

Shalom

FREE

EDITION 12 - Chanukah 2011

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Magazine





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Chanukah Event Listings

Celebrate Chanukah with Chabad of Wellesley

Wednesday, Dec. 21 at 6 p.m. at the Wellesley Community Center, 219 Washington St., Wellesley. A Giant Ice Menorah will be lit, music, tons of food, fun, people, and entertainment for kids and adults!

Please RSVP to Chabadwellesley@aol.com. For more information, please call 781-239-1076.



Temple Beth David of the South Shore

Pre-Chanukah Supper, featuring "Artie's Famous Latkes" - Friday, Dec. 16, 6-7:30 p.m., followed by Shabbat Evening Services. \$12 Adult Members, \$15 Adult Non-Members, \$6 Kids 5-13, Free for Kids under 5, \$35 Family maximum. Part of your admission is to bring a Food Pantry item. Send in your reservations by Dec. 13.

Chanukah Shabbat Evening Service - Friday, Dec. 23, 7:30 p.m., Choir will sing. Bring your own Menorah. 1060 Randolph St., Canton. Call 781-828-2275, or visit our website for more information at www.templebethdavid.com.

Temple Ohabei Shalom (Reform)

Join friends, family, and neighbors for an incredible Hannukah Family Shabbat Together at Temple Ohabei Shalom, 1187 Beacon St. (corner of Kent and Beacon Streets), Brookline.

Friday, Dec. 23, starting at 5:45 p.m. Join us afterwards for a community dinner open to everyone (free). Bring your Menorah and candles! Please RSVP to Gila at 617-277-6610.

Canton Chai Center

Huge Chanukah Wonderland on Dec. 25 at 12:30 p.m. at the Canton Public High School. Free and open to the public. For more info, email CantonChaiCenter@Yahoo.com or call 781-956-2507.

45+ Dessert and Wine Social on Christmas Eve

Why stay home on Christmas Eve? Meet new singles and have great conversations!

Where: Temple Beth Zion, 1566 Beacon St., Brookline on Dec. 24th from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Cost. \$20

The evening will include: The lighting of Chanukah candles, songs, desserts, wine, beverages, music and raffle prizes.

Let's celebrate the holidays together and make this a fun evening! We would greatly appreciate your RSVP to datemeijewish@gmail.com, or call Barry for info at 508-333-1466.

Let's have an equal amount of men and women.

BIG Light!

Celebrate Chanukah in a style! BIG (Boston Israel Group) and the Israeli Consulate to New England invites young adults to a VIP candle lighting with Consul General Shai Bazak. Enjoy an Israeli wine tasting and some surprises, as part of an intimate group of young adults.

The event, produced in conjunction with the consulate, will be held on Dec. 20 (time and location will be disclosed upon receipt of RSVP). To receive an invitation, please email contact@bostonisraelgroup.org. More details are available at our Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/BostonIsraelGroup> or on our website, <http://www.bostonisraelgroup.org/>.

Chanukah Party at Boston's Bowling

The Brookline Chai Center is having the largest Chanukah Party in Boston for young adults! Join 600 young adults who will come together to celebrate at one of the greatest social events of the season.

Pop open the champagne, mingle over cocktails, and knock down pins at Boston's premier Bowling Lounge.

Enjoy full access to the private lounge, bowling lanes, cash bar, music and buffet including mini deli wraps, latkes and donuts.

Special Menorah Lighting Ceremony: Thursday, Dec. 22, 7:30 p.m. Jililans 145 Ipswich St., Boston. \$15 Prepay by Dec. 18 / \$20 Door. Pre-register at http://www.getchai.com/templates/articlecco_cdo/aid/1150680/jewish/Holiday-Programs.htm

All in attendance will enter a raffle drawing for a iPhone. Presented in partnership with: Vilna Shul, Israeli Consulate and CJP.

Tifereth Israel of Peabody

Chanukah party on Dec. 17 at 7:30 p.m. for members, friends and family. Cost: \$10 per person. Tifereth Israel, located at 8 Pierpoint St. Peabody, is the only Sephardic Temple North of Boston.

Congregation B'nai Shalom

Saturday, Dec. 17 at 10:15 a.m. - Tot Shabbat, followed by our early childhood Chanukah party (fun for ages 1-6).

Saturday, Dec. 17 at 6 p.m. - Chanukah Havdallah Happening. Congregation B'nai Shalom is located at 117 East Main St., Westborough. For information, please call 508-366-7191 or visit www.cbnaishalom.org.

For information on how to include your event in the listing, please send an email to : shalomma@msn.com

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Happy Chanukah

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Of all the Jewish holidays, Chanukah is the easiest one to celebrate. There is no need to fast, clean the house, or even go to synagogue. All we need is to be home each of the eight nights to light the Chanukiah and of course, buy the gifts. In this edition, one of our contributors will explain the custom of giving money (Chanukah gelt) rather than gifts.

Recently I participated in a seminar organized by the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with 40 other young Jewish leaders. The program is a continued effort by the Israeli government to educate young Jewish people in the Diaspora so that they can be prepared to advocate on behalf of Israel. As you will read in an article by Susie Davidson about Occupy Boston, every public event is a possible opportunity for others to protest against Israel's action in Gaza. Since 2012 is an election year, Alex Lewy will stress the importance of not letting Israel be a wedge issue among candidates.

Preparing Shalom Magazine is really about making a mosaic. I research everywhere in order to produce and convey a kaleidoscope of our community and the world. From Sharon to Peabody, from Boston to Westborough, people are sharing their ideas in a magazine that is meant to unify the Jewish communities of Massachusetts. There are Jews everywhere, so we also want to connect our readers to communities around the world. Recently I found an amazing Jewish artist in Italy (actually, he found me on Facebook). You will see his art on the cover of this edition and will also read more about him. His art is seen in murals all over Europe, including at the New Israeli Opera House.

Shalom Magazine brings together various sectors of our community by promoting their events. Many people do not belong to any specific organizations, and do not want to be completely involved in the community, but they would like to participate here and there. For them, we offer a list of events and efforts that may attract them. We hope that you and your family have a great holiday season, and that you will be able to participate in many of the events that we have listed for you.

You can keep up with our latest news by connecting with us on Facebook and Twitter (@Shirley Farber) or by checking our website, www.ShalomMA.com.
Chag Chanukah Sameach!

Shirley Nigri Farber - Editor

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Limmud Boston 2011



One of the event exhibitors, artist Michael Bogdanow



Over 900 people attended LimmudBoston on December 4 at Congregation Mishkan Tefila in Chestnut Hill. More than 300 voices there joined together for Zamir Chorale of Boston's Open Sing.



The volunteer-based event was organized by Steffi Aronson Karp and Terri Swartz Russell. For more information, visit www.LimmudBoston.org



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A Contemporary Discussion on The New Anti-Semitism



Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, ADL Nat. Dir. Abraham H. Foxman, Brandeis Univ. Pres. Frederick M. Lawrence and Gov. Deval Patrick



ADL's Dir. of Development Jonathan Kappel, Nat. Dir.: Abraham H. Foxman, Reg. Board Chair Michael N. Sheetz, Civil Rights Counsel Robert O. Trestan and Reg. Dir. Derrek L. Shulman



Ilana Snapstailer, Ass. Regional Director - ADL New England

Hundreds of people made their way to historic Faneuil Hall in downtown Boston at 4 p.m. on a Monday afternoon. They were coming to witness a one-of-a-kind program produced by the Anti-Defamation League on a very important topic which affects us all. "The New Anti-Semitism: A Contemporary Discussion in Historic Faneuil Hall" drew more than 1,300 registrants from throughout New England and focused on the manifestation of anti-Semitism in the 21st century. After a wonderful performance by Gann Academy's a capella group "The ShaniGanns," the program began with remarks by Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel and Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick. "Hatred is a disease," said Wiesel. "It spreads from person to person." Patrick commented, "Nowadays it seems OK to react with hate to almost anything you disagree with... [but] none of our problems can be solved when and if we stop listening to each other."

They were followed by a discussion between Brandeis University President Frederick Lawrence and ADL National Director Abraham H. Foxman, which was moderated by WCVB-TV 5 news reporter and ADL volunteer Kimberly Bookman. According to Foxman, much of the "new anti-Semitism" can be attributed to the anonymity offered by the Internet. It is now easier for people to post hate speech online using social media sites. Fredrick Lawrence, who received thunderous applause from the busload of Brandeis students who came to see him participate in the program, spoke about the challenges facing many campuses today regarding the fine line between the "openness" of academia, and hate/bias speech. The idea for the event came to ADL New England Regional Director Derrek Shulman upon his visit to Germany last summer.

"What if in New England, we did something to bring together a large cross-section of people to discuss anti-Semitism, despite the discomfort, despite our perpetual busyness, and despite our natural inclination to stay quiet?" he wondered. On the evening of November 7, the ADL did just that. A large cross-section of people gathered to discuss the often uncomfortable subject of anti-Semitism, demonstrating that when it comes to the new anti-Semitism, the Boston community will not remain quiet.

*Wishing you and your family a
Happy Chanukah*

Michael N. Sheetz
Regional Board Chair

Derrek L. Shulman
Regional Director

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New Year Brings New Initiatives to Kehillah Schechter Academy

By Stan Hurwitz

Marc Medwed, the new Head of the recently renamed Kehillah Schechter Academy (KSA), says: "This is an especially exciting and historic year as we enter the next phase of the school's life."

In addition to the new name, this new chapter brings with it the school's first new Head since its founding twenty-two years ago, as well as a newly-elected Board President, Director of Institutional Advancement, administrative team, and many new initiatives designed to bring the school to even greater heights.

Medwed emphasizes KSA's key differentiators from other Jewish day schools. "We're committed to reaching every child on all points of the spectrum, creating independent thinkers who are educated members of the Jewish and secular communities, in a uniquely nurturing environment offering ancient traditions and 21st century skills."

Dr. Michael Agus, newly-elected Board President, says, "I'm optimistic about our future. We have had an incredibly solid foundation laid by founding head Jane Taubenfeld Cohen. Now Marc Medwed, with his passion for teaching and his skills for leading and developing leaders, brings energy, enthusiasm and vision."

Director of the Medicine Critical Care Program at Children's Hospital and an Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School, Agus and his wife Elisa Deener-Agus were among the first parents from Newton to choose KSA for their three sons. Two of them are current students; one graduated in June.

Going the Distance

Needham resident and Executive Vice President Judi Greenberg and her husband, photographer Josh Levine, are the

parents of one alumnus and one current student. A senior attorney with Partners Health Care, Judi says it's worth going the extra distance to send her children to KSA because the school and its faculty go the extra distance for its students.

"Our town has an excellent school system and there are several great Jewish day school options nearby," Judi says. "But we heard KSA described as a 'jewel,' and what we've learned is that ethos is a part of the fabric of the school.

The teachers, school leadership, and staff all have commitment, passion, love of learning, and appreciation for the children. The school is infused with Jewish values, evident in how members of the community treat each other. Each child is encouraged to be an active learner, with the goal being the ability to advocate for themselves as lifelong learners. This is a priceless foundation to be able to provide for your child."

This year, families come from as far south as Providence and Cranston, Rhode Island, and Dartmouth and New Bedford, Mass., and as far north as Lexington and Tewksbury, with significant representation from Newton, Brookline and Chestnut Hill. "Some are seeking a place where the entire family can comfortably embark on a journey of learning, discovery and living Jewishly. Others seek small classes and a focus on differentiated instruction, a feeling of inclusion in a nurturing environment, and nonstop striving for excellence," said Medwed.

Moving Forward

Among Medwed's goals are increased enrollment and a continued emphasis on expanding philanthropic support. He is also putting added focus on technology, science and math under the leadership of the Director of the New Science & Math Initiative, former Harvard University researcher Dr. Nitzan Resnick.



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Jewish groups in Boston working on behalf of the Immakalee Tomato Pickers



Jewish Groups spontaneously joined together to built Sukkah at Occupy Boston. Groups included JALSA, Jewish Labor Committee, Workman's Circle and Hebrew College



Jewish Groups work with labor and health groups to pass legislation such as the Paid Sick Leave bill (photo with Brookline legislator Rep. Frank Smizik)



photos sent by Sheila Decter, Executive Director of The Jewish Alliance for Law & Social Action

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BIGgest Israeli Bar Night



Edan, Shlomi and Leor

All photos by Vanessa Friedman



On Nov. 16, BIG - Boston Israel Group had the BIGgest Israeli Bar Night at the Greatest Bar, by North Station. Lots of people attended, and the music was entirely in Hebrew. BIG provides a sense of community between Israelis and American Jews, and gives people a taste of Israeli nightlife as well. For the last bar night, they reserved a special VIP section for participants of CJP'S 2011-2012 Winter Birthright trip. When it comes to the success of Birthright, studies show that participants recall their social interactions with Israelis as having the greatest impact upon them. BIG believes that social events achieve the same success, as they increase community interest in connecting with Israel.



