experience in America has shaped how we celebrate Chanukah. To maintain Jewish identity, Chanukah was elevated to a higher status. He taught that Chanukah took on new meaning and traditions on three accounts: its status as a minor holiday that provided opportunities for new approaches, the freedom in this country to shape one’s identity, and the use of Chanukah to strengthen one’s spiritual identity in a time of the year when it is most in danger.

In 1746, composer George Handel wrote an opera called Judas Maccabeus. The story

depicted rebels who fought for their beliefs against a tyrant. This theme resonated as it echoed the American revolutionary narrative that spoke of the British king as a tyrant. Gentle audiences familiar with the Maccabean story found it relatable in the struggle for independence.

In early American society, Jews experienced tolerance alongside pressure to convert from well-meaning missionaries. Six-day workweeks and lack of an organized Jewish communal structure made observance difficult to maintain.

Recognizing the existential threat, Charleston resident Penina Moise wrote the Feast of Lights hymn in 1824, which celebrated the faith in Hashem as the “great arbiter of human fate” who inspired the Maccabees to battle idolatry and reclaim the *Beis HaMikdash*.

Mr. Kadinsky informed the audience that many customs we associate with Chanukah are quite recent. The *Dreidel* song dates to the 1920s, authored by a musical songwriter, originally in Yiddish and then in English. Around that time, the song, “*Chanukah, Oh Chanukah*” also appeared on records and at concerts.

The *mitzvah* of publicizing the miracle encouraged Jews to decorate, sing, eat, and do whatever was needed to be done to counter the ubiquitous Christian holiday of the season that was seemingly everywhere: on the street, in school, at work, and on the radio.

Interestingly, George Washington knew about Chanukah. George Washington was dining in Easton, Pennsylvania, at the home of a merchant named Michael Hart in December 1778. Mr. Hart lit the menorah and then began to explain about the holiday of Chanukah. General Washington told him that he already knew about it. A year earlier a Jewish officer at the Valley Forge battlefield was lighting a menorah and had already explained it to him.

Mr. Kadinsky pointed out that from then until 1979, there was no acknowledgement of Chanukah by the American presidents. In 1979, President Jimmy Carter attended the lighting of the new National Menorah across the street from the White House, in the northeast quadrant of The Ellipse. After this, President Ronald Reagan hosted rabbis at the White House on Chanukah. Also, President George H.W. Bush held a Chanukah party for his Jewish staff. President Bill Clinton held

the first public menorah lighting inside the White House. The event was memorable because after the first candle was lit he put out a fire on a girl’s ponytail that had spread from the menorah. President George W. Bush was the first president to personally light the menorah. He and his successor, President Barack Obama, borrowed famous menorahs from museums and *shuls* for the annual party, establishing yet another Chanukah tradition.

During the years following World War II, the Lubavitcher movement grew, and the idea of publicizing Chanukah took on more meaning and visibility with the public menorah displays and lightings. A holiday that allows for traveling enables *shluchim* to post menorahs atop their vehicles, among other moving things.

Also, today, Jewish music groups like the Maccabeats are popular. They use popular songs and substitute Jewish lyrics, shaping how we interpret well-known tunes in line with the message of the holiday.

Mr. Kadinsky pointed out that in America, freedom from tyranny, independence, and standing up for one’s beliefs are all part of the celebration of Chanukah. These concepts are part of the American ideal.

Vleigh Place Fire Destroys 14 Businesses

Cause of devastating 5-alarm blaze currently unknown; building condemned

By Sergey Kadinsky

The secular New Year date is often associated with new beginnings and resolutions, but for Kew Gardens Hills the year started with a void, following a five-alarm fire that destroyed 14 businesses on Vleigh Place, between 77th Road and 78th Avenue. “The flames were extremely high,” said local resident George Srolovits. “That was my barber; that was the bakery where I got my bread.”

The fire was reported at 6:30 p.m. on the evening of December 31, when most of the stores were closed for Shabbos and neighbors were in their homes having their Shabbos meals on the seventh night of Chanukah. Although firefighters arrived on the scene within minutes, the fire had spread quickly across the shared rooftop

of the commercial strip. “Once the fire gets into these concealed spaces up above the roof, it’s almost impossible for us to put it out. We have to worry about the safety of our firefighters,” said FDNY Chief James Leonard in a statement.

The commercial block is the oldest in Kew Gardens Hills, built in 1939, according to city records. The grid-defying Vleigh Place was laid out at least two centuries earlier.

Among the popular kosher establishments that were condemned as a result of the fire were D&G Bakery, Avraham Bakery, Kosher Moshe’s Pizzeria, Elyahu’s Barber Shop, and Tolmas Restaurant, along with a law office, dry cleaner, and a convenience store. “On Friday afternoon the line was out of the door at D&G Bakery,” said Vaad Harabonim of Queens Executive Vice Pres-



Photo credit: WABC

ident Rabbi Chaim Schwartz, whose agency verifies the *kashrus* of four stores that were destroyed. “These are families that lost their *parnasah* and the Vaad will do everything that it can to get these businesses on their feet.” Popular with Bukharian Jews and their *Ashkenazi* neighbors for its tandoori oven and authentic recipes, D&G Bakery (known to many by its previous name, King David) had a unique niche in the neighborhood’s commercial scene. Two doors down from it, Avraham Kosher Bakery offered dessert items that appeared on many Shabbos tables in the neighborhood.

On Sunday morning, the charred storefronts were partially obscured by a plywood wall as residents stopped by to look at what remained of the familiar shops. Looking at which stores had the most damage, bystanders guessed where the blaze

may have started. At this time, the investigation into its cause is ongoing.

Partially because of Shabbos, in relation to the extent of the damage, no civilians were hurt, although three firefighters were carried away from the scene that required the effort of nearly 180 of their colleagues. Particularly unfortunate was Elyahu’s Barber Shop, which had relocated to Vleigh Place just a month ago from its previous storefront on Main Street, near the Post Office.

For the owner of Avraham Bakery, news of the fire was not known to him until after Shabbos, which he spent in Forest Hills in celebration of his daughter’s wedding. “He *davens* in my synagogue. I know him and the other storeowners,” said Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov. “It was tragic. I hope to see them get back on their feet.”



Photo credit: WABC



Photo credit: Josh Einiger



Photo credit: Josh Einiger

A Changed Landscape:

One Stretch Of Popular Neighborhood Shops Gone, But Locals Hope For A Rebound

Text and Photography by Judah S. Harris

On Friday, I was debating whether to drop off eight shirts and a pair of dress pants at the cleaners on my way into the city. I decided not to – I was headed to the photo lab to pick up baby pictures and bar mitzvah photos to deliver to clients over the weekend, and had to catch the lab before it closed at 2:00 p.m. I also wanted to have time to prepare a holiday gift for the dry cleaners to give them the next time I went in. As I headed out the door, I left the pile of clothes on my wicker storage trunk. I would deal with it early next week. Maybe Sunday or Monday, I thought.

I still have my shirts and the gray suit pants.

Eating dinner about eight blocks away on Friday evening, I was totally unaware of the fire that broke out and had engulfed the row of stores on Vleight Place, including my cleaners. It was unusually late when I returned from my meal and post-dinner conversation. I saw emergency vehicle lights some blocks away, but was unable to tell how many vehicles, if more than one. As I neared my turn towards the street where I live, I decided to proceed further, wanting to see what was happening. It was about a quarter after midnight when I got to the block of the fire. The firefighters were still dousing the building from above. The block had small pockets of onlookers, paramedics, Con Edison personnel, a few police cars, and the relief firefighters waiting for their turn to take over. I asked – as everyone does – what happened. I asked only twice, during my stay at the scene, what might have caused the fire. That's an over-asked question, though a legitimate query. Some witnesses could guess, based on the flames they saw at the onset, but one firefighter explained that the marshals will initiate an investigation – they'll be investing for a couple weeks, he thought – to determine the cause.

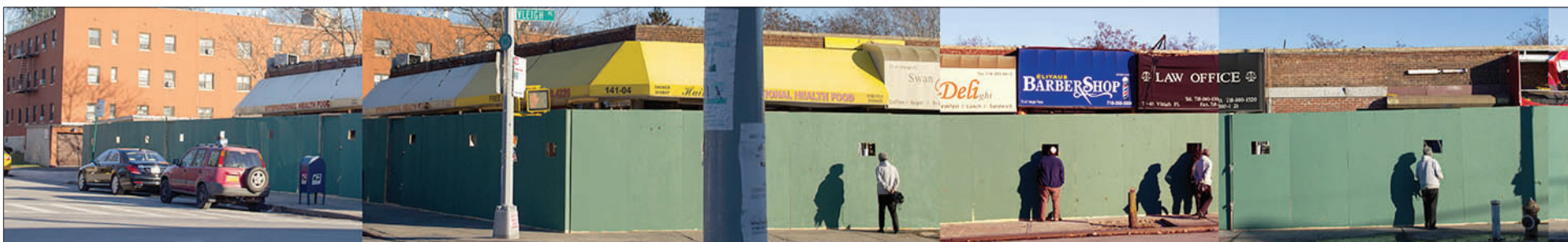
"How can they tell?" I asked him.

He explained to me that they look for fire patterns to determine where it originated. It's more complex than that, but that was sufficient for the layperson. On Motza'ei Shabbos, I watched some videos of the fire as it was observed by news cam-

eras and others, including the *fire chasers*, enthusiasts, and avocational news gatherers who offer up strong coverage (one drove from a far-off part of New Jersey). The video indicates that about the 9:30 p.m. mark, flames were burning strong. The large response that's been reported – 200 firefighters, perhaps half fighting the fire at the same time, and the 20 paramedics – had thinned, but the emergency situation was still in progress. Instead of five ladder trucks dumping water, the situation earlier, during the time I stayed out (till about 2:00 a.m.), I saw firefighters in the buckets of two aerial ladders and watched them pour a forceful stream onto the roof of the complex. A pocket of black smoke went up at one point and, during my hour and a half, only small flames were occasionally visible from ground level. They probably were more than small, but not as ferocious-looking as what people saw during the earlier hours. Watch the videos and you'll see the magnitude of the fire that consumed the stores and the multiple hoses being used to attack it from ground level and above. The fire hoses deliver the intake of water, which is funneled through the trucks. The hoses in use can put out 300 gallons a minute, and when I asked if that lowers water levels in the area, the response was no. There are other hoses of various sizes that are used in firefighting that propel different volumes of water, including less, and with supply hoses, as much as five times more. If you want to add some lingo to your repertoire, a *charged hose* or *charged line* is a hose that is pressurized by water and ready to fight a fire.

One firefighter with whom I was speaking, as he waited for instructions for his company to relieve those currently at work, said he'd been with the department for more than 20 years. I wanted to know who was in charge and he explained the hierarchy and pointed out a man, about 5'7, who was the battalion chief. The rank above him is a deputy or division chief. Earlier, the Chief of Department – the highest uniformed officer who oversees all uniformed FDNY and EMS personnel – and the Chief of EMS were at the scene, observing the firefighters in action. They can be seen in the video footage, identified by their

CONTINUED ON P. 31



Community Corner • Feature Story

CONTINUED FROM P. 30

names on the backs of their jackets.

I asked the fireman why he didn't rise in the ranks over the years. He said he didn't want to take on that leadership role, as it would mean having to move around to remote areas of the city, wherever needed. It could be a place like Staten Island, for instance, and he was happy with a short commute from home to work.

"Do you get a lot of these questions?" I inquired, after having asked some of mine.

"I don't usually get to talk to civilians, but I'm waiting around doing nothing, so I might as well talk to you," he said matter-of-factly, but with no disrespect meant.

He explained combustion, the fire triangle of heat, oxygen, and fuel. Heat alone, with the presence of oxygen, will cause things to combust at high enough temperatures. "Ever hear of Fahrenheit 451?" he asked me, maybe slightly surprised that I didn't know at what temperature paper burns (it is dependent on the type of paper).

He stood there with his back to the Steppingstone Day School building across the street from the commercial row. As all firemen, his gear included an oxygen tank hoisted on his back. A weighty device, but it stays there ready in case it's needed.

A salter truck drove forward and in reverse as it covered patches of the wet road with salt that would melt the ice that could form. I felt the granules of salt hit the lower portion of my pants, as it scattered widely from the vehicle. Soon enough, the relief men, who'd been waiting on standby for a long time, got their call. "Take the 1-2 corner," rang out the command on the radios.

I headed back in the morning, sometime shortly after 8:30 a.m. With the assistance of daylight, I surveyed up close, approaching the storefronts – or what remained. The damage was heavy from the water dispensing, which broke through windows (watch news videos of the firefighters also sawing through metal security gates), but the fire was the real culprit. There were parts of the stores intact, even if the roof was not.

At the corner Russian restaurant, a ketchup bottle lay outside, resting on top of a burnt or dirtied beam of some sort. It was a picture and it was the Sabbath,

but I made a mental note and if it was still there on Sunday, I'd take the photograph. I headed back again after *shul* services let out before noon. Owners of some of the stores were there and I met the proprietors from my cleaners, Paragon, and even told them about my shirts and pants. The wife smiled slightly; earlier her husband had said he felt bad for the customers who lost clothes. They told me they would pay their workers, even if not able to open shop. They hadn't told them yet what happened, and their son had only informed them on Saturday morning about the fire. The husband didn't want to speak to the 1010 WINS reporter who was seeking comment, but I caught the owner later on a news clip, so he must have been willing soon after.

"Do you think it's suspicious?" a female radio reporter asked the newsstand convenience store owner, as she held out her palm-size digital recorder towards him. A leading question, but I guess that tactic could produce a right sound bite, assuming the interviewee thought there could be something non-accidental.

He had nothing to offer her. He'd been there as one of the last still-open shops, the other stores – especially the many Jewish-owned ones – having closed a couple hours earlier. A man was present from NYC Department of Small Business Services. They will help businesses liaison with different city departments in the aftermath of the fire, as well as provide some other support services. He spoke to the owner of the dry cleaning business. The store, when I peeked in the next day, had clothes still in plastic bags, some hanging from the conveyor rack, but most others evidently on the floor. What they suffered in water or smoke damage is unknown, and the possibility of the customers maybe getting their back at some point would require organized manpower that won't be readily available (assuming there was anything that could be cleaned and worn).

Later on Saturday, storeowners were able to retrieve some items, but by around mid-afternoon time the carpentry team had arrived. They were erecting wood boards on frames. The building had been officially condemned, for good reason, with white 8.5x11 vacate signs posted.

Out on Shabbos during the day, aside from assorted news crews,

were the adjusters handing out business cards and advice. The insurance company wants to pay \$80,000, said one man whom I saw on the scene a couple times, including Sunday afternoon as he was speaking to store owners about their options. "I get you \$100,000." These independent adjusters advocate for the policyholder, as the insurance company adjuster has primarily the company's interest at heart. He was out with a number of his associates. "You go to these types of things to get clients?" I had asked him on Saturday. We're like "ambulance chasers," he said.

When I went back again Sunday afternoon, it was to photograph. The painted boards encircled the store completely in front, around to the sides. People from the neighborhood and those who used to live here, as well as others, were walking along the sidewalk and peering through the square cutouts. A positioned milk crate provided a boost for shorter people (who mostly came with their parents). I took photographs, heard the conversation about insurance, and listened to one of the business owners (there were 14 businesses, per reports, one being the landlord of the building) suggest that the FDNY should have put the fire out when it was young, rather than spending time investigating for what he considered to be more than an hour. He saw the flames at around 6:30 p.m. and came out to take video.



The owner of the Vleigh Place convenience store gazes at his business. He was one of the only shops still open when the fire broke out Friday evening

He shared with me that he was a firefighter in the Israeli Air Force. They used foam to contain burning jet fuel fires and he wondered why the fire department wouldn't have used that on the roof. Make two holes and pump it in to the area where the fire was traveling. (He was asking more globally about their techniques and if firefighting modernization is required.)

This owner believes his business and that of the others might have been saved, in part. I suggested that he write to the Fire Department, and request that local politicians help gain a clarification. I work with the presumption that the experts – in this case the FDNY – know what they are doing and that their agenda is not necessarily going to align with the preferences of any individual business, this one man having lost at least \$30,000 of supplies

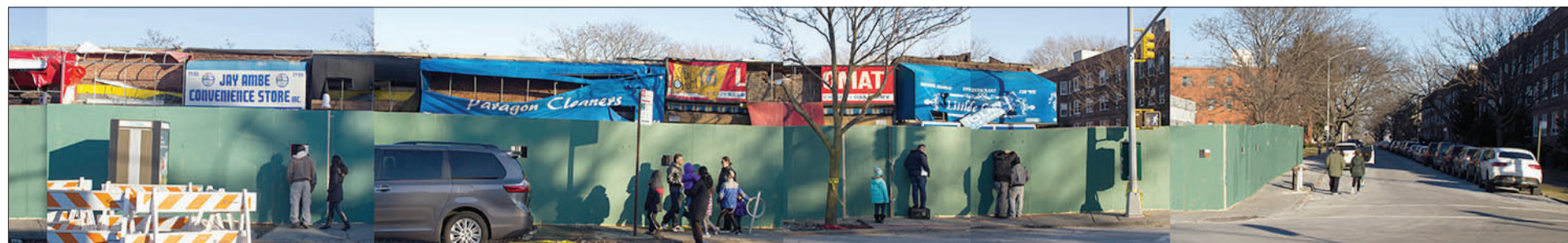
in the fire, plus tens of thousands of dollars in equipment (the family has established a GoFundMe campaign).

I have been close to the scene of a fire only a few times that I can think of. I recall a summer response on a block in Washington Heights a couple of decades ago and inquiring about the weight of what these men wear – and in the heat of summer. Winter is also hard on these dedicated men (and approximately 52 women employed by the FDNY). Then there are the residents who face hardship from a fire, and in this case those who lost their businesses, and may have been under-insured, and will have to bear the brunt of rebuilding a business and finding space to rent nearby (if they opt to continue), while attempting to retain their customer base that

CONTINUED ON P. 43



Judah S. Harris is a photographer, filmmaker, speaker, and writer. For photo or video coverage of events or information on his photography workshops, visit www.judahsharris.com/visit.



