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EDITION 5 - Spring 2010

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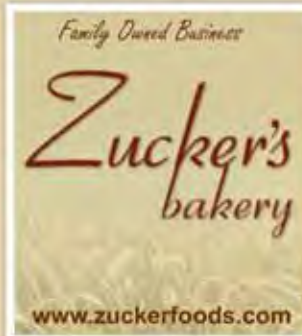
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Happy Passover Community Events listing

Musical Traditions from Around the World Sunday, May 16, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Enjoy a musical evening at Congregation Beth Israel Worcester, MA. Performing are: Cantor Marina Shemesh of Congregation Beth Israel, Cantor Elias Rosenberg (Temple Emanuel, Newton, MA), Cantor Gaston Bogomolni (Temple Aliyah, Needham, MA), Cantor Ken Richmond (Temple Israel, Natick, MA), Cantor Pavel Roytman (Temple Beth Israel, Skokie, IL), and Cantor Ayelet Piatigorsky (West End Synagogue, New York, NY). For more information call 508-756-6204, www.bethisraelworc.org

South Shore Elder Services, Inc. Annual Conference

Tuesday, May 11, 2010 at 8:30 p.m.

Come to the 5th Annual Conference, "Aging is Everyone's Future" at Lombardo's in Randolph. Our target audience are those in their 40's, 50's and 60's, the "boomer generation" who are caring for an aging loved one or planning for their own retirement. The evening will offer the opportunity to gather information on a wide variety of programs and services. In addition there will be a presentation by a panel of successful business professionals who incorporated caring for family members into their busy lives. Registration is required. Space is limited. A donation of \$15.00 is requested. For more information or to register please contact Dana Canniff at 781-848-3939 x351.

Shalom Magazine offers free event listing to all non-profit Jewish organizations. One event per organization up to 3 sentences, space is limited. Please email shalomMa@msn.com for more information.



JVS SPRING GALA

Thursday, April 29, 2010, 6:30 p.m.

"The Power of Community: Education Careers Success" 6:30 p.m. Cocktail Reception, 7:30 p.m. Dinner and Program. Location: InterContinental Boston, 510 Atlantic Avenue, Boston. Join Master of Ceremonies, Boston City Council President Mike Ross, as JVS honors Hebrew SeniorLife and its CEO Len Fishman; Temple Beth Shalom Needham; and two exceptional clients who have overcome considerable obstacles in order to achieve great success. Visit www.jvs-boston.org/gala for information on sponsorship and journal ad opportunities.

Community Networking Event

Wednesday, April 14, 2010, 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Career Moves at JVS and Combined Jewish Philanthropies invite young professionals to join us for this special FREE event for recent grads, soon-to-be grads and young professionals looking for new opportunities. Come to Microsoft's New England Research and Development Center, Kendall Square, Cambridge, Bring your business cards. Dietary laws will be observed. For more information contact cmovesmail@jvs-boston.org.

SEDER IN RANDOLPH

Passover Seders March 28 and 29, at Young Israel-Kehillath Jacob of Mattapan & Randolph, 374 North Main Street, Randolph at 6:00 P.M. Suggested Donation will be \$36.00 per person. For more details call 781-986-6461.



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Shalom Magazine 2010

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EDITORIAL

Happy Passover



Like most of the Jewish holidays, Passover is about gathering the family together and celebrating our unique traditions. Each one of us has our own ways of keeping the memories of our family alive. Judaism is about passing our history from generation to generation, never breaking the bond. That is why it is so important to keep telling the 3,000-year-old story of the Jewish people escaping slavery in Egypt and reaching out to the promised land.

Shalom Magazine is proud to complete this 5th edition, its first anniversary. In this magazine you will find a variety of articles that speak to various ages and peoples. Susie Davidson interviewed local Jews and asked about the way they perform their Seders; Steve Fradkin shares with us his unique Haggadah; Merle Hass, a local attorney, writes about her personal experience of volunteering in Israel; Robert Leikind raises the question of who is pro-Israel. Local Jewish schools share their events with us and we see how the future generation is preserving our traditions.

In this edition, we welcome our new contributors: Italo Piva and Matthew Robinson. Piva writes about the undocumented Israelis who overstayed their permission to live in this country and the risks they go through to remain here. Robinson relates the news from the music world. We also would like to welcome our new advertisers, organizations, temples and businesses that are now reaching the Jewish population through the pages of our magazine. By calling any of our clients and mentioning that you saw them in Shalom Magazine you are simultaneously supporting us and making sure they see the value of our work.

At the end of the Passover Seder we will all be saying: "Next year in Jerusalem." "If you would like to make it "This year in Jerusalem" please contact us, as we are arranging a trip to Israel in the summer. All are welcome, and I will be personally escorting the group. You do not have to belong to any organization or temple.

On Saturday, April 17th we will be having our Gala Event at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Natick. The event will also celebrate four years of our sister publication, Bate Papo (Chat in Portuguese) and one year of Shalom Magazine. There will be dinner, music and dancing. Please call us at 781-975-1009, for tickets and sponsorship. It is a great way to show your support to our publication and promote your company and organization among our readers.

Many people have contacted us about past editions. Please feel free to download them from our site www.shalomma.com.

As always, if you have any ideas or comments, please share them with us. If you belong to any organization that would like to distribute the magazine or have your events included in our listings, please contact us at: shalomMa@msn.com.

Shirley Nigri Farber - Editor

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AJC ACCESS Boston Young Diplomats Reception



AJCBoston Board member Jim Kaufman with Honorary Consul General of Turkey Erkut Gamulu and Mrs. Gamulu at the reception that took place at the home of Phil and Julie-Hume Gordon on March 4



AJCBoston Director Robert Leikind, AJCBoston Board Members Dani Katzman and Phil Gordon, and AJCBoston President Michael Tichnor



The event speakers from left: Zorina Pitkin (Russia), Shirley Nigri Farber (Brazil), and Hazel Bonick (South Africa) and Rosette Becker (Belgium)



The event organizers: Silvia Selig (Knollsbrook resident), Marjorie Maidman and Karen Wald (Sharon Stoughton Hadassah president)

Sharon Stoughton Hadassah Growing Up Jewish Around the World

The event took place on March 7 at the Knollsbrook Club House gathering men and women interested in learning what it's like to grow up in a Jewish community outside of the United States



Special thanks to Silvia Selig for inviting our editor Shirley to be a speaker and for spreading the word about Shalom Magazine

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Chai Center of Canton



Rabbi Mendy and Rivka Horowitz from The Chai Center hosted a Chanukah party at the Canton High School



Estelle Perlin and family



June Davis and Stephen Neff (Pres. and CEO of Aviv Centers), pictured with plaque announcing the Irving and Sally Kaplan Memorial Fund to benefit the clients Aviv Centers for Living.

The Chai Center of Canton hosted a community Purim celebration, "Purim in The Circus" which was held at the Young Israel of Randolph. The event featured Carnival Booths, Prizes, Music, Clown & Juggler. It was a great program that was enjoyed by the adults and children alike. The Chai Center will host a community Seder on Monday March 29th Please RSVP to 781-821-2227 - CantonChai-Center@yahoo.com



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Music Legend Peter Yarrow Highlights South Area Schechter CHAIJINKS GALA 2010

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Robert Starr

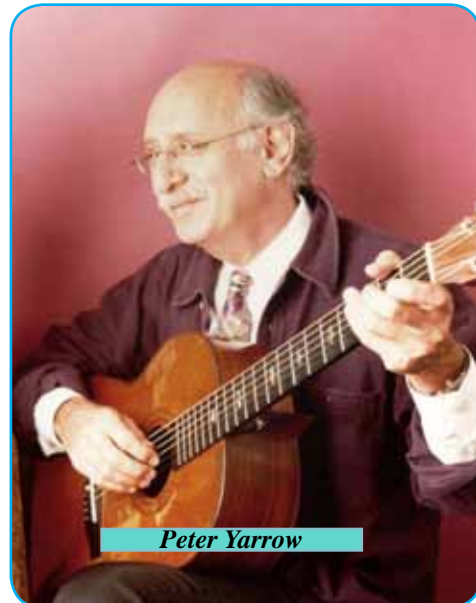
By Stanley Hurwitz
stanhurw@comcast.net

Legendary singer-songwriter-social activist Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul & Mary fame will be the featured performer at Chaijinks 2010, Sunday evening, March 21, to benefit the scholarship fund of the South Area Solomon Schechter Day School in Norwood.

The musical evening will also feature the SASSDS Jazz Band led by Music Director Ken Faria; the Jazz Ensemble featuring music teacher Steve Heck of the Berklee College faculty who was a piano coach for John Mayer; the SASSDS Barbara F. Guzovsky Makhela (Choir) led by Sandi Morgan Dunn and Lisa Yves Winner with an original musical cantata entitled "Children Make a Difference"; and Rabbi David Paskin playing music from his group, Shirav.

Husband and wife attorneys and community leaders Jordan D.

Hershman and Diana K. Lloyd will be honored with the Lester B. Gilson Community Service Award. Robert Starr will receive the Effie Goldstein Memorial Volunteer Award. Co-Chairs of Chaijinks 2010 are Shari and Steve Holstein, parents of two SASSDS alumni, past Board members and community leaders, and Valerie and Jason Frank are the parents of a Schechter kindergartner and preschool-aged twins; Honorary Co-Chairs are Sharon residents Aram and Rebecca Elovic and Doron and Kelly Ezickson. The South Area Solomon Schechter Day School in Norwood enrolls 252 boys and girls in grades K - 8 from 30+ communities. For information about the event and sponsorship, contact: djoiner@sassds.org; 781-769-9400. Website: www.sassds.org. For enrollment information for 2010-11, contact Sandi Morgan Dunn: 781-769-5555 or 781-752-7798; smorgan@sassds.org.