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Striar Hebrew Academy's school newspaper staff, comprised of 4th, 5th and 6th grade students, toured WCVB-TV Channel 5 studios to learn about news gathering and production. After watching the mid-day news being broadcasted, the students had the opportunity to speak with news anchor Susan Wornick. Over the next month, the student reporters will write and produce a brochure that Channel 5 will hand out to future school groups who tour the studios.

Learning from each other in multi-age groups at Striar Hebrew Academy



Striar Hebrew Academy's early childhood program runs a monthly program called MAG (multi-age group) time, where groups of students from toddler, nursery, pre-K and kindergarten join together to participate in activities and crafts of one theme, whether it's the weekly parsha or a national holiday. For Thanksgiving MAG time, there were corn activities - stories, sensory boxes of different types of corn, and popping corn - to watch, smell and taste. Another favorite activity was music and movement with Morah Sarah Leah.



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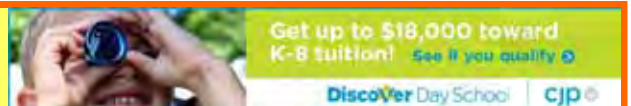


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Yehudah HaMakevet

By Steve Schuster

Like me, Yehuda ben-Mattityahu was one of five brothers. Born following Yochanan and Simon, but before Eleazar and Jonathan, Yehuda was the middle child of a family called Hasmoneus. And long before they were thrust into Jewish history's most underrated series of fortunate events, these boys were shaped by their high-priest dad into a band of uncompromising patriots who yielded to no one.

Verse 2:4 of Maccabees I, written some 40 years after the events it chronicles, introduces us to "Judah, who was called Maccabeus," a Greek transliteration of the Hebrew word *Ma-ke-vet* or *Ma-ke-ves* – a stone-cutter's mallet or sledge hammer.

Clearly the heavy hitter among the sons of Mattityahu, "Judah The Hammer" is a moniker that easily evokes all the attitude and can't-refuse insistence of a mob enforcer. The word *Makevet* is first recorded in a context of war and violence when, in Shoftim (Judges) verse 4:21, Yael swings a Makevet to brutally wallop a tent-pin through the skull of the sleeping Cannanite general Sisera.

The catalytic beginning of the Chanukah saga is itself, like the pivotal launch of Moses' real career, a murderous crime of passion. Whereas Moses kills an Egyptian taskmaster and flees to

Midian, Mattityahu and his sons slay a Jewish idol worshipper and his Greek instigators before melting into the rocky and hilly slopes of Modi'in, some 25 miles from Jerusalem. Spurred by Mattityahu's battle cry, "give your lives for the covenant of your fathers! (Maccabees I, 2:50), they were joined in those hills by some 200 followers who were ready, as underdogs are wont to be, to fight to the death. And they said every man to his neighbour: Let us raise up the low condition of our people, and let us fight for our people, and our sanctuary (Maccabees I, 3:43).

The Seleucid Empire was one of several political states founded after the death of Alexander the Great. Seleucus, one of Alexander's top generals, established his Mediterranean hold by 301 B.C.E., built Antioch in Syria, and anointed himself "King of Syria." In about 293 B.C.E., he installed his son Antiochus as viceroy of Syria.

When Seleucus was assassinated by Ptolemy (one of

Alexander's generals) in 281 B.C.E., Antiochus I became king of the Seleucid Empire. Generations of Seleucuses and Antiochuses ruled before Antiochus IV Epiphanes took the helm in 175 B.C.E. or as it is called in Maccabees I "year 137 of the Greeks." Under his reign Jews were gradually, and eventually brutally, forced to violate precepts of their faith. The Temple in Jerusalem was looted, Jews were ruthlessly massacred, and Judaism was effectively outlawed. In the era of the second Temple, the Greek kingdom issued decrees against the Jewish people. The Jews suffered great difficulties, for the Greeks oppressed them severely until...the sons of the Hasmoneans, the High

Priests, overcame them, slew them, and saved the Jews from their hand (Rambam, Hilchot Megillah V'Chanukah 3:1).

Judah's gang became collectively known as The Maccabees and the campaign as The Maccabean Revolt. And Judah Machabeus who is valiant and strong from his youth up, let him be the leader of your army, and he shall manage the war of the people (Maccabees I, 2:66).

As a military general, Judah brought art-of-war genius to the task of defending the Jewish religion and the Jewish people, and the uncommon leadership and strategic genius he brought to bear on the cataclysmic events of his day have rarely been equaled.

Surprise Maccabean victories had electrifying effects on the whole of Israel, and popular support for the home-team warriors skyrocketed. This tipped the scales toward the Jewish army and General Judah the Maccabee, whose charismatic power nurtured a "moral influence...that which causes the people to be in harmony with their leaders, so that they will accompany them in life and unto death without fear of mortal peril. He whose ranks are united in purpose will be victorious." (Sūn Zī, the Art of War, ~500 B.C.E.).

The Greek armies were powerful, well trained, well organized, well financed, highly disciplined, and battle-proven. The Jewish troops, in nearly laughable contrast, were basically farmers.

Each Greek company that pursued the Maccabean revolutionaries contained 256 men who would march 16 men shoulder-to-shoulder in each row in sixteen tightly-packed rows. A tightly-knit war achine, four such units essentially comprised a nicely bundled target of 1024 men for the Jewish underground. The enemy advances, we retreat. The enemy camps, we harass. The enemy tires, we attack. The enemy retreats, we pursue (Mao Zedong).

What they lacked in supplies and training, the Maccabee revolutionaries made up with zeal. Gone underground, they strengthened contacts among the Jewish settlements, maintaining supplies and gathering intelligence. Their weapons included swords, javelins, spears bows, slings, battering rams and primitive homemade weapons such as slings and maces.

It took over two decades of fighting before the Maccabees forced the Seleucid armies to retreat from Judea. Jewish autonomy was at last recognized in Antioch with the establishment of the Second Jewish Commonwealth. In the year one hundred and seventy the yoke of the Gentiles was taken off from Israel (Maccabees I, 13:41).

Simon was the only one of the five sons of Mattityahu to survive and as High Priest and king, he ushered in an 80-year period of Jewish independence with boundaries not far short of Solomon's realm.

In another parallel to Moses, Judah himself did not live to see his goal fulfilled – in 160 B.C.E., Greek general Bacchides led an army of 20,000 infantry and 2,000 cavalry into Judea. The Greeks did not succeed, but Judah was slain in the battle. And Jonathan and Simon took Judah their brother, and buried him in the sepulchre of their fathers in the city of Modi'in. And all the people of Israel bewailed him with great lamentation, and they mourned for him many days and said, "How is the mighty man fallen, that saved the people of Israel!" (Maccabees I, 9:19-21)

The tiny Jewish nation-state remained surrounded, of course,



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Yehudah HaMakevet

by still-hostile imperialists, and the new Hasmonean dynasty realistically acknowledged a formal regional overlordship by the Seleucids. And Simon chose men and sent to king Demetrius, to the end that he should grant an immunity to the land. And king Demetrius in answer to this request, wrote...we are ready to make a firm peace with you... the strongholds that you have built, shall be your own... and if any of you be fit to be enrolled among ours, let them be enrolled, and let there be peace between us (Maccabees I, 13:35-40).

Political correctness and an ongoing Jewish attraction to all-things-Hellenist (Héllēn being the Greeks' word for themselves) altered the intent of the annual celebration Judah first declared on 25 Kislev, 164 B.C.E. Originally known as Sukkot in Kislev (the eight-day celebration of Sukkot – including *Shemini Atzeret* – had been lost during the occupation of the Temple), a celebration was intended by Judah to commemorate the righteous victory of Jewish practice and nationalism over Greek oppression. But annually rubbing defeat in the face of the still-present Seleucids quickly became socially and politically unacceptable and within a few decades, the *Megillat Ta'anit* (the scroll on fasting) referred to the celebration as Chanukah, highlighting the rededication of the Temple.

Historical hyperbolist Flavius Josephus dubbed the celebration Chag Urim, a "Festival of Lights," around the year 96 C.E. So unexpectedly had they regained the freedom of their worship, that they made it law for their posterity, that they should keep a festival, on account of the restoration of their Temple worship, for eight days. And from

that time to this we celebrate this festival, and call it Lights. I suppose the reason was, because this liberty beyond our hopes appeared to us; and that thence was the name given to that festival (Antiquities of the Jews, XII, vii, 7).

The so-called "miracle" story of extended oil burning was first documented in the Babylonian Talmud (Shabbat, 21b), written around A.D. 500. This "Chanukah Lite" story remains the more popular rendition in lieu of the bloody realities of the historical record.

Antigonus (whose Hebrew name was Mattityahu) became king and High Priest in 40-37 B.C.E. In the same year, the Idumean governor of the Galilee, who called himself Jewish but was technically not, traveled to Rome where Marcus Antonius titled him King of Judaea.

Three years later young Herod defeated Antigonus, and the Hasmonean dynasty was ended.

While it had managed to create an independent, albeit ephemeral, Jewish kingdom, the Hasmonean dynasty by and large failed to live up to the nationalistic momentum the Maccabee brothers had begun. Perhaps, like those who aspire to be a George Washington, an Abraham Lincoln, a Mahatma Gandhi, a Martin Luther King, a David Ben Gurion or a Golda Meir, living in the shadow of history's consummate icons of freedom was too great a burden for the dynastic followers of Judah The Hammer. Uncompromised and fanatically devoted to the rights of Jews to freely practice Judaism, Yehudah HaMakevet, his

brothers, their armies of liberation and all they accomplished deserve our remembrance and celebration as they commanded us, each 25th day of Kislev.



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David Project Event



On Nov. 3, Yossi Klein Halevi, a contributing editor of the New Republic and a frequent contributor to the pages of leading American newspapers, spoke on behalf of The David Project at Congregation Shaarei Tefillah in Newton. The talk was entitled "The Delegitimization Challenge: The Forecast for the Jewish State." With approximately 100 attendees, the evening began with a welcome by The David Project's Executive Director David Bernstein, which was followed by a campus update by David Project Campus Coordinator Avital Kranz. Seth A. Klarman, Chairman of the Board, then introduced Halevi.

A question and answer session took place after the lecture, which was followed by a dessert reception. Halevi also participated in a book signing for his most recent book *At the Entrance to the Garden of Eden: A Jew's Search for God with Christians and Muslims in the Holy Land*. Novelist Cynthia Ozick called the book "a permanent masterpiece."

The David Project's mission is to help shape campus opinion on Israel by educating, training, and empowering student leaders to be thoughtful, strategic and persuasive advocates. For more information or to view the entire lecture, please visit www.davidproject.org.



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Mishkan Tefila Brotherhood Man of the Year



Jack Wilson Award



Sid Lejfer and Mishkan Tefila president Chuck Diamond



The 44th Annual Jack Wilson Memorial Breakfast took place on October 23, with Sid Lejfer honored as the Congregation Mishkan Tefila Brotherhood Man of the Year. The honor is given in memory of Jack Wilson, Brotherhood President from 1956-1957. Jack Wilson personified the ideals of brotherhood with humility, understanding, and dedication.

Sid Lejfer is active in a variety of Jewish community organizations, including the American Technion Society, AIPAC, and CJP. Sid has chaired a variety of programs at Congregation Mishkan Tefila that have included an evening with Senator John Kerry, Yom HaShoah commemorations, and the Alan J. Tichnor Memorial Program.

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The Persecuted Church: Christian Believers in Peril in the Middle East

Saturday, January 21, 2012 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Sheraton Framingham Hotel and Conference Center
 1657 Worcester Road, Framingham, MA 01701

Keynote Speaker: Walid Phares, Professor and Author of The Coming Revolution: Struggle for Freedom in the Middle East

Recent attacks against churches in Iraq and Egypt demonstrate that Christianity faces an uncertain future in the Middle East. This one-day conference will bring together representatives from the Christian communities in Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt to speak about the day-to-day threats faced by Christians in the Middle East. Activists serving the persecuted church in Muslim-majority countries will describe their efforts to promote human rights in the Middle East.

Speakers include: Raymond Ibrahim, author of The Al Qaeda Reader. Of Coptic descent, Mr. Ibrahim is fluent in Arabic; Juliana Taimoorazy, Executive Director of the Iraqi Christian Relief Council; Richard Landes, Associate Professor of History at Boston University and Director and co-founder of the Center of Millennial Studies at Boston University.

