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EDITION 22 - Rosh Hashanah / Fall 2014

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Shalom Magazine would like to wish all our readers and advertisers a blessed and happy New Year.



In this issue you will find a variety of articles about Israel. During the summer, my family and I traveled to Israel to represent New England in the Jewish Media Summit at Jerusalem. We spent a month touring the country, arriving in a time of peace and leaving while missiles were flying in the sky.

It is said that when two Jews meet, they have three opinions. That is why, in Shalom Magazine, we like to present a wide variety of perspectives and opinions, so that readers can reflect and discuss the issues that matter to our community.

While we hear a lot about Israel on the news, there is nothing like being there and experiencing the beauty of the country, as well as how the country copes in times of conflict. During my last week in Israel, I had to run for shelter with my family while we heard the sirens announcing that a missile was coming in our direction. As a Jewish journalist, this experience, albeit dangerous, was very significant for me. Although I feel deeply sad for the suffering of the Palestinians in Gaza, nothing can justify Hamas attacks on the Israeli population.

While inside the shelter, my 10-year-old son David asked me, "why do they hate us? Why do they want to kill us?" David participated in the media conference with us and he is starting his own page in this edition.

As we talk about the manifestation of anti-Semitism around the world, it is more important than ever to stay connected with other Jews. That only strengthens the goal of Shalom magazine, to unite the Jewish communities in Massachusetts by sharing information, events, announcements, and ideas.

I would like to thank all of the advertisers and contributors who support our work. There is a lot of biased news about Israel around the world. That is why, in times like this, it is truly a blessing to have a publication such as Shalom that is distributed for free, not only at Jewish locations, but also in public supermarkets all over Massachusetts.

May you all have a Happy and Healthy New Year. Please share your thoughts, and keep up with our daily postings at www.facebook.com/shalommagazine.

Shirley Farber - Editor

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Cover photo: Rally for Israel in Boston by Elan Kawesch

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Community Event Listings

High Holy Days Broadcast on WCUW

On Friday evening, October 3, starting at approximately 8:45 p.m., WCUW Community Radio, 91.3 FM and streaming live at wcuw.org, will broadcast the Kol Nidre service from Temple Emanuel Sinai (May Street campus) in Worcester. (There will be appropriate music at 8 p.m. and the service itself will be on the air around 8:45 p.m.; the broadcast of the service will be delayed for technical reasons.) This broadcast is intended to serve those unable to attend services in person. For further information, call Troy Tyree at WCUW at 508-753-1012 or Bobbie Chase at 508-757-2881.

Holidays at Chai Center

Free High Holiday Services with the Brookline Chai Center

September 24-26, October 3 and 4 at Brookline VFW Post, 386 Washington St. For more information: www.GetChai.com/HighHolidays

Striar Hebrew Academy

Sunday, October 26, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Early Childhood Craft and Story Hour at Striar Hebrew Academy Early Learning Center, 60 Ashcroft Road, Sharon. For information visit www.striarhebrew.org or call 781-784-8724.

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.

AJC Boston 2014

Community Leadership Award Dinner

Honoring Steve Kay - A Leader Where it Matters
Join AJC Boston as we celebrate Steve Kay's leadership and support of AJC's advocacy efforts in Boston and around the globe on October 7, 6 p.m. Cocktails; 7 p.m. dinner at The Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel.

To purchase tickets and a tribute page, or to make a donation, please visit www.ajcboston.org/SteveKay

For more information, please contact Jonathan Kappel at Boston@ajc.org or 617-457-8700.



Art Event

November 13-16 - "Young and Old Masters of Israeli Art" - Art exhibit and sale of over 1500 pieces of fine art from the Safrai Gallery in Jerusalem. There will be open gallery hours on Friday, Nov. 14 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Saturday evening from 6:30 to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.. Temple Beth Am, 300 Pleasant St, Framingham, 508-872-8300 or www.Tempbetham.org. Free event.

Israel Campus Leadership Summit

Sunday, October 19, from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at the Northeastern University, Raytheon Amphitheater. Sponsored by Northeastern Hillel, Combined Jewish Philanthropies and Israel Campus Roundtable. Register at www.israelcampusroundtable.org/summit

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JVS Selected for Nation's Pay-For-Success Initiative

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has selected Jewish Vocational Service in partnership with financial intermediary Social Finance to develop the nation's first-ever Pay-for-Success bond initiative to deliver Adult Basic Education and vocational training services.

The \$15 million initiative will serve nearly 3,000 of the adults who are unable to access Adult Basic Education and English for Speakers of Other Languages programs, with the ultimate goal of helping individuals make successful transitions to employment, higher wage jobs and higher education.

"We are thrilled to be chosen to participate in this important initiative, and honored to be recognized as an effective provider of adult education and workforce development services," said Jerry Rubin, JVS President and CEO. "We've been helping people gain the skills they need to get good jobs and earn good wages for more than 75 years, and this initiative will enable us to significantly expand our work and impact."

The Pay-for-Success Initiative is a groundbreaking, innovative funding model in which private sector investors purchase bonds to fund programs addressing social issues; if the program is deemed a success by third party evaluators, the state repays these bonds with a return. Massachusetts is the first state in the nation to pursue Pay-for-Success contracts for Adult Basic Education and workforce development.

RALLY IN SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAEL



More than 3000 people of all ages gathered on August 7 at Boston City Hall Plaza to show support for Israel and rally for peace. The event was organized by Combined Jewish Philanthropies, the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston and a total of 120 Jewish organizations and synagogues. Speakers included Senator William "Mo" Cowan, Israel's Consul General to New England Yehuda Yaakov, CJP President Barry Shrage, and Ohad Elhelo, an IDF reservist and Brandeis student. Photos by Elan Kawesch unless noted

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WHITE PARTY CRUISE



Chai Center's YJP White Party Cruise

Young Jewish Professionals Boston, a social organization for Jewish 20- and 30-somethings, held its annual White Party on Aug. 11.

More than 400 partygoers mingled on the Spirit of Boston Cruise, dressed in white, with an open rooftop deck, lounge, bars, buffet dinner and VIP options.

Photos: Nathan Chow



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AJC Boston Legislative Advocacy in Action



On September 3, AJC Boston leaders met with Representative Joe Kennedy III to thank the congressman for his strong support for Israel and immigration reform. Rep. Kennedy has just returned from a bipartisan mission to Central America where he learned firsthand about the crisis of migrants on the ground. The group - including Gary Markoff, Alan Dana, Lenny Learner, Mel Shuman, Rob Leikind, and Diane Lieberman - also discussed the rise of global anti-Semitism and opportunities to prevent the spread of extremism and hate in Boston and beyond.

Boston Israel Group

Volunteers of BIG - Boston Israel Group - gathered on July 21 at Sharon's Moose Hill CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) to harvest fresh produce and mingle with other young adults.



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In Israel, There Is No Such Thing As A Lone Soldier

In Israel, the term “Lone Soldier” applies to any IDF soldier whose parents do not reside in Israel. This often applies to foreign volunteers, new immigrants, or those citizens and returning citizens whose parents have moved abroad.

The army has a special system set up to help these soldiers cope without the support of a family structure. A social welfare officer is attached to every military unit who oversees the needs and issues which can arise in the soldier’s personal life, and helps to alleviate any problems which may adversely affect the soldier, thereby causing their military performance to drop as a result.

Despite the challenges, each year close to 2000 soldiers show their support for Israel and their Zionist ideology by enlisting in the IDF. That is why the IDF goes out of its way to help these soldiers. The military sees it as giving back to the volunteer soldiers who dedicate themselves to protecting our country. And that is why the entire country values their sacrifice and supports them as well.

Over the course of Operation Protective Edge, many people from every corner of the globe have realized just how precious and crucial Israel’s soldiers are to the survival of the Jewish state. Lone soldiers from all over the world are proud to be a part of the ranks of native Israelis putting their lives on the line each day in the defense of Israel.

Leora Nouriel, 22, a lone soldier from Natick, Massachusetts, is part of a legacy of siblings who have voluntarily joined the IDF. Her older brother Ben, 27, completed his service as a combat soldier, while her younger brother Yoni, 20, is currently undergoing his basic training with the goal of becoming a combat soldier.

Leora, who attended Maimonides High School, is charged with taking care of the physical health of IDF soldiers. A fitness trainer, Leora pushes soldiers to keep themselves up to the highest physical standards.

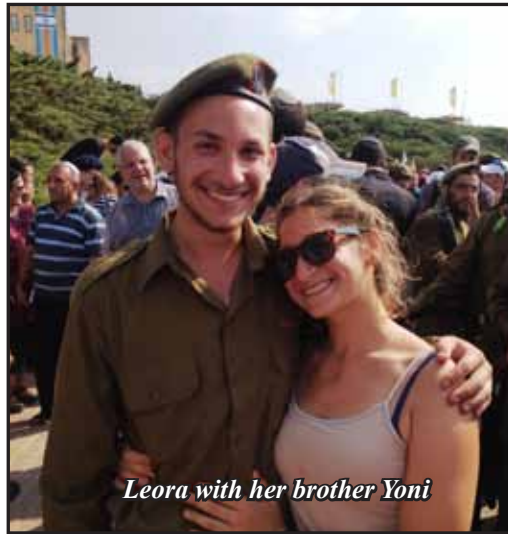
When asked what compelled her to join the IDF as a lone soldier, Leora revealed that, “Although I had never been to Israel, I always felt connected to the Israeli army.” Given one month off each year to go

back home and visit family, Leora explained that when she returned to Boston in April, she was greeted by her community with esteem. “A lot of kids from my high school come and join the army, and it’s greatly respected and considered a good thing,” she said. She also received accolades and encouragement from her local Chabad synagogue and its Rabbi and Rebbetzin, Levi and Chani Fogelman.

Boston’s Shimshon Erenfeld is the treasurer of American Friends of LIBI, a non profit organization that supports the educational, religious and social needs of IDF soldiers. “During Operation Protective Edge,” remarked Erenfeld, “American Friends of LIBI raised over \$500,000 for the soldiers of the Israeli army and its a pleasure to be able to send over all of the money right away.”

Unlike other American-based IDF support organizations, American Friends of LIBI relies almost exclusively on volunteers in order to keep their overhead low. “At American Friends of LIBI, we are proud that over 95 percent of the money we raised went straight to the army,” said Erenfeld. “And to know that some of those funds go to assist soldiers like our own Leora Nouriel is especially meaningful. It is our goal, at American Friends of LIBI, to ensure that no lone soldier serving in the Israeli army feels alone.”

Please visit, <http://friendsoflibi.org>.



Leora with her brother Yoni



Leora training a soldier

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Teen BBQ in Solidarity with Israel

CTeen Newton, a project of Beth Menachem Chabad, gathered together for a summer time BBQ. Considering the situation in Israel, they recited a Psalm as a prayer for the security and well being of everyone in Israel. Teens placed a coin in the charity box for the merit of the IDF soldiers and everyone accepted to do a Mitzvah, something special for the security of Israel.

CTeen is an international club where Jewish teens learn about themselves and their heritage while giving back to the community. CTeen is open to all local Jewish teens regardless of affiliation. For more information, visit www.JewishNewton.com/CTeen, facebook [fb.com/CTeenNewton](https://www.facebook.com/CTeenNewton), or e-mail cteen@jewishnewton.com, or call 617-244-1200.



Chai Kidz Challah Bake

Over 150 participated in the monthly summer Challah Bake & Storytime at the Coolidge Corner Library. The event is organized by the Brookline Chai Center. For more information, visit www.ChaiKidz.com



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Dedication of New England's Largest Chabad Center

On June 22, rabbis, lay leaders and community members gathered to dedicate New England's largest Chabad center in honor of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson.

Beth Menachem Chabad of Newton's sprawling \$5 million new community center boasts over 15,000 square feet and includes a beautiful synagogue sanctuary and function hall, library, men's and women's mikvaot (ritual baths) and a large number of classrooms.

Building Chairman Fred Chanowski marveled at the determination of Rabbi Chaim and Nechama Prus, directors of Chabad of Eastern Massachusetts, to build the beautiful Jewish center despite the many challenges that they faced over the years.

World renowned Jewish singer Avraham Fried entertained the crowd of over 200. Many participants were moved to tears during his special tribute to the three Israeli teenagers who were kidnapped 11 days earlier. Back in 2000, Rabbi Prus established a Chabad presence in south Newton, but the congregation quickly outgrew the facilities. The growing Chabad facility now includes Rabbi Shalom Ber and Itty Prus, who have successfully directed many of its educational and social activities including Cteen, Chabad Teen Network, and the Jewish Learning Institute.

Rabbi Prus thanked dinner honoree, philanthropist and longtime supporter of Chabad James Gould. Prus spoke movingly about how the Rebbe's blessings at a meeting back in 1991 were "prophetic and instrumental" in completing the new, beautiful Chabad center. The Rebbe gave Fred Chanowski an unexpected blessing of "success in building a shul" some ten years before the idea of creating the synagogue and Jewish center in Newton was even conceived!

Finally, Richard Slifka, chairman of the dinner and chairman of Global Partners LLC, thanked the participants. Having known Rabbi Prus for some 35 years, he spoke of "the amazing work he has done for Jewish life while leading Chabad in Eastern Massachusetts," and "the wonderful work he will continue to do."