Peter Yarrow



Jordan D. Hershman and Diana K. Lloyd

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Jane Taubenfeld Cohen, Head of School

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The MetroWest Jewish Day School

Rocket Project Takes Off
By Ann Green

The sky's the limit at MetroWest Jewish Day School. Fifth and sixth graders are learning the fundamentals of Newtonian Mechanics - three ideas explaining the physics of motion - through a seven-week rocketry unit designed and taught by two local rocket scientists and a senior engineer. "We thought it would be a cool thing to do," said Steven Finn, an officer and board member of MWJDS, "and for our grand finale, we will launch a homemade rocket."

Finn, a principal scientist at MIT, worked on guidance software for the Apollo moon landings. His fellow rocket scientists are Mel Weinzimer, who was involved in the design of missiles and rockets for Raytheon, and Ron Todd, a systems engineering consultant. In their lessons, which are based on a curriculum developed by NASA, students work together on three projects: the Newton Car, which is powered by launching a film canister with rubber bands; the Rocket Car, which is powered through an inflated balloon; and the Bottle Rocket, which is powered through compressed air and can shoot hundreds of feet in the air. Students design and then redesign their machines to improve their performance and solve any mechanical problems they encounter. The project as a whole gives them in-depth understanding of Newton's laws. (First law: an object at rest stays at rest, and an object in motion stays in motion. Second law: force equals the product of mass and acceleration. Third law: for every action force, there is an equal and opposite reaction.)



MWJDS students during Chess Week where every player from beginner to advanced had the opportunity to learn the game or improve their skills.



Paint conservators Gianfranco Pocobene, Brian Powell and Ellen Davis begin work on the Wall Art of the Vilna Shul after receiving a Partners in Preservation grant from The National Trust for Historic Preservation and American Express.

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	May 2	Mitzvah Day and Lag B'Omer
	June 6	Kindergarten Fun Time

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Open House and Community Gatherings

	Fri., April 23	9:00 am
	Sun., March 14	Jeff Danger, Science Ranger at 10:00 am Open House at 11:00 am
	April 20-23	Camp Kef (Vacation Camp for ages 4-8)
	Sun., May 2	Mitzvah Day, Lag B'Omer at 159 Prospect St., Framingham

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Boston's Jewish Community Day School



JCDS 4th grade students studying robotics



8th grade students doing science experiment



Julie Milunsky and Elianna Mentzer as Cinderella at the school's 19th all-Hebrew musical.



Students at Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Boston helped to raise over \$500 to relief efforts in Haiti.

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STRIAR Hebrew Academy

Students invited to meet world-class author Norton Juster



SHAS second graders Yael Ben Eliyahu (left) and Nehama Gil lead families, teachers and guests in Hatikva during their much-anticipated Chagigat HaChumash, the milestone event that celebrates the students' readiness to learn Torah from the original text.

After reading the novel Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster, sixth graders at Striar Hebrew Academy in Sharon had the rare opportunity to meet the author himself. Invited to his home in Amherst, MA, students learned that Juster's professional training as an architect inspired him to write Phantom Tollbooth, which has been published in 22 languages over the past 50 years. Thinking back, Juster said he thought about how great it would be if there was information out there for kids to help them understand cities and city planning. He started writing, and his idea evolved into Phantom Tollbooth.

When asked where he got the ideas for the characters, or if any of the characters were based on himself, Juster responded that there was a piece of him in everything within the book. He said that, in many ways, he's like Milo, the main character. Like Milo, he is a constant daydreamer. Juster also mentioned that, as a boy, he lived in the shadow of his older brother, who was very accomplished and successful at everything. The Milo character shows that people who think that they, and their lives, are ordinary may not be so ordinary after all, and they can really do extraordinary things.

Juster shared with the students the challenges he has faced as a writer, acknowledging that he does get writer's block. To help him through this challenge, he tries to write every day, and also makes a point to stop in the middle of a sentence, so that the next day, he can pick up with an idea that has already been formulated. At the end of the students' visit, Juster autographed each student's copy of the book, including one for the library at Striar Hebrew Academy.



First graders at Striar Hebrew Academy sort more than 800 items of clothing, outerwear and footwear that they collected for Cradles to Crayons. This organization provides homeless and in-need children with the basic essentials they need. Every year there are more than 100,000 Massachusetts children under 18 who experience poverty.

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Who Carries The Pro-Peace Banner?



**Robert Leikind, Director
American Jewish Committee, Boston**

When it comes to “what is best for Israel,” there is no shortage of opinions within the American Jewish community. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that J Street was recently formed to give expression to a sector in American Jewish opinion that believes that mainstream Jewish organizations have not done enough to advance peace between Israel and her neighbors.

According to a March 4, 2010 op-ed in the Boston Globe by Jesse Singal (“The New American Jew on Israel,”), there is a new generation that believes that Israel and many of its supporters have exaggerated concerns about security and neglected the pursuit of peace. They are urging a new program that rejects fear and embraces the promise of peace between Israel and its neighbors. And they see J Street as the organization that will influence policymakers to embrace this new “pro-peace” approach. Yet, as this movement gains coherence, it becomes important to test some of its assumptions – most importantly that it is pro-peace and others are not.

Polling data vividly demonstrate that American Jews overwhelmingly favor a settlement between Israel and its neighbors based upon a two-state solution. Most mainstream American Jewish organizations claim to share this view. So what distinguishes their followers from those of J Street? Well, a central area of disagreement may revolve around what is the right strategy for advancing peace.

This was graphically on display in Singal’s essay. He contended that some American Jews exaggerate the danger posed by a nuclear Iran. On what did he base this claim? He did not say. He did contend, however, that this is what many people who are flocking to J Street believe. About this he may be right.

So what is the basis for this judgment? Iranian leaders repeatedly underscore their intention to destroy Israel. Iran is a well-known exporter of terrorism and has repeatedly made the murder of Jews and Israelis a national priority. And this Iranian program does not take place in a vacuum. A virulent Islamist movement that

rejects Israel’s legitimacy in any part of historic Palestine has embedded itself in virtually every Arab state and is reinvigorating rejectionist thinking that has served as a barrier to peace since before Israel’s birth.

These are not trivial facts, so if Singal or anyone else has information that would cause a reasonable person to readily dismiss them, it would be important that they share it. In the absence of such information, however, flippant claims that minimize serious security challenges are simply irresponsible. Worse, they may actually inhibit the pursuit of peace by obscuring the need to overcome rejectionists who undermine those in the Palestinian and Arab world who favor peaceful co-existence.

Many of us think that the surest path to peace is to challenge totalitarian extremists, who reject pluralism and democracy; have pledged to resist any peace process; and have repeatedly pledged to work for the day when Israel will be no more. In facing up to the rejectionist challenge and in insisting that partners for peace (Israeli, Palestinian and others) act like partners for peace, we believe we open the door to a genuine peace process that has the prospect for long-term stability.

I respect that there may be those who disagree, but do not accept the assertion that such individuals are more “pro-peace” than I. The discussion that will best serve the Jewish community is not about who is for peace and who is not, but regards how best to achieve it. Embracing this approach will contribute to a more mature and constructive intra-communal dialogue. Israel deserve nothing less, as do we.



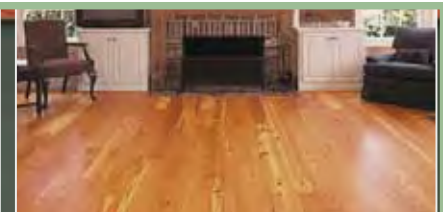
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Why I Loved Sar-El (and Why You Will, Too)

By Merle Hass

It began inauspiciously. After what seemed like days of traveling, I stumbled off the plane, retrieved my bag and sought a vaguely defined meeting place: seats to the right of the fountain in the Arrivals Hall of Ben Gurion Airport. Blearily pushing my luggage cart, I made my way to a knot of T-shirted Sar-El volunteers. I lined up with others before a woman with a clipboard handed over my travel documents, and was summarily assigned to an army base. Strains of “you’re in the army now” reverberated through my head as I boarded the bus to the base.

Sar-El, or Volunteers for Israel (VFI), places volunteers on Israeli military bases for anywhere from 1 to 3 weeks to work in a wide range of non-combat roles. I went for two weeks in October 2009. Our particular army base, situated close to Tel Aviv, was enormous. Our quarters on a corner of the base resembled a pared down, concrete overnight camp. And in true summer camp fashion, we were assigned to cabins and segregated by sex.

I was one of forty volunteers for two weeks in October, having taken time off from my job as a trial lawyer in Boston. I shared living quarters with four other women. While spartan, our accommodations were certainly adequate – we had closet and drawer space, reading lights above our beds, and an asthmatic but serviceable air conditioner. There was a moadon – a community room - lined with couches and chairs and featuring a tiny table and a large refrigerator. We even had a washing machine and a dryer, and miles and miles of clothesline.

Our group ranged in age from 17 to 87 (at 50, I was in the middle), and we came not only from the U.S. but from Canada, Hungary and Holland. Some of us were veteran volunteers, some first-timers. Some had been to Israel dozens of times, some never before. Most were Jews but some were Christians. What we had in

common was an interest in and devotion to Israel, and a desire, to paraphrase Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, to pray with our feet.