Statement By The Orthodox Union And The Rabbinical Council Of America On UN Resolution

Secretary of State John Kerry's speech failed to defend the indefensible UN Resolution and US Abstention



The leaderships of the Orthodox Union (the nation's largest Orthodox Jewish umbrella organization) and the Rabbinical Council of America (the nation's largest rabbinical membership organization) issued the following statement today in response to the speech delivered by Secretary of State Kerry on December 28: "In his address on the topic of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Secretary of State John Kerry failed to defend the decision by the Obama administration to not veto UN Security Council Resolution 2334 last Friday.

Contrary to the Secretary of State's assertions, the UNSC resolution made the goal of peace more elusive by undermining direct talks, reinterpreting UN Security Council Resolution 242, and providing the recalcitrant Palestinian leadership with further incentive not to compromise or negotiate with Israel.

Over the past decades, Israel has repeatedly made concrete sacrifices for the sake of peace. In response, the Palestinians have consistently made no significant gesture to advance the cause of peace. Yet, the intransigence of the Palestinian leadership is now being rewarded by the Administration and others through destructive resolutions and counterproductive attempts to internationalize the conflict.

The Orthodox Union and the Rabbinical Council of America call upon bipartisan members of Congress and the incoming Trump administration to renounce the recent action taken by the Obama administration and to work to repair the damage done to the cause of peace and the US-Israel relationship."

Yeshiva University Receives \$1 Million Gift For Program Of "Israel And The Rule Of Law"

Bequest from the Dr. Joseph and Faye Glatt Estate will support innovative programming at YU's Center for Israel Studies

Yeshiva University has received a bequest of \$1 million from the Dr. Joseph and Faye Glatt Estate to create a new program housed in the Center for Israel Studies (CIS), titled The Joseph and Faye Glatt Program on "Israel and the Rule of Law."

"The new program will present and explore Israel in all of its complexity," said CIS Director Dr. Steven Fine, the Dean Pinkhos Churgin Professor of Jewish History. "It will influence both the next generation and people far beyond YU through a broad and deep range of scholarship, programs, and events."

Tentative programming for 2017 will include lectures from both YU faculty and visiting speakers, courses, book discussions, conferences (such as a recent gathering to honor the work of Nobel Laureate S.Y. Agnon), museum exhibitions, and artistic presentations, such as Fine's digital restoration of the Arch of Titus.

Throughout their lives, Dr. Joseph

and Faye Glatt ardently supported the survival of Jewish communities around the world. Joseph wrote his doctoral dissertation at Columbia University on the Histadrut, the Israel federation of labor organizations founded in 1920; and Faye, who trained as a speech therapist, worked with Torah Umesorah in the establishment of Jewish day schools. They took great pride in what they saw as the convergence of Israel and the rule of law, and committed their professional lives to promoting this principle.

"Dr. Joseph and Faye Glatt committed their lives to the State of Israel as a Jewish State, grounded in ethics and the rule of law," said President Richard M. Joel. "This new program will focus on the relationship between Medinat Yisrael [the State of Israel] and Jewish values. With this bequest, Yeshiva University looks forward to sharing those values with the world through the Center for Israel Studies."

Learn more about YU's Center for Israel Studies at www.yu.edu/cis.

Most Event-Filled Chanukah Ever For Chazaq

In its mission to build a stronger future for the Jewish people, the Queens-based Chazaq organization had the busiest Hanukkah since its founding a decade ago. "We've reached a tremendous number of people with a variety of events throughout the community," said Chazaq operations manager Yaniv Meirov.

Ahead of Chanukah, Chazaq ran a toy donation drive that brought over a thousand toys and countless smiles to the young patients of the Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn. Ahead of the distribution, the Chazaq office on Jewel Avenue was filled wall-to-wall with toys.

In the village of West Hempstead on Long Island, Jewish families often have to travel to the Five Towns and Queens for concerts. This year, Chazaq brought the music to them with popular children's entertainer Uncle Moishy headlining a December 20 show with Cousin Nachum. "It was packed; it seemed like every child in West Hempstead was there," said Meirov. "This is a growing community and we look forward to having more Chazaq events in West Hempstead."

That evening in partnership with Touro College's Lander College for Men, a public lecture on the lessons and legacy of Yemei Chanukah (Days of Chanukah) given by Rabbi Yonason Sacks, Rosh Yeshivah of the Beis Medrash L'Talmud; and Rabbi Eli Mansour, a renowned lecturer, author and *mara d'asra* of the Edmond J. Safra Synagogue. The lecture was an ideal way of ushering in Chanukah, a minor holiday on the calendar but one with great potential for inspiration, outreach, and appreciation of the miracles that underscore the unique history of the Jewish people.

In the middle of Chanukah, residents



of Queens were treated to their own Uncle Moishy concert on December 26 at the sizable John Bowne H.S. auditorium. "This was a day when the stars came to Queens," said Meirov. "People could arrive early in the afternoon for Uncle Moishy, and then later in the evening for the legendary Miami Boys Choir." Ahead of the vocal group's concert, a preview of its voices was given with the Uncle Moishy concert by the Miami Trio. They were joined on stage by Cousin Nachum and Eric the Illusionist, who was featured on *America's Got Talent*.

For women in Forest Hills, Chazaq held a Chanukah Paint Night on December 28 at Beth Gavriel Community Center, which brought out the talent of participants while raising funds for the Chazaq after-school program. "This program fills a much-needed void for public school students who get dismissed early and have an opportunity to further their Jewish education," said organizer Leora Meirov. "It was a beautiful event, as it included wine tasting, a Chinese auction, and music. It warmed our *neshamos* in the



middle of winter."

In addition to the community-wide events and programs, Chazaq also held several special Chanukah activities in various locations for students of their after school programs for public school children and teens. Scores of students brought the inspiration of Chanukah to their homes, by not only lighting their own menorah, but also by bringing the lessons of the holiday to

their parents and siblings.

The success of these multiple programs, held so closely to each other on the calendar demonstrates Chazaq's ability to mobilize its staff, volunteers, and supporters in living up to Chazaq's mission. "We look forward to doing the same with other *chagim* throughout the year, in multiple locations, reaching the greatest possible audience," said Meirov.

Yeshiva Torah Vodaath Holds Annual Kew Gardens Hills Reception



Yeshiva Torah Vodaath held its Annual Kew Gardens Hills Reception at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Yisroel Blumenfrucht on Thursday evening, December 22, with the participation of the Mashgiach Ruchani, Moreinu HaRav Moshe Wolfson *shlita*, and *k'sivas osiyos l'zeicher nishmas* Moreinu HaRav Yisroel Belsky *zt"l*.



Yachad To Offer More Programs And Services In The 5 Towns And Far Rockaway Area



Yachad's Rayim division (ages 26+) at a miniature golf event

The Yachad programmatic season has been in full swing with the first half of the year seeing over 20 weekend Shabbatons and numerous events around the country, with hundreds of individuals with disabilities and peer groups enjoying the experiences together. On December 10, Parshat Va'Yetze, Yachad joined the Young Israel of Woodmere Teen Minyan for an inclusive *tefilah*. This was a beautiful initiative spearheaded by Rabbi Ahron Rosenthal, Director of Yachad-NY, bringing together local Yachad members and high school students for a Shabbat morning of *davening*, *kidush*, and *chaburah*. It was a beautiful opportunity of inclusion that is the hallmark of all that Yachad stands for: inclusion of individuals with disabilities into all areas of Jewish life. Many thanks to Rabbi Avi Weber, Rabbi of the Teen *Minyan*, who led and facilitated the inclusive *Minyan*. The next date for the inclusive *minyan* will be on January 14, Parshat Va'Yeche. Yachad hopes to continue the model of

inclusive *tefilah* at other Shuls in the community, ensuring that individuals of all abilities have their place in Jewish life. In other related news, this past week Yachad introduced the newest member of their amazing team, Meira Samet. Meira will be joining Yachad as the Program Coordinator for the Long Island area including the 5 Towns and Far Rockaway. Meira will be involved primarily in increasing programmatic offerings in the local area, parent support groups, vocational services and general increased community engagement. To hear more about Yachad's amazing work and to meet the leadership of Yachad, please join them on Motzei Shabbat, January 7, for a community *Melavah Malka* featuring sushi, wine tasting, and music at the Okun residence, 826 Central Avenue in Woodmere. They look forward to greeting the entire 5 Towns/Far Rockaway community at what is sure to be a beautiful evening. For more information, please contact Rosenthala@ou.org.

Yeshiva Ohr Hachaim Hosts Alumni M'laveh Malkah

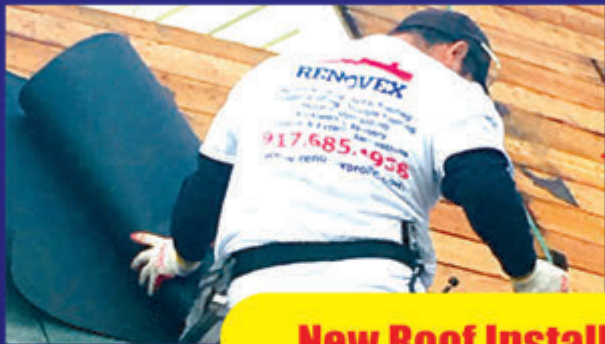




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Miami Boys Choir Concert at John Bowne HS

- Monday night, December 26, Kew Gardens Hills





RSA Chanukah Mesiba at Yeshiva Chofetz Chaim

- Tuesday night, December 27, Kew Gardens Hills



Community Corner • Recent Happenings

Orthodox Jewish Chamber Of Commerce Congratulates Jason Greenblatt Upon His New High-Level Position In Trump Administration



father of six who resides in Teaneck, has worked for Mr. Trump for nearly 20 years, and currently serves as Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer of The Trump Organization.

The statement read:

“Over the past year, the Chamber has had the fortune of developing a close personal relationship with Mr. Greenblatt, and we’ve held high-level meetings with him in Trump Tower throughout the presidential campaign to discuss pertinent issues. Mr. Greenblatt also delivered a special address at the Chamber’s 2016 J-Biz Expo and Business Conference.

“During all our interactions, we’ve seen firsthand a man of incredible character, wisdom, experience, and compassion towards his fellow Jews. May Hashem bless Jason and his family with success in this consequential new endeavor. We are confident that Jason will be a tremendous asset to the Trump administration, and we look forward to continue working together on issues of importance to the Jewish community and its economic success.”

The Orthodox Jewish Chamber of Commerce’s Executive Public Policy Committee released a statement congratulating Jason Dov Greenblatt, Esq. upon his appointment as special representative for international negotiations in the Trump administration, with a special focus on the Middle East peace process and Cuba policy. Mr. Greenblatt, an Orthodox Jewish

Aron’s Chanukah Party For The Queens Community And Beyond



Rabbi Ronen Dvash Joins Mesivta Of Queens

By Devorah Brody

Rabbi Ronen Dvash has joined Mesivta of Queens, which is slated to open its doors this coming September in the Maspeth Jewish Center.

Rabbi Dvash will be serving as Menahel of the Mesivta, as well ninth grade Rebbe. He has been learning in Beis Medrash L'Talmud (Lander College For Men Kollel) for the past nine years, and has been serving as Rabbi of the Young Members Minyan in the Young Israel of Queens Valley for the past three years.

Residents of Kew Gardens Hills who know him describe Rabbi Dvash as a dynamic speaker with leadership qualities, and the ability to teach a wide spectrum of *talmidim*. He has also developed an innovative and very effective program for teaching the skills which are needed for successful independent Gemara learning.

Rabbi Dvash will be teaming up with Rabbi Gershon Brafman in achieving the goals and objectives of the Mesivta.



Mesivta of Queens will be hosting an Open House on January 15, at 2:00 p.m. It will be held in Rabbi Oelbaum's Shul, at 141-39 73rd Avenue, in Kew Gardens Hills.

For more information about Mesivta of Queens, please send an email to rgb@mesivtaq.org.

UN Security Council Anti-Israel Resolution Tops Simon Wiesenthal Center's Top Ten Worst 2016 Anti-Israel/Anti-Semitic Incidents

The US abstention on the vote allowed the adoption of an onerous one-sided resolution that defines Judaism's holiest site as "occupied Palestinian territory" and encourages nations to boycott goods made by Jews in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. Other major 2016 anti-Israel moves included UNESCO's vote erasing Jewish (and Christian) links to Judaism's holy sites, and the General Assembly's 20 resolutions condemning Israel (with four for all other nations combined). These 2016 moves placed the United Nations at #1.

Among the top ten: UK's Labour Party, America's Richard Spencer, Sweden's Foreign Minister, France's labeling of Jewish goods, The Netherlands, Global BDS Campaign, Sports Venues, Poland's Holocaust revisionism, and PA anti-Semitism.



Among the top ten: UK's Labour Party, America's Richard Spencer, Sweden's Foreign Minister, France's labeling of Jewish goods, The Netherlands, Global BDS Campaign, Sports Venues, Poland's Holocaust revisionism, and PA anti-Semitism.

Chanukah Menorah-Lighting With Borough President Melinda Katz Held At Queens Borough Hall



On Tuesday, December 27, Queens Borough President Melinda Katz and Chabad of Queens held a menorah-lighting ceremony at Queens Borough Hall. The event featured potato latkes, dreidels, chocolate gelt, menorahs, and music.

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SIMCHA SECTION

Engagements

Baruch and Suzy Gottesman on the engagement of their son Rafi to Chayala, daughter of Rabbi Dovid and Cypora Kleinkaufman.

Arthur and Stacy Klein of Kew Gardens Hills upon the engagement of their daughter Melissa to Gabe Felder of Stamford, CT

Shirley & Yanky Schwartz of Kew Gardens Hills upon the engagement of their grandson, Akiva Shalom Schwartz, to Netanya Tova Cherrick, from Chicago

Marriages

Mordy and Susan Goldstein of Kew Gardens Hills on the marriage of their daughter Shani to Avi Stochel of Monsey, N.Y.

Judy Gottlieb of Kew Gardens Hills on the marriage of her daughter Michal to Ary Goldman

Stuart and Dalia Kaplan of Kew Gardens Hills and Laszlo Weiss of Hillcrest on the marriage of their children Yonatan Kaplan and Liana Weiss

Geoffrey and Razi Landau of Kew Gardens Hills on the marriage of their son Yaakov to Yaffa Nulman. Mazel Tov to the Kallah's parents Mr. and Mrs. Dovid Nulman of Monsey, N.Y.

Simcha and Adina Shapiro of Kew Gardens Hills on the marriage of their daughter, Devorah, to Chezky Guttman of Milwaukee. Mazal Tov to Chezky's parents Rabbi Simcha and Miriam Guttman.

Births

Simcha and Rachaely Rimler on the birth of a boy and to Simcha's parents Berish and Debbie Rimler of Kew Gardens Hills.

Aryeh and Rachel Wasserman of Kew Gardens Hills on the birth of a boy and to the grandparents Chaim and Chana Wasserman and Svi and Lyn Grossman all of Kew Gardens Hills.

Rabbi Fabian and Ruth Schonfeld of Kew Gardens Hills on the birth of twin great grandsons in Switzerland

Donald & Sara Zalkin of Kew Gardens Hills upon the birth of a great grandson, born to Esther & Yossi Netkin in Israel.

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Yeshiva Primary: Lighting The Way In Hollis Hills

By Susie Garber

Yeshiva Primary, like the Maccabees of old, is fighting the age-old battle of assimilation, one student at a time.

On Wednesday, December 28, the fourth day of Chanukah, excitement filled the air in Yeshiva Primary, as students in grades 1-8 lined up to enter the ballroom.

Mrs. Judy Klein, Principal, welcomed everyone to the special annual Chanukah assembly. Dean and Founder of Yeshiva Primary, Rabbi Zalman Deutscher, praised all the student performers and *moros*. Each class performed either original class plays, skits, or songs with the theme of Chanukah.

The first group of younger students, wearing dreidel crowns, began the assembly with reciting the brachos on the Chanukah candles. A first grader said the blessings aloud and then Rebbetzin Channah Hecht lit the menorah. The students then performed a medley of Chanukah favorite songs with their *morah*, Rebbetzin Hecht, conducting them. They concluded with a rousing rendition of asking Hashem to build the third *Beis HaMikdash*.

Following this, Morah Devorah Sadom's young students sang some lively Chanukah songs. After that, Mrs. Yocheved Abramovitz's class sang a beautiful medley of stirring Chanukah songs. Mrs. Abramovitz's lovely piano accompaniment added to their performance.

Next, a group of students performed an original Chanukah play about two boys who go back in time and face the Syrian-Greek army. The boys learn the importance of the spiritual.

After this, a group of older students performed a wonderful game-show Chanukah skit complete with original



colorful props. The students crafted a Wheel of Dreidel and a sign with letters that slowly revealed the message, "Happy Chanukah, Yeshiva Primary." They included audience participation in their Chanukah question game show. It was a fun, creative, interactive skit.

Then some of the oldest students performed the final play, which clearly taught the message of Chanukah and sticking to our beliefs against assimilation. The students performed magnificently. Their Greek and Maccabee costumes added to the overall effect. The boy who played the *kohen gadol* (high priest) said, "We don't care how many weapons the Greeks have. We will continue to serve our G-d in His Holy Temple."

Another boy stated, "Hashem helps us win our battles and gives us everything!" Their *rebbe*, Rabbi Daron Sillman, instilled the Chanukah lessons beautifully.

This was the theme of the plays and skits and songs. Mrs. Klein praised the students and teachers for this outstanding performance.

The joyful Chanukah celebration continued with a crea-

tive cake-decorating contest the next day. Each class chose an important Jewish theme and decorated their cake accordingly.

This writer interviewed some of the Yeshiva Primary students who attended public school last year or in previous years. I wanted to know how their experience in Yeshiva Primary contrasts to their experience in public school.