President of Beth Menachem Chabad Fred Chanowski; Dinner Chairman Richard Slifka; Guest of Honor James Gould; Rabbi Chaim Prus, Regional Director, Chabad of Eastern Massachusetts; Rabbi Shalom Ber Prus, Director of Beth Menachem Chabad



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King Solomon's Temple in Brazil



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King Solomon's Temple in Brazil

On July 31, the evangelical Universal Church of the Kingdom of G-d, led by Brazilian Bishop Edir Macedo, inaugurated the gigantic and polemic "Solomon's Temple" in São Paulo, Brazil.

According to Veja magazine, which published an article critical of the work, the location where the church was erected had instead been designated by the government for the construction of 744 units of affordable housing in the state capital. But the project was never initiated. Instead, The Universal Church purchased the land, which is located in a region where many Jews once had businesses.

The architectural design was inspired by the Temple of King Solomon, following the principles and measures of the Temple of Jerusalem as described in the Torah. With an estimated cost of \$300 million, it occupies an area of over one million square feet and has the capacity to seat 10,000 people. Solomon's Temple is now the largest church in Brazil, its area four times larger than the Catholic Shrine of Aparecida. The Se Cathedral in Sao Paulo, for example, can hold up to 8000 people at most.

The opening ceremony was attended by President Dilma Rousseff as well as her predecessor, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Governor of São Paulo Geraldo Alckmin, the mayor of São Paulo Fernando Haddad, the Consul General of Israel, Yoel Barnea, and governors and politicians from several states of Brazil. Jewish/Israeli singer Varda Usiglio sang Hallelujah and Jerusalem of Gold in Hebrew. (watch the video on www.facebook.com/batepapomagazine)

For the ceremony, the bearded, 69-year-old bishop dressed with a tallit and kippah. The Universal Church has millions of followers in Brazil and around the world. Part of the material used in the construction of this temple was imported from Israel.

Brazil remains the world's largest Catholic country, but it has a very good chance to elect an Evangelical president, Marina Silva. Presidential elections will be held in October in Brazil.

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Shaloh House South Shore



The Shaloh House infants program is the only Jewish infants program in the South Area starting from the age of one month old.



Howard Baker, Debby LaBarge, Ety Baker and Merav Drory at the Shaloh House Auction event last February, celebrating 36 years of Jewish Education and Outreach in the South Area of Boston.



Ben Zola of Stoughton receives his reward from the Shaloh House Hebrew School last June as Rabbi Gurkow looks on. Over 30 children received awards on the last day of Hebrew School.



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Thursday, September 25: Rosh Hashanah Day 1

Friday, September 26: Rosh Hashanah Day 2

Friday, October 3: Kol Nidre

Saturday, October 4: Yom Kippur

Sunday, July 5, 3 p.m.: Sukkah Building

Friday, October 10, 6:30 p.m.: Shabbat in the Sukkah!

Sunday, October 19, 11 a.m.: Young Couples One-Day Brunch and Love Seminar with psychologist Rachel Barbanel-Fried

Thursday, October 23, 6:30 p.m.: Me'ah Adult Jewish Learning Program Begins

Friday, October 24, 5:30 p.m.: Night at the Museum Shabbat for Young Families

Wednesday, October 29, 6:30 p.m.: Appraise Your Jewish Artifacts! An interactive and educational evening with certified Judaica Appraiser Elizabeth Berman

Thursday, November 13, 7 p.m.: Screening of *The Return* with the Boston Jewish Film Festival at the Institute of Contemporary Art

Friday, November 14, 6:30 p.m.: Havurah on the Hill Kabbalat Shabbat with The Return director Adam Zucker

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Vilna Shul Names New Development Director

Rosa Kramer Franck has been named Director of Development at the Vilna Shul, Boston's Center for Jewish Culture (BCJC). She comes to the Vilna with a broad based knowledge of Greater Boston, from a Senior Advancement Officer at Hebrew College, a Development Manager at Mayyim Hayyim, and her early career at Boston's CJP. Ms. Franck holds a MBA in mission driven management from the Heller School as well as a MA from the Hornstein Jewish Professional Leadership Program, both at Brandeis University.



With all of Rosa's experience, Deborah Feinstein, the President of the Vilna's Board of Directors, wanted to know why she was attracted to the Vilna. Ms. Franck said, "This is an important and special time for the Vilna. There is tremendous excitement happening with the building's projected renovations and with its new executive leadership. I am very much looking

forward to working with Barnet and the board and sharing their vision. As someone enjoys creative, strategic thinking and partnership, I can't wait to sink my teeth in."

Barnet Kessel, the Vilna's Executive Director, explained that the Vilna is a small entrepreneurial organization that works as a team and has set goals high for itself. The Vilna's strategic plan is to restore the historic building and place it as the center of Jewish cultural life in downtown Boston.



2014 Vilna Shul Gala Honorees Arnie Slavet and Mike Ross



Vilna Shul volunteer Larisa Klebe shares a smile and lights the Havdalah Candle

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Israel Solidarity

By Rabbi Susan Abramson

Mah nishtanah hakayitz hazeh... Why has this summer been different from all other summers?

For many of us the summer is a time to relax, enjoy the weather, spend time with friends and family, take vacations and generally chill out. I had the good fortune to spend time in New Hampshire, communing with nature, kayaking, and breathing in the clear mountain air. This summer has been different for all of us. We have experienced a mixture of powerful feelings, from horror, to fear, to anxiety, to literally holding our breath as we listened to the news out of Israel. Everything felt bad, scary, uncertain. This summer our world seemed to have changed in so many ways.

As I sat in my kayak in the middle of the lake this summer, I felt as if my body was there, but my soul was with our people halfway around the world. This summer, when I looked up at the beautiful serene sky, all I could imagine was what it must have been like for our Israeli brothers and sisters to have been looking at the same sky, waiting for the next rocket to explode over their heads, wondering when they would need to rush into a stairwell or underground shelter to avoid injury or death. I cannot forget the photo of four-year-old Daniel Tragerman, standing proudly next to a tower of Legos he had just built in his home in Southern Israel, shortly before he was killed by a Gazan missile.

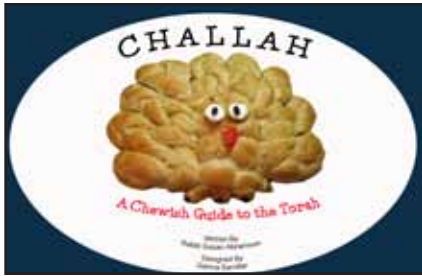
I cannot begin to imagine what it must have been like for Palestinians being used as human shields, looking out of their apartment windows to see a rocket being launched into the sky from their backyard, terrified, knowing that they might become collateral damage. I cannot forget the story of four young Palestinian boys who were playing on a Gazan beach when they were suddenly obliterated by an errant Israeli bomb.

Every other summer, our temple administrator Avigail goes home to Tel Aviv to spend time with her family. This summer, she and her children landed in Israel the day the bombings began. She told me the harrowing story of being on a highway outside of Tel Aviv with her kids when an air raid siren went off. They raced underneath a nearby bridge and huddled together just in time to hear a huge explosion in the sky above them. She said they could feel each other's hearts beating out of their chests. Within days, they went from living a quiet life in a Boston suburb, to being on the front line.

Mah nishtanah... In previous Israeli conflicts, I had been able to put a little bit of an emotional wall up between myself and the tragedy of war. This time was different. I now have a 19-year-old son who looks exactly like almost every soldier in the Israeli army. I couldn't bear to look at the pictures of the young men who were killed, because there was too much of a resemblance. Two of his high school classmates chose to join the Israeli army this past year instead of going to college. One of them recently wrote a blog about how his unit crossed the border into Gaza. I can't begin to imagine what their parents were feeling. This time it's personal for me in a way it has never been before.

And I can't remember a time when there has been so much lopsided, anti-Israel rhetoric, particularly from the liberal media, regarding Israel's role in this crisis. I don't understand how so many intelligent,

Israel Solidarity



highly educated people in our country and around the world couldn't see what I saw. Hamas fires thousands of bombs indiscriminately into Israeli population centers, and Israel is blamed for retaliating? The discovery of a myriad of tunnels

together in peace.

What is not different this summer, and in this conflict, is that we have each other for support. We are ready and willing to support the State of Israel in any way necessary. As Jews, we continue to share that same special bond which has continued for thousands of years. Our political viewpoints may differ. We may disagree about every step Israel has taken in the past or what it needs to do in light of this situation. But we are united as one Am Yisrael, people of Israel.

leading to kibbutzim or near Jewish neighborhoods, whose obvious purpose is to cause death and destruction, and there was no outcry? What am I missing?

This year, as we listen to the shofar usher in a new year, we hear in its raspy mournful notes the sound of our people and our homeland calling us together in a way we have never been before, to protect and defend our people. This year, when we pray for the peace of Jerusalem, we mean it in a more literal and urgent way than we ever have before.

Unlike any other conflict, this one caused me to take a step back from some of my very liberal friends, with whom I agree on almost every other topic. I can't understand their chastisement of Israel's actions and defense of Hamas. One Facebook post made me fume for days when the person posted a critical piece about Israel and commented, "finally, some sanity." There is nothing sane or rational about murdering other people and causing them to murder your own.

Susan Abramson is the rabbi of Temple Shalom Emeth, Burlington, MA. She is the author of the Rabbi Rocketpower series of children's Jewish holiday books. Her new book, Challah: A Chewish Guide To the Torah, is due out the end of October.

And the rise in anti-Semitic violence in Europe and elsewhere around the world has been shockingly different from any other time I can remember. Videos of French people shattering windows of Jewish-owned shops, throwing rocks at French synagogues, were frighteningly reminiscent of *Kristallnacht* and the beginning of the Holocaust.

How has this summer been the same as all other summers? We have the same Jewish values and moral principles we always had. Every human being is created in G-d's image. Human life is precious. If we save one life, the Talmud teaches, it is as if we have saved the entire world. We are G-d's partners in ushering in an era where swords will be turned into ploughshares and people will live

ראש השנה

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QUESTION:

Do you have any suggestions for an easy soup?

ANSWER:

Try my corn soup.

1 can cream style corn, if possible, no salt added.

1 can whole kernel sweet corn, drained

1 can fat free evaporated milk or fresh milk

1 tablespoon margarine

Pepper to taste

Pour everything into a medium size pot and stir. Cook over medium heat, stirring often so that it will not burn, until it is just at the boiling point. Serve with crackers of your choice.

Dreams Can Come True

My mother always said to me and my siblings, "Chin Up!" There were many times when we thought that we would never accomplish our dreams and make them into reality. However, through my lifetime, the words "Chin Up" kept me going.

Over the years, I found that my dreams came through for me. I succeeded in having a good job, getting married, raising a family, and I also accomplished publishing a cookbook of recipes and stories, recording videos, and making TV appearances. My dreams of what I would like to accomplish in my life manifested beyond my expectations.

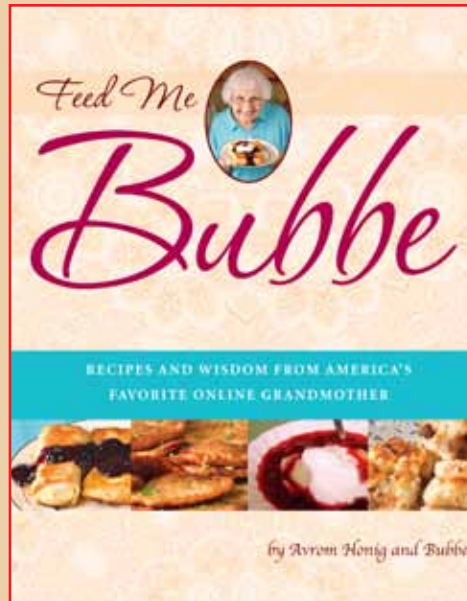
But merely dreaming was not enough. I had to be a constant doer in order to continue making my dreams a reality, no matter how long it took.

I wonder how many others have realized their dreams and transformed their aspirations into great accomplishments and a happy full life.

It may take time; however, young people today have such a great opportunity to accomplish their dreams even during tough times. Don't give up. "Chin Up." Time is in your favor. You never know when your dream will become a reality.

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Lemon Baked Fish

1 1/2 lbs pollock or cod

1 1/2 cups water

2 tbs. fresh lemon juice

2 tbs. finely chopped onion

2 large tomatoes, cut into six slices

1/4 cup breadcrumbs

1/2 tsp. basil

1/8 tsp. pepper

1 tbs. vegetable oil

1/2 green pepper, finely chopped

Cut fish into six pieces. Combine water and lemon juice in large bowl. Add fish portions. Let stand in bowl for thirty minutes.

Drain fish. Put in plate in a greased baking dish and sprinkle with pepper. Place a slice of tomato and pepper on each piece, sprinkle with onion. Combine bread crumbs with basil and oil. Mix well. Spread crumb mixture evenly over tomato slices.

Bake uncovered in preheated oven at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes or until fish flakes easily with fork.

Note: Prepare ahead of time and refrigerate so that it is ready to place in oven when needed. Serve with mashed potatoes and vegetables.



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Bubbe, 87, multi award-winning author, JLTV star of “Feed Me Bubbe,” and Shalom Magazine columnist, died on August 7, 2014, after a short illness. She leaves behind her husband of 67 years, a son, two daughters, two sisters, and five grandchildren. She was the daughter of Abraham and Molle Esther Sandler.

For years, Bubbe worked for the State of Israel Bonds and at the Bank of America Operations Center. She was a past President of the Parent Teachers Association of the Yeshiva Achei Tmimim of Worcester. She was a life member of Mizrahi movement and a member of the Jonas Family Circle.

Bubbe never wanted the spotlight, and therefore never revealed her real name. All she wanted was to help the world.

At Shalom Magazine, we are very sorry to hear the news of her passing. She brought much joy to our readers with her recipes and signature stories.

Stay tuned for future discussions and other projects that will be posted in her memory on her Facebook page, www.facebook.com/feedmebubbe.

Avrom Honig, her grandson and Feed Me Bubbe producer, has said that he will be producing more videos in the future that will continue the memories and traditions of the show.



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Rosh Hashanah cards from the Collections of the AJHS archives

These antique Rosh Hashanah postcards, mainly dating from 1906 to 1919, were found in various collections at the American Jewish Historical Society New England Archives. Many are designed with intricate floral designs, fretwork, and have even been embossed with silk to add further detail. Additional flourishes, done by hand, include painted petals, gold lines around borders, and sparkles. Some of the cards appear to be later than the early 1900s and are in a watercolor style with idyllic outdoor scenes. All the postcards wishing the recipients a “Happy New Year,” “Glückliches Neujahre,” and “Le’Shana Tova Tikatevu!”

For more information about these cards, please contact Kelsey Sawyer, Archives Assistant at Kelsey.sawyer@ajhsboston.org. Visit us on our website at www.ajhsboston.org to access our social media sites where you will find more photographs and online exhibits.



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Is there hope for Muslim-Jewish Relations?

Rebecca Keys

Since I returned home from a Muslim-Jewish dialogue conference in Vienna, friends have been asking me, is there hope? Can Muslims and Jews be friends, and perhaps even allies? Can we overcome the assumptions and stereotypes we have of each other and work together on areas of mutual concern? Is honest and transparent dialogue possible about difficult issues that touch on a raw nerve? How do we encounter the other's narrative while remaining true to our values and without falling into moral equivalencies and apologetics? Especially at a time of rising global anti-Semitism and anti-Israel sentiment, are Muslim-Jewish relations possible at all?

The questions may be numerous and multilayered, overwhelming and complex, but the answer is surprisingly simple: Yes. And the proof is in the pudding.

This past August, over 125 Muslims and Jews from 38 countries, including Iran, Pakistan, Lebanon, Sudan, Morocco, and Israel, came together in Vienna for the Muslim Jewish Conference (MJC), a week-long event to promote positive Muslim-Jewish relations, foster partnerships, and discuss ideas for projects on matters of mutual concern across the globe.

The MJC is a 5-year old volunteer run organization based in Austria. According to its website, the MJC is comprised of "35 team members, young academics and professionals from all around the world and various faiths; living in 16 different countries and 4 different time zones. The central activity of the organization is its annual travelling conference."

The 2014 conference in Vienna was a profoundly radical encounter. After all, it isn't every day that young Muslims and Jews sit down and talk to each other, instead of about each other. For some, it was their first time even meeting a person of the other faith-and this all took place during a particularly

painful and tumultuous conflict in the Middle East.

Muslim and Jewish participants questioned, debated, shared, and listened during daily discussion sessions about the toughest issues that confront our two communities: Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia; Collective Memory; Conflict Transformation; Gender and Politics; Politics, Power and Religion; and more. Since no one tiptoed around difficult subjects, the conversation wasn't always easy. But the dialogue provided a long overdue opportunity to erode preconceived notions and assumption about Muslim and Jewish politics, culture, and religion.

For me, the most powerful moment came during a joint visit to Mau-thausen, a concentration camp where over 100,000 Jews and others were murdered during World War II. It isn't easy to stand outside a gas chamber where men, women, and children were so brutally and inhumanely killed. But when one stands there with a new friend-the proverbial other-on sacred ground, the experience offers hope that perhaps the Jewish people are not alone.

The MJC participants won't be able to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and they can't eradicate widespread anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. We can do little, if anything, to heal the distrust that runs deep between many Muslims and Jews around the world. But it is surely remarkable that we did in fact meet during such a difficult time, and share a room, share a laugh, share a moment in the face of so many who say our friendship is impossible.

So, is there hope for Muslim-Jewish relations? Yes-there are conversations to be had and partnerships to be built. Even though we speak different languages and use disparate reference points for understanding the world, we share a commitment to coexistence, and between us there is more than enough hope to go around.

Rebecca Keys is the Assistant Director and Chief of Staff of the AJC Boston office.





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The Compost Bin in Our Hearts

Rabbi Katy Z. Allen

My compost bins are so much more than just a place where compost happens. The area beside the three wire and wood bins is a place where I often feel my father's spirit - he was raised on a farm, and though he became a professional, gardening was in his blood, and he spent much of his spare time in his garden and his orchard.

Yet, it is not just the reminders of my father or the sense of his hovering spirit that gives meaning to my compost bins. They are symbolic of so much - which may be more the truer reason that I think of my father whenever I take out the compost.

We gardeners deposit plant food wastes, garden trimmings, and chopped up leaves into our compost bins. We let the rains come to add water, and from time to time we add a bit of soil. Then we let nature take its course, and before too long, all of that "waste" has turned into dark, crumbly humus that will enrich the soil of our garden. The leaves, the banana and orange peels, the corn husks - all this and so much more has been transformed from something seemingly useless, a by-product, into something good, useful, and enriching.

And when my heart is feeling heavy, and I sit quietly beside my compost bins, I, too, get transformed. The grief and sadness in my heart are lifted, and I find myself once again able to be useful, to myself and to others. I am able to forge ahead into new territory. My relationship with the Holy One of Blessing has deepened.

This, in essence, is what *teshuvah* is about, turning the excess materials of our hearts and souls - those feelings of sadness, anger, jealousy, and more - into a deeper and closer relationship with G-d - re-turning to G-d - and in the process finding ourselves enriched.

It has been, I believe, through my connection with my father, who passed away almost 40 years ago, that I have learned to grieve. But grief is complex, it is not a one-time endeavor, it is a mosaic, and it returns, often when we least expect it. It shows up in new ways in response to new losses, so that frequently throughout our lives, something new and different needs to be transformed.

Thus it is for all of us, and thus it is in life. And so, our tradition provides the vehicle of the month of *Elul* leading up to Rosh HaShanah and all the days of the High Holidays, to give us the opportunity to let our compost be transformed, let our grief, fear, and despair be released, and let our hearts open wider, in an ever deepening relationship with the Mystery That Is.

Compost happens. May our transformation also happen.

This is one of a series of Earth Etudes for Elul, reflections on Earth and teshuvah, gathered together by Ma'yan Tikvah - A Wellspring of Hope. Other reflections can be found at www.mayantikvah.blogspot.com.

Rabbi Katy Z. Allen is the founder and leader of Ma'yan Tikvah and a staff chaplain at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

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GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY

By Dr. Rebecca Housel

Guardians of the Galaxy, the Hollywood summer blockbuster that's earned \$600-million at the box office to date, was originally a 1969 Marvel comic created by Jewish writer, Arnold Drake (aka Druckman), and Jewish artist, Gene Colan (changed from "Cohen"). The basic plot revolved around a rag-tag group of heroes, each the last of their kind, who unite to fight against an evil reptilian race attempting to take over Earth, the Brotherhood of the Badoon.

If you see a parallel between the original *Guardians of the Galaxy* comic and the Holocaust, you'd be right. Though the 2014 film is based on a later variation of the comic, Jewish connections still abound, not the least of which is the co-writer of the smash hit, Nicole Perlman... but we'll talk more about Nicole a bit later.

Marvel Comics was started in 1962 by Stan Lee (aka Lieber). The son of immigrant Jews, one of Stan Lee's first forays into the world of comics, *X-Men*, fell on the heels of the infamous Eichmann Trials. The X-Men were a group of genetically-gifted humans feared and hated by the general populace. Despite being wrongfully persecuted, like the Jews, the X-Men fought to save not just their own kind, but the rest of the world as well. The comic included a Holocaust survivor, Magneto, who warns other "mutants" (or Jews) not to trust regular people. In the "Days of Futures Past" storyline, Magneto's hyper-vigilance is proven valid as mutants are stripped of their rights, ghettoized, imprisoned,

tortured, and experimented upon.

While *Guardians of the Galaxy* certainly has its share of mutated aliens, they barely resemble the Jews. What is more interesting is that the new *Guardians* face an evil with Egyptian-esque costumes - perhaps a reference to another evil brotherhood, one named after an Egyptian goddess. The saviors of this superheroic group, played by co-stars Chris Pratt and Zoe Saldana, both represent mixed unions and are also both orphans.

Chris Pratt's character, Peter Quill (aka Star-Lord), is half-human, half-alien. His human mother dies of cancer early in the film. It's shortly after her death that Peter Quill, a mere boy, is also taken from Earth; he's kidnapped by a group of space mercenaries known as Ravagers, led by my friend and Comic Con colleague, Michael Rooker, who plays the character of Yondu Udonta. The movie-audience does not yet know what kind of alien Quill's father is, but it's the alien side of him that gives Quill the strength to defeat the Egyptian-looking evil in true Moses-like fashion.

Zoe Saldana plays Gamora... yes, you read that right, pronounced like the Biblical sin-city of Gomorrah. Gamora is raised by the evil ruler, Thanos. After killing her family, Thanos makes Gamora his personal assassin in a sick twist of cosmic irony. Thanos was created by comic book writer and artist, Jim Starlin, who admits Thanos was directly inspired by Jack Kirby's (aka Jacob Kurtzberg's) Darkseid. Darkseid is a character Kirby fashioned after Adolph Hitler.

In the film, Gamora works for Thanos yet secretly despises him. In an act of total strength and courage, she does what she has to survive. When she sees an opportunity to redeem herself, she takes it.

Gomorrah, the Biblical city, is called Numeira today; it's situated in the plains between Jordan and Israel. In many ways, the city of Gomorrah is persecuted by association with Sodom, described as one of five allied "cities of the plain" in *Genesis*. The character of Gamora is also guilty by association; she was not born to Thanos. He killed her parents, and after orphaning her, adopts Gamora, training her to fill his sociopathic shoes. Yet Gamora never gives up who she truly is. Her tenacity allows her to redeem herself, and by default, the city she's named after. Sometimes we must become vulnerable to be at

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GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY

our most powerful. That is what Gamora chooses to do in an effort to give herself agency over her adopted father. Basically, Gamora grows up. Perhaps this foreshadows the “growing up” of the Middle East as well? Only time will tell....

Though Saldana takes great pride in her Latin heritage, she has also included Lebanese in her cultural background; Lebanon’s borders touch both Israel and Jordan, the exact location of what was once Gomorrah. Kudos to the casting director on that one. Well played.

Women do play strong roles in *Guardians*, both on and off screen. While Saldana plays a strong female hero, she can only do so because of another strong female hero, writer Nicole Perlman.

Perlman was accepted into the Marvel screenwriting program in 2009. She was offered some of Marvel’s lesser-known properties to work with, one of which was chosen, according to Perlman, because of Perlman’s gender. And it wasn’t the male-centric *Guardians of the Galaxy*. Perlman’s ultimate choice in *Guardians* was surprising and by 2011, she was asked to draft a new version of what she had created. A year later, director, James Gunn, was brought on to contribute to the script. He has since claimed that he rewrote it all himself and that his version is “very different” than Perlman’s, including the emphasis on the Sony Walkman associated with the character of Peter Quill.

Similar to the film itself, women on and off screen are not allowed to be the actual heroes of *Guardians* without significant help from their male counterparts. At least Perlman got some writing credit for the film. I mean, without her original script, whatever Gunn thought of it, it was good enough to get Kevin Feige’s attention, President of

Marvel Studios, as early as 2010, when Feige first began hinting about the possibility of a future *Guardians* project.

Oddly, the most recent *Guardians* comic book adaptation talks about our Universe being invaded by an alternate Universe known as the

“Cancerverse.” The storyline sees the death of Star-Lord (aka Peter Quill), after the *Guardians* attempt to end the war with Thanos. Gamora is a part of that mission. As a majority of American Ashkenazi Jews know (or should!), there is an ongoing genetics study on the connections between Ashkenazi Jews and cancer. Like the unfortunate character of Peter Quill, though Jewish hands did not start that fire, we are being burned by it just as readily. Luckily, Jewish doctors like Paul Ehrlich and Sidney Farber helped create treatments like chemotherapy to elongate the windows of remission in a patient’s lifetime as other medical researchers, many of whom are also Jewish, rush toward curing the nonfictional “Cancerverse.”

The ultimate message behind *Guardians of the Galaxy*? Whether Jewish, Christian, Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim, Baha’i, or any other theology or philosophy one might prescribe to, we are all human. Only united, as a single race that celebrates our differences as well as our similarities, will we defeat our enemies. Once divided, we fall, one by one, whether to the “Cancerverse” or to the next personification of

evil, like Thanos, or Adolph Hitler, or ISIS....

Dr. Rebecca Housel, a Boston native, has been a professor for 20 years in the fields of writing, film, literature, narrative medicine, and medical humanities. For more about Dr. Housel, please visit her website: RebeccaHousel.com



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Summer in Israel

Text and photos: Shirley Nigri Farber

In late June, I traveled with my husband and son to Israel. We were invited by the Israeli government to participate in the first *Jewish Media Summit*, an international conference held in Jerusalem. About 140 journalists from 30 countries participated in four days of lectures and discussions on Israel's image in the media, and growing incidence of anti-Semitism around the world. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Shimon Peres received journalists at a gala event on the first night. My husband Scott and I were the only participants from New England, through our five-year-old *Shalom Magazine*.

