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EDITION 15 - Rosh Hashanah/Fall 2012

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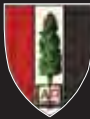
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Shana Tovah



As the summer ends, we begin to prepare for Rosh Hashanah. For each Jew, preparation means something different. It could be shopping for a shul, for a Hebrew school, praying the Selichot, deciding what to wear to shul, or what to cook for the family meal.

I believe that the beauty of the Jewish people lies in its own diversity. The laws were set on stone, but with a margin for vast interpretation. Once a student of mine asked me why G-d doesn't kill the person that does not follow His law. My answer was that if that happened, people would live in fear, and would not be able to do the right thing with joy - and would not have a love for G-d.

No matter how people relate or express their Judaism, we are all connected to the same history, Torah, and land of Israel. There is the Jew that walks to shul on Shabbat, there is the Jew that takes his family to a lobster festival on Shabbat. Neither are more Jewish than the other. We do not lose membership in the "Jewish club." We may weaken our connection with G-d by not following His commandments, but we are still Jewish even if we do not care about Judaism.

The beauty of Shalom Magazine is that in our three years of existence, we have been able to reach out to all kinds of Jews, the ones that pick up a copy at their temple, and the ones that pick one up at the supermarket after buying some scallops.

With many of Jewish people proudly talking about gymnast Aly Raisman of Needham, our contributors Susie Davidson and Susan Abramson bring a different take on Olympics-related activities. As the argument for circumcision resurfaces in many parts of the world, especially in Europe, our new contributor Eugene Ryvchin gives his opinion on this controversy. Also in this edition, I write about my trip to Los Angeles, and give parents some tips for traveling with kids, and on places to visit.

You are also invited to share your thoughts and ideas at www.facebook.com/shalommagazine or our website, www.shalomma.com. As per many requests, along with the free copy of Shalom Magazine available in many points in Massachusetts, we are now offering subscriptions. Happy Holidays. May you all be inscribed in the Book of Life.

Shirley Nigri Farber - Editor

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Cover: part of the Torah read during the Rosh Hashanah services: Akedat Yitzchak, the story of how Abraham was tested by G-d to offer his son as a sacrifice on Mount Moriah.

Photo and Art by Steve Schuster

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Community Event Listings

High Holy Days Broadcast on WCUW

Tuesday, Sept. 25, beginning approx 8 p.m., WCUW Radio, 91.3 FM and streaming live at wcuw.org, will broadcast the Kol Nidre service from Temple Emanuel in Worcester. (The service itself begins at 7:30 p.m.; the broadcast will be delayed for technical reasons.)

This broadcast is intended to serve those unable to attend services in person.

For further information, call either Troy Tyree at WCUW at 508-753-1012, or Kathy Freeburn at Temple Emanuel at 508-755-1257.

Wellesley/Weston

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Tifereth Israel of Peabody 90th anniversary

Congregation Tifereth Israel of Peabody will be holding a luncheon on October 21, in celebration of its 90th anniversary. CTI is the only Sephardic Temple north of Boston and is located at 8 Pierpont St., Peabody. For more information contact Elliot Hershoff at 978-531-7309.

Westborough

Temple Congregation B'nai Shalom, 117 East Main St., Westborough will host a Tot Shabbat on Saturday, Sept. 29 at 10:15 a.m. The clergy-led service in our Sanctuary will be followed by a nut-free oneg in the Sukkah. Please call 508-366-7191 or visit www.cbnaishalom.org.

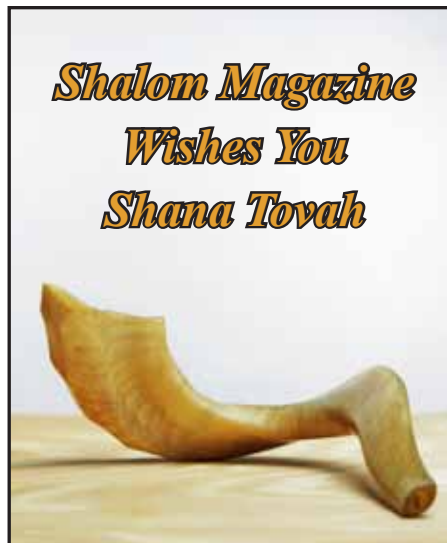
Lexington

Please join us at Temple Emunah in Lexington for one of our family-friendly High Holiday services, open to the public and free of charge! On both days of Rosh Hashanah and on Yom Kippur we offer two family services: a Tot Service, 9:30-10:15 a.m., geared towards families with kids ages 0-5 years old; and a Family Learner's Service, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., geared towards families with children in grades 3-6. Both services are followed by an oneg. Please RSVP to office@templeemunah.org.

Sudbury

Congregation Beth El, Sudbury will host on October 19 a special Shabbat Rinah service to kick off their 50th anniversary! Services will be followed by a conversation with Rabbi Jonah Pesner, Senior VP of the national Union for Reform Judaism (URJ). His talk is entitled, "Do Justly Love Mercy, and Walk Humbly with God: Celebrating Beth El through a Renewed Call for Justice." Beth El is located at 105 Hudson Rd., Sudbury. There is no charge for this event. Please visit our website www.bethelsudbury.org or call 978-443-9622 for more information.

For information on how to include your event in listings, please send an email to: shalomma@msn.com. Shalom is not responsible for the information provided by event organizers. Please contact them before attending.



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SIKH COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY EVENT



On August 23, 1400 interfaith community members gathered at Boston's Trinity Church to support the Sikh community in the wake of the terrible shooting at the Oak Creek Gurdwara on August 5.

Speakers included: The Rev. Dr. Samuel Lloyd III, Trinity Church, Boston; EkOngKar Sing Khalsa, Guru Ram Das Ashram and Gurdwara, Millis; Jeremy Burton, Executive Director, JCRC of Greater Boston, The Rev. Laura Everett, Massachusetts Council of Churches, The Very Rev. David C. Michael, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston; Dr. Nabeel Khudaira, Islamic Council of New England; Bhai Resham Sing, Gurudwara Guru Nanak Dabar, Medford; Sarbpreet Sing, Gurdwara Sahib in Milford.

Photos: JCRC/Boston



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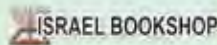
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SHOFAR FACTORY AT CHAI CENTER



Why a Ram and not a Cow? This was a topic of explanation at the Aug. 26 Shofar Factory at the Chai Center of Brookline. Led by Youth Director Rabbi Dovid Bush, a New York native who recently moved to Brookline, the fun and educational event was held for children and open to all families. The kids were able to witness how a shofar is made, and the delighted attendees then made a usable shofar to take home. They may even be sounding them on their own this Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

First the rams' horns are soaked in water, which makes the cartilage in the middle of the horn loosen so that it can be removed. So - why a ram's horn?

According to Dovid's wife and co-Youth Director Devorah Bush, cow horns are not allowed because they remind G-d of the sin of the Golden Calf. "Rosh Hashanah is a time to remind G-d of the good things we do," she said. "Anything associated with cows is a no-no."

Dovid Bush displayed a buffalo horn, which also is not allowed because it's associated with cows. Also, he said that deer horns can't be used for shofars, because they are made of solid bone. He then had Lily Green 6, help him use a bent hanger to measure the horn before cutting it with a table saw. After the horn was cut, Bush drilled a hole in the end. He then smoothed the edges with a sander and applied a layer of shellac everywhere but inside the shofar or at the tip where it is blown. It was then demonstration time, as he blew the newly-made shofar in a long, drawn-out tekiah.

He also blew the Chabad's traditional shofar. "This is a very special shofar," he said. "It belongs to us." Two weeks from the following day, he told the children, he would blow the shofar to signal the holiday.

"These shofars will be passed down to their great-great-great-grandchildren. This is a lifelong memory," said Dovid Bush.

Lily's mother, Eva, was as elated as her daughter. "There's usually a hands-on component here, like arts and crafts," she said, noting that the demonstration is just one of the great programs offered by the Chai Kidz division of the Chai Center. Devorah Bush echoed the sentiment: "I know how much fun they are, and it's a good way to bring a message as well." (S.D.)



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Canton Chai Center Activities:

Senior Buddies: Each month, on the second Sunday of every month, local community volunteers visit with seniors at the Trilling House in Randolph for an hour of friendship and fun. Community volunteers are welcome to join us and participate in this important mitzvah! It's a fun and generous way to spend a Sunday morning!

Jewish Business Network: Join the fastest growing club of professionals and enterprernerus once a month for networking and tips on growing your business. The group meets monthly on Tuesdays, 7:30 a.m. in Canton.

Gymnastics for Tots at the NEW state-of-the-art facility Metro South South Gymnastics Academy, Canton. First Thursday of every month, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Meet local Jewish families as your tots tumble, twist, and turn on the newest equipment, with a special safe space for Babies. \$15/ Family. For a complete listing of all the Chai Center's upcoming activities and events, please email: JewishCanton@gmail.com or call 781-956-2507. Please visit CantonChaiCenter.com.

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David Horovitz is the founding editor of *The Times of Israel*. He was previously editor-in-chief of *The Jerusalem Post* and editor and publisher of the award-winning news magazine, *The Jerusalem Report*. While in Israel, Horovitz has written for newspapers around the world, including *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Irish Times* and *(London) Independent*. He is a frequent interviewee on CNN, BBC, Sky, Fox News, NPR and other TV and radio stations.



Off with their heads! A response to the attack on circumcision

By Eugene Ryvchin

As is frequently the case on a slow news day when newspapers are struggling to get online comments, the argument for circumcision resurfaces.

Today's contribution comes from the BBC, and they promptly received 1,467 comments. As is predictable with any online publication the article aims to be as sensationalist as possible and combines inaccurate history with specious medical "facts".

There are several key arguments that are consistently raised and should probably be answered once and for all, as frankly, they're not that complex.

"Circumcision is tantamount to mutilation"

The part of this argument that always interests me is that it is raised by people with piercings, tattoos and other superficial 'mutilations'. There is a vast difference between mutilation and what you could essentially call a cosmetic procedure with cultural significance. Mutilation is a wonderful word, it creates instant outrage purely for phonetic reasons, which explains why it is used more frequently than modification or a similar descriptor. For those who look at circumcision outside of a cultural angle it is essentially a matter of aesthetics.

"It is medically unsafe and unnecessary"

There are likely to be hundreds of millions of men today who have been circumcised and a statistically insignificant percentage have ever had complications. There are definitely medical risks associated with any procedure and the vast majority of these are the

result of unsanitary conditions. It has been universally established by all medical researchers that the risks of the procedure are minute.

The necessity of the procedure however is a separate argument. Historically there have been medical reasons for the process, mostly around the risk of HIV and urinary tract infections, however with modern medical care these have been reduced somewhat. Most medical authorities still agree that there is a potential benefit from an HIV perspective, in fact the World Health Organisation (WHO) is encouraging circumcisions in Africa as part of the efforts to reduce HIV infection, but the reality is that the number of people making this decision for medical reasons is fairly small.

The answer to this question then is that it is marginally beneficial but not medically necessary, however it is also not medically harmful and the choice should very rarely be made for purely medical reasons.

"The child has no say"

This is completely undeniable and entirely true. Much like the baby has no say as to whether they are vaccinated, given haircuts, have their ears pierced, given medicines or the choice of nappy brands. As parents you are responsible for your children. You are responsible for all decisions related to your children until they are old enough to look after themselves, and even then you are responsible for them to some degree.

No responsible parent will make a decision related to their child against what they believe to be in their child's best interest and so what right does any other person have to stop someone from performing a safe, legal and culturally significant procedure on their child?

The argument that this is a permanent process that your child undergoes is true, but there are also permanent impacts to being given formula instead of breast-milk, but imagine the uproar if a parent was scorned for choosing one over the other. Imagine how you as a parent would feel after being told that you are raising your child wrong and harming it through an act you choose based on what you believe to be in their best interests, and an act that has no practical issues but is of deep emotional significance.

Basically, yes, it is true that the child has no say, but it is also true that the parents do have a say and that individuals outside that relationship have no right to interfere in those decisions where there is no evidence whatsoever that the child is being harmed in any way.

"It is cruel and causes suffering which will have a permanent effect"

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Off with their heads! A response to the attack on circumcision

Every parent works hard to ensure that their child stays healthy and avoids any pain whatsoever. Every parent runs to their child when they hit their head, so then why would they voluntarily perform something that is painful? The truth is that it's not painful. Having experienced this first hand, I had the typical fears and there is truly nothing worse than hearing your child cry. There are many resources online which display the process. There is an amount of pain when the first anaesthetic injection takes place, and yet the child keeps crying after that. It took me a few minutes to work out why, it had nothing to do with the process itself as evidenced by the fact that there was no correlation between a cut being made and the child's response, the yelling is purely because of the pressure put on a child's arms when holding him. As soon as the procedure was over and the hold was relaxed he was fine, seconds later he was laughing again.