Registration: \$20/person (includes lunch and refreshments). For more information or to register, visit camera.org/events/#persecutedchurch or contact Josh Mellits, Events Planning Associate, at josh@camera.org or call 617-789-3672 or 888.736.3672

AJC Boston Event

Please join AJC Boston and the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston for an evening of conversation, music, and food at "Hanukkah: A Story That Still Needs To Be Told" on Thursday, December 15 at 6:45 p.m. at Hebrew College (160 Herrick Rd. Newton, Massachusetts 02459). Featured speakers include Professor Shaye J.D. Cohen of Harvard University and Fr. George Dragas of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. Also featuring musical performances by Deiskeit, The Brandeis Klezmer Ensemble, and Greek music by Taximi. This event is free, with free parking, and is T accessible. Please RSVP at <http://www.ajcboston.org/Hanukkah>. For more information, please contact AJC Boston at Boston@ajc.org or 617-457-8700.

MetroWest Jewish Day School

Free Community Pre-school Program at MetroWest Jewish Day School, 29 Upper Joclyn Avenue, Framingham on December 21, at 10:00 a.m. Open to children ages two - four to celebrate Chanukah! Free. For information contact Risa Werblin, 508-620-5554 or risa.werblin@mwjds.org. www.mwjds.org

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Artists from Israel performing in Boston



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From Mali & Israel
THE VIEUX FARKA TOURÉ & IDAN RAICHEL QUARTET
Sunday, April 15, 7pm \$28
Somerville Theatre, 55 Davis Sq., Somerville

African guitarist/songwriter Vieux Farka Touré and Israeli pianist/composer Idan Raichel are two virtuosic artists from vastly different musical traditions, but both perform in the spirit of promoting peace and cross-cultural harmony. After meeting in Spain, Touré and Raichel forged a deep friendship, and the Vieux Farka Touré and Idan Raichel Quartet was born. With a hauntingly beautiful album due out this spring, the touring quartet features Touré and Raichel joined by renowned bassist Yossi Fine and percussionist Souleymane Kané on djembe and calabash.

For tickets and information on the events above, call 617-876-42-75 or visit www.WorldMusi.org.



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Lighting up Chanukah in the South Area



CJP President Barry Shrage at the Shaloh House Gala event

While everyone is busy with buying and wrapping Chanukah gifts or attending Chanukah parties, Shaloh House Chabad of the South Area (located in Stoughton) will once again be bringing the message of Chanukah to the greater Jewish Community of the South Area.

It all begins on the first night of Chanukah, Wednesday Dec. 20 at 4 p.m., at the South Shore Plaza in Braintree. Every year, Shaloh House Chabad, in cooperation and with support from mall management and funding from Milton's: The Store for Men, arranges for the only Chanukah menorah display in the mall. This display is located on the ground floor, near Filene's Basement.

At the Chanukah ceremony, the first candle will be lit and live music and dancing will follow. Chanukah gifts and treats will be distributed to the children as well. This annual event brings shopping to a halt, as onlookers come over to sing, clap and even dance to the spirited Chanukah music performed by Moshe Feldman.

"It brings together Jews and non-Jews alike with a unified Chanukah message of freedom from oppression," said Rabbi Mendel Gurkow, Executive Director of Shaloh House Chabad. "Having a public, Jewish demonstration in a venue that attracts people from all races and backgrounds gives us the opportunity to show the world the true values of our religion and our holidays."

The Menorah display remains in the mall for all 8 days of Chanukah. It will be augmented with Chanukah guides and menorahs, to remind Jewish shoppers about the holiday and assist them with its observance. It is also a popular stop for non-Jews to explore the beauty of our holiday.

Shaloh House Chabad, an affiliate of the global Chabad Outreach network, has been serving the greater South Area Jewish communities for over 33 years. It is a Jewish Community Center with a mission to reach out to every Jewish family. It has a Preschool & Kindergarten program, Hebrew School, Synago-

gue, and many other family outreach programs. It also has satellite locations in Mansfield and Hingham. Last May, Shaloh House celebrated 33 years of continued Jewish outreach in the South Area with a Gala evening and celebration attended by its members, supporters, community leaders and the greater Jewish Community.

Shaloh House will also hold Chanukah lighting ceremonies every night of Chanukah at 6 p.m., at the 8-foot-tall menorah at Cobb Corner located at the Shell Station. This menorah has become a holiday landmark, along with another menorah placed across the road.

In addition, there will be a grand Chanukah Dinner at Shaloh House on Sunday, Dec. 25 at 6 p.m. There will be great food, live music and a special ice sculptured Menorah Show. Advance registration is necessary and space is limited.

Hundreds of Chanukah celebrations will be held at the many other Chabad centers throughout the state, including in Mansfield and Hingham. To find a Chanukah event in your area, please go to www.chabad.org. For more information about Shaloh House in Stoughton or about Chanukah, please contact us at 781-344-6334, or visit www.shalohhouse.com.



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QUESTION:

Since Chanukah is the celebration of the oil lasting for eight days, Bubbe, what can I serve for dinner as a main entree?

ANSWER:

How about serving chicken schnitzel. I have decided to make that my recipe for this issue. After all, it is fried in oil like potato latkes.

Today's Miracle

In remembrance of one of the greatest miracles ever, Chanukah is being celebrated now with tradition and foods related to such a victorious time.

The surprise snowstorm at the end of October left our area looking like a war zone. Trees were down everywhere, and there was no power, internet, or any technological conveniences. Even members of our family had a tree destroy two cars. A total disaster. When filling out the insurance paperwork for the damage, the only explanation was "an act of G-D". You could only picture what the destruction must have looked like in ancient times during the battles that took place with the Macabees.

Amid all of the destruction, there was one great miracle: Very few people lost their lives as a result of this devastating storm. Have an enjoyable Chanukah. Estgezuntheit,

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



Chicken Schnitzel (Meat)

*Easy to prepare and enjoyed by everyone
4 servings*

- 1/3 cup water
- 1 large egg
- 1/3 cup all purpose flour
- Garlic powder and onion powder to taste
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 3/4 cup bread crumbs or panko bread crumbs
- 4 boneless skinless chicken breasts
- 2 -3 tbsp. olive oil or vegetable oil

Procedure:

With fork, beat water and egg together in a bowl. On a plate mix together the flour, garlic powder, onion powder, salt and pepper. Spread bread crumbs out onto a second plate. Place chicken breast, one at a time, between two sheets of plastic wrap, and with a rolling pin or mallet, hammer them until they are about 1/4 inch thick.

Coat each one with flour mixture lightly on both sides. Then dip into the egg mixture, and then coat with breadcrumbs on each side. Heat oil in a large frying pan over medium heat. Add each chicken breast and cook 3 to 4 minutes on each side until golden brown and crispy. Make sure chicken is cooked through.

NOTE: Matzo meal can also be used instead of breadcrumbs. They freeze well - to do so, place each piece between a layer of aluminum foil and freeze. Reheat in a pre-heated 400 degree oven for 5 to 7 minutes, but watch carefully so that they won't dry out or burn.

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The Life and Work of Jewish-Italian Artist Daniel Schinasi



Daniel in front of the portrait of Corradino D'Ascanio (inventor of famous Italian Vespa motorbike and helicopter)

European buildings that showcase Daniel's Schinasi's murals include:

- Karlau, Graz State Prison (Austria): "The War for Peace" 1988;
- The New Israeli Opera House, Tel Aviv (Israel): "Tribute to Dance, Music, and Opera" 2002;
- The Flushing Hippodrome of Saint Rossore, Pisa (Italy): "Race Allegory" 1971;
- Sanctuary of Ripaldina, Pavia (Italy): "Universal Judgment" 1986;
- Rail Station of Main Hall Pisa (Italy): "The Mallorca Battle" and "Tribute to Galileo Galilei" 1991;
- Faculty of Engineering and Aerospace in Pisa (Italy) "The Human Flight" 2002;
- Rail Station of Main Hall Grosseto (Italy) "The Four Seasons" 2003;
- Orthopedic Hospital in Pisa (Italy) "Hatikva (Hope)" 2004;
- Streuli Pharma Uznach (Switzerland) "Ida Streuli" 2005;
- Vimeu High School, Vimeu Friville Escabortin (France) "Water, Soil, Air, Fire" 1992;

By Svetlana Wells

Daniel Schinasi, the founder of the "Neofuturism" art movement, was born in Alexandria, Egypt in 1933 to a Sephardic family with a long history of practicing extortion for religious reasons. Overwhelmed by his own memories, yet fully aware of his family's historical past, Schinasi's powerful images are readily acknowledged.

While in Egypt, young Daniel worked at a Citroen factory by day and as a painter by night and on Sundays. On December 14, 1956 a personal "Exodus" day arrived, one that marked a new path for Daniel and his family.

During the Suez War he was suspended from work for being a Jew, even though he was originally Italian. The decision to leave the country, then ruled by dictator Gamal Abdel Nasser, was very quick. Daniel went to the Italian Consul General and pleaded for a chance to return to the country of his ancestors, Italy. Four days later, he and his family were on the "Esperia" ship that took them to the Liberty.



1. Daniel Schinasi
2. Albert Einstein
3. David Ben Gourion
4. Theodor Herzl
5. Guido Lopez
6. Anna Frank
7. Golda Meir
8. Chaim Weizmann
9. Gustav Mahler
10. Amedeo Modigliani
11. Yohanan Massi
12. Enio Gea
13. Sarina Cohen (artist mother)

Explanation of the cover of this magazine
Hanoukkà - La festa della Luce, della Pace e della Libertà

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Many years later, he still bears the vision of Alexandria, white and foggy as he walked away, with seagulls following him.

Refugees from Egypt, they settled in Livorno, Italy. There, in Tuscany, Daniel studied the art of Renaissance masters, which greatly influenced his techniques in his later artistic years.

For Schinasi, being a Jewish artist meant much more than just a recovery of his childhood memories of the Alexandria exodus and exile in Europe.

It also meant being aware of his religious reaffirmations, as one of among those who struggle for their freedom and their future while trying to individually uphold the role of mankind as the bearer of universal civilization.

Schinasi's paintings do not allow the viewer to abandon reality through unconscious dreams, symbols or allusions. His great strength lies in his clearly expressed rationality and his dynamically realistic representations of human life. His art utilizes a variety of compositional techniques in oil, tempera, pen, pencil and pastel. His various scenarios are rich minefields of history and life.

Some of Schinasi's paintings are inspired by religious and biblical themes, pervaded by a deep spirituality. They teach how the truth of the past can enhance our everyday life. But some of them simply claim the power of color expression, symbolism, and freedom of art form.

Through his art he brings historical memory to the present. He highlights the martyrs and the persecuted, the victims of all violence, and the Nazi-Fascist massacres. He never forgets his roots, and reminds us that the Jew is no longer "The Sacrificed Jew" but a man among men with the dignity and common values of all of mankind.



New Israeli Opera Hall - Omaggio alla Danza, all'Opera e alla Musica

The Life and Work of Jewish-Italian Artist Daniel Schinasi

The painting “From darkness to light,” (1998, 70x65), expressive of human feelings and poetic inspirations, is addressed to the people of Israel. On the light-infused background of the City of Jerusalem, in harmony with nature and the landscape, peaceful farmers of Israel work in fields full of crops, fruits and flowers.

This painting is full of energy, air and light. It shows simple men captured by an enchanting dream of a bright future. It is a triumph of colors: gradual yellows, bold reds, and various blends of blues. White doves in the sky represent an auguring transition from darkness to light as they convey doubts of the future.

Schinasi’s art exemplifies high spirituality inspired by the present-day realities of Israel juxtaposed with its historical past. As a modern artist, he serves as a type of cantor of the Jewish world and of general humanity.