On the first day, journalists were offered a variety of tours, and I choose to visit the Negev desert near the border with Gaza. There, I

whom, after several days of searching, were found dead. My entire trip to Israel was virtually accompanied by thousands of my Facebook and Instagram followers, sharing their sorrow.

Jerusalem

We began our journey through the holy city of Jerusalem by walking through the places where our ancestors made history. Our first accommodation was the **Ramat Rachel Hotel**, where we enjoyed a privileged view of the city as well as an archaeological park. We relaxed at the pools, and enjoyed the delicious foods, offered buffet style. In Jerusalem we prayed at the Wailing Wall (where my husband and I met in 2001), strolled the famous Ben Yehuda Street, and the market Mahane Yehuda. We visited the orthodox Meah Shearim



Bedouin Experience meal



Gazelle spotted on the Jeep tour



Our Chalet at Nofei Gonen Hotel

got the chance to learn more about the lives of people who live under constant targeting by Hamas rockets. We visited a school in Shaar Hanegev that, after being hit several times, was rebuilt in a way that their 1200 students can continue their lessons without the constant need to run for shelter.

During our first few weeks in Israel the mood was peaceful, despite an abundance of grief due to the kidnapping of three young Israelis,

neighborhood, and recent excavations in the City of David, where we walked through an underground tunnel that led to the Kotel (Wailing Wall). We visited the Israel Museum, which houses a miniature replica of Jerusalem, depicted as it stood during the days of the Holy Temple.

Northern Israel

After the conference ended, we rented a car and traveled to beautiful northern Israel, along the Sea of Galilee and the mountains of the Golan border with Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. There, we stayed at a

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Summer in Israel

very comfortable chalet at the hotel **Kibbutz Nofei Gonen**.

The last time I was on a kibbutz, I was 18. Then, I attended a program where I studied Hebrew half of the day and worked the other half. That was in 1986, and the kibbutz was mainly an agricultural colony. Today, the kibbutzim are modernized farms, not all residents work inside the kibbutz, and it is possible to buy a home in them without being a member. **Kibbutz Gonen** is more of a gated community, with security at the entrance, swimming pools, a hotel, market, kindergarten, and even a petting zoo.

From there our guide, **Boaz Shalgi from EDI Travel**, took us to historic sites in the region. Boaz arranged for us to take a Jeep tour to see the natural resources. We got to walk by the rivers, spot gazelle and

evening, we strolled along the beach. Late at night we walked back to the **Rio Hotel**, which was conveniently located between the airport and the bus station.

After all that swimming, we traveled to the Judean desert for the “Bedouin Experience” at **Genesis Land**. At this magical area set up to reflect the time of our patriarchs, visitors can ride a camel, or walk around the desert, where two guides impersonate Abraham and his servant Eliezer. They served us homemade food and tea at their tent, showed us the places where Avraham walked, and let us bake our own pita over a burning rock. We spent the night there in a super modern “tent” overlooking the desert with air conditioning, microwave and a Jacuzzi. It was so peaceful, and the silence so endless, I believe that it



Arthur Hotel Jerusalem



Hexagonal Pool



Archeological Park in Beit Shean

other animals, and we also dove into the water and ate a watermelon under a tree. Our very knowledgeable tour guide provided us with a lot of information about the northern border of Israel, as well as about events that took place there.

When I go to Israel, I enjoy visiting places where I have fond memories, but I also always see new places there I have never been. The Golan area, with several national parks with pools and waterfalls, is a paradise for nature lovers.

There were two parks that I remembered from the first time I went to Israel in 1986: **Brechat Hameshushim** (Hexagonal Pool) and **Gan Hasheloshah** (Sahne). Despite having been to Israel more than six times, it had been 27 years since I had returned to those parks. At the Hexagonal Pool, we hiked down the rocks for 30 minutes to get to an amazing body of fresh water. **Gan Hasheloshah** is a park where we could swim in the blue water river and then have a picnic.

What I like most about Israel is to be able to take a tour that is all at the same time spiritual, ecological, historical, and fun. So in one day, we prayed at the tomb of the great sages in Tzefat, hiked at a national park, explored the ruins of the Roman era in Beit Shean, and swam in the **Kinneret** (Sea of Galilee). In Tiberias, I visited the tomb of Rabbi Meir Baal Haness, who is known as the Lord of Miracles, where I prayed and lit a candle. We also visited the tombs of Yonatan Ben Uziel (Amuka) in Tzefat, and of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai in Meron.

From there, we went to Tel Aviv and stayed at the very well-located **Artplus Hotel** on Ben Yehuda Street. Just steps from the beach and with a bus stop at the door, we were able to visit myriad sites that included the free market, restaurants, galleries and the port city of Jaffa, with its bars by the sea. The newly-renovated hotel, part of the Atlas Hotel chain, offers a breakfast buffet and daily happy hour at the end of each day. There, we met friends and enjoyed the nightlife. We also visited a new outdoor mall called Sarona near the Azrieli Center.

Next we went to Eilat, the southernmost city of the country along the Red Sea. There, we swam among dolphins at the Dolphin Reef Dive Center, visited the Aquarium, and swam in clear waters alongside fish of the most beautiful colors at the Coral Beach. We spent the afternoon at Kings City, an amusement park with biblical themes, and in the

would make any atheist kneel down, feel the Divine presence and pray.

At the Dead Sea, we spent the day at **Ein Gedi Spa**. There, we got into the sulfur pools known for their therapeutic properties for reducing skin problems, such as psoriasis, and for strengthening hair and nails. We covered ourselves with mud and floated on the hot and salty Dead Sea water.

We ended the trip in Jerusalem at the elegant **Arthur Hotel** on Ben Yehuda Street, in the center of everything. I like to walk on foot through the city, as there are always interesting things happening. I like to

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Coral Beach, Eilat



Jaffa Port

observe the contrasts between Jews of different levels of religion, and walk between Muslims and Catholics. All this, mixed with tourists from around the world, each speaking a different language. According to the Israeli Ministry of Tourism, 3.5 million tourists entered the country in 2013, comprised of 53 percent Christian and 28 percent Jews.

During the final days of the trip, we were strolling quietly in Jerusalem when we heard the siren sounds. This was the first time in my life I heard the alarm warning that a missile was on its way to Jerusalem. For a few seconds I did not know what to do. I had no idea even where the shelter was until I saw people walking fast toward a building. So there I went with my 10-year-old son and husband.

My friends followed the situation on television and thought the country was upside down. But what characterizes Israel is an inexplicable atmosphere of peace and security, a little confidence that G-d will protect everyone, and a near certainty that the anti-missile Iron Dome will destroy the missile in the air before it reaches the ground.

Inside the shelter, within the basement of the building, we stayed for 10 minutes with about 40 other people, and then went back to normal life as if nothing had happened. During other times when Hamas fired rockets into Israel, the target was in the South, and not the holy city of Jerusalem. So it was a surprise, to say the least. After this incident, I began to worry and ponder various scenarios, and where to run if we were busy, or nor near a shelter.

Then, on a Saturday afternoon, I was taking a shower in the hotel room when my son and my husband shouted saying the alarm was sounding. I told them to go ahead while I dressed, but my son looked at me as if he did not want to separate.

Some may think that I did not pick a good time to visit Israel. But I feel that as a journalist, it is extremely important to experience and understand the life Israelis endure as they are constantly threatened by their neighbors. I spoke with friends and relatives who live in Israel about the situation. An elderly cousin told me that she did not go to the shelter when she heard the alarm because she could not carry her sick husband. But she said she heard an explosion near her house in Holon. Another cousin, who lives in an apartment in Petach Tikva where one of the rooms has reinforced walls, spoke about taking refuge in one room with her eight children.

As a tourist, you see the good and the bad. I did not want to talk about the bad things I saw; I was even criticized when I posted comments on my Facebook page. The two main things that bothered me during the trip were seeing people lying on the streets and asking for money, and also seeing a lot of garbage on the streets and in public places. While I walked, I took photos. I believe that it is critical for Jewish people around to world to see that not only Israelis suffer under attacks from its enemies, but also suffer from the depressed economy. The "start-up nation" concept does not benefit everybody in the country.



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Summer in Israel

My son was so disaffected by witnessing Jewish people who were dirty and living on the street, that when we met the Israeli politicians at the conference he asked them, "what are they doing to help the poor in Israel?" He received an answer that the government is investing in education so people can get a job, but my son was not satisfied.

Most American Jews live comfortably; therefore it is hard for us to see Jewish people scrambling through the garbage to collect cans. Even in Orthodox areas, people came up to us asking for money, saying they did not have food at home. I must admit that some had the chutzpa to ask for a specific amount. They were asking for 50 shekels (approx. \$16), and refused to take less. Because so many people were coming at us we gave each 20 shekels, but some were upset about it. Some others offered a blessing in return for the money, but not for 20 shekels.

There are many things that happen only in Israel, and that is why it is always fun. Even with all the problems we encountered, we had a great time and met great people. It is a place that we love to travel to as a family. We come back each time with energy to continue our work with the Jewish media. We return with the desire to take all our friends to visit the Holy Land. We pray that peace will last forever.



View of Tel Aviv from Jaffa



Jerusalem



Tomb of Rabbi Meir Baal-Hanes



Tel Aviv Market

When I returned to Boston and saw how the media was portraying the situation in Israel, I wanted to share my perspective. So I called a few friends in the media and asked them to let me to speak about Israel on radio, television and print media. It amounted over 400 minutes of interviews with more than 13 outlets most of it, live. I would like to thank them all.

See more photos on Instagram and Facebook @shirleyfarber
 For more information on the places I visited, check out: www.editravel-israel.com; Ramat Rachel Hotel - www.Ramatrachel.co.il; ArtPlus and Arthur Hotel - www.atlas.co.il; Nofei Gonen - www.nofgo.co.il/en; Rio Hotel Eilat - www.riohotel.co.il; Bedouin Experience - www.genesisland.co.il;

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Israeli Ministry of Diaspora Affairs Announces Next Steps in World Jewry Initiative

The Israeli Government has announced new steps to be taken as part of the Government of Israel-World Jewry Joint Initiative. The moves were highlighted in a letter sent out late August from the Director General of the Ministry for Jerusalem and Diaspora Affairs, Dvir Kahana.

The letter, which was sent out to the key potential partners of the Initiative, pointed out that at this stage the initiative will focus on programs catering to Jews from the ages 12 to 35 from around the world. Kahana also writes that by the beginning of 2015, several pilot programs are expected to be launched in cooperation with Jewish organizations and philanthropies.

Another key decision about the Initiative is the formation of a new entity to directly handle the partnership between the Israeli Government and the Diaspora. "The new entity will be small and effective and will allow any player, whether a philanthropist, a foundation or a part of the organized Jewish world, to forge a direct partnership without middlemen," writes Kahana.

Kahana also wrote that the Government was in dialogue with the Jewish Agency to find a suitable role for the Agency within the Initiative and new entity.

In June 2014, the Israeli Government approved the funding of some 180 million shekels (more than 50 million dollars) for the Initiative's first phase, which will allow Diaspora philanthropies, foundations et al. to request matching funds for Jewish identity related programs.

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The Combined Temples Golf Tournament

Another successful tournament was held at Brookmeadow Golf Club in Canton, with a full field of 128 golfers on August 11. It was a perfect weather day, with good food, and wonderful camaraderie. The main winners were all the charities that are supported by the participating Temples, but here's to the team champions!

Gross score winners - Team Eastern Bank (Michael Carey, Al Inglesi, David Sawyer, Scott Stephenson).
Net score winners - Team Nissan 24, Chrysler-Jeep 24 (Tom Monaco, Stephen Callahan, Brian Tuohy, Hank Tuohy).

We look forward to next year's tournament, to be held at the same venue on Monday, August 10, 2015. If interested, please contact Temple Israel of Sharon Brotherhood through our website: www.tisharon.org/brotherhood_welcome - and also check out the pictures from this year's tournament.

Some of the programs supported by this event are: *Meals on Wheels*, *Family Table Food Bank* and *The Habitat for Humanity*.

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Events and news update

Temple Beth Abraham of Canton

Temple Beth Abraham of Canton, which is entering its 100th year as a congregation, proudly announces the appointment of **Rabbi Navah L. Levine** as our new spiritual leader. Levine received her Rabbinic Ordination and a master's degree in Judaic Studies from Hebrew College Rabbinical School in Newton. She has served as Rabbi-Educator at Temple Emeth in Chestnut Hill and as Rabbi at Temple Beth El in Quincy.

Levine came to the rabbinate as a second career. She also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the non-profit legal advocacy group GLAD, which brought the landmark case that legalized gay marriage in Massachusetts. One of Levine's first priorities will be to reach out to current members of the congregation and introduce herself and start to get to know them. Levine, the synagogue's first female rabbi, also wants to create a "vibrant and welcoming community open to all to connect with their spiritual, educational and community needs."



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New Year Greeting

By Rabbi Moshe Y. Bleich

A new year is upon us. One year chases another, one decade follows the next. Our lives unfold, our circumstances evolve, but how about us? Do we grow as well, or are we stunted in our spiritual and emotional growth?

It is a probing question, yet one we ought to ask of no one but ourselves. As the old year rolls to a close and a New Year opens up, we ask ourselves how to move forward. What are the concrete steps that take us from childhood to maturity?