People will argue that you cannot possibly know how much the process hurts the child and that is of course true. But just like you cannot say it is of no significance to them you can also not say it is highly traumatic. All you have to go on is the boy's reaction. You cannot hide from the fact that it is a confusing situation for the child, but frankly the vaccinations he was given had the exact same effect and create a bigger long term pain.

Due to coming from the former USSR where religious rituals were strictly prohibited, I underwent the procedure when I was eight years old. It was in no way pleasant. I don't remember the actual procedure at all, which may indicate it had very little effect on me, but I do remember the recovery process and the gauze that I wore for about a week. I have no recollection at all of it being a painful recovery, more of a slightly annoying one due to the need to change the protective barrier. Things are very different for an eight day old boy. The recommendation is that a piece of gauze be put into the nappy for around a week, but that is it. Any stitches, if required, dissolve within that week at no pain at all to the child and within that week there is absolutely no sign of tenderness. Within a few hours of the procedure there is no identifiable pain from nappy changes. The rate of recovery is incredibly fast and the likelihood of complications is not only tiny but also limited to minor ailments that are typically treated with a day or two of Panadol or similar weak medicine used for minor ailments.

"Why do it?"

For Jews and Muslims this is an irrelevant question, the deep

significance of the ritual to them is clear; but why do other people do it? The most commonly cited reasons are: to fit in; medical reasons; so that they're the same as the father; aesthetics. None of these reasons are right or wrong and it is completely inappropriate to categorise them as such, they are simply reasons and they are personal reasons.

Enough social services exist to protect the welfare of children, and not a single one will raise issue with this decision being made, and frankly no authority should have a right to do so without simultaneously jailing parents who pierce the ears of their children when they are two.

"It should be made illegal"

There have been recent calls in some countries to ban the process, most notably in Germany. There has been little argument to the effect that these are political decisions to appease a minority who are likely to support what they call ethnic purity. Some call this an anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim policy and they are somewhat correct as this would ban a process that is a cornerstone of these cultures, however it also affects people outside these faiths who simply wish to do this for reasons of tradition and personal preference.

The bottom lines is, what would be the benefit of making this illegal, other than to effectively drive out the families in that society, which is where the ethnic cleansing motivation comes in?

Aside from the cultural issues, we must analyse the greater effect, particularly on the children. The most likely effect of such a policy is that these procedures will no longer be performed in a safe environment by a trained professional; instead they will be performed in darkened basements by people with no training and no access to appropriate tools. Surely this has a far more negative impact than the procedure itself.

But again, it is almost comical that the majority of groups calling for these bans are alleged proponents of civil liberties. Whose liberties are they seeking to protect? There is no religion that bans this process, there is no medical body that bans this process, so what is the reasoning behind outlawing a tradition that is thousands of years old and is the norm for a large percentage of the male population?

Eugene Ryvchin is a finance director, the co-chair of the South London Jewish Primary School (www.sljps.co.uk), and a father of two and a writer for *The Jewish Thinker* (www.jewishthinker.org).

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Happy faces at the Shaloh House community barbecue on Sunday August 12 at Shaloh House. Over 100 people in attendance.



Wellesley Chabad



Senator Scott Brown and his wife Gail Huff join the Bar Mitzvah of close friend Mendy Bleich, son of Rabbi Moshe and Geni Bleich of Wellesley Weston Chabad

Family Simchas in Hull



Sylvia Selig of Stoughton at her granddaughter's birthday in Hull: Filip Cerny and Justin, Kim Cerny, Sylvia Selig, Ann, Michael, Amanda Pratt and Brian Pratt, and Haley Cerny.

Shaloh House Chabad of the South Area

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Rabbi Susan Abramson

As I watched Aly Raisman win two gold and one bronze medal at the Summer Olympics, I was filled with pride, not just because she is American, not just because she's from Massachusetts, but because she is Jewish. The fact that she has such a strong Jewish identity, performing her floor exercise to Hava Nagila, dedicating her gold medal to the 11 Israeli athletes killed in Munich 40 years ago, happily accepting an invitation by the Israeli government to visit Israel, and good-heartedly putting her medal around her coach's neck, made me proud to have her represent our Jewish family.

Listening to Aly's parents recount the innumerable hours they sacrificed so she could prepare for this event reminded me of the dilemma faced by so many Jewish parents who have similar aspirations for their young children. Their kids have soccer games Saturday mornings. The gymnastics teacher tells them their child has potential and needs to practice five days a week. The only swim class they can fit into their schedule is during religious school hours. Friday evenings are the only time they can take Karate.

We want our children to feel Jewish, understand their Jewish faith, attend holiday celebrations, and have a connection with their people. But our eyes are on the prize of our child being a winning athlete or musician, developing their coordination and self-confidence on the baseball field or concert hall.

In addition to the time commitment, there are so many reasons not to bother with a Jewish education. It is an extra expense to join a temple. It is another day or two of school for our kids and another place to have to schlep them to. It's another language our kids have to learn on top of all the other stressors in their lives.

But over the past 31 years in the rabbinate, I have received numerous phone calls from parents who are anguished over their adult child's abandonment of his or her Jewish faith. They can't understand why they can't get him or her to High Holiday services, or why he or she is now observing the traditions and holidays of the non-Jewish spouse, and why the grandchildren are not being raised as Jews. I am empathetic as I listen to their plight. But what I hear is that they gave their child the training to be a good athlete or musician at the expense of

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Every four years the Olympics begins with the spectacle of the Olympic torch being handed from one great athlete to the next as it makes its way to the Olympic stadium. The Mishnah Pirkei Avot begins with the words “Moses received the Torah from Sinai and handed it down to Joshua; Joshua to the elders; the elders to the prophets; and the prophets handed it down to the Men of the Great Assembly.”

We would no longer exist as a people if each generation didn't pass the flame of our faith, peoplehood, values, traditions and culture on to the next generation. If just one generation in our family, going all the way back to Moses at Mt. Sinai, were not deliberate in passing the Torah, the flame of our faith, to the next generation, or if someone hadn't kindled the fire within us to take on the mantle of the Jewish faith, the flame would have long ago been extinguished. From Abraham and Isaac, to Moses and the Israelites in the desert, to the times of the destruction of both Temples in Jerusalem, to the Middle Ages, pogroms in Eastern Europe, the Holocaust, to 11 Israeli Olympic athletes 40 years ago, our ancestors have sacrificed dearly in their quest

to keep our Jewish star burning brightly.

In our era of great opportunity comes the great responsibility and challenge to consciously do whatever we can to pass the Torah to the next generation. We cannot take it for granted that our children will be Jewish just because we are. They need good coaching, lots of practice and parental support to successfully internalize a winning Jewish spirit – by getting a good Jewish education, participating in

the life of the synagogue, regularly observing Jewish holidays at home and at temple, learning what it means to do a mitzvah, and helping the world to be a better place.

Our children are standing, waiting, torch in hand. If we don't purposefully and proudly pass them the flame, they will fumble along in the dark, without a sense of belonging, of connection, of purpose.

The Raisman family is an inspiration for all of us. Aly's parents made sure to balance her rigorous training schedule with a good Jewish education. She attended religious school and became a Bat Mitzvah. Her family continues to participate in the life of her temple community. We can make sure our children have it all if we are mindful of our priorities. As we begin the spectacle of the High Holy days and pass from one year to the next, we realize that all of our children can be Jewish stars if we make the sacrifice

to give them the pride in their Jewish heritage.

Rabbi Susan Abramson is the rabbi of Temple Shalom Emeth, Burlington (shalom-emeth.org). She is the longest-serving female rabbi in Massachusetts. She is the author of the Rabbi Rocketpower series of Jewish children's books (rabbirocketpower.com).

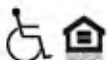


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Coaching with the Brestyans: Randolph native, local gymnast remembers her time at famed gym

Susie Davidson

“Six Degrees of Separation” stories from those who “knew Olympic gymnast Aly Raisman when” are popping up everywhere in the greater Needham, Mass. community. Amid the anecdotes spun by former schoolmates, acquaintances and friends of friends, however, it is, arguably, fellow gymnasts who perhaps have the most right to kvell. They include gymnast Heidi Milender Val, often seen as a child turning cartwheels on her lawn in the Jewish neighborhood of Althea Park in Randolph, Mass., and involved in Mihai Brestyan’s now-famed Burlington gym from the beginning.

“Chris Sudbey and I were co-captains in the UMass Amherst class of 1982,” she recollected from her home in Surprise, Arizona, where she works as a trainer at Arizona Prestige Gymnastics and Cheer in nearby Glendale. “She opened American Gymnastics in Ashland, and in 2000, when her husband transferred to Maryland, she sold the gym to Mihai Brestyan.”

Brestyan and his wife Silvia renamed the gym Brestyan’s American Gymnastics. In Romania, they had coached with Béla Károlyi, a renowned Russian gymnastics coach of Hungarian origin. After he and his wife, Martha, defected to the US during a gymnastics tour in 1981, Károlyi went on to coach, among others, Olympic gold medalists Mary Lou Retton and Julianne McNamara at the 1984 L.A. Olympic Games (Retton was the first American gymnast to win gold). Károlyi also trained Nadia Comăneci, a Romanian gymnast, who scored the first perfect 10.00 at the

1976 Montreal Olympics. Martha is the current US national team coordinator, and to date, the Károlyis, who hold dual Hungarian-US citizenship, have trained not only numerous US national champions, but nine Olympic champions, fifteen world champions and sixteen European medalists as well.

Milender Val was living on Venice Beach, California and coaching at Broadway Gymnastics in Santa Monica at the time American Gymnastics opened. She returned to the East Coast and coached there, and then at Brestyan’s, from 1996 to 2002.



Heidi Milender Val doing a back tuck on the balance beam during the 1982 Santa Monica Gym Fest

Brestyan had served as a National Team Coach in Israel, a position he also held in Romania (his wife Silvia has also held both distinctions). During the time the Brestyans were coaching in Israel, Milender Val’s late brother Billy Milender lived on a kibbutz and served as a Purple Berate in the Israel Army in the Givati Brigade. Founded in 1947, the Brigade name was transferred in 1956 to the IDF’s 17th brigade, which operated in that year’s Sinai Campaign as well as in the 1967 Six Day War, within the Central Command. In June of 1983, the Givati Brigade was resurrected as a regular infantry

brigade with marine amphibious landings equipment, involved in security operations in the Territories, monitoring the borders, and assuming positions in Lebanon. The unit includes Yeshiva students who serve in combat tours of duty. “His Israeli friends from Givati remember him dearly and send pictures of him often through Facebook,” said Milender Val, who said that following his IDF service and before his untimely passing, Billy moved to Surprise, married and had a daughter, and became a Deputy Sheriff in Maricopa County.

Milender Val said that according to Sudbey, it was a Jewish gymnast who practiced at a Woburn gym called “Gym ‘n More” who got the Brestyans to coach in America. “Chris told me that the gymnast traveled to Israel, where she worked out with the Brestyans,” she said. “She got Gym ‘n More owner Jenn Scanell to hire him, and Silvia made the arrangements to bring him to Woburn to coach there. Brestyan quickly developed a loyal clientele, and after he bought the gym in Ashland, all of his team members followed, traveling an hour each way to get there. One such member was Alicia Sacramone. “She was about 12,” recalled Milender Val. “Ultimately, she was on the 2008 Olympic Team in Beijing, but fell on the beam and went out of bounds on the floor – not the Olympic experience she expected.” (However, the team took silver, so Sacramone did walk away with a silver medal, and later became the world champion in vault.)

At the gym, there were moments of levity within the rigor. Sacramone took pains to teach Milender Val’s daughter how to pull her ponytail to make the scrungie tighter. And mother and daughter remember playing elbow tag with the team kids one summer. Somehow, Alicia got Mihai to play,” she said. “It was too funny...he’s such a serious type guy.”

Raisman began training with Brestyan in 2006, the year he moved the gym to Burlington. Milender Val, bound for Arizona, didn’t get to work with her. She has, however, followed her career closely since getting a first look at the future Olympiad at the Tyson America Cup in Worcester in March of 2010: “I knew right then that she was going to be a star,” she recalled.



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She was correct: Raisman placed second all around (first on vault, and second on beam and floor exercise), went on to excel at global competitions prior to qualifying for the Olympics, and we know the rest.

Milender Val competed in gymnastics during college at UMass, where she majored in Sports Management. At one time, she was one of only five people in the country who could perform Sacramone's mount on beam. She has continued to compete in events throughout her life, and her children appear to have followed in her fleet footsteps. Older son Jared plays baseball at Simpson University, and just returned from a summer of playing baseball in the Cranberry Baseball League in southern Mass. Daughter Nikki, an honors student and varsity cheerleader, is entering her Junior year at Dysart High School in El Mirage. Her younger son, Tyler, is entering his freshman year in Willow Canyon High School in Surprise's Cambridge Academic Program for gifted students who maintain 4.0 GPA, and plays Scout Soccer for the Benfica Youth Soccer League.