We quickly fell into a routine. On that first morning, garbed in uniforms that were either too large or too small, we met for breakfast, then lined up with the real IDF soldiers for flag raising. Next, we were assigned to our workstations. Our base was responsible for checking and processing medical supplies. And while there was some variety, for the most part the work consisted of packing or unpacking or sorting or checking saline bags and gauze pads and medications and bandages and the like. Not glamorous, not intellectually enriching but necessary and, for several reasons,

deeply fulfilling. For one, this is work that needs doing. Our labor freed up for more important tasks soldiers or reserves who would otherwise have had to do it. Plus I loved the hands-on aspect, the fact that I had something concrete and tangible to point to at day’s end. And I loved that the workday had an end, that 4:00 was quitting time, physically and mentally – no risk that I’d lie awake at night working out the day’s stresses and conundrums.

Throughout our stay, we were supervised by two twenty-something female soldiers, called “madrivot.” These women were remarkably mature and relentlessly pleasant. Not only did they troubleshoot minor work and housing issues; they planned and executed impressive nightly programs. They taught us about Gilad Shalit, and had us debating the merits and detriments of redeeming captives. They educated us about social problems and tensions in Israeli society, and had us discussing discrimination in housing and employment, S’derot, and the tensions inherent in the notion of a Jewish democratic state. On the whole, we were not especially well-informed on any of these topics, but Tal and Shany quickly brought us up to speed to the point where we were



Merle, seated, first from right

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Why I Loved Sar-El (cont.)

comfortable discussing and arguing - with some sophistication - the nuances of these difficult issues. And a surprising dividend: sparring intellectually made us even more cohesive as a group.

The Israeli work week runs Sunday through Thursday. Each Thursday afternoon, we were released from the base, freed to



The madrichot

travel and pursue our own interests. Volunteers get hefty discounts at various hotels and attractions, including free stays in the soldiers' hostels. While most of our group congregated in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem, others ranged a bit farther afield, visiting family and friends throughout the country, exploring Haifa, Tiberias, and points in the south. Here, too, the madrichot were invaluable, helping those in need with travel, transportation and hotel arrangements. It's quite easy to get around Israel, and there's a virtually limitless list of religious, political, historical and cultural sites

to visit. There are also endless opportunities to party and relax, whether on one of the many gorgeous beaches, or in one of the scores of cafes, bars and restaurants.

I've recently learned a disturbing statistic: about two-thirds of American Jews have never visited Israel. Passport to Israel and Birthright are motivating kids to go, but there's nothing comparable for the adult population. Sar-El, which was founded in 1983, provides an option for adults. It's got a lot to recommend it - it's offered every month, it's well run, and it's very low-cost. It's a great way to meet lots of people and get really close really quickly. In short, it's an ideal synthesis of work, play and service to Israel. The high return rate of volunteers is testament to the excellence and merit of the program. Would I go back? In a heartbeat. Meet you there next October!

Stepping Out with Sinai



Join New England Sinai Hospital in honoring Sinai Foundation Board member and owner of Brookmeadow Country Club Elizabeth Simoni at "Stepping Out with Sinai," a fundraising gala at the Four Points by Sheraton in Norwood on Saturday evening, May 15th.

The evening begins at 6 pm with a cocktail reception and silent auction, followed by a gourmet dinner, program hosted by Chanel 5's Kelley Tuthill, and dancing to the music of the Bo Winiker band. Tickets at \$200 per person, sponsorships and program book ads are available by calling the New England Sinai Foundation office at 781-297-1153.



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Summer and fun on Cape Cod with a Shul and minyan for Shabbos

In thinking about your upcoming summer vacation, the challenge to the Jewish vacation, of course, is to find a resort location that in addition to being fun, refreshing and attractive, with nice places to stay and things to do, is to find a shul for Shabbos and daily minyanim.

A fantastic summer community, located right here in Boston area, at the threshold to Cape Cod, is Beth Israel of Onset. www.capecodshul.org is our website.

The Onset Shul has been open every summer for over 50 years now, and was the summer home for Rav Soloveitchik in the 1950's and through the 1960's. The Shul is enchanting, intriguing and delightful, while Onset has many places available for long or short stays, and offers delightful beaches and charming cottages. Onset presents the Orthodox Jewish vacationer an unusual hidden jewel to explore and experience.

Onset is a picturesque Victorian village, and offers clean, sandy beaches, chartered fishing boats, Canal Cruises, a Vineyard ferry, street fairs, and, of course, a 4th-of-July fireworks display. In addition to a perfectly relaxing religious environment, it is blessed with clear, crisp ocean breezes, and provides a perfect vacation base for enjoying Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard or Nantucket, Plymouth, Woods Hole, Orleans, the National Seashore, Boston and Newport, RI, all within driving distance.

The Shul constantly welcomes new visitors, and offers an intimate, friendly and participative service. Visitors include singles to families to retired couples—all are welcome. And, while spending a week on Cape Cod immersed in Main Street Americana, you can celebrate a familiar Shabbos, surrounded by friends.

Every Shabbos morning the Shul provides a small kiddush, giving guests the opportunity to meet and talk, a Pirke Avot class

every Shabbos afternoon, and a shiur from a visiting rabbi or scholar between mincha and maariv. For the past 15 years, Mel Greenbaum has been the Shul's resident Director, managing the daily minyanim and laying.

Long-time members return to Onset for their annual vacations from across the US and Canada, as well as the occasional visitor from Europe and Israel. Onset is the quintessential summer

Jewish community of friends who spend summer time together once a year, every year. New people discover, old friends return.

Many local inns and hotels, directly located on Onset Bay, are within a 5 minute walk of the Shul. There are also a number of cottages for rent. See www.onsetvillage.com and www.shellpointere.com for more info. Major nearby supermarkets carry brand name Kosher products. (The Boston Vaad symbol is KVH. Meat products should be brought from home.) Ask the inn for a small refrigerators or hot plate.

Cape Cod has miles of wonderful beaches, snug harbors, charming villages, historic sites, aquariums, golf, tennis, shopping, go-karts, baseball, water parks, kayaking, movies, summer theater, antique shops, bicycle trails,

fishing, whale watching, seal watching, and so much more. In Onset, you can enjoy all this along with a delightful, appropriate Shabbos experience.

Friday night services begin at 7:30 and Shabbos morning services are at 8:45 am. Daily services are at 8:00 am and 7.30 pm. Contact Eli Hauser at ehauser@capecodshul.org, 781-784-7153 or visit our website, www.capecodshul.org for more information or a brochure listing places to stay and things to do.



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The Israel Folkdance Festival of Boston

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It happens every year as hundreds of dancers converge on MIT's Kresge Auditorium: In a whirl of costumes and props, the dancers find their places and the magic begins. On a Sunday in March (the 14th this year) over 20 groups come together on stage, first to perfect their dances and learn a full-cast finale and then to perform for an audience. On that day, a unique dance community is formed.

The groups choreograph and rehearse on their own, many in the towns and cities around Boston, others from across the country. The Israel Folkdance Festival of Boston gives them an opportunity to meet each other, dance together and learn from one another. The youngest dancers look on with wonder at the adults' complex lifts, spins and footwork, while the adults cheer for the creativity and enthusiasm of the younger set. As they come together with the common goal of putting on a show, the groups share their inspiration with each other, and dancers head home again enriched by the cross-fertilization of ideas.

Over the years, these performances have motivated new generations of young people in the audience to explore Israeli folk dancing. Today in Boston, we are seeing a resurgence of Israeli folk dance among elementary aged children and high schoolers. As a result, there are more Boston-based troupes than ever before, encompassing an ever-wider range of dancers, young and old.

The Israel Folkdance Festival of Boston is based on a special idea, our ability to create great things by sharing. This idea has its roots in the Israeli folk dance community at MIT, which sprouted into our first Festival in 1977 and continues to blossom today. It has been passed down through several generations of folk dancers, with each individual contributing his or her own particular talents. Our Festival is presented entirely by



volunteers, who organize, perform and choreograph because of their love of Israeli folk dancing. They will share their excitement with an enthusiastic audience, showcasing what they have worked so hard to perfect and hoping to inspire ever more dancers to join them.

Next year's Israel Folkdance Festival will be on March 13th, 2011. There is plenty of time to put together a group, develop a choreography and join us on stage or in the audience. Anyone interested in the Festival can find more information at our website www.bostonfestival.org, or by e-mailing us at info@bostonfestival.org. Feel inspired to dance? Try one of these sessions:

Sunday nights:

Temple Emeth, Brookline contact: Pam@horah.org and Temple B'nai Brith, Somerville, info@templebnaibrith.org

Monday nights: Kehillath Israel, Brookline contact: Dance@rrdance.com or www.rrdance.com.

Tuesday nights: Temple Israel, Sharon contact: suzannejj@comcast.net and Temple Beth-El, Newton Contact: Pam@horah.org.

Wednesday nights: M.I.T., Cambridge, <http://web.mit.edu/fdc/>.



Miriam Rosenblum, Director of the MIT Hillel, honored by The Israel Folkdance Festival of Boston on March 14, 2010

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Holocaust related event

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(More information on www.irefusedtodie.com)

Screening dates are:

Friday, April 9, 1-2 p.m., at JCC Senior lunch program, Hebrew SeniorLife, 1550 Beacon St., Brookline. Free, RSVP for lunch, \$4 donation suggested. Info: lmamon@jccgb.org, (617) 558-6522 or www.irefusedtodie.com.

Saturday, April 10, 8 p.m., at Nehar Shalom, 43 Lochstead Ave., Jamaica Plain. Info: (617) 522-3618, howardzilber@gmail.com, rabbi@neharshalom.org. Nominal admission cost TBA.

Sunday, April 11, 10 a.m., at Congregation Agudas Achim-Ezrath Israel, 245 Bryant Street, Malden. In conjunction with Temple Tifereth Israel, Malden. Info: (781) 322-7205, hysyl@usadata.net, bobie52003@yahoo.com. Cost TBA.

