

A photograph of several bright red poppies with dark centers, growing in front of a light-colored stone wall. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others as buds. The background is a textured wall of light-colored stones.

FREE

Exclusive Articles

Community Events

List of Seders in Massachusetts

Middle East For Dummies

By Daniel Pomerantz

New Let's Kibbitz Column

By Susie Davidson

Shalom

Magazine

EDITION 13 - Passover/Spring 2012

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Gil Hoffman

Chief Political Correspondent and
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Passover Event Listings

Seder at The Boston Synagogue

The Boston Synagogue First Night Seder in Downtown will be led by Dr. David Fishman, professor of Modern Jewish History at JTS, on **Friday, April 6**. Services 6:30 p.m., fully catered kosher Seder dinner 7 p.m. Reservation with payment required by March 28. Price: \$55 Synagogue members, \$65 Non-Members, \$30 Children under 10. Students Young Pro's (20s & 30s): member pricing.

The Boston Synagogue is located at 55 Martha Rd. in Charles River Park, and is an unaffiliated, traditional egalitarian synagogue that offers a warm and friendly atmosphere. We welcome you wherever you might be on your Jewish journey - and across Jewish denominations.

For more information and Passover service times, visit www.bostonsynagogue.org or call 617-523-0453.



Seder in Malden

Agudas Achim-Ezrath Israel, 245 Bryant St., Malden will be holding a Passover Second Seder on **Saturday, April 7** at 6:30 p.m. Full-course, traditional seder dinner, Chicken or Vegetarian. Adults \$30/Children 12 and under \$10. Reservation must be in by March 30. For more info, please call Barbara @ 781-324-0108.

Passover at Martha's Vineyard

Saturday, April 7, 5:30 p.m. at Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center, 130 Center St., Vineyard Haven. Passover Seder \$40. For more information, contact 508-693-0745 or visit www.mvhc.us.

Temple Emanuel, Andover

Saturday, April 7, 6 p.m. Join Rabbi Goldstein and Cantorial Soloist Jodi Blankstein. This family Seder has become a tradition to which our families look forward. Have a wonderful Seder dinner with your family. Children will get to hunt for the Afikomen. Make this a family tradition at OUR house. Please return your reservation by March 30. Mail to: Temple Emanuel, 7 Haggetts Pond Road, Andover, MA 01810 Please make reservations for: Adult Non-Members @ \$60.00 per person. Children under 16 @ \$40.00 per person.

Seder at Brookline Chai Center

Join Boston's Community for Passover Seders with a friendly and warm family spirit. Enjoy as the story of Exodus comes alive through mystical meaning and Kabbalistic insights, all explained through humor and melody by Rabbi Mayshe Schwartz. Hebrew/English Haggadahs provided. Audience Participation!

- Savor a Gourmet Dinner; Hand baked "Shmurah" matzah from Israel; An array of wine.

Friday, April 6 - open to the entire community

Saturday, April 7 - exclusively for young adults.

The Brookline Chai Center is located at 105 St. Paul Street, Brookline. RSVP a must! Please visit: www.getchai.com/seder.

Passover in Fall River

Saturday, April 7, 5:30 p.m. Second Night Passover Seder. \$35 per person. RSVP by March 28. Temple Beth El, 385 High St, Fall River, MA 02720. Contact (508) 674-3529 or email: frtemplebethel@verizon.net.

Wellesley Weston Chabad

Wellesley Weston Chabad invites all to join our very own community Seders. This year's Seders will be in Wellesley on **Friday and Saturday evenings, April 6 and 7**. The Seder will be complete with traditional hand-made matzo from Israel, Ukraine and the U.S. The seders will include four brimming cups of wine, riveting readings from the Haggadah, enlightening Passover insights, and a savory, home-cooked festive meal.

Cost: \$40 per adult, \$20 per child, no charge for Students, family cap \$120. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. RSVP is a must, as seating is limited. Please call 781-239-1076 or e-mail chabadwellesley@aol.com.

Community Seder in Hingham

Congregation Sha'aray Shalom, 1112 Main Street, Hingham, MA 02043. Contact: 781-749-8103, www.shaaray.org or excdir@shaaray.org.

Saturday April 7, 5:30pm - Community Seder

Cost: Adult members \$26, children 12 and under \$13., children under 5 no charge. Cost Non-members: Adults- \$36, children 12 and under \$13. Cost of all meals include \$1 to Mazon - a Jewish Response to Hunger. RSVP deadline is Tuesday March 27, 2012.

Seder at the Temple Emmanuel Chelsea

It is time to celebrate freedom! Share a fabulous time with us as we interweave the colorful story of Exodus from Egypt with a delicious Kosher Dinner at a warm, participatory, child friendly Seder Dinner on **Saturday, April 7** at 6 p.m. Reserve a table for you and your family, or come by yourself and meet new people at Temple Emmanuel Chelsea at 60 Tudor st. Chelsea, MA. For reservations call office at 617-889-1736.

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

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EDITORIAL

Family Time



Pesach is that time of the Jewish calendar when we think about family and recall all the times in the past that we gathered around the Passover Seder.

When we think about the Jewish people around the world, we must keep in mind that not all Jews will have the opportunity to enjoy a Seder. Some do not live near their family, some have intermarried and lost their Jewish customs, and others just do not have the basic knowledge by which to prepare the Seder. Even kids who went to Jewish school or Hebrew school may turn out

to be adults who cannot lead a Seder. And of course, there are the ones that just do not care and see no point in remembering that we were once slaves in Egypt.

When I started *Shalom Magazine* in April, 2009, I had in mind reaching out to those who do not participate in the Seder, as well as those who are involved in every Jewish activity in town. I learned in school about the "fifth son," not the four that are present at the Seder, and to ask the questions for the one that is not even there. I used to hear the expression "unaffiliated" as referring to the Jews who are not members of any temple or organization. The ones who hardly get to know about Jewish events, the ones who you never see at gatherings. There are many reasons for a Jew to leave community life. But now, with the economic crisis, the cost of being a Jew is more than ever an impediment for many to participate. That is why for me, it was so important to have a free publication that could reach people, not only those at Jewish organizations. I thank all my advertisers and contributors, and hope that readers get a chance to thank them too for keeping this publication both free to the public and widely available.

I often hear people saying that they never learn about upcoming events, and do not want to pay for a Jewish publication or an event. Also, people say that they feel left out of the community once they are not in a position to donate. It is as if we were segregating our own. Most organizations have a dilemma; they are caught between the need to raise money and the desire to include more people in their activities.

I hope that this edition inspires you attend one of the many communal Seders in the area if you are not having one with your family. Even if you think that Judaism is only in your heart, I hope that you choose to participate in the community. That is what makes us one people. When four Jews are assassinated in France, we feel like one of our own family members died. When terrorists attack Israel, or even when people attack Israel with words, we feel the pain. That is because it is all about family, the Jewish people - a large and united family.

Happy Passover - *Pesach Kosher VeSameach!*

Shirley Nigri Farber - Editor

Cover: Matzot and Kalaniyot (the anemone flowers that pop up all over Israel in the early Spring, right before Pessach).

Photo by Steve Schuster, taken late March in Tzfat, Israel.

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BIG SPRING FORWARD BAR NIGHT



photos: Yoni Samlan

On March 20, approximately 125 young adults, consisting of Boston-area Israelis and Americans, attended Boston Israel Group (BIG)'s "BIG Spring Forward Bar Night." Contemporary jazz music for the evening was provided by Water Esc, a local group with several Israeli musicians.



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The Chai Center's Cirque Du Purim



Over 350 young adults came to celebrate at The Brookline Chai Center's Cirque Du Purim

photos: Nir Landau



On the right is host Rabbi Mayshe Schwartz

For more photos visit: www.getchai.com



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Hazak

Temple Israel, Sharon

More than 75 people participated at a Feb. 12 Sunday brunch organized by Hazak at Temple Israel in Sharon: Hazak, the Conservative Movement's organization for 55+ Jews, presented Shirley Nigri Farber, who spoke about the Jewish community in her native country of Brazil. She discussed the origin of Brazilian Jews and various waves of immigration, Jewish education and community organizations, and the role of Jewish community, as well as Zionism among Brazilian Jews, assimilation, and relationships with the rest of the Brazilian community. Farber's slide show projected photos of Brazil and scenes from her career as a reporter for the JTA and other media, which included interviews with Elie Wiesel, Lea Rabin and Shimon Peres. Audience members asked questions about subjects including anti-Semitism, Brazilian ties to Iran, and the Brazilian economy. (And yes, one was asked her if she had gone to school with Gisele Bundchen.) Farber moved to Massachusetts from Rio de Janeiro ten years ago, after marrying Scott Farber, a Randolph native. The couple met at the Wailing Wall - no lie! Farber also publishes *Bate Papo* ("chit chat"), a monthly magazine for the Portuguese speaking community, and in 2009 she launched the quarterly *Shalom Magazine*. Look for Farber to speak on the same topics soon at Temple Ahavat Torah in Stoughton.



Scott and Shirley Farber, Hadassah organizer Sylvia Selig and Hazak President Gloria Rose

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Striar Hebrew Academy, Sharon

Toddler Tuesdays at Striar Hebrew Academy's Early Learning Center welcomes toddlers and their parents into the classroom to play, sing, create and learn. Beginning with open play time, toddlers can choose to play in the housekeeping corner, dress up, look at books, or create a piece of art. As our first session focused on Passover and spring, children played with dough, made matzah people, and created flowers in "pots." *Morahs* Pam and Leisa led the group in *ma'agal* (circle time), re-telling the story of the Jews as slaves in Egypt, and Pharaoh finally letting them go. Of course, there is always time for a snack, and time for parents to schmooze with other parents. Please join us at the next Toddler Tuesdays on April 24 and May 22.



Hands-on learning at SHAS
After learning about the parts of the mishkan (sanctuary) in their study of parashat ha-shavua (the weekly Torah portion), SHAS kindergarten students crafted the special vessels using recycled materials. Together with the Pre-K class, they built a model of the mishkan out of blocks, cloth and small figurines. When it was completed, all of the early childhood classes were invited to view the building model. Acting as guides, the kindergarten students pointed out the parts they had made and taught the younger students about the mishkan and its vessels. "Hands-on projects bring Torah concepts to life," says teacher Debbie Ellenbogen, who has served on staff at SHAS for 15 years. "When children express what they learn through art or dramatic play, it increases their understanding of the world they live in and makes Torah learning relevant."



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Trip to New York

Shirley Nigri Farber

When I moved to the Boston area I thought I would be able to visit New York City very often, since we are only about four hours away. Either by car or by bus (which now costs less than \$20 each way), there is no excuse to miss the New York cultural life. But again, how many times have you thought about going to New York for a few days, just to see a Broadway show, visit an exhibition at one of the Museums or stroll alongside the stores at Fifth Avenue? How many times was the idea of enjoying Manhattan swept away by the desire to save money and instead, stay at one of your friends and relatives' homes?

It has happened to me and probably to you too. We want to visit friends and family, we want to enjoy Manhattan. It just happens that it is hard to do both, because most of our friends and family who can afford to spare a room for guests do not live in the heart of Manhattan. With that in mind, when I wanted to take my son to see, for the first time, the Dinosaurs at the Museum of Natural History (which he saw at the Night at the Museum movie) and the famous painting at the Metropolitan, my husband Scott and I decided that we simply had to stay in Manhattan. We had only a few days, so we needed to make the most of our time in New York.

We discovered the HK Hotels chain (www.HKhotels.com) that had four locations in the Times Square area: Casablanca, Elysée, Library and Giraffe. Each one of them had a unique characteristic, a great location, and friendly services. We varied our visit in New York by staying at three of them! We chose The Library, Casablanca, and Elysée (see box).

To our surprise, we learned that the president of the hotel chain is Henry Kallan, a Jewish immigrant from the former Czechoslovakia who moved to the U.S. in 1968 at the age of 21, and, with no knowledge of English, started his career in the hotel industry as a busboy. Working his way through the hotel business, he became the youngest general manager in New York City at the Gotham Hotel (currently the Peninsula), at the age of 27. Not only that, but Henry's mother, Magdalena Szollos Kallan, is an Auschwitz survivor. That alone explains the Chanukyah displayed at Rick's Café at the Casablanca Hotel.

Whenever I go away with my family, we think about getting some interesting information for our readers. We also make an effort to find something Jewish, and to meet Jewish people. At a small, boutique style hotel, you get a chance to relax and meet new people from all over the world. Each of these four Manhattan hotels offers a vast array of complimentary amenities that include 24-hour complimentary refreshments, including a Continental breakfast buffet, and a wine and cheese reception each weeknight from 5-8 p.m.

The comfortable and elegant ambience of each of the hotels' restaurants lends a great way to get to know other guests. Also, taking into consideration that while in New York all we wanted to do was walk around the busy streets of the Times Square area, the fact that the hotels are so close to everything makes them an oasis of peace in the middle of a hectic city.

No other place has as many kosher restaurants as New York, and of course, they are also great places to meet other Jewish people. I lived in New York about 20 years ago, and I went to various restaurants - but I could not remember their names or location. I tried searching on Google, but could not find the same ones that I knew. Funny that when you see something on the Web it is hard to know exactly what kind of place it is. That is why I still trust a friend's recommendation - a real friend - not one that you know only on Facebook. If you go only by what you see on a website, you might dress up for an elegant evening and end up at a take-out restaurant, eating a messy sandwich.

To begin, I brought my family to Le Marais, a place that I knew for many years. Located at 46th Street in Times Square, the French kosher steak house is an elegant place where you can bring your non-kosher friends and not be embarrassed. At Le Marais, I was sitting next to a couple speaking Spanish, so we started to chat. They said they were from Venezuela and we



Times Square



Breakfast at HKhotels



The Metropolitan Museum of Art

talked about the never-ending and recent wave of anti-Semitism, and the large number of Jews from Venezuela that has recently moved to Miami. They said that the situation is bad for Jews there, and I asked about the new Jewish candidate for president. To this, they said that he ran before, will try again and they added that he has full support of the community. I found this very interesting (and a great example of the kind of first-hand information that you can get while traveling and mingling with new people).