"I've been going to the gym since I was 11 years old," said Milender Val. "That's over 40 years." No matter what was going on in the outside world, it all got left the door. "I've been blessed to have a job I love doing and feel good about and to be

able to help turn young female athletes into flexible and strong, courageous ladies," she said.

Brestyan taught Milender Val drills on vault and tumbling that she still uses today. "He had brought another Romanian coach to Ashland, whom we called Nello," she recalled. Soon, Nello, Brestyan, their wives, and Milender Val were coaching together. "Nello's wife and I spoke Spanish, and I spoke a little Hebrew with Silvia, as well as with two Israeli girls Brestyan had brought to the gym," she said, recalling a melting pot of languages and nationalities. Indeed, the Brestyans spoke Hebrew, Romanian, Spanish and English, and Nello, who had coached in Venezuela, spoke Romanian and Spanish, as did his wife.

Communication issues notwithstanding, they got the job done. "It was amazing - you could walk into the gym any week day after 5 p.m. and you would see all these girls doing incredible stuff, over and over again," said Milender Val, who still treasures her Brestyan's jacket. But it was also no wonder. "Silvia is a phenomenal beam and floor coach, and Mihai an incredible vault and tumbling coach."


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Striar Hebrew Academy welcomes Head of School Rabbi Yehudah Potok

20th century philosopher Eric Hoffer once said, "In time of change, learners inherit the earth, while the learners find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists."



Learning is a life-long endeavor. It is not something that we "accomplish" and check off our list. Rich or poor, old or young, we always need to be on a continuum of learning. This embodies the educational philosophy of Rabbi Yehudah Potok, the new head of school at Striar Hebrew Academy.

"As a school, we engage our students' imagination and encourage them to think critically," says Potok. "We want our school community – students, staff, and parents – to actively be asking questions and seeking answers. We want our community of learners to be one where we inspire each other to discover new worlds."

We want a community that encourages risk-taking and not only allows for failure, but celebrates challenges as a means to accomplishment."

Rabbi Potok's career in education began in the Greater Boston area. He served as the director of academics and dean of faculty at the Prozdor Hebrew High School of Hebrew College, a school of over 750 students at the time. While at Hebrew College, he was also the Associate Director of Ha'Merkaz, The Center for Jewish Education for Teens, and he taught at the Shoolman Graduate School of Education. Rabbi Potok is also well-known in the Camp Yavneh community, as he served as Assistant Director of the camp, spent 13 summers there, and met his wife Shira there. He recently returned to Sharon with his family after having served as head of school at Oakland Hebrew Day School, a K-8 Modern Orthodox day school in California, for the past three years.

"As a child I had always dreamed of living in a rural area, but with access to a strong Jewish community," Potok recalls. "In Sharon, I have found that dream, and Striar is very much at the heart of what makes this community so warm, committed and vibrant."

Rabbi Potok has hit the ground running, getting to know families and community leaders, and setting productive, yet realistic, goals for SHAS. "My vision is for Striar to be a crowning jewel of this community, where students are engaged in a loving environment of exploration and growth," says Potok. "We will begin by building upon our strong school culture to advance a community of learning for students, staff, and parents."

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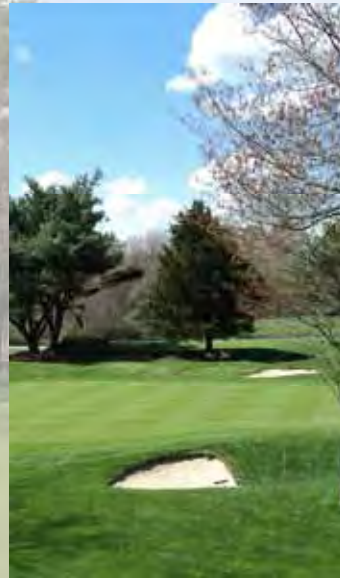
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Where Do You Stand: Tashlich and Watersheds

Where do you stand?

Often we are asked this question about a political issue or a moral question, or about something both practical and philosophical such as where to live or how to raise our children. But we also always stand in a very physical place, and the place we stand in determines the view we see into the world.

On Rosh Hashanah afternoon, Jewish tradition teaches us to find living, flowing waters, and stand beside them and toss our bread crumbs into the water as a way to symbolically cast away our "sins". Where we stand in this vast United States determines very literally what happens to those crumbs. If we stand on the Continental Divide high in the Montana or Colorado mountains, on the boundary between the two great watersheds of our country, the waters to one side will eventually carry our bread crumbs, or what remains of them, into the Atlantic Ocean. The waters on the other side will carry them into the Pacific Ocean.

Closer to home, if I stand at a certain conservation area near my home, the waters to one side will carry my bread crumbs through streams into the Charles River and thus to Boston Harbor and the Atlantic Ocean. On the other side, the flowing waters will carry my crumbs to the Sudbury River and then to the Concord and Merrimack Rivers, and thus out to the Atlantic.

Where we literally stand determines the direction our very physical bread crumbs take after they leave our hands during the ritual of tashlich (meaning "you shall cast") on Rosh Hashanah afternoon. And yet, no matter into which stream we drop our crumbs, they all end up - if they survive the ride - in the ocean, and all the Earth's oceans are connected. We humans just gave different names to different parts of one huge body of salt water.

So, too, with those aspects of our lives we'd like to part with - our easy anger, our petty jealousies, our oversensitivities, our unintended greediness, and more. As we name them quietly to ourselves or out loud to our loved ones, we put them out into the universe with the hope that they will flow outward from our souls and into the Source



of Healing, and that we will find ourselves more whole as a result. The more aware we are of where we stand spiritually and emotionally, the more honest we can be as we attempt to rid ourselves of our "sins," and as a result, the more likely we will be to find some measure of peace. So, too, the more aware we are of our physical space, the more likely we are to experience the healing flow, or shefa, that comes to us through the physical world: "A river flows forth from Eden to water the garden." (Gen. 2:10)

And so, I invite you to locate a nearby river or stream and, if you wish, to determine the direction of the water flow and in which watershed you stand. (At <http://www.mass.gov/eea/land-use-habitats/antural-resource-damages/view-watersheds-by-region.html> you will find a helpful map as well as a spreadsheet to help you find out in which watershed you live or stand.) On Rosh Hashanah afternoon, visit your selected spot for tashlich, but instead of breadcrumbs, which are in essence a source of pollution, you can pick up bits of leaves or pine needles or pebbles from beside the stream. This small act of kindness toward the Earth can be an important step in our effort to cast off our old ways, making us more aware of what we are doing.

Consider where you are standing both physically and spiritually, consider your relationship to the Earth and to the Holy One, and give your personal struggles up to the flow of the Divine Presence. Consider the words from the prophet Micah, "Who is like You, God, who removes iniquity and overlooks transgression... You shall cast into the depths of the sea all their sins." (Micah 7:18-19) Then cast your bits of nature into the water, giving them up, one by one, to the flow of water through the watershed into the one vast pool of water on our planet. Do your best to go with the flow.

Rabbi Katy Z. Allen lives in Wayland, and is a chaplain at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, and the founder and leader of Ma'yan Tikvah - A Wellspring of Hope, a congregation without walls that holds services outdoors all year round. Through the Nature Chaplaincy Program of Ma'yan Tikvah, she leads interfaith programs connecting nature and spirituality.

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ISRAEL'S HUNGER GAMES

Dr. Rebecca Housel

Israel is a hotbed of talent, not just for new innovations in things like jewelry design and fashion, but also in the tech industry. In fact, Israel is second only to Silicon Valley in its number of tech start-ups. And industry giants like Google are taking notice: Google recently set up an incubator in Israel to both host and fund 20 different tech-based start-ups, such as the company Funtactix.

Funtactix is a Tel Aviv-based tech company that has helped carve out what has become a \$100-billion dollar per year niche: pairing social network gaming with Hollywood blockbusters. What kind of blockbusters? Movies like *The Hunger Games*, it's one of the highest-grossing films in Hollywood history, based on the dystopian young adult novel by Connecticut writer Suzanne Collins. And the audience for social network gaming is "hungry" for more: according to Funtactix CEO Sam Glassenberg, nearly half a billion people play social network games.

Funtactix was a small company in Tel Aviv at its start in 2006; just six years later, it has offices in Jerusalem, New York and Los Angeles. Glassenberg joined Funtactix in 2008; before taking the lead at Funtactix, he was with Microsoft.

Glassenberg and Funtactix were the first to bring out a social network game at the same time as the movie release, proving not only that Israel is a wellspring of powerhouse tech talent, but that Hollywood needs Israel.

Getting studios like Paramount, Warner Bros. and Lions Gate to sign up wasn't easy, according to Glassenberg. However, by being the first company to release a social network game simultaneously with the movie, using basic Flash for console-quality graphics (an invaluable feature with role-playing games like the one Funtactix created for *The Hunger Games*), Funtactix eliminated the need for expensive gaming consoles. That means that anybody with a smartphone or tablet can play social network games anytime, and Israel's *Hunger Games* anywhere, making gaming the new accessible favorite for people of all ages...half a billion people of all ages, that is.

Other movies Funtactix has joined forces with benefitting the social network gaming community include the animated feature film *Rango*, starring the voice of Johnny Depp, as well as the popular *Mission Impossible* franchise starring Tom Cruise. Israeli game designers have had decades of experience working with Hollywood on gaming concepts, breaking social barriers in not just the gaming community, but attracting broader audiences across the board.

What does all this mean for Israel? The new industry niche has created new jobs in Israel and the States, and has helped promote Israel's culture and economy, creating new educational and development opportunities for what is the only Jewish state on the planet. The other benefit: companies like Funtactix are helping retain Israel's talent pool. As technology continues to become more personalized, Israel's foothold in social network gaming means even greater economic horizons in Israel's future and beyond. Unquestionably, Israel's continued growth and prosperity benefits Jews everywhere.

Similar to the protagonists in *The Hunger Games*, Israel's tech-talent is winning at competing in the social gaming arena...but instead of facing a dystopian future, Israel is now an integral part of the Hollywood dream.

The Hunger Games, which opened in March 2012, was recently released on DVD; the next sequel in the franchise will premiere next fall. Join Funtactix's *The Hunger Games Adventures* on Facebook today and see Israel's talent for yourself. But fair warning! You may become dangerously addicted to what is fast becoming the newest icon in pop culture: Israel.

Dr. Rebecca Housel is an author and editor in The Philosophy & Pop Culture Series; she is in her eighteenth year as a professor, teaching a wide variety of topics involving social theory, including popular culture and film. Her next appearance is at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Ohio on September 29th. For more information on Dr. Housel, please visit her website: www.RebeccaHousel.com.



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ANSWER:

Spread mayonnaise over both sides of the fish before adding bread crumbs mixed with a little bit of lemon zest. Also when the fish flakes, it is done. Don't overbake. This should solve your problem.

You Never Know

For over 35 years Zadie's favorite words were "You never know." Zadie worked in engineering. Our basement had boxes and boxes of papers, pamphlets and periodicals, and every time I mentioned to clean them out, Zadie's usual words were, "You never know, perhaps the grandchildren will study engineering and need references and information."

The children had their books and papers too. Their excuses were, "they are memories and when I get my own home, I will take them." Well, over the years, nothing happened. Finally, I said "Zadie, everything is now available on the internet." Needless to say, the grandchildren also did not go into engineering.

I said to the children, "You now have your own home. ENOUGH is ENOUGH! Everything out by the end of the summer!" Now, the only treasure I have found is a recipe that I would like to share with you.

Wishing you a Healthy and Sweet New Year!

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 Bubbe is a #1 amazon.com bestselling author in the kosher category. She has been featured in the Wall Street Journal, ABC World News, and the Boston Globe. Her show can be seen online or on JLTV Comcast Channel 196 in Boston. You can purchase her book at any Barnes & Noble Bookstore or at www.bubbebook.com. Used with permission from Chalutz Productions.

Bubbe's Stuffed Cabbage Rolls

Serves 6 to 8 - Perfect for Simchas Torah



1 medium green cabbage (3 to 3 1/2 pounds)

Filling

1 pound ground beef
 1 large egg
 3/4 cup cooked white rice
 1 tbs. finely chopped onions
 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
 1 tbs. ketchup

Sauce

1 (6 ounce) can tomato paste
 1/4 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
 1 1/4 cups sugar or honey or more to taste
 1/4 cup raisins
 1 1/2 cups water

Cut bottom off cabbage and remove tough outer leaves. Place cabbage in a large pot, cover with water and put cover on pot bring to a boil over high heat. Turn heat to low. Simmer cabbage until the leaves are slightly soft.