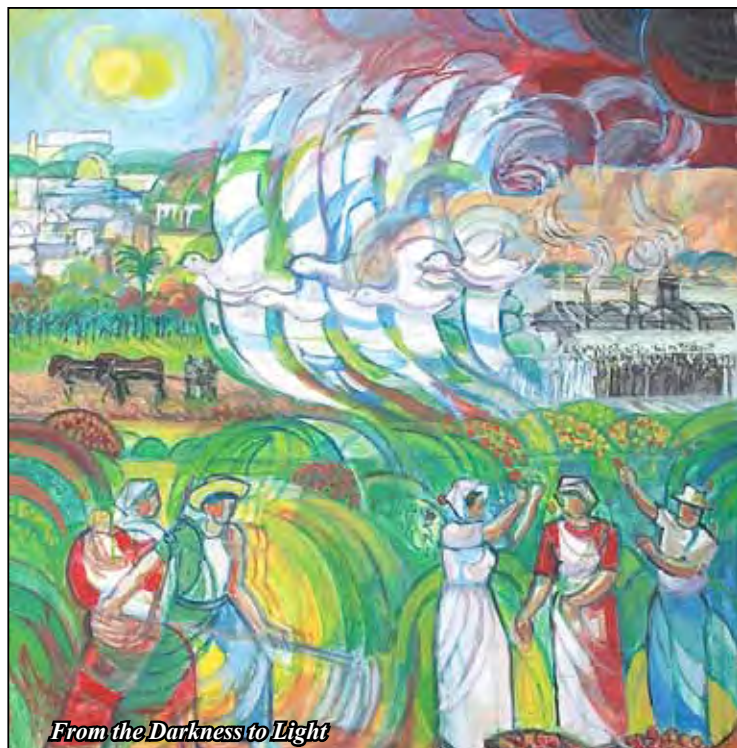
Since 1956, Daniel Schinasi has held many exhibitions, in Europe, South America, United States and Israel. His paintings are hung in museums, art galleries and state buildings, as well as in private collections in Italy, Switzerland, and in France, where he lived for much of his artistic life.

Schinasi has long been an advocate of figurative arts and a defender of humanism and fraternity. His wife of 45 years, Manuela, and his two children, Sarah and David, are his greatest supporters and the biggest inspiration of his artistic life. He currently resides in Nice, France, and in Tuscany, Italy. He is currently exhibiting his triptych “The Stetl Cobbler Jewish Family” in the Piaggio Museum in Pontedera, Pisa (Italy).

The Channukia lithography on the cover is one of his many works inspired by Jewish history. A large Channukia in the middle represents a celebration of the light, as well as peace and freedom. Renowned historical Jewish figures from politics, science and the arts are also represented. They symbolize a desire to stand up and fight for peace and freedom by the use of education, intelligence, and knowledge.

Schinasi’s art is available to the general public in canvas re-prints and lithography. In the United States, his art has been exclusively represented by Modern Original Italian Art Gallery and is available on its website: www.moia.us.

For more information on Daniel Schinasi’s art and sales, visit: www.danielschinasi.com.

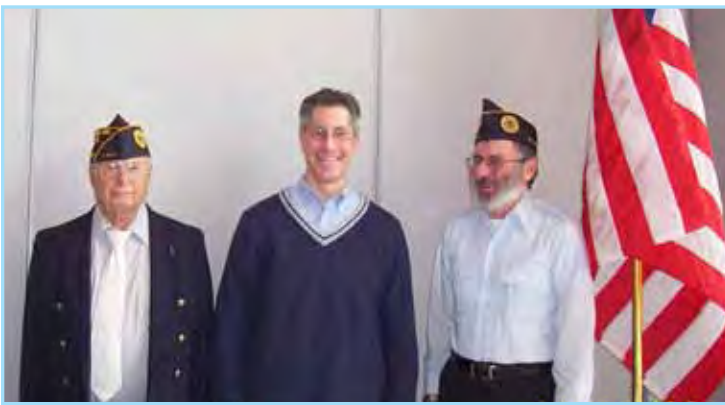


From the Darkness to Light



Exodus - Omaggio ai Perseguitati

Career Moves @ JVS



Herbert Shostek Post Commander, Rabbi Joseph Meszler and Jeffrey Weitzenkorn Sr. Vice Commander

Rabbi Joseph B. Meszler of Temple Sinai of Sharon was the guest speaker at the November Breakfast Meeting of the Jewish War Veterans Post 735. He spoke to the audience in an open forum style and we discussed the following topics: "The implications of the Palestinian bid at the UN for statehood," "The results of the prisoner exchange for Gilad Shalit," and "What is happening to the north of Israel with Hezbollah, Syria and Iran." The attendees asked questions and also made many comments, and were very interested in the Rabbi's perspective of Israeli affairs.

Rabbi Meszler has led many trips to Israel and has felt extremely safe during all his trips. He also stressed that tourism is still an extremely important part of Israeli economy.



Over 90 people attended Career Moves @ JVS' Over 50 and Working, a panel discussion on employment strategies for the mature professional. Panelists included Jane Matlaw, Director of Community Relations at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; Cindy-jo Gross, Practice Manager of Brigham and Women's Primary Care in Foxborough; Masha Kaganova, Business Systems Analyst with Value Options; and Lee Ann Bennett, Director of Human Resources at JVS. Here's what they had to say:

1. Don't be shy - Mature workers have a lot to offer. Tell people why you are a great candidate!
2. Be aware of the stereotypes about older workers and come prepared to tell a different story.
3. Prepare examples of how you have successfully adapted to change in your previous jobs.
4. Show that you are tech savvy. Have a LinkedIn profile. Talk about how you use technology to achieve your goals at work.
5. Be prepared for the "you're overqualified" response. Mention how interested and engaged you are in that type of work and what you can do for the employer.
6. Put yourself in the employer's shoes. Ask yourself what qualities and skills you would want a person in this position to have.
7. Network, network, network. Be clear about how others can help you.
8. Treat your job search as a full-time job, and reward yourself as you go along instead of waiting until you find a job.
9. Volunteer. You'll gain valuable experience, learn new skills and feel good about yourself.

Career Moves @ JVS offers one-on-one career counseling and job search coaching for people of all ages and backgrounds. For more information contact Judy Bottkol at jbottkol@jvs-boston.org or 617-399-3162.



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Wellesley-Weston Chabad Charity Softball Game

For the seventh consecutive year, the Wellesley-Weston Chabad partnered up with the Wellesley Police Department for a charity softball game to raise funds for very worthy causes. This year's charity was the "Cure Alzheimers Fund." Much appreciation goes to Sally Rosenfield of the CAF for working on all the details to make the game a reality. One component of the game is the longstanding tradition between Rabbi Moshe Bleich and Deputy Chief Bill Brooks that, as per this tradition, the deputy chief (representing the losing team) must dress up as a Rabbi. A fun time was had by all. Chabad scored a come from behind victory, winning it in the bottom of the seventh by a score of 8-7.



Rabbi Moshe Bleich and Deputy Chief Bill Brooks



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The Jewish Vampires

By Dr. Rebecca Housel

Vampires. They are the dark, fanged monsters from Eastern Europe made famous by Irish author, Bram Stoker, in his 1897 Gothic novel, *Dracula*. The character of *Dracula* takes a sweet, innocent Christian girl and turns her into a blood-sucking, baby-stealing temptress. But well before Stoker's blood-sucker saw the light of day, the 14th century medieval British author, Geoffrey Chaucer, wrote about blood-thirsty, torturous dark monsters who killed innocent children in one of his many *Canterbury Tales*, *The Prioress's Tale*.

The Prioress's Tale is about how a dark and dirty Jew, an enemy of "The Faith," kills a poor, innocent child. The story is set in 1290, 100 years after the Jews were exiled from England. You may wonder why, then, such a story was even written. How could exiled Jews have been a threat? In 1255, King Henry III sold his rights to tax Jews to his brother, Richard, Earl of Cornwall, after creating a law stating that the property of any Jew found guilty of a crime would revert to the King. Coincidentally, six months later, a child was found at the bottom of a well. The body was supposedly tortured. It was not long before the cry of murder rose up. Jews were suspected of engaging in the notorious "blood libel," or recreation of Christ's crucifixion by Jews on pious Christian children. The first recorded incident was in 1144 England, when a boy named William, was found on the outskirts of the town Norwich, tortured and dead. Jews were blamed and the "blood libel" myth was born. William later became known as a Martyr and a Saint. The child from the 1255 murder would also become known as the Martyr, Little Saint Hugh of Lincoln. More than ninety Jews were arrested, tortured and held in the Tower of London for the alleged crime; eighteen were hanged. The hangings were the first recorded death sentences for ritual murder in England. The only reason why the deaths stopped was because the Earl of Cornwall saw his potential tax revenues shrinking. Geoffrey Chaucer's 14th century *Prioress's Tale's* references Little Saint Hugh. Though scholars have valiantly fought to save Geoffrey Chaucer from anti-Semitic infamy, pointing at his description of the Prioress as subtle evidence, *The Prioress's Tale* is little more than propagating a long-standing belief that Jews are satanic, blood-sucking, torture-loving, children-stealing, murderous devils-horns and tails included. Given the rushed sainthood of the named Hugh, the Church was party to continuing anti-Semitic rhetoric for more than 700 years. In 1955, the Anglican Church posted a sign where the boy-Saint was supposedly buried, essentially stating how sorry they were that they perpetuated myths about innocent Jews, many of whom suffered for it. Because you see, after Henry III accused Jews of murdering Christian children as part of the "blood libel," similar stories began popping up all over Europe and Russia. Because of a King's greed, for more than 700 years, Jews were considered "Enemies of the Faith," and vilified in cultural art and literatures...including novels like *Dracula*. Of course, the idea of the "blood libel" has been dispelled by four Popes and countless European monarchs in the last century. But the myth of the Jew killing the innocent for their blood is still perpetuated, like in the Syrian television series, "Al-Shatat," which portrayed the murder of a young Arab boy by Jews for the blood libel in 2003. Earlier this year, former Alaska Governor and Vice-Presidential candidate, Sarah Palin, used the term to describe the actions of her political foes. So what's really going on here? Is it possible that even in the 21st century, Jews are still being vilified as blood-sucking vampires who prey on the righteous innocent?



Twenty-first century vampires have been sanitized by authors like *Twilight's* Stephenie Meyer, whose fourth film in the *Twilight* franchise opened on November 18th, and Charlaine Harris, whose adapted novels are an Emmy-winning HBO series, *True Blood*. Vampires are no longer monsters. They are sun-loving, vegetarians who don't shrink from the Cross-like Stoker's *Dracula*. Would that anti-Semitism of the 21st century showed that same progress. Sadly, anti-Semitism is at an all-time global high. According to a new study by Sara Liddy Robinson called *Blood Will Tell*, the ties between anti-Semitism and the legend of the vampire are very real. We see the signs all too clearly in American popular culture: *Dracula*, a play written by Steven Dietz, brings Stoker's Semitic *Dracula* back in full force, including revulsion from a wooden cross lit with green Christmas lights. He is dark, wealthy, has a Semitic face, is not able to come into the light of the sun (also a metaphor for "The Son," Jesus Christ), and prays on innocent Christian girls, turning them into something right out of the ballads and stories of the medieval tale of Little Saint Hugh of Lincoln. *Dracula* played in Upstate New York's Geva Theatre in the fall; according to Geva, *Dracula* was one of the most highly-attended performances of the last decade. Another adaptation of Stoker's novel will be coming to the Bos-

ton-stage in late January to February 2012, also called *Dracula*. The play is being put on by the Reading-based Quannapowitt Players. Ironically, a month after audiences cheer at the dark, Semitic, fanged-devil draining innocents, reviling at the sight of the Cross, The Quannapowitt Players will be performing *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

The real monsters are not fictional characters with political agendas; they are all too human. No fangs need apply.

Dr. Rebecca Housel, a native Bostonian, studied medieval literature at the University of Rochester. Housel is known as "The Pop Culture Professor" and is the editor of *Twilight* and *Philosophy and True Blood* and *Philosophy*. To learn more, please visit Dr. Housel's website: www.RebeccaHousel.com



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A prescription for broccoli:

JALSA helps to advance food initiatives in the city

By Susie Davidson

You're not feeling up to par. Or, you live in a low-income area with limited access to healthful, nourishing fare. In either case, your doctor writes you a prescription - for broccoli, strawberries and avocados. And on your way out, you receive coupons that can be redeemed at local farmers' markets. You, and your community, are on the way to better diets and better health.

This could soon be the scenario in the Boston area. The Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action, which is currently celebrating its 10th year, is seeking to expand the Double Value Coupon Program, or "Double Vouchers," which doubles the value of food stamps at farmers markets or for healthy fare (DVCP), and the Fruit and Vegetable Prescription (FVRx), two pilot programs of Connecticut-based Wholesome Wave, an organization founded by former U.S. Undersecretary of Agriculture and former Agricultural Commissioner for Massachusetts Gus Schumacher. JALSA is also promoting similar programs, such as Bounty Bucks at Codman Square Health Center.

"JALSA believes that access to fresh, healthy food is an issue of preventative healthcare," said Executive Director Sheila Decter. She cited Old Testament guidance on food justice: "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap all the way to the edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest... but you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger; I the Eternal am your God." (Leviticus 19:9-20).