When we were younger, we all had toys. Most of us had favorite toys, and our entire world revolved around them. When we had them in hand we were content, but if anyone took them from us, we grew miserable and did our best to make everyone around us miserable as well.

In his new book, *Mission Possible: Living With Higher Purpose*, Rabbi Lazer Gurkow points out that most of us don't know what became of that favorite teddy bear or blankie that we loved as a child. If someone asked us what happened to our red toy fire-truck or beautiful little doll, we likely wouldn't know. But somehow, we also wouldn't care. We have moved on and are no longer consumed with the things that worried us in our youth.

We have moved on, but have we matured? The definition of maturity is to be "other focused" rather than "self-focused." Have we matured? Today, more than ever, grown men and women take pride in their little gadgets and toys. We no longer worry about little dolls and fire trucks, but we have our Androids and iPods with their favorite little apps. Should we lose them, we grow miserable. Should Facebook go down for several hours as it did on August 1, social media would be abuzz, as it was that day, with contempt for Facebook.

Can we live without our toys, or are we mired in the immaturity of our youth?

Being able to let go of our favorite pastimes, to live without them and remain content when we can't have them, is the definition of maturity. Life is more than the accumulation of possessions, homes and enjoyable moments. It is greater than the opportunity to have fun and be stimulated. Life is a platform on which we rise above ourselves.

When we willingly surrender our own comforts to share with another, we catch a glimpse of life's treasures. When we are left without our usual crutches and retain our equilibrium, pitting ourselves against the world and placing our faith in G-d, we experience life's meaning. When we recognize that life is more about what we are needed for than what we need, we have found life's purpose.

Living with purpose isn't just a meaningful way to live, it's also enjoyable. There is more joy to be gained from giving than taking. There is more happiness to be gleaned from bestowing than acquiring. Depriving ourselves from something we perceive as important and learning that we are bigger than it, larger than we gave ourselves credit for, and also capable of living without it, brings us face to face with our true selves.

It is how we discover the measure of our potential and learn the extent of our promise. It is the litmus test of maturity. It proves that we are greater than the self we thought we were.

This can't be achieved in a day, and often, not even in a month, a year, a decade, or a lifetime. It is a journey of small steps with no end goal. There is no way to tell precisely how selfless and how deep we will be on our last day. The only rule is this: Ensure that each day is deeper than the last, and shallower than the next. Keep growing and never let up. In life there will always be ebbs and flows, but the general trajectory should be forward, not backward, and upward, not downward.

To accomplish this, we need a plan. As Rosh Hashanah approaches, we need to sit down and take inventory. What are the things, or the areas in my life, that take up a disproportionate amount of my time? To what am I assigning more meaning to, and allocating more energy to, that warranted? If I scale back on this area, how will I fill that time,

New Year Greeting

and with what will I replace that vice?

It is good to draw up a list and then form a plan. For example, "By Rosh Hashanah, I want to prove that I can live without this....By Passover, I want to prove that I can adopt this or that new practice....By next year's Rosh Hashanah, I want allocate this much of my income to charity." Establish short-term goals, and embark upon the process of inner growth.

Line up a long-term goal that represents a serious sacrifice, but is also a deeply meaningful achievement. For example, decide if you want to adopt a child in need, or perhaps travel to a Third World country to help people in need. Decide how much of your time you can volunteer to the local soup kitchen, or how many days of your week you can devote to Torah study. Most important, choose the parts of your day that you will sacrifice to make that happen.

In the beginning, you will miss what you gave up. With time, you will miss your old habits less and appreciate your new customs more. In the fullness of time, you will wonder what attracted you to those old behaviors in the first place. Slowly you will grow and mature. You will never stop growing. You will never reach a final bench-

mark. But the goal is not to stop; the goal is simply to start.

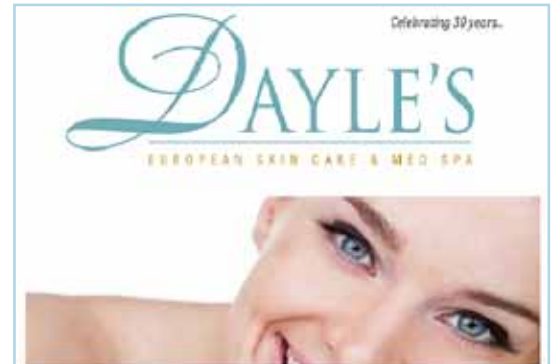
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Operation Protective Edge by the Numbers



Daniel Pomerantz

Israel was forced to launch *Operation Protective Edge* in order to stop Hamas' rocketfire and network of underground tunnels that together had the potential to cause enormous destruction to Israel and its citizens. Throughout the operation Hamas distributed to the international press photographs of dead or dying children, something that is hard for all well-meaning people to see, including Israelis. However, as more reliable information is beginning to come

out, we are discovering two important facts: 1. Israeli forces did a nearly unbelievable job of **avoiding** civilian casualties, and 2. Many of the civilian casualties we saw were either not actually civilians or were in fact killed by Hamas (including many of the children in those dramatic photographs.) So with that in mind, here is Operation Protective Edge by the Numbers.

Deaths in Gaza, by the numbers:

The total number of people who die in Gaza every year from natural causes (old age, infant mortality, etc.) is 0.3 percent, or 6500 people per year.¹ (This is among the lowest on Earth by the way - lower even than the USA, Australia, Japan and every country in Europe.) This means that in the 51 days of Operation Protective Edge, about 900 people would have died from natural causes in Gaza. Hamas claims 2143 people have died² but 900 of those would have died from natural causes and would have had nothing to do with this conflict. If you then subtract the 160 children that Hamas killed to build its tunnels,³ the 52

"collaborators" that Hamas publicly executed,⁴ the 20 anti-war protesters that Hamas publicly executed,⁵ the 10 children Hamas killed in a UN school due to an errant rocket⁶ and the 9 children Hamas killed in Gaza City's Shifa Hospital due to another errant rocket,⁷ you are left with just about 900 people. And by a tremendous coincidence, that happens to be just about the number of terrorists that Israel killed in combat.⁸ (Israel tracks each of these combatants by name and terror group membership.) Of the roughly 2000 "casualties" that Al Jazeera published, 80 percent were men; of those, 82 percent were men of combat age.⁹ And as new information is coming out, we are finding more and more names of "civilians" proudly listed on Hamas's website, or other terror websites (such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine) as being actually terror commanders or fighters.¹⁰ (This does not even include the many Palestinian civilians that Hamas encouraged or forced to remain in combat zones in order to act as human shields for the protection of Hamas's weapons and commanders.¹¹) Bottom line: the number of actual civilians in Gaza that were actually killed by Israel is so small it is nothing short of miraculous.

⁵ Breitbart.com, *Hamas Executed 20 Palestinian Anti-War Protestors in Gaza*. July 29, 2014.

⁶ CNN.com, *Israeli military rejects blame for deaths at U.N. shelter*, July 29, 2014.

⁷ AP, *HAMAS, ISRAEL TRADE BLAME FOR DEATHS OF 9 CHILDREN* July 28, 2014. *Complete examination of IDF analysis can be found at Honestreporting.com Gaza Conflict Day 22: Hamas Rockets Hit Gaza Hospital*, July 29, 2014.

⁸ TimesofIsrael.com *900 operatives killed over Gaza campaign, IDF says August 5, 2014.*

⁹ Count of list of casualties (with names and vital statistics), published by *Al Jazeera*, July 23, 2014.

¹⁰ Idfblog.com *Caught: Hamas Reports Terrorist's Death as a Civilian Casualty* August 25, 2014.

¹¹ The IDF recovered a Hamas manual for how to use the local population as human shields. The manual is available for reading online. Idfblog.com *Captured Hamas Combat Manual Explains Benefits of Human Shields* August 4, 2014.

¹ CIA *World Factbook*, 2013.

² Gaza Ministry of Health, *August 26, 2014.*

³ *Gaza's Tunnel Phenomenon: The Unintended Dynamics of Israel's Siege*, Journal of Palestine Studies, 2012.

⁴ Occurred in at least three separate events that we know of: August 22 (see *Haaretz*, *Hamas executes 18 'collaborators' in Gaza*), August 23 (See *Ynetnews.com* *Hamas executes four more 'collaborators' in Jabaliya*) and July 29 (See *i24news.tv* *Hamas executes 30 suspected collaborators*).

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Operation Protective Edge by the Numbers

Dodging Rockets and Protecting Palestinians, by the numbers:

Let's be clear: Israel has the capability to turn Gaza into a "parking lot," by which I mean to destroy all life in Gaza. If Israel did this, there would be no more rocketfire and Israelis would be safer. Yet Israel did not do this. Rather, Israel strikes terror targets as carefully as possible while Israeli civilians run to bomb shelters. Every time a siren sounds in Tel Aviv, every time I run to a bomb shelter, every time the Iron Dome missile shield blows up a rocket over my head and shrapnel falls in my city, I am literally risking my life for the protection of Palestinian civilians. There are very few Palestinian supporters who can say they have done as much to protect Palestinian lives as I have, and what I have done is minimal compared to the almost constant barrage endured by our neighbors in the south of Israel. Over the last 51 days, Hamas fired 4564 rockets and mortars at Israel.¹² Of those, about 10 percent landed right back in Gaza,¹³ causing a great deal of the death and destruction we hear so much about, destruction which Hamas attempts to blame on Israel for PR advantage. Yet 224 of Hamas' rockets hit Israeli cities and towns, and a further 735 were shot down over populated areas by Iron Dome, Israel's missile defense shield.¹⁴ That's 952 sirens and 952 races to the bomb shelters. In the past 51 days, 64 Israeli soldiers and six civilians died,¹⁵ including Daniel Tragerman, a four-year-old boy. In many cases, these victims were hit by rockets from launchers that Israel **knew about but did not destroy**, because there were too many Palestinian civilians nearby.

This means that in Israel we risked, and sometimes sacrificed our lives

¹² Jerusalem Post *50 days of Israel's Gaza operation, Protective Edge - by the numbers*. August 28, 2014.

¹³ World Tribune *Israel: 10 percent of Hamas rockets misfired, landed in Gaza Strip* July 30, 2014.

¹⁴ Jerusalem Post *50 days of Israel's Gaza operation, Protective Edge - by the numbers*. August 28, 2014.

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ Times of Israel *Daniel Tragerman buried; 135 rockets hit Israel; Hamas head says no return to talks*. August 24, 2014.

and the lives of our children in order to protect Palestinian civilians, 952 times in the last 51 days. I have yet to hear of any "Palestinian supporter" who has done as much, risked as much, and lost as much for the benefit and safety of Palestinians as Israelis do every day.

These sacrifices are not limited to Israeli civilians: The Israel Defense Forces is the only army **in the history of the world** to announce the time and place of its attacks in advance, in order to protect Palestinian civilians.¹⁸ The result is that we risk, and sometimes lose, our young men and women in uniform. In one tragic example, 13 soldiers from the elite Golani brigade were killed in an ambush,¹⁹ which was possible only because Israel had announced its plans in advance, thus sacrificing Israeli soldiers to try and save Palestinian civilians.

Israelis take these risks and make these sacrifices for Palestinian civilians, even though Gaza's government and many of its Palestinian citizens have sworn to work for our annihilation. Perhaps even more significantly, I have yet to hear a single Israeli complain about this approach or call for our government to change it. This is an almost incomprehensible decision of courage and humanity, not only by the Israeli government, but also by collective agreement of Israel's citizens. But don't take my word for it; it's all in the numbers.

Daniel Pomerantz is an attorney, entrepreneur and an "ole" from Chicago to Israel.



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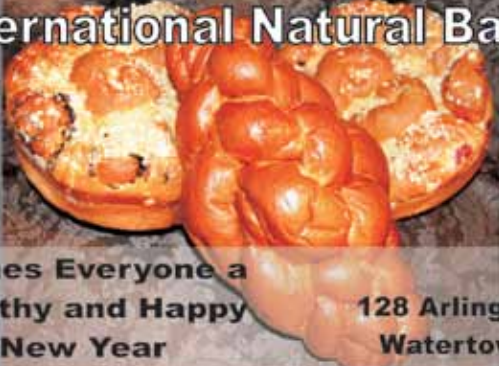
My summer in Eastern Europe and Israel

By Bennett Plosker

There were so many Ploskers. I had never seen so many Plosker names, beginning with Solomon Plosker, born 1921, murdered in Rowne, Poland. My Uncle Solomon and my great-grandmother, Deborah, never made it out of Poland, but my grandfather and his father did. As I stood in the Auschwitz death camp, I wondered just how many more cousins I would have had.

It was not all that long before then that I had joyfully zoomed into my mom's car and screamed with delight: "Sign me up!" My mom had never seen me so enthusiastic after leaving Hebrew school. I had just watched a presentation about a Jewish summer camp. After a lot of talking, she agreed to allow me to participate.

At the age of eight, I had started this personal journey at Crane Lake Camp in West Stockbridge. There I spent the next eight summers as a camper, bunking with my mostly New Yorker friends, year after year. During the summer of 2013, the oldest camper group, *Olim*, came back to tell us about their summer in Israel. I would be a part of that group



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My summer in Eastern Europe and Israel

the following year, with the first week to be spent in Prague, Krakow and Warsaw, and the following four weeks in Israel.