Another dining spot that I knew from years ago is EstiHana, a Chinese/Japanese kosher restaurant, which has great food and nice ambience. We also went to Mr. Broadway and had excellent food, although it was very busy during lunch hours. Also on 46th Street, from the same owners of Le Marais, there is the hip and chic ClubHouse Café, a venue that has been attracting young meat lovers since 2007.

I'm sure there are plenty of other great restaurants, but who has time to search while you are trying to enjoy your trip? Unless I can use a phone GPS that can find me the nearest kosher restaurant while I'm walking on 5th Avenue, there is no point in Googling on a phone to see if the place is nearby.

We had the time to visit the two Museums and the New York Public Library exhibition. I also got to spend the day with a longtime friend from Brazil who was vacationing with her family in New York. It was her birthday, so it was a wonderful chance to celebrate. We also got a chance to dine with my nephew, who attends a yeshiva in Brooklyn, and on our last day, we shopped at Borough Park in Brooklyn. That was the closest we got to feeling that we were in Israel! My son loved the idea of walking around and knowing that everybody was Jewish. It seemed that most people were shopping for Purim.

We had a great time in New York, enjoying the mild winter, and we were able to meet friends and family without leaving the Times Square area. Also, the fact that we stayed in small hotels was very convenient and secure, as we were traveling with our 7-year-old son. We could spend the whole afternoon walking around, then stop at the hotel to relax, grab a snack (did I mention that the cookies, coffee, wine and cheese were free?), get our energy back and go out again to enjoy the "City that Never Sleeps" by night. The only thing better than being in the heart of the busiest place on Earth is to see everything that is happening, but still enjoy a quiet night at a hotel with personalized service that makes you feel like a real VIP.



Rick's Café at Casablanca Hotel

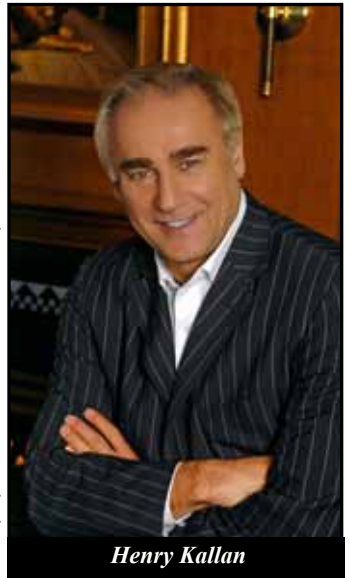
All four HKhotels were recently awarded Certificates of Excellence from Trip Advisor.com, along with other awards.

The Library (www.libraryhotel.com) is a modern and elegant hotel located at Madison Avenue at 41st Street. Each of the ten guestroom floors is dedicated to one of the ten major categories of the Dewey Decimal System. The Library was selected as Fodor's Choice Gold Award 2010 winner in the Most Romantic Hotels category.

The Hotel Giraffe (www.hotelgiraffe.com) opened in late 1999 with 73 units, one third of which are suites. The hotel's design, reflecting the style and grace of the European Modern period of the 20's and 30's, has earned over five awards for architecture and design.

The jewel-like Casablanca Hotel (www.casablancahotel.com) opened in 1997 with only 48 units, and offers an oasis of hospitality just off world-famous and busy Times Square. Kallan set the Casablanca in an exotic, yet cozy Moroccan theme within a family townhouse ambience. The Casablanca features a gracious living room for the guests on the second floor called Rick's Café.

The Hotel Elysée (www.elyseehotel.com) on 54th Street between Madison and Park Avenues, and home of the famous Monkey Bar, was renovated and reopened in 1992 as a luxury boutique hotel with French Country décor. In 2003, Henry Kallan also opened the Aria Hotel in Prague, the first world-class luxury boutique hotel in Mala Strana, the Little Quarter. Designed by Italian architect Rocco Magnoli, the Aria was sold in March of 2005. Kallan will open his next hotel in Canada.



Henry Kallan

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Rabbi Rocketpower and the Half-Baked Matzah Mystery

Excerpted from: Rabbi Rocketpower and the Half-Baked Matzah Mystery - A Particularly Peculiar Passover by Rabbi Susan Abramson. Illustrations by Ariel DiOrio

It was a really long time ago... in Egypt. The Israelites were slaves. God sent a whole bunch of plagues so Pharaoh would let them go.

Finally Pharaoh told the Israelites to get lost. The Israelites left so quickly that they couldn't wait for their bread to rise. They only had time to bake flat matzah.

By the time the Israelites got to the Red Sea, the children were sick and tired of eating *matzah* and had a matzah meltdown. Some tried to wear it like a hat. Others threw them like Frisbees. Some stomped on them so they looked just like the sand. Some crumbled them up and threw them in the air so it looked like it was raining *matzah*.

Suddenly Pharaoh and his army showed up. Moses held up his rod. The Red Sea split and the Israelites ran to safety... leaving one huge matzah mess.

Pharaoh was so angry that he spit into the matzah. Then he rode after the Israelites, which turned out not to be such a good idea.

The Israelites had a huge party when they made it to the desert on the other side (until they realized they were in a desert and didn't exactly know what to do next).

Every year the Mensch family has a seder to celebrate how their ancestors got free from Pharaoh.

Rabbi Beatrice A. Mensch (B.A. Mensch for short) is not only a rabbi at a local temple, but can turn into the fearless Rabbi Rocketpower. She shouts "Oy vay, up, up and away!" when she flies off to save the day. Dad is a brilliant computer scientist. Their son Aaron is a super-boy-in training. He is the first to spot trouble and help his mother. Their cat Purr is really an alien from the planet PIA, which stands for "Pain In the Asteroid." She is usually annoyed by everything.

It is the first night of Passover. The Mensch family is preparing for their seder. They are excited that their friends Martin, Aviva, Kailee and Talia will be joining them for the first time.

But as they get ready, strange things keep happening with the

matzah. It honks Purr on the nose when she sticks her head into an open matzah box. Aaron's matzah ball disappears out of his soup. *Matzah* crumbs are morphing into cars, whistles, spaceships and even cats!

You won't believe what happens when the Mensch family and their friends sit down for their seder.

Chapter 5 – The Crumbiest Seder Ever

Rabbi Mensch began, "It's so great to have you all here to celebrate our ancestors' freedom from slavery in Egypt.

"I'm really thrilled about this new haggadah because it tells the story of the Israelites' journey from slavery to freedom so beautifully."

Everybody picked up their *haggadot*. "Mom, my book is full of crumbs," Aaron complained, as *matzah* crumbs fell out of his book.

"Where did you get these from, a matzah factory?" Dad kidded, as crumbs fell out of his book too.

Everyone laughed as they shook the crumbs out of their books. "Let's just turn to page one and sing the order of the seder," Rabbi Mensch suggested, shaking her head.

But when they opened their books to the first page, all they saw were the words

This crumbly seder is out of order!
"What?" Dad laughed. "I know. You got these books from a joke shop. I thought the seder was supposed to be serious."

"Let's just turn to Kadesh on page two, to thank G-d for freeing the Jews from Egypt." Rabbi Mensch sighed. She stood up and read out loud, "Today we remember how poor Pharaoh was unfairly forced *tolettheJewsleaveEgypt*."

"Huh?" exclaimed the others, looking at Rabbi Mensch. "How come some of the words are scrunched together?" asked Martin.

"I know this is a new way of telling the story, but don't you think it's being a little too nice to Pharaoh?" asked Aaron.

"Someone must have typed the words wrong," Rabbi Mensch grumbled.

Purr tried so hard to keep from laughing that she snorted. Rabbi Mensch frowned at her and continued, "Aviva, you have

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the honor of lighting the holiday candles. The blessing is on page three.”

Aviva stood up, lit the candles, and read, “We praise you, Pharaoh. You should be the king of the universe. *Wewanttobeyourslaves.*”

“What?” everyone shouted.

“There must have been some problem at the printers,” moaned Rabbi Mensch. “Let’s just turn to page four to recite the *Kiddush*, the blessing over the first cup of wine. Martin, would you lead us, please?”

Everyone filled their cups with wine and stood up to recite the blessing.

Martin raised his cup and read, “We bless you, Pharaoh. You are *thecrunchiestdudeever.*”

“How come I can’t understand some of the words you’re saying?” asked Kailee, getting frustrated. “What language is it supposed to be?”

“Is it my imagination or is this wine a little crunchy?” asked Dad, making a face after he took a sip from his *kiddush* cup.

“Mom, there’s only one question on the page where there are supposed to be four,” Aaron reported. “And it looks like it’s all one really, really long word, ‘*Whydon’tyouforgetaboutthissederandgobacktoEgypt?*’ I can’t figure out what it means.”

Purr jumped off her chair and ran down to the basement so no one could hear her laugh.

“Look!” shouted Kailee, who was just learning how to read. “On this page there’s a picture of four children. I remember that story. It’s about how they all know Passover in different ways. But here there are four smiling children wearing matzah hats and waving on a pyramid. There’s some long word over their heads that I can’t figure out, ‘*comeondowntheweather’sfine.*’”

“What kind of ten plagues are these?” asked Dad, turning to the middle of the book. “The plagues were supposed to be so bad that they made Pharaoh change his mind and let the Jews go free. But these are called *The Top Ten Reasons WhyWeShouldMoveBackToEgypt.*”

“The first plague was supposed to be when the rivers turned to blood. But here it says the rivers are like *yummystrawber-rymilk*. The second one was supposed to be frogs, not *chocolatecoveredmatzahfrogs*.”

“The third was supposed to be people covered with lice, not *peoplecoveredwith-matzahballs*. The fourth was supposed to be wild beasts, not *dancingkittensandpuppies*. The fifth was supposed to be cattle disease, not *cowsplayingcatchwithamat-zahball...*”

“Enough!” cried Rabbi Mensch. She turned to the last page. Instead of saying, “Next year in Jerusalem,” it read, “Matzah matter with you people? This year *youshouldallgobacktoEgyptandbePharaoh’sslaves!*”

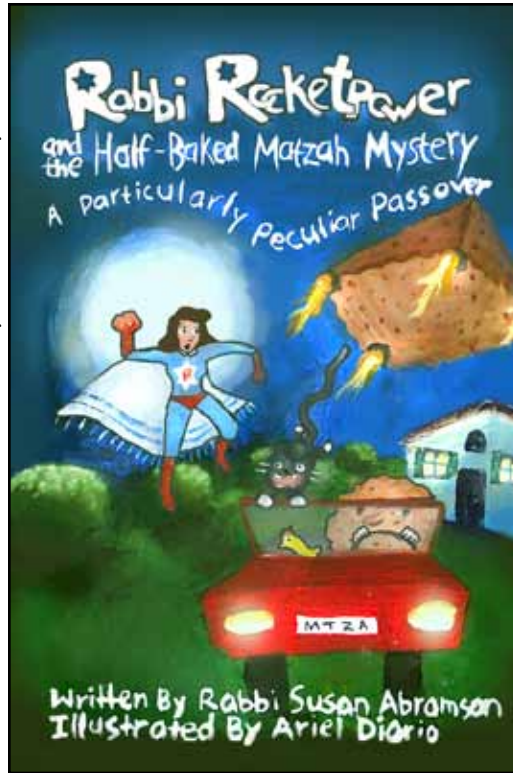
“I’m sorry. This is the worst *haggadah* I’ve ever seen,” she apologized, shaking her head.

What happened to the words? Why are some all scrunched up? Will Rabbi Rocketpower and her family be able to fix the *haggadah* and save the day? Or will her family and all her guests end up back as slaves in Egypt?!

Why is this *matzah* different from all other *matzah*? Read the book and find out!

Available at the Israel Book Shop, Brookline, MA, Amazon.com, and can now be purchased directly by contacting sales@rabbirocketpower.com. The perfect Afikoman present. \$11.95.

Rabbi Abramson is the rabbi at Temple Shalom Emeth, Burlington, MA.



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Jewish Vocational Services Event

Catch the Career Express took place on Wednesday, February 15 at Temple Sinai of Sharon. During the evening, Career Moves and other career experts offered advice and inspiration on multi-topic career areas that are most critical to the job search.



Geni Bleich and Lauren Grinberg



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Governor Patrick Visits JVS Transitions to Work Program

Governor Deval Patrick recently toured JVS' Transitions to Work, a program that expands employment opportunities for young Jewish adults with disabilities by developing strong partnerships with area employers. The Governor applauded the program's unique employer-directed approach which ensures that training is relevant to actual jobs currently available at area employers, greatly increasing the likelihood of placement.

"Programs such as Transitions to Work empower our workforce while supplying employers with skilled, dedicated workers prepared to contribute to the Massachusetts economy," he said. "I am grateful to the collaborators for creating such an innovative program that will strengthen our workforce and give us tools to compete in the global marketplace."

Launched in collaboration with the Ruderman Family Foundation, Combined Jewish Philanthropies, and Hebrew SeniorLife, Transitions enables candidates to participate in job skill training at employer sites, leading to internships and work experiences that increase employment opportunities. By bringing participants to the employer site, the program shows employers the advantages of hiring a diverse workforce and understanding the abilities that these individuals possess.

For more information about Transitions, visit www.jvs-boston.org or contact Program Director Madeline Wenzel at 617-399-3241 or mwenzel@jvs-boston.org.

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LEAP (Linking Employment and Passion) is a career development program for Taglit-Birthright alumnae aged 22-26 who want to improve their professional prospects in today's challenging economy. Participants will work closely with experienced career coaches from Jewish Vocational Service (JVS) and have opportunities to network with leaders in their chosen field.

Program meets Tuesday evenings from April 17 through May 22 at Combined Jewish Philanthropies in Boston. Space is limited. Sign up today at <http://tinyurl.com/LEAPapp2012>.

This program is supported in part by a Young Adult Community Grant from Combined Jewish Philanthropies.

About Jewish Vocational Service (JVS): Our mission is to empower individuals from diverse communities to find employment, build careers, and partner with employers to hire, develop, and retain productive workforces.



A Transitions participant gives Governor Patrick a tour of his work space



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MIRA Coalition Executive Director Eva A. Millona with Assistant Attorney General Andrew Rainer

ADL's 5th Annual "Nation of Immigrants" Community Seder

Nearly 400 people participated in the Anti-Defamation League's 5th Annual "Nation of Immigrants" Community Seder on March 11 at UMass Boston's Campus Center Ballroom. The event united diverse peoples throughout Massachusetts and celebrated ethnic groups that strengthen our shared community. This Seder built alliances among immigrant populations and deepened their relationship with ADL. Led by ADL Board Member Rabbi Elaine Zecher, the Seder featured a "Lion Dance" performance by Gund Kwa, an all-women Chinese dance troupe.