"In public school we didn't learn about Chanukah," one third grader noted. "In this school we learn about Chanukah and we get kosher lunch and it's more fun."

A seventh-grade Yeshiva Primary student noted, "In this school we get educated about the history of Chanukah and all the miracles and the menorah. We learn *mitzvos* and *halachos*. In public school they decorated stuff for X-mas. I learned a lot here. It is definitely better than public school."

Watching the smiling students' excitement and love of *mitzvos* and Hashem was truly a special experience.

Hashem should bless the school to continue its holy work and the students to continue in their path of growth in *Yiddishkeit*.

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Bais Yaakov Of Queens Early Childhood Center Experiences The Chabad Olive Press Workshop

The Pre-K children at the Bais Yaakov Academy of Queens Early Childhood Center had a deLIGHTful Chanukah. In preparation for Chanukah, the children studied light, shadows, and reflections. During a class discussion, some of the children commented that oil also makes light. The junior scientists became interested in oil, wanting to know more about this slippery substance. They predicted that if oil is mixed with water, it might become squishy and messy, but they never imagined that oil would not mix with water. After some exciting experimentation using cups and Ziploc bags, the children were amazed to find out that oil and water do not mix, no matter how much they are "pushed" together.

Once the children had the chance to ex-

periment with oil, they were ready to learn from where olive oil comes. They were treated to a fascinating olive oil workshop. They enjoyed this special hands-on learning experience and were fully engaged as they helped select the biggest, juiciest olives from baskets, poured the olives into a miniature olive press, and operated it. They were thrilled when olive oil actually dripped out! As they poured the olive oil that they made into a large menorah, they excitedly waited for the moment of truth: Would the oil burn? Much to their gratification it did burn!

The pictures of their deLIGHTful learning experience are captivating. What a wonderful learning experience for young students. It was truly enLIGHTening.



Yeshiva of Central Queens Celebrates Chanukah



Chanukah festivities were in the air at YCQ this week. To begin the celebration, all students danced and sang at a concert by Shlock Rock. The Grade 4 and Grade 5 students attended a chocolate activity, making Chanukah-themed chocolate lollipops. Each kindergarten class performed a Chanukah play for their parents, followed

by classroom parties.

Students spent time learning about the miracle of the oil and partook in competition that was challenging and fun, as the elementary division participated in a school-wide dreidel spinoff, ending the week with a big dance party run by Azamra DJ.

The administration and PTO sponsored

a staff Chanukah party complete with lattes, sushi, and gifts for the faculty, showing the *hakaras ha'tov* for all of the hard work they put into caring for and teaching the students.

As much fun as all the parties and activities have been, the highlights of the week were the *nachas* that the faculty and admin-

istration had, as some of the JHS hosted students from HASC for activities and a party, and some of the Grade 5 students took a trip to Amazing Savings to purchase toys with money they raised for the sick children through Chai Lifeline. This lesson in *chesed* and caring will teach the students a lifelong lesson in how to give to and care for others.

Celebrating Chanukah, SKA Style



Dr. Mila Klahr and SKA Seniors



Mrs. Helen Spirn and SKA Juniors

It was a very *freilichen* Chanukah at the Stella K. Abraham High School for Girls! The festivities began on Tuesday morning, December 27, when the student body, divided into many groups, enjoyed breakfast and *hachnasas orchim* at the homes of SKA's faculty members. It was a wonderful opportunity to bond with teachers and fellow classmates in a relaxed atmosphere. Many students played dreidel and other games, some made cupcakes and sang Chanukah songs, and some even fed geese in a backyard pond!

The spiritual and joyful celebrations of Chanukah in the school continued throughout the week with *yom tov* lectures for mothers and alumna arranged by SPARKS – a *Torah li'shmah* initiative by SKA students – given by Rabbi Isaac Rice, Head of the *Torah She'b'al Peh* Department, *Limudei Kodesh* teacher Mrs. Rochel Chafetz, and Associate Principal Mrs. Deena Kobre. *Chesed* and Chanukah combined with Otzar participants feted by 9th graders, Ivdu students entertained by 10th graders, and a clothing drive for Yad Leah spearheaded by 11th grad-

ers. The pre-schoolers at Lev Chana had a *leibidik* time sharing Chanukah *simchah* with SKA Seniors; it was hard to tell who was having a better time!

"Part of the Chanukah fun in SKA is having an evening party in your teacher's house," says 10th grader Elisheva Miller. Both the Sophomores and Juniors enjoyed amazing food and activities, thanks to their Grade Level Advisors and *madrichot*.

Providing delicious goods and specialty drinks for purchase, thanks to our G.O., "Nes Cafe" opened on Thursday, and the

eagerly awaited annual Chanukah Chagigah and Chanukah Auction capped off the week of merriment. In the "bowling alley," long rows of colorful boxes offered opportunities to bid on class parties, lunches, and outings with faculty members and Shabbos invitations. Since the funds raised go to *tz'dakah*, this has always been a very popular event and bidding is friendly but fierce.

We hope everyone had a happy Chanukah. The students and faculty of SKA certainly did!

Midreshet Shalhevet Celebrates Chanukah Spirit

On Wednesday, Midreshet Shalhevet had its annual Chanukah Chagigah. Organized by our fantastic G.O. members Rivka Raizel Goldshein, Aviva Chait, Shifra Chait, Maayan Sandowski, and Basya Borenstein, the ballroom was decorated in the school's blue and orange, leading up to another Chanukah surprise. The refreshments gave the girls a break from the traditional *sufganiyot* with popcorn,

cotton candy, and snow cones. With the DJ Hillel K playing all the hits, the MSH students were up on the dance floor and dancing to the music. With all the girls involved in Chagigah, the G.O. closed out the party with color war breakout!



YHT Yom T'hilim V'Torah For Rabbi Kelemer

This past week, the Yeshiva Har Torah 7th and 8th grade students participated in a Yom T'hilim V'Torah dedicated for a *r'fuah sh'leimah* for Rabbi Yehuda Kelemer, *HaRav Yehudah ben Rivkah Leah*.

The day began with the recitation of *T'hilim* and a *Mi She-Beirach*. Rabbi Menchel then shared a *d'var Torah* and painted a moving and beautiful picture of Rabbi Kelemer and the incredible impact that he has on the entire community, including Yeshiva Har Torah. Rabbi Menchel used personal stories to illustrate how much Rabbi Kelemer is needed, how we all look to Rabbi Kelemer to lead us towards lives of Torah, *sh'miras ha'mitzvos*, and *chesed*. With the charge that "now Rabbi Kelemer needs us to help him," the students went to two mini-learning sessions with their *rebbeim* and *moros* who shared with the students new insights into *neis Chanukah* and its *mitzvos* and *minhagim*. At the final session, the students made Chanukah/*r'fuah sh'leimah* cards to be distributed to patients in local hospitals. The Yeshiva Har Torah community joins with all of *klal Yisrael* in the prayer that Rabbi Kelemer should have a *r'fuah sh'leimah b'soch sh'ar cholei Yisrael*.



Community Corner • Upcoming Events

Active Bukharian Queens Synagogue To Participate In Day Of Torah Event At Citi Field On Sunday, January 15, Presented By The Orthodox Union

One of the most active Bukharian Synagogues in the US, the Beth Gavriel Center of Queens, will be joining hundreds of *shuls* and organizations across the tri-state area in an unprecedented Day of Torah being held at Citi Field on Sunday, January 15. The day-long event is open to both men and women and is presented by the Orthodox Union, the umbrella organization for Orthodox Jewry.

Beth Gavriel, with more than 1000 members, recently joined the Orthodox Union's (OU) community of member synagogues, in an effort to enhance the growing efforts of Beth Gavriel and its affiliated *yeshivah*.

The synagogue's recent growth is due in part to Chazaq, a prominent organization that serves the Queens community and beyond with afterschool programs, synagogue lecturers, and community-wide programs and events that help in-

spire and strengthen Jewish observance. Chazaq has gotten so popular that it has spread to other boroughs and even other states.

Chazaq's founder and director, Rabbi Ilan Meirov, also serves as one of the youth *minyans* rabbis at Beth Gavriel. His brother, Yaniv Meirov, is President and CEO of Chazaq.

"Chazaq is known for offering many programs and services that our entire community benefits from. It was only natural to get one of our partnering synagogues, Beth Gavriel, to join the OU and to help them devise topics and secure great rabbis and speakers from around the world for its Day of Torah," says Yaniv Meirov. "In turn, we all benefit from the OU's many services, including guidance for educational programs and synagogue business development, among others."

The Day of Torah will feature repre-

sentatives from all walks of Orthodox Jewish life for a meaningful conversation about *Halachah* (Jewish Law), *Tanach* (The Jewish Bible), *Hashkafah* (Moral and Ethical Code), and Israel.

A key component of this effort is introducing dimensions of Torah study that speak to each individual. From *Kashrus*, and Women and Torah, to Conversion and the Role Judaism May Play in American Politics Today, these topics and many others will be part of the dialogue for people to engage in, learn about, and question. Additional topics include Living in Diaspora vs. Living in Israel, Dating and Marriage, and Balancing Torah Study with Other Obligations.

Among the speakers for this special event are Rabbi Yonason Sacks, Mina Glick, Rabbi Eli Mansour, Rabbi Shalom Rosner, Mr. Charlie Harary, and Rabbi Menachem Genack, among others. Rabbi Ilan Meirov of Chazaq will have the hon-

or of introducing the lectures discussing *Kashrus* in Israel.

This program is a milestone for the OU, as the organization expands its focus to provide opportunities for Jews to explore the knowledge and inspiration behind their religious observance.

"The community should make it their business to come out to this Day of Torah, which is being held just minutes away from Beth Gavriel in Queens. The topics are captivating and beneficial, and will benefit the individual as well as the community at large," states Yaniv Meirov.

Attendees are welcome to attend any part or the entire event. Admission is \$18, with free parking and kosher food available for purchase. There will be children's programming for ages 1-5 and 6-10. The Day of Torah is being held indoors at Citi Field Convention Center, in Flushing, on Sunday, January 15. Pre-registration is required. Register at ou.org/city.

Momentum Builds As TEAM Shabbos Approaches

Just two weeks remain until the highly anticipated Shabbos that is already galvanizing hundreds of *shuls* and communities around the country into positive action: TEAM Shabbos. In its second year following last year's tremendous success, this year's Traditional End-of-Life Awareness Movement (TEAM) Shabbos is scheduled for Shabbos, Parshas Vayechi, January 14.

A project of the National Association of Chevra Kadisha (NASCK), TEAM Shabbos addresses and discusses the vital concepts and concerns related to end-of-life within the Jewish community. The mission of TEAM Shabbos is resonating strongly within communities all over: to generate positive awareness and provide education and direction regarding the value of life and critical end-of-life decisions.

The momentum and positive energy is overwhelming as the number of participating communities and *shuls* is increasing every single day. Jews from all over are enthusiastically embracing the opportunity to bring the topic of end-of-life, a subject which is often uncomfortable and therefore avoided, out into the open in an honest, inspiring and positive way. Regardless of the age or demographic of your *shul* or community, the need for this program is real and significant, whether the information pertains to the *shul* members themselves or their relatives.

So far, 357 *shuls* in 188 cities have joined the movement for this year's Shabbos, already exceeding the remarkable number of participating *shuls* in 5776. Many hours of work and thought are being devoted to portraying these sensitive issues within the context

of the clarity and beauty that the Torah view has to offer. Parshas Vayechi, which discusses Yaakov Avinu at the end of his life, is replete with sources and lessons.

There are several ways your *Shul* can participate in TEAM Shabbos. Utilizing the week leading up to TEAM Shabbos by incorporating related material in *Shiurim*, and newsletters, and by dedicating the Shabbos *Drashos*, *Shiurim* and *Divrei Torah* to these topics is an excellent way to open the discussion and ensure that the largest number of people will have the chance to be informed and inspired. Communities can still use this special opportunity to collaborate with NASCK and run programs or host renowned lecturers to speak on a vast array of end-of-life related topics, further boosting awareness and knowledge.

From *Shuls* in New York, Florida,

and Toronto, to cities in Ohio, Nevada, and Tennessee, Jews from all walks of life and backgrounds are joining the initiative. TEAM Shabbos is creating a dramatic shift in the common approach and perspective that people have regarding the issues surrounding of end-of-life care and preparation. Subjects that were once taboo and concerns and questions that have gone unanswered are now being addressed in a helpful and constructive way.

Has your *Shul* or community joined the growing number of *Shuls* who are responding enthusiastically to the call of TEAM Shabbos?

To learn more about participating, call 718-847-6280 or visit teamshabbos.org.

Unite with thousands of Jews around the country who have a growing appreciation of: "Respect for life - here and hereafter."

Community Calendar

Compiled by Rebecca Wittert

THE CALENDAR FOR ALL EVENTS IN QUEENS

JANUARY 2017

Thursday 5 At 7:30 p.m., the **Queens Village Republican Club will hold its monthly meeting** at Knights of Columbus/St. Anne's Council, 263-15 Union Turnpike, Glen Oaks. Featured Speaker: Michael Cutler, Senior Special Agent, INS (Ret.) on "Immigration Crisis under the Trump Administration."

Shabbos 7 **Motzaei Shabbos 7** At 8:00 p.m., **Yachad will hold a m'laveh malkah** at 826 Central Avenue, Woodmere. Sushi, wine tasting, and music. For more information, please email Rosenthala@ou.org.

Sunday 8 At 7:30 p.m., the **Ninth Annual Asarah B'Teves Program will be held at the Young Israel of Kew Gardens Hills** (70-11 150th Street, Kew Gardens Hills). Guest speaker: Rabbi Nosson Scherman, general editor of ArtScroll Mesorah. Introductory remarks by Rabbi Ephraim Glatt, Esq. A light buffet will be served. Parking will be available in the YCQ lot. Free admission. For more information, please call 718-440-5352.

Shabbos 14 **NASCK (National Association of Chevra Kadisha) will hold its annual TEAM (Traditional End-of-Life Awareness Movement) Shabbos.** For more information, please call 718-847-6280 or visit www.TEAM-shabbos.org.

At 8:25 p.m., Yeshiva Kesser Torah will hold its 32nd Annual Journal M'laveh Malkah at the Young Israel of Kew Gardens Hills. Honoring Dr. Paul & Mrs. Dora Brody and Yaniv & Leora Meirov. Guest speaker Rabbi Shmuel Marcus. Men and women are welcome. Admission by contribution; \$100 per person suggested. For reservations, please contact 718-793-2890 or yeshivakessertorah@gmail.com.

Sunday 15 From 8:45 a.m. to 6:15 p.m., the **Orthodox Union will hold a full-day Torah program** for both men and women indoors at New York's Citi Field. The event will feature representatives from all walks of Orthodox Jewish life for a meaningful conversation about Halachah, Tanach, Hashkafah, and Israel. Attendees are welcome to attend any part or the entire

event. Admittance \$18 before December 16; \$25 December 16-January 12; \$36 day of event. Free parking. Kosher food is available for purchase. Please register at ou.org/citi.

Friday 20 **Friday-Sunday 20-22** Dirshu will hold a **Shabbos Chizuk L'Lomdei Torah** at the Stamford Concorde Plaza. Details to follow.

FEBRUARY 2017

Monday 6 Bnos Malka Academy will hold its annual dinner. Details to follow.

Tuesday 21 At 8:30 p.m., **P'eylim/Lev L'Achim will hold a community reception** welcoming Maran HaGaon HaRav Shmuel Kamenetsky shlit"u, at the home of Dr. & Mrs. Marc Silverman (73-03 136th Street, Kew Gardens Hills).

Sunday 26 Shevach High School will hold its annual dinner. Details to follow.

MARCH 2017

Sunday 26 Yeshiva of Central Queens will hold its 76th annual dinner at the Sands. Details to follow.

MAY 2017

Wednesday 10 **NORPAC will hold its annual mission to Washington.** Meet directly with members of Congress and their staff to make a true impact. Round-trip transportation to Washington, DC with Glatt Kosher meals included. Adults \$125, Students \$75. Please register at NORPAC.net or call 201-788-5133.

TO ADD YOUR EVENT TO OUR COMMUNITY CALENDAR, PLEASE EMAIL THE EVENT, DATE/TIME, PLACE, AND A BRIEF DESCRIPTION TO: CALENDAR.QJL@GMAIL.COM

Your business can sponsor the QJL Community Calendar. Please contact Yaakov at 718-880-2622 or e-mail queensjewishlink@gmail.com

A Changed Landscape

CONTINUED FROM P. 31

will invariably head elsewhere at least in the interim. There are possible advantages to be had from incidents like these, but the owners would not have preferred to gain them this way. For some, this could materialize into an "unchosen," but positive, opportunity. It's happened before, but there are many variables that will determine the future lot of those who are now not able to go to work just as they did last Friday morning.

Thoughts of a city blaze and business-owner reaction have come up in my mind in recent years. My great-grandfather and his brothers had their well-established men's clothing company, Harris Bros., located on the fourth floor of the Asch Building. That's the building at 23-29 Washington Place where in 1911 the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire broke out. It was later on a Shabbos - at about 4:30 p.m. - that it began with a shout of "fire," according to a next day's *New York Times* report. The family lore that was shared with me in recent years relates that the brothers, observant Jews, walked downtown from their Harlem home to the location of their business. Their insurance had supposedly run out on Friday, but I have no way of confirming that, nor fully understand why they didn't wait a couple hours and take a cab? (This is based

on calculations that the news would have reached Harlem at about 5:00 p.m., and Shabbos ending that day at about 7 p.m., per sunrise/sunset charts. The six-plus-mile walk from West 122nd Street to Washington Street would have taken a little under two hours.)

The answer is probably that they were anxious. It's a *mishnah* and subsequent *gemara* in the sixteenth chapter of *Maseches Shabbos* that tells about a fire that breaks out in one's home on Shabbos, and what can be saved for the Shabbos meals. To salvage other items beyond the requisite food is not permitted (there are exceptions, such as Holy Books, and from there the chapter derives its name, *Kol Kisevei Kodesh*), since a person is "bahul" (anxious) concerning their possessions and may, if allowed to rescue more items, forget that it's Shabbos and extinguish the fire, a non-permissible activity.

Anxious business owners on Vleigh Place have major property loss and much to sort out, but fortunately for the community, the danger was contained. I am sure that a large group of supportive customers will make an effort to direct some of their business to the stores that do choose to reopen nearby in the coming months, and I know that this paper, as well as other community news sources, will keep the public informed so we all can contribute towards a rebound.

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Daf Yomi Classes

SUNDAY

- 6:00 am Young Israel of Kew Gardens Hills, Youth Building Library 150-05 70th Road, KGH
- 6:55 am Ahavas Yisroel, 147-02 73rd Avenue, KGH
- 7:00 am Ohel Yitzchok (Arieli), 137-58 70th Avenue, KGH
- 7:00 am Kehilas Ishei Yisrael, YCQ Junior High School Building (150th St nr 70th Rd), KGH
- 7:10 am Degel Israel (Sheinfeld), 144-02 68th Drive, KGH
- 7:30 am Congregation Nachalal Yitzchak (Oelbaum), 141-39 73rd Avenue, KGH
- 8:45 am Agudath Israel of Kew Gardens Hills, 147-37 70th Road (YCQ Building), 1st floor, KGH
- 8:00 pm Young Israel of Queens Valley, 141-55 77th Avenue, KGH
- 8:30 pm Degel Israel (Sheinfeld), 144-02 68th Drive, KGH
- 9:30 am Queens Jewish Center, 66-05 108th Street, Forest Hills

MONDAY

- 5:30 am Young Israel of Kew Gardens Hills, Youth Building Library 150-05 70th Road, KGH
- 5:30 am Ahavas Yisroel, 147-02 73rd Avenue, KGH
- 5:30 am Kehilas Ishei Yisrael, YCQ Junior High School Building (150th St nr 70th Rd), KGH
- 5:40 am Degel Israel (Sheinfeld), 144-02 68th Drive, KGH
- 6:00 am Ohel Yitzchok (Arieli), 137-58 70th Avenue, KGH
- 6:05 am Congregation Nachalal Yitzchak (Oelbaum), 141-39 73rd Avenue, KGH
- 7:45 am Congregation Nachalal Yitzchak (Oelbaum), 141-39 73rd Avenue, KGH
- 9:00 am Queens Jewish Center, 66-05 108th Street, Forest Hills
- 8:00 pm Congregation Nachalal Yitzchak (Oelbaum), 141-39 73rd Avenue, KGH
- 8:00 pm Agudath Israel of Kew Gardens Hills, 147-37 70th Road (YCQ Building), 1st floor, KGH
- 8:00 pm Young Israel of Queens Valley, 141-55 77th Avenue, KGH
- 8:30 pm Degel Israel (Sheinfeld), 144-02 68th Drive, KGH

TUESDAY

- 5:30 am Young Israel of Kew Gardens Hills, Youth Building Library 150-05 70th Road, KGH
- 5:30 am Ahavas Yisroel, 147-02 73rd Avenue, KGH
- 5:30 am Kehilas Ishei Yisrael, YCQ Junior High School Building (150th St nr 70th Rd), KGH
- 5:40 am Degel Israel (Sheinfeld), 144-02 68th Drive, KGH
- 6:00 am Ohel Yitzchok (Arieli), 137-58 70th Avenue, KGH

- 5:40 am Degel Israel (Sheinfeld), 144-02 68th Drive, KGH
- 6:00 am Ohel Yitzchok (Arieli), 137-58 70th Avenue, KGH
- 6:15 am Congregation Nachalal Yitzchak (Oelbaum), 141-39 73rd Avenue, KGH
- 7:45 am Congregation Nachalal Yitzchak (Oelbaum), 141-39 73rd Avenue, KGH
- 9:00 am Queens Jewish Center, 66-05 108th Street, Forest Hills
- 8:00 pm Congregation Nachalal Yitzchak (Oelbaum), 141-39 73rd Avenue, KGH
- 8:00 pm Agudath Israel of Kew Gardens Hills, 147-37 70th Road (YCQ Building), 1st floor, KGH
- 8:00 pm Young Israel of Queens Valley, 141-55 77th Avenue, KGH
- 8:30 pm Degel Israel (Sheinfeld), 144-02 68th Drive, KGH

WEDNESDAY

- 5:30 am Young Israel of Kew Gardens Hills, Youth Building Library 150-05 70th Road, KGH
- 5:30 am Ahavas Yisroel, 147-02 73rd Avenue, KGH
- 5:30 am Kehilas Ishei Yisrael, YCQ Junior High School Building (150th St nr 70th Rd), KGH
- 5:40 am Degel Israel (Sheinfeld), 144-02 68th Drive, KGH
- 6:00 am Ohel Yitzchok (Arieli), 137-58 70th Avenue, KGH
- 6:15 am Congregation Nachalal Yitzchak (Oelbaum), 141-39 73rd Avenue, KGH
- 7:45 am Congregation Nachalal Yitzchak (Oelbaum), 141-39 73rd Avenue, KGH
- 9:00 am Queens Jewish Center, 66-05 108th Street, Forest Hills
- 8:00 pm Congregation Nachalal Yitzchak (Oelbaum), 141-39 73rd Avenue, KGH
- 8:00 pm Agudath Israel of Kew Gardens Hills, 147-37 70th Road (YCQ Building), 1st floor, KGH
- 8:00 pm Young Israel of Queens Valley, 141-55 77th Avenue, KGH
- 8:30 pm Degel Israel (Sheinfeld), 144-02 68th Drive, KGH

THURSDAY

- 5:30 am Young Israel of Kew Gardens Hills, Youth Building Library 150-05 70th Road, KGH
- 5:30 am Ahavas Yisroel, 147-02 73rd Avenue, KGH
- 5:30 am Kehilas Ishei Yisrael, YCQ Junior High School Building (150th St nr 70th Rd), KGH
- 5:40 am Degel Israel (Sheinfeld), 144-02 68th Drive, KGH
- 6:00 am Ohel Yitzchok (Arieli), 137-58 70th Avenue, KGH

- 137-58 70th Avenue, KGH
- 6:05 am Congregation Nachalal Yitzchak (Oelbaum), 141-39 73rd Avenue, KGH
- 7:45 am Congregation Nachalal Yitzchak (Oelbaum), 141-39 73rd Avenue, KGH
- 9:00 am Queens Jewish Center, 66-05 108th Street, Forest Hills
- 8:00 pm Congregation Nachalal Yitzchak (Oelbaum), 141-39 73rd Avenue, KGH
- 8:00 pm Agudath Israel of Kew Gardens Hills, 147-37 70th Road (YCQ Building), 1st floor, KGH
- 8:00 pm Young Israel of Queens Valley, 141-55 77th Avenue, KGH
- 8:30 pm Degel Israel (Sheinfeld), 144-02 68th Drive, KGH

FRIDAY

- 5:30 am Young Israel of Kew Gardens Hills, Youth Building Library 150-05 70th Road, KGH
- 5:30 am Ahavas Yisroel, 147-02 73rd Avenue, KGH
- 5:40 am Degel Israel (Sheinfeld), 144-02 68th Drive, KGH
- 5:30 am Kehilas Ishei Yisrael, YCQ Junior High School Building (150th St nr 70th Rd), KGH
- 6:00 am Ohel Yitzchok (Arieli), 137-58 70th Avenue, KGH
- 6:15 am Congregation Nachalal Yitzchak (Oelbaum), 141-39 73rd Avenue, KGH
- 7:45 am Congregation Nachalal Yitzchak (Oelbaum), 141-39 73rd Avenue, KGH
- 9:00 am Queens Jewish Center, 66-05 108th Street, Forest Hills
- 8:00 pm Agudath Israel of Kew Gardens Hills, 147-37 70th Road (YCQ Building), 1st floor, KGH

SHABBOS

- 7:25 am Ahavas Yisroel, 147-02 73rd Avenue, KGH
- 7:45 am Young Israel of Kew Gardens Hills, Youth Building Library 150-05 70th Road, KGH
- 7:50 am Degel Israel (Sheinfeld), 144-02 68th Drive, KGH
- 8:00 am Ohel Yitzchok (Arieli), 137-58 70th Avenue, KGH
- 1 hr before mincha Congregation Nachalal Yitzchak (Oelbaum), 141-39 73rd Avenue, KGH
- 1 hr before mincha Agudath Israel of Kew Gardens Hills, 147-37 70th Road, 1st floor, KGH
- 1 hr before mincha Degel Israel (Sheinfeld), 144-02 68th Drive, KGH
- 40 min before mincha Kehilas Ishei Yisrael, YCQ Junior High School Building (150th St nr 70th Rd), KGH

Mincha Minyan List

SUNDAY

- 12:45 pm • Yeshiva Kesser Torah 72-11 Vleigh Place, KGH
- 1:00 pm • Rabbi Rubin's shul 70-03 147th Street, KGH
- 1:30 pm • Ahavas Yisroel 147-02 73rd Avenue, KGH
- 1:30 pm • Yeshiva Ohel Simcha 141-41 72nd Avenue, KGH
- 1:45 pm • Yeshiva Kesser Torah 72-11 Vleigh Place, KGH
- 1:45 pm • Aron's Kissena Farms 72-15 Kissena Boulevard, KGH
- 1:45 pm • Rosenblum's Grocery 82-38 Lefferts Blvd, Kew Gardens
- 2:15 pm • Yeshiva Kesser Torah 72-11 Vleigh Place, KGH
- 2:45 pm • Yeshiva Kesser Torah 72-11 Vleigh Place, KGH
- 3:30 pm • Gift World 72-20 Main Street, KGH
- 3:45 pm • Yeshiva Kesser Torah 72-11 Vleigh Place, KGH
- 4:15 pm • Yeshiva Kesser Torah 72-11 Vleigh Place, KGH

MONDAY

- 12:45 pm • Yeshiva Kesser Torah 72-11 Vleigh Place, KGH
- 12:55 pm • Yeshiva Madreigas HaAdam 165-14 69th Ave, Hillcrest
- 1:00 pm • Rabbi Rubin's shul 70-03 147th Street, KGH
- 1:30 pm • Ahavas Yisroel 147-02 73rd Avenue, KGH
- 1:30 pm • Yeshiva Ohel Simcha 141-41 72nd Avenue, KGH
- 1:45 pm • Yeshiva Kesser Torah 72-11 Vleigh Place, KGH
- 1:45 pm • Aron's Kissena Farms 72-15 Kissena Boulevard, KGH
- 1:45 pm • Seasons 66-18 Main Street, KGH
- 1:45 pm • Rosenblum's Grocery 82-38 Lefferts Blvd, Kew Gardens
- 2:00 pm • Jewish Heritage Center 68-20 Main Street, KGH
- 2:15 pm • Yeshiva Kesser Torah 72-11 Vleigh Place, KGH
- 2:45 pm • Yeshiva Kesser Torah 72-11 Vleigh Place, KGH
- 3:30 pm • Gift World 72-20 Main Street, KGH
- 3:45 pm • Yeshiva Kesser Torah 72-11 Vleigh Place, KGH

- 4:00 pm • Chazaq 141-24 Jewel Avenue, KGH
- 4:15 pm • Yeshiva Kesser Torah 72-11 Vleigh Place, KGH

TUESDAY

- 12:45 pm • Yeshiva Kesser Torah 72-11 Vleigh Place, KGH
- 12:55 pm • Yeshiva Madreigas HaAdam 165-14 69th Ave, Hillcrest
- 1:00 pm • Rabbi Rubin's shul 70-03 147th Street, KGH
- 1:30 pm • Ahavas Yisroel 147-02 73rd Avenue, KGH
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- 2:45 pm • Yeshiva Kesser Torah 72-11 Vleigh Place, KGH
- 3:30 pm • Gift World 72-20 Main Street, KGH
- 3:45 pm • Yeshiva Kesser Torah 72-11 Vleigh Place, KGH
- 4:00 pm • Chazaq 141-24 Jewel Avenue, KGH
- 4:15 pm • Yeshiva Kesser Torah 72-11 Vleigh Place, KGH

WEDNESDAY

- 12:45 pm • Yeshiva Kesser Torah 72-11 Vleigh Place, KGH
- 12:45 pm • Ahavas Yisroel 147-02 73rd Avenue, KGH
- 12:55 pm • Yeshiva Madreigas HaAdam 165-14 69th Ave, Hillcrest
- 1:00 pm • Rabbi Rubin's shul 70-03 147th Street, KGH
- 1:30 pm • Yeshiva Ohel Simcha 141-41 72nd Avenue, KGH
- 1:45 pm • Yeshiva Kesser Torah 72-11 Vleigh Place, KGH
- 1:45 pm • Aron's Kissena Farms 72-15 Kissena Boulevard, KGH
- 1:45 pm • Seasons 66-18 Main Street, KGH
- 1:45 pm • Rosenblum's Grocery 82-38 Lefferts Blvd, Kew Gardens

- Grocery 82-38 Lefferts Blvd, Kew Gardens
- 2:00 pm • Jewish Heritage Center 68-20 Main Street, KGH
- 2:15 pm • Yeshiva Kesser Torah 72-11 Vleigh Place, KGH
- 2:45 pm • Yeshiva Kesser Torah 72-11 Vleigh Place, KGH
- 3:30 pm • Gift World 72-20 Main Street, KGH
- 3:45 pm • Yeshiva Kesser Torah 72-11 Vleigh Place, KGH
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- 4:15 pm • Yeshiva Kesser Torah 72-11 Vleigh Place, KGH

FRIDAY

- 1:15 pm • Yeshiva Kesser Torah 72-11 Vleigh Place, KGH
- 1:45 pm • Aron's Kissena Farms 72-15 Kissena Boulevard, KGH
- 1:45 pm • Rosenblum's Grocery 82-38 Lefferts Blvd, Kew Gardens

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5 Workout Tips For Beginners

Your New Year's Resolution was to hit the gym. Here's how to start torching calories and staying injury-free.

With 2017 here, it's the time of year when millions of people begin exercising to meet their resolution of losing weight or getting healthy. When beginning any exercise program, it's important to pace yourself and not risk injury by overexerting yourself from the get-go – especially if it's been a while since you worked out. To prevent that, here are some tips and tricks to get you started on your journey towards a healthier life.

Tip 1: Start Slow

Don't just jump right in and start exercising five days a week - that's a recipe for disaster. It's better that you gradually work up to exercising several days per week while you see how your body responds.

The current recommendation is 2-3 days per week, for at least 30 minutes per day. But for someone who is just starting out, we recommend that they start at 1-2 days per week and ramp it up from there.

Tip 2: Know When to Stretch

Stretching right before a workout may seem like the best thing to do, but you might be putting yourself at risk of injury.

After you warm up, you should stretch your muscles and hold it for about 15 seconds. You are less likely to injure yourself when you're stretching if your muscles are already a little warmed up.

Tip 3: Mix it Up

Whether you're going for weight loss or bulking up, a mixed regimen of aerobic and strength training is the best way to achieve the body you want. But even within those categories, don't stick to the same exercises every workout.

In addition, move between the four var-

ious types of exercise, which are aerobic, resistance (strength) training, flexibility (which includes yoga), and balance (which is especially important for seniors).

Tip 4: Know Your Weight and the Right Way to Use it

Most people are confused the first time they walk into a gym; try taking a class and talking to an instructor about your goals.

If you don't know, ask a trainer who can help show you how to work out safely and effectively; it can save you from badly injuring yourself.

In addition, many gym newbies go for the heaviest weight they can - a major mistake.

Go on a weight machine and, starting at the lowest weight, pull it down and keep adding on from there. Just keep increasing the weight until you reach a point where you can only do one repetition (rep) or you can't do any.

Once you find your maximum weight, two-thirds of that number is where you should start.

You should be able to do about 12 reps. It should be easy, but it shouldn't be difficult to the point where you're straining.

Finally, once you have a weight you're comfortable with, don't get too eager to increase it.

Tip 5: Know When to Take a Break

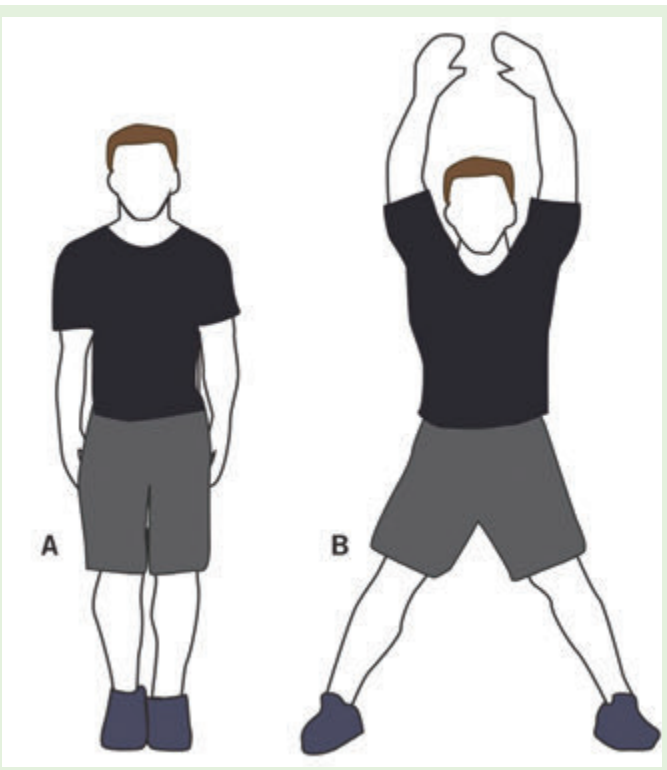
When people start out, they often try to get to the gym every day. However, by not letting your body rest, you can be doing much more harm than good.

If you don't give your body time to heal and repair itself, your performance will go down and you'll get into a vicious cycle where you never fully recover.

You will be sore after your workout if you pushed hard, and that's good - unless it hurts too much.