When my parents signed me up for the 2014 North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY) Israel trip, Operation Protective Edge was not on the itinerary. But when we flew out of JFK airport on June 30, three Israeli teens, age 16, the same age as us, were presumably kidnapped by Hamas terrorists, and were still missing. When we arrived in Prague, we learned that they had been murdered.

A couple of days later, it was reported that Israeli right-wing extremists captured and murdered an Arab teen in the West Bank. When we arrived in Israel on July 7, Hamas was launching rockets into Israel from Gaza, and Israel began fighting back with airstrikes.

My time in Israel occurred during a challenging and dangerous time, but nonetheless, the experience was a changing point in my life. It included running into a bomb shelter while we were staying at a kibbutz, and listening to the explosion as the Iron Dome system intercepted a rocket above us. We also retraced the path of Moses and the original Israelites by hiking through the Negev desert, camping for three nights before seeing Jerusalem for my first time from the same point as they did.

Our group also visited the Terezin and Birkenau (Auschwitz II) concentration camps, Oskar Schindler's factory, and Tel Aviv. We climbed Masada, had lunch at the Dead Sea, visited the Druze village of Dalyat and the El Jazar Mosque, learned about Kabbalah in Tzfat, spent time with Israeli teens and IDF soldiers, and explored the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot. And among so many other activities and experiences, we toured Yad Vashem, visited Rabin Square, paid our respects at the national cemetery Har Herzl, and climbed Mt. Shlomo in the Eilat Mountains at 3:30 in the morning. I also took part in a four-day "Israeli Start up Nation" technology trip. Through it all, we learned our history, observed Jewish rituals, and became very close friends.

I cried when I left Israel, and also cried when I left my friends at JFK airport in New York. And then I cried again when I reunited with my parents at Logan Airport in Boston. Yet, I realized that my tears were not the same as those that I cried as a kid, but instead, they were more emotional. They were now the tears of an older young adult.

In full circle, I returned to Crane Lake Camp in late August, with my fellow NFTY Israel campers, to speak, as *Olim 2014*, about our own experiences this past summer.


Bennett Plosker of Lexington traveled to Prague, Warsaw, Krakow, and throughout Israel this summer on the Union for Reform Judaism's North American Federation of Temple Youth's summer program.

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A firsthand visit to Jewish Paris and London

By Susie Davidson

The purpose of the trip to England, by way of Paris (when in Europe...), was to attend Virgin Records' "V Fest," a two-day rockfest held in Chelmsford and Staffordshire, UK. But an everpresent nose for news found itself in the Marais district of Paris, the scene of recent violent targeted actions against its Jewish residents, and Golders Green, the correspondingly Jewish neighborhood in London.

Many advised staying away from Jewish hotspots, and foreboding media reports have cast the outlook for Jews in Western Europe, and in Paris in particular, as ominous.

But firsthand knowledge can only be gained through direct visits, in this case to these two prominent Jewish neighborhoods.

One reaches the Marais by traversing winding, old-world cobblestone streets that lead into the charming, albeit ghetto-like neighborhood not far from where Victor Hugo penned *Les Miserables*. Given recent and widely publicized attacks against Paris synagogues, Jewish schools and Jewish citizens, a charged atmosphere was expected. But business as usual appeared to be more of the order of the day, with Kosher shops doing brisk business, men in payot doing laundry, and even an Orthodox man panhandling in front of a Hebrew language library. Men in yarmulkes mingled freely among those of other nationalities in the narrow streets, often standing in the same takeaway food stand lines. Area stalwart Goldenberg's deli was also still there. It was an overall atmosphere of resilience, and constancy.

As is the case in any other European city, it is a good idea to generally look over one's shoulder, and to remain alert to one's surroundings. And out of caution, we didn't display our Mogen Davids while in France. French synagogues can surely not be stressless environments. But based on the above observances, it seems that the Marais remains

a solid and highly enriching destination for Jewish travelers.

"The neighborhood has changed," said a proprietor at the Parkway Patisserie, across from the Golders Green stop on the London Underground. The bakery is located under The Chosen People Ministries in this traditionally Jewish section of Northern London. He gestured toward his neighboring Thai, Japanese and Indian storefronts, while agreeing that the evolving situation was similar to that of many longtime Jewish areas (including this reporter's own Coolidge Corner environs). The Jewish shops, he said, were mainly centered further down the road.

Indeed, kepot were prominent along Golders Green Road, where an Orthodox couple strolled amiably hand in hand past rows of Kosher businesses that included Shimon's Hair Design, Caffeine coffee shop, Mattancherry Kosher Indian, Jewish bookstores and groceries, and the London Jewish Family Centre.

"I don't know about any local violent acts," said a cashier at Golders Green Kosher Deli Delicatessen & Butchers as he rang up a reporter's order of packages of previously unknown deli delights such

as turkey leg pastrami and pressed ox tongue, certain to please loved ones at home.

"I work 70 hours a week, so I don't know, but I haven't heard of any," he continued, while confiding that it could be because there are less Muslims in London than in Paris. "But again, I don't know," he said, adding that he lived further north in Edgware. "I just work." A customer with a basketful of chicken and side dishes, who said she lived in nearby West Hempstead, echoed the calm, yet not completely cavalier overall sentiment. "I don't walk around worrying," she said. "But we know what is going on in Europe."

A few doors down at Sami's, an Israeli spot offering Mediterranean delicacies, a man who was busily preparing the restaurant for a lunch-



Erez ben Moshe at Sami's Israeli restaurant in Golders Green, London

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A firsthand visit to Jewish Paris and London

time crowd seemed to be a bit more on-guard. On the window next to him, as well as inside by the registers, yellow warning stickers stated that the property was patrolled by the Shomrim Northwest London Community Patrol's Emergency Support Unit. But despite the seemingly requisite precautions, he was the only interviewee freely willing to give his name.

"There are simply less extremist Muslims here in London than there are in France," said Eilat native Erez ben Moshe as he stopped to inform several would-be diners that the restaurant did not open until noon.

"Muslims here tend to not be extremists," he continued. "The terrorists are there."

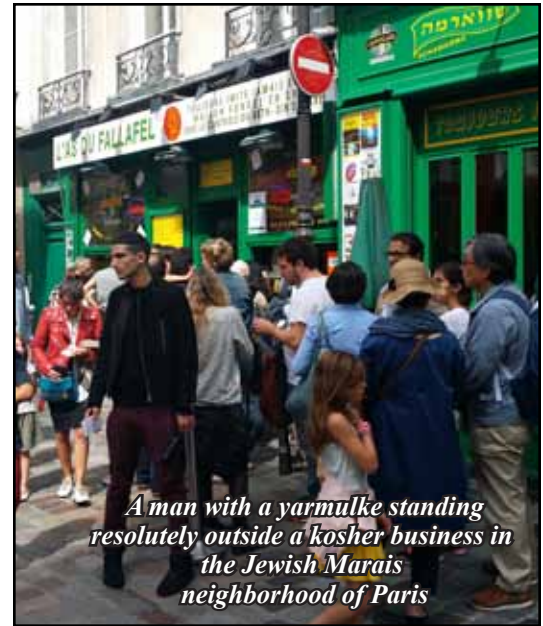
Citing that perpetrators of the mass slaughters of Iraqi civilians and other global atrocities in recent history, including the 2001 Twin Tower bombings, did not receive the critical circumspection perpetually levied against Israel, he implicitly suggested that Jews would always be the scapegoats of society.

"Remember that this is nothing new," said ben Moshe upon parting, after giving directions from Golders to Heathrow that were far simpler and much quicker than those found on Google Maps.

"It has been going on since Abraham," he said. "However, we are the only surviving ancient people - and we will survive."



Marais, Paris



A man with a yarmulke standing resolutely outside a kosher business in the Jewish Marais neighborhood of Paris



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Why Kevin Sorbo's Not a Racist

By Dr. Rebecca Housel

Kevin Sorbo, famous for his role as 'Hercules' in the syndicated television series, "Hercules: The Legendary Journeys," is a friend. We met while working together in Philadelphia in 2012. I just saw Kevin again in June. Our paths often cross on the Comic Con circuit; we've both been on tour the last three years. Kevin is one of many actors I work with as the #PopCultureProfessor; I'm an expert in popular culture and yes, I'm also a professor, as well as an author and editor in the *Philosophy & PopCulture* series, published by Wiley.

My friend Kevin has been in the news a lot lately. In August, during the riots in Missouri, Kevin made unfortunate comments during an interview promoting his new film, *God's Not Dead*, where he plays an atheist, and, ahem, a professor. The film itself has Christian themes made for a Christian audience. And just a few days ago, in response to Evangelical spokesperson, Jerry Newcombe, on the radio show "Vocal Point," Kevin implied that the Jewish people killed Jesus. Sigh.

Even a dead horse continues to get beaten...especially if that horse was Jewish. But Kevin Sorbo is not a god, even though he played one on TV. He's all-too human. And we're known for making mistakes. But he's also an actor in a Christian film for a Christian audience. The film has had decent ticket sales, too. And if Kevin wants to continue to make money from this holier-than-thou sleeper hit, he must promote it. It's actually part of his job.

Kevin is a good friend, tireless professional, loyal husband, and loving father. He's well-aware I'm Jewish and has always been extremely respectful, as well as generous and kind. If I did not know Kevin Sorbo personally, I may have believed him to be the bigot he is portrayed as in recent media buzz. But I know better. And so does Kevin. But Jerry Newcombe, well, I'm not so sure....

Jerry Newcombe made news in 2012. His remarks surrounding the Aurora, Colorado shooting included that those who died and believed in Jesus were going to a good place, while those who did not were going to a "terrible place." Oy. Talk about sensationalism. Way to use a tragedy to witness America, Jerry. How very transparent. And very sad. Especially for the families and friends of the innocent victims who tragically lost their lives simply because they wanted to see a movie. The largely Christian belief that those who do not accept Jesus will go to Hell is rather interesting in that nearly two-thirds of the global population are not Christian. Of course, they're not Jews either. America, however, is mostly Christian. Approximately 65% of the 300,000,000 Americans alive today believe in Jesus Christ as their "Lord and Savior." Now, that does not mean ALL of those individuals think the remaining percentage of Americans who don't are going to H-E-L-L. But apparently Jerry Newcombe does.

So, when Mr. Newcombe brought up Mel Gibson and his *Passion of the Christ* film to Kevin during their recent interview, it was a deliberate attempt at sensationalism. Yet again. At least the man is consistent, if not completely grounded in reality.

I'm interviewed frequently by national radio, newspaper and magazine outlets. If I had starred in television shows like Kevin Sorbo, and had a modicum of fame as a result, I'd have been shamed off the planet by now. And so would you. It's exactly why Hollywood publicists get paid upwards of \$30,000 a year...per client. Interviewers will often attempt to evoke certain responses from an interviewee. In my case, as an educated woman, the attempt is usually to make me look vapid or vacuous or some combination thereof. Essentially, the true aim isn't to talk about my new book or the latest stop on my tour; it's to make me look like a silly female by a male journalist for a male-owned and -oriented paper or magazine or website.

Isn't publicity fun???

Knowing Kevin as I do, despite the words that came out of his mouth, I know for a fact that it was not with the intent of being anti-Semitic or with any kind of ill-will toward the Jewish people. Nor is Kevin a racist. For the second time in the last month, and for the same reason, Kevin fell into what we in the entertainment biz call a media-trap.

A known conservative, the "news" outlets ranting about a man whose last popular TV show ended in 2005, are primarily politically-liberal websites. Obviously, there's an agenda at play. That's not to say that Kevin's political opinions aren't skewed. But his opinions are just that. He's an actor. Not a journalist, reporter, or politician.

No matter how you feel about Kevin Sorbo and his recent media missteps, the one thing we must all keep in mind is compassion. Perhaps you think the former Hercules does not need yours. But he's a human being. Just like you. And as Jewish philosopher, Hannah Arendt, said, we all have the right to have rights simply because we exist. So don't judge Kevin Sorbo too harshly. One day, it may be you depending on the compassion of others after saying something you regret.

Kevin apologized for his heavily criticized comments in August about African-Americans. However, his comments about Jews have not seen the same level of public scrutiny. And that, dear readers, is a much bigger problem....



The author with Kevin Sorbo

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**The Chubby Chickpea on
Bate Papo Brazilian TV show**

Chef Avi Shemtov, the owner of The Chubby Chickpea in Canton, participated in the Bate Papo com Shirley Farber Brazilian TV show.

During the televised interview with journalist Shirley Farber, he explained how he prepares the Israeli food served at this restaurant, which is located at 120 Jackson St. in Canton. He also demonstrated some of the items on his menu.

The Chubby Chickpea serves sandwiches on their "food truck," which during the week can be found in various areas in downtown Boston. The restaurant and the food truck serve only kosher food, under rabbinical supervision, such as falafel (chickpea balls) and corned beef.

Shemtov explained that he only uses fresh ingredients, and produces his own hummus. The restaurant also offers catering and is closed on Shabbat (Friday night until Saturday). For more information, visit or call 781-828-6868 <https://www.facebook.com/chubbychickpea>.

Bate Papo com Shirley TV show has been broadcast since September 2005, and appears on various local stations in Massachusetts. Today, over 30 cities and towns broadcast the bilingual (Portuguese/English) talk show. The show is also available anytime on Comcast On Demand>Get Local>Brazilian in the states of Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine.

The interview was part of an hour-long show with various guests and was taped on July 28 at the Stoughton Media Access Corporation with the help of volunteers including television producer Roy Cohen of Community Forum, Stoughton.

Watch the interview also online at: <https://archive.org/details/Bate-PapoComShirley159>



MAZAL TOVI!



Avner Fink, 32, an advocate at the Massachusetts Office on Disabilities and the son of Rabbi Jesse and Edna Fink, became engaged on August 16 to Ilana Snapstailer, 29, who is the Executive Director of Keshet Newton and the daughter of Susan and Lenny Snapstailer. The two met as students at Brandeis.




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What I hope to hear at High Holy Day services



David Harris

It's often said the High Holy Days come either too late or too early, but never on time.

This year, they couldn't be better timed.

With all that's going on now in the Jewish world, there's an extraordinary opportunity to reach a vast audience during the solemn ten days we know as the *Yamim Noraim*, or Days of Awe.

Two immediate messages need to be shared from the bima.

First, anti-Semitism is on the rise. *Newsweek*

magazine devoted a cover story to a young Belgian Jewish woman carrying a suitcase, with the chilling title, "Exodus: Why Europe's Jews are fleeing once again."

The *Wall Street Journal* has published at least three recent major op-eds on rising anti-Semitism.

And three European leaders – the foreign ministers of France, Germany, and Italy – issued an unusual joint appeal against the surge in anti-Semitism.

We cannot remain indifferent or complacent.

We Jews are a people. We share a destiny. We have a collective responsibility to one another.

Consider some recent occurrences:

Thousands of demonstrators marched through the streets of Paris, Berlin, and other European cities, many chanting: "Death to the Jews," "Hitler was right," "Jews to the gas chambers," and "Reopen Auschwitz."

A demonstration in Sweden against anti-Semitism had to be canceled because the organizers were physically afraid.

And let's not forget the Paris synagogue that was targeted by a raging mob, while worshipers were inside. They were saved by the courage of security personnel, until the French police could arrive in larger numbers. It's important to emphasize that for those threatening from the outside, it didn't matter a whit what denomination the synagogue was, only that it was a Jewish site and there were Jews inside.

Sadly, this is far from a complete list of what's been going on, primarily in Europe, but elsewhere as well, from South Africa to New Zealand, from South America to Australia.

Second, this is a time to reaffirm our enduring bonds with Israel.

Once again, we find so many who are either unwilling or incapable of understanding Israel's profound security challenges.

Too often, wherever we look – in the media, diplomatic corridors, and elsewhere – we see distortion of reality, political expediency, and moral inversion.

Israel left Gaza in 2005, giving local residents their first chance in history to chart their own destiny. Tragically, in elections, they chose Hamas, which, consistent with its blood-curdling charter, opted to pursue Israel's destruction rather than Gaza's construction.

How is Israel supposed to react, when missiles are being fired indiscriminately at millions of its citizens? What would any other country do in Israel's place?

And what is Israel to do when it discovers more than 30 infiltration tunnels built from Gaza into its territory with the aim of sending jihadists to kill and kidnap as many Israelis as possible? Again, what would any other country do in Israel's place?

Israel is fighting a ruthless, cynical foe, who uses civilians, especially women and children, as human shields, hoping to drive up the casualty count and draw the world's sympathy and support.

And how else could Israel act in defending itself against an adversary that chooses schools, mosques, UN facilities, and hospitals to hide terrorists, store weapons, and fire missiles, while counting on the international community to express horror if any of these structures are hit by Israeli strikes?

How could so many fail to see the moral clarity of Israel's struggle?

How could they fail to grasp that Israel is on the front line in the battle against jihadist forces, and that all of us – Western nations, as well as moderate Arab countries like Egypt, Jordan, and the UAE – have a stake in Israel's success?

And how could they not understand that Hamas is part of the same family tree as ISIS, Hezbollah, Al-Qaeda, and Boko Haram – groups that despise America, target Christians, Yazidis, Baha'i, and Muslims



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What I hope to hear at High Holy Day services

of other outlooks, and want to impose shari'a law wherever possible? We need to remember and thank those that have stood by Israel, including the U.S., Canada, and Australia.

And we need to remember, as well, those that have assailed Israel—notably Turkey and, among others, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Peru, Uruguay, and, of course, Venezuela. Think twice before you make your next overseas vacation plans or business decisions.

But most of all, we need to tell Israelis that they are not alone, that we stand with them shoulder-to-shoulder, that we admire their courage, and that, individually and collectively, we will advocate their cause in the halls of power here and around the world.

Israel is a remarkable country in a thousand different ways. How fortunate we are to be able to say "This year in Jerusalem," when, for countless generations, it was always the yearning for "Next year in Jerusalem!"

But for all its astonishing progress, Israel remains embattled, surrounded by Hamas, Hezbollah, Syria, and ISIS. And let's not forget Iran, which, like Iraq in 1991, is just a missile away.

Today, Israel faces challenges on three fronts.

First, the military front, where, time and again, the IDF has acted heroically.

Second, the civilian front. Israel's enemies have sought to hit cities and towns, only to be met by resilience and determination.

And third, the global front, where Israel's opponents have tried to penetrate the media, universities, unions, politicians, civic groups, the courts, etc., seeking Israel's isolation.

That third front is also our front.

Accordingly, in the spirit of our tradition, this is a time for each of us to say "Hinei!" "Here I am!" It's a time for all of us to say together, "Hineinu!" "Here we are!"

It's a defining time. In life, we don't usually get to choose our moments. But the moment is here.

Do we respond to it? Do we show that we've learned the lessons of history, that we understand the core Jewish principle of collective

responsibility?

Do we identify with our Jewish sisters and brothers around the world, who today face a new level of danger and fear? Do we call on world leaders not only to denounce anti-Semitism, but also to take sustained action against it?

Do we stand with Israel, affirming our pride, solidarity, and support? Or do we let the moment pass, using such excuses as it's not the right time in our lives, or the issues don't touch us directly, or we don't know what's going on, or maybe if we're just a bit nicer everyone will like us more, or everything will somehow turn out alright of its own accord?

We are a people who for thousands of years have yearned for one thing above all, shalom, peace.

We are all meant to be rodphei shalom, pursuers of peace.

We must never abandon that quest, that belief in its possibility.

Yet, at the same time, we cannot become so mesmerized by it that we lose all perspective on life as it actually is today.

Perhaps our situation is best summed up in the following anecdote: Sherlock Holmes, joined by his trusty aide Watson, left London by horse-drawn wagon for a case in the north. Darkness arrived, so they pitched a tent along the way. In the middle of the night, Holmes woke up, looked around, and elbowed Watson.

"Watson, my dear chap, what do you see?"

Watson rubbed his eyes before saying: "Why Holmes, I see the beauty of the stars, the transcendence of the universe, and the majesty of eternity."

To which Holmes replied: "Watson, you fool, someone has stolen our tent!"

We must never lose sight of the beauty of the stars.

But we must also never forget, as we gather in sacred communities for these Days of Awe, that someone is trying to steal our tent.

If we, each of us – indeed, all of us – don't protect the tent, who will? *David Harris is the Executive Director of American Jewish Committee. More articles at www.ajc.org. The article was originally printed in the Times of Israel on August 17, 2014.*

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DAVID'S Trip



By David Farber

This was my second time in Israel. We stayed in the Ramat Rachel Hotel in Jerusalem and I liked it a lot. It had 3 swimming pools, a playground, a tennis court, a water slide, and an archeological site. From there we went to the Jewish media conference. The first night we met Israeli President Shimon Peres and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Then on the second day, everybody went on a tour of the City of David with a tour guide that took us under the city through a cool tunnel that brought us to the Kotel.

On the third day, everybody could choose a trip. My dad and I chose a tour of an Israeli company that makes drones, and



Kings City, Eilat

another one that makes food for airplanes and has the biggest kosher kitchen in the world. We also visited the Weizmann Institute of Science. My mom (Shirley Farber) chose to visit some farms in the middle of the desert. On the first day of the conference I shook hands with Shimon Peres, and on the last day, I shook hands with the new president of Israel, Reuven Rivlin.

After the conference, we went to the Golan. Each day I swam in a different river that had very clear water. We stayed in the Kibbutz Gonen. Then we went to Tel Aviv and met some friends and enjoyed the beach. I had ice cream every day, sometimes twice.

We went to the Red Sea in Eilat, where we went to an aquarium and saw dolphins and beautiful fish, swimming with us right in the same beach. There I went to an amusement park called Kings City. It was like a biblical version of Disneyworld. Next we went to a Bedouin



David and Israeli soldiers



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experience near Jerusalem, where I rode a camel, ate in a tent, and made my own pita, like they used to do in the old days.

When we went back to Jerusalem, we heard two alarms. When I heard the first one, I felt frightened and very scared. We were in the middle of the street and had to look for shelter. But when we left the shelter it was all back to normal life. I'm not afraid anymore, I would go again. Had a lot of fun in Israel with my parents.



at the Kotel



David and new Israeli president Reuven Rivlin



talking to Israeli president Shimon Peres



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Jewish Quilting

Brookline quilter Miriam K. Sokoloff exhibited a number of her quilts at the West Hartford JCC this summer as part of their "Connecting Threads Quilt Show: Quilting as part of Jewish Life." *P'tach Lanu Shaar* (Open the Gates for Us) is based on an illuminated *Machzor* (High Holiday Prayer Book) from Leipzig, Germany.



Miriam explained how her quilt relates to the show's theme: "My father, Cantor Simon Kandler, z"l, was Hazzan at Temple Emeth in Chestnut Hill for almost 60 years. Although Yom Kippur is a very long and strenuous day, especially for the Hazzan, he always looked forward to chanting the *N'eilah* (closing) service and when I see this quilt, I can hear him chanting the prayer."

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Outdoor High Holiday Services

Rosh HaShanah, Thursday, September 25, 9:30 a.m., Cedar Hill Camp, 265 Beaver St. Waltham (accessible by MBTA bus)

Rosh HaShanah, Friday, September 26, 10 a.m., Greenways Conservation Area, Green Way, Wayland

Kol Nidre, Friday, October 3, 6:45 p.m., Church of the Holy Spirit, 169 Rice Rd., Wayland

Yom Kippur, Saturday, October 4, 9:30 a.m., Cedar Hill Camp

Neilah Service, Saturday, October 4, 6:30 p.m., Church of the Holy Spirit, followed by Break-fast at a nearby private home

Ma'yan Tikvah celebrates the High Holidays in the woods, with morning services on Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur as well as Kol Nidre services on Erev Yom Kippur. The services are a combination of traditional and nontraditional; they are informal and participatory. There is time to sing, to appreciate the natural world around us, to meditate and pray, to read and discuss the Torah portion, to hear the sound of the Sofar on Rosh HaShanah, and to remember our loved ones during Yizkor on Yom Kippur.

On Rosh HaShanah, our services are followed by a pot-luck lunch and tashlich. Our Kol Nidre service is mostly indoors, but if weather permits, we go outside for part of the service. All are welcome, including families with children.

Cranberry Shabbat

Saturday, October 25, Raindate, November 1
Wachusett Reservoir, Boylston

We will intermix songs and prayers with wild cranberry picking, and share a picnic lunch at the end. Please bring something to share and your own drinks and utensils. (Warm soup sounds good for a picnic in October!) Also bring containers for the cranberries. Most of our pickings will be given to a homeless shelter for their Thanksgiving dinner. There may be muddy spots, so be prepared footwear-wise, and it could be windy and chilly along the water.

For more information, go to www.mayantikvah.org, or contact Rabbi Katy Allen at rabbik@mayantikvah.org or 508-358-5996.

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All are welcome. Services will take place in Waltham, Wayland, and Lincoln, and locations are handicap accessible, excluding the second day of Rosh HaShanah. For more information or to register visit www.mayantikvah.org/shabbat-and-holidays/, email rabbik@mayantikvah.org, or call 508-358-5996.

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A memorial speaks today and it speaks tomorrow

A Jewish response to difficult times in Israel

By Tucker Lieberman

The nine-month timeframe dedicated to the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks brokered by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry expired last spring without a resolution. *Without a plan to achieve lasting peace, what is next for Israel?* I wondered.

The summer was worse than I imagined. Three Israeli yeshiva students, Eyal Yifrach, Gilad Shaar, and Naftali Frankel - innocent teenagers - were kidnapped on June 12. They were found murdered and, on the day of their funerals, hundreds of Israelis marched in Jerusalem and chanted "Death to Arabs." The next day, July 2, as an act of apparent retaliation, an innocent Palestinian teenager, Mohammed Abu Khdeir, was kidnapped and burned alive.

Hamas launched rockets from Gaza into Israel, and Israel's military launched Operation Protective Edge to stop the rockets and to disable a network of tunnels that Hamas had dug into Israel. The next two months saw a ground war in Gaza. The fatalities included about 70 Israelis, most of whom were soldiers, and 2100 Palestinians, two-thirds of whom were civilians by some estimates, including hundreds of children. It is not clear that Israel is safer today, and, even if so, that its tactics were justifiable.

Although a cease-fire was reached in late August, the story is not over. The Israeli government immediately announced that it planned to seize nearly a thousand acres of West Bank land for a new settlement. This move does not contribute to peacemaking. Prospects for long-term peace assume that the Palestinians must eventually have a state of their own, created through negotiations with Israel, and thus it hinders peace to build new settlements on the very land in question.

What kind of start to the new year is this? How do we move forward from here?

"Where Are We?"