The Four Questions (*Ma Nishtanah*) were read in 10 languages, the presenters included Shirley Farber of *Shalom Magazine* (Portuguese and French); Consul General of Germany to the New England States Friedrich Löhner (German); and Deputy Consul for Israel to New England Ronit Nudelman Pearl (Hebrew). Cardinal Sean O'Malley, Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, US Attorney Carmen Ortiz, the Consuls General of Ecuador, Germany and Israel, and the Vice Consuls of Haiti and Israel participated, and State Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz, City Councilor Michael Ross, and Greater Boston Food Bank President Catherine D'Amato served as co-chairs.

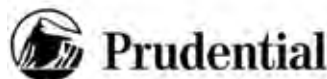
The 5th Annual "Nation of Immigrants" Seder was made possible by the generosity of Joanne and Paul Egerman and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. This was the first time the event had a major media partner, as WCVB-TV Channel 5 (an ABC affiliate) served as an official sponsor.

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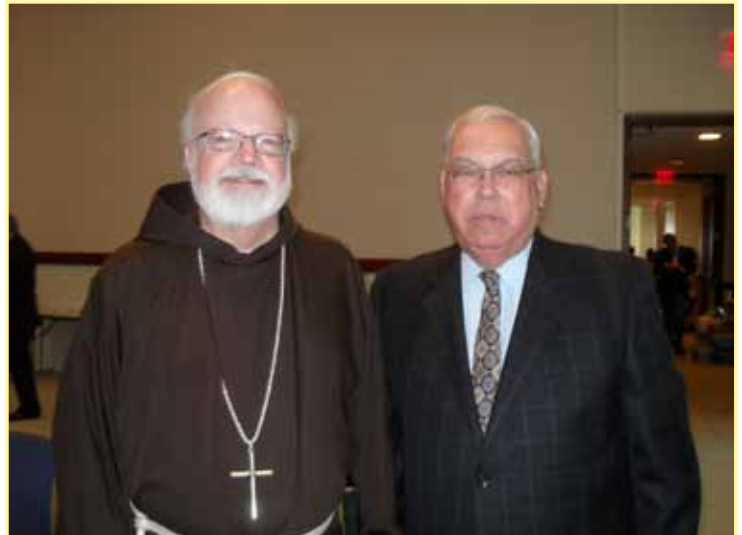
*The Seder was led by ADL Board Member
Rabbi Elaine Zecher*



*City Councilor Michael Ross and
Brandeis University President Fred Lawrence*



Guests shared the Jewish tradition



Cardinal Sean O'Malley and Mayor Thomas Menino



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Bubbe Receives Award



Shalom contributor Bubbe was honored at a Jan. 18 book event at Congregation B'nai Israel in Woonsocket, R.I. Her 2011 book, "Feed Me Bubbe: Recipes and Wisdom from America's Favorite Online Grandmother," won Kosher.com's Best New Kosher Cookbook of 2011 award. The first-time annual awards were voted on by their online community and the public. Categories also included Best Kosher Restaurant, Best Kosher Chef, Best New Kosher Cookbook, Best New Kosher Product, Best Passover Resort, Best Kosher Catering Company, Best Kosher B&B/Hotel, Best Kosher Blog, Best Kosher Supermarket, and Best Kosher Winery.

The book previously won the Mom's Choice GOLD Award honoring excellence in family-friendly media. Bubbe has also been featured on ABC World News and in PBS' Frontline's TV/Web documentary "Digital Nation: Life on The Virtual Frontier." Her show, "Feed Me Bubbe," can now be seen on Mondays at 9 p.m. on Comcast's JLTW.

"I never really intended to make an expansive network from Bubbe," said grandson Avrom Honig, who has spearheaded and orchestrated his Bubbe's online and literary career. "It was just supposed to be part of a video resume to use in Hollywood to get me a job, so that I could work on whatever productions came my way." Little did he know where it would all lead. "It's funny, you hear the expression from Disney, 'it all started with a mouse,'" he said. "In our case, it all started with a Bubbe!"

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The Music Man of Terezin: the Story of Rafael Schaechter As Remembered by Edgar Krasa To Be Released on April 19



Rafael Schaechter was a composer, conductor and pianist who staged musical productions with the inmates at Terezin, a unique concentration camp where the Nazis imprisoned many of Eastern Europe's most talented artists and musicians. Under starvation conditions, they continued to create works, and the camp became a façade, a cultural showcase promoted by the Nazis to convey a false reality of how well they treated the Jews.

This new book by Susie Davidson is based on the recollections of Holocaust survivor Edgar Krasa of Newton, Mass., who was a member of Schaechter's choruses. Schaechter, whom Krasa refers to as "a psychologist without a degree," was able to uplift the spirits of the doomed Terezin prisoners by teaching and involving them in various musical productions. He is best known for staging 15 performances of Verdi's Requiem at Terezin, with shrinking casts each time due to deportations. It was secretly a defiant act, produced under great risk. By singing the Requiem's verses about the final judgment day to the Nazis, the prisoners were able to denounce their captors. When Schaechter was asked to stage a performance for the Nazis, their invited Nazi guests, and a contingent from the Red Cross, the head of the Council of Elders advised against it, because if the Nazis learned the secret about the lyrics, Schaechter could be hung, and the prisoners could all be deported. He persisted, however, and after telling the singers about this risk, they unanimously agreed to continue with the production. It was their final, successful act of defiance. Shortly thereafter, Rafael Schaechter was deported to Auschwitz, where he perished.

The author: Susie Davidson is a poet, journalist, author, and filmmaker who writes regularly for the various Jewish media outlets. She is the Coordinator of the Boston chapter of The Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life and the Brookline (Mass.) Library Authors' Collaborative.

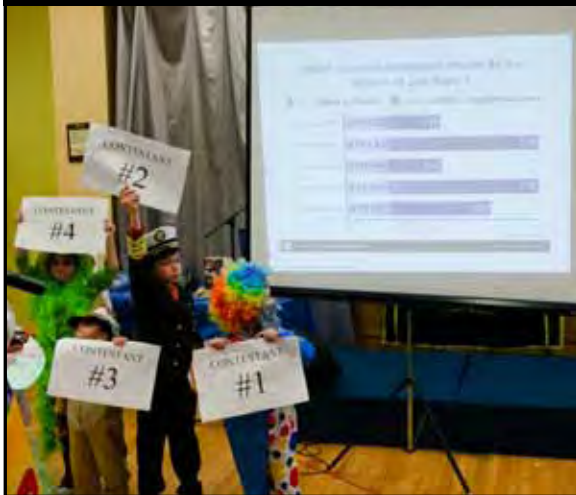
The illustrator: Fay Grajower, a daughter of Holocaust survivors, studied at The School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and holds an M.A. in Studio Art from New York University. Her work has been exhibited at the Auschwitz Jewish Museum in Oswiecim, and in Poland at the Biblioteka Slaska in Katowice and the Czestochowa Museum.

The author is available for Yom HaShoah events and book readings (no charge to synagogues). For more information contact: SusieDavidsonJournalist@gmail.com or visit www.SusieD.com.



Shaloh House of Boston

All photos by Nir Landau 617-838-9883




With hundreds in attendance, Shaloh House of Boston provided a stunning Purim event for all ages to remember for years to come. With simultaneous programs held for children and adults, parents were able to enjoy a gourmet catered Purim feast and live concert while children also feasted and participated in several engaging Purim-themed activities. The children's program included a carnival featuring Hamantash decorating, face painting, and games, followed by a juggling and balancing show. Meanwhile, adults dined on fine wine, salads, and fish delicacies catered by Shaloh House's own in-house catering, accompanied by a live concert featuring singer Pinchus Babrovsky.

The event concluded with the annual Purim Masquerade, as children competed for the top three winners. Winners were chosen by anyone who owned a cell phone with the ability to text the selection of their

choice, which was automatically displayed on a large screen before contestants.





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An Exciting Time

Avrom and I want to express our thanks to so many of our fans and viewers who have helped with suggestions for our cookbook "Feed Me Bubbe." We have won two great awards, "Mom's Choice Awards Gold Recipient," and "Jamie Geller's JoyofKosher.com's Best Kosher Cookbook of 2011." It is hard for me to describe the first time that I walked into a Barnes and Noble Bookstore and saw our book on the shelf.

I hope that the stories and the recipes will help encourage you to cook the basics as well as the traditional, holiday and area recipes. Do not give up cooking at home. You will develop your taste buds and eventually your own style of cooking. It is not difficult, and does not take many hours of cooking, to make nourishing and healthy, home-cooked meals for ourselves and our families.

Please also take advantage of the blank pages at the back of our cookbook to record your family's favorite recipes so that you will always have them, along with your memories. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy Passover, and may you continue your family traditions for generations to come.

Es Gezunte Hait! Enjoy!

Bubbe
www.feedmebubbe.com - 646-402-5231
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Bubbe is a multi award-winning author. She has been featured in the Wall Street Journal, ABC World News, and the Boston Globe. Her show can be seen online or on JLTV Comcast Channel 196 in Boston. You can purchase her book at any Barnes & Noble Bookstore or at www.bubbebook.com. Used with permission from Chalutz Productions.

Mixed Dried Fruit Compote

(Pareve)



My mother served this dessert during the winter and spring months, as fresh fruit was not easily available. It is a good dessert, especially after a Passover meal. Serve cold. 6 to 8 servings.

- 16 ounces (or 2 packed cups) of dried fruit - for example, a combination of dried apricots, peaches, pears, apples, prunes, and raisins)
- 2 1/2 cups water
- 1/4 cup honey
- 2 tbs. fresh lemon juice
- 1/8 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/8 tsp. ginger (optional)

Place dried fruit into a medium saucepan with water. Bring to a boil. Cover and simmer on low heat. Cook just until fruit is slightly soft, about 10 to 15 minutes. Remove fruit to a bowl. Add honey, lemon juice, cinnamon, and ginger to the liquid in the saucepan, and stir. Bring to a boil, and simmer about 10 minutes for a light syrup. Pour the syrup over the fruit. Cool and refrigerate for 1 to 2 days so that the syrup will thicken and the fruit will absorb some of the syrup.

If you prefer, add a bit more lemon juice to taste. Stir gently. Serve cold in dessert cups or small saucers. Will keep in refrigerator for several days.



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Happy Passover

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ASK BUBBE

QUESTION:

After hearing so much about being careful about what I eat, what do you think I should watch out for most in foods?

ANSWER:

Today there are so many varieties of foods, in every category. The largest culprits are salt, fat, and sugar. Once you have cut down on the above, your taste buds will automatically adjust. If you eat something with salt, fat, or sugar, you will immediately notice the strong difference. Start while you are young and healthy. Make a habit of reading the nutrition facts on all packaged and canned food products. All low-fat dairy products, for example, have less fat, but more salt. So perhaps it is better to compromise and have a little fat and less salt. With bread and rolls, use less salt, and in pastries, try to do without frosting. You will have to decide how to best balance the ingredients when cooking. Use low-sodium boullion cubes in soups and stews and use salt-free spiced blends to enhance the flavors. When eating in restaurants, ask them to prepare your foods with no salt or sugar added.



Stuffed Matzo Meal Latkes

(pancakes) (Pareve)

A great way to get the Passover morning started!

Makes 4 servings

- 3 large eggs, separated
- 1/2 cup matzo meal
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup water
- vegetable oil for frying
- 7 to 10 tsp jam or jelly (I prefer cherry preserves, but you can choose the jam of your choice)

Whisk the egg yolks in a bowl until they are pale yellow. In a large bowl, stir together the matzo meal, salt and water. Add the beaten egg yolks and stir the mixture until well blended.

In another bowl, beat the egg whites with a mixer until they hold stiff peaks. Fold egg whites into matzo meal mixture with a rubber spatula or large wooden spoon until blended. Heat a large frying pan on medium, and carefully add 1/4 inch of vegetable oil. Drop tablespoons of batter into the hot oil and flatten them with the back of a spoon. Carefully place 1 tsp. of jam or jelly in the center of each latke and then top the latke with a little bit more batter.

Fry the latkes for 4 minutes until they are golden, flip the latkes over carefully, and fry for another 3 minutes. Add more vegetable oil if needed. Serve latkes hot. Can be made beforehand and be reheated in a 400 degree pre-heated oven for 2 to 3 minutes, to make them hot and a little crispy around the edges.

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Middle East for Dummies

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Gaza City

By Daniel Pomerantz

Well, not dummies, but if you think of yourself as a “beginner,” or if you just want to have a handy reference, then you may enjoy this brief overview of some of the concepts and players in the Middle East. Here are a few of the topics that come up most frequently in the daily news:

Gaza:

Gaza was previously a part of Egypt, until Egypt used this area to stage a massive attack on Israel in 1967. Israel defended herself against the attack and pushed Egypt back beyond the Sinai Peninsula. In 1979, Israel signed a peace treaty that returned the Sinai to Egypt, but left Gaza as a part of Israel. From 1967 to 2005, Gaza was home to both Palestinians and Jews, but in 2005 Israel (under the leadership of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon) decided to unilaterally withdraw from Gaza even though no peace treaty had yet been signed. Israel’s withdrawal removed Gaza’s entire Jewish population and left Gaza entirely under control

of Palestinian government. Israeli residents had left behind buildings, schools, roads, farms, and a large number of greenhouses, most of which the local Palestinian leadership either had destroyed or converted to military facilities.

The Iranian-funded terror group Hamas (see section on Hamas) took control of Gaza in a 2007 street war, and since that time has waged an active war against nearby civilian towns on the Israeli side of the border. In an effort to prevent the import of highly sophisticated missile technology from Iran into Gaza, Israel and Egypt have mounted a land and naval blockade. However, this blockade does not prevent the flow of humanitarian aid: Israel, in coordination with the International Red Cross, imports roughly 6 million tons of food and medical supplies into Gaza each year. This comes to approximately four tons of humanitarian aid per person each year. Israel also provides much of Gaza’s water and electricity, and frequently provides free medical care for Gaza residents in Israeli hospitals. A number of privately organized “flotillas” (caravans of boats) have sailed to Gaza as a demonstration against what protesters call a “humanitarian crisis.” Yet despite this fiery rhetoric, the International Red Cross confirmed in April 2011 that there is no humanitarian crisis in Gaza, due in part to the massive amount of aid imported by Israel. In 2010, local developers in Gaza completed construction on a luxury shopping mall.