Stand with feet together, knees slightly bent, and arms to sides. Jump while raising arms and separating legs to sides. Land on forefoot with legs apart and arms overhead. Jump again while lowering arms and returning legs to midline.

Start with as many as you can for a minute. Work your way up to 3 sets of 1 minute with 1-minute breaks in between for recovery.



Dov Segal is a master fitness trainer and cycling instructor. He has been training clients one-on-one for over 10 years, specializing in obesity, post rehab, heart conditions, and overall strength building. He and his wife, Ava, have a studio in Queens, separate for men and women, called Clique Fitness, which offers personal-training sessions, group fitness classes, massage, and other Clique care services. www.cliquefitnesscenter.com, (718)380-0046



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Daily Zmanim

Week of Wednesday, January 4- Tuesday January 10, 2017

	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES
Dawn	5:51 am	5:51am	5:51 am	5:51 am	5:51 am	5:51 am	5:51 am
Earliest talis & tefillin	6:24 am	6:24am	6:24 am	6:24 am	6:24 am	6:24 am	6:24 am
Sunrise	7:19 am	7:19 am	7:19 am	7:19 am	7:19 am	7:19 am	7:18 am
Latest shema Magen Avraham	8:56 am	8:56 am	8:56 am	8:56 am	8:57 am	8:57 am	8:57 am
Midday	12:00pm	12:00pm	12:01pm	12:01pm	12:02pm	12:02pm	12:03pm
Earliest mincha	12:30pm	12:30pm	12:31pm	12:31pm	12:32pm	12:32pm	12:33pm
Plag hamincha Gra & Baal HaTanya	3:42 pm	3:43 pm	3:44 pm	3:45 pm	3:46 pm	3:47 pm	3:48 pm
Sunset	4:41 pm	4:42 pm	4:43 pm	4:44 pm	4:45 pm	4:46 pm	4:47 pm
Nightfall - 3 stars emerge	5:26 pm	5:27 pm	5:28 pm	5:29 pm	5:30 pm	5:31 pm	5:32 pm
Nightfall - 72 minutes	5:53 pm	5:54 pm	5:55 pm	5:56 pm	5:57 pm	5:58 pm	5:59 pm

Friday January 6, 2017: Candle lighting 4:25pm
Shabbos January 7, 2017 ends 5:30pm; ends 5:57pm R'Tam

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Hooked On Healing

Caroline Schumsky, LCSW, MS

Mental Health & Physical Wellness

Be Who You Want To Be, Not What Others Want To See

Do you find yourself always making a mental note of who looks better, did better or is better than you? Do you pretend not to care but really care about...well... just about everything? Who got the highest grade, who ran the fastest, who got the best promotion?

And just think. With all that fretting going on, someone somewhere is trying to figure out how to replace you with a computer program. Is all of life just one big competition? Well, outside of jobs, grades, looks, partners, wealth and status—not really. Sure, we're told to just do the best we can, and that after all we are really just competing with ourselves, but ahem...who are they kidding, right?

If you bear in mind, that whatever props you get from society is based on their subjective perceptions, and oftentimes selfish perspectives- you may not stay awake wondering how the world "rates" you. Is it all a numbers game in the end? Suppose you wrote what you think is an extraordinary book, but only one person read it. And suppose someone else wrote a trifling, trivial, shallow book that a million people read. Who do you think "society" would value more? Which one of you would make it on the cover of *People* magazine?

Who gets paid more: the hard working janitor in your child's school or some tragically, anorexic girl donning the latest so called "fashions" - who our culture calls a "supermodel"? If you were at the right place at the right time, you may have saved a dog from a fire and became an instant small-town hero that most of us never even heard of, but score enough touchdowns, and you're a "legend."

You have an intuitive, instinctive sense of right and wrong. Sheesh, why doesn't the world adhere to it? It's not fair. As a matter of fact, it can be downright intolerable at times. You may have made all the right efforts and moves and still -nada, zilch, nothing. You studied all night and still did not ace the exam. You were kind to your family member and still- no respect in return. You may have even fallen head over heels in love, yet the feelings along with the texts were not returned. Sigh. Going for the gold does not always ensure winning the rat race.

If being competitive means you don't settle for less and push yourself to be the best you can be, then more power to you. But if your confidence takes a beating simply because you were not #1 in the race, or you won't even try new things for fear of being perceived as a newbie and "less than" others, then perhaps your killer instinct needs to be toned down a notch or 10.

Not everything in this life is a standardized test or a marathon. If we major in one-



up-manship, we may find 100 self-imposed "obligations" that we "must" do just to prove to our "competitors" that we are just as busy and productive as they are. And since when did "busy" become so cool anyway?

Of course that goes hand in hand with who can appear the most "stressed out" (as if that is a good thing). Yes, you babysat the most for the grandkids, cooked abundantly for the unappreciative guests over the holidays and worked the most overtime to pay the bills - taking the least amount of vacation days of course. Ding, ding, ding: You win. Will the King and Queen of Stress come and receive their just desserts. Come to think of it, why aren't we handing out awards to the most relaxed, chilled out people on the planet?

Oh and how about this lil gem? You're at a social gathering, chowing down and maybe even cheating a tad on your diet, and invariably someone pipes in: "Oh yes, I only eat sugar-free, low-fat, non-dairy, peanut-free, low-carb, vegan, organic, trans fat cookies...and you? Oh Lordy."

Oh yea, you can tell them...it's also egg-free, soy-free and gluten free. I believe it's called: Water. Okay, please don't say that. But honestly, enough of the "who eats the most restrictive diet" competition please. Y'all know the sequel, don't you? Well, most women do, that's for sure. It starts with: "I can't believe I ate _____. Fill in the blank, if you please. Ten latkes? Three bowls of cholent? Seventeen Oreo cookies? So now we get to compare our food guilt too? Who feels the guiltiest? Good grief. I mean how much Hershey's syrup before it's really not a SlimFast shake anymore? Heh.

And don't think for a New York minute that the gym rats aren't on the same do or die treadmill. Who bench-pressed the most, who lasted the longest doing planks, who is the bendiest in Yoga class: "Hey, I can touch all my toes but she can put her whole palm on the floor." Okay, everyone. Altogether now: Say, "Ohhm." Na' Amastay right here, then.

Remember, sweet friends: Life is a journey, not a competition. As they say: The best way to beat the competition is to stop trying to beat the competition.

In the end it is always You vs. You.

Caroline is a licensed psychotherapist, crisis counselor, and writer with an office in Queens. She works with individuals, couples, and families. Appointments are available throughout the week and weekends. She can be reached at 917-717-1775 or at Safehavenhealing@gmail.com or at facebook.com/pages/Safe-Haven-Healing.



Helpful Books **Worth A Look**

Eta Feuerman-Yaeger, LMSW

Mental Health & Physical Wellness

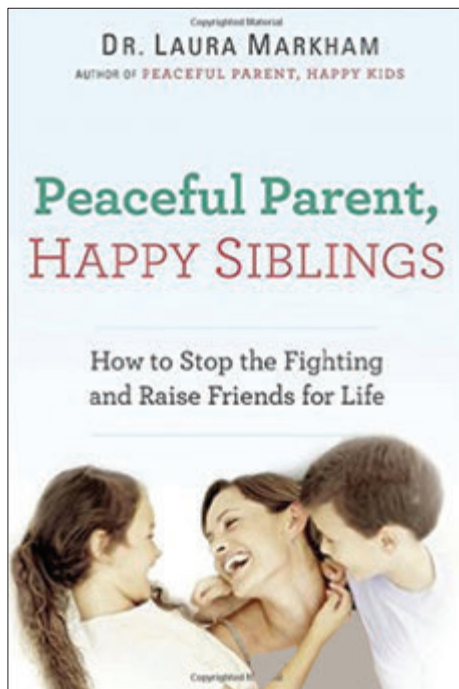
Peaceful Parent, Happy Siblings:

How To Stop The Fighting And Raise Friends For Life

By Dr. Laura Markham

This book will help you:

- Manage your own emotional reactions so that you can help your children manage theirs
- Increase the connection between you and your child, and their siblings



Sibling rivalry can be intense for everyone involved. Dr. Laura Markham provides a detailed guide in managing relationships between siblings of all ages. *Peaceful Parent, Happy Siblings* emphasizes strengthening the connection between parent and child in order to help children regulate all their emotions, including the ones they have toward their siblings. My brother and I used to fight all the time, torturing my parents. Now I am experiencing a similar exhausting torture with my children.

Dr. Markham discusses how the parent's own emotion regulation is the first step, so that your parenting can remain constructive and helpful. It is infuriating for me to see when my son hits my daughter for the thousandth time in a minute, or doesn't let her use any of the toys, even ones that are really for her. I feel myself getting very angry very quickly, and usually that will only cause me to be very reactive with him. This only teaches him to be more reactive, and he gets punished but doesn't learn anything about himself, his emotions, or how to handle them, because I'm not handling my own very well. I have gotten more aware of my anger and what to do with it. I have been able to have more compassion, especially since Dr. Markham explained so specifically how children's acting out and misbehavior comes from very legitimate emotions. Because of that, I am better able to see his misbehavior not as something he is doing to infuriate or hurt on purpose, but more because he doesn't know what to do with his own anxious, angry, or jealous feelings. Dr. Markham encourages parents to use a mantra or take a breath to stay calm while managing sibling fighting.

The second step is helping your children manage their own feelings, and providing connection and security when they most need it. If children are acting out, it means that they are having a feeling that they don't know what to do with. Parents can help the child interpret, express, and manage what has come up for them. Dr. Markham provides the mantra: Children need our love most when they deserve it least. The theme of this book is connection no matter what. It is hard to get out of the mindset of a power struggle and who is right, such as, "How dare you hit your sister? You must be punished!" Dr. Markham discusses how

with punishments, in the long run, you are only further deregulating and distancing your children, without teaching any coping skills or impulse control. Furthermore, Dr. Markham advocates that parents need to do preventive maintenance by giving children special time and attention on a regular basis so they feel connected. She also discusses roughhousing, play fighting, and laughing as a way to help kids release energy and tension. Because of this book, over the past few days I have made rough play happen more often with my kids and it has helped me be more playful with them.

Finally, a parent's job is to mediate between siblings and help them learn how to manage their relationship on their own. As Dr. Markham describes, it is like being an interpreter between each child. You need to show them over and over how to use their words to express themselves and negotiate, until they can do it on their own. This is absolutely exhausting but so worth it. It is kind of like being a couples' therapist, facilitating communication so that each party can understand each other and negotiate compassionately. Dr. Markham stresses that parents should not take sides, as this will only create more of a power dynamic between siblings, while not learning emotion regulation or problem-solving skills. Many parents jump in to separate fighting siblings; however, this deprives them of an opportunity to learn how to solve conflict constructively. The basic formula for conflict management with kids is: describe what you see happening, validate each one with empathy, coach them to use their words to express their feelings and needs, and then problem solve collaboratively.

I found this book readable, compassionate, and very useful. It has encouraged me to increase my focus on coaching my children and doing preventive measures to deepen my relationship with them. I have already made use of some of Dr. Markham's strategies and plan to continue.

Eta Feuerman-Yaeger, LMSW is a psychotherapist who works with children, adults, and groups, with offices in Queens and Brooklyn. She can be reached at eta.feuerman@gmail.com.



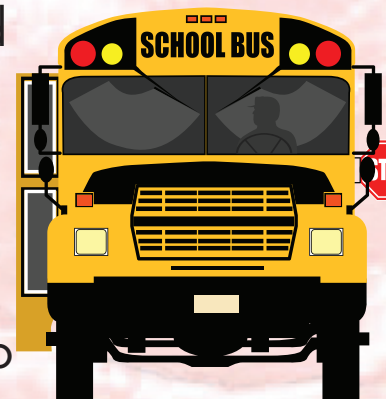
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What is Behind the *Limud HaTorah* and *Limud Halacha* Renaissance in Klal Yisrael?



A Dirshu shiur in Boro Park addressed by HaRav Yitzchok Zalman Gips



HaRav Shlomo Cynamon addressing a Dirshu Daf HaYomi B'Halacha Siyum

By Yosef Sosnow

Rabbonim have a unique perspective and often, as a result of their exposure to *Yidden* from all walks of life both in their *kehillos* and beyond, are able to notice changing trends in the community before many others.

Two prominent Rabbonim, HaRav Yitzchok Zalman Gips, *shlita*, Rav of Beis Me-drash Birchas Avrohom of Boro Park and Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshiva Nahardaah and HaRav Shlomo Cynamon, *shlita*, Rav of Kehal Bnei Torah and Rosh Kollel Dirshu of Flatbush, commented on the recent tremendous increase in both in-depth *limud haTorah* with accountability as well as *limud halacha*.

"A Person cannot be a *Yid* without *Limud HaTorah*!"

"Yes, over the past few years, there has been a tremendous increase in *limud haTorah* in our communities," Rav Gips comments, "but it is also important to note that we have always been the *Am haTorah*. It is insufficient to dress like a *Yid* or to eat Jewish foods. Without *limud haTorah* a person cannot be a *Yid*! The *Yidden* and Torah are one.

"Historically what has transpired is that after a war, the survivors were so focused on rebuilding *Yiddishkeit* and their own personal lives that they often worked three jobs just to make ends meet! Unfor-

tunately, many of them were left with little time for learning. Today, *baruch Hashem* we have more discretionary time - *Yidden* have Friday, Shabbos, Sunday and other times during the week to learn. Additionally, virtually all of today's *baalei batim* are yeshiva graduates with very solid backgrounds in learning while nearly everyone has children and grandchildren learning full time in *kollel*. They are so surrounded by Torah, they are supporting Torah and they are now saying, "Why shouldn't I learn Torah as well?" They therefore join learning programs and become *talmidei chachomim* in their own right."

Rav Gips points out that another factor is the tremendous increase in *kavod haTorah* that we see in our times. When we see the large, impressive *siyumim* such as the Daf HaYomi Siyum and the Dirshu Siyumim it increases the *chashivus* of Torah. People realize how *choshuv* Torah is. In our time we see that *lomdei* Torah are gaining a tremendous amount of credit and recognition from both men and women for their Torah accomplishments. This spurs them to achieve even greater milestones in learning.

How a 1-Hour *Shiur* Whet the Appetite...

Rav Shlomo Cynamon, Rav of Kehal Bnei Torah and Kollel Dirshu of Flatbush, points out that, "In our generation we have an erudite, yeshiva-educated public. Even those who are not *zocheh* to spend

their days ensconced in the *koslei beis hamedrash* understand the concept of *limud haTorah*. As time goes on, mature individuals do not suffice with perfunctory *sedorim* just to 'be *yotzeh*'. They want to maximize their time spent learning and have found new ways to learn with *lomdus* and accountability. This is contributing to the Torah revolution of sorts that we are witnessing."

Rav Cynamon clarifies with something that he observes every day. "I am *zocheh* to lead the Dirshu Kollel in Flatbush. We get together every morning and learn from 6:30 until 7:30. We learn with a schedule and offer tests. For many of the *lomdim* however, that one hour of learning just whet their appetite for more. They recognized how broad Torah is, how vast and how *geshmak* and they wanted more. A large group therefore asked me to create another *seder* **after** *davening* that evolved into a two-hour *seder* from 8:30 until 10:30 am where we learn the same *limud* as before *davening* but with more depth and greater breadth. I can't tell you what this learning has done for them. They have experienced the essence of *geshmak* in learning. When one has a *maggid shiur* who is able to give over the *tzurah* of the *sugya* there is no end to how far one can go! My experience is that we are living in a generation with an unprecedented *cheshek* for learning. They don't necessarily just want to attend a *shiur*. They want to learn in a *chaburah*, they want to toil in learning, they want the give and take of in-depth learning that transforms the *seder* from an obligation into the highlight of their day!"

Rav Gips adds that, "Another very significant factor, at least in the *Chassidic* community, is the fact that virtually every *kehillah* now has their own *Gemara* learning program, wherein the entire *kehillah* picks a *masechta* and learns it with a schedule, offering tests and a stipend for excellent results. In this case, Dirshu blazed the trail and all of the varied communities saw it as the ultimate successful model to emulate."

The Focus on *Halacha*

Another pivotal development highlighted by the Rabbonim is the marked increase in both learning *halacha* and practical *halachic* knowledge. Rav Gips comments, "We currently live in a society where people want to know, 'What is the bottom line?' People are *ehrllich*, they take

their *mitzvah* observance seriously and have therefore become very focused on learning *halacha* and knowing *halacha*. Another fascinating insight by Rav Gips is that perhaps the fact that many of the *gedolei hador* of the previous generation were world renowned *poskim* and *baalei halacha* also contributed to this phenomenon. The *gedolei hador* have a *hashpaah* on the whole generation and the fact that the great *gaonim*, Rav Yosef Sholom Elyashiv, *zt"l*, Rav Shmuel Wosner, *zt"l*, and Rav Ovadia Yosef, *zt"l*, were all great *poskim* may have had a *hashpaah*.

"*Dikduk* In *Halacha* Is Not Born In A Vacuum"

Rav Shlomo Cynamon explains that "*dikduk* in *halacha* is not born in a vacuum. The fact that the entire generation has become more connected to *bnei* Torah, to learning Torah with *iyun* creates a keener perspective when it comes to *halacha* and *yiras shomayim* as well. Today, people don't want to learn *halacha* by rote. They want to understand its depth. It is amazing to see how the members of the *shiur* respond to an introduction to a difficult *se'if* presented by the *Mishnah Berurah*. When the *Mishnah Berurah* brilliantly explains the reason behind the *halacha*, the *halacha* comes alive!"

From *V'im Tomar* to *V'yesh Lomar*!

Rav Cynamon concludes his remarks with a telling anecdote that perhaps encompasses the depth of the Torah and *halacha* revolution that we have witnessed over the past two decades. He related, "Rav Yisroel Salanter once overheard a person quickly reviewing one *Tosafos* after another. The person was saying, '*V'im tomar*' and then immediately '*v'yesh lomar*' indicating that he was quickly reviewing the questions and answers posed by *Tosafos*. Rav Yisroel commented, "If you don't stop to think between the '*im tomar*' and the '*yesh lomar*' where will you get your *yiras shomayim*?" What Rav Yisroel was saying is that yes, you may be able to rattle off a question and perfunctory answer, but if you don't stop to think how will you realize the importance of what you are learning? How will you truly respect what you are learning and therefore have the requisite *yiras shomayim*?"

Our generation is one that is stopping between the '*im tomar*' and the '*yesh lomar*'!

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The Jewish Genius Of Wall Street: Remembering 'Igo' On His 11th Yahrtzeit

Forest Hills' Ignatius Teichberg survived the Holocaust and become a stock-picker extraordinaire

By Gerald Harris

He was called "the genius of Wall Street," a "stock-picker extraordinaire," and some of the most powerful people in the stock market asked him for advice. But the simple thank yous ordinary people told him and their appreciative handshakes meant much more to him.

A long-time Forest Hills resident, Ignatius "Igo" Teichberg was original, unique, and one of the very fascinating characters on Wall Street. The first time I met him was nearly 25 years ago. I was writing an article for a market publication I worked for and wanted input from him. At that point I knew nothing about him except his reputation and, despite his name, wondered how he would react to my yarmulke.

To my pleasant surprise he was also wearing a yarmulke. He smiled when I walked into his office, motioned for me to have a seat, and quoted from a Gemara. I felt like I was speaking with an old friend.

An Art, Not A Science

In the early 1970s, Teichberg began working in the retail side of the business and quickly built a huge clientele as customers tried to cash in on his stock-picking prowess. He was in a select group of brokers who earned more than \$1 million in commissions in a year – a huge accomplishment today and even more so back then. Later he became an analyst.

Over the years, many millions of people have fancied themselves as undiscovered market gurus, only to learn the hard way that there's a world of difference between getting lucky and picking a good stock once or twice and trying to do that every day for a living.

"Stock picking is an art, not a science," Teichberg said. During trading hours he kept a very close watch on the ticker, studying the stock symbols whizzing past him and making mental notes about them; he never studied charts.

One day, he pointed to the ticker. "The stocks and block trades and price changes you see going by are not random. It's a language; the market is talking to you, and the analyst's job is to try to understand that language."

To a great extent, Teichberg learned that language, not panicking if a stock sold off, not becoming overly enthusiastic if it went higher, and avoiding many of the pitfalls that proved to be the undoing of many investors.

His reputation grew and he was offered a weekly column in *The New York Post*. Teichberg's stock picks almost always popped by the afternoon the column appeared, but daring readers quickly realized that they could make more money by buying an option on the stock early that morning; often, they were able to sell at a profit that same day before



I was working in his office on the day the first Iraq War broke out and the price of oil was going through the roof. I asked Teichberg which oil stocks he bought. "I didn't buy," he said with a chuckle. "I sold short."

the market closed.

Many of the stocks he wrote about were either little known or out of favor. However, his column put them into play. In fact, dozens of the companies he featured went on to be acquired in the following months at huge premiums over the recommended price. The column became so popular that circulation of the *Post* increased by 10% on the day it appeared.

It was not only retail customers who followed his advice but also some of the most powerful people on The Street. Rupert Murdoch, Carl Icahn, and the heads of huge mutual funds would sometimes call and ask, "What do you like today, Igo?"

I was working in his office on the day the first Iraq war broke out and, as one would imagine, the price of oil was going through the roof. Teichberg was busily making trades and when he finally took a breather I asked which oil stocks he bought. "I didn't buy," he said with a chuckle. "I sold short."

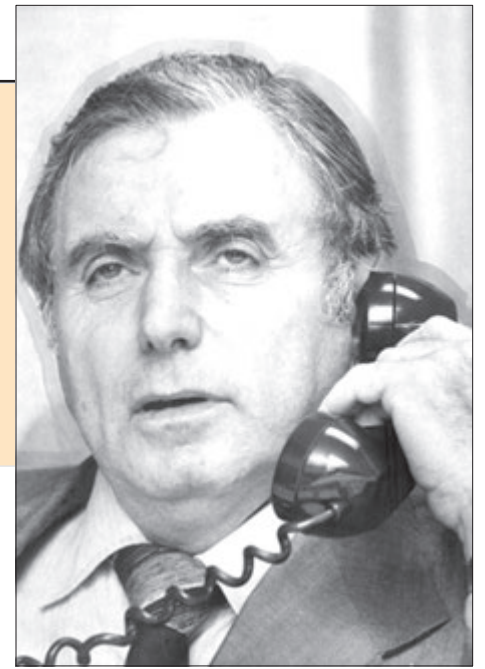
I was taken aback. The world was facing a war, economies could be wrecked by an oil shortage, and yet you sold short, I wondered to myself. But by the end of the day his cooler attitude proved to be the correct approach and the price of oil was down sharply from the morning highs.

I practically demanded of him to explain why he sold short. "Simple," he said. "The price of oil was clearly too high. It was a great selling opportunity."

The Poland-born Teichberg was a

quick study, learning quickly about how the market worked and also from the mistakes that he and others made. But he also benefited from some of the life experiences he had.

When the Nazis invaded Poland, Teichberg escaped to the forest and took up with partisans to fight them. Subsequently, he was captured, and while he was reluctant to talk about that part of his life, it's a certainty that his stock-picking abilities benefited greatly from the survival skills and other lessons he learned during the war.



While the market obviously played an important part in his life, it definitely was not the only thing. Family was very important to him and so was religion. He gave a very large contribution to help a *yeshiva* construct a much-needed new building, and in gratitude the *yeshiva* offered to name the building after anyone of his choosing.

But a few weeks later, a philanthropist offered an even larger contribution, which he said he would give only on the condition that the building would be named after someone he chose. Teichberg yielded that honor in order not to deprive the *yeshiva* of the much-needed money.

And Israel was also important to him. Teichberg was very proud of the Jewish state and was deeply concerned when he felt it was making a political or foreign-policy mistake. He was not only an enthusiastic supporter of Israel but also made no secret of his feelings, even though doing so undoubtedly cost him a lot of business.

Teichberg was not a perfect analyst; like everyone else he sometimes made mistakes. But his batting average was higher than those of most others. Also, making another commission was not his top priority; he genuinely wanted to help clients. Over the years he made a difference in many people's lives.

Those who knew him well lost a courageous, loyal, and sincere friend when he passed away on January 10, 2006. Those who never got to know him lost even more. With his 11th *yahrtzeit* next week, Teichberg's memory still remains an inspiration to family and friends.

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HISTORY FUN

JANUARY 1ST - 7TH IN AMERICAN HISTORY

1: A Nebraska **farmer** files the **first** homestead **claim** (1863). Lincoln **signs** Emancipation Proclamation (1863). Edsel Ford succeeds **father** as president of **Ford** (1919). United Nations created (1942). **2:** Congress publishes the Tory Act (1776). **Navy** opens a **blimp** base in New Jersey (1942). **Nixon** signs national speed limit into law (1974). **3:** Delaware rejects secession (1861). Franklin Roosevelt founds **March of Dimes** (1938). Jack **Ruby** dies before second **trial** (1967). **4:** **Colt** sells his first revolvers to the U.S. government (1847). GM announces its electric car (1996). **5:** New York Yankees announce purchase of **Babe Ruth** (1920). Construction begins on Golden Gate Bridge (1933). Truman delivers his **Fair Deal** speech (1949). Nixon launches the **space** shuttle program (1972). **6:** Morse demonstrates telegraph (1838). Franklin D. Roosevelt speaks of Four Freedoms (1941). Blizzard of 1996 begins (1996). **7:** First U.S. presidential election (1789). Harlem Globetrotters **play** their first **game** (1927). Truman announces U.S. has developed hydrogen **bomb** (1953). U.S. recognizes new Cuban government (1959).



SECRET MESSAGE

Find and circle the bold, italicized words from the History summary in the Word Find. Write the unused Word Find letters in the spaces below to spell a Secret Message.



MATH FUN

The chief engineer of The Golden Gate Bridge was Joseph Baermann _____

To find out, solve the math problems, then equate answers with the letters in the key below. The first one is done for you.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

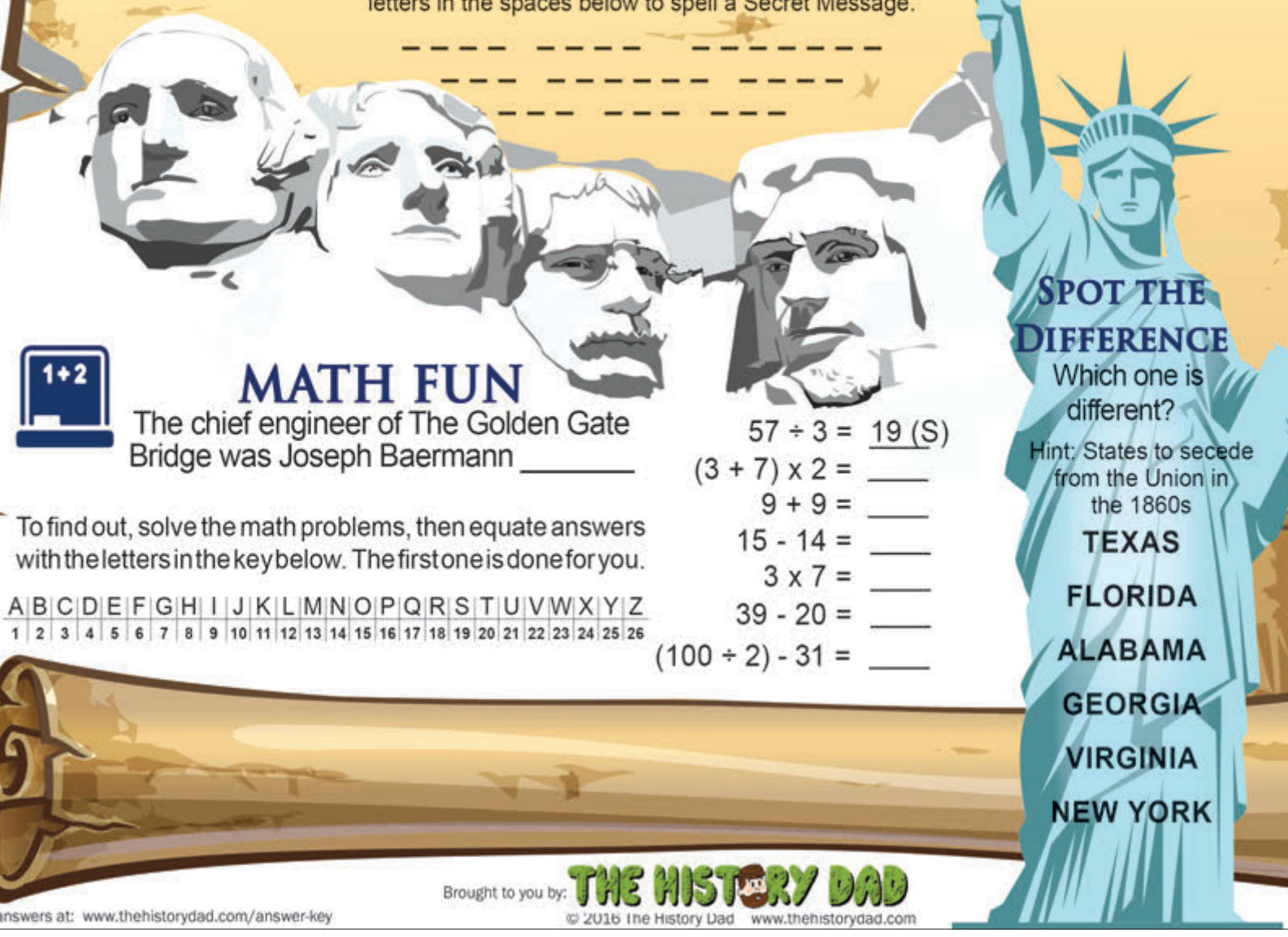
- 57 ÷ 3 = 19 (S)
- (3 + 7) x 2 = _____
- 9 + 9 = _____
- 15 - 14 = _____
- 3 x 7 = _____
- 39 - 20 = _____
- (100 ÷ 2) - 31 = _____

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Which one is different?

Hint: States to secede from the Union in the 1860s

- TEXAS
- FLORIDA
- ALABAMA
- GEORGIA
- VIRGINIA
- NEW YORK



Governor Mike Huckabee Headlines Orthodox Jewish Chamber Of Commerce Knesset Symposium, Boosting Hope for Improved US-Israel Relationship

By Shimmy Blum

It is difficult to get even a small handful of Knesset members to attend a special Knesset event. Yet, a diverse dozen of them gathered Tuesday morning in the Knesset's Jerusalem Hall for a special two-hour-plus symposium on US-Israel economic and diplomatic relations. The "US-Israel Business Alliance" mission was arranged by the US-based Orthodox Jewish Chamber of Commerce, and headlined by its special guest, former Arkansas governor and presidential candidate Mike Huckabee.

The MKs were seated alongside members of the Jewish Chamber's Executive Public Policy Committee – Dr. Joseph Frager, Dr. Paul Brody, Odeleya Jacobs, and Duvi Honig – as dozens of other delegation members and media personnel filled the hall.

You could hear a pin drop in the room throughout the symposium. The sensitivity of the times was felt in the air. We were mere days since the UN Security Council passed Resolution 2334 – with the aid of the US abstention – which delegitimized Israeli settlement in East Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria. Secretary of State John Kerry compounded matters when he delivered a speech denying Israel's ability to remain a democratic and Jewish state simultaneously. At the same time, we are just over two weeks away from Donald Trump being inaugurated as President of the United States, which is expected to significantly affect US policy towards Israel.

der the Jewish Chamber's umbrella. The current 30-person-strong delegation and high profile schedule of events made a strong mark. "Let's hope this sets the tone for the next eight years under President Trump," said Dr. Frager.

Mr. Honig noted the Jewish Chamber's particular motivation to utilize its global network of Jewish community businesses and business leaders to fight BDS and other efforts to harm the Israeli economy. "An eye for an eye," he stated with visible passion. "We'll use our strength to fight them all." Mr. Honig added the importance for Israel and the Jewish People to recognize and respect the Biblical traditions and laws, in order to be able to expect the world to respect our historical Biblical connection to the land. He also highlighted the strong personal connection that the Jewish Chamber maintains with top aides to President-elect Trump, particularly Jason Dov Greenblatt, Esq., and Israel Ambassador-designate David Friedman, Esq.

Dr. Brody kept his remarks succinct, in both Hebrew and English, heralding Governor Huckabee's longstanding friendship with Israel, and concluded by raising the Israeli flag and proclaiming "Am Yisrael Chai!"

The last member of the Jewish Chamber's Executive Public Policy Committee to speak was Odeleya Jacobs. She noted the months of work that were invested to arrange this event and the importance of the mission. "The Jewish People are indigenous to this land," she exclaimed. "No power can go against G-d."

"When I first came here, Israel was struggling to live, many in kibbutzim, but it is now one of the most entrepreneurial nations in the history of mankind"

Crucial Support at a Crucial Time

Speaker after speaker thanked Governor Huckabee and the entire Jewish Chamber delegation for displaying unapologetic US support for Israel at this crucial juncture. The governor has visited Israel more times than he can remember since age 17, and has been a strong pro-Israel voice during his political career and the many media appearances he makes to this day. The governor and his wife Janet visited the Jewish State in 2014, as rockets were raining down from Gaza. The nickname "Huckabee the Maccabee," initiated by Dr. Brody and repeated by several others, was an instant favorite in the room. The fact that Governor Huckabee has a particularly close relationship with incoming President Trump was particularly heartening.

Likud MK Miki Zohar, who chaired the conference, highlighted the UN resolution's boost to the BDS movement and danger to the Israeli economy. He thanked the Jewish Chamber for harnessing its clout to fight BDS and promote stronger US-Israel economic ties. Zohar praised President-elect Trump's response to the recent anti-Israel moves by the UN and his predecessor, remarking, "I am filled with optimism for January 20," the date Mr. Trump will take over the Oval Office.

Dr. Frager noted that this is the fifth time that he, Dr. Brody, and Mrs. Jacobs have accompanied Governor Huckabee on a trip to Israel, but the first time un-

Aaron Klein, chief of the Jerusalem Bureau of Breitbart News, sounded the alarm on the BDS movement, which the UN resolution "put on steroids," and urged the MKs to ensure that the Israeli government makes a full-throated effort to combat the movement and its key backers. He urged them to follow the direct, combative model that led to the stunning political success of Donald Trump. "Troll the world with the truth," Mr. Klein advised.

Efrat Mayor Oded Ravivi praised Governor Huckabee's understanding of the threat of the BDS movement and how to counter with an effective pro-Israel message to the media and the world. He then presented the governor with a framed map of Israel, remarking, "We trust you because you know what this is about."

The MKs at the symposium each voiced their own thoughts during brief addresses. The most commonly touched upon themes were gratitude towards Governor Huckabee and the Jewish Chamber for their support; outrage at the UN and the Obama administration; optimism of better days ahead under the Trump administration; the importance of Biblical tradition and history to the Jewish connection to all of Israel; and opposition to the creation of a Palestinian state.

During her remarks, Likud MK Sharen Haskel, the youngest member of the Knesset, pointed out that Governor Huckabee has more courage voicing a



Orthodox Jewish Chamber of Commerce Vice President for Public Policy Odeleya Jacobs addresses the assemblage. From left, MK Mickey Zohar, who hosted the Knesset event; guest speaker Gov. Mike Huckabee; co-Vice President, Dr. Joe Frager; and Duvi Honig, founder and President of OJC

Photo credit: Dov Yarden



staunch pro-Israel position than even many Israelis.