Take cover off and let cool slightly. Place cabbage on a plate until it is easy to handle. Carefully peel the leaves from the cabbage. Trim a little of the thick bottom back stem of each leaf. You will need about 10 to 12 leaves. If a leaf tears, patch it with a piece of another leaf.

To make the filling, combine the ground beef, egg, garlic powder and ketchup in a large bowl. Mix everything together with a fork until it is well combined.

To make the sauce, combine lemon juice, raisins and water in a bowl, stir well until everything is combined.

Place one cabbage leaf on a plate in front of you. At the stem end of the leaf, carefully fold in that end and sides and roll the leaf tightly, creating a roll. Place the roll seam side down (SEE NOTE) on top of the cut-up cabbage leaves.

Repeat with the rest of the cabbage leaves and filling.

Pour sauce over the cabbage rolls. Turn the heat down to low and simmer for 1 1/2 hours.

Place the cabbage rolls on a serving plate and pour sauce over them.

Will keep in the refrigerator for several days and freezes well.
 NOTE: Take the leftover inner part of the cabbage. Cut into good-sized pieces. Place at the bottom of the pot before adding the stuffed cabbage rolls.



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Temple Israel



The Nantasket Beach Resort

Hull, Massachusetts

History of the Jewish people in Hull, MA

Rhoda Kanet

In the 1920s, a large summer population of wealthy Jews would come to vacation in Hull. They soon realized that they needed a synagogue for the summer, and raised sufficient funds to build a beautiful Spanish-themed synagogue called Temple Israel. However, in deciding which way it would face, an argument arose. Those more observant wanted the alter and the synagogue to face East toward Jerusalem, as is traditional. Those more practical-minded asserted that the windows must face east and west to take advantage of the breezes from the ocean and the bay, as it was a summer synagogue, after all, and needed to be a comfortable place to pray.

The pragmatists won out and the synagogue faces north with beautiful stained glass windows, which open wide, on the east and west sides, and do, in fact, provide breezes all summer long. In the 40s and 50s, large numbers of Jews moved to Hull, and found themselves in need of a larger building for their religious school and community center than could be provided for by the small Youth Center located next to Temple Israel. So they raised money and built a building at 600 Nantasket Avenue, to house the Religious School and serve as a community center, and named it Temple Beth Sholom. All three structures operate somewhat autonomously even to this day, with separate boards and budgets. It was envisioned that Temple Israel would serve as the sanctuary for Temple Beth Sholom, and it did so for many years. But as Temple Israel aged, it became apparent that the heating and upkeep costs to use it as a sanctuary during the winter became prohibitive. During the same period, the Jewish winter population began to decline from its peak of almost 30 percent of the town in the 40s, 50s and 60s, to less than 10 percent today. It was decided by Temple Beth Sholom to begin to use Temple Beth Sholom during the winter months and close Temple Israel for the winter once the weather became cold. Although there are still three separate boards of directors and three separate budgets for the three buildings, Temple Beth Sholom pays half the expenses of Temple Israel and has use of the facility from Labor Day until July 4, when Temple Israel takes control.

Until a few years ago, Temple Israel operated in a more "Orthodox" fashion where women and men were separated and women were not counted toward a minyan or allowed to read from the Torah. Temple Beth Sholom, on the other hand, considered itself Conservative and Egalitarian. This dichotomy changed, however, when a few years ago, the Board of Temple Israel voted to go egalitarian. The result was that many who didn't join because of the "perceived" exclusion of women did join, but many of the Orthodox felt disenfranchised and left the Temple, and to this day, run services out of private homes.



Temple Beth Sholom

Vacation Without Much Travel

During the summer, I spent a weekend at the Nantasket Beach Resort in Hull, and became curious when I saw two synagogues next to each other in a such a small town. So I went to get more information with my neighbor and friend Silvia Selig, who lived in Hull from 1952 to 1996. Together with her husband, she opened Selig Plumbing, which is still in the family.

Silvia, who lives in Stoughton, told me that the person that knows Jewish Hull better than anyone is Rhoda Kanet. So I called Rhoda and left a message. As luck would have it, the next day I was at a No Place For Hate meeting at the Anti-Defamation League office in Boston, and happened to meet a woman named Rhoda, from Hull. What a great coincidence! Rhoda lived in Hull all her life, worked at the temple as a program director, served on the school committee and is on the board of many town organizations. She already knew about Shalom, so she was happy to write about Hull.

At the Nantasket Beach Resort we saw many pictures and paintings depicting the story of the town. They included a miniature of the famed rollercoaster. We had a great time; we enjoyed our ocean view room, the indoor pool, the sandy beach just a few steps away, and the boardwalk in the afternoon. We had a delicious and reasonably priced meal at the hotel restaurant; Paragon Grill, and also a buffet-style breakfast. The hotel is well-known for its beachfront function halls. It also has a game room that is perfect for those traveling with kids.

Most people remember Hull, but of its legendary Paragon Park, today only the Carrousel is left. Many Jews remember it as a vacation place where they would go with the family and meet many friends. (S.F.)

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A Young Alan Dershowitz and Jackie Robinson

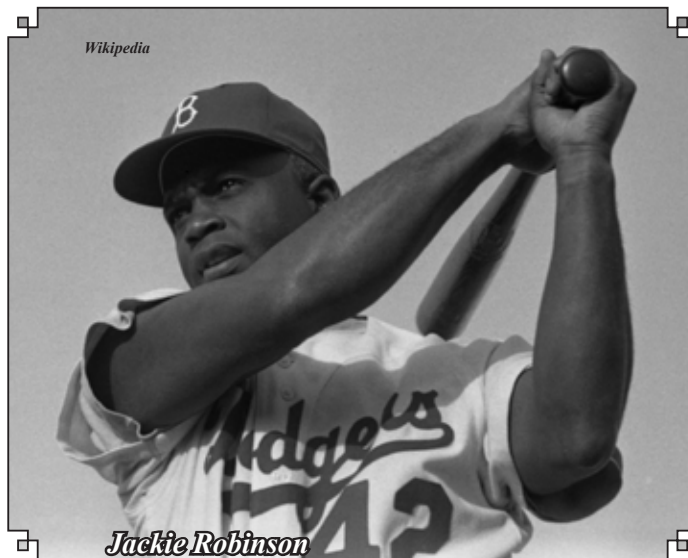
The following excerpt is from the story on Alan Dershowitz in Larry Ruttman's book, *American Jews and America's Game*. Larry interviewed Alan in his office at Harvard Law School in 2009, and on August 9, 2012, they again joined up for over two hours to broadcast a *Martha's Vineyard Sharks* baseball game in *Oak Bluffs*.

Alan Dershowitz told of his unpromising beginnings in the Williamsburg and Borough Park sections of Brooklyn with sly humor.

"Well, I was born in Williamsburg which was really the first Jewish Brooklyn neighborhood because it was right across the Williamsburg Bridge from the Lower East Side. You could just walk over the bridge. My parents had moved to Williamsburg from the Lower East Side when they were teenagers, maybe younger than teenagers, and met and married there. We moved to Borough Park – which was the suburbs, basically, in a different part of Brooklyn closer to the Verrazano Bridge – when I was young. So I grew up in Borough Park. We were an Orthodox Jewish family, but we didn't wear *yarmulkes*, we wore baseball caps. We wore *yarmulkes* in the house, but on the street it was baseball caps, it was baseball gloves. I always had a baseball glove; I was always breaking it in. I would sit with the Talmud on the top of the desk with the glove with the hardball at the bottom of the desk (The

Talmud is the revered book of rabbinic discussion and argumentation on many subjects, including Jewish law, philosophy, ethics, customs, and history, heavily used in Orthodox Jewish education historically and currently). At night I'd put the glove around the hardball and I'd put rubber bands around it to make sure it made a good pocket. I rubbed Vaseline into the glove to make sure that it was subtle and soft. Of course, I had no doubt that I would eventually replace Pee Wee Reese as the shortstop for the Brooklyn Dodgers. I played shortstop. I was a very good fielder. Every day before I went to school I threw a hundred balls up in the air and caught them. Then I had my brother throw me a hundred ground balls. Then I would throw a hundred pitches - line drives. That was my morning before I went to school. I did that from the time I was around eight or nine years old."

As you walk into the foyer of Alan Dershowitz' office at Harvard Law School you come face to face with an autographed poster of Jackie Robinson, characteristically attempting a stolen base:



"The most formative event of all of our young lives was Jackie Robinson coming to The Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947. That poster is an autographed picture of Jackie trying to steal. And for me Jackie Robinson more than anyone else was the symbol that anybody could make it in baseball and in America. In those days there were a couple of Jews playing baseball, but I didn't identify with them as much as I did with Jackie Robison. Jackie Robinson was our guy."

In fact, it seems that Jackie Robinson's influence on Alan was so powerful that it evoked an early demonstration of Alan's underlying shrewdness, to the benefit of Jackie's

play and Alan's religious observance.

"When Jackie first came to play for the Brooklyn Dodgers, our rabbi in the Orthodox synagogue was Rabbi Mirsky from Poland. Rabbi Mirsky didn't care about baseball. He didn't like baseball. He would use the word *shvus*, which is Yiddish for nonsense. So we all got together and decided that we had to figure out a way to make the rabbi give a *mishaberach*, a blessing, on the new player. And so we created a name for Jackie Robinson, Yaakov, Jackie, and then Gnov bu-bcn for Rob in son. Then we told the rabbi that somebody new was coming to town, and we have to give a *mishaberach* for Yaakov. Rabbi Mirsky, not knowing, gave it the blessing for Jackie Robinson. And Jackie got a hit the next day. We all became more religious as a result of that; we saw that it worked. We all decided we had to go to the Dodger games

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A Young Alan Dershowitz and Jackie Robinson

because there were people who used to boo Jackie Robinson and we wanted to be on the other side, cheering him.”

Just as my gang in Brookline found diverse ways to maneuver ourselves for nothing into afternoon games at nearby Braves Field, Alan and his buddies in Brooklyn did the same things to get a pass into Ebbets Field:

“Then there was The Happy Felton Knothole Gang in which I took part (The Happy Felton Knothole Gang was a popular show on WOR, Channel 9, that helped young baseball players improve their skills by watching their Dodgers, Giants, and Yankees heroes play live, followed by the youngsters competing on the big league field in baseball games among themselves, coached by big leaguers). I have a big collection of Brooklyn Dodgers memorabilia that I keep in my home on Martha’s Vineyard, including a baseball signed by the whole team and some programs.”

Alan’s mother, Claire, who passed away only a year or so ago, and his father, Harry, were Dodgers enthusiasts in their own right:

“My mother and father were both baseball fans. My mother knew a great deal about baseball. She knew how to fill out a scorecard correctly. There were two things that she always knew – the prayers and the baseball players. For my bar mitzvah I got the Baseball Encyclopedia, which was very expensive in those days, like twenty dollars. My mother signed it, and wrote in it, ‘Someday may you know the Talmud as well as you know your baseball.’

How comforting to learn that the renowned Alan Dershowitz was indulging in the same trivial baseball pursuits as I did during my teen years.

Does Professor Alan Dershowitz think the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 would have been passed that soon if Jackie hadn’t come to the Major Leagues in 1947?:

“I don’t think so. I think that Jackie Robinson was such a commendable person and man of character - one of the other reasons I have that poster out there - that he made it safe. Everybody would have been happy to have their kids go to school with Jackie Robinson, or his wife Rachel, or Jackie Junior – I mean they were the Huxtables before the Huxtables. These were people you wanted to be your friends.”

How was Jackie treated by the fans?:

“Because of security, the only person we could never see off-field was Jackie Robinson. He had to be driven every day to the entrance to Ebbets Field because if he took a train he’d be beaten up, he would be attacked. He was beloved, but he was hated. When I think back, I heard people shout so many epithets at Jackie Robinson on the field. We heard them with our own ears. It was terrible.”

What about Jackie’s acceptance among his own teammates:

“The only one who didn’t want to play with Jackie was Dixie Walker and that really made us think hard. Dixie Walker was a big favorite of ours (Georgian Fred E. “Dixie” Walker, Major

League Baseball right fielder for eighteen seasons, compiling a .306 lifetime average, who played with the Brooklyn Dodgers from 1939 - 1947, and was so popular there he was dubbed ‘The Peoples’ Cherce’). We all loved Dixie Walker until we found out how Dixie really felt. So Dixie Walker was traded; he wouldn’t play on the same team as Jackie Robinson. ‘Pee Wee’ Reese, on the other hand, came from the South, and was dubbed the ‘Kentucky Colonel.’ He offered to room with Jackie. ‘Pee Wee’ became our second hero (Kentuckian Hall of Famer Harold ‘Pee Wee’ Reese played shortstop for the Dodgers from 1946 - 1958, during which time the team won seven National League championships. Reese was selected ten times to the National League All Star Team).”

Larry Ruttman, a lifelong resident of Brookline, has practiced law there for many years. His first book, *Voices of Brookline* (2005), was a national finalist for a coveted award. His next book, combining baseball and the American Jewish experience over the last century, *American Jews and America’s Game: Voices of a Growing Legacy in Baseball*, has been completed and will be published by the University of Nebraska Press in early 2013. Larry has been an avid fan since first being taken by his dad to Fenway Park at age four. Larry’s main interests are baseball, reading, writing, music, friends, and family, not necessarily in that order. By permission of the University of Nebraska Press, book available Spring, 2013; © 2013 by Larry Ruttman.



Alan Dershowitz and Larry Ruttman after broadcasting Martha’s Vineyard Sharks game

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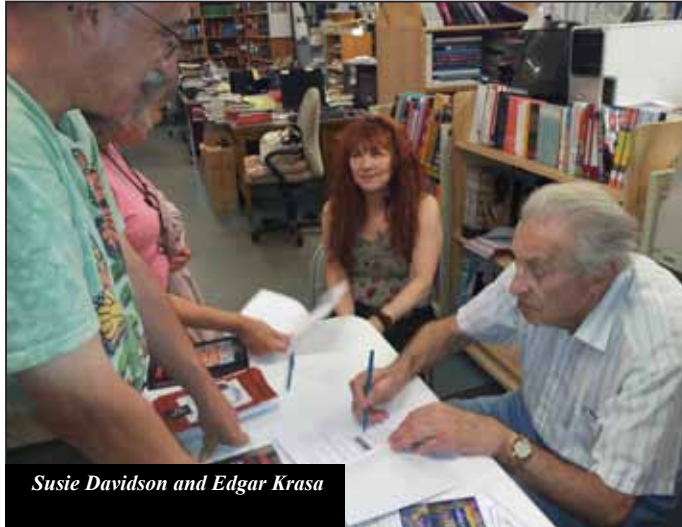


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“The Music Man of Terezin: The Story of Rafael Schaechter”

Susie Davidson and Edgar Krasa read from their new book “The Music Man of Terezin: The Story of Rafael Schaechter as Remembered by Edgar Krasa” at the New England Mobile Book Fair on Aug. 15, and at Newbridge on the Charles in Dedham on Aug. 16. At both readings, Krasa spoke about his experiences in the Terezin concentration camp, where he sang in musical productions with other inmates under the direction of Schaechter. The most well-known was a 1944 performance of the Verdi Requiem before Nazi officials, their Nazi guests, and representatives of the Red Cross. It was secretly a defiant act, as the Requiem is a Mass for the Dead that warns of Judgment Day and being held responsible for one’s sins. The prisoners thus, at great risk, sang to the Nazis in Latin what they could not speak to them. Schaechter perished shortly thereafter at Auschwitz, but is lovingly remembered for his ability to lift the spirits of the inmates and give them a reason to go on.



Susie Davidson and Edgar Krasa

The book, which includes illustrations by local artist Fay Grajower, has received two feature write-ups in the Boston Globe and was the first pick of the summer reading books by the Newton Tab. “It was, hands down, our most successful event to date,” said NEMBF Event Coordinator Dave Ambler. “The chairs were filled, people were asking questions, books were sold, and employees were congratulating me (i.e. they were talking about it the next morning before I arrived).” He was also personally affected. “Gro-

wing up, I was only exposed to the relatively clean, sterile versions, those in my history books in school, and very briefly touched upon in the media,” he said. “However, after reading the book and listening to Edgar talk (and subsequently researching it further), well, I can say I’m not the same.”

Davidson and Krasa will appear on Oct. 2 at Porter Square Books in Cambridge, Oct. 3 at the JCC Newton’s noontime Seniors event, and on Dec. 2 at Congregation Mishkan Tefila, as presenters at Limud Boston. On Oct. 11, they will travel to Atlanta Symphony Hall to be a part of the Defiant Requiem, a traveling musical production directed by former Oregon Symphony Orchestra conductor Murry Sidlin that recreates Schaechter’s Verdi Requiem and features a 150-member chorus (the same amount as in Terezin), authentic photos and videos and dramatic readings. Sidlin is also founder and director of the new Rafael Schaechter Institute of Arts and Humanities at Terezin.

Listening to Krasa speak is a remarkable opportunity to bear witness to the past. “It’s one thing to read about, or see on a computer screen, or look at pictures,” Ambler wrote to Krasa. “But to hear it from a survivor and shake his hand.... You changed me, sir.”

For information, please visit www.SusieD.com. Books are available at Brookline Booksmith, Kolbo Fine Judaica, Israel Books, Porter Square Books, New England Mobile Book Fair, or on Amazon.com (book form and Kindle).

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The Gift of New Beginnings

When one door closes, another one opens. That is the window of opportunity. As we near the end of this year and welcome the beginning of the new year, many of us take a deep introspection of all we have learned and experienced in the passing year and that which we want to change and experience in the new year. This is our opportunity. The journey that awaits us is a journey that relies on today's decisions, choices, goals and dreams, both on a personal and a collective level.

As Jews, history has taught us much regarding faith for the future. Every year we pray for next year in Jerusalem, for the coming of the Mashiach, for a blooming and peaceful Jewish state and, beyond all, regardless of where we stand religiously or geographically, we all pray and look forward to the well being of our people, the Jewish people. All Israel is responsible for one another (*Kol Israel Arevim Ze la Ze*).

The interconnectedness between past generations, present and future generations, as well as the visible and invisible ties that connect us all around the globe this New Year is the vibrant Jewish identity - the Jewish gift, the gift of Rosh Hashanah, of self-evaluation, of freedom of choice. The opportunity with which we are presented this new year is the decision to mend the past, to build in the present, and to enlighten our futures. It's a one of a kind gift.

As Thomas Cahill clearly describes in his book *The Gifts of the Jews*, "...his gift of the Commandments allows us to live in the present, in the here and now. What I have done in the past is past mending; what I will do in the future is a worry not worth the candle, for there is no way I can know what will happen next. But in this moment - and only in this moment - I am in control. This is the moment of choice, the moment when I decide... This is the moment when the past can be transformed and the future lit with radiance... For in choosing what is right I am never more alive."

In addition, many of us find ourselves not only clarifying the goals for a coming year, but also realizing a purpose in life. We are granted the opportunity to take a step back, look around and inside, and have the chance to polish and improve ourselves - to let go of old baggage, and welcome with open arms satisfying and rewarding experiences.

In the animal kingdom it is known that insects, mollusks, amphibians and crustaceans, to name a few, go through the biological process of metamorphosis. That is, "a profound change in form from one stage to the next in the life history of an organism, as from the caterpillar to the pupa and from the pupa to the adult butterfly." In the spiritual sense, every year we are able to undergo an internal transformation, to transcend from a caterpillar to a butterfly.

May we plant the seeds to a flourishing future this new year. To a year full of light, vitality, growth and happiness, Shana Tovah!

Tuli Trachtenberg was born and raised in Guatemala, granddaughter of Holocaust survivors. She is very involved with the local and global Jewish communities, as well as the Israeli Embassy. She holds a Master of Arts in International Economics and Finance from Brandeis University.



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Handing Jerusalem to the Palestinians ***Blatant distortions of history,*** ***denial of Jewish Jerusalem have shifted*** ***from Palestinian arena to domain of NGOs, UN***

Alex Ryvchin

In its desire to build a case for why Jerusalem should for the first time become a capital city for an Arab nation, the Palestinian Authority has consistently attacked the notion that, in the words of historian Sir Martin Gilbert, "the city holds the central spiritual and physical place in the history of the Jews as a people."

Central to this position has been a concerted attempt to deny the powerful Jewish connection to Jerusalem, instead casting it as a fundamentally Arab, Islamic and Christian city, and to characterize any Jewish presence as colonial, expansionist and a generally recent phenomenon.

Speaking on Palestinian Authority TV in August 2010, Palestinian Religious Affairs Minister Mahmoud Al-Habbash claimed that Jerusalem has been, "throughout history, the capital of the Palestinian state and the capital of the Palestinian people" despite the fact that no Palestinian state has ever existed and that the Jewish people have been the only people in history to call Jerusalem their capital. The Palestinian Authority Mufti, Muhammad Hussein, took the distortion even further by stating that "there never was a Temple in any period, nor was there, at any time, any place of worship for the Jews or others at the Al-Aqsa Mosque site."

Such sentiments are not merely confined to the religious leaders of the Palestinian national movement.

In February of this year, advisor on Jerusalem affairs to the Palestinian President's Office, Ahmed Al-Ruweidi, accused Israel of creating an "artificial" Jewish heritage in Jerusalem "at the expense of its true and authentic (identity) as an Arab, Islamic and Christian city." A statement which not only denies the ancient Jewish connection to Jerusalem but which ignores the more recent aspects of Jerusalem's identity, notably the fact that the city has had a Jewish majority since the 1860s.

President Abbas himself has long referred to Jerusalem as the "eternal capital of Palestine," a statement which is fundamentally inconsistent with any recognition of Jewish claims to the city.

While many observers will quickly brush off such inflammatory falsehoods and policy statements as mere political gamesmanship by the Palestinians or the refrain of fringe elements, there is a very real concern that the concept of Jewish foreignness when it comes to Jerusalem is taking hold in the mainstream political discourse.

Unbroken Jewish connection

Amnesty International's Middle East and North Africa director, Malcolm Smart, has described Jewish residential projects in the eastern parts of the city as taking place on "occupied Palestinian land" which "devastate the lives and livelihoods of the Palestinians." Characterizing east Jerusalem as "occupied Palestinian land" effectively intercedes in the dispute over the status of the city and hands it to the Palestinians. In the process, the impartiality of

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Uniting the Jewish Communities in Massachusetts

Amnesty International is spectacularly undermined.

Furthermore, Smart's objection to a Jewish presence in the east of the city and his assertion that the land is Palestinian and is "occupied" by Israel both ignores the absence of a legal sovereign from which Israel could occupy the land and the Jewish connection to Jerusalem long before the resumption of Jewish life there following the end of the Jordanian hold on the city in 1967.

Smart's displacement of the Jewish connection to Jerusalem by casting Israeli construction as an injustice perpetrated by a mere occupier against an ostensibly indigenous population, constitutes a fundamental distortion of history.

More so, the subtle manner in which the Jewish people are severed from their ancient capital, in contrast with the patent falsehoods of the Palestinian Authority referred to earlier, is precisely what makes it so dangerous – cloaked as it is in the language of international law and human rights.

The UN special rapporteur on adequate housing, Raquel Rolnik, has taken things further still, employing language which bridges the gap between the rhetoric of the Palestinian Authority and of seemingly non-partisan, mainstream organizations.

Rolnik described Israeli government housing policy in Jerusalem, among other places, as "Judaization," a slur which had previously been confined to the Palestinian Authority and radical sympathizers.

The use of the term "Judaization" (by a UN official no less) which, can be understood to denote a process by which something which is not Jewish is made so, is to deny the Jewish character of Jerusalem and to perpetuate a new and highly politicized history aimed at advancing Palestinian national aspirations, not in tandem with the development of the Jewish State, but in place of it.

Rolnik's outrageous use of the term suggests that Jewish life in Jerusalem is somehow alien and cannot be tolerated.

Perhaps the most troubling aspect of her comments is the implication that Palestinian interests can only be advanced by denying the long, unbroken Jewish connection to the land, an approach which seems fundamentally inconsistent with the idea of a mutual recognition of Jewish and Palestinian movements and a co-existence of two states borne of such movements.

It is significant that blatant distortions of history and a denial of Jewish Jerusalem have gradually shifted from the arena of the Palestinian Authority to the domain of purportedly non-partisan NGOs and the UN. Ironically, such distortions, far from advancing Palestinian national aspirations, in fact undermine the notions of mutual recognition and understanding which are essential precursors to any negotiated peace.

This article was first published on Ynet-news.com.

Alex Rychin is a lawyer, writer and founder of The Jewish Thinker (www.jewishthinker.org), an online forum where users post opinion pieces to debate and exchange ideas on issues affecting the State of Israel and the Jewish Diaspora. For information, please visit www.jewishthinker.org.

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Trip to Los Angeles, California

Text and photos: Shirley Nigri Farber

Last summer, my family vacationed in Disney World in Florida. This year, we decided to repeat the experience, but across the country in California. I have been to Los Angeles a few times, but since it had been some time, I needed to research the area beforehand. We established that the trip would be 10 days, and to please our young son, five would be devoted to amusement parks. For my husband and I, five more would be reserved for relaxing, walks on the beach, and museums. We had learned a lesson in Orlando, where for five days, we went to various Disney parks with no time to rest.

The first step was to go online and buy the tickets. Sometimes you will find a good deal at the airline websites, and sometimes, at *Expedia* and *Orbitz*. You can also reserve hotels online, but be sure to read all the fine print and even visit the hotel website itself before booking, because everything tends to look idyllic on the sites. I will talk more about the hotels I stayed at and recommend later in this article. Remember that an important point to take into consideration when traveling to Los Angeles is the distance between the sites you intend to visit, which could be vast, as well as the constant, heavy traffic in every direction (even in the infamous L.A. freeways, which can span 6 lanes). Allow for plenty of time! All traveling involves preparation and planning before embark-

ing. Further, one needs to allow for some freedom, because things can happen spontaneously, depending on your state of mind and discoveries along the way. There's a lot happening on the streets of Los Angeles that calls for our attention. For example, TV shows are being recorded, and actors, comedians, dancers and musicians are performing regularly in L.A.'s famed spots.

Our family of three has very different ideas of vacation. My 8-year-old son David wanted to visit amusement parks like Legoland. I just wanted to relax at the beach, and my husband wanted to see new places and walk around.

Once we decided what parks we wanted to visit, it was time to buy the tickets online in order to avoid the lines and higher prices at the entrance gates. Just to give an idea, tickets to Universal Studios and Legoland are about \$80 per day, per person, per park. We found a pass called *GoLosAngeles Card* at www.smartdestinations.com/LosAngeles that entitles you to enter 39 attractions (parks and museums), with the price varying depending on the number of days you purchase. We bought the 5 day-pass that could be used within 14 days for the cost of \$240 per adult, and \$190 per child. The pass does not include Disney, but we felt it was worth the expense, because the card lets you visit various attractions on the same day. One potential problem, however, is that it can only be used until



Bike from Farmer's Daughter Hotel



The Orlando



David and Mario Lopez taping Extra TV

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5:30 p.m. each day, and once you are inside a particular park, you will most likely stay all day.

Los Angeles is known worldwide because of Hollywood, so it was important to visit places where the famous have made history. Another pass that paid off for us was the *Hollywood CityPass*, available at www.citypass.com. For \$59 per adult and \$39 per child, this pass included a two-hour-long bus tour around the stars' residences, as well as entrances to Madame Tussaud's wax museum and the Hollywood Museum, where there are about 10,000 objects that were a part of movies and TV series. The pass lets you choose between this museum and a guided tour of the Dolby Theatre (formerly the Kodak Theatre), where the annual Oscars ceremony is held. My recommendation is to take the two-hour tour on the first day, because you might see sites that you may wish to visit later on by foot. The tour gives an overview of the whole Hollywood and Beverly Hills area, leading up to the mountain where the famous Hollywood sign is located. The starting point of the tour is at the legendary Grauman's Chinese Theatre on Hollywood Boulevard. Yet another intriguing pass is the *Southern California City Pass*, also available at www.citypass.com. At \$270 per adult, this pass is more expensive, but includes Disney, Universal and Seaworld.

The first hotel we stayed in was the **Farmer's Daughter** (www.farmersdaughterhotel.com). It is very favorably located, opposite the studios of CBS, the historic Farmer's Market, and trendy "The Grove," an open-air mall. We were tired on our first night, so it was great to find that the hotel restaurant, the Tart, has a relaxing

Trip to Los Angeles, California

outdoor area and offers generous portions at modest prices. The Farmer's Daughter has a country-style decor, simple but cozy, with friendly service that includes fresh cookies and lemonade at a guest reception. It is 3-star category and averages \$170 a night. Since the hotel offered free bicycles, we took a ride to explore the area, and brought my son to a local playground.

In the morning, we saw a line of people at the entrance of CBS studios, hoping to participate in TV show recordings. Luckily, we did not need to stand in line in order to be on TV. We learned that the television show "Extra," with hosts Mario Lopez and Maria Menounos, is recorded daily right at the Grove Mall (www.thegrovela.com). As soon as I realized that Lopez was talking about the Batman movie that day, and that my son was wearing a Batman T-shirt, I asked if they wanted to include a Batman fan on the show. They liked the idea and got my son quickly in front of the cameras. Look at the irony: I host a TV show (www.papotv.com) for seven years on local TV stations in Massachusetts that is viewed perhaps by thousands. My son, on his first day in Hollywood, appears on a program that is probably seen by millions across the country.

The Farmer's Daughter is also a block away from the iconic **Canter's, a Jewish-style delicatessen**, in Fairfax Village, a formerly Jewish area that still includes Jewish retailers such as a Women's

the child to actually play and run, as opposed to just sitting inside the rides and watching. One tip, applicable to all amusement parks, is to try to go during the week. We went to Legoland on the weekend and then again on a Tuesday, and saw a big difference. On Tuesday, we were able to go on one of the roller coasters that splashed into the water several times (once you are soaked, why not go again?)!

Another boutique hotel located in a walkable neighborhood that is modern and elegant is **The Orlando** (www.theorlando.com). The family-owned, 4-star hotel, with rooms starting at \$230, has completed a \$6 million dollar renovation, and is close to restaurants frequented by artists and the chic boutiques of Beverly Hills. Steps from the hotel, there is a cute bistro called Joan on the Third, where we had breakfast.

Some points along the bus tour that we returned to on our own were: the famed, posh Rodeo Drive, home to the most elegant brands; the hotel where *Pretty Woman* with Julia Roberts was filmed; and the Sunset Boulevard area. Another place that often appears in movie is Venice Beach. The atmosphere is of the Hair movie, populated by fringe-types and recalling the spectrum of the 1960s, including druggies (there is, however, a Jewish Community Center further up the beachwalk). There, we rented bikes, enjoyed the beach (despite the wind and cold water) and walked through



Tart at Farmer's Daughter



Canter's Delicatessen



Dolby Theatre

ORT thrift store; Jewish bakeries; and several Jewish organizations. We went there in the morning to get some bagels and desserts to take with us to the park. Open since 1931 and still run by the third generation of the Canter family, with photos of famous old-time and modern celebrity diners on the walls, the restaurant, was voted the #1 Pastrami by the LA Times, is open 24 hours, and includes a bar called the Kibitz Room.

The first park we visited was **Universal Studios**. A new attraction, Transformers 3-D, was our first ride. We waited 40 minutes in line and when we left, the waiting time had already increased to 80 minutes. Compared to Florida Disney, we felt that California's park was much better. In fact, most of the parks are smaller, and the climate is much more enjoyable, with no rain, heat or humidity. Universal Studios includes rides related to well-known films such as Jurassic Park, King Kong and Shrek, and AAA members get 10 percent discount at shops and restaurants. Another park we visited was **Knott's Berry Farm** and their water park Knott's Soak City in Buena Park, located about an hour southeast from Hollywood. Knott's is America's first theme park, and began as a restaurant in 1920. It is designed in the old country style, featuring Peanuts characters.

The park that my son really wanted to go was **Legoland**, located a bit less than two hours south of L.A. in Carlsbad. It is ideal for younger children and has many wet rides, plus an adjacent water park and aquarium. Interestingly, Legoland has plenty of room for

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Legoland



Chinese Theatre



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We spent the sunny Sunday at the **Getty Center**. I think is the most beautiful museum I’ve ever seen, not only because of its stunning works of art, but its equally striking architecture, hilltop location, beautiful gardens and amazing city views. Admission is free, but parking is paid. The museum has many outdoor areas and gardens where one can relax and have a picnic. Another great site, in terms of a panoramic view, is the Yamashiro restaurant in Hollywood.

One goes to California and must enjoy the beach. There is nothing more Californian than waking up just steps from the ocean. That is why we chose the **Inn at Laguna Beach** (www.innatlagunabeach.com), a hotel located along the coast one hour south of L.A., known for its arts festival and beautiful sand beaches. The 3-star hotel has rates starting at \$250, and includes breakfast served in your room. While you can certainly see dolphins at the parks, there is nothing like seeing them in the ocean while sipping coffee on our balcony.

At the end of our trip, we went to the **Shangri-La Hotel** (www.shangrila-hotel.com), located on Ocean Boulevard near the famous Ferris wheel at Pacific Park on Santa Monica Pier. The Art Deco, 1930’s landmark building has been completely renovated, and includes a spa, an excellent restaurant, and a pool lounge. We got

a one-bedroom apartment with a full kitchen, ideal for those who may stay extra days and want to prepare their own food. From my bedroom window, I could see the beach on one side and a farmer’s market on the other. The nightlife is quite trendy in the region of the **Third Street Promenade** near the hotel, with many elegant restaurants and bars.

The hotel offers the best view in town at the only open-air rooftop bar in Santa Monica, the **Suite 700**. It is the perfect place to meet local, young adults. There, we got a chance meet the hotel’s PR director, Miles Lozano, who told us more about the historic building and famous former guests such as Madonna and Bruce Weber. We also talked about his personal family memories of growing up Jewish in L.A., his bar mitzvah at a temple where the Hollywood stars are frequently seen, and his Mexican roots.

Two places to visit, perhaps on nights after the parks, are Disney’s Boardwalk and Universal Citywalk, a sort of open mall with themed restaurants and shops aimed at children. Because most museums, unfortunately, close early at 5 or 6 p.m., I did not have time to visit all the attractions of the region of Los Angeles, but for those who have more time, I suggest taking in the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA); Paramount Pictures Studio Tour; Petersen Automotive Museum (the largest car museum in the world); the zoos in Los

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My son’s favorite part of our Los Angeles trip was, of course, his becoming a star overnight. One day we were walking down the **Hollywood Walk of Fame**, and after a group of street dancers performed, they selected audience members to join them. My son, suddenly not shy, went and performed on the sidewalk in front of a lot of people and received an ovation. At the **Walk of Fame**, there are many upcoming artists dressed in character who pose for photo in return for tips. It’s always a good idea to carry some cash for tipping.

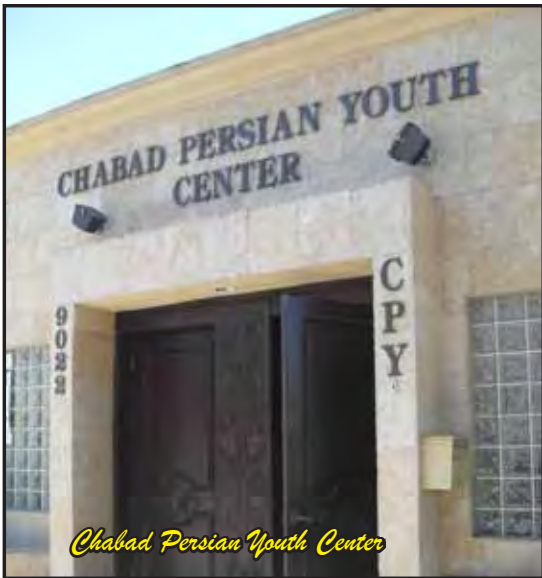
Another day on the same spot, a man was looking for talented individuals to participate in his new internet TV show. Again, my son went up, dancing. In Los Angeles, there are actually many ways one can participate in a TV show. You can walk around and let it happen, or take a more active role and search the Internet to see if your favorite show, such as *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, is recorded in Los Angeles and offers tickets to be in the audience.



Getty Center



Fun at Laguna Beach



Chabad Persian Youth Center



Chabad Bais Sonia Gutte Campus



View from Suite 700 at Shangri-La Hotel



Pacific Jewish Center at Venice Beach



Wilshire Boulevard Temple with its famous Byzantine dome built in 1929, now under renovation



L.A. Museum of the Holocaust

Jewish Los Angeles

With more than 600,000 Jewish residents, it is no surprise that the Los Angeles area has many kosher establishments, most of them located in the Pico Boulevard area just minutes away from The Orlando and the Farmer's Daughter. This section of West L.A., which borders Beverly Hills and the area called "Beverlywood," includes the **Simon Wiesenthal Center and its Museum of Tolerance**, as well as myriad Jewish schools, shops, synagogues and centers, which include the famed **Kabbalah Center** on nearby Robertson, frequented by stars such as Madonna and Demi Moore. I can't help but compare: L.A. has three times the Jewish population of Boston and 10 times or more the number of kosher establishments. One can easily see the growth of the Orthodox community in the Pico area by the new buildings such as **Chabad Bais Sonia Gutte Campus**, with a façade that reminded me of the Chabad headquarters known simply as "770" in Crown Heights, Brooklyn.