Hamas:

Officially listed as a “terrorist organization” by the United States, the European Union, Canada, Israel, Japan, and others, Hamas controls the Palestinian territory of Gaza. According to Hamas’ founding charter and regular speeches by their leadership, Hamas’ reason for existence is to destroy the state of Israel, murder all Jews around the world, and replace the Palestinian Authority government with a religious Islamic dictatorship. Hamas won a majority of seats in the Palestinian parliament in 2006 elections, due in great part to discontent by Palestinian people with corruption in the Fatah party relating to domestic issues. Not content with a mere majority, Hamas proceeded to fight a street war

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against Fatah in order to achieve unanimous control. The result: in 2007, Hamas violently took complete control of Gaza, while Fatah remained in control of the West Bank. Since that time, Hamas has not held elections, frequently arrests, tortures and kills members of opposing political parties, and has created a socially and physically oppressive regime over the people living in Gaza.

Hamas fired approximately 680 rockets against Israeli civilians in the year 2011, for a total of approximately 10,000 rockets since 2001. In an effort to reduce this rocket fire, Israel mounted an operation against Hamas' military infrastructure in 2009, sometimes referred to as "Operation Cast Lead." Subsequently, the United Nations released the "Goldstone Report," which accused Israel of intentionally targeting civilians in this operation. However, Hamas*¹ later admitted that it had vastly inflated casualty figures, and that most casualties were indeed Hamas military personnel. Judge Richard Goldstone, the report's chief author, also later admitted that he had released the report with insufficient information, and said that further research convinced him that Israel had in fact worked diligently to avoid civilian casualties.

Historically, Hamas has been funded primarily by Iran, and has generally been considered to be an Iranian pawn. However, Iran and Hamas have had some disagreements recently, and their relationship may be changing.

The West Bank:

This area of land located on the west bank of the Jordan River includes many sites of Jewish, Christian and Muslim importance, most notably the Wailing Wall (the "Kotel"), Bethlehem, Jericho, the cave of the Patriarchs, Rachel's tomb, and the eastern part of Jerusalem.

The West Bank, originally called "Judea and Samaria" for several thousand years, was a part of the biblical Jewish homeland, and was a part of the Jewish State in 1948 until Jordan invaded and occupied the West Bank in 1949. During its occupation, Jordan changed the name from "Judea and Samaria" to "The West Bank," in reference to the fact that Jordan finally controlled both the east and west banks of the Jordan River. In 1967, Jordan attempted to use the West Bank as a launching point for attacks aimed at fully occupying and destroying Israel. Israel defended herself against those attacks and pushed Jordan back beyond the Jordan River, thus taking control of the West Bank. By this time, the West Bank had accumulated a significant population of local Arabs, who in the early 1960s had begun referring to themselves as "Palestinians." In 1988, partly at the request of Yassir Arafat, Jordan revoked the Jordanian citizenship held by these Palestinians, leaving them without citizenship in Jordan or Israel.

Currently, Israel exercises security control over the West Bank but for the most part has not "annexed" it to be politically a part of Israel. Exceptions include the Wailing Wall and parts of eastern Jerusalem, which Israel has annexed. Israel wishes to work with Palestinians to create an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and also in Gaza, which led to the "Oslo" peace process. As part of the "Oslo agreements," the Palestinian Authority ("PA") government already manages most local affairs in the West Bank (see section on "Fatah" for more background on the PA). When people speak about "the settlements," they are usually referring to Jewish towns and small cities located in the West Bank.

It is worth mentioning that in 1994 Israel signed a peace treaty with Jordan and has had a strong economic and diplomatic relationship since that time.



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The Dome of the Rock is located at the Temple Mount, Jerusalem. It was constructed on the site of the Second Jewish Temple, which was destroyed during the Roman Siege of Jerusalem in 70 CE.

The Fatah, the PLO (Palestinian Liberation Organization), and the PA (Palestinian Authority):

Fatah is the political party that controls the "Palestinian Authority" (the "PA"), which is officially the government of the Palestinian people, though as a practical matter, the PA holds influence only in the West Bank and not in Gaza. The PA is the modern embodiment of the PLO. Formerly dedicated to violence and terrorism, the PLO/PA became Israel's partner in peace negotiations during the Oslo period in the early 1990s. Fatah is often termed as "moderate" because it is (at least officially) not committed to Israel's total destruction. Yet the Fatah-controlled PA government nonetheless has a complicated relationship with hate and terror. On the one hand, the PA and Israel cooperate closely on a wide variety of projects, from intelligence and security to tax collection, water sharing, electrical power, healthcare, economic growth and basic civil infrastructure. On the other hand, the PA supports a number of channels of violent incitement and hate-speech against Israel - examples include broad publication of maps that omit the word "Israel" and label all of Israel as "Palestine," government-published school textbooks that call for the violent liberation of "Palestine" (which the texts define as all of Israel), and the government-funded Zayzafouna Magazine, which, in a recent issue, openly praised Hitler and encouraged the genocide of Jews as a legitimate means of political expression.

In the fall of 2011, the PA entered a bid at the United Nations to have itself unilaterally declared a "Member State," while simultaneously refusing to enter into peace negotiations with Israel.

Recently, the PA and Hamas have been in talks to form a "unity government." Israel and the United States officially discourage this pursuit because it would ally the PA government with an internationally-recognized terror group that is officially opposed to any peace process and committed to the violent destruction of Israel and the Jewish people. Thus far, these unification talks have produced a number of general agreements between Hamas and the PA, but have not touched the underlying issues that actually divide them such as power sharing, control of the military force, and whether to pursue a peace process with Israel.

Hezbollah:

Officially listed as a “terrorist organization” by the United States, many of the European Union countries, Israel and others, Hezbollah effectively controls the country of Lebanon, Israel’s neighbor to the north. Hezbollah is funded primarily by Iran and the Bashar Assad government in Syria, and is generally understood to be an Iranian pawn. Despite Assad’s massacre of thousands of Syrian protesters, Hezbollah continues to express strong support for Assad’s government as well as for Iran. Like Hamas, Hezbollah’s founding charter and recent speeches call for total destruction of the state of Israel and replacement of the government of Lebanon with an Islamic dictatorship.

Between 2000 and 2006, Hezbollah regularly fired rockets and mortars at northern Israel and made a variety of incursions into Israel, culminating with the kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers from inside Israel’s borders. Israel responded with a military action that is now referred to as the “Second Lebanon War.” Hezbollah stores much of its military hardware in civilian areas and uses Lebanese civilians as human shields, which made Israel’s operation particularly challenging. Nonetheless, Israel worked diligently to avoid harm to civilians, employing careful pinpoint strikes and even going so far as to drop fliers and make phone calls to residents prior to operations. By contrast, Hezbollah fired several thousand

rockets, specifically targeting Israeli civilian population centers with no military value, and displacing hundreds of thousands of Israelis into bomb shelters. Since the end of Israel’s 2006 military action, Hezbollah has stopped firing rockets, presumably due to the deterrence that Israel created. However, Hezbollah has built up its weapons arsenal to a level that is even greater than before, including medium and long-range missiles that can hit any part of Israel. Hezbollah is notorious for storing many of its weapons in tunnels beneath densely populated civilian areas, as well as near or inside UN facilities, making these weapons difficult to find or destroy without causing civilian harm.

In 2011, a United Nations investigation determined that Hezbollah was responsible for the 2005 car bomb assassination of Lebanon’s Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. Rafik Hariri’s son, Saad Hariri, followed in his father’s footsteps by serving as Prime Minister from 2009 to 2011. When Hezbollah² threatened to retaliate against Saad Hariri for supporting



Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton with Saad Hariri in 2009

the UN report regarding his father’s death, Saad fled the country and his government collapsed, leaving Hezbollah effectively in complete control of Lebanon.

Shia (or “Shiite”) and Sunni:

Shia and Sunni are the two major schools of the Muslim religion. Shia makes up about 10-15 percent of the Muslim world, and can be found most prominently in places like Iran, Iraq, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Sunni Islam makes up about 70-90 percent of Islam, and can be found most prominently in places like Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria and Jordan. The modern political landscape is strewn with Sunni/Shia related conflicts. For example, the Hariri government in Lebanon was Sunni, but the Hezbollah terror group in Lebanon is Shiite. (For more background, see the section on Hezbollah, which includes the Hariri assassination). Saddam Hussein’s government was Sunni, though most of Iraq’s population (including many of Saddam Hussein’s political prisoners) were Shiite. Bashar Assad’s government in Syria is “Allowite” which is a sect of Shia Islam, while much of the opposition currently fighting in Syria is Sunni-based. From these examples one can see that Sunni/Shia differences often play a role in Middle East conflicts. For instance, Iran (Shia) has long been the major military and financial sponsor of the (Sunni-based) Palestinian terror group Hamas. Iran and Hamas are currently in a disagreement over whether to support the (Shia-based) Assad government. It is possible that this disagreement will result in a true Iran/Hamas split; however that is hard to predict.

The realities of today’s Middle East are highly complex, with many parties, players, religions and concepts. I’ve covered just a few of the relevant topics. I hope this background will make the daily news just a little richer, and perhaps a bit more understandable.

Notes:

1- The Hamas statement was made by Fathi Hamad, Hamas’ Interior Minister in a famous interview in the London based newspaper, “Al-Hayat,” November 1, 2010.


2- The Hezbollah statements can be attributed directly to Hassan Nasrallah, Secretary General of Hezbollah. He issued one such threat in a public statement at the Hague on November 4, 2010.

Hezbollah has repeatedly pressured Saad Hariri to reject the UN Tribunal report. One example can be found in Al Jazeera, January 14, 2011, “Hariri Vows to Solve Lebanon Crisis,” and one example of Hezbollah’s retaliation threats can be found in BBC Mobile: Middle East, July 3, 2011, “Hezbollah Leader Nasrallah Rejects Hariri Indictments.”

Daniel Pomerantz is an American business attorney and political analyst who recently made “Aliya” to Israel. Daniel often works on projects for the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs and publishes his analysis on Middle East issues in his blog: <http://israelreview.blogspot.com>.


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Blow, Bubbela, Blow!

Israeli sax star Benny Sharoni brings international soul to Boston

By Matt Robinson

Born in Israel to Chilean and Yemenite parents, saxophonist Benny Sharoni (www.bennysharoni.com) had diverse influences at play in his life from the start. Small wonder, then, that he has been able to incorporate and often imitate (with his own special style, of course) the sounds of so many jazz greats.

According to Sharoni, music itself has been another constant influence. "Growing up on the kibbutz in Israel," he recalls, "there was always music in our home." Sharoni's father was "an amateur harmonica player" and his mother played the accordion. Sharoni's sisters were also musically inclined. "There was always a variety of music playing in the house, from Latin/South American (from my mom), to Yemenite/African based (from my dad) and classical."

Though his parents initially encouraged him to play the flute (which was originally one of the few instruments available on the kibbutz), Sharoni soon found his way to the saxophone. "I started playing saxophone a couple of years before I was exposed to jazz," he says. "Someone handed me the instrument and I fell in love with it." A few years later, Sharoni's mother returned from a trip to the U.S. with albums by such saxophone colossi as Sonny Rollins, Sonny Stitt and Zoot Sims. Sharoni's path to jazz was set. "I love the sound of the tenor saxophone and the versatility," he explains. "To me, it is the sound of the nightlife, which I love."

Though he was originally classically trained, Sharoni found his true voice through jazz. "Because of my extreme free spirit," he reasons, "I sought out a musical form that broke beyond the constraints of classical music. It was there that I found jazz the

freest and most expressive music out there."

After serving in the Israeli Army (where he says music often saved both his life and his soul), Sharoni found his way to America, where he studied at the famed Berklee College of Music. On the way to Boston, Sharoni made a few stops in Europe. "I got my first taste of international performance representing Israel on a 1978 European tour of Israeli folk music and dance," he explains. In 1986, Sharoni emigrated to the U.S., where he has continued to study and perform with some of the best in the business.



Among his most profound influences, Sharoni counts Steve Grossman, Bob Berg, Sonny Rollins, John Coltrane, Dexter Gordon, and his wife.

"I am a very expressive and rhythmic musician," Sharoni observes. "Therefore, my performances are very emotional and from my heart." Though his love for Latin, African and Israeli music endures, Sharoni also includes many pieces from the Great American Songbook in his sets and on his albums. On his latest album, "Eternal Elixir" (Papaya), Sharoni offers his takes on Donald Byrd's "Pentacostal Feeling," Jimmy Heath's "The Thing To Do" and "To Life" from "Fiddler on the Roof", as well as original tunes like "Bernstein" and "Senor Papaya."

"I include many standards in the repertoire, with our band's own spin to them," he says. "Also, I like to include a few of my own originals to keep things fresh."

Benny and his band will be playing at Chianti's Jazz Lounge in Beverly on March 31, at the NH Jazz Center in Laconia May 8, at Brandon Music in Brandon, VT on May 20 and at Jazz at Studio 99 in Nashua, NH on May 22.

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Passing-Over Freedom

By Dr. Rebecca Housel

We call him “Nady” but his name was Nathan. He was my great-uncle. And on March 18, 1943, at the age of 21, Nady became a Private First Class in the United States Army to help free those being persecuted by the Nazis. When he enlisted, Nady was a student at Ball State University; he was two years into his studies as a future engineer. His older brother, Morris, and brother-in-law, Solly (Solomon), had also joined the military ranks in the fight against anti-Semitism. These three brothers would be sent to three different destinations. For Nady, that destination was Beek, Germany.

One month after Nady enlisted saw the eve of Passover. It’s a famous date in history, April 19, 1943. It was the day the liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto began. It was also the day the Jews fought back. The Nazis deliberately chose the eve of Passover, believing Jews would be celebrating their holiday and caught unawares. However, history tells a different story.

Passover is a holiday where we remember Jewish freedom from Egypt, but it’s about more than that in the 21st century. Today Jews celebrate their freedom from not just Egypt, but also from the centuries upon centuries of systematic anti-Semitism that followed. Inquisitions, pogroms, and anti-Jewish legislation beginning with the Emperor Constantine through 1955 England, when the Anglican Church finally recognized its role in Jewish persecution in Europe and Russia - the ultimate expression of which was the Holocaust. And while the world watched for a decade as Jews were stripped of their rights, their property, their very lives, young men like Nady were raising their voices in protest.

Nady was a first generation American. His parents, my great-grandparents, were both from a small region of Ukraine, originally part of Catharine the Great’s 1791 Russian Pale - or Jewish ghetto. Nazism wasn’t unique to Germany prior to World War II. America had its share of overt anti-Semitic movements as well.

Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli, later Pope Pius XII, was instrumental in Hitler’s rise to power, most notably through his *Reichskonkordat*, but prior to that signing in July 1933, Pacelli was an envoy of the Holy See in Germany and Russia beginning in 1917. He supported Hitler’s mission to remove Jews from public life by continuing secret negotiations until directly asked to cease his efforts by Pope Pius XI. Prior to Pacelli’s interventions, Catholic priests in Germany were encouraging their flocks to vote their conscience, speaking out against the anti-Jewish sentiment. But the turning point for Hitler came when the Catholic Zentrum Party helped pass the Enabling Act in 1933, giving Hitler absolute power. According to a 2011 Georgetown University study, the Catholic Church is the largest single religious denomination in the United States. This statistic is largely unchanged from the mid-twentieth century. It is easy to understand, then, why the United States as a whole, was largely unconcerned with Hitler’s policies in Europe. That is, until Hitler’s allies attacked America.



Nathan Maisterman



Our family name is Masterman, undoubtedly from Anglo-Saxon descent, pushed through Diasporic currents to the Pale. But the name was changed over time from Masterman to Meisterman to Maisterman.

Private Nathan Maisterman was killed in action in Beek, Germany on December 3, 1944 at the age of 22 - the same age my son is today. But it wasn’t until 1985, 41 years after Nady’s death, that his family received his awards for his ultimate sacrifice. Among these honors, Nady received the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Badges

for Combat and Expert Infantry, European-African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, and the Honorable Service Lapel Button. Nady may not have even died on December 3, 1944; that date was an estimate provided much later by the United States Army. For a time, Nady was reported as “missing in action.” Beek,

Germany was part of the infamous Siegfried Line. Hitler began fortifying the Line in August 1944. Nady’s unit was one of many targeted during the early stages of Hitler’s offensive attack that led to the Battle of the Bulge.

When my family sits down at the Seder table this April, we remember more than Moses and his plight to free the Jews from Egypt. We also remember Nady, Morris and Solly - who also fought for the freedom of Jews during World War II - and all soldiers like them. On April 7, 2012, Private Nathan Maisterman Square will be dedicated in West Roxbury by the City of Boston to commemorate Nady’s heroism. That date also happens to be the first day of Passover.

There really are no coincidences in this world. 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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At the February meeting of the Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Needlework, member Phyllis Kantor taught Kumihimo, a Japanese braiding technique. Chapter co-president Zelayna Rauch looks on.

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JWV Posts throughout the Commonwealth sponsor a High School of their choosing, and each High School selects a Senior Student to represent that high school at the annual Brotherhood Breakfast. An independent committee not associated with the Jewish War Veterans selects the winners, who attend the Breakfast. The three statewide First Prize winners each receive a handsome laminated plaque, a beautiful wrist watch, and a \$1000 cash scholarship. The three Honorable Mention Winners each receive a beautifully laminated plaque and a \$500 cash scholarship. The rest of the students receive appropriate Certificates. At the conclusion of the meal, each first-prize winner and each honorable mention winner is introduced by an invited dignitary, and the winners deliver a short speech.

Representing Sharon Post #735, the Breakfast was attended by Sharon High School winner Tom Darr and his parents, and by Jose Libano, Principal of Sharon High School. Also attending from Sharon Post #735 was Herb Shostek, Post Commander, and Paul Maltzman, Post Quartermaster.



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My Seventy-Seven Year Love Affair With Fenway Park



By Larry Ruttman

I was born in February, 1931, and first set eyes on Fenway Park in 1935, probably on that late September day when the Sox drew 48,000 people to a doubleheader with the Yankees. From that day to now, many of those memories have had a Jewish component. My father, Morris (Moe to everybody who knew this gentle gentleman), took me by the hand to watch those games, helping to begin

what is now a seventy-seven year old love affair.

At that time there were no bullpens in right field, and that side of the field was a huge expanse which I can remember was roped off to accommodate the standing room crowd. That is where my dad and I stood. Of course, as I was four years old, I can't remember any specifics of the game, but stuck in my mind's eye is the big number 4 on the back of the Yankee first baseman, Lou Gehrig, which my father must have pointed out to me. Obviously, there were no restrooms in the outfield, and I kept pestering my dad all day long to go to the bathroom. Perhaps he took me once or twice back into the bleachers where I could relieve my already maturing Jewish angst.

It seems to me that it was a sunny summer day. For sure, the day sticks in my mind, as does the fact that it was my father who took me to the games. How many tens of thousands of children were taken to their first major league baseball game by their father? Baseball is the American game which binds the generations together.

I believe it was just prior to the start of the 1942 season when I went to a so-called City Series game between the old Boston Braves and the Red Sox, a yearly tradition back then. Never one to be shy, and always possessed with what I later came to understand to be chutzpah, very likely inherited from my unafraid and always decorative mother, Doris, I milled around the Red Sox dugout with a lot of other youngsters, probably hoping for some sort of contact with Theodore Samuel Williams, who by that time was a .400 hitter. At some point, a reporter must have had the idea to group all us young folks with our hero, who was then in his fourth year with the Red Sox. The result

was a photo that appeared the next day in either the Globe or the Herald, showing a smiling and affable "Splendid Splinter: with a group of twenty or so youthful admirers.

In mid-season 1945, Hank Greenberg returned from his two stints of WWII military service, covering four years or so, to lead the Detroit Tigers to the World Series, slugging a final day grand slam home run to seal the deal. Earlier that season, he appeared at Fenway Park. My friend, Yale Altman, and I went to catch my first glimpse of the Jewish hero. I recall we were sitting high up in the first base grandstand with a clear view of Hank in the right hand batter's box. At that early stage of my life my hearing was acute, and I could hear the conversation of the two older men sitting just below me in the next row. In my mind's ear, I can still hear them talking with an Irish brogue. Hank Greenberg is at the plate, easily and confidently preparing for the pitch by moving his long bat back and forth.



Captain of the Yale University nine, Steve Greenberg, and his dad, Hank Greenberg, circa 1970 (courtesy of Steve Greenberg)

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One of the men said to the other words to this effect: "By God, the big Yid handles the bat like a toothpick." At fourteen, I did not derive much more from the comment than some amusement, since by then I was already sure of my place as an American citizen without apology, and even then would have laughed off the comment as the other person's problem, not mine. Now, of course, I see the event in a more complex way. Perhaps it was a demonstration not only of the much higher level of anti-Semitism prevalent during those years, but also an expression of the unease with which gentile America viewed the supposedly cerebral Jew as non-athletic, and as such having no place on the fields of play.

Earlier, I spoke of going to Fenway Park with my father. Of course, baseball has always been a family event, and on a few occasions I went with my late baseball loving a father-in-law, Jack Raverby, who had arrived from the shtetls of the Old World at age nine or so to learn to speak faultless English and play errorless shortstop. There we were, comfortably ensconced in the box seats along the first base line on a beautiful early summer day in June 1969 when Bill "Spaceman" Lee came on in relief to make one of his early appearances with the Boston Red Sox. Of course, we had no way of knowing we were seeing an icon in the making, but we did know early on that day that Bill Lee was a thinking man's pitcher, as he dazzled the opposing players with his variety of well-placed curves and slurve, impressing both of us that here indeed was a man of guile.

My cherished memory of the iconic sixth game of the 1975 World Series game is connubial in nature. It sort of relates to when I went with my father to my first game in 1935 and kept begging him to take me to the boys' room. My wife, Lois, then and now is a great baseball fan. But sometimes she gets a little impatient - is that Jewish? - when the boys don't perform up to her high (unreasonably so?) standards. In the midst of this sixth game Lois requested - even came close to insisting - that we leave the game. The Sox were goners. Naturally, I resisted. I probably suggested that if she wanted to go, then she could go, I would stay. Anyway, Lois stayed, and her pessimism was thwarted to her pleasure when the stoical and earnest Carleton Fisk won the game with the home run of the century.

My first experience viewing a game from the luxury boxes came in 1989 when my politico friend, the late Bernard "Bunny" Solomon, Northeastern University's biggest fundraiser ever,



Fenway Park

and at that time an executive with the since-subsumed Bank of Boston, invited me and friends of mine to see a game from the bank's luxury suite high atop the first base grandstand. With Wade Boggs leading the way with some long hits, the Sox prevailed, to the delight of Lois, my father-in-law, and my friend, Dr. Alan Ropper, a leading neurologist then and now. We mostly ignored the chilly evening, exchanging for this one time only our usual position among the hoi polloi, for a seat at the corporate table. American original "Bunny"'s memories bring the Brookline of his childhood and early years colorfully alive in the framework of warm family life and the passion immigrant Jews have always had for baseball. Bunny puts it this way: "Oh yes, I'm a tremendous baseball fan and I come by it honestly. My father came to America from Kiev around 1895, lived in the South End, and fell in love with baseball, starting to go to games when he was around eleven. In fact, he saw the Red Sox at the old Huntington Avenue grounds."

If today's Jews attended temple as religiously as they attend Fenway Park, our future viability would not be in question.

Larry Ruttman is a Brookline resident and the author of American Jews and America's Game: Jewish Voices of American Baseball, soon to be published by the University of Nebraska Press.



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Transforming the Desert into an Oasis

Yonatan Raab, Jewish National Fund

During Passover, we tell the story of how G-d freed our ancestors from slavery, and delivered them from Egypt to the Promised Land. The journey should have only lasted a few days, yet they wandered the desert for 40 years. During that time, they thrived while living in one of the harshest environments in the world.

Today, with the help of Jewish National Fund (JNF), Israel is thriving in the same environment, and transforming the desert into an oasis.

Blueprint Negev, JNF's major initiative to revitalize Israel's southern region, is a far reaching and visionary plan to increase the area's population and improve living conditions for all of its inhabitants. The blueprint includes community development, housing, employment, environmental sustainability, agricultural research and development, water treatment, tourism and recreation, education, and security.

In Be'er Sheva, the capital of the Negev, Israel's southern desert region, JNF has been instrumental in the development of the Be'er Sheva River Park, a 1,300-acre metropolitan park in the heart of the city. Once completed, it will host a number of attractions, including a 23-acre manmade lake and a 12,000-seat amphitheater, Israel's largest such venue.

A groundbreaking ceremony was recently held for the lake, which is being partially supported by the Boston community. It will be ringed by restaurants, shops, and galleries, and will offer activities such as boating and bird watching. It will double as a recycled water reservoir for park irrigation.

In November, work was completed on the Pipes Bridge, a be-

autiful new pedestrian and cycling bridge linking the Old City of Be'er Sheva to the park. The bridge's innovative design, chosen in a 2008 architectural competition, turns unsightly drainage pipes that cross the riverbed into an interesting visual element. At night, it is illuminated with colored lights that reflect off of stretched canvas canopies. An observation point at the center affords a magnificent view of the Old City and the Park.

JNF and its partner, the OR Movement, are developing plans for a visitor center in the Gateway to the Negev building in Be'er Sheva's Old City neighborhood. The top floor of the building already houses an information and relocation center dedicated to assisting individuals, families, and groups who are considering a move to the Negev. It is a one-stop shop for information on housing, employment, tourism, culture, education, transportation and community life in the Negev. The visitor center, which will be located on the ground floor, will tell the story of the Negev's rich history and the promise of its future through interactive and emotional multimedia presentations.

One of JNF's most exciting projects is the development of the new communities of the Halutza region, located on Israel's borders with Gaza and Egypt. Founded in 2005 by Gush Katif evacuees, Halutza was nothing but barren sand dunes just a short time ago. Today, more than 200 families live in Halutza's first two towns, Naveh and Bnei Netzarim, and a third town, Shlomit, will soon be established. In 2011, JNF funded the construction of a new beit midrash (house of study) and kindergarten in Naveh. The kindergarten will soon welcome



Pipes Bridge in Be'er Sheva's River Park

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50 children, and the beit midrash will provide a space for learning in the community. JNF's New England Region is raising funds for a park and playground in Bnei Netzarim.

The new community of Carmit in the northern Negev is also developing rapidly. Groundwork is underway on the first 260 housing sites, and construction on a synagogue is nearing completion. Carmit has been designed to attract a diverse population of new immigrants and native Israelis, religious and secular, to strengthen the economic and social fabric of the Negev and create a progressive community. After its final phase of development, Carmit will be home to 2,500 families.

In the development town of Arad, JNF has built a professional skate park to address the lack of recreational activities available for young people. Skateboarding has enjoyed a surge in popularity among Israeli youth over the last decade, and after repeated appeals by local teens, Arad's leadership decided to establish a skate park similar to those recently built in nearby Dimona and Eilat.

In the Central Arava, one of the most isolated areas in the Negev, JNF donated funds to purchase a new 4x4 rescue vehicle and command cart for the Arava Rescue Unit, a civilian volunteer group that provides emergency response.

Volunteers previously relied on a 12-year-old pickup truck to access emergency sites deep within the desert; the new vehicle is specially designed to traverse unmarked roads and obstructed terrain.

Chestnut Hill resident Nancy Simches recently made a generous donation to rehabilitate and upgrade five reservoirs in the Central Arava. Sharon Freedman, National Campaign Director said, "Nancy knows that water is essential to sustain life and understands that these reservoirs will ensure that the Central Arava always has water for years to come. We are so grateful for her dedication and commitment to our brothers and sisters in Israel."

JNF is also raising money to build a state-of-the-art medical center that will bring the health services of the Central Arava (whose closest hospital is 90 minutes away) up to par with those of Israel's population centers.

Much like the Jews wandering the desert, Israelis today are truly able to live and prosper in a region that up until a few years ago was vast expanses of sand and rocks. Eventually, after 40 years of wandering, our ancestors made their way into the Land of Israel and began to settle down. Today, we can call the desert our home.