Yet the reality is that fresh and wholesome food simply costs more than Doritos and fast food. Vouchers can help bridge the income and geography gap.

On Oct. 18 at the Leventhal-Sidman JCC, Ned Porter, Director of National and Regional Policy for Wholesome Wave, met with over 30 people who included Ali Kaufman and Bernice Behar from Jewish Family and Children's Services, Maura Schorr Beaufait from the Bowdoin Street Health Center, Karen Weber from the Foundation for a Green Future, and JCC and community members.

The noontime talk, sponsored by JALSA and entitled "Sustaining Healthy Communities on Sukkot: Food Access," coincided with the Oct. 24 Food Day, instituted by the D.C.-based Center for Science in the Public Interest. But it was Jewishly opportune as well. What better time than Sukkot to focus upon fruits and vegetables? And when is it ever not a good time to assist low-income residents and local farmers?

"JALSA sought to hear ideas from Porter on how to make healthful food accessible to our poorest neighbors, while supporting farmers who grow their crops sustainably," said JALSA organizer Annie Fox, who is also active in the Moishe Kavod House. The talk was part of JALSA's campaign, "Sharing the Harvest - A Jewish Call for Food Access." JALSA is also pushing Prevention Trust, is a state bill that would provide a sustainable state fund for such prevention programs, as well as bike lanes and anti-asthma statues that would be allotted in grants to municipalities. "It asks insurers to pay into the trust, to help lower disease rates and therefore, the costs of private insurers.

Decter spoke about JALSA's efforts to obtain new insurance coverage for preventive health efforts, such as gym memberships, potentially increasing coverage of such nutritional programs and its support of the Prevention Trust, an effort to have public health programs and wellness programs part of the new health care legislation being crafted currently on Beacon Hill. JALSA is currently trying to get local health insurance companies to try pilot programs with specific at-risk populations.

On Oct. 16, Fox was interviewed on National Public Radio regarding the sukkah at Occupy Boston that she and other JALSA members and partner groups helped build. For information on these and other JALSA initiatives and programs, please write jalsaoffice@gmail.com. Follow Wholesome Wave on Twitter at @wholesomewave.



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Jewish Tradition is All About Food

By Shirley Farber

David is eating latkes with apple sauce today, in the same Kosher restaurant where his great grandmother ate many years ago. In today's economy, not many eateries can say they have been in business for over 90 years. But for many generations, Rubin's Kosher Deli in Brookline has been serving delicious traditional kosher food like latkes, kugel, matzah ball soup, and deli favorites.

Erica and Allan Gellerman bought the business, as well as the devoted clientele, in 1996. Erica says, "I have seen tables with three and four generations. Sometimes there is a baby and a great grandmother in her 90's."

The restaurant had a few owners, and different locations in Brookline over those 90 years, but the made-from-scratch recipes remain the same. The cuisine includes all the old classics: matzah ball soup, corned beef, brisket, knishes, Kishka, kashka, Borscht, lox and bagels, chopped liver. But Rubin's also offers steaks, burgers, seafood, Sephardic dishes, and seasonal gourmet creations like Tarragon Chicken and Teriyaki Chicken Wrap.

I always believed that if you go to a Kosher restaurant and only see Orthodox customers, it may be that they do not have a choice, and the restaurant might not be the best one. But at Rubin's, one sees even non-Jews happily dining. In fact, Rubin's has been voted Best Deli of Boston by both the Improper Bostonian and Boston Magazine on several occasions, including this year, 2011.

Unlike many restaurants I frequent where it seems that the server has no idea what she/he is serving, Rubin's has very knowledgeable employees. Joyce and Joel have been working at the restaurant for 30 and 26 years, respectively. So if you do not know the difference between a corned beef and a brisket, or

the ingredients of a Kishka, they will be glad to explain.

For Chanukah, Rubin's will be offering a variety of gourmet latke versions, such as sweet potato, mushroom, Israeli, and more. "People even come here with their families and open their Chanukah gifts at the table," said Erica.

As per their innovative attitude, last year Rubin's launched a line of home-cooked packaged items, that include knishes and kugels sold at supermarkets including Star Market and Shaw's.

Rubin's is under the supervision of a full time mashghia- ch and the Vaad Harabonin of Boston. It is located at 500 Harvard St. in Brookline. Tel: (617) 731-8787.

Check their website for weekly specials at www.rubins-boston.com. Hours are Sun. 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. and Fri. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Closed on Saturdays.



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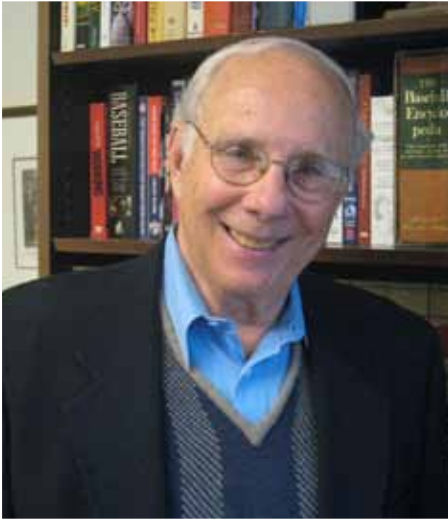
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An Appeal to Major Jewish League Players of Today and Yesterday, and Other Jewish Players, To play and Win for Israel in the 2013 World Baseball Classic



Shawn Green says he will do it. ‘Superman’ Sam Fuld told me he would be “honored” to do it. Ian Kinsler has been quoted as saying it would be “cool” to do it. Naturally, people talk of Jewish superstars Ryan Braun and Kevin Youkilis doing it. And how about recently retired star catchers Brad Ausmus and Mike Lieberthal, and active players lately like Gabe Kapler and David Newhan doing it? And we want to mention other major leaguers like infielders

Danny Valencia and Ike Davis, outfielder Ryan Kalish, and pitchers Jason Marquis, Craig Breslow, Scott Feldman, and John Grabow doing it. Only recently, Scott Schoeneweis and Jason Hirsh pitched in the majors, and Canadian-born Adam Stern patrolled the outfield there, so one hopes they would be doing it. Everybody’s sentimental favorite to do it is Adam Greenberg, who took a pitch to the head on the first pitch in his only major league appearance, thus having a 1,000 On Base Percentage (OBP), and no batting or fielding average!

Of course no one is going to displace bellwether Ryan Braun from the outfield should he choose to play on this team, but it’s fun to think of the undersized but fleet trio of ‘Superman’ Sam Fuld, Adam Greenberg, and Adam Stern playing the outfield together, reminding us of the Almighty and heroic feats, two guys with the ‘first’ name, and the other a ‘Superman.’

Of course any team, let alone one with so many stars, has to be managed properly. Who would do that? Well, when the Israel Baseball League was launched in 2007, Art Shamsky of the 1969 World Champion ‘Miracle Mets’ took his team, the (aptly named) Modi’ in Miracle, to a successful season. Also managing teams in that league were former big leaguers, southpaw star, Ken Holtzman, first DH ever, Ron Blomberg, and legendary college coach, Steve Hertz.

And has anybody seen best-ever lefty Sandy Koufax lately? That great man could provide more than a few tips on how to get them out. As could another ex-Dodger hurler, Ralph Branca, now a hale eighty-five, who long ago tossed up the pitch Giant Bobby Thomson swatted for ‘the shot heard round the world,’ and who recently learned that his mother, Hungarian immigrant

Kati Berger, arrived here Jewish.

Combine the pick of those lights with a few native Israelis showing diamond talent in a sport newly appreciated there, mostly under the banner of the Israel Association of Baseball, and you have a team good at all positions, good enough to qualify, good enough to take it all. What a story that would be for baseball, Israel, and America!

And what an upper for a country besieged by not only its sworn enemies but a bad and somewhat unbalanced press!

As Commissioner of Baseball, Bud Selig, told me when I interviewed him for my upcoming book, *American Jews And America’s Game: Jewish Voices of American Baseball*, due to be published by the University of Nebraska Press in early 2013 at just about the time as the World Baseball Classic:

“The World Baseball Classic is huge. You can see that we have more countries now. One day I hope we can include Israel. The internationalization of baseball is my last great goal.”

Later, when Israel was invited to participate, Selig announced that Israel is “a wonderful addition” to the WBC, an idea he fathered. What a trip it would be if the meaning of Bud’s words were expanded into Israel taking it all!

So come one, come all, and join up. Under Israel’s law of return, all of you are eligible for Israeli citizenship, and that’s all you need to be eligible for Israel’s team. Four teams out of twelve, including Israel, will meet in the qualifying round tentatively scheduled for Taiwan in November 2012. Of those, only Canada, Colombia, and Panama look like tough opponents. Once by that round, Israel will be in the classic, and with you guys on Israel’s team, not only in, but a good bet to win it all.

PLAY BALL!

*Larry Ruttman of Brookline, has practiced law there over fifty years. His next book, combining baseball and Jewish experience, **American Jews And America’s Game: Jewish Voices of American Baseball**, will soon be published by the University of Nebraska Press.*

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JNF Parsons Water Project

When the Maccabees defeated the Greeks, reclaiming the temple, one can of oil lasted for eight days. We don't often hear about miracles like this anymore, but Jewish National Fund is making minor miracles in the desert every day with a different precious liquid.

Israel is facing a severe water shortage. Eight consecutive years of drought, coupled with an increased demand from a rapidly growing population, have led to the over-exploitation of natural water resources and a total water deficit of two billion cubic meters - which is equivalent to 2,000 Empire State Buildings full of water.

Water levels at the Kinneret, Israel's only fresh water lake, have been declining precipitously, frequently reaching too close to the Black Line, at which point water pumps can no longer operate the National Water Carrier. A declining water level can also cause saline springs at the bottom of the lake to flow at an increased

rate. This can lead to the growth of algae that use up the oxygen in the water, which leads eventually to a dying, salty lake.

Natan Parsons z"l, the inventor of the automatic flush, who was a Brookline resident and a JNF National Water Chair and New England Executive Board Member, recognized that water is essential to maintain a high quality of life, and is the key to developing the land of Israel. This realization was parlayed into a passion for ensuring that everyone in Israel would have clean water to drink.

In 2009, in Natan's memory, the JNF Parsons Water Fund was founded, a 10-year \$100 million initiative to increase Israel's supply of high-quality water by more than 440 billion gallons over the next decade. Already, much has been accomplished.

New England, and Boston in particular, have been prolific in raising awareness, recognition and donations for the current water crisis that Israel faces.



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JNF Parsons Water Project

The Be'er Sheva River Park is bringing green to a desert environment in the Negev's capital. The park, once a toxic waste dump, has been cleaned, promenades and playgrounds have been built, and it is being used by thousands of residents.

"The point of the park is to increase the quality of life for the residents of Be'er Sheva," said Michael Blank, JNF's Boston President. "It will also include two historical sites, currently under renovation, a 23-acre lake that is also using recycled waste water, a 13,000-seat amphitheater, a sports complex, and much more," he added. "Already, private investors are investing in restaurants, apartment buildings, and the largest mall in Israel. Our work is truly transforming the Negev Desert."

JNF Boston recently dedicated a reservoir near the town of Sderot, a city not only plagued by falling rockets, but also cuts in water quotas. Thanks to the one million cubic meter reservoir, farmers are able to keep their crops, and solutions for environmental pollution caused by sewage flow have been found.

"One of our proudest achievements has been supporting the rainwater harvesting program," said Blank. "Children are learning about the importance of conserving water, while actually saving money for the schools as well. A tank system collects rain during the winter months and supplies water for toilet flushing, cleaning, and irrigation—up to 95% of the school's water needs," he said.

"What makes these programs so special to us is that the technology and methods that we are funding here will help not only our brothers and sisters in Israel, but can be applied worldwide."

"Boston's work with the JNF Parsons Water Fund is a manifestation of a deep commitment and love for Israel and the JNF," said Zevi Kahanov, National Director,

Israel has long been a pioneer in water conservation and reclamation. Drip irrigation, which targets specific plants without watering the soil in between, was developed in the Arava, Israel's southern desert. And Israel leads the world in water reclamation, recycling over 77 percent of its sewage water. In contrast, the second country after it is Italy, which recycles less than 20 percent.

Much like the can of oil that the Maccabees salvaged from the ruins of the temple which lasted much longer than it should have, thanks to JNF's innovative water solutions, water in Israel is going the distance. Whether it is creating new water resources in Israel with the Shamir Drill in the north, or building new reservoirs in the south to store reclaimed water, JNF has increased Israel's water economy by 12 percent. That's a lot of food. That's a lot of people. That's a miracle.