Sunday, April 11, 7:30 p.m., at Temple Beth Shalom, 21 East Foster Street, Melrose. Info: (781) 665-4520, nfkura@comcast.net. Nominal admission cost TBA.

Monday, April 12, 7 p.m., at Temple Israel, 125 Pond St., Sharon. Info: (781) 784-3986, tamargrimm@gmail.com. Nominal admission cost TBA.

Sunday, May 16, 4 p.m., at South Area Solomon Schechter School, Israel Arbeiter Gallery of Understanding, One Commerce Way, Norwood. Info: (781) 769-9400 ext. 257, www.sassds.org/arbeiter.html. No charge.

Yom HaShoah Community Commemoration

Sunday, April 11, 2010, 10 a.m. to noon

Please join JCRC, the NE Holocaust Memorial and CJP at Faneuil Hall for this annual event. Following Kaddish at the Memorial, we encourage everyone to continue learning and remembering at Congregation Mishkan Tefila in Chestnut Hill. There will be food, music, speakers and time for thoughtful reflection. Free buses to and from Mishkan Tefila are available so bring your family and share this special day with us. For more information or to reserve space on a bus, please contact Elyse Rast, Holocaust Educator, 617-457-8652 or erast@jcrboston.org.

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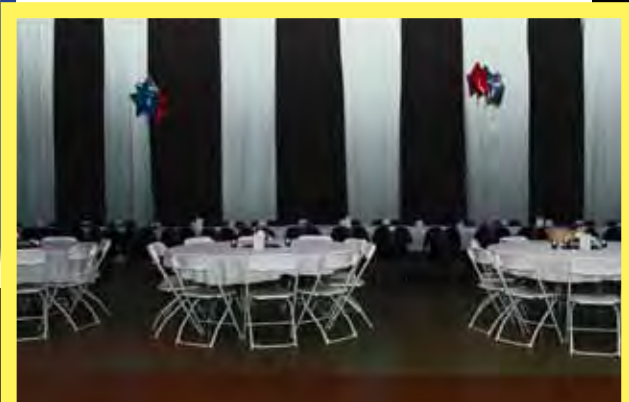
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Illegal Israeli Immigration in the USA

By Italo A. C. Piva, *Umass Boston Undergrad*

The formation of the state of Israel brought with it a massive immigration of Jewish communities worldwide to a place that for millions is sacred. Though the United States of America is by no means a "Holy Land", if you judged by the efforts and tribulations that immigrants from around the globe go through to come here, one may think that they are on a pilgrimage. Hunger, thirst, no shelter or shower for weeks are just a few of the deprivations, including the fact one may lose her/his freedom.

Included in the hundreds of thousands of foreign citizens who enter this country legally or illegally every year are a handful of Israelis who also seek a piece of the American Dream, more opportunities to create wealth, a better education or quality of life in general.

Many Israelis come to America on student visas, pursuing higher education in esteemed institutions like Harvard or MIT, with others filling high paying high-tech jobs thanks to Israel's renowned technological prowess. However, some enter America on tourist visas they plan on letting expire, or like millions of others, sneaking through the porous borders with Canada or Mexico, becoming illegal immigrants.

It is estimated that around 350,000 Israelis live here, though some studies suggest up to 600,000. Out of these it is almost impossible to calculate how many have or do not have a visa. The reasons many choose to stay here as such, facing imprisonment, fines and deportation if they are found are pretty much constant. "There is no future in Israel," says Amit E., a native of Netanya currently living in Brookline on a tourist visa that expired over a year ago. He works and gets paid under the table, though he would rather not reveal where. In Israel, after the army, he sold popsicles on a pushcart, and prospects for a good future looked bleak. "If I can stay here I will," he says. "The best is if I find girl to marry," he continued. Here he doesn't mean marry for love, but for documents or "papers," so he may one day get a green card and eventually U.S. citizenship.

This is a common practice in immigrant communities from all over the world here in America, and the arrangement generally costs between nine to twelve thousand dollars. Amit's long-time girlfriend Tal is not jealous over the prospect of him marrying another woman, "I hope he finds this person," she says. "It's a very easy process, my friend in California did this." Apparently the major difficulty is finding someone with a clean criminal record

willing to do it. Tal is also here on an expired tourist visa, working selling Dead Sea beauty products in malls from Texas to Ohio to New England. She makes more money here in a week than she could ever expect back home without a college degree.

Amit even joked, "maybe you should marry Tal for the papers, its \$10,000 to your pocket." I smiled and asked jokingly "cash?" to which he answered, "no, you'll get some every month." "Then, no," I replied. We both laughed, and this exchange raised the thought inside me of how much of a joke the original question really was.

Humor aside, the point of focus is the fact that thousands of Israelis every year immigrate to the United States, and some are determined to make this their new home, come what may, undergoing hardships and exposing themselves to real dangers such as arrest. The Department of Homeland Security gives the number of 177 deported Israelis in 2008 due to immigration violations. However it is common knowledge that the official data often reflects but a fraction of the problem, and many more are probably currently in jail and/or awaiting deportation.

Though not by a long shot does the number of illegal Israelis in America even compare to that from other countries, the issue should be debated in the broader Jewish community and not ignored as if nonexistent. I say this for two main reasons. First, Jewish immigrants have sought refuge in and contributed to America in the past (when it was much easier to immigrate to this country). Countless numbers escaped war and religious persecution to create a new life for themselves and to lay the foundation for a good future for their families. Why shouldn't Israelis who now face economic strife and constant socio-political conflicts with neighboring countries be allowed a chance to thrive here now and in the future too?

Secondly, as mentioned above, the number of illegal Israelis here, though startling, isn't much compared to other nationals, so perhaps it is much easier for the Jewish community and government of Israel to address this problem than it would be, for say, the Mexican. So there is more people can do more effectively to resolve the issue.

I am by no means condoning behavior that goes against the law; what I am saying is that perhaps with the right tools and assistance spurred from a sense of responsibility and unity from the world-wide Jewish community, many of these Israelis wouldn't have to be here illegally in the first place.

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Local Passover Seders display tradition, thought, and innovation



By Susie Davidson

As the saying goes, the only constant is change. This can certainly be applied to many Jewish holiday observances, and is especially true of Passover Seders, where even the most staid of traditionalists will try a different charoseth recipe, use whole-grain matzah, invite new people, include special readings, and of course, discuss and debate the most recent current events. Successfully tweaking a longstanding family ritual like the Seder can be refreshing, but also daunting. Given the innate rambunctiousness of young kids (and perhaps some grown-up family

members), the varying levels of attention spans, the chaos of relatives' travel accommodations, individual dietary preferences, and the avoidance of potentially contentious conversational topics, Seders can be intimidating in themselves, without introducing new approaches.

But that won't stop most of us, and it shouldn't. Innovation can keep things lively, interesting, and versatile. Seders in all their forms have come to represent a celebration of who we are, as families and as people. After all, this night is different to begin with!

And it's important as well. According to the Jewish Virtual Library, even among the generally non-observant, in Israel, "Passover is probably second only to Yom Kippur in traditional observance." Chabad's Online Seder Wizard concurs, stating: "No ritual has survived so long, propagating the values of human dignity, liberty and the search for higher meaning. In every corner of the world, Jewish families come together to reconstruct that original Passover Seder, again and again, year after year. And every year, there is more to learn."

We feel bound to attend a Seder, and we want to, wherever we are. This year, Nancy K. Kaufman, Executive Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Boston, will be attending a Seder in Prague with her daughter.

"I will be traveling between Israel and Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine at that time!" she said. Celebrated on 15 and 16 Nisan, the Seder marks the 13th century BCE exodus from Egypt, and liberation from slavery. Freedom is, indeed, the dominant note of Passover, states the JVL. Family is intrinsic as well." Our Massachusetts home is the Passover Seder gathering place for all three of my married children, their spouses and my seven grandkids," says and kvells Irving Kempner, co-chairman

of the Israel Arbeiter Gallery of Understanding in Norwood, and self-avowed member of The Kempner Singing Seder in Sharon.

Jamie Stolper, co-founder and president of ShalomBoston.com, the popular online resource for the Massachusetts Jewish community, hosts a large family Seder every year along with her husband David and three sons. "There are always at least 20 to 30 relatives and friends, and the menu is extensive, mainly traditional, but with some new additions each year," she said. Some are taken from the outstanding Passover recipes found on ShalomBoston.com's food page.

Memories remain, long after such gatherings. "I do remember the Seders in my grandparents house when I was a little girl," said Rena Finder. "It was always held in my grandparents' bedroom, where my grandfather sat on the bed, reclining on huge down pillows,

wearing a long white robe and a white kipa." As the youngest grandchild, Finder sat right next to him. "My youngest aunt would bring him a pitcher of water and a basin when it was time to wash hands," she recalled. "They sat in front of a huge, round table. All the aunts and uncles were around it, praying, singing, laughing, and of course, eating," she said, adding that she thought that her grandfather looked like Moses must have looked.

Susan Spielman, who coordinates the Waltham-based Jewish Family & Children's Services Friendly Visitor Program and the Caring Communities Resource Network, runs a Friendly Visitor Program Passover Seder for elders and JF&CS volunteers. Seventy to 80 people usually attend, and many have come for a number of years in a row, she said. This year will mark their fifth Seder.

In this age of rapid technological advances, so much so that we can often wonder if we ourselves are being powered by our gadgets and devices, the powerful Seder experience can help ground us and put our mechanical lives into perspective.

Chabad.org's online Seder Wizard knows this: Millennia before the Xbox, an ancient desert tribe of mystics enacted the first multimedia educational experience, it states. Beyond anything we have today, it reached deep into the human psyche in every way possible, and

all at once: Rich audio, dynamic visuals, spoken language and written text, even the visceral senses of taste, smell and touch. We can all agree that the Seder is indeed very special to each attendee, and timeless. Chabad's Wizard certainly does: [It] was interactive, with role-playing and creative manipulation of materials. It was a whole-person experience, developing a sense of inner freedom within all who participated.

It remains so to this day, as people incorporate issues of personal importance into the ceremony. "My wife and I typically attend a Seder that a friend has put together," said Fred Berman of Somerville, a spokesperson for United to Stop Slots in Massachusetts. This year, they are also attending the Labor Seder sponsored by the Jewish Labor Committee, in Dorchester. "It should be interesting, given that I will make sure to say something about the expanded gambling issue," he said, explaining that his host, organized labor, has strongly supported it, due to the potential for construction jobs that new casinos could create. "So in addition to getting to taste the bitterness of the maror, I may have the opportunity to experience bitterness with my other senses as well," he speculated, with a



Irving Kempner and son



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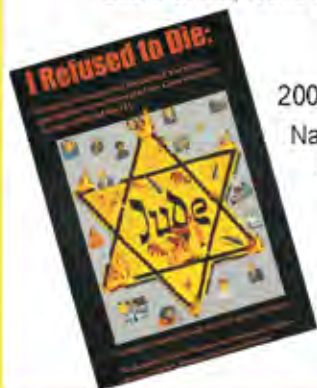
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Local Passover Seders display tradition, thought, and innovation

smile. "Well, an animated discussion at the Seder table is a healthy tradition, eh?"

Stolper always places Miriam's Cup along with Elijah's Cup on the table, as well as an orange and, most recently, olives, which represent the hope of freedom and peace in Israel and surrounding lands. "We also always have an orange on the Seder plate, as a reminder that women DO have a seat at the table," said Kaufman. Tatjana Meschede of Newton, who coordinates the Newton German-Jewish Dialogue group, adds an orange as well. This practice was begun in the 1980s by feminist scholar Susannah Heschel, daughter of the legendary Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, after an incident that she herself states has "become a bit of an urban legend. When she spoke at a Miami synagogue, she was interrupted by a rabbi in the audience, who exclaimed, "A woman belongs on the bimah like an orange belongs on the Seder plate!" The orange subsequently became a rallying cry in support of women, Lesbian and gay Jews.

Speaking of agriculture, the counting of the Omer (a measure of grain in biblical days) commences on the second day of Passover, recounting the harvesting of the first sheaf of the barley harvest. According to telshemesh.org, During the forty-nine days, the barley and wheat harvests were brought in, and on Shavuot, two loaves of bread were offered in the Temple in gratitude, along with the first fruits of all the farmers (after the Temple was destroyed, the command was to simply count the days in sequence). According to the Jewish Virtual Library, some kibbutzim still hold a secular rite to observe the agricultural significance of Passover.

The Israelites lived close to the land, and their experience of it was very personal and very physical, says Rabbi Katy Z. Allen, Staff Chaplain at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Rabbi of Wayland-based Ma'yan Tikvah, A Wellspring of Hope. She offered her ideas for the Maggid portion of the Seder, when we tell the story of the Exodus:

- * Provide small bowls of sand - or a large pan of sand - like the sand through which the Israelites walked to get away from Egypt - and let people run their hands through it. Natural objects of our North American wildernesses could be substituted, such as pine branches, pine cones, and dried weeds.

- * Have people say phrases to describe how it feels to be walking - or running - across the hot desert. Encourage them to remember their own experiences in the desert.

- * Discuss the concept of desertification, the gradual transformation of habitable land into desert, generally caused by climate change or by overgrazing, deforestation, or extensive burning.

- * Bring pebbles and small stones from the beach, which might resemble those on which the Israelites stood when they reached the edge of the Sea of Reeds.

- * If you play music during Passover, a CD of ocean sounds could evoke the Israelites looking out over the sea.

- And lastly, * Provide time for people to share their experiences of looking out over the sea, comparing how they felt to what the Israelites might have felt.

The original Reconstructionist Haggadah by Mordecai Kaplan is the haggadah of choice in Stolper's family, as it has been since she was a child. But haggadot are another modern variable. "Two years ago, I began using Telling the Story: A Passover Haggadah Explained by children's composer and performer Barry Louis Polisar, which I found after an extensive search," she said. The haggadah, which adds additional readings and explanations along with beautiful illustrations, can now be downloaded in entirety on

the Internet. "I've collected haggadot over the years, and spread them around the table as well, along with other books for adults and children," said Stolper. "Guests are encouraged to interrupt at any time to ask a question to the group on any aspect of the holiday."

"About 10 years ago my wife Mindy and our eldest daughter assembled and created a unique family haggadah containing both traditional haggadah stories and prayers, with pictures of our own family, children and grandkids on the cover," said Kempner.

"Freedom, and by extension, freedom from persecution and oppression, is extremely important to Jews, who well recall the hardships endured by our ancestors. And because of our big hearts and empathetic souls, in our lives and at our Seders, we extend that concern to all of humanity. We always include readings from contemporary crises in the world where people are not free, or are suffering," said Kaufman.

"So we have discussed Rwanda, Sudan, Ethiopia, and this year, of course, we'll discuss Haiti."

"Last year, all guests, from the youngest to the oldest, were asked to bring with them something they had read, written, or made that reminded them of freedom," said Stolper. "These were shared at various moments before and after the meal, and included quotations from famous speeches, magazine

and newspaper articles, poems, pictures of artwork, and original drawings," she said. "The year before, the assignment was to share thoughts on a person remindful of freedom. This year, guests may be asked to suggest a new item to be added to the Seder plate, or a new tradition to add to the haggadah or Seder, and, of course, the reason why," she said.

From all of these rich examples, it is easy to see that Seders are one of our more venerable, sentimental gatherings, virtually steeped in meaning. However, it's important to not let go of the fun aspect as well. They are also enjoyable!

"The Stolper family Seders are, by design, long evenings of storytelling, prayer, questioning, sharing, learning, good food, and humor, with all ages, now 9 to 85 years old, experiencing the uniqueness of Pesach," said Stolper. Usually beginning at 6 p.m., this family has to work hard to end by midnight!

"Our haggadah has an updated list of all family and friends who have attended our past Seders in the appendix, and also inserted are appropriately-placed, original songs about Passover stories that all in attendance sing in joyous chorus together," said Kempner. "The singing brings lots of festive joy and engaging energy to the Seder's long evening of recounting our ancestors journey from slavery to freedom."



Rabbi Katy Z. Allen



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Passionate and Proud

Fanatical (in a good way) author Steve Almond prepares to rock your world!

By Matt Robinson

Though childhood piano lessons revealed local author Steve Almond's musical talent (or lack thereof) early on, he has not given up his fight for the right to rock.

Having focused his hyper-focused pen on the world of Ma and Pa (or perhaps Bubbe and Zayde) candy companies in his bestselling *Candyfreak* (Algonquin Books), Almond now turns his attention (what he has left after keeping up all day with an energetic four-year-old) to the world of music.

I just write about the stuff that sticks in my craw, Almond explains. The topics really choose me!

In his new book, *Rock and Roll Will save Your Life* (Random House), Almond traces his own development into what he terms a Drooling Fanatic (DF) - that special type of music fan who spends hours poring over album covers and listening to the same track over and over and who, Almond says, spend way too much of their time bugging their friends to listen to their new albums.



While some may see DF-ism as a disease, Almond considers it a blessing and a natural extension of the music itself.

Music is all about excessive emotional involvement, Almond suggests. The musicians want you to feel.

And as a lifelong DF for music and candy and other things and a widely-published journalist, Almond certainly has a feel for that of which he writes and also for the act of writing itself.

The reason I wrote this new book about music is because I've spent most of my life wishing I could make music, and getting totally hung up on certain bands, and trying to find an excuse to get close to musicians, Almond explains. I think most people are as obsessive as I am- they're just quieter about it.

Through his own musical musings, combined with interviews with some of the world's greatest songwriters, lists of recommendations and a cool (in an avant garde, I know more than you do kind of way) accompanying CD, Almond's latest

release shows the way into DF-ism and the way through it to a better, more fulfilling musical life.

The main point of the book is that music is the central pathway to [our] deepest feelings, Almond says. It's how we reach those feelings when we're otherwise stuck.

So whether you can discern between Roger Taylor or Duran Duran and Roger Taylor of Queen (which you hopefully CAN) or you don't know Gil Scott-Heron from pickled herring; whether you are a closet Metal fan or know every song by Neil Sedaka, it is time to admit to your own DF-ness and be proud to be more than just another fan.

Everyone's a drooling fanatic about something, Almond observes. And while DFs can be a little pushy, Almond says that he would rather be that passionate, that alive, than just walk around with an attitude.

Life's too short, and too sacred, he says, for sophisticated poses.

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The Bird from Israel

Aleksandra Feldman

I know a lot of people believe that a name can reflect and even shape one's personal qualities. This is true for Leonid Ptashka - a virtuoso jazz pianist and composer from Israel, whose concert took place in the Boston area on February 10th, 2010.

This musician, whose last name means "little bird" in Russian, has indeed been traveling a lot. A man of the world, he was born in Baku (Azerbaijan), received a musical education in Moscow, and eventually was repatriated to Israel.

Today, Leonid Ptashka leads a busy musical life traveling around the world and participating in concerts, recitals and festivals. He has received 17 international Jazz prizes and was also honored in 2003 by the Israeli Knesset, in connection with the 25th anniversary of his successful musical career.

Leonid's name has been associated with several major jazz festivals in Israel, which he actually founded and has been hosting for several years in a row. The latest one was in November of 2009, in Ashdod. Among his famous guests in Israel were the esteemed American jazz saxophonists Wayne Shorter and Benny Golson, and drummer Al Foster. Leonid Ptashka is also known in Israel as a TV show host.