The Huckabee Finale

The audience was clearly moved at the governor's unflinching words of support during his address, which concluded the symposium. Repeating the mantra that "history is to a nation what memory is to an individual," Governor Huckabee extolled the people of Israel to appreciate the strong Biblical and historical

Jewish connection to the land, and help the world at large to appreciate it, too. He described his initial reaction to Secretary Kerry's speech as one of disbelief. "It only makes any sense if you take faith and religion out," he said.

Citing that he was probably the only non-Jew in the room, Governor Huckabee stressed his strong religious faith and how it shapes his view of Israel.

CONTINUED ON P. 57



Efrat Mayor Oded Revivi presents Bas-relief map of Israel to special Knesset guest speaker Governor Mike Huckabee, in appreciation for the governor's outspokenness for Israel and its people. (L-R) Yigal Dilmoni, Moetzet Yesha; MK Mickey Zohar (partially obscured), host of the special concert event; MK Moti Yogeve; OJC Chamber of Commerce Vice Presidents Dr. Paul Brody, Odeleya Jacobs, and Dr. Joe Frager.

Photo credit: Dov Yarden

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Dating Today

Goldy Krantz

Style & Living

Kallahzilla



CONTINUED FROM P. 1

rived from the Japanese movie monster Godzilla. I don't think I was a kallahzilla. I wasn't a young girl when I became a *kallah*; I was in my 30s. I was mature (or so I like to believe) and I had been working for twelve years by then. When I had a discussion with my parents about my upcoming wedding and when opinions differed, we spoke about it and would come to an agreement – a compromise. Never did I throw a fit or say something to the effect of, "It's my wedding and what I say goes." I can't say that I witnessed the same type of behavior a few weeks ago.

As a fulltime working wife and mother,

paying then I want this one!" The *kallah* then proceeded to toss the box of couscous (that Eli liked) into the wagon and then in a huff strolled off with the wagon.

It made me recall that a few months ago I went to a store that sells silver. I had my candlesticks dipped so they shine bright without me putting elbow grease and effort into it every week. As I waited for my candlesticks to be brought to me, I couldn't help but look around the store at the beautiful objects they had for sale. At another counter, a young woman stood with someone who I imagined was her mother. The saleswoman brought different candlesticks for her to choose from. The *kallah* didn't exhibit the jubilation that I

*Why is it that some normal-minded girls
with seichel turn into kallahzillas
as soon as the ring or bracelet is presented to them?*

I run errands when opportunities present themselves. One day I quickly did some grocery shopping on my lunch break from work. I was in a *heimish* store where I witnessed a *kallah* acting like a kallahzilla, and it had absolutely nothing to do with the wedding. But I was absolutely appalled by her behavior. I can only imagine how the mother of the *kallah* felt. It was the mother who had to bear the brunt of the "tantrum" in the middle of a store rather than to cause more of a scene.

I think the *kallah* was going to prepare a meal for her *chasan*. She was discussing the likes and dislikes of her *chasan* with her mother. The mother provided some advice, as mothers do, and from her many years of experience. The *kallah* lashed out at her mother: "You don't understand: Eli doesn't like that! He's not like Tatty! It has to be *this type* of couscous!" I am not joking; the *kallah* was yelling in the store about couscous. The mother pointed out that another type of couscous was on sale. "I can spend whatever I want, you're paying. After the wedding, I'll buy cheap stuff. But if you're

exhibited upon receiving my candlesticks when I was a *kallah*. She seemed downright angry. I was able to overhear her telling her mother in a harsh tone that she wanted a candelabra. The mother kept an even tone when speaking with her daughter telling her that candlesticks were more appropriate to purchase when she is a new bride rather than a candelabra. The saleswoman also added that *kallos* begin with candlesticks and then move on to candelabras once they start a family. The *kallah* said that she knew what she wanted and she was not going to take "no" for an answer. She then said something I will never forget. She looked at her mother and said, "You and Tatty can afford it. Don't be cheap with me. You have all the *sheitels* and jewelry you want. I don't want candlesticks. Why do I have to get what I don't want?" Wow. I turned away so that I would not be facing this spectacle of a seemingly mature young woman throwing a temper tantrum in a store. All I was able to think was that

CONTINUED ON P. 61

Goldy Krantz is an LMSW and a lifelong Queens resident, guest lecturer, and author of the shidduch dating book, *The Best of My Worst* and children's book *Where Has Zaidy Gone?* She can be contacted at bestofmyworst@hotmail.com.



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Style Myths Debunked

Meira E. Schneider-Atik

Style & Living

Wedding Party Unified

Myth: Since all eyes are on the chasan and kallah, it doesn't matter what anyone else wears.

Truth: For those in the wedding party, it does matter

In the secular world, it's still common to have a formal wedding party featuring a bunch of bridesmaids and groomsmen. It used to be that you had to have a certain number based on how formal your wedding was, and that you had to have an equal number, and that they all had to be dressed alike. Not so much anymore. The Jewish world had that, to some extent, but even when my parents and my in-laws got married, those rules were more relaxed. Nowadays, it's not unusual to have no wedding party at all – just the *chasan* and *kallah* with their parents. Even if there is a wedding party, it's likely to be family only. And, thank goodness, the uniform dress code for the wedding party is not necessary anymore.

From me, you get the truth.

Even in the secular world, a uniform look for the wedding party (those walking down the aisle), while permitted, is not considered stylish anymore. In our parents' day, it wasn't necessary either – in both my parents' wedding and my in-laws' wedding, the family members walked down the aisle wearing formal gowns/tuxedos that blended together without looking exactly alike. And in my opinion, that's the best way to go.

For a formal wedding, it's good to have a unified look for the wedding party. By this, I mean that it looks best when the wedding party sticks to similar colors and one level of formality. This is why I would always advise brides to do what I did – give the women one color family and then let them wear any version that works well for them. My color was dark green. The moms, sisters, and grandmas each looked stunning in their versions ranging from medium to dark green. They also looked amazing together, both in person and in the photos.

It's very important for the *kallah* to communicate what she wants and be prepared to answer questions. If you want your wedding party to avoid a certain color, say so. If you want the look to be formal, informal, or anywhere in between, say so. And if anyone from your wedding party asks you about it, just answer. Having said that, I also

strongly advise the *kallah* to be flexible and not demand just one specific color or style. It only makes things more difficult. No, you won't please everyone, but if you choose a color family and level of formality, then you'll have far fewer complaints.

If you're in the wedding party, it's important for you to go with what the *kallah* wants. This is her wedding, not yours, and your job is to make her happy. You may not like the color or color family she's chosen, but you need to go with it anyway. If your dress/gown really bothers you in some way, just get rid of it after the wedding.

Assuming you can get a dress/gown in a good version of the color, go for that. Make sure that the style and details of the dress/gown flatter your shape, and make sure the whole thing fits perfectly. Notice that I've been saying "dress/gown." That's because shorter dresses, even as short as JBTK (just below the knee), are considered appropriate even for formal weddings. But be aware that if your dress is JBTK, you have to wear at least a 1½-inch heel with it. Anything shorter and it won't come off dressy enough. And the shoe itself has to be a basic pump or slingback because open-toe shoes are not safe for *simchah* dancing, and because these styles are more streamlined and look dressy.

By the way, dresses and gowns are also available as separates. If you feel that separates are an easier fit for you, go for that. My aunt wore a three-piece gown for her son's wedding and she lent it to me for my sister's wedding. The jacket and skirt were both great, but I had to use a different shell that fit me better.

If you're wearing hair of some kind, either your own or a *sheitel*, make sure that the style and color flatter you perfectly. If your outfit is in a color that flatters you, then feel free to wear an updo, but if the color doesn't flatter you, make sure your hair is down to frame your face. If your hair is curly, go with that – the natural volume will frame your face and counteract the bad color of your outfit. If you're wearing a non-*sheitel* covering, make sure it's in a good color that blends with the color of



For a formal wedding, it's good to have a unified look for the wedding party. By this, I mean that it looks best when the wedding party sticks to similar colors and one level of formality



Shorter dresses, even as short as JBTK (just below the knee), are considered appropriate even for formal weddings. But be aware that if your dress is JBTK, you have to wear at least a 1½-inch heel with it



If your outfit is in a color that flatters you, then feel free to wear an updo, but if the color doesn't flatter you, make sure your hair is down to frame your face

Gentlemen, if you're in the wedding party, it's a little simpler for you. Just take your cues from the *chatan*. If he's wearing a classic tuxedo, that means your best bets are a classic tuxedo or updated tuxedo. If he's wearing an updated tuxedo, then your best bet is the same. In general, you should be dressed to match the formality.

If you're in the wedding party, remember that making the *chatan* and *kallah* happy is a big mitzvah, so go with that. To the *chatan* and *kallah*, if you communicate your wishes without being inflexible, you'll make it much easier for everyone to enjoy this and to make you happy.

Meira E. Schneider-Atik is a wardrobe organizer, personal shopper, jewelry designer, and fashion writer and speaker. She helps women look great while saving time, effort, and money, all within tzniut. Her jewelry pieces can be seen on Facebook (just look up Rena Mei) or in person. She also has the YouTube channel "Look your best in mitpachot," where she does head-wrapping tutorials, and she is available for private demonstrations. She can be reached at (718) 644-6135 or at MESAtik@gmail.com.

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Home Depot Flooring Options

I have recently been in the unfortunate position of shopping for inexpensive flooring from the Home Depot. This has taught me several things:

The Home Depot website is a thundering bore, even when you are generally interested in things like wood finishes.

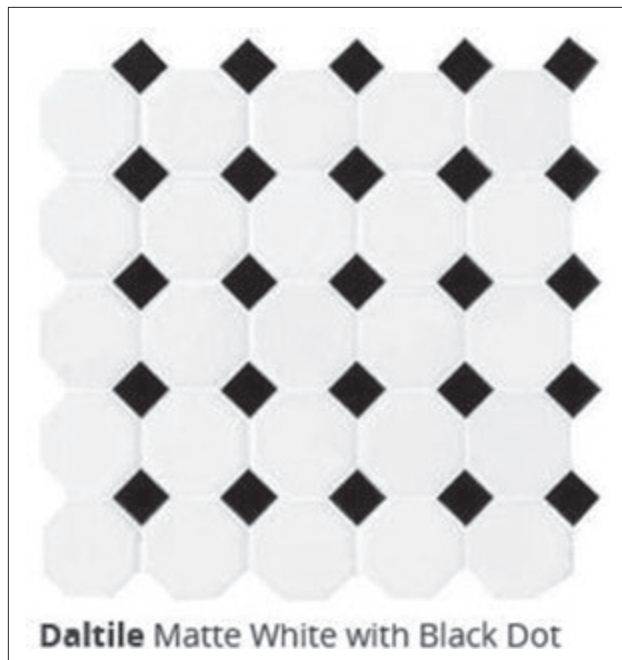
It's even worse when you are shopping for someone else.

You can't have champagne taste on a beer budget. (I knew that already; the Home Depot experience just underscored my knowledge.)

There are some pretty good, cheap options out there once you do the sifting.

In the spirit of altruism, I will spare you some sifting and show a few of my favorites.

Bath Tile:



At \$2.57 a square foot, this black-and-white composition will give you a sophisticated look without breaking the bank. (Ha. Whatever your budget for redecorating is, add 15 percent. There's always unexpected expenses.) You're welcome to buy the same item in marble, just multiply the price by four.

Basement Floor:

I am partial to a warm-colored tile for a basement. Firstly, basements are the first place to flood in heavy rain (although in KGH this is not really an issue), so tile is sensible. Secondly, a warm color is generally needed in the least-warm space in your home. This one is \$2.32 per square foot.

Laminate Flooring:



Laminate is basically a very-heavy-duty roll of not-exactly-plastic that gets rolled onto your floor. It is full of

carcinogens, so if you order laminate, it's great to open the box and leave it on a porch overnight to "breathe" before installing. Even if this is not possible, you still should leave all windows wide open for a day after installation. (That's actually a good policy after any kind of construction work or installation. Everything is toxic. Seriously, everything.)

Laminates are cheap and can look great. They are super long-lasting and can take a high level of abuse, and they are appropriate for any space. For these reasons, the product is not going anywhere, despite its high toxicity. (Same deal with plastic and aluminum, my friends. They are pure poison. Yes, literally.)

This beautiful laminate is 56 cents a square foot.

Solid Hardwood



This is a better-looking option than the laminates, even to an untrained eye. Since wood is a natural material, it creates a sense of warmth. Woods come in all stains and start at a very reasonable \$3 per square foot. Dark woods, either in pure brown or reddish brown, are timeless. Walnut, ash, and oak are all good options. Gray stains like driftwood are very popular now, but will be out in six years. Honey tones had their heyday in the '90s and are officially dated.

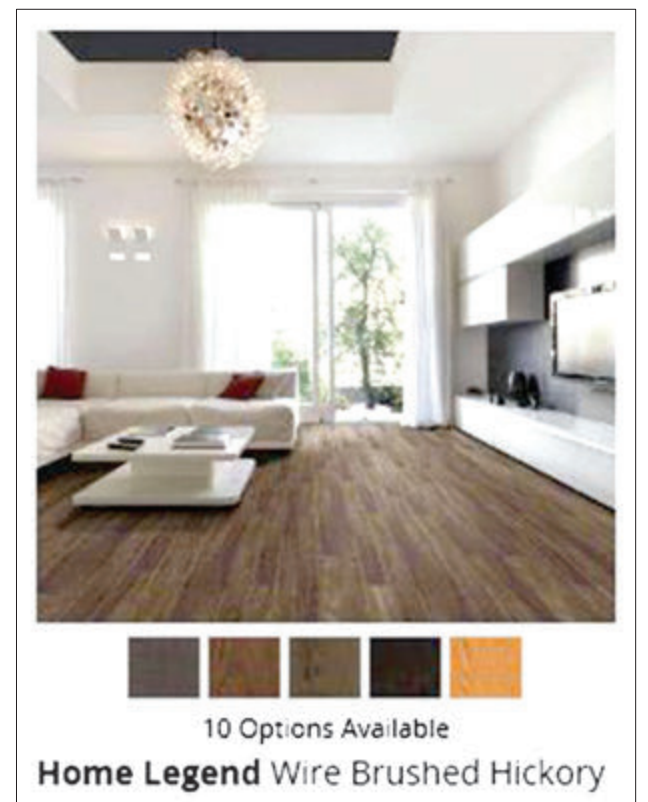
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This is a thin layer of hardwood over a cheap mounting surface. Since it's just a thin layer and not solid hardwood, it's cheaper than solid but still looks the same. However, if you skipped out on teaching your children how to live in a house, and they are therefore unaccustomed to civilized

home behavior, and you consider riding bikes inside and scratching wall paint to be on the low-end of the misbehavior spectrum, then this item may chip and expose the cheap underside. (This doesn't happen in normal circumstances; only in circus homes. What goes around...)

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These are, of course, a very small selection from a very large website. And if you so desire, you are welcome to look for more. The Home Depot does not give out aspirin or Tylenol at checkout, though. Good luck.

Zisi Naimark holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from The New York School of Interior Design and has been working for professional design firms since 2012. She lives in Kew Gardens Hills, where she is tolerated by her husband and sons. She can be reached at zisinaimark@icloud.com.

Governor Mike Huckabee Headlines Orthodox Jewish Chamber of Commerce Knesset Symposium, Boosting Hope for Improved US-Israel Relationship

CONTINUED FROM P. 51

"When I first came here, Israel was struggling to live, many in *kibbutzim*, but it is now one of the most entrepreneurial nations in the history of mankind. Israel won many wars it shouldn't have (by conventional measure)," the governor explained. "There is no explanation for this other than G-d's unique personal involvement."

The governor reiterated his belief that Israel has rightful sovereignty over Judea and Samaria, and warned that abandoning portions of land won't satiate Israel haters. "The world doesn't hate you because of where you are, but because of who you are and Whose you are," he exclaimed. "Those who hate Israel won't hate her any more if she takes steps to ensure her security and opposes a Palestinian state."

As a close friend and early supporter of President-elect Trump, Governor Huckabee boosted the already strong sense in the room that the next President will be nothing like his predecessor regarding Israel. He concluded with a powerful message to the world: "Say what you want about Israel, but I wouldn't bet against her!"

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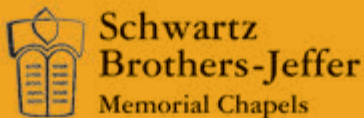


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Yaakov Serle

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Rabbi of the Torah Center of Hillcrest and
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Become A Foodie!



L-R: Plum pie and gluten-free avocado toast. Look for the recipes in upcoming columns!

Photo credits: Sara Knieberg

(Foodie /foōdē/ noun: a person with a particular interest in food; a gourmet.)

One thing is universally established: Everyone needs to eat in order to live. Now the question is, do you eat to live or live to eat? Regardless of what occurs during any given day, there are three things that must (well, let's just say, most of the time) happen during every one of them. Yup, you guessed it: breakfast, lunch, and dinner! From the minute we are born until the minute we pass, sustenance is a necessity.

In my opinion, people can be placed into three categories regarding cooking. There are those who find cooking irresistible and can cook till their feet fall off, and everything they make comes out impeccably gorgeous and scrumptious. Let's call these people the culinary masters. You know, the ones who can put together a spread of food for 20 people in 20 minutes (or less!), and make it seem as if they slaved over it for days. The individuals who always have a few batches of cookies in their freezers just in case company shows up. It's two months

before Yom Tov and they have their menu planned and some dishes in the freezer already. Whether this person is trendy in their cooking or totally old-school, he/she is bound to want a new recipe once in a while. It's always good to switch things up a bit and discover new recipes. I hope to

bring some fresh ideas to you in upcoming columns. The largest group of all fall into the second category – those who don't have a hatred for cooking, but they don't love it either. These people are what I call one-bowl kitchen masters. Kitchen tips and hacks - the easier, the better - are useful to all, especially one-bowl kitchen masters.

How can we make the kitchen experience more pleasurable for ourselves? You'll find the answers in this column

In the third category are those who despise cooking; just the thought of producing dinner makes their stomach do sum-

mersaults, so they find some other ways to get nourishment. To these people, the oven may be more useful as a storage closet for shoes, a countertop a place to fold laundry, and the kitchen cabinets may function as bookshelves. If your kitchen is not exactly the destination when hunger pangs need to

check out what's new at the supermarket that can be a grab-and-go meal to hit the spot.