Mayor Alon Shuster, Israeli Minister Matan Vilnai, Yael Shaltieli, Amy Parsons, Russell Robinson and Mayor David Buskila, at the dedication of a JNF Reservoir near Sderot

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The Urgency of Civility

By Rabbi Ben Greenberg

It seems to me that we do not do a lot of talking to each other anymore. There is lots of talking about each other or past each other but not a lot of talking to each other. Furthermore, the tone of our supposed dialogues have become increasingly fractious and divisive. One does not need to look very far to find examples of this phenomenon both from within the Jewish community and in the larger American situation.

Anything we do within our own small communities is now readily available for review by anyone with an Internet connection around the globe. We do not live in a world anymore where I can do what I want or say what I please without facing the potential criticism of a global audience. Yet, is critique always the right approach? The urge to condemn or critique can be strong. One can feel justified in their offering of condemnation, perhaps even righteous, but still is this the preferred approach?

The Babylonian Talmud in Tractate Shabbat 31a relates the oft-quoted story of the potential convert who came before the 1st century sage, Shammai, asking to convert on condition that all of Judaism be taught to him while standing on one foot. The Talmud records that Shammai angrily chased him away while whereupon approaching Hillel with the same request, he was immediately converted. Several other stories of a similar nature are offered with the same result: Shammai scolding while Hillel embraced them. It is the end of this particular passage though that most provocatively puts forth a different tactic from the one of critique and condemnation. The Talmud asserts that "Shammai's impatience sought to drive us [converts] from the world, but Hillel's gentleness brought us under the wings of the Divine Presence."

Indeed, on a similar note the Babylonian Talmud in several places (Eiruvin 72b; Hullin 58a; Niddah 59b) demonstrates that the ability to permit something (in Hebrew "koah de'heteira") is preferable over the opposite ability to prohibit. It takes a careful

approach to matters, a nuanced view of a situation and knowledge of all the dimensions to a problem to genuinely permit. Any knee-jerk reactionary can scream from rooftops condemnations but a true mensch and scholar can be expansive and open.

The 16th century Greek rabbinical judge of the northwestern city of Arta, Rabbi Benjamin Mattathias, in his work of legal rulings teaches that the power to permit is greater than the power to prohibit just as the sayings of scholars is greater than the sayings of prophets (She'alot U'Teshuvot Binyamin Ze'ev, sec. 7). Perhaps we can understand this comparison as telling us that while a scholar can modulate and adjust his or her perspective over time, can take in extenuating circumstances into his or her calculations, this is not possible for a prophet, who simply conveys a Divine message to the people. So too it is all too often easier to prohibit, less taxing and time consuming to just simply say no, but it is the person who weighs all the evidence, considers all the points and perspectives, that can authentically permit. (The same is also true, of course, if the conclusion one arrives at after careful study is a prohibitive one.)

In our world of condemnations, chastisements and ridicule I would like to suggest that the power of praise, while sometimes more difficult and not as natural, is preferable over the power of criticism. There has been lots said in rabbinic thought throughout the ages about the superiority of the koah de'heteira, the power of permitting things, but nowadays I think our time urges us to discuss publicly and openly the koah de'shevah, the power and preference for praise over critique, compliment over ridicule and thoughtfulness over cynicism.

In a society with more praise and less critique, more considerate reflection and less knee-jerk negativity, we might come that much closer to healing the rifts that are tearing us apart and dividing our communities.

From MyJewishLearning.com.

Rabbi Ben Greenberg is the Orthodox Rabbi of Harvard Hillel and Jewish Chaplain of Harvard University. He lives with his wife and son in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

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Schusterman Advocacy Institute High School Summit

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) has been described as one of the most powerful lobbying groups in Washington, DC. AIPAC advocates pro-Israel policies to Congress and the Executive Branch of the United States, and is a bipartisan organization; the bills it lobbies for in Congress are always jointly sponsored by both a Democrat and Republican. AIPAC is constantly adding to their already high number of members through many local and national events. One of these is the Schusterman Advocacy Institute High School Summit, in which juniors and seniors from all over the US get together in Washington to learn about AIPAC's message and how they might become future AIPAC lobbyists.

Through my school's Jewish Student Union (JSU), I was able to have the opportunity to be one of the 407 Jewish high school Students to participate in this summit. During the three days I spent in Washington, I learned about many things. The first day focused on AIPAC's message: Improving and maintaining a strong Israel-US relation as well as lobbying congressmen and women to pass pro-Israel bills and veto those that are against Israel. The second day focused on why this message was important, how to lobby, and what we would be



Hadar Arazi

Why is Foreign Aid to Israel, Tougher Iran Sanctions, and Opposition to the Palestine UN Bid for Statehood important to the US and Israel?

Although Israel is not required to spend all of its aid back in the US, as other countries are required to do each year, the US still benefits greatly from everything Israel does with this foreign aid. This is because Israel uses this aid to help build new defense technologies that are shared with the US, thus helping to build stronger defense on both sides. Foreign aid also goes toward innovation in the medical field. For example, Israelis developed a bandage used to stop bleeding which helped to save the life of Congresswomen Gabrielle Giffords after she was shot in Arizona. Israelis are also responsible for the invention of many everyday technologies used in, for example, cell phones, instant messaging, and Skype. These advances are all made possible by our foreign aid donations to Israel.

Iran is already on its way to creating nuclear weapons, but by placing tougher sanctions on Iran, the US can help make it more difficult for Iran to continue creating these weapons, which could be used to harm Israel. Such sanctions would also discourage other countries from trading with Iran, causing their economies to fluctuate and thereby require them to focus on their economy rather than on building nuclear weapons.

The Palestinian bid for statehood through the UN is also an issue that needs to be opposed. Although there is still a possibility of Palestine receiving statehood, this is not something that can be done in a one-sided manner through the UN. In order for there to be a Palestine state, both Israel and Palestine must diplomatically discuss a peaceful way to establish two states. This is a direction that Prime Minister Netanyahu has welcomed, but President Abbas has opposed. By the UN providing statehood to Palestine unilaterally, there will be no discussions regarding borders and the citizenship of citizens in disputed areas, which could lead to further conflict.



Students at Representative Wasserman Schultz office with her legislative assistant

lobbying for. We were split into groups based on who we would be lobbying, which was determined by where we lived and who our local representatives were.

After we learned all the basics of lobbying, we were given the opportunity to practice with college campus Israel activists. After practicing, we had an opportunity to meet with students who are active on their campuses. We learned different ways to participate in Jewish life on campus, as well as basics of pro-Israel activism. On the last day of the Summit, we traveled to Capitol Hill, where we headed toward the Cannon building. There, each group met with their local representatives for our lobbying appointments.

Each group lobbied for three main topics: Foreign Aid to Israel, Tougher Iran Sanctions, and Opposition to the Palestinian UN Bid for Statehood. Overall, the Schusterman Advocacy Institute High School Summit was a very beneficial experience that provided me with all the knowledge needed to be a professional lobbyist.

Hadar Arazi is a senior at Western High School in Davie, Florida, and president of its Jewish Student Union. On her American passport it says that she was born in Jerusalem but is does not mention Israel.

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Young Jewish Leadership Diplomatic Seminar

By Shirley Farber

We do not know who the Jewish leaders of tomorrow will be. Neither is there an explicit formula, or specific training for those that will take our communities into the future. Judaism has many facets, communities are pluralistic, and our relation to Israel takes into account all of the dimensions of our societies. Future Jewish leaders need to be able to deal with diversity and adversity, inside and outside the Jewish people.

Meanwhile, the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs is making an effort to guarantee that at least the next generation of leaders is deeply committed to advocate for Israel and maintain the strong connection between our land and the Diaspora. In this vein, the MFA is currently organizing seminars for young Jewish leaders all over the world.

In 2001, while living in Brazil, I was invited to attend yet another conference in Israel, but this time, not for a few days of meetings, as had been the case in the previous years. This time, the Young Leadership Diplomatic Seminar was taking me for a three-week, intensive learning experience in Jerusalem, along with about 40 other young adults. Before traveling, the consul asked me to sign a letter stating that I did not plan to make Aliyah (not a requirement anymore). Since I had attended conferences organized by the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption or the Jewish Agency, so that letter was a surprise.

After that, I got married, moved to the U.S., and lost contact with the people that I met at the seminar. It was only in 2010 that I heard back from the MFA: They realized that it was important to keep in touch with alumni, and they wanted to gather them together. The idea was to create a network of people committed to Israel, and to keep them up to date with current events and efforts to promote Israel. Ten years ago, this was called Hasbara. Now, they call it "Rebranding Israel."

In September of 2010, I attended the first Regional YJLDS in Chicago, where I had a chance to meet people who were as passionate for Israel as I am, people who possess both the required knowledge, and the desire to be engaged in advocacy. Some of them work for Jewish organizations, some volunteer, and some promote Israel in their spare time.

This past October, I attended the YJLDS in Miami, with 40 other people from various parts of the U.S. and also from Latin American countries such as Venezuela, Guatemala, and Brazil.

The seminar included lectures on Israel and the Jewish world from professional and very knowledgeable diplomats such as Matthew Levin of AIPAC; Jacob Solomon, CEO of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation; Jerry Ostrov, CEO of the Strategic Communications Center; State Senator Elynn Bogdanoff (FL-R); and Dr. Haim Koren. Recent seminars were organized in various countries by Ami Mehl, director of the Jewish Communities Department of the MFA - a very charismatic leader who contacted each of the seminar's alumni from around the world, and stayed in touch with them between reunions.

Alumni of the seminars, according to what I saw and heard, tend to agree that programs like this are the best way to secure the future of Jewish communities as they help to develop a leader's knowledge as well as a worldwide perspective of our people.

"The MFA encourages discussion, disagreement and true depth of knowledge. It is a great way for Jews around the world to directly engage with Israeli foreign policy which includes support, a sense of community and even respectful argument on important issues that affect us all," says attorney Daniel Pomerantz of Chicago. "The MFA seminar community became a resource for me: I reached out to people whom I had never even met, and when I asked them specific questions, I got a quick n knowledgeable response," said Masha Merkulova, from the San Francisco Bay area. David Feinman, Senior Legislative Associate of the Jewish Federations of North America in Washington, agreed: "Beyond the knowledge gained from the long list of great speakers, the connections made are invaluable," he said.

Tali Trachtenberg of Guatemala says: "The most important lesson I took was that in fact, we are not the future leaders, we are the current leaders, and as Young Professionals we all have much to contribute."

I must admit that once someone attends the seminar, he/she returns with the requisite energy and knowledge to go out and speak about Israel, write letters to newspapers and articles, and participate in other forms of advocacy. But as the weeks go by, you get back to your work and life.

Many of the participants maintain a large network of communications on the Internet, with their blogs, websites and Facebook friends. Some were even updating their Facebook and Twitter feeds during to the lectures on subjects they had just learned. With all due respect to the present leaders, it is our young people who are best equipped, as they already possess both the voluninous energy and the high-tech skills to successfully function as a Jewish leader in the ever-changing world.

The Miami conference started with a question: what it means to be a Jewish leader and who is a Jewish leader in your opinion?

While we were giving answers from Golda Meir to Moshe Rabbeinu I was looking around and waiting to see if anyone would mention a recent religious leader, maybe a chief rabbi or some cabalist rabbi. The first one that came to my mind and that inspired me, was the Lubavitcher Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson. Before saying I put my answer in the context of Zionism and mentioned how the Rebbe had influenced Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu in his United Nation speech. Netanyahu had the chutzpa to say in the front of the UN audience that once the Rebbe told him that the UN is a "house of liars".

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Young Jewish Leadership Diplomatic Seminar



Shirley Farber, State Senator Ellyn Bogdanoff (FL-R) and Daniel Pomerantz



Part of the Latin American group: Patricia (Brazil), Samantha (Venezuela), Shirley (Brazil-US) and Tali (Guatemala)



Benjamin Siegel of Boston with some of the speakers: Noam Katz, Dr. Haim Koren and Ami Mehl



Participants also had fun after a full day of lectures



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Don't let them make Israel a wedge issue

You just woke up. It's January 2013, a Republican is in the White House, and Congress is retaken by Democrats. Democrats made supporting Israel their top issue in the election and the Tea Party Republican President campaigned on vetoing the Foreign Aid bill, Israel's lifeline for security investment. For the first time in your life, the United States stops foreign aid to Israel and withdraws from its involvement in the peace process.

You could have helped to stop this from happening. You could have taken a stand to prevent Israel from becoming a wedge issue in the 2012 elections. Why would I place this heavy burden at your feet? As a recently elected city official and someone who has been advising Members of Congress on Middle East policy since 2005, I know how important your voice is.