Before traveling, I went online to learn more about the kosher restaurants in L.A. Once you get to the Pico area, you will literally see one next to the other. It might be strange for an Ashkenazi Jew to see kosher restaurants with Persian lettering mixed with Hebrew and English. But we found a very good Persian kosher restaurant called Kohla Farengi. The Persian Jewish community in L.A. is very large, and requires an entire, separate article. It is well known that they are wealthy, which is often on display. As I was leaving the restaurant I saw only expensive cars such as Mercedes and BMW in the parking lot. Some of the other kosher places we went to were Shanghai, Pico Glatt Market, and Got Kosher restaurant. A great place to visit is the Skirball Cultural Center, a Jewish institution designed by Israeli architect Moshe Safdie that presents a variety of exhibits for all ages focused on Judaism in America.

Learning about the Holocaust:

I was wondering if it was the right time to bring my 8-year-old son to a Holocaust museum. Recently, as we were passing by the Holocaust Memorial in Boston, he had asked me to remind him of the meaning of that monument, as I had told him in the past that it is to honor and remind us of the Jewish people killed during the Holocaust. Then he asked me why people wanted to kill the Jews. So perhaps he was ready to learn more about the Holocaust. I'm glad I started with the **Museum of Tolerance**, since it has some very kid-friendly displays, with short videos and a lot of technology. At the museum, my son sat quietly listening to a Holocaust survivor from Hungary, Agnes Kun, tell her story.

As she recalled how the ominous situation for Jews escalated during the Nazi era, she explained why it took some time for people to realize what was going on. I have always questioned how neighbors could not know their neighbors' whereabouts, and how it could take them so long to realize what was happening. I did not have to ask Kun, as she had the answers: "they made us send postcards to non-Jewish neighbors saying that everything was OK," she said. She told us that musicians were playing when she arrived at the concentration camp, as if it was a normal place. "You never believe that what happened to your neighbor can happen to you," she aptly warned. It is, indeed, one thing is to see a movie or an exhibit at the museum, and another thing entirely for a person to tell you how it all began and the drama she herself endured. The Museum has Holocaust survivors speaking every day, and I cannot imagine how hard it is for them to talk again and again about the worst time in their lives. Unfortunately, they need to keep talking while there are still people in the world that do not believe



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that the Holocaust ever happened. It seemed appropriate that the day we went was during the nine days preceding Tisha B'Av, the destruction of both Temples in Jerusalem. The Museum of Tolerance is not only about the Holocaust. Built in 1993, it is rich in multimedia exhibits that explore other topics such as racism and diversity.

We were invited to the screening of "Purple Triangles: The True Story of a German Family." The film highlights the incredible story of the Kusserows, a family of Jehovah's Witnesses living in Germany during World War II. The Jehovah's Witnesses, who were required to wear purple triangles in concentration camps, were given an option to deny their faith in exchange for freedom, and to join the Nazi army, but most of them preferred to remain faithful and suffer the consequences, even if they included being deported to death camps. For me, it was very interesting to learn about this episode of history and discover that besides the Jews, there were Christians who also suffered at the hands of Hitler. The event, held at **Paramount Studios**, was introduced by Robert Buckley, consultant to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. It included a live video conference with survivor Magdalena (Kusserow) Reuter and movie director Martin Smith. The screening was preceded by a visit to the **Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust**, where we were guided by museum executive director Mark A. Rothman.

Photos: Shirley Farber; courtesy Wilshire Boulevard Temple; Courtesy of LA and Laguna Beach Visitors Bureau; Farmer's Daughters and The Orlando.

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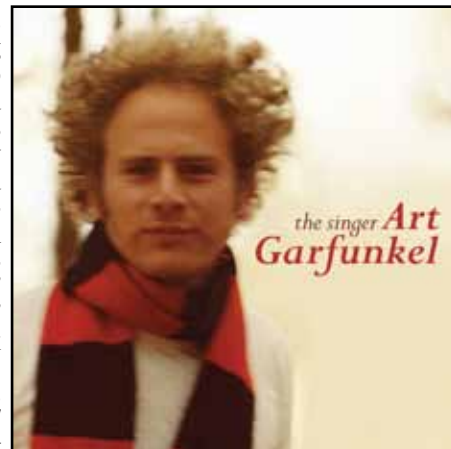


Art Garfunkel – The Singer (Columbia/Legacy)

Matt Robinson

With all due respect to John Oates, Dave Prater, Dean Torrence and other undersung singing duo members, few are the “&...” partners who can put together a career-spanning retrospective and have hits (or even memorable songs) throughout. Such is the glory that is the talent of award-winning singer/songwriter/poet/actor Art Garfunkel.

While his junior partner may have made a name for himself mashing up international rhythms, it was Garfunkel’s haunting vocals that helped so many of their songs (and so many more of his own) hang so beautifully on the ears, hearts, and minds of millions for nearly four decades. From the gorgeous vocalizations of “All I Know,” “A Heart in New York,” and “So Long, Frank Lloyd Wright,” to the wonderful weavings of “Scarborough Fair/Canticle,” a reminiscent duet with Kenny Rankin on “I Wonder Why,” a lazy splash through “Waters of March,” a dreamy take on “When a Man Loves a Woman” that features Michael Brecker’s equally ethereal saxophone, and the angelic choruses of “Barabra Allen” and the Judeo-Christian treatment “Oh Come All Ye Faithful,” this lovingly-compiled two-disc anthology combines old favorites with what for many fans may become new standards.



Taking material from all of the S&G albums - starting with 1964’s “Wednesday Morning, 3 AM” and running through the 1972 “Hits” package and the 2004 “Live on Stage” presentation – as well as from every solo album from Garfunkel’s 1973 chart-topping debut “Angel Clare” (which still included contributions from his partner, as well as from J.J. Cale, Jerry Garcia, Jules Broussard, Dean Parks, and two choral groups) all the way to his Great American Songbook turns on 2007’s “Some Enchanted Evening,” this compact collection offers a mixed chronology of Garfunkel’s timeless voice that allows and encourages listeners to wind their way through his catalog and find their own gems. In addition to the duets with Simon and Rankin, the collection also includes appearances by Jimmy Webb, James Taylor, Toni Tenille and Graham Nash and David Crosby (the last few of whom may themselves be victims of the apparent “&...” curse), proving again how highly Garfunkel is thought of by his peers and his fans. Garfunkel has often said that he considers singing to be a thrill and a gift. So will it be for those who listen to and appreciate this album.

Art Garfunkel will appear at The Wilbur Theatre on Sept. 20. Tickets (\$59 and \$79) at 800-745-3000 or www.thewilbur.com.

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Shabbat: The REST of LimmudBoston!

LimmudBoston is growing. Adding to the annual festival celebrating Jewish lifelong learning, the conference is adding Shabbat opportunities, too.

On Dec. 2, 2012, LimmudBoston 2012 returns to Chestnut Hill's Congregation Mishkan Tefila building for a day of study, movement, music, text, shopping and shmoozing. Still keeping with the one-day Limmud conference format, several visiting LimmudBoston presenters will lead or speak at Shabbat services throughout the area.

Sessions are open to all ages and abilities. Camp Limmud rates, for families with children ages 3-14, enjoy special subsidies through a CJP Innovation Grant. Camp Limmud is by pre-registration only. The LimmudBoston early bird registration discount is available through Sukkot.

According to LimmudBoston founder Steffi Aronson Karp, "Beginner to scholar, young to young-at-heart, LimmudBoston is all about 'doing Jewish together.' We are excited to share the dynamic and inspirational speakers from Sunday's program with the community."

The LimmudBoston Shabbat Experience lineup already includes:

- **Joe Rosenstein**, author of Siddur & Machzor Eit Ratzon, at Temple Emanuel in Newton. At Sunday's conference he will share his experiences in siddur (prayerbook) writing ;

- **Shawn Zevit**, musician, author and rabbi will be featured at Mishkan Tefila, Dorshei Tzedek, Hillel B'nai Torah and at Limmud-Boston. In an area first, more than 5 congregations from three different movements have joined together to welcome him. On Friday night, Shawn will join Rabbi Leonard Gordon of the Congregation Mishkan Tefila (Conservative), along with B'nai Or Rabbi Hannah Tiferet Siegel (Renewal). On Saturday morning, Shawn will lead services at Congregation Dorshei Tzedek in West Newton (Reconstructionist). On Saturday night, Shawn will perform at Temple Hillel B'nai Torah in West Roxbury. At Sunday's LimmudBoston conference, Shawn will offer two sessions, including one on The Torah of Money, and will be featured in a lunchtime concert.

- JTS scholar **Anne Lapidus Lerner**, and mother of the esteemed Rabbi David Lerner at Temple Emunah in Lexington, will join her son on the bimah during Shabbos. At the Sunday conference, Anne will offer text study on both Eve and the Akedah.

- As he does every Shabbat, **Rabbi Baruch HaLevi** of Shirat Hayam in Swampscott, invites the community to experience their dynamic, multi-choice Shabbat experience, where one can choose from a combination of yoga, meditation, nosh'n drash and a non-traditional, yet traditional Shabbat service. Rabbi HaLevi's Sunday presentation will be on synagogue transformation as featured in his newly published book.

LimmudBoston received a CJP innovation grant to keep the exciting Camp Limmud program affordable for families with young children. Camp Limmud students must be registered by Nov. 10.

LimmudBoston runs on volunteer power. To get involved in one of the planning teams (program, food, Shabbat, PR, technology), see the LimmudBoston website.

Zamir Chorale of Boston returns to LimmudBoston for its annual Open Sing of Judas Maccabeus, followed by songs of Israel, in celebration of Israel's 65th.

Early bird registration rates increase after Sukkot.

Are you in le mood for LimmudBoston? Register now at www.LimmudBoston.org

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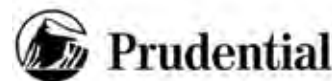
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The adventure is a bit of learning and thinking, mixed with mystery, problem-solving, and team work. And that is the best part. Our group of 3 included my 8-year-old son and my husband. It is refreshing to see that one alone cannot accomplish the goal; which requires communication and organization. This is fun for smart kids, but they do not have to be a genius either. It is educational without being boring. You can bring a group or join an existing one.

With the end of summer approaching, 5Wits is a great indoor activity for all ages. Shalom readers can enjoy a special offer (left). Check www.5-wits.com.



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The New Center for Arts & Culture

The New Center for Arts & Culture recently announced an exciting fall 2012 schedule welcoming a number of national celebrities to Greater Boston, ranging from political reporters and art experts, to authors and celebrity comedians. The organization curates world-class events and performances featuring acclaimed Jewish arts and culture leaders, designed to stimulate conversations among audiences, while exploring contemporary themes and the spirit of Jewish identity.

This season's programming will showcase leading figures, including: Nate Silver, a political analyst from The New York Times; Paul Golberger, a Pulitzer Prize winning American architecture critic and New Yorker columnist; Michael Sandel, a philosopher from Harvard University; Gary Shteyngart, the Russian Jewish novelist; and Jon Fisch, a celebrity comedian.

Additional highlights for The New Center's 2012 season include the organization's first-ever original theatrical production, *Love, Faith & other Dirty Words*, as well as events staged in two new communities, Lexington and Wellesley.

For further information on The New Center for Arts & Culture and details about upcoming events, please visit www.newcenterboston.org. Upcoming Programs Include:

Ori Gersht, Contemporary Israeli Artist: History Repeating on Sunday, Sept. 23, 3 p.m. (Curatorial Talk) at The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Bill Schneider and Nate Silver: Counting on the Jewish Voter? on Wednesday, Oct. 10, 8 p.m. at Temple Israel, Boston.

Michael Sandel: What Money Can't Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets on Monday, Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. at Temple Isaiah, Lexington.

The Promised Land: Celebrating the Stories of Boston's Jewish Immigrants on Tuesday, Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m. at Arsenal Center for the Arts, Watertown.

Gary Shteyngart: From Russia with Love - and Laughs on Monday, Nov. 5, 8 p.m. at Temple Beth Elohim, Wellesley.

A New Center Original Production: Love, Faith and other Dirty Words on Wednesday, Nov. 28, and Thursday, Nov. 29, 7:30 p.m. at Modern Theater at Suffolk University, Boston.

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The Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Needlework begins the 2012/13 year on Wednesday evening, September 12, meeting from 7-9 p.m. at Temple Beth Avodah, 45 Puddingstone Lane in Newton Center. Members and guests are invited to bring needlework for Show N' Kvell. For information, email Miriam K. Sokoloff, sewandquilt@comcast.net, or call 617-277-3711. Visit the Guild's website at <http://pomegranateguild.org/>.

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1. The recipient organization must have status under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contact a home mortgage consultant for details.

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September 11, 7 p.m.

Lecture-Concert: **Richard Wagner, Munich and the Erotic Impulse**
 Lecture: Laurence Dreyfus, professor, Oxford University

Concert: Philip B. Liston-Kraft & Daniel Weiser, four-hand piano duo

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October 13, 7 p.m.

Film Concert: **The Ancient Law** (1923, directed by E.A. Dupont)

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October 14, 7 p.m.