Because of his efforts, jazz, which is traditionally called "American music", is getting closer to Israeli culture. His concert programs always include some pieces which were inspired by Israeli music, and can really be called "Israeli jazz".

His concert in Massachusetts took place in the Jazz Club, which is based in the restaurant Vernissage, in Brookline. The pianist played as part of a quartet with saxophonist (and concert producer of Ptashka's current tour to the USA) Yaacov Maiman, drummer Aleksandra Mogilevich and bassist Dmitry Gorodetsky.

The program of the concert mostly included jazz standards, improvisation on original Israeli themes and some Yiddish songs. Leonid Ptashka's recent tour also included several concerts in the states of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania which also went very successfully.

For his next visit to Boston, tentatively scheduled for September, Ptashka will perform a program based on Jewish spiritual music. The future program is called "Leonid Ptashka with a Chorus of Cantors".



Leonid Ptashka

The Klezmatics

Matt Robinson

Well known for their roles in the Grammy-winning international sensation that is The Klezmatics, Frank London and Lorin Sklamberg have taken a moment to consider the special holiday music of their shared tradition and to take it in new directions as only those who understand its essence can. The result is tzuker-zis ("sugar-sweet"), the third in the dynamic duo's trilogy of side projects that also includes Nigunim (Tzadik) and The Zmiros Project (Traditional Crossroads). Taking musical cues from the Hasidic tradition, London and Sklamberg (with the help of oud master Ara Dinkjian, electronic wizard Knox Chandler and percussionist Deep Singh), cross lines of religious and musical tradition to bring this sacred music to a secular audience. The results range from the hauntingly hopeful "Blessings Without End," the swaying ballad "Heed Not the Accuser" and the crunching swirls of the musical mouthful "Mighty Blessed, Great, Prominent, Glorious, Ancient, Meritorious, Righteous, Pure, Unique, Powerful, Learned, King, Enlightened, Exalted, Brave, Redeemer, Just, Holy, Merciful, Almighty, Omnipotent I" and "Our Parent, Our Sovereign" (a variation on "Avinu Malkeinu") to the bouncy noir of the title track "Our Life is Sugarsweet," the freiliche spin of "Increase Our Joy," the pleadingly devotional (and somewhat ironically titled) closer "One, Two, Three, Four" and the handful of instrumental teases that dance among the vocal pieces. Though many of the source materials are traditional, the interpretations are daring and intriguing and work both as music that is devotional and simply enjoyable.



The Klezmatics

London, Sklamberg, and the rest of the Klezmatics will perform at the Somerville Theater on March 13 at 8 PM with the Josh Nelson Project. For tickets and information, go to www.klezomatics.com and www.WorldMusic.org.



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A Matter of Size

A Matter of Size, the hit Israeli film that has been playing to packed houses and rapturous laughter at film festivals around the world (including the Boston Jewish Film Festival in February), is making its North American Theatrical Premiere in Boston! The film opens Friday, March 19th, and is playing for a limited time. Variety calls the film "ludicrously funny," and MTV says it's "hilarious." Come see the film that everyone is talking about!

The film tells the story of four overweight friends from the Israeli city of Ramle who are fed up with dieting and the weight loss club they belong to. Herzl (Itzik Cohen) has been struggling with his weight ever since he was young, and his overbearing mother made it no easier on him. When he loses his job as a cook and starts washing dishes in a Japanese restaurant, Herzl discovers the world of Sumo, where large people such as himself are honored and appreciated.



Through the restaurant owner Kitano, a former Japanese Sumo coach (supposedly hiding from the Yakuza in Israel), Herzl and his friends fall in love with a sport involving "two fatsos in diapers and girly hairdos." However, Herzl's dedication to this demanding men-only sport threatens his budding relationship with Zehava, a plus-size social worker. A Matter of Size is a comedy about a 'coming out' of a different kind - overweight people learning to accept themselves.

This film, directed by Sharon Maymon and Erez Tadmor, is the latest in a string of critically acclaimed films to come from Israel in recent years, including Ajami, nominated for Best Foreign Language Film at this year's Academy Awards, as well as Waltz with Bashir (2009 Academy Award Nominee), Beaufort (2008 Academy Award Nominee), Lebanon and The Band's Visit. A Matter of Size was the winner of three Israeli Academy Awards, and won Audience Awards at the Washington Jewish Film Festival, the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival and the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival.

A Matter of Size conveys a powerful message of acceptance and inner beauty, but does so in a hilarious, light-hearted manner. The movie is peppered with dry Israeli humor, musical montages, and lovable characters that audiences will be rooting for from beginning to end! A Matter of Size has something for everyone-competitive sports, laugh-out-loud dialogue, romance, a positive message and optimistic outlook. Nobody will want to sit out on this massively appealing comedy! In Hebrew with English subtitles, A Matter of Size runs 90 minutes and is unrated.

The film is playing at the West Newton Cinemas (1296 Washington Street, West Newton - (617) 964-6060 - www.westnewtoncinema.com) and the Stuart Street Playhouse (200 Stuart Street, Boston - (617) 426-4499 - www.stuartstreetplayhouse.com). For more information and to watch the film's trailer, visit www.menemshafilms.com.

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Tapestry of Jewish Life

Written and photographed by Nance Ebert

The Tapestry of Jewish Life was formed six years ago to respond to the need for adult Jewish Education, and was developed as a collaborative between B'nai Shalom, Beth Tikvah Synagogue, Chabad of Westborough, the Jewish Federation of Central Massachusetts and the Westboro Area JCC. The idea was to bring adult educational and cultural programming to the community.

Joyce Siegel of Judaic Consulting added, "We began with a whole educational program that was taught by volunteers in the community and we charged a minimum fee. The idea was for people to get to know each other, expand the community and collaborate with sharing, excitement and learning."

Through a generous grant from the Jewish Federation of Central Mass., many participated in these classes and coffee houses while a film festival was started along with different forms of entertainment. As time went on, more cultural events were offered and a collaborative relationship with the Worcester JCC was developed. The Central Mass Jewish Film Series and 2010 Central Mass Reads author event are some popular programs that are a result of this relationship.

Joyce Siegel runs the Torathon as a consultant to the Jewish Federation. In addition, she runs an author series and the Film Festival in conjunction with the Worcester JCC for the Central Mass. Jewish community. Joyce added, "So, as of this past fall, the Tapestry of Jewish Life programs have expanded from the Westborough area to include all of Central Massachusetts."

Torathon just celebrated its second year, after a several year hiatus, and was held in November at Congregation Beth Israel in Worcester. It is an evening of adult learning with classes ranging from Jewish genealogy, bible studies, Israeli poetry, Ladino music (Jewish music from Latin America) sing-a-longs

and more all taught by volunteer educators and rabbis from all over Central Mass. There are information tables about all of the different Jewish organizations of Central Mass. to showcase what is available to the community. For the past two years there were over three hundred people who attended. Plans are underway for Torathon 2010.

For the film series this year there were two films that were showcased. The first, "Yoo-Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg," held on Saturday, January 23rd at St. John's High School in Shrewsbury, was sold out. The second film, "A Matter of Size" was presented on Sunday, January 31st at the same location. I had the pleasure of attending this 'laugh out loud' screening in which the lead character, Herzl, an overweight, unemployed chef, living with his mother decides to pursue the sport of sumo wrestling, where large people are honored. Many people braved the frigid evening to come and enjoy this film.



Author Peter Manseau at recent event in Worcester

"This is our third year of doing a community read. The first year we had A.J. Jacobs. The second year we had Brad Hirschfield (Rabbi and head of CLAL), author of the book, You Don't Have to

be Wrong for me to be Right. This year featured Peter Manseau, author of Songs for the Butcher's Daughter," added Joyce.

The upcoming programs will prove to be exciting and are not to be missed. The first will be held on March 20th at 7:30pm at Weintraub's Deli at 126 Water St. in Worcester. This will be a deli dinner and lecture by author David Sax. His book, Save the Deli: In Search of Perfect Pastrami, Crusty Rye, and the Heart of Jewish Delicatessen took on a three-year research project of him actually eating his way through more than one hundred and fifty Jewish delis. On March 21st at noon the author will host the same event to be held at the Worcester JCC, 633 Salisbury Street (kosher style) catered by Weintraub's Deli. Books are also available at the Worcester JCC at the discounted price of \$16.

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Hagaddah

By Steve Fradkin

Introduction

We have come together to celebrate the oldest holiday on the Jewish calendar. During this Seder service, we will recall and retell the thrilling story of our ancestors' going out from slavery to freedom. As we remember this moving chapter in our people's past, may we learn to appreciate more deeply the freedom we enjoy.

Reading 1 (Responsive)

Reader: We have come together to strengthen our bonds with our people Israel. Like Jews of generations past, we celebrate the grandeur of creation. Like Jews of every age, we echo our people's ancient call for justice.

All: Our celebration is a sharing of memory and hope.

We are Jews, but each of us is unique. We stand apart and alone, with differing feelings and insights. And yet we are not entirely alone and separate, for we are children of one people and one heritage.

Our celebration unites many separate selves into a single chorus.

Tonight will be different from all other nights. In fact, our seder will be different from most other Passover seders.

Reading 2 (Responsive)

A small glass of wine - Blessed on holidays and festivals, Blessed at joyous and solemn occasions. But it is more than wine.

It is the family gathered together, the strength, the bonds, the laughter, the tears, the sharing, the love of one another indivisible, inseparable unconquerable.

We drink Israel's destiny; for as long as the Kiddush is sung as long as the family is one our people will endure Am Yisrael Chai.