American politics have become so divisive, we risk labeling important issues that should be "All-American" as Democrat or Republican. With the 2012 elections about to kick into high gear, we need to be vigilant in order to spare Israel from these divisive politics. We've all seen the deterioration of civility in political discussion. We've seen one party calling the other party un-American. And just as we have a responsibility to restore civility in the political discussion, those of us with a passion for Israeli security have a responsibility to prevent Israel from being used as a wedge issue.

Many of you will have the opportunity to engage candidates throughout the 2012 elections. Whether you choose to show up and have a voice is your choice. You would be surprised to know how much a local activist or supporter influences our approach towards issues and campaigning. The pro-Israel community in America needs to ensure we don't hear comments like "the Tea Party will cut funding for Israeli security," or "Obama will destroy Israel." This does nothing to further our cause or win favor in the long term. The pro-Israel community (and you as its conduit) can't be short-sighted and alienate one party or another. Enabling the most staunch right-wing conservative and the proudest left-wing liberal to shake hands and agree that they both support Israel can be our goal.

David Harris wrote recently in the Jerusalem Post, "President Bush was a great friend of Israel, but his administration pushed for the inclusion of Hamas in the 2006 elections, and that was no small error. The repercussions are felt to this day. It merited speaking out, but in a measured way that sought to persuade, not in an all-out assault that lambasted the president from here to eternity, closing doors in the process when they needed to be kept open."

Former U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates spoke before the Defense Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Com-

mittee in March 2011 and confirmed that "in terms of concrete steps to improve the security relationship between the two countries (Israel and the U.S.), more has been done in the last two years than in any comparable period in my entire career." There was Secretary Gates, a lifelong Republican, who served under Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, George W. Bush and Barack Obama, testifying under oath to the unparalleled prioritization of Israeli security and cooperation under the current administration.

We are fortunate to have built a strong foundation for bipartisan support for Israel. But we must not allow the current political climate to threaten that foundation. I would say to you that we must encourage both conservatives and liberals to compete for the support of the pro-Israel community. However, it is equally if not more important to dissuade any candidate for office from negatively attacking the opposing party for not being "strong enough" on Israel.

You can help by calling your Member of Congress' local office or by visiting a federal candidate at a town hall. You should also respect their staff as much as the elected official, since they are often the ones helping to develop policy. Many candidates will not have a firm grasp on these issues nor the time to develop an opinion of their own regarding Israel or the peace process. If you are able to reach the candidate, explain that support from both parties is vital for a long-term, dependable, pro-Israel American foreign policy. It's important not to accept "I don't have enough information to make a decision" from a candidate for federal office.

As a pro-Israel member of the community it should be easy for you to explain your love and passion for our only democratic ally in the Middle East. Yet I would warn you against making Israel out to be without faults. No government is perfect and the Israeli government has admitted they made mistakes over the years. Sharing those human flaws along with Israel's compassion and great accomplishments will go even further towards making the case.

Thank them for their support of Israel and let them know that if they respect our voice, they will not let Israel become a wedge issue. Then hold them accountable, if not for our sake but for Israel's sake.

Alexander Lewy was elected to his first four year term as Commissioner for the City of Hallandale Beach, Florida, in 2010. He has served as staff to Democratic Members of Congress since 2005 and continues to do so part-time. Lewy also served on various local boards in the South Florida Jewish community and currently serves as Chair of the Young Democrats of America Jewish Caucus.

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The Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Needlework Convention



*Entrance to display area of the Convention.
Left: mock-up of High Holiday ark curtain for Temple Israel in Sharon by Laura Rosenspan of Sharon;
Center: Greater Boston Chapter, "Bruchim HaBaim" (Welcome) quilt by Miriam K. Sokoloff, Convention Director.
Right: two Torah mantles by Phyllis Kantor of Brookline*

The Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Needlework held its Biennial Convention at the Doubletree Hotel in Westborough on November 6-8. Members from 15 chapters in the U.S. and Canada attended, as well as independent members.

The Convention's theme was "Creation & Creativity," and included two days of workshops for registered participants who had traveled to the Boston area from as far away as Australia and Western Canada. The third day of the Convention was a trip to three different textile sites in Lowell.

The Convention included a display of 30 "challenge" pieces illustrating the Convention theme of "Creation and Creativity" in different forms of needlework - quilting, embroidery, knitting, beading, etc. Other items were on display as well, including challah covers, a "tenaim" bag, a fabric quilted mezuzah, and many other items of Judaic needlework displayed by members.

The convention's keynote address was given by Hebrew Union College Museum Curator Laura Kreuger of New York City. "Pomegranate Runway," a fashion show of members' garments, was another special event.

The Greater Boston Chapter of the Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Needlework was the host chapter, and Miriam K. Sokoloff of Brookline was the Convention Director. For information about meetings of the Guild, contact Bonnie Wugman at bbw395@comcast.net.

"Shades of Blue" quilt by members of the Rimon Calgary Chapter



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A Tooty Fruity Tale For Tu Bishvat - A Juicy Mystery

By Susie Davidson

A new Rabbi Rocketpower book about Tu Bishvat, A Tooty Fruity Tale For Tu Bishvat - A Juicy Mystery, is the latest in Rabbi Abramson's children's book series featuring a superhero Rabbi and her son. In the books, the Rabbi mother flies, saying "Oy, vay! Up, up and away!", and saves the day with her shofar and yad. In each adventure, her son Aaron discovers the problems for his mom to solve. The new book includes a page of activities to help the environment (15 Tu-Rific Ways To Help The Planet). It is illustrated by Laura Standley, a synagogue congregant and senior at Woburn High School.

Rabbi Abramson, a native of Newton, is the longest serving female rabbi in Massachusetts and one of the first 50 women to be ordained as rabbis in the U.S. She was president of Hillel during college at Brandeis and went on to receive degrees from Hebrew Union College. After joining Temple Shalom Emeth, she helped resettle Russian families at her synagogue and married Vladimir Dvorkin, a member of one of the families, in 1991. She began writing stories in 2001 with their son, Aaron. Her husband died prematurely of a heart attack in 2005, and mother and son continued with the series. Aaron is currently 14 and a student at Gann Academy in Waltham, Mass.

Abramson began her book series following the 9/11 tragedies, when her son Aaron was in the first grade. Abramson fashioned the initial Rabbi Rocketpower stories so that he could focus his attention on compassionate and positive role models, and so that he could see that his family could rise above difficult situations. He loved to read funny books, but she could find nothing in Jewish children's literature that he enjoyed in the

same way. Abramson also felt that a superhero female rabbi could be admired by children.

She and Aaron devised Jewish stories that featured members of their family with super powers. They would save each Jewish holiday from those who threatened to disrupt it.



"Believe it or not, I wrote the entire series of six books the year my son was in first grade, to read to his class as each holiday came up," said Abramson, who explained that there is a story for every holiday, beginning with Chanukah and ending with Shavuot. "My next project will be to turn the Purim story into a book," she said.

In the new book, Rabbi B.A. Mensch and her son Aaron are preparing for their Temple's Tu Bishvat seder in their kitchen. On the table, charging, is the father's latest invention, the 3D Turbo Time Warp 5772, a supercomputer that can go back to any time in history. If the screen is tapped three times, events in 3D pop up - but Aaron is warned to never tap the screen four times, lest something terrible happen. The family's talking alien cat Purr naps upon it while Aaron and Rabbi Mensch are upstairs, changing. And lo and behold, something (Tooty Fruity) pops out of the screen, running around the room creative havoc, turning down the heat and turning off the lights and the faucet. As Purr chases it, it hides inside a large bowl of raisins

the Mensches are bringing to the temple.

During the ride there, Rabbi Mensch eats Tooty Fruity by mistake, thinking it is a large raisin. It grabs onto her "tonsils" and yells about saving the environment. Aaron thinks it is his mother speaking. When it goes to her sinuses while they are at the Temple, she feels a lump on her forehead. The family realizes there is an alien presence around. The Rabbi zooms home as Rabbi Rocketpower to get Purr. She makes Aaron and Purr tiny in size so that they are able to fly up her nose and chase the alien around inside her. She is, at the same time, on her way to conduct the Tu Bishvat seder.

Later in the book, it is revealed that Tooty Fruity is the piece of fruit that Adam and Eve ate from the Garden of Eden. The father, while trying to get it back into his machine, ends up sending the entire congregation there by mistake. But ultimately, Rabbi Rocketpower saves the day!

The series brings together Abramson's heartfelt interests. "It was always my dream to be a writer," she said, recalling many hours spent writing stories as a child. "And one of my passions in the rabbinate is working with children," she added. "Once I had a child of my own, it became clear that I could have an even more special relationship with children by writing stories

which would make them laugh and teach them about Judaism at the same time."

For information, please visit <http://www.rabbirocketpower.com>

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Shalom Magazine is published 4 times a year and distributed free of charge. If your congregation or organization would like to receive it, please let us know. We welcome contributions that will cover the distribution cost.

Bar Mitzvah Expo



Toni and Donna from Keon Films



Linda from Showcase Live



Roche Bros.



Lisa from Top Hat Photo Booths

Event produced by Walter Perlman on Nov. 6 at Sheraton Needham. Among the vendors not pictured were Kappy's Liquor Store, Kings Dedham, It's Your Party and others.



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Chanukah Gelt vs. Gift

By Rabbi Moshe Y. Bleich
Wellesley Weston Chabad

The Hebrew word Chanukah shares the same root as chinuch, education. The occupying Greek forces were determined to force Hellenism upon the Jewish population, at the expense of the ideals and commandments of the holy Torah. Unfortunately, they were quite successful in their endeavor. After the Greeks were defeated, it was necessary to re-educate the Jews - to reintroduce a large part of the population to Torah values. Thus, the strong link between Chanukah and education.

Appropriately, during Chanukah it is customary to give gelt (money) to children, to teach them to increase their charitable giving and their good deeds, and to add to the festive holiday spirit.

This subtle form of "bribery" is an essential component of the educational process. Maimonides discusses the importance of using incentives and prizes until a child is old enough to independently understand the importance and beauty of the Torah and mitzvot.

There is also a deeper reason for this age-old custom:

In his record of the Chanukah events, Maimonides writes: "The Greeks laid their hands upon the possessions of Israel."

The Greeks invaded the possessions of Israel in the same spirit in which they defiled the oil in the Holy Temple. They did not destroy the oil; they defiled it. They did not rob the Jewish people; they attempted to infuse their possessions with Greek ideals - so that they would be used for egotistical and impure ends, rather than for holy pursuits.

Chanukah gelt celebrates the freedom and the mandate to channel material wealth toward spiritual ends.

Chanukah gelt can be given any time throughout Chanukah (aside from Shabbat). Some people participate in the admirable custom of gelt-giving each weeknight of Chanukah. At Chabad, it is customary to give gelt every night, but to hand out a heftier sum on the fourth or fifth night.

As far as giving gelt, as opposed to gifts, my teacher and mentor, the Chabad-Lubavitch Rebbe Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, once explained the concept of money vs. gifts. The gist of it was that a gift is a finished product, and only the recipient can use the gift. Money is not a finished product. One needs to do something with it for money to become useful. Further, money becomes relevant based on its use, for good, or the opposite. The point of "chinuch" education (as mentioned above, Chanukah comes from the word chinuch) is that we teach our children that what matters is what they do with what's given to them. Not to be simply a recipient but rather, to be doers.

Geni and I would love to invite the entire Jewish community to celebrate Chanukah with us on Wednesday night, Dec. 21, at the Wellesley Community Center, 219 Washington St. in Wellesley. There will be plenty of entertainment for adults as well as for children, including face painting, music, latkes, Chanukah gelt, and lots more.

For more information or to RSVP, please visit WWW.WellesleyWestonChabad.Org, email us at ChabadWellesley@Aol.com, or call 781-239-1076. Chag Somayach!

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Fringe causes, especially anti-Israel crusading, can hinder valuable support for the Occupy movement



By Susie Davidson

Fringe elements are diluting what public empathy there may be for the Occupy movement. I know - I've been in the thick of it.

As reported in the Nov. 11 Boston Globe, I, along with my fellow local poets Peter Desmond and Robyn Su Miller, have been operating a poetry reading series at the Dewey Square encampment. We began with a full week, and currently are holding it every Friday from noon to 1 p.m. It has been our hope that OccuPoetry would be a harmonious and vibrant exchange of spoken verse, lending some literary beauty and

keeping alive poetry's longtime legacy within protest movements.