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AIPAC Policy Conference

On March 3, I had the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. to join over 13,000 delegates participating in the largest AIPAC Policy Conference to date. The American Israel Public Affairs Committee is a lobbying group that advocates pro-Israel policies and maintaining a strong US-Israel relationship. The Policy Conference is the largest and most important event put on by AIPAC every year. Every year there are delegates from all 50 states, including many campus activists. This year I was able to join over 2,000 student delegates, from both high school and college campuses nationwide. As each speaker acknowledged the students, we could tell they knew that AIPAC has a promising future ahead of them.

The Conference began Sunday morning with long lines wrapped around the convention center, as everyone waited eagerly to get through Secret Service and hear what President Obama had to say. The Morning Plenary began with a roundtable discussion, followed by a moving video tribute to Israeli President Shimon Peres and his speech which focused on Israel, and led to the big issue that would soon be the main topic of every speaker's speech, Iran. Peres ended the speech by thanking President Obama for the strengthened alliance between the US and Israel. Following President Peres, President Obama addressed the delegates. He began by announcing that later this spring he would be inviting Shimon Peres to the White House to present him with America's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He followed up by stating his commitments to Israel, and the security of Israel's nation, but also explained that he would not apologize for seeking peace. Then, President Obama shifted to the main topic on everyone's mind, Iran. He stated that while it would be detrimental to everyone if Iran got ahold of Nuclear Weapons, he does believe that an opportunity for diplomacy remains, but all options are still on the table. The president stated that his policy is not one of containment, but instead one of preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, and was met with a standing ovation.

With the morning plenary over, and the focus of the Conference clearly set on Iran, the delegates headed towards their individual breakout sessions. These sessions included topics ranging from the Arab Spring, Advocacy on School Campuses, and Political Campaigns. Each had speakers who had a professional connection to the topic they were speaking on. Following the breakout sessions, the delegates headed to the afternoon plenary for another debate, this time with the focus on the upcoming 2012 US general election.

Monday began with another plenary, this time, the audience was addressed by Senator Joe Lieberman as he looked back on his career on Capitol Hill. After the morning speeches, the delegates headed to individual lobbying workshops, where each delegate learned how to lobby their specific representatives in Congress, and then headed towards the breakout sessions of their choice.

By 5:30, the delegates began piling into the main hall for the event everyone had been waiting for, the evening Gala. The Gala began with a concert with performances by The Idan Raichel Project, The Maccabeats, and Rick Recht. All had great performances. The first speakers were Republican Senate Leader Mitch McConnell and Democratic House Leader Nancy Pelosi. Both gave speeches centered on Iran, leading up to the speaker everyone had been anticipating, Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu (Bibi). Personally, I believe he was the best speaker at the event. The Prime Minister was able to bring a sense of humor into such a serious topic, sarcastically regarding Iran as a topic no one was talking about, and bringing light to those walking around the nuclear issue saying "If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, then what is it? That's right, it's a duck. But this duck is a nuclear duck. And it's time the world started calling a duck a duck." He reiterated that Iran must be stopped, and that he would stop at nothing to protect Israel's security, and that ultimately, Israel will "always remain the masters of our fate." Bibi was met with roaring applause throughout his speech, which followed his meeting with President Obama earlier in the day.

The following morning, before the delegates headed to Capitol Hill to lobby their members of Congress, they were addressed by three of the GOP candidates: Newt Gingrich, Mitt Romney, and Rick Santorum. Each dismissed what the President had said Sunday morning, and promised that they would always have Israel's back. Newt Gingrich even vowed to move the Embassy to Jerusalem on his first day in office. Once the morning events concluded, over 13,000 delegates boarded buses and headed to Capitol Hill to meet with their senators and representatives. Although the Policy Conference is over, we must continue to lobby for Israel. You can do your part today by emailing, writing, or calling your members of congress!

Getting to attend the AIPAC Policy Conference was a life-changing experience, especially since it was not only an election year, and the biggest conference yet, but because the nation of Israel and the world is being faced with a major threat, Iran. The knowledge gained, the connections made, and networking done at Policy Conference cannot be obtained anywhere else, and I hope that I will continue to have the opportunity to attend. To anyone who has ever considered attending, don't think twice! You can register today for next year's conference online at www.aipac.org.

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 it does not mention Israel. Beginning this summer she will be attending the University Of Florida.



Hadar Arazi and Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL)



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Israel Peace Week at Brandeis

By Ryan Yuffe

It was at the height of the civil rights movement, in 1963, that Martin Luther King Jr. wrote his "Letter From Birmingham Jail". Within the confines of his prison cell, he wrote of the white moderate—a person who was not racist and who understood the injustice being done, but at the same time failed to speak up to the gross discrimination being perpetrated throughout the United States. What the civil rights movement needed, he said, was support from those white moderates.

Today at Brandeis, I see the same fear that captured the minds of the white moderate in 1963, except at Brandeis it has infiltrated all spheres of race, culture and religion. And civil rights is no longer the issue; instead, it has moved to the topic of Israel. Many students simply refuse to engage themselves in any type of dialogue, whether it be political or cultural, because they wish to avoid controversy. They may support Israel, but when it comes to revealing their view to a greater audience, many choose to keep quiet.

It is appalling that the mere mention of Israel creates a frozen expression on the faces of many individuals, followed with the statement, "I don't feel educated enough on the issue," or "I don't want to get into an argument." In light of Israel Peace Week, I urge all to drop this sentiment and involve yourselves in open and honest discussion amongst your peers.

As a member of two on-campus pro-Israel groups, Brandeis Zionist Alliance and Brandeis Israel Public Affairs Committee, I have seen with my own eyes the discomfort on the faces of student leaders when they are approached to discuss the Israel issue. They shy away from it without much thought, sometimes even rejecting an invitation to have a simple discussion over coffee.

Why has this word, this country, become so conducive to an environment in which we must fear that our words will reverberate across campus with consequences reserved for the bigoted? Most shocking of all is that here at Brandeis, where diversity and freedom of speech are touted, such a response is given credibility and is unabashedly nurtured. Inaction cannot be tolerated, for supporting the status quo of indifference and choosing to refrain from vocalizing one's support, has plagued and stagnated many other social issues in the past.

The day that we choose to be ashamed of supporting Israel is the day that her enemies rejoice for they know what silence en-

tails—it is the same thing that prevented the world from acting in time in Darfur, and it is the same perverse inaction that has allowed atrocities to take place most recently in Syria. But the day we begin to shed our fears is the same day that the world will be rid of the shameful demonization undeservedly reserved to one country.

Cowardice cannot be and will never be the answer. Do not let arguments deter your decision to express what you believe is just. When these arguments arise, you will not stand alone in telling the Brandeis community, or whoever may be listening, the reasons you are proud to vocally support the Jewish Democracy. Your voice will be echoed in solidarity by thousands of other pro-Israel students from our University, from universities across the country, and from individuals across the globe.

It is not only the Jewish students at Brandeis who must rid themselves of the stigma that says they cannot actively engage when Israel is brought up. This responsibility falls just as much onto the non-Jewish community at Brandeis. It is understandable that those who are not Jewish may not be as educated on the subject, but to say that Israel has nothing to do with them could not be further from the truth.

For Martin Luther King, Jr., "injustice anywhere was a threat to justice everywhere," and here at Brandeis we believe in "truth even unto its innermost parts." To those of who are not Jewish, I say to you that there is no reason for you to stay silent. You may find that you agree and disagree with issues surrounding Israel, but it is imperative that as citizens of the world that you take first step of attending an Israel-related event, reading an article or speaking with a friend to educate yourself. Let us heed the advice of Martin Luther King and Louis Brandeis because their ideas have been responsible for opening the world to change and progress. It was eventually the support of the white moderate that was critical in helping end discrimination. And it requires action from the entire portion of the student body that supports Israel to end the taboo of discussing these controversial issues. There comes a time when the status quo of silence can no longer be tolerated, and people are no longer willing to hold themselves back. For Israel and for ourselves, that time is now.

Ryan Yuffe is a freshman from Brooklyn, New York, studying Politics and Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies at Brandeis University. He is the Campus Engagement Coordinator for BIPAC (Brandeis Israel Public Affairs committee).



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Global March on Jerusalem:

If it's not about Israel, it's not about us

David Harris
March 18, 2012

Here we go again.

First, it was the various "Freedom Flotillas" that tried to enter Hamas-controlled Gaza by sea.

Now it's the "Global March to Jerusalem" (GMJ), slated for March 30th.

Whether by sea or land, the goals are the same: to provoke confrontations with Israel, give Israel a black eye in the world media, and pursue a strategy of delegitimizing Israel's very right to exist.

For anyone willing to scratch the surface and understand their language and imagery, the organizers of GMJ are quite transparent about their outlook and objectives.

When they speak in their manifesto of freeing "Palestine," they mean not just the West Bank and Gaza, but Israel itself.

When they show their logo, Israel is effectively encircled and engulfed by the movement.

When they speak of "the defense of Jerusalem and its liberation," they mean the entire city, whether it was part of Israel before 1967 or not.

When they speak of "occupied" lands, they don't mean from the 1967 war, when Israel was faced with threats of annihilation and emerged victorious, but from 1948, when Israel was first established.

When they speak of "protection of the Holy Places," they mean Muslim holy places, not Jewish, since they don't even acknowledge the Jewish people's age-old connection to the city. As for Christian sites, I wouldn't bet on it, regardless of the rhetoric.

When they claim that Israel seeks "to destroy the Muslim and Christian presence" in Jerusalem, they are turning truth on its head, as never before have all religious sites been as protected as they are today.

When they invoke the term "ethnic cleansing" to describe the "Zionist campaign" in "Jerusalem and the rest of Palestine," they blithely ignore the demographic figures, which show dramatic increases since 1967 in the Arab population in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and what they refer to as "the rest of Palestine."

When they invoke "apartheid," they are conjuring up a situation that doesn't exist, as anyone who understands the specific meaning of the term in white-ruled South Africa, including none other than Judge Richard Goldstone in his New York Times op-ed, readily grasps.

And when they speak of the "non-negotiable and inalienable rights of the Palestinian People, including their families, to return to their homes and lands..." they mean flooding Israel with millions of Palestinians and four generations of offspring, ending Israel as a state, pure and simple.

Just look at some of those endorsing the GMJ.

Remember Reverend Jeremiah Wright?

The same Jeremiah Wright who rails against America, despises Israel, and doesn't seem to have many good things to say about Jews.

He's on the Advisory Board of the Global March to Jerusalem. So is George Galloway.

Yes, the same George Galloway who was expelled from the British Labor Party, had rather cozy ties with Saddam Hussein's Iraq, and is deemed a friend by such "peaceful" groups as Hezbollah and Hamas.

There's Hilarion Capucci of the Greek Melkite Church, who was arrested in 1974 for smuggling weapons to the Palestine Liberation Army and sentenced by Israel to 12 years in prison.

There's Greta Duisenberg, the Dutch woman who famously said on television, in 2005, that she "understood" Palestinian suicide bombers responsible for killing Israelis.

There's Judith Butler, a Berkeley faculty member and avowed anti-Zionist. She rejects the notion of Israel, believing instead in a happily-ever-after "binational" state, and supports the BDS (boycott, divestment and sanctions) movement against Israel.

And there's Richard Falk, a UN special rapporteur, who may be best known for his claim that 9/11 was an inside American job. His views about Israel, for which there is a long paper trail, aren't any more cogent.

The list goes on, but the point should be clear about the GMJ mindset.

For the true believers who spearhead this effort, joined by some starry-eyed followers who don't realize they're being manipulated, the real focus is not on peace, coexistence, or human rights.

After all, had the advancement of peace, coexistence, and human rights been the goal, they might, for starters, have considered some other marches while in the neighborhood.

For instance, there's a "caravan" from Asia coming to the GMJ. They're traveling by land, passing through Iran, where, according to the website, the 120 participants are meeting with "Iranian prominent figures." An Iranian delegation of "artists, poets, students, and activists, as well as some Members of Parliament, will then join the caravan."

Hmm, that's interesting.

Not a word about addressing, say, issues of human rights concerns in Iran, though the country suffers from no shortage of them.

Moreover, if Iranians are joining the "caravan," what does that say about Tehran's involvement in the GMJ?

After all, in a tightly-controlled country like Iran, politically-motivated caravans don't just happen to arrive, meet, and leave.

Nor do local groups spontaneously join the ranks without a green light from the political leadership – a leadership that seeks a world without Israel.

So, in the spirit of truth in advertising, the GMJ should simplify its mission statement to:

By hook or by crook, we are a movement to dismantle Israel. We have no interest in a two-state agreement between Israelis and Palestinians. We embrace absolutely anyone who shares our single-minded goal. We couldn't care less what happens in any other country in the region, be it state-sponsored murder, repression, torture, religious persecution, or gender discrimination. After all, if it's not about Israel, it's not about us.

David Harris, Executive Director, American Jewish Committee (AJC) and Senior Associate, St. Antony's College, Oxford University (2009-11), assesses challenges to Jewish security worldwide.



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Chernin to Run Boston Marathon to Benefit Technology for Autism Now



Eli Chernin runs marathons. He has already run two since January, and is looking forward to running his third this April 16, when he tackles the Boston marathon. He runs for the health benefits, the exhilaration, and the sense of accomplishment. But Boston is different. Boston is personal. Chernin is part of a

team TAN looking for runners, I jumped at the chance to combine something that I love (running marathons), with the Jewish value of performing acts of chessed, or helping others.” Chernin hopes to raise money and awareness for TAN through his run, to fund research and effect change. Since joining team TAN, Chernin has been actively following developments in autism research, especially as they impact the Jewish world. “Recently I read about a boy in Andover who is on the autism spectrum who had his bar mitzvah via iPad, since he is otherwise non-communicative,” he said. “When I read something like that, I feel really good about getting involved.”

Many people ask Eli what they can do to help families affected with autism. “I think that volunteering with a local family to assist in everyday life is a great way to help, and is a real eye opener,” he responded. “Donating to a charity geared towards helping families with loved ones who have autism or charities

who work towards finding a cure is also a great way to get involved,” he said. Chernin volunteers when he is not in training mode, but with all the marathons he runs, he is often in training mode. Training for a marathon demands a strict regimen of running, cross training, and diet. An advocate of barefoot running, Chernin runs in huaracha sandals and lands with a forefoot strike, to reduce impact on his knees and lower back. “It’s become second nature to me now,” says Chernin. “I can’t imagine running any other way.” Chernin’s diet during training is high in protein, fruits and vegetables. In years past, the Boston marathon has

coincided with Pesach (Passover), but this year it takes place right after the holiday. Chernin admits to being a little worried about how matzah will effect his run. (He says, “I’ll let you know how my all-matzah and wine running diet works out!”) Though he would like to beat his personal record, the time he comes in at is secondary to the cause he is running for. “It’s my small part in helping individuals with autism live better lives,” he says. “It’s the least I can do.”



Eli with his kids: Mordechai Yaakov, Avraham Refael, and Tziporah Tamar

If you would like to help Eli achieve his fundraising goal, please go to: www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/elichernin/boston-marathon-2012

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Idan Raichel in Boston

World Music/CRASHarts presents The Touré-Raichel Collective on 4/15 at the Somerville Theatre, Somerville. For tickets and information call World Music/CRASHarts at 617-876-4275 or buy online at www.WorldMusic.org.

Vieux Farka Touré (Mali) and Idan Raichel (Israel), virtuosic superstars from very different backgrounds, join together to create masterworks of collaboration and improvisation. After a chance meeting, Idan and Vieux forged a deep friendship that led to an impromptu get-together at a small studio in Tel Aviv in November 2010. The resulting recording session - acoustic, spontaneous, entirely improvised and stunningly beautiful - could only be described as magic, and The Touré-Raichel Collective was born. The live concert reflects the natural spontaneity and free-form creativity of the recording sessions, allowing audiences to experience firsthand the invention of sublime and transcendent music that crosses boundaries of country, culture and tradition.

Israeli Radio in English

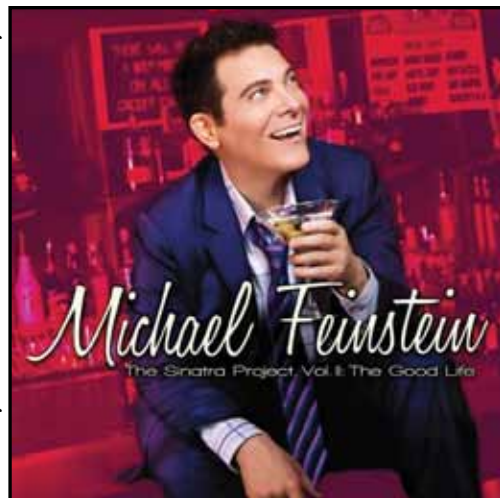
IDC Radio International is a student-operated radio station based at IDC Herzliya, the Interdisciplinary Center, Israel's first private Institution for Higher Education. Founded by renowned Israeli Professor Uriel Reichman, in 1994, IDC Herzliya is a non-profit organization modeled after Ivy League schools. The station offers talk and music programs in English with interesting, intelligent and enjoyable content about Jewish life, Zionism, culture, sports and more. The shows are produced and hosted by IDC's international pool of students, from over 80 different countries and managed by veterans of the Israeli radio industry. The wide variety of programs include "The Lounge"- interviews with key figures from the Israeli cultural scene; "What Went Wrong"- a weekly current affairs program with a twist; "Shaving Points"- covering international and local sport and "No Borders"- a weekly musical journey around the world, and more.

On the station's website, <http://1062fm.co.il/en/>, listeners can tune in to the live feed or select the desired programs through the website's Media on Demand section.

Michael Feinstein - The Sinatra Project, Vol II: The Good Life (Concord)

Matt Robinson

Though he may have run out of "signature" songs on this follow-up to the Grammy-nominated "Sinatra Project," Michael Feinstein brings his own signature voice to a second set of songs that capture Sinatra's sense of style and swing. From the bouncy last man on earth fantasy of "Thirteen Women" to the aching be-
reftness of "C'est Comme Ça" and a



richly-orchestrated duet of "Luck Be a Lady" and "All I need is the Girl," Feinstein brings a new palette of mood and tone to these timeless tunes. While a few of these selections are clearly Sinatra songs (among them "The Way You Look Tonight" and "The Lady is a Tramp"), Feinstein also pays tribute to other master interpreters (and Sinatra satellites) such as Ray Charles ("Hallelujah I Love Her So"), Tony Bennett ("The Good Life") and even Stevie Wonder ("For Once in My Life") and Tom Cat (a take on "Is You Is Or Is You Ain't My Baby?" that also takes a coda from "On Broadway"). So even though it may be more about the Board (of which Feinstein was often a humble member) than the Chairman himself, Feinstein brings his impeccable musical intellect and pervasive melodic passion to his latest well-chosen and beautifully-crafted tribute album. Though *The Voice* may be gone, Feinstein does an admirable job of sustaining the spirit that pervaded it and helped it pervade the musical universe. With Feinstein at the mic and Sinatra on the charts, it is a good life indeed!

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The Fifth Son

By Rabbi Moshe Bleich

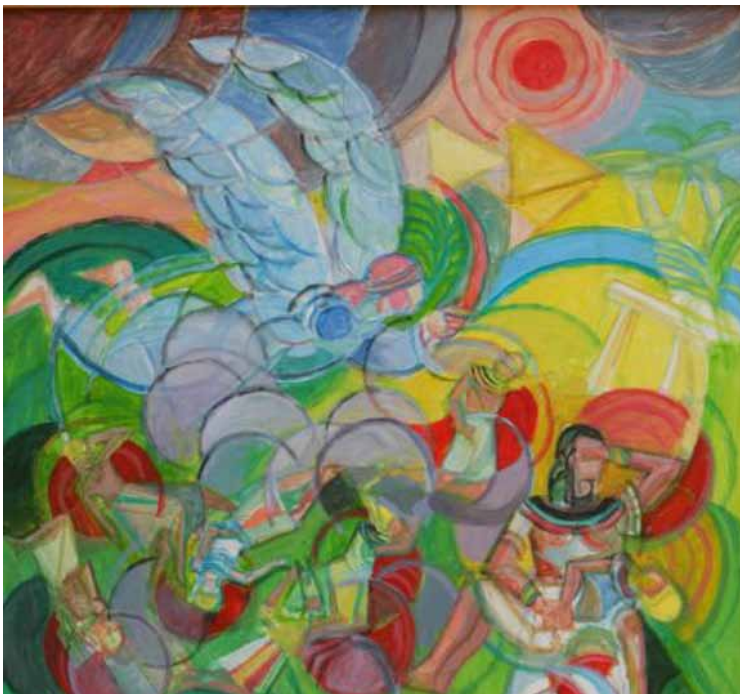
Passover will always bring to mind different things for different people. For some, Passover will always mean the frenetic cleaning of the house for any trace of chametz – leavened food that is prohibited on Passover. For others, it will bring to mind the matzah price wars between the supermarkets and local grocery stores. And for yet others, the genial atmosphere of the family meals springs to mind. However for me, Passover, and especially the Seder meal, has always been about the fifth son.

Allow me to explain. Passover is the festival that commemorates the Exodus from Egypt and the birth of the Jewish nation 3,324 years ago. In commanding us to teach our children about the Exodus, the Bible uses four distinct expressions, which the authors of the *Haggadah* (the liturgical text used at the Pesach Seder) explained to refer to four types of children - the wise son, the wicked son, the simpleton, and the clueless son – and gives the appropriate approach for each son.

However, there is a fifth son - the lost son - the son that does not even reach the Passover Seder. The son who does not even know that there is a Passover Seder. It is this son that talks to me the most.

Having grown up in a family of educators, my father being a Rabbi, my mother a teacher, and several of my brothers and brothers in law community Rabbis, education has always been

at the forefront of my life. Passover would exemplify this, with a cross-section of the Jewish community always present at my parents' Seder table. As I grew up, I too yearned to reach out to the "fifth son" and help unaffiliated Jews experience the beauty that is Passover.



The Death of the First Born by Daniel Schinasi (www.moia.us)

My main field of operation in my early years as a Rabbi was Ukraine. It was an incredible feeling to celebrate a Passover seder in a former communist meeting hall, protected by members of the Ukrainian Interior Ministry Police (formally the K.G.B), helping 350 people regain their Jewish heritage that had been suppressed by the selfsame officers during the communist regime. It was heartwarming to hear tens of families, young and old, proclaim "Next Year in Jerusalem," the same declaration that Jews everywhere had been proclaiming for 2000 years, yet that a few short years earlier would have earned them a night-time visit for counter-revolutionary activity.

I remember my first communal Seder in the city of Kremenchuk. We expected 200 people, catered for 300, and hosted 350. As early as two hours before our published starting time, lines were beginning to form outside the doors, and for three hours the hall was full of 350

"fifth sons" re-learning Jewish traditions.

Memories like these do not fade quickly. I keep them with me, and they give me the impetus to carry the Passover message throughout the entire year, looking for the fifth son wherever Divine providence takes me.

I want to take this opportunity to invite all to our very own community seders at the Wellesley-Weston Chabad. This year's Seders will be on Friday and Saturday evenings, April 6 and 7. The seder will be complete with traditional hand-made matzo from Israel, Ukraine and the U.S. and will include four brimming cups of wine, riveting readings from the *Haggadah*, enlightening Passover insights, and a savory, home-cooked festive meal.

The cost is \$40 per adult, \$20 per child, no charge for students, family cap \$120. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. RSVP is a must, as seating is limited. Please call 781-239-1076 or e-mail chabadwellesley@aol.com.

Rabbi Moshe Bleich was the first Rabbi in Kremenchuk, Ukraine after the fall of communism, before settling in Wellesley, Mass. together with his wife Geni and their children. Rabbi Moshe and Geni Bleich are Co-Directors of the Wellesley-Weston Chabad, a branch of the 4,500 strong, Chabad House worldwide network.

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From Egypt to Boston - a Story of Freedom

By Deborah Feinstein

As we prepare for the nights when we tell the story of the flight of the Jews from slavery to freedom, we do not have to look very far from downtown Boston to find another story of Jewish flight - the Vilna Shul, Boston's Center for Jewish Culture.

In the late 1800s, Lithuanian Jewish families fled their homeland because of the loss of hope they felt, as well as the constant pogroms and evictions. Poor and struggling for survival, they came to America and found a place to live, work, and worship freely. They carried their traditions, their religion, and their dreams along with them.

Here in Boston in 1893, a small group of these Lithuanian Jews formed the Anshi Vilner Congregation. They met for 13 years in congregants' homes until 1906, when they purchased and converted the vacated Black Twelfth Baptist Church at 45 Phillips Street and made it their home. One of these "Vilners" was Mary Antin (1881-1949), who had authored a 1912 autobiography, "The Promised Land," about the Jewish Boston immigrant experience. Boston and America, for the time being, had become the Jewish "Promised Land." Ten years later, in 1916, the City of Boston took that building by eminent domain in order to enlarge the neighboring Phillips School. While the Vilner Congregation was homeless and meeting in the Anderson Hotel, the property at 18 Phillips Street became available. The Vilners purchased that property, tore down its tenement buildings (one tenant was a brothel), built a new synagogue building with its 1919 cornerstone, and moved their Ark, Torah Scrolls, pews, spittoons, library, furniture, and other movables to their new home. Here they created a sacred space infused with light and enlivened with painted walls flowing with wings of angels, majestic pillars, and scenes of another "Promised Land" - Israel. They had not forgotten where they came from, they remembered their past, and they built for their future.



To create an even closer link between this small Vilner group immigrating to the American "Promised Land" and the Passover story of immigration to the "Promise Land" in Canaan, there is an affirmation that this ancient history is not just a twice-done event. Instead, it offers itself as an ongoing experience in human history and one's personal history. As free people relive the Exodus, it turns memory into a moral dynamic. To be fully realized, an Exodus must include an inner voyage, not just a march on the road out of Egypt. The difference between slavery and freedom is not that slaves endure difficult conditions while free people enjoy ease. The difference is that the enslaved Jews willingly went from green fertile deltas into the desert because they were determined to be free. Out of fear and lack of responsibility, the slave lives with bondage. Out of dignity and determination to live free, the individual will shoulder any burden. One lesson is that a slave needs help to get started on liberation.

He/she needs to find his or her own voice. In slavery there is no choice... but in freedom, there is a choice, and always a challenge.

This is what America was for this humble group from Vilner - a challenge, an opportunity, and a choice.

Just as the Passover Seder is a gateway to this journey from slavery to freedom and a transmitter of memory, the Vilna Shul, Boston's Center for Jewish Culture, in its new form as a synagogue museum and cultural center, is also a gateway for those who wish to explore Jewishness, to search for their ties to the past, and to experience the joys of building community. In its core, the Vilna is a transmitter of these values.

To see our current programs, please visit www.vilnashul.org. Please consider signing up for our email list.

To contact us please email Executive Director Steven M. Greenberg at 617-523-2324 or by email at steven@vilnashul.org, or send a message to the Board of Directors at VSBOD@vilnashul.org.

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TELEM is a program of JCRC of Greater Boston and supported by Combined Jewish Philanthropies.

COMMUNITY NOTES & EVENTS

Congregation Sons of Israel
 Corner of Park and Spring Sts. Peabody, MA 01960
www.peabodyshul.org info@peabodyshul.org

Passover services **Saturday, April 7** from 9-11 a.m.
 Passover services **Sunday, April 8** from 8:30-10 a.m.
 Passover services **Saturday, April 14** from 9-11 a.m., Yizkor service around 10 a.m.

Unmasked, Judeophobia

Everyone is invited to Temple Emunah (9 Piper Road, Lexington) on **Sunday, April 29 at 8 p.m.** for a movie screening! Director Gloria Greenfield will join us to introduce her latest documentary, which highlights growing anti-Israel sentiment, **Unmasked, Judeophobia**. Following the film will be a discussion with Gloria; please join us! Admission is \$10, RSVP to: office@templeemunah.org or 781-861-0300.



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Events at Congregation Shaarei Tefillah

35 Morseland Ave., Newton

Sunday, April 29, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Congregation Shaarei Tefillah Book Sale
 Come and browse to your heart's content. We promise to have a wide selection of non-fiction, fiction, children's books, Judaica and text and a few special items, such as: CDs, DVDs, Videos, Audio books, and Sports Cards. All sales and contributions will be donated to Meir Panim, a food distribution organization for the poor in Israel. For any questions, contact: office@shaarei.org.