It was also in August that Boston lost a veteran activist and friend, Leonard "Leibel" Fein. I had the privilege of meeting Leibel several times and hearing him speak at community events. His obituaries directed me to read a book he published in 1988, *Where Are We?: The Inner Life of America's Jews*. This book remains thoroughly relevant today and has special meaning for those of us wrestling with the terrible knowledge of the ongoing conflict in Israel and Gaza.

In the book, Leibel pinpointed a structural tension of Jewish identity: Being Jewish is about belonging to a *particular* people and tradition that upholds *universal* values of compassion. Jewish identity begins with calling ourselves Jewish and being called Jewish by others, but more deeply, it's about understanding the traditional values and living

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up to them. The moral ambition of our Jewish identity, he said, should be to feel that a moral decision made by any Jew carries our own Jewish self-understanding in the balance. When we make a choice for right or wrong, it is not a private affair; our peoplehood is at stake. For the Jewish people to survive and thrive means that we recognize a mission to promote compassion and human rights for everyone and that we help each other live up to that mission.

I remember Leibel saying on a panel at Temple Beth Zion in Brookline three years ago: "I think that the Israelis are 100 percent responsible for the problem. I also think that the Arabs are 100 percent responsible for the problem. Whoever does not understand how both sides can be fully responsible for the problem does not understand the meaning of tragedy."

"Responsibility" can refer to guilt and blame for the past, but in *Where Are We?*, Leibel specifically warned against victim-blaming. Both Israelis and Palestinians have been victims over decades of conflict. We do better to understand "responsibility" in its more positive sense: the charge to make a difference. Everyone bears this responsibility for the future. For Jews, it is the obligation of *tikkun olam*.

A New Year


In *Yamim Noraim*, the Days of Awe, we reflect on what we have done wrong over the past year. A common wrongdoing is remaining silent when we should speak up.

Because it is necessary to speak up, J Street has come forward to urge the U.S. to declare that "settlements are not merely 'unhelpful,' or 'illegitimate,' but illegal under international law as laid out in the Fourth Geneva Convention." Such a U.S. statement would carry weight because of the longstanding alliance with Israel. This is not only a matter of calling things what they are, but of spurring governments to implement more functional policies.


We will not always agree with each other about the right course of action. Nonetheless, we have integrity as a people when we help each other to pursue the right choice, and we survive as a people as long as we insist on figuring it out together.

Hineinu - We are still here.

Tucker Lieberman lives in Brighton and is the social media chair of J Street Boston.




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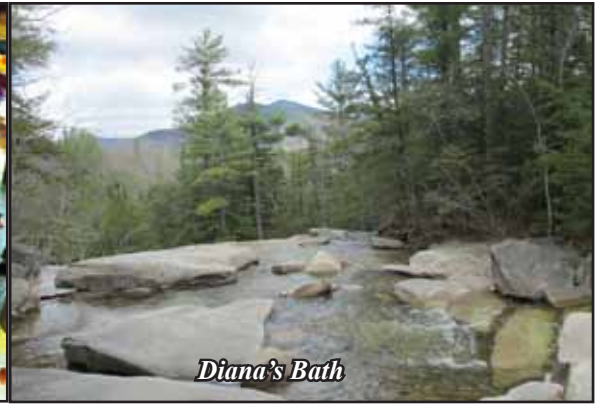
I've been living in Massachusetts for more than 12 years, and have been to New Hampshire a few times, but never got further the border cities. So this time, we traveled to the north of the state in order to visit the famous site of Mount Washington, and the area ski resorts. We stayed at the Red Jacket Mountain View Resort in the city of North Conway. What attracted us to Red Jacket Resort is that my son has been asking me for a while to stay at a hotel that has its own indoor water park - in this case, it was the *Kahuna Laguna* water park.

We spent the weekend there. From my house in Stoughton, it took us about three and a half hours. As soon as we arrived, my son went straight to the water slide, and I went to relax after a work day in the Jacuzzi.

In the morning, the hotel serves a breakfast buffet with waffles and omelets prepared in front of you, and served with a breathtaking view



Kahuna Laguna



Diana's Bath

to Mount Washington Valley.

The city of North Conway becomes busier in the winter because of the various ski stations, and in the summer, people come to enjoy beautiful lakes, waterfalls, forests and parks. The city's architecture reminded of that found in the south of Germany, Switzerland and Austria. The resort itself has a lot to offer for adults and kids, with activities that include movies, story telling, chariot rides, fire-roasted marshmallows and hot chocolate, an arcade, and of course the *Kahuna Laguna*, which is open all day. Other nearby attractions include the Conway Scenic Railroad, the Cathedral Ledge, Echo Lake State Park, Diana's Bath, Mount Washington State Park, the scenic Mount Washington Auto Road, and Wildcat Mountain.

The hotel staff suggested that we take route 112 through the Kancamagus Highway. Along the way back, we made stops along the way to enjoy the amazing views and take pictures. The route took us an extra 45 minutes, but it was worth it. We stopped at some of the nature parks for short walks near the river; we made a picnic, listened to the waterfalls, and breathed in the fresh air at the high point of 3000 feet.

To learn more about the *Red Jacket Resort*, please visit [www.http://www.redjacketresorts.com](http://www.redjacketresorts.com)

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The Hidden Jewish Gems of Martha's Vineyard

By Yosef P. Glassman, M.D.

"The naked eye cannot see the value of souls. One needs a trained eye to be able to distinguish the true value of a soul." - The Rebbe Rashab

When I travelled to Martha's Vineyard for the summer, I did not expect to discover what I ultimately experienced. I learned that far from representing the end of the earth, it was still in Massachusetts, and moreover, after a few weeks, it became its own end of the earth. Martha's Vineyard is a literal dream world come alive. All of its residents seem to be dreamers, uncovering secrets of the wind, the water, and the small clump of earth it sits on. These are old secrets - people understand and appreciate old secrets.

My mission was accidental, and even selfish, but ultimately transformative. I was not there for a vacation - far from it. Rather, I was recruited to work at the local critical care access hospital, managing its newly-formed hospitalist program. Reluctant, somewhat, to leave my comfortable Jewish radius of Brighton, Brookline and Newton and their respective kosher butchers and synagogues, it became clear, with time, that there was indeed holiness to be found on this little isle.

While my job as a geriatrician and hospitalist brings me in contact with people of all walks of life in any locale, I was especially struck by the Jews living in this oasis and wondered why, other than for the obvious vacation, each was there. The answers weren't simple, but they were ultimately very simple, if that makes any sense.

As often happens to most professionals who wear a kippah and tzitzis out in the open at work, I had the opportunity of being part of fascinating and starkly Jewish conversations. The healing power of the kippah and tzitzis soon became evident to me, not only as the wearer, but upon those patients who made a mental note of the garb themselves. The kippah, a simple symbol of a Jew's total submission to the Infinite, was often more powerful than any medicine I could think of prescribing.

One patient, a sharp-witted lawyer by trade, came in to the hospital, literally delirious due to pneumonia. He didn't know his birthday, where he was, or why he was in the hospital. He struggled to answer any of my medical questions. When I finally walked away to go write his antibiotic orders, he shouted out, "yarmulke - you have a yarmulke!" "Yes," I said, turning back toward him. "Are you Jewish?"

Most patients on the Vineyard who have the "Religion" check box on their intake face-sheet saying, "Unknown," or "None," are ultimately Jews - interpret that as you will. In any case, this delirious "Unknown" patient latched onto the idea of the yarmulke and talked about it every day to me, his wife and the staff. Within a few days, his mental status returned to baseline clarity, as he perseverated on the mystery kippah.

Another 'Unknown' in the Emergency Department who I saw told me he went to yeshiva in his youth. This connection, I am convinced, got him through the stress of the illness. It was not his connection to me, nor to any novel ideas I have about wearing my drab, mundane kippah to work -rather to the invigorating, life-giving Infinite. It was as if he were wearing it and healing before my eyes.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention one of the most powerful Jewish experiences that G-d has allowed me there in that non-Jerusalem called Martha's Vineyard. And I say non-Jerusalem in only the fondest of terms, realizing that the holy sparks have fallen far, and yet embedded themselves here. I was honored to meet a Hungarian Jewish survivor of the Holocaust, who was on the Island, pushed far away from his Jewish self, secretly storing next to his bed a picture of himself wearing the yellow star at the age of 7. He asked me about Jewish prayer.

He donned tefillin. We had a bar mitzvah for him. We said Shabbos Kiddush. He was a Jew now in public. He breathed some fresh air.

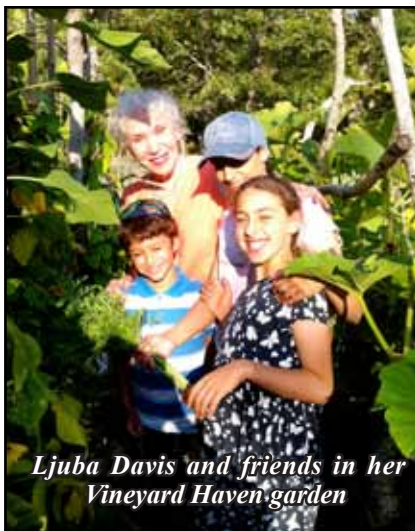
Both the simplicity and complexity of the Jewish fabric I have met on this small island are mind-boggling to me. Journey around the Vineyard and you will find a Jewish potter, Geoffrey Borr of Chillmark Pottery, whose hands are cakey, but whose soul brilliantly shines through. We found there small pitchers for maim acharonim, Shabbos candlesticks and the like. In another spot, you will find Stanley Hersh, owner of Conroy's pharmacy, who still brews and serves hot coffee as the main prescription drug of the day; just as spiritedly, he chants a joyous Friday night Kiddush over a glass of Israeli dry red, some crackers and a ball of gefilte fish.

I would also be remiss to not include on the "diamond list" Ljuba Davis, a spirited gardener, singer and connector, who, being a descendant herself, speaks of the Baal Shem Tov (and possessing an original letter from the Rabbi, passed from generation to generation). If you are privileged to meet her, you will know she is descended from this Tzaddik. You don't need the letter as proof.

Notably absent on the island were kosher establishments. But after a month of searching, one did pop up. A small gourmet pareve chocolate factory stands out as the Vineyard's first and only kosher business on the island. It is called "Not Your Sugar Mama's Chocolate." (Indeed, I checked into it, and yes, they most recently received their *hekscher* from Rabbi Zushe Blech of Monsey.)

Despite the paucity, however, one was able to obtain kosher meats, including *Meal Mart* and *Empire*, at the local supermarkets, and, of course, they also sold all the local homegrown organic vegetables that one could desire.

Dr. Glassman, CEO of Hadarta.org and reserve lieutenant in IDF, holds a specialization in Geriatrics from Harvard Medical School and currently provides geriatric consultations in both U.S. and Israel.



Ljuba Davis and friends in her Vineyard Haven garden



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The Israeli Stage

Israeli Stage presents the American Premiere of Hanoch Levin's *Make My Heart Flutter*, November 2 at 2 p.m. at the Goethe Institut, 170 Beacon Street, Boston. The play features Elliot Norton Award Winner Nancy Carroll and Elliot Norton Award Winner & IRNE Award Winner Jeremiah Kissel, directed by Guy Ben-Aharon. Tickets are \$25 for reserved seats and \$15 for general admission at www.IsraeliStage.com. Israeli Stage is proud to bring back by popular demand the American Premiere of Anat Gov's *Oh God* from its 2013-14 season for a tour at various locations October 14 through 27. In this witty, poignant and touching play, a psychotherapist named Ella (Maureen Keiller), single mother of an autistic child, gets a visit from a new, desperate patient, God (Will Lyman, Elliot Norton Award, IRNE Award and Best of Boston winner). More info at www.IsraeliStage.com.

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Boston Jewish Film Festival

The 26th annual *Boston Jewish Film Festival* (BJFF) opens on November 5 with *Run Boy Run*, a fiction film directed by acclaimed German filmmaker Pepe Danquart. This is a Jewish hero's tale, a miraculous true-to-life story of Srulik, a 9-year-old boy who flees from the Warsaw ghetto in 1942. He survives among the animals in the woods, eludes SS patrols, and charms locals into taking him in, while keeping alive his Jewish faith through the terrible war against his people.

The BJFF Mid-Fest event on November 12 takes a jovial look at the world of delicatessens with the World Premiere of *Deli Man*, a documentary directed by Erik Greenberg Anjou (The Klezmatics: On Holy Ground). Laugh your way through hilarious stories of American delicatessens while drooling over the wonderful Jewish food being prepared before your eyes. From New York to Chicago to San Francisco and even to Texas, enjoy the oddball company of the obsessed deli proprietors behind the corned beef, the kreplach, and the magnificent matzo ball soup. You won't want to miss third-generation Houston deli owner Ziggy Gruber, the maven of all deli mavens! In person: Director Erik Greenberg Anjou and film subject Ziggy Gruber.

My Own Man, directed by David Sampliner, closes the Boston portion of the 26th Festival on November 16. This humorous and thought-provoking documentary asks: What does it mean to be a man? As he turns 40, David, the filmmaker, who has never felt sufficiently masculine, explores this question through witty attempts at "macho" activities. His foil - his surgeon father, a 1950's-style male, a "Jewish John Wayne" - has never questioned traditional gender roles. Can there be a rapprochement between them, especially with David's wife about to deliver a baby boy? Includes an interview with actor/producer Edward Norton. In person: Director David Sampliner and film subject James Sampliner.

The full film schedule and tickets will be available at www.bjff.org beginning Monday, September 22.

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