Staged reading: **Voltaire and Frederic: A Life in Letters**
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October 23, 7 p.m.

Staged reading: HERZZEIT
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Let's Kibbitz!

By Susie Davidson

This column will highlight events, promotions, trips, program launches, arts, awards, appearances, and all manner of worthy doings, as well as nachas and simchas, and of course, finding out who was where, and when!

Making an artistic transition: Tamar King, a calligrapher and designer of custom, one-of-a-kind ketubot and other Judaic Art, has branched out and is now producing a line of limited-edition, high-quality prints. "I hope more people will be able to get to know and enjoy my artwork," said King, a congregant at Kadimah Toras-Moshe in Brighton. So far, King has two *keubot* available with many different text options, and a framed *Mizrach* and print with a quote from the Song of Songs suitable for a wedding or anniversary present. Her works, which reflect both the nature of New England and her years of living in Jerusalem, can be seen and purchased at www.JudaicaCollection.com, a website featuring over 50 artists that is run by **Joan Almaliah** of Newton, who continues to operate the studio she opened with her late husband Gad in 1992. **Gad Almaliah**, who designed postage stamps for the postal services of Israel, the United States and Mexico, passed away unexpectedly in 2007. In addition to creating numerous posters and publishing several books on design, he designed coins and medals for the Israeli government, and created the emblem for the Six Day War. "Tamar King has worked with us since the 90's," said Joan Almaliah. The two have also worked together on a number of projects.

Local Ph.D. student hits (the big) Time: Rachel B. Rubin of Brookline, a researcher, advanced doctoral student and Presidential Fellow at the Harvard Graduate School of Education as well as a United States Presidential Fellow, wrote a paper this year that studied why certain students get into the most prestigious colleges, and why. In the paper,

which was showcased in *Time*, the *Wall Street Journal*, as well as *Inside Higher Ed* and other academic journals. Rubin, who holds a master's in Administration, Planning, and Social Policy from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a bachelor's of arts with honors from Macalester College, has received several teaching and merit awards. Her work examines federal financial aid eligibility, college access and success, administration of higher education, and assessment processes in postsecondary institutions. She believes that students who can pay full tuition do indeed receive preferential treatment. She has also found that admissions officials strive for diversity based more on racial and ethnic background than on social class.



Rachel Rubin

Rubin, who lives in Brookline with her husband and three children, says that how students will fit in to the college community is as important as how smart they are. So keep your kids in those extra-curricular classes and pursuits - they might just pay off bigtime! Send them to Israel. Encourage them to join Jewish youth and social action groups. All this makes for a well-rounded candidate.

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Let's Kibbitz!

A Woman of Dance and Justice honored at B.U.: Jewish-American dancer and choreographer **Anna Sokolow** (1910-2000) began to study dance and perform at the Emanuel Sisterhood Settlement House in New York. Her skills were later honed by noted instructors Blanche Talmud, Bird Larson, Martha Graham and Louis Horst at a site that later became the Neighborhood Playhouse, and she joined Graham's company in 1929. Sokolow was associated with political and socially conscious dance movements such as the New Dance Group and the Workers' Dance League. Her work helped transform and develop the "agitprop" style of political and artistic dance, and she performed and choreographed individual and ensemble works through the 1930s and 40s. Her productions, which included the "Anti-War Trilogy," addressed the exploitation of workers as well as the suffering of Jews in Germany.

SOKOLÓW NOW! in **BLACK & WHITE** showcased three works created by Sokolow in the 1980s on Sept. 15 at 8 p.m. at the Boston University Dance Theater. The Sokolow Dance Foundation, based in Attleboro and the only dance company exclusively performing her repertory, aptly presented the first work, *Everything Must Go*, a commentary on American society confronting abject poverty, runaway consumerism, and indifference to the plight of one's neighbors. The second work, *Homage to Rachmaninoff*, featured the famed romantic composer's piano preludes. The last piece, *From the Diaries of Franz Kafka*, combined text, imagery and music to reflect the struggles of this major, 20th-century Czech Jewish writer.

For information on Sokolow and the dance company, visit www.annasokolow.org.



Krimskys return from tour of Berlin and Holocaust sites: Sid Krimsky, a congregant of Kadimah Toras-Moshe in Brighton, has just returned from an 11-day visit to Berlin with his wife. The two visited numerous Holocaust-related sites, and also went on a city tour. Krimsky, who was last in Berlin in 2000 on U.S. government business, studied German in college, and was able to read signs and communicate with people they met. He was pleased to see high school students in groups at the Holocaust museums. An astute observer, Krimsky's background is in engineering and physics, and he was especially impressed with the German railroad system, and by the many construction projects currently being completed in the city.

The couple visited memorials, museums, synagogues, the Sachsenhausen concentration camp, the site of the Wannsee Conference where the Final Solution was conceived. They toured the Jewish Community Center, the remainders of the Berlin Wall, Brandenburg Gate, Checkpoint Charlie, and other sites. They found Kosher restaurants and two Chabad centers while there, and took over 200 photos that he currently fashioning into an album.

To send information on events to Shalom Magazine please email: ShalomMA@msn.com.

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Zamir Chorale of Boston

Zamir Chorale of Boston presents its seventh annual Open Sing of Handel's Judas Maccabaeus in conjunction with LimmudBoston on Sunday, Dec. 2, from 4-6 p.m. at Congregation Mishkan Tefila, 300 Hammond Pond Parkway, Chestnut Hill. Conducted by Zamir Artistic Director Joshua Jacobson, the program will feature favorite choruses from Handel's Judas Maccabaeus, and songs from Israel. Tickets, available at the door only, are \$10 (\$8 students, seniors or GBCC members). Free admission for LimmudBoston registrants, choral conductors or conducting students. Funding provided by Phyllis Hammer. For further information, call 617-244-6333, email manager@zamir.org, or visit www.zamir.org. Join us as a singer or listener!

Rami Kleinstein in the Boston

Hakesher and Teev is proud to welcome Israeli superstar, Rami Kleinstein to the Boston area for an exciting performance on Sunday, October 28, at Pine Manor College in Chestnut Hill, MA. Doors open at 7 p.m. show starts 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$40, \$45 in advance \$55 at the door. Limited number of \$35 for student. For more information visit: www.hakesheronline.com/documents/Ticketing.html, or call 617-738-5038.

American Technion Society

The New England Region of the American Technion Society will hold its Annual Event on Thursday, Nov. 1, 6 pm. at the Waltham Westin Hotel. Israeli Venture Capitalist and Entrepreneur Jonathan Medved, will be the guest speaker. The Washington Post named Medved "one of Israel's leading high tech venture capitalists." The cost is \$250/person. For more information, call the ATS office, 617-964-0048, or email ruth@ats.org.

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COMMUNITY NOTES & EVENTS

High Holiday Services Outdoors

Ma'yan Tikvah - A Wellspring of Hope will again hold High Holiday services outdoors. Rosh Hashanah services will be Monday, Sept. 17 at 9:30 a.m. at Cedar Hill Camp, 265 Beaver St., in Waltham. Yom Kippur morning services on Wednesday, Sept. 26 will also begin at 9:30 a.m. at the same location. Kol Nidre services on Tuesday, Sept. 25 will begin at 7 p.m., at a location to be determined. Services at Ma'yan Tikvah are a combination of traditional and nontraditional, and are informal and participatory for those who wish to add their voices. Morning services are held outside, or if the weather requires it, under an outdoor pavilion. There will be time to sing, to appreciate the natural world around us, to meditate and pray, to read and discuss the Torah portion, to remember our loved ones during Yizkor on Yom Kippur, and to hear the sound of the Shofar on Rosh Hashanah. On Rosh Hashanah, a pot-luck vegetarian lunch and tashlich will follow the service. All are welcome, including families with children. The site is handicapped-accessible. Details will be sent upon registration.

To register, please complete the registration form at <http://www.mayantikvah.org/shabbat-and-holidays>. Ma'yan Tikvah has no dues - the amounts listed are suggested donations for non-members, to help sustain our organization. We invite you to give more if you can, and less if you can't. For more information, email rabi@mayantikvah.org or call 508-358-5996.

Communal Singing in Newton

Todah VeZimrah is an experiment in tefillah at Congregation Shaarei Tefillah. Our aim is to combine commitment to tradition with passionate engagement in communal singing, in which the entire kahal becomes the choir. We meet Friday nights monthly for a kabbalat shabbat based on new arrangements of Carlebach melodies, and a ma'ariv embellished with settings by Lewandowski. We welcome the participation of all, whether members of Shaarei Tefillah or not. See <http://zimrah.org> for more information. Congregation Shaarei Tefillah is located at 35 Morseland Ave. in Newton. No cost to participate.

Fall 2012 Events at the Vilna Shul, Boston's Center for Jewish Culture

A Taste of Judaism: Are You Curious?

A free lecture series offered for adults that explores Reform Judaism's relevance in today's world.

Sept. 23 from 9 a.m. -1 p.m.

High Holiday Services with Havurah on the Hill

The Havurah's unique, lay led and non-denominational services are open to everyone. Call to purchase your ticket.

Erev Rosh Hashanah - Sept. 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah Day 1 - Sept. 17 from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah Day 2 - Sept. 18 from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Kol Nidre - Sept. 25 at 6 p.m.

Yom Kippur - Sept. 26 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sukkah Building with Havurah on the Hill

Sunday, Sept. 30 at 2 p.m.

Community Sukkot Celebration

Especially for young children, come make and hang decorations for the Vilna's beautiful holiday sukkah.

Wednesday, Oct. 3 from noon-2 p.m.

"Our History Inspires Our Future"

2012 Gala honoring professor Jonathan Sarna and Ellen Smith.

Thursday, Oct. 4 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

HOH Sukkot Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, Oct. 5 from 7-10 p.m.

Jewish Meditation with Seth Wax

Wednesday, Oct. 17 from 7-8 p.m.

Family Kabbalat Shabbat: Exploring the Blessings of Noah

Friday, Oct. 19 at 6:30 p.m. (Please call in advance to confirm time)

Jewish Meditation with Seth Wax

Wednesday, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m.

Performance by Violinist Yaeko Miranda Elmaleh and Company

Sunday, Nov. 11 at 4 p.m.

HOH Kabbalat Shabbat with Radio

and Television Personality Jim Braude

Friday, Nov. 16 from 7-10 p.m.

Annual Family Chanukah Lights Celebration

Sunday, Dec. 9 from 3-5 p.m.

For more information on these and other events and programs, please visit our website www.vilnashul.org or call us at 617-523-2324.



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COMMUNITY NOTES & EVENTS

Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Boston

As New England's premier Jewish independent school, Schechter provides an outstanding education, from our innovative Gan Shelanu preschool to our renowned K-8 program. With multiple sections per grade, we offer small class sizes and individualized attention. Students become critical thinkers and self-confident, compassionate, committed Jews.

K-8 Open Houses: Oct. 28, 1 p.m.; Nov. 4, 1 p.m. and Nov. 16, 9:30 a.m. For information, contact Carol Rumpler (617-630-4608; carol.rumpler@ssdsboston.org). For a list of free events for preschoolers and their families, visit www.preschoolpals.org.

Boston Jewish Film Festival

The 24th annual Boston Jewish Film Festival will be held Nov. 7-19 in the Greater Boston area. The Festival will include a variety of Israeli films, both features and documentaries, plus movies from the U.S., Germany, France, Argentina and Russia.

Films will be screened at Cinema Salem, Hollywood Hits in Danvers, the Museum of Fine Arts, Coolidge Corner Theatre, the West Newton Cinema, AMC Framingham, Arlington Capitol Theatre, and Showcase Patriot Place. Visit the Festival's web site at <http://www.bjff.org> for the latest information.

Temple Beth David, Canton - Reform

On Friday, Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m., Temple Beth David of the South Shore, 1060 Randolph St. in Canton, will present their annual Cabitt Music & Shabbat Evening Service. Our own L'Dor V'Dor Choir will accompany the program. A festive Oneg will immediately follow the service. Free and open to the public. For more details, please check www.templebethdavid.com, or email membership@templebethdavid.com.

Randolph

Young Israel Kehillath Jacob of Mattapan & Randolph, 374 North Main St., Randolph, will continue with the dues and seat structure it has offered for the past five years. Dues for Seniors is \$175 per year for a family; others are \$200. Seats are as follows: \$70 for Men Members; \$85 for non-members as space will allow; \$60 for Women. Dues run from September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013. All are welcome! Information: 781-961-4364.

Shabbat in Westwood

Temple Beth David, 7 Clapboardtree St., Westwood, 781-769-5270. Kabbalat Shabbat Service: Sept. 14. We welcome families with young children to join us for Kabbalat Shabbat services. Beginning at 5:45 p.m., they are followed by a fun and social Oneg or a Pizza Family Dinner. No charge.



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