Friday, April 20, 7:15 p.m.

Choral Davening: Friday night unplugged and a cappella.
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Let's Kibbitz!

By Susie Davidson

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

Sweet Sounds at Athan's: **Beth Purcell**, a cantorial soloist at Temple Beth Shalom of Melrose and a Hebrew School teacher at Beth El in Sudbury, sang at the opening reception of friend **Marian Dioguardi's** exhibit *La Dolce Vita* at Athan's European Bakery and Cafe in Brookline on March 4. Dioguardi's big, bold vistas of Italy took the pastel colors of Italian buildings and the natural beauty of Venice into another dimension. Even hanging laundry was displayed in a bright and colorful panorama. Purcell, meanwhile, sang numbers from the Great American Songbook, which added sultry ambiance to the vibrance of Italy displayed around the room. The exhibit is up until April 30.

In need of our help: **Dr. Howard Marton**, a Brookline resident and physician who is active in the Maimonides and Young Israel of Brookline communities, was recently diagnosed with Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML), a form of blood cancer, and is in need of a bone marrow transplant. The *Kibbitz* learned that while 13,000 potential donor samples have been collected by the Gift of Life Registry, funding is needed for them to be tested in laboratories and matched to patients. Each test costs \$54 for a lab to process. This is a waiting list that should not be. Please visit www.giftoflife.org and type Howard Marton to access his Donor Circle.

Synagogue Council of Mass. executive director **Alan Teperow** didn't let illness impede his experiences in Israel as part of last month's Unity Mission. "I was sick with flu-like symptoms almost the entire trip which, for someone who loves to sing, was very frustrating," he told the *Kibbitz*. On their first Shabbat in Jerusalem, over a dozen people from the hotel's main dining room joined the group of 29 Unity attendees, who hailed from all Judaic denominations, for singing and ruach at the Shabbat dinner table for Shabbat *zemirot* and the *birkat hamazon*. "At services at the Conservative synagogue in Haifa, Kehillat Moriah, several Bostonians read Torah and chanted the haftorah," he said. **Elizabeth Pressman** from Temple Emunah in Lexington was approached by women of her age, who said they had never heard a woman of their generation chant a haftorah with such excellence. This wasn't part of their upbringing, but Boston showed them how!

Award-winning sci-fi writer Michael Burstein schmoozed and collected signatures for a possible congressional run as a Democrat in the Massachusetts 4th Congressional District (yes, Barney's seat) at the Feb. 12 Brookline Library Gala. Burstein lives with his wife Nomi in Brookline, where he is a

Town Meeting Member and Library Trustee. The couple has twin girls and are members of Minyan Kol Rinah, which meets at the Kehilat Israel.

Dorian (aka Dori) Mintzer was also at the Gala, understandably beaming over that day's Michelle Singletary's "The Color of Money" column in the Boston Globe (and other dailies), which lauded the book she co-authored with psychotherapist **Roberta Taylor**, "The Couple's Retirement Puzzle: 10 Must-Have Conversations for the Transition to the Second Half of Life." Singletary hosted a live online discussion on Feb. 23 at washingtonpost.com about the book, which was also featured in January's Color of Money Book group. Mintzer is a Brookline resident and a member of Temple Sinai who lives with her husband and son. A licensed psychologist with a Ph.D. from Smith College, she has also been as a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker since 1981.



Dori Mintzer

The *Kibbitz* could have spent the entire night *schmoozing* with the likes of Amnesty's **Joshua Rubenstein**, whose latest book is "Leon Trotsky: A Revolutionary's Life;" Boston University professor **Hillel Levine**, who wrote so definitively about Dorchester/Mattapan/Roxbury ("The Death of an American Jewish Community: A Tragedy of Good Intentions") and the heroic Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara; humorist **Chuck Goldstone**, who appears irregularly on Randolph native Jordan Rich's WBZ show; Brookline Democratic Town Committee Chair and JALSA Fundraising and Outreach Director **Cindy Rowe**; musicians Bill and Bo Winiker, politics Rep. **Frank Smizik** and **Sen. Cynthia Creem** (who read the prayer for our country at Temple Emanuel's Sisterhood Shabbat on Jan. 28 and was recently honored as a Lawyer of the Year by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly); Dachau liberator and Facing History co-founder **Ellsworth "Al" Rosen**...but there is just only so much *Kibbitz*!



Rayna Taliano

And you're never too old - or too young - to get a story published and launch a writing career. A big mazel tov to ten-year-old and Kehillah Schechter Academy 4th grader **Rayna Taliano** of Walpole, whose short story, "Faithful," was published in *Hutch*, a children's literary and art magazine sponsored by the Blue Bunny Bookstore in Dedham. The 238-word story is about a yellow Labrador puppy that helps a fearful child adjust to a new move with her family. Teacher **Marilyn Sandperl**, who is the daughter of Holocaust survivor and Schindler's List member **Rena FINDER**, has encouraged Rayna's writing skills with assignments that have included a personal narrative, a character analysis, and a compare and contrast paper, with poetry next on the horizon. Rayna, a voracious reader, had her picture taken with Blue Bunny owner and children's book illustrator **Peter H. Reynolds**. She is working on her next story, which she hopes to submit to other magazines and newspapers. Write on!

Please send your items for this column to SusieDavidsonJournalist@gmail.com, and include "The Kibbitz" in the subject line.



Rep. Smizik, wife Julie Johnso and Cindy Rowe

COMMUNITY NOTES & EVENTS

Letters and Emails

Just found your publication while searching for a way to contact (italian artist) Daniel Schinasi, an old friend. We own his paintings, purchased in Livorno, many years ago. Kindly help us to reach him.

Carol Levison - cqlivison@gmail.com

Dear Friends:

I would like to extend a warm greeting to the local Jewish Community, marking traditionally the beginning of Passover. The Jewish holiday begins April 6 of this year and celebrates the exodus of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt. This represents a special time wherein families and friends can reunite and strengthen their relationships.

As the Jewish people in Boston celebrate Passover, may its qualities of honesty, loyalty, and compassion shine through the actions of our community's leaders and citizens.

I would also like to commend *Shalom Magazine* on their successful production and wishing the Jewish community a joyful holiday.

It is my hope that this holiday will be one filled with happiness, prosperity, growth, and improvements for every resident.

Best wishes,

Thomas M. Menino
Mayor of Boston

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South Shore Elder Services Conference

South Shore Elder Services, Inc. (SSES) will be hosting its 7th Annual Conference, "Aging is Everyone's Future: Am I Having a Senior Moment or is It More?" on **Tuesday, May 8** at Lombardo's in Randolph from 5-8:30 p.m.

The featured guest speaker will be Dr. Alan Geller, Neurologist and Neurology Consultant at Harbor Medical Associates, who will discuss normal aspects of memory loss as we age.

An information exhibit will feature more than 40 vendors providing information on resources and programs that can assist individuals as they age or help individuals as they care for an aging loved one.

Registration is required. Space is limited. To register or for more information, please contact Michelle Sofi at 781-848-3939 x 351.

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COMMUNITY NOTES & EVENTS

Events at Vilna Shul

Boston's Center for Jewish Culture

18 Philips St, Boston

Havurah on the Hill – Friday Night Learning Service

Friday, April 20 - 7-10 p.m.

Friday, May 18 - 7-10 p.m.

Friday, June 15 - 7-10 p.m.

Understanding your Jewish Artifacts with Elizabeth Berman
Wednesday, April 11 - noon-1 p.m.

Shabbat Service for Families with young children

Friday, April 13 - 5:45-8:30 p.m.

Benefit Concert and Lecture at the Vilna Shul
In support of a new music festival in Vilnius, Lithuania
Monday, April 16 - 7:30-10 p.m.

What Do the Torah, Talmud, Codes and Responsa
Come to Teach Us About Moral Dilemmas?
and Problematic Decision Making in Modern Medicine
a discussion with Dr. Michael Grodin
Bagel Brunch - Sunday, April 22 - 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Good for your body. Great for your Soul
Hebrew Kirtan Concert with Yofiyah
Saturday, April 28 - 7:30-10 p.m.

Health Care: Where are we going?
A conversation with Dr. Michael Esman Chernew
Bagel Brunch - Sunday, May 6 - 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Understanding your Jewish Artifacts with Elizabeth Berman
Wednesday, May 9 - noon-1 p.m.
Wednesday, June 13 - noon-1 p.m.

Jewish Women in the West End with
Helaine Davis and Linda Stern
Bagel Brunch - Sunday, May 13 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Shabbat Service for Families with young children
Friday, June 1 - 5:45-8:30 p.m.

The Vilna Shul's Little Summer Jewish drama, music,
games and circus program for
children 3 – 6 years old (Sundays only)
Sunday, June 10, through Sunday July 29 - 11 a.m-noon

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

Dr. Rebecca Housel at the Boston Comic Con

Shalom Magazine contributor Dr. Rebecca Housel will be speaking at the Boston Comic Con on **Sunday, April 22**. She will be talking about why supernatural superheroes are so popular in the 21st century. The event will take place at the Hynes Convention Center, 900 Boylston Street, Boston. Single day admission is \$20 and can be purchased online or at the door. For more information, please see www.Bostoncomiccon.com.

The Hooker's Daughter - A memoir by Dale Stanten

Temple Adath Sharon invites you to a book reading and signing: *The Hooker's Daughter - A memoir by Dale Stanten*. **Sunday, May 6, 7 p.m.** Admission: \$10. Temple Adath Sharon, 18 Harding St., Sharon, MA, 781-784-2517.

Meet Dale Winik Stanten, whose memoir, "The Hooker's Daughter" is a book that you can't put down until finished. Dale will give a presentation, and she will be happy to answer questions and autograph copies of the book, which will be available. Join us for dessert and discussion. Bring a friend!

The Hooker's Daughter

In 1950s Jewish Mattapan/Boston, Dale's mother established a home-based business as a prostitute to remedy her husband's inability to provide for his family. At age six, Dale was answering the front door for johns. Neighboring children were forbidden to play with her and even the Girl Scouts asked her to leave.

The Hooker's Daughter is a story of survival, driven by a strong will and an ability to extract positive qualities from a dysfunctional life, punctuated by immoral and illegal behaviors. The author was able to reconcile the reality of her environment with what she wished it to be.

Her unconditional love for her mother challenges the reader to examine beyond that which is socially acceptable and identify that which is universal.

Ordering information can be found at www.TheHookersDaughter.com.

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COMMUNITY NOTES & EVENTS

Goddard House in Brookline

165 Chestnut Street, Brookline, MA 02445
RSVP: 617-731-8500 www.goddardhouse.org

Saturday, April 7th 3:30pm
YIDDISHKEIT 2 presented by
Linda Poland and Alan Pearlmutter

Yiddishkeit 2 brings to audiences more Jewish favorites including Belz, Jerusalem of Gold, Donna Donna, Yidishe Mame, Rumania-Rumania, Eli, Eli, and Rozhinkes Mit Mandlen. Alan Pearlmutter's clarinet parts bring a fresh and different perspective to these classic songs. Linda Poland is a clarinetist with the New Bedford MA Symphony, a freelance performer in the Boston region, and a clarinet instructor for both public and private schools. Alan Pearlmutter is a conductor, music teacher, college professor, and entertainer, currently based at Bristol Community College in Fall River. Linda and Alan represent Kammerwerke, a Boston-based chamber music and chamber orchestra society founded and managed by Alan since 2006.

Saturday, April 21 at 10:30am

Discussion and Complimentary Brunch with Bob Mauterstock, Author of Can We Talk? A financial guide for baby boomers assisting their elderly parents. Free copies of Bob's book for the first 20 registrants. Must RSVP to pbarrows@radiusmanagement.com or by calling 617-731-8500. Seating in limited!

Bob Mauterstock is recognized as an expert in the areas of retirement income planning, long-term care planning, and veterans' benefits. He has been a financial advisor to hundreds of families over the last 30 years and has helped them achieve a worry-free, comfortable retirement.

Events at Agudas Achim-Ezrath Israel, 245 Bryant St., Malden:

Yom Hashoah commemoration will be held on **April 19**.

Sisterhood Donor Luncheon will be held on **Sunday, May 20 at 12:30 p.m.**

Shavuot Yizkor services followed by Brunch will be held on **Monday, May 28 at 10 a.m.** Sisterhood Sabbath Supper and Services will be held on **Friday, June 15**. For more information, call the Congregation office at 781-322-7205.

Temple Beth David in Canton (Reform)

Saturday, May 5, 7 p.m. - Dinner Theater

"Cinco De Mayo Meshuggenah Wedding Reception". Celebrate with the Bride and Groom with Mexican & Jewish Faire, Music, Dancing, Fun for all ages, Attire of Mexican dress or Black Tie (optional). Reserve your tickets by sending a check made payable to "Temple Beth David" for \$15 (TBD Members), \$20 (non-TBD Members) by April 20 to Temple Beth David, Attn: Marcia Dreyfus, 1060 Randolph St, Canton, MA 02021. For more information call 781-986-4428.

Magen David Adom

April 30: AFMDA Dessert Reception in Worcester

Learn about the lifesaving work of Magen David Adom, Israel's emergency medical service, and hear an insider's take on current events in the Middle East from Shai Bazak, Consul General of Israel to New England. This dessert reception is sponsored by American Friends of Magen David Adom. For more information and to RSVP, contact Burt Klein at burtonklein@gmail.com or 617-916-1827.

May 20: Walk-A-Thon in Sharon

Join supporters of Magen David Adom, Israel's emergency medical services, at a walk-a-thon in Sharon on May 20 and help raise money for Israel's heroic first responders. For information or to RSVP, contact Burt Klein at burtonklein@gmail.com or 617-916-1827.

Shalom Magazine offers free event listing to all non-profit Jewish organizations. One event per organization up to 3 sentences, space is limited. Preference is given to events open to the public at no or low cost. Please email text only (no attachments) to: shalomMA@msn.com.

To place an AD call Scott at: 781-975-0482

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For Sheer Arts summer and 2012-2013 school year programs and/or admissions information (younger K-8), please contact Sandi Morgan Dunn (Director of Admissions and Sheer Arts) at 781-752-7798 or smorgan@ksa-ne.org. Marc Medwed, Head of School

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