Kiddush (Responsive)

Let us all fill our glasses with wine...

Let us raise our cups to signify our gratitude for life, and for the joy of knowing inner growth, which gives human life its meaning.

The Seder

It is traditional for the head of the household to invite guests to observe the Passover. Hold up matzoh. This is the unleavened bread that the Hebrews ate in Egypt on the eve of their departure, and that is eaten in remembrance of that departure each year. We are now free people living in a land of plenty. Next year, may we be more appreciative of our freedom and bounty, and more willing to share it with others.

Reading 3 (Responsive)

Lord, many are tired and lonely; Teach us to be their friends. Many are anxious and afraid; Help us to calm their fears; Some are tortured in body and mind; Imbue them with courage and strength. Others in their emptiness seek only wealth, fame, or power; Teach them to value other gifts than these.

Shehecheyanu (All)

The Four Questions

Traditionally, the youngest member of the family begins the telling of the story of Passover by asking four questions. As we tell the story this evening, anybody else who has questions to ask or comments to add is invited to do so.

- Why is this night different from all other nights?
- On all other nights, we may eat either regular bread or matzoh. Why on this night do we eat only matzoh?
- On all other nights we eat all kinds of herbs. Why on this night only bitter herbs?
- On all other nights, we do not even dip once. Why on this night do we dip twice?
- On all other nights, we eat and drink sitting up straight or reclined. Why on this night to we all recline?

The Story of Passover

A relatively small number of Hebrews had settled in Egypt because of a famine in their native land of Canaan. Years later, a new Pharaoh named Rameses II decided to make these Hebrews his slaves. He forced them to build his cities, palaces and monuments. This all happened about 3200 or so years ago.

The Hebrews had arrived and settled in Egypt as free people. They were slaves for nearly 200 years. Then, a Hebrew boy was born who - some say - was raised by the Egyptian royalty to be a leader. His name was Moses. Moses grew up to become a man of great leadership abilities. He discovered that he was not Egyptian, but was actually one of the Hebrews, and he became troubled by the suffering of his fellow Hebrews. Moses became the first person to learn the name of the God that Abraham had recognized centuries earlier. Moses became a messenger of this god. He told Pharaoh that the god of the Hebrews would make many bad things happen to Egypt, but Pharaoh didn't believe him. Moses also told this to his own people, and they did believe him. The Hebrews saw this as the workings of their god. Pharaoh, weakened by all of his tzuris, eventually allowed the Hebrews to leave Egypt for the wilderness.

Haggadah

It seems that the Egyptians sent out a force to get the Hebrews back, and they found them in this area of Lake Sirbonis. The Hebrews managed to escape in the dark.

Reading 4 (All)

It is said that the Hebrews, in appreciation of what they perceived to be a great miracle, sang: Who is like you, eternal one, among the gods that are worshipped? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, doing wonders. A new song the redeemed sang to your name. At the shore of the sea, saved from destruction, they proclaimed your sovereign power. "The Eternal will reign forever and ever."

Symbols

We see here on the table many ritual reminders of that story:

- There is a piece of roasted meat on the seder plate. This is to remind us that the Hebrews, believing their god was going to kill the first-born in each Egyptian family, were ordered to slaughter a lamb and spread its blood on their doorposts.
- There are some bitter herbs, to remind us of the bitterness of the time.
- There is a mixture of nuts, apples and raisins, called Charoseth, which reminds us of the cement used to make bricks in Egypt.
- The green vegetables are dipped in salt water, which represents the tears of our ancestors.
- The matzoh, of course, is the "bread of haste," eaten supposedly because the Hebrews had no time to let their bread rise before they left Egypt.

Passover and Freedom

Reading 5 (Responsive) from the Reconstructionist Haggadah.

We dedicate this festival to the dream and the hope of freedom, the dream and the hope that have filled the hearts of mankind from the time of our Israelite ancestors went forth out of Egypt. Peoples have suffered, nations have struggled to make this dream come true. Now we dedicate ourselves to the struggle for freedom. Though the sacrifice be great and the hardships many, we shall not rest until the chains that enslave all mankind be broken.

People can be enslaved by poverty and inequality. When the fear of need drives them to dishonesty and violence, to defending the guilty and accusing the innocent - they are slaves. People can be enslaved by intolerance. When people are forced to give up their way of life, to abandon their beliefs, to neglect their sacred festivals - they are slaves. When they must deny who they are in order to be "accepted" - they are slaves. When they must live in constant fear of unwarranted hate and prejudice - they are slaves.

Passover calls upon us to put an end to all slavery. Passover calls out "Let my people go."

The Meaning of Passover

Why is the story of Passover so important, when the history books tell us it is relatively insignificant? Why do we remember and re-tell this story, from generation to generation, year after year, over thousands of years? Why is it that, out of the five major Jewish holidays, three celebrate the happenings of Moses and his band of followers in the Sinai desert?

Reading 6 (All)

We recognize the miracle which is our diversity. We recognize that true liberation is an ongoing process of growth to which we dedicate ourselves. The Hebrews of that day were slaves. They had no weapons; they had no power; and they probably believed they could never escape from Egypt on their own. Moses came along and told them there was a power even more mighty than Pharaoh. This power became Moses's power, and then it became the power of the Hebrews.

The story is important not so much because of what may have happened 3200 years ago in the desert of the middle east, but because of what has happened since then, as a result. The laws developed by the Jews - whether Moses received them from the god of the Hebrews himself, or wrote them, or they were written years later - those laws have become the foundation of virtually ever major and minor nation and civilization in the world. What makes us special is not that we were a "chosen" people - picked out by a supreme being for deliverance. What makes us special is that we chose - we chose to believe in powers greater than kings; we chose to establish a society based on humanity and justice, charity and benevolence, freedom and peace.

Reading 7 (Responsive)

May all, created in your image, become one in spirit, one in friendship, forever united in your service. Then shall your kingdom be established on earth, and the word of your prophet fulfilled: the lord will reign forever and ever."

The Last Question

The question we started with is a good one with which to finish, and to discuss during dinner. The question was: "Why is this night different from all other nights?" Or, to put it another way: "What is it about Passover that is special to you?"

(note: this is a reduced version of Fradkin's Haggadah)



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Massachusetts Couple Participate in ORT America Solidarity Mission To South America

ORT America's Inaugural Solidarity Mission to South America was not a typical tourist trip for Linda and Dan Magalnick, Topsfield, MA. Their recent visit to Argentina, Uruguay and Chile offered them an insider's view of the Jewish communities of Montevideo, Buenos Aires, and Santiago, as well as a first-hand look at the state-of-the-art ORT facilities in these cities.

This was an unforgettable experience for us - from the Engineering Robotic Programming Course to the Communications and Design Course where students learn animation with the people who established DreamWorks, commented Mrs. Magalnick, an ORT America National Alliance Coordinator.

"The star attractions were clearly the students, who are able to live with dignity and hope because of the skills they are receiving today due to the generosity of ORT members," said Dr. Magalnick. "Like our fellow mission participants, the highlight of the trip for us was definitely meeting some of the 5,900 students, most of whom are able to attend the schools because money raised by the international ORT family helps to pay their tuition fees."

They met technology students whose education gave them the tools to design an eye mouse webcam system



including President Dr. Hector Rosenzvit and National Director Adrian Moscovich, and were introduced to Jewish community figures. The Magalnicks were also able to visit important Jewish sites and learn about local Jewish history and customs. "Visiting the new building of AMIA (Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina), which replaced the previous building destroyed by bombing in 1994, was very meaningful for us. Talking to survivors as well as those too young to have witnessed this terrorist act gave us a real perspective and was a very important part of our trip," said Mrs. Magalnick.

They also visited the ORT Uruguay University in Montevideo, which for the fifth successive year has been ranked as the only university in the country to be among the best in Latin America. According to the World Universities Ranking published by the London Times Higher Education Supplement, ORT Uruguay is among the best 500 universities in the world and among the 14 best in Latin America (which has 700 universities).

Reflecting on their extended trip to visit ORT Chile, Mrs. Magalnick noted, "We learned about plans to open a Jewish school which would provide an affordable option for the 2,000 children who currently are not served by Santiago's two Jewish schools.

enabling severely disabled people to use head and eye movements to send email, write documents and control their computers. Business students shared their new anti-flu sanitizing product that they are marketing and industrial design students showed off the cars they refurbished with Bluetooth dashboards.

Twelve-year-old Martin, who had a million questions in both English and Hebrew, shared his excitement to be an ORT Student in Argentina. And the couple became acquainted with Tomas, 16, who, when not in his technology classes, was in a writing competition hoping to win a trip to Poland for the March of the Living Holocaust commemoration.

In addition to the ORT Belgrano campus, the Magalnicks toured the ORT Almagro campus in Buenos Aires, met senior ORT Argentina leaders

Meeting with students at one of the scores of state schools whose science facilities have been upgraded by ORT Chile as an on-going project funded by the Coca-Cola Foundation was an amazing experience. When I asked the students what they would do after graduation, one student told me that, although she thought she'd have little future after high school, now wanted to use her new knowledge of science to continue on to medical school." Dr. Magalnick added, "Equally impressive was the training project we witnessed in action for blind people funded by the Telefonica Foundation."

"Returning home from our South American adventure, Linda and I come away re-energized by everything we saw and did, with a deeper appreciation for ORT's work and an even greater feeling that our time and efforts are being well spent in support of the organization," concluded Dr. Magalnick.

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Jan Karski

NewCAJE

the coalition for the advancement of Jewish education



Joyce Siegel and Nancy Greenberg

By Nance Ebert

“NewCAJE (the coalition for the advancement of Jewish education) is the re-invisioning of a network for Jewish educators. We are doing it all in a grassroots manner. There is no paid staff and because we are trying to raise funds, we are seeking donations. In return, we’re giving “webinars,” said Joyce Siegel, owner and founder of Judaic Consulting and volunteer for NewCAJE.