That has largely been the case. But on Monday, Nov. 7, the main stage was not available, so we moved to the other performance area, Dewey Square, and held the reading without amplification. This was just after some members of Occupy Boston, who claimed to be anti-Zionist and not anti-Semitic, held a sit-in on Friday at the Israeli Embassy, following Israel's decision to intercept an aid flotilla on its way to Gaza. On that Monday, members of this contingent had staged a rally at the main stage and were virtually all over the encampment, shouting about Israel and Palestine.

During the poetry reading, a reader recited a poem sympathetic to Palestinians. I responded with one of mine, "Havdallah on Lake Winnepesaukee," about our own desperate struggles, hopes, and wishes for peace. I offered her some of the candy I bring to readings and said "let peace begin with us." We hugged. A success!

But afterwards, my boyfriend and I went to the main stage area, where we observed a young man wearing a yarmulke trying to hold a discussion about Israel's defense needs with several ringleaders of the pro-Palestinian event. We learned through his friend that he is a second-year student at Suffolk Law School, and he demonstrated a tremendous grasp of history, superb diplomatic skills and had the firsthand experience of having been an Israeli army soldier. A few of the men seemed to be amenable to hearing his answers to their charges and listened to his expert clarifications within the discussion, such as explaining the difference between Muslims and Islam. But unfortunately, he could, in the end, get nowhere amid their reticence coupled with the confrontational style and shrieking, mainly of anti-Israel rhetoric, among some of the others.

That Wednesday, I held a poetry reading of all veterans, and I picked up D-day veteran Irving Smolens of Melrose on my way. A Vietnam War-era veteran (who had not seen live combat) who shall go unnamed, along with other members of the invited Veterans for Peace group, had written me earlier in the week, asking if he could recite a poem about Gaza. I replied that it was really not appropriate to the program's theme, which was overtly about U.S. veterans and U.S. war involvements. He and other members of Veterans for Peace then accused me repeatedly of censorship, and so I simply did not include him in the reading list. The event was a great success and a remarkable opportunity to hear the poetic recollections of the 12 veterans who graced the stage. With five minutes to go, I made the mistake of reading the names of the last three readers.

When this man and his cohorts did not hear his name, they literally charged the stage. One actually wrenched the microphone out of my hand, yelling about my censorship, as they proceeded to take over the event. I grabbed Smolens and left, stopped on my way out by several attendees who, to their credit, felt terrible about what was happening. As pronouncements about Israel and shame about being a Jew (the content of his poem) filled the air, Smolens remarked to me that the application of the word "peace" in Veterans for Peace was rather a misuse of the term.

I myself have some criticisms of Israel and lean

toward J Street, but I do not single her out, and I will not tolerate anti-Israel hatred at events that I organize. As reported in the Globe as well that week, Abraham Foxman of the ADL stated at Monday night's event at Faneuil Hall that singling out Israel is, quite simply, anti-Semitism. I agree. Without also protesting, for example, the overwhelming poverty in Liberia, rapes in the Congo, the crushing of the Tamil Tigers by the Sri Lankan army, or the plight of the Armenians, of journalists in Russia or of cartoonists in Denmark, let alone the oppression of citizens occurring in Israel's neighboring Syria and Iran (as well as that levied against gays, minorities and women seeking rights in Gaza, for that matter), what these anti-Israel demonstrators are exhibiting, despite their statements to the contrary, is nothing but anti-Semitism.

And that is how the public will see it. As much as we can often feel targeted, the fact remains that anti-Semitism is not condoned by the general populace, and not even by those who sympathize with the Occupy movement. I'm an example of that. Although I am certain that most of the inhabitants of Dewey Square are not anti-Semitic and stick to the movement's main platform about economic disparity in the U.S., my support has gone down a notch, and I'm now constantly on the alert when I'm there.

Such vehement crusading for side causes that have nothing to do with the Occupy movement's stated mission will indeed taint, if not destroy whatever good it could accomplish in our society. And violence has no place anywhere, at any time.

Susie Davidson is the author of "I Refused to Die: Stories of Boston-Area Holocaust Survivors and Soldiers who Liberated the Concentration Camps of World War II" and the accompanying documentary film. Her articles are archived at www.SusieD.com.

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1st Light Brookline Reading

On Nov. 17 from 5-8 p.m., members of The Brookline Library Authors' Collaborative and invited Brookline authors read from their works at the Brookline Booksmith in Coolidge Corner, Brookline as part of the town's 1st Light Festival. The talented slate featured **Gary K. Wolf**, whose "Who Censored Roger Rabbit?" became the Academy Award-winning movie "Who Framed Roger Rabbit". Wolf spoke of his travels as a guest of the Russian space industry. **Lou Ureneck**, Professor of Journalism at Boston University, read from his acclaimed new book "Cabin: Two Brothers, a Dream, and Five Acres in Maine." **Beth Jones**, a Boston Globe journalist, WBUR commentator and a co-author of "Three Wishes: A True Story of Good Friends, Crushing Heartbreak and Astonishing Luck on our Way to Love and Motherhood" also read from her works, and **Larry Ruttman**, a town historian ("Voices of Brookline," "America's Jews and America's Game: Jewish Voices of American Baseball") talked about remarkable town residents and institutions.



Gary K. Wolf

Also on the bill were **Hon. Julian Houston** (ret.), an Associate Justice of the Superior Court of Massachusetts (ret.), who read from his civil-rights era book "New Boy." **Mark Lowenstein**, a fitness author ("Great Runs in Brookline and Vicinity") told the audience about his favorite, secret running places. **Sarah Smith**, a bestselling mystery author, read from her Agatha Award and Massachusetts Book Award winning book "The Other Side of Dark." **Linda Barnes**, a Boston Globe bestselling author and Sociology and Religion gave a dramatic reading. Professor; **Hillel Levine**, a Conflict resolution activist and the author of seminal books that include "The Death of an American Jewish Community: A Tragedy of Good Intentions" and "In Search of Sugihara: The Elusive Japanese Diplomat Who Risked his Life to Rescue 10,000 Jews from the Holocaust," read from an imagined letter he wrote to Sugihara. Regis College Theatre Dept. Chair Wendy Lement staged a theatrical performance with one of her students and was followed by **Patrick Gabridge**, a novelist and playwright, **Gabe Galambos**, a thriller and mystery novelist, and poetry by **Zvi A. Sesling**, a former Brookline selectman. **David Prerau**, a Daylight Saving Time expert recited funny anecdotes from his book on DST. **Chuck Goldstone**, a humorist who appears on the Jordan Rich Show on WBZ, entertained with a comedic talk; and **Susie Davidson**, journalist, poet and author, read from Brookline residents' stories in her book "I Refused to Die: Stories of Boston-Area Holocaust Survivors and Soldiers who Liberated the Concentration Camps of World War II."



Lou Ureneck



Hillel Levine

The Brookline Library Authors' Collaborative joins Brookline residents who have had at least one book published. Accomplishments include a Virtual Bookshelf of local works, display cases at the Public Library; a Brookline Writes! show on Brookline Cable Access TV; and a Yahoo! discussion group.

COMMUNITY NOTES & EVENTS

Events at Vilna Shul, Boston's Center for Jewish Culture 18 Philips St, Boston

Chanukah Lights at the Vilna Shul: A Musical Celebration Sunday, December 18, 3-5 p.m.

Featuring Young Artists from the Boston University School of Music performing Chanukah songs and other Jewish favorites: Katrina Galka, soprano; Meredith Kelly, soprano; Isaac Yager, tenor; Michelle Alexander, pianist; Chair: Elaine Kirshenbaum. Admission \$18 per person, \$36 per family.

Proceeds from this concert will be used to support The Vilna Shul. Validated parking: \$5. RSVP for reservations. For more information please call 617-523-2324, visit www.vilnashul.org or email info@vilnashul.org.

Upcoming Events at Temple Israel, Sharon

Misha & Friends - Music from Around the World

On Thurs., Dec. 15 at 7 p.m., Hazak's Chanukah Party will begin with the opening of "A Festival of Israeli Art" featuring original art from the Safrai Gallery in Jerusalem. The exhibit and sale will include 1500 works of art by 100 Israeli artists. This will be followed by a musical Chanukah celebration featuring the music of Misha & Friends. The music entertainment will include classical, Klezmer and popular music. Refreshments of potato and lakshen kugels for this party are being made by members of Hazak. There is no cost for this event.

Shirley Nigri Farber, Editor and Publisher of Shalom Magazine to Speak

On Sunday, Feb. 12, 2012 at 10 a.m., Shirley Nigri Farber, editor and publisher of Shalom Magazine will be the guest speaker at the Hazak breakfast held at Temple Israel, 125 Pond St., Sharon. Following a sumptuous breakfast, Farber will address the group about the Jews in her native country of Brazil. The cost for the breakfast is \$9 for Hazak members and \$12 for non-members.

Dr. Gary Hylander, Professor at Stonehill College

On Sun., Jan. 8 at 10 a.m., Dr. Gary Hylander, Professor of History at Stonehill College, will be the guest speaker at the Hazak breakfast held at Temple Israel, 125 Pond St., Sharon. Following a sumptuous breakfast, Hylander will speak on "Truman and the State of Israel." The cost for the breakfast is \$9 for Hazak members and \$12 for non-members.

For more information about Hazak and or the program, please contact Temple Israel at 781-784-3986, email: Hazakti@gmail.com, or visit the webpage at www.tisharon.org/Hazak.



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COMMUNITY NOTES & EVENTS

Israeli Art Comes to Sharon

Menachem Safrai, the grandson of the founder of the renowned Safrai Fine Art Gallery, established in Jerusalem in 1935, will bring Israeli art to Sharon for an exhibition and sale from Dec. 15-18 at Temple Israel, 125 Pond St. in Sharon.

Over 1,500 works, including original oil paintings, watercolors, lithographs and etchings by Israeli artists, will be available to view and purchase.

From the beginning of the 20th century, visual arts in Israel have displayed a creative orientation influenced by the encounter between East and West, as well as by the land itself and its development, the character of the cities, and stylistic trends from abroad. Local landscapes, Jewish and biblical themes, and Israeli history and society lie at the center of Israeli art and ensure its uniqueness.

The four-day event begins on Thurs. evening, Dec. 15, from 7-10 p.m., and features a special "Dizingoff in December" evening from 7-10 p.m. on Sat., Dec. 17. Other times for the exhibition and sale are from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 16, and from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 18, both days are free. Menachem Safrai will be on hand over all four days to answer questions about the Israeli artists and the Israeli art scene.

Contact tidizdec@gmail.com or visit www.tisharon.org for more information. Also visit www.safrai.com.

Men's Chanukah Mikveh Workshop at Mayyim Hayyim

"Men's Maccabee Mikveh," an experiential workshop for Jewish men, will take place on Sun., Dec. 18 from 2-5:30 p.m. at Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters Community Mikveh and Education Center, 1838 Washington St., Newton. The workshop was created by and will be led by local teacher and ba'al tefillah Reb Zisha (Scott) Tepper.

Participants will sing, laugh, and learn some traditions of mikveh. With Chanukah starting just 48 hours later, they will explore the theme of light and darkness, and reflect on the lights they want to kindle in their own lives. Then, participants will get into the water and support each other in brachot and kavvanot (blessings and intentions) for those lights, to commemorate re-dedications, or "just because."

Workshop leader Reb Zisha is the Religious Leader of United Brothers Synagogue in Bristol, Rhode Island. He is a volunteer Mikveh Guide and Mikveh Educator at Mayyim Hayyim. He holds a bachelor's degree in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies from Brandeis University, and an Ed.M. from Harvard University. He based the workshop on 40 years as a ba'al tefillah, 25 years as a technical training professional, personal mikveh experiences, and involvement in the Mayyim Hayyim Men's Initiative as well as other Jewish men's work.

"Diving Into Mikveh" is open to all Jewish men 18 years and older. The workshop fee is \$36. Please note that registration will be limited, and there will be no walk-in registrations.

For more information, and to sign up, please contact Reb Zisha directly at 617-721-7996 or RebZisha@gmail.com.

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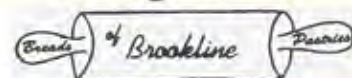
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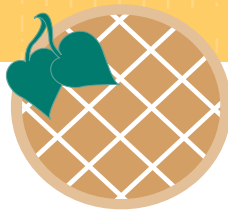
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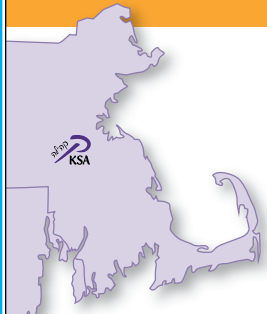
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