So, what scares you in the kitchen most? How can we find shortcuts for long and strenuous recipes? Does the mess make you stress? Does the time make you whine? (Okay, now I'm just having a little too much fun.) Basically, how can we make the kitchen experience more pleasurable for ourselves? You'll find the answers in this column.

No matter how you slice it (pun intended), our lives revolve around food. So, come with me on my weekly foodie adventures and whereabouts. Discover new recipes, products, kitchen tips, and gadgets. Hear about upcoming foodie events or ones that I have attended. Be enticed by reviews of restaurants I have visited, both young and old. We are about to embark on a foodie adventure together!

Bracha Serle works as a private chef, specializing in healthy cooking such as gluten-free, dairy-free, sugar-free, nut-free, and other dietary restriction or allergies. She runs a personal chef catering business from her home. You can check out her products on Instagram @shesthechef, and can be reached via email at serle.bracha@gmail.com.

Kallahzilla

CONTINUED FROM P. 52

if I opened up my mouth like that and said these things to my mother – well, I don't have to finish the sentence for any of you, if you know what I mean. But then again, I never would have said anything like that to my mother. The mother and the saleswoman were trying to explain that a *kallah* starts with candlesticks, not elaborate candelabras. (The *kallah* was pointing at one with seven branches!)

True, two examples can't be made into generalizations for society, but I am sure others have witnessed a scene here or there where a *kallah* doesn't seem to want to listen to reason or to use the *seichel* that she

has. In that moment, the *kallah* feels that she must get her way, and if she doesn't then it's a slight upon her that she can never recover from. Truthfully, I was appalled by the actions and words of both *kallos* and I can only hope that there wasn't a time when I acted like these "*kallah meidels*" when I was engaged. I remember wanting something very specific for my wedding, but when my parents explained to me why it wouldn't make sense to have it and why it would just be a waste of money, I understood and changed my mind. Why should I have my parents throw money out? Yes, what I wanted had been in my fantasies for many years, but when the reality of it came to be and I really heard what my parents

said, I realized that what I wanted was just that – a fantasy. My wedding would still be wonderful and beautiful without the one detail that I wanted because, in the end, my parents were right. But I didn't throw a hissy fit. Yes, I was disappointed, but I got over it quickly.

Why is it that some normal-minded girls with *seichel* turn into *kallahzillas* as soon as the ring or bracelet is presented to them? Do they think it's respectful to treat parents this way and to be *chutspadik* to them (in public)? Do they think they have "the right" to do this because they are the *kallah*? Of course, everyone wants everything to be perfect or as near to perfect as possible, but we still must speak and act correctly. How would the *chasan* of the girl that I saw and heard in the silver store react if he heard what his *kallah* said to her mother?

I once wrote of a *chasan* who broke his engagement when his *kallah* complained about the size of the diamond ring. He said that she was petty and shallow to be upset about the ring and not see what it symbolizes and the life that can be built, and that it showed her true colors, and he wanted nothing any longer to do with her.

Yes, dating someone you care for and who cares for you can be exciting, and when you move into the engagement phase a whole level of excitement comes into your life. But do not let the "bling" or excitement make you forget who you are and how to act. The engagement lasts months, the wedding lasts hours, and your life with your spouse will hopefully last *ad mei'ah vesrim shanah* (until the age of 120) -and that is the most important phase of all.

Hatzlachah to you all!

Bedside Beauty: When Things Don't Turn Out The Way You Planned

Life is always full of surprises! *Mentch tracht un Gut lacht!* Man plans and Hashem laughs. As someone who likes to be in control of situations, I recently had a real wake-up call.

I was eagerly counting down the days toward my niece, Dr. Aviva Rosner's, wedding to Zechariah Gutwein, which took place, Wednesday, December 7, at Addison Park. Although my mother had been hospitalized for a month with complications from pneumonia, we were all hopeful that Hashem would answer our *tefilos* and pull her through.

As I was gingerly applying my make-up for Aviva's momentous occasion, my husband surprised me by coming home quite early. My excitement soon turned to disbelief, as I noticed he looked awful and came home with a bad case of the flu. There was no way he could drive or even attend this wedding, so I managed to hop along with my kids and decided to make the best of the situation.

ambulance to Tower 7 – North Shore's trauma unit. Luckily, my niece Esti was outside and hopped aboard as well. That was my first experience in an ambulance, and I realized that they travel at the speed of lightning, as we arrived at the hospital in 12-15 minutes, cutting through all the holiday traffic.

My X-rays proved to be worse than I could have imagined. It seems I did a real acrobatic number and managed to smash my right hip and femur bone badly. They immediately scheduled me for major surgery on the following day. Since the trauma unit, aka torture chamber, is bombarded with accidents, the surgeon was simply overloaded on Monday and I got bumped to Wednesday. Those four days were simply unbearable, and despite heavy painkillers, I don't think I slept for even five minutes. I watched the clock move round and round as I eagerly waited to be taken to the OR. Although North Shore is a

After surgery, I was hopeful things would finally get better. Again, I realized I was not in control and Hashem runs the world!

Hashem indeed answered our *tefilos* and my mother was released from the hospital on Erev Shabbos of *sheva brachos*. Although she was very weak and in no condition to attend, at least she was out of imminent danger. Of course, my husband was still not well enough to spend Shabbos away from home. I, therefore, made arrangements with hubby's wonderful sister and brother-in-law to check on him over Shabbos, as they live across the street. The Shabbos *sheva brachos* was beautiful and memorable, but my husband was sorely missed by all. I figured he could at least make an appearance as a *panim chadashos* at Monday night's *sheva brachos*, which we were planning to host. Of course, that did not pan out either.

Sunday was a regular workday for me. Although I was somewhat tired from all the weekend festivities, I figured I'd be finished working by 5 p.m. and then off to party at another *sheva brachos*. It was about 4 p.m., and I was in midst of giving a young lady a makeup lesson. I ran upstairs for just a moment, and that moment seemed to transform my life. I was wearing uncomfortable shoes, lost my balance, slipped on my shiny wooden floors, slid for several feet, and then landed with a thud on my right side.

The young girl was quite startled to find me lying motionless on the floor. As luck would have it, she was unable to reach any of my family and immediately called Hatzlolah. Within moments, my wonderful neighbor, Moshe Vatch, and his Hatzlolah partner, Mr. Kreisman, miraculously appeared. They gently immobilized me and whisked me away in the

very decent hospital and the nurses are quite nice, I was completely traumatized by the course of events – sleeping face up in excruciating pain, totally immobilized and attached to IVs in not exactly a comfortable position.

After surgery, I was hopeful things would finally get better. Again, I realized I was not in control and Hashem runs the world! It seems I had a tremendous amount of blood loss during the surgery and needed a blood transfusion. I overheard the doctors tell one another, "She's as white as the sheets." They must have thought I was Casper the Friendly Ghost. Luckily, there were no mirrors for me to even see what I looked like. I was totally compliant and agreeable, as I had no strength to even argue with anyone.

As they say, time heals wounds, and patience is a virtue! As a perfectionist, this was not an easy situation for me to deal with, as I was completely out of my comfort zone. Well, at this point, *baruch Hashem*, I realized that I'd better calm myself down, acquire some patience, and lower my expectations. Although it takes just one moment to slip and fall, it can take many weeks to recuperate.

After spending almost 10 days in the trauma unit, I am grateful to Hashem that I managed to make it home in time for Chanukah, the season of miracles. As that is a most auspicious time, I am hopeful that Hashem will answer everyone's *tefilos l'tovah*.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my family and friends for their warm wishes, care, concern, help, and *chizuk* throughout this trying time. May we only hear *besuros tovot*.

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.

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Partying Hard

My son was chosen to give out nosh at Shabbos party this week. And by “chosen,” I think I mean “alphabetically.” I don’t think they do this on merit.

If you don’t have kids, I should explain that Shabbos party is a really big deal. It’s not every day that you get Shabbos party. It’s only about twice a week. The first time is in school on Erev Shabbos, where even though the school normally has a “no-nosh” policy, there are two exceptions:

Amendment A. If you bring in enough for everyone, it’s okay.

Amendment B. If it’s a half-day, they don’t so much mind pumping the kids full of nosh and sending them home. To get us back for the sugar cereals.

The other time Shabbos party comes about is at home on Shabbos afternoons, or, if Shabbos afternoon is really short, then sometimes on Motzoei Shabbos. Our home Shabbos party is the one time per week that I give my kids candy without making them actively earn it. This is as opposed to the candy that I give out during the meal when my kids answer questions correctly (I have to pay them to pay attention in a school where I already pay tuition. I’m paying both sides here) and the candy they sneak during the week where they somehow always forget to sneak the wrappers into the garbage. And the candy I have to give them for behaving at the dentist.

But Shabbos party is a great way to help your kids look forward to Shabbos, as well as, in our home, a bribe to keep them quiet on Shabbos afternoons and let us nap.

I mean yeah, sure, there’s the Shabbos seudah, where we have a lot of great foods, and some of them are just as good as Shabbos party. But that’s not a party; that’s a meal. You’re strapped to the table and you have to make polite conversation, and you have to help, and you have to be quiet for divrei Torah, and if you get up to play, your parents don’t stop bothering you about it. And you can’t have dessert unless you finish everything on your plate, but it’s 3 entire courses, which is something you never have during the week.

“Who on earth can eat chicken after they’ve already eaten challah, soup and fish? I weigh 35 pounds! You think I’m interested in dessert? How come when I go to a *chasunah*, I’m allowed to get up between courses and dance around? A *chasunah*’s a party, right? What kind of party do I have to sit quietly at the table and listen to the grown-ups talk?”

Yes, a lot of the conversation does focus around the kids, but it’s mostly, “What did you learn in school?”

“Why are we talking about school? What kind of party is this?”

For kids, Shabbos party is candy. For adults, Shabbos party is the nap that the kids let us take or else we don’t give them the candy. We call it “party”, but it’s actually a hostage situation full of blackmail, bargaining, and kids fighting quietly downstairs and trying not to wake us up. That’s what we celebrate.

The nap thing is actually my wife’s rule. I don’t mind being woken up, because I

can fall back asleep in three seconds. I’m always that tired. But I still don’t like being asked to *masken* a pointless fight between two screaming kids before I open my eyes.

This might seem mean, but otherwise, what do we hold over their heads to get them to let us nap? *Kibbud av*? Yeah, we tried that. The first few years of their lives was us waiting for them to learn about *kibbud av* in school so we could use it

For kids, Shabbos party is candy. For adults, Shabbos party is the nap that the kids let us take or else we don’t give them the candy

to magically get them to listen. (I figured that if we taught them about it ourselves, they might not believe it’s a thing.) The next few years was us wondering why they hadn’t learned about it yet.

But they *have* learned about Shabbos party. They learned about it the first week of kindergarten. Every kindergarten has “Shabbos parties”, which is as opposed to “regular parties”, where everyone brings in some kind of nosh, and unless everyone comes in with the same thing, they all go home with a bag containing an unwrapped mix of several types of nosh that do *not* go together, such as candy corn and popcorn, and everything tastes like everything else.

But with Shabbos party, only two kids bring in candy. In kindergarten, there’s a Shabbos Totty and a Shabbos Mommy, and they both bring candy into the marriage, which is, I guess what makes it such a good shidduch – their mutual love of candy. A lot of couples don’t have that.

My son, Gedalyah, is in Pre-1a, and for those of you who don’t live in the NY area, Pre-1a is a grade that we made up so we don’t have to teach our kids Aleph Beis and ABC in the same year, and have them write words going in random directions using a combination of Hebrew letters, English letters, and numbers, like an abnormally safe computer password.

But there are no girls in the class, so according to a note Gedalyah brought home, he was chosen to be something called a “Shabbos host”. The hosts are in charge of buying the food. The guests are in charge of showing up five minutes before *hadlakah* and asking after Shabbos whether they should strip the beds.

But that wasn’t *all* the note said. Apparently, he was supposed to bring something very specific for Shabbos party – apple juice.

This was a first for me. Last year, Gedalyah could bring whatever he wanted. And as far as I know, no one ever thought to bring a drink. When it was his turn, I used to bring him to the store and let him pick something, and then I’d say, “No, pick something else,” because there’s no way I’m sending in 22 of those candy-laser-*muktzah*-flashlights so the teacher can spend the rest of the day not teaching. Then I’d steer him toward something cheaper. Though one time he convinced me to send in whistle lollies. I made sure to include an apology note.

But the rebbi specifically wrote that Gedalyah had to bring two bottles of apple juice. I don’t know how one kid is supposed to bring two bottles of apple juice. Two bottles of apple juice is heavier than my kid.

But apparently, two bottles is just the right amount for the class, provided the rebbi pours the drinks. If the *kids* do, it’s enough for two kids to spill, *disastrously*, and then lean into their cups, surrounded

by juice, and sip it like *havdallah*.

(That’s not how you sip *havdallah*? I guess I need longer naps.)

I was worried that Gedalyah couldn’t lift the juices, so I had him bring up both bottles from the basement, just to see if he could. He was able to do it with one bottle in each hand, but he had to keep putting them down. I figured he’d be okay once they were in a knapsack.

So I put the bottles in his knapsack, and he couldn’t get it on, because you have to first lift the knapsack behind your back with one arm, and he couldn’t do that. I had to drive him to yeshiva, get out of the van, and put it on him myself, and then watch him tumble backward for a bit before leaning forward and running, trying to keep his momentum before he fell over.



I have no idea what he did when he got to the stairs.

In our house, there’s *also* no Shabbos Totty and Mommy, unless you count the *actual* Totty and Mommy. I’ve been the Shabbos Totty for 12 years now, and it’s not as fun as it sounds. All Shabbos afternoon, the kid are asking, “When’s Shabbos party?” “Can I earn my Shabbos party back?” “I don’t like this week’s Shabbos party.”

Does that happen with Shabbos party in school – that the kid shows up and everyone starts bothering him? (“What did you bring?” “Can I have?”) No, not when you’re the guy bringing the apple juice. Especially if you’re hunched over, hoping your rebbi notices you and helps you get your knapsack off before you fall over. But even the kid with the candy doesn’t get hassled, because you have a rebbi moderating it. I’m a Shabbos Totty every week, but you know what I need? A Shabbos *Rebbi*.

Maybe I should appoint one of my kids as the Shabbos *Rebbi* every week, and it would be his job to tell me what to buy last minute and make sure the other kids don’t hassle me. I need my sleep.

What does my son’s rebbi do every Shabbos? You think he wouldn’t mind coming over?

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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

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| 11. "___ the love of G-d!" | 29. Towards Genesis | 58. Steven Bochco's "Blue" cop show |
| 14. Biblical brother often paired with Gad | 32. They're near this puzzle | 60. David's was 70 at his end |
| 15. Norman Lear's "___ the Family" | 35. One of 49 | 61. Shtetl locale |
| 16. Oliver Stone's "___ Given Sunday" | 37. Mark of Cain, e.g. | 63. Rock genre of Joe Trohman's "Fall Out Boy" |
| 17. Cartoon family that breaks all the Commandments? | 38. Bird locale for doing the mitzvah of Shiluach HaKan | 64. Cartoon about writer R.L.'s ancestors? (with "The") |
| 19. YU's high school for boys | 40. What some might do at the Kotel on 9 Av | 66. What ppl. used to use to tape "The Nanny" |
| 20. Mother who brokered a temporary cease-fire in the 1982 Lebanon War | 42. "Young Frankenstein" hunchback, and others | 67. Esa ___ |
| 21. Unreturned serve for Sela | 43. Allergen in most challah | 68. End an IDF mission early |
| 22. Jerusalem or a National Park in 62-Down | 45. Kippur and HaZikaron | 69. Common tree in Israel |
| 23. Israeli news site | 47. Jew | 70. Rabbi Avi that made headlines |
| | 48. Empire that ruled Jerusalem for 400 years | 71. Simcha dances |
| | 50. "The Plot Against America" author | |

Down

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Mashuga like the Joker | 32. 2013 Best Picture winner with 52-Across |
| 2. How some look after fasting | 33. Yutz |
| 3. "___ Will Be Blood" (Day-Lewis film) | 34. Cartoon that's pure tref? |
| 4. Does teshuva, in a way | 36. Star of Steven's "Jaws" |
| 5. Ben Canaan and Gold | 39. Respected an elder |
| 6. Where Israel is outlined | 41. Make like Ben Stein in Ferris Bueller's class |
| 7. Idina's Queen of Arendelle, and others | 44. Actress Portman |
| 8. Say "G-d willing by you" at a wedding, e.g. | 46. Greatest of the prophets |
| 9. Rav Chen or City (viewing centers) | 49. Voldemort's snake that tries to kill Radcliffe's Potter |
| 10. Response to a Talmudic Q | 51. Maker of kosher (and tref) gummies |
| 11. Cartoon about a gentile man of the house? | 53. Simmons and Kelly |
| 12. "I'm ___ you!" (I'm no yutz!)" | 55. Jewish Federation funder |
| 13. Baseballer Braun | 56. Work by Gershwin or Mozart |
| 18. Bialik who played "Blossom" | 57. Bird locales for doing the mitzvah of Shiluach HaKan |
| 22. 1983 Woody Allen title character | 58. Har where 46-Down died |
| 25. Recent red states of those in blue states? | 59. JCC alternative |
| 26. Chagall, e.g. | 62. See 22-Across |
| 28. Poles that might be idoltarous | 64. Rob Reiner's "A ___ Good Men" |
| 30. First name in Israeli basketball | 65. Frank McCourt memoir or a contraction for Lazarus |
| 31. ___AQ, where many Israeli stocks are traded | |

See solution in this issue

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.

				8				4
2	8							9
	1		6	7				8
5		9	7					1
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3					4	5		7
	9		4	3			2	
	5						7	9
8			2					

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