These ‘webinars’ are given by volunteer scholars, all volunteering their time. The first one was given by Rabbi Ed Feinstein who spoke about the vision of Heschel.

There will be monthly ‘webinars’ that will help CAJE offer top quality educational opportunities as well as fundraising so that NewCAJE can get off the ground and have a yearly conference.

Rabbi Cherie Koller-Fox, is the coordinator of NewCAJE along with a team of volunteers are working on this with the hopes of having the conferences. This involves a lot of networking.

“The idea is to get hundreds of people to attend these ‘webinars.’ To give an example of how Rabbi Feinstein’s worked, a study guide was provided that people could download. At 9:00pm eastern standard time, an audio conference began. This could also be done online, a VoIP (voice over internet protocol) or you can do it on a phone. He got on and spoke about his topic. There were some questions and answers which lasted about an hour and a half for the call,” added Joyce.

The ‘webinars’ fee was thirty six dollars. NewCAJE is a non-profit organization. There are a lot of people out there who are very excited because it’s really a chance for educators to learn and then translate what they learn into education for their students.

There are ‘webinars’ on various topics offered by the finest scholars of Jewish education. There will be ‘webinars’ in April, May and June. To learn more about NewCAJE, visit their website at www.newcaje.org

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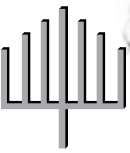
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Temple Sinai b'nai mitzvah students taking tikkun olam to heart

By Cheryl Appel Rosenfeld

TELEM. In Hebrew, it means moving together. That's what Temple Sinai's b'nai mitzvah students are doing as an integral part of their seventh grade curriculum.

The Sharon synagogue's 19 b'nai mitzvah students are part of more than 300 students throughout Greater Boston participating in the B'nai TELEM community service and Jewish learning program. By integrating community service into their bar/bat mitzvah experience and making social justice work a part of their lives, students learn exactly where and how they can have an impact in their community.

The B'nai TELEM program is a creation of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston and is geared toward students in grades six and seven. It is an offshoot of TELEM, geared to teens in grades eight through 12.

"Not only does B'nai TELEM give our students a chance to become part of something bigger than just themselves, make the world a better place, and help others achieve a level of self-sufficiency, but it does it all through a Jewish lens," said Joshua Slovin, Director of Education of Temple Sinai. Social action and tikkun olam have always been integral parts of the Temple's b'nai mitzvah journey, but the volunteer component has often been considered extracurricular. The specialized service learning curriculum enriches the students' experiences and helps develop Jewish identity.

In January, the B'nai TELEM students began six sessions of service and six sessions of learning and reflection, encompassing the social action areas of visiting the elderly, combating hunger, caring for the environment, protecting animals, helping the homeless and promoting literacy.

The students' first service trip was to Cradles to Crayons, a Quincy nonprofit that equips children with the basic essentials for them to feel safe, warm, valued and ready to learn. There, they polished donated shoes to be given to children in need.

At Heights Crossing Eldercare in Brockton, students played games, read and talked with residents, and baked cookies for them. "I enjoyed making cookies for the elderly residents because it made me feel like a good person, being able to help others," said Anna Rosenfeld of Sharon.

Next, they traveled to Agape Child Care in Brockton, where they read books to young children to promote literacy. Future trips include the Charles River Arc and a sustainable farm in Massachusetts to focus on environmental issues.

Through b'nai TELEM, these seventh graders will be fully prepared, as each becomes a bar or bat mitzvah this year, to take their places in the Jewish community, embracing tikkun olam and feeling empowered to effect real change.

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Congratulations on the first anniversary of Shalom Magazine

Wishing you and all your readers a happy and healthy Pesach

Rabbi Howard A. Kosovske President Elliot Hershoff

A Passover Letter

Dear Friend,

As we approach Passover, we take the time to be grateful for our freedom. I learned to appreciate the opportunities I had at a young age from my father, who survived the Holocaust and taught children in some of Boston's toughest neighborhoods that in America, anything is possible and everyone has the ability to overcome their circumstances and create a better life.



My father taught me that sometimes people need help to get started on the right path. Perhaps that help comes from someone like William Harvey, a Boston Street Worker who was injured in the neighborhood in which he works tirelessly to show our city's at-risk youth the value of a good education and the danger using violence as a solution to their problems. Sometimes that help comes in the form of the first of its kind classroom space in the Longwood Medical Area, run by Jewish Vocational Services and Sociedad Latina. Perhaps that help will come from you engaging in your community—host a pick-up softball game in your neighborhood this spring, or volunteer at your local temple.

We in government must continue our work to ensure that everyone feels a connection to what makes us great. Every young person in this great country – no matter how poor their current circumstances – should be able to look out their window and know the skyline of universities, hospitals, and businesses she sees are not just buildings, but represent her future too. She can say – that is where my mother works, and that is where my brother goes to college – and I will go there too. When that has happened, we know we have succeeded as a community.

My wishes to you and your family for a peaceful Passover,

Michael P. Ross

President, Boston City Council



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If preparing frozen gefilte fish, I recommend adding onion skins from one onion to enhance the color.

Bubbe

How Far We've Come...

We know spring is on the way when we see a display of Passover foods in the grocery stores. This gives us a good reason to start our cleaning and preparations for this special holiday.

Years ago, we did not have so many convenience foods or such a variety available, so everything had to be made from scratch. I can remember my mother buying two baskets of Concord grapes in the Fall to make wine for Passover. We helped remove the grapes from the stems and then my mother proceeded with the rest of the preparation. First, the grapes were put in a large ceramic crock which was placed between the back of our grey cast-iron Glenwood stove and the kitchen wall, and left to ferment. After various steps, the wine was ready to pour into gallon bottles and to be stored for yom tov. It was always rich, sweet, and delicious.

The technical knowledge developed in the past several years has enabled us to enjoy a variety of Passover foods today. Now, technology has facilitated instant communication as well. However, let us not forget to continue to sit around the dining room table with our family and friends and share traditions and memories along with the reading of the Haggadah. Together, we can renew the feelings, hope and faith of the true Jewish spirit of Passover.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy Pesach (Passover).

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Matzo Apple Kugel (Pareve)

Simple to make, delicious to eat



- 3 boards of matzo
- 2 apples
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/4 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 tbsp. margarine or vegetable oil
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 tsp. grated lemon rind (lemon zest)

Break the matzo. Place in bowl with water to soften. Drain excess water. Peel, cut apple into thin slices and add to bowl. Add sugar, cinnamon, lemon rind, vegetable oil or margarine, and eggs. Mix thoroughly with large spoon. Pour into greased 1 3/4 quart casserole baking pan. Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees. Bake for 35 - 40 minutes or until lightly browned.

NOTE: Can be served warm. Goes well with meat or dairy as a side dish or dessert topped with a spoonful of light sour cream. 4 - 6 servings.

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Sunday, May 16, 2010 from 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
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AGENDA

JNF Shalom Farewell Tribute

Monday, April 26, 2010
at 5:45 p.m.

The Jewish National Fund is honoring Consul General Nadav Tamir and Colonel (Res.) Sharon Davidovich at a Shalom Farewell Tribute in Boston. The event supports the JNF-Parsons Water Fund, an initiative to increase water resources in Israel, and features dinner and a concert by Noa & Mira Awad. Location: Back Bay Events Center, 180 Berkeley Street, Boston. Tickets: \$500 includes cocktails, dinner & concert VIP seating. For further information, contact Sharon Freedman at sfreedman@jnf.org or 617-423-0999.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE (Yom HaShoah) EVENTS

Film at Temple Israel, Sharon
Thursday, April 15, 2010 at 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
Judy C. Faust, producer of a unique documentary about healing from the Holocaust presents “Angels of Austria: The Church That Reached Out To Holocaust Survivors” at Temple Israel, 125 Pond St, Sharon, MA. Q & A follows the screening. There will be two shows: one for adults at 5 p.m. and one for teenagers at 6:30 pm. Admission is free and open to the public. Call 978-212-2345 for details. Preview at www.connectyourstories.com.

Film at Congregation Or Atid, Wayland
Saturday April 15, 2010 at 8 p.m.
Judy C. Faust, producer of a unique documentary about healing from the Holocaust presents “Angels of Austria: The Church That Reached Out To Holocaust Survivors” at Congregation Or Atid, 97 Concord Rd, Wayland, MA. Q & A follows the screening. Admission is free and open to the public. Call 978-212-2345 for details. Preview at www.connectyourstories.com.

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AGENDA

Women in Massachusetts Politics

Monday, March 29, 2010 at 2:30 p.m.

“Discussion with Paige Ransford.” At Goddard House in Brookline, 165 Chestnut Street, Brookline, MA 02445. RSVP to 617-731-8500. No charge.

Concert of Klezmer Music

Tuesday, March 23, 2010 at 7 p.m.

Come to “KlezJam” at Goddard House Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, 201 South Huntington Avenue, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130, RSVP to 617-676-6404. No charge.

Blue Pumpkin Productions Presents “Karski”

Wednesday and Thursday, April 14 and 15, 2010 at 8 p.m.

Attend Marc P. Smith’s newest play. The compelling story of Polish resistance hero Jan Karski, described as the man who tried to stop the Holocaust. Karski’s courage and chutzpah pack an emotional punch. At The Hibernian Cultural Centre 19 Temple St., Worcester. Tickets: 508-757-1472; \$15, general admission; \$10, students.

Brit Milah Seminar for Expectant Fathers

Dates by appointment

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