

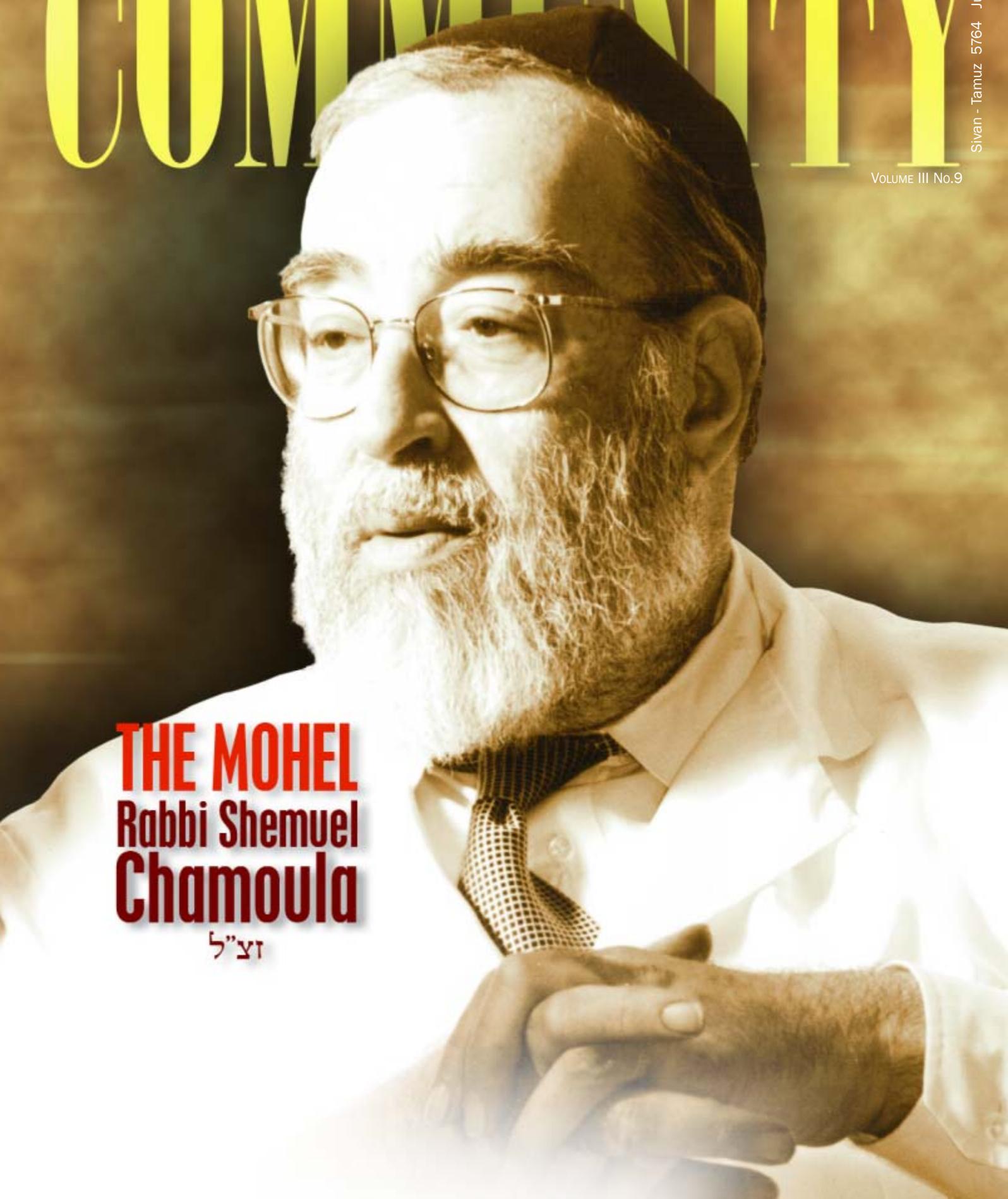
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Sivan - Tamuz 5764 June 2004

VOLUME III No.9

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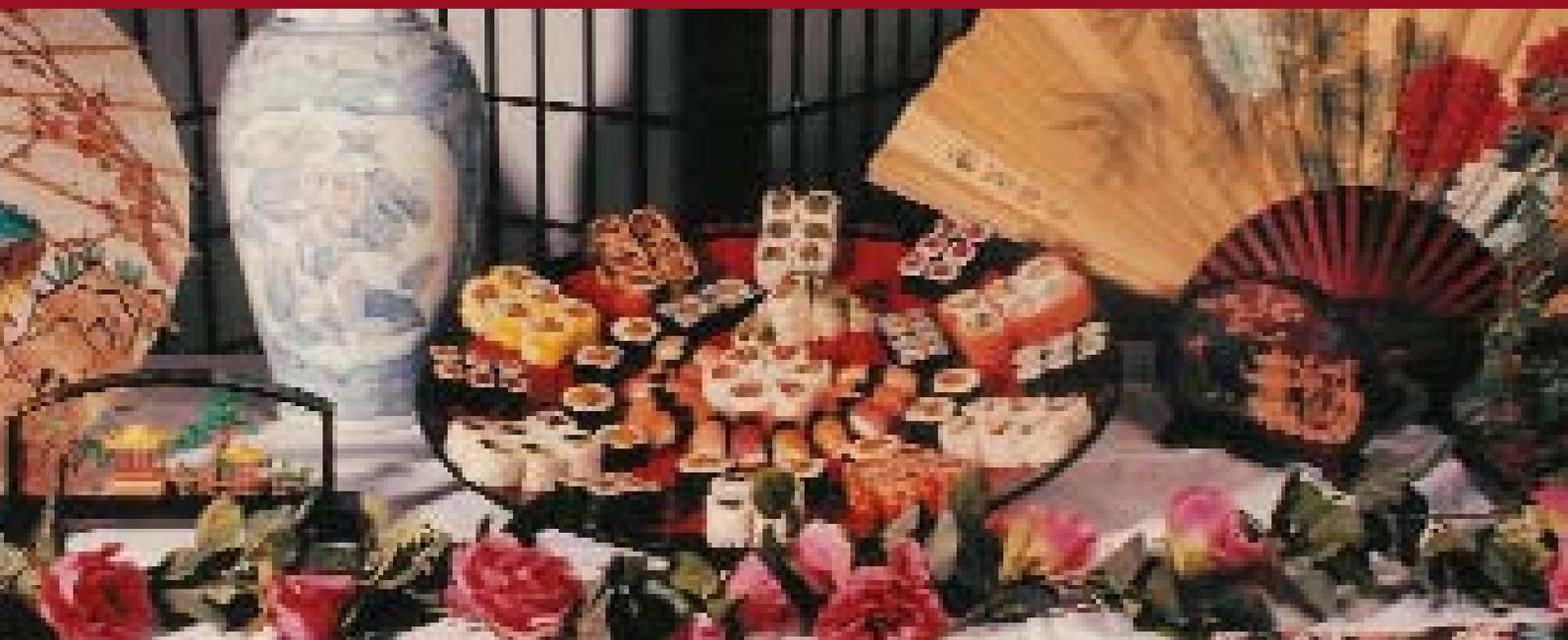
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Sivan - Tamuz 5764
June 2004
Volume III Number 9

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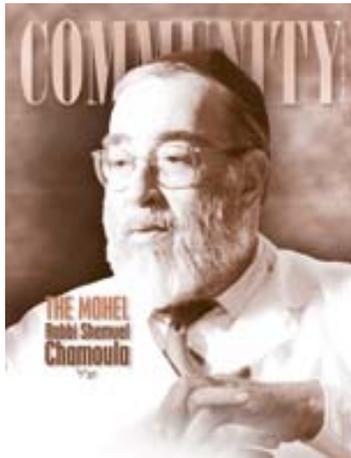
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LETTERS

DEAR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE,

I wanted to compliment you on the ongoing success of your magazine. Your magazine is a work of art that should be allowed in all homes of our community, without the need of parental previewing.

Your articles are very informative, and interesting at the same time, while conveying traditional Jewish thoughts and perspectives. May Hashem bless all your endeavors with great success.

Keep up the great work,
M. J. SUTTON

DEAR EDITOR,

Since 1948 Israel has not rest. The men have tried fighting, peace talks but nothing helped. Now I say it's up to the women to give it a try and they can do it with out firing a single bullet. Not only to try to end this war but all wars. Mashiah would come today. The code of Jewish laws tells us what we can and cannot do. Jewish people must be a light to the nations. Anti Semitism comes from crossing the line thinking the grass is greener on the other side. For the sake of our children we must give it a try. The way we eat, dress and act shows who we are.

S.M.

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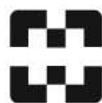
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LETTERS

DEAR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE,

Many parents let their maids watch their children but little do they know what their maids do to them! There was a story that someone let her baby daughter go to the park with the maid's supervision. And while the baby was there playing, for some reason the maid smacked the baby not only once, but a number of times. Now summer is around the corner and many people leave the baby to the maids. When the maid is watching the baby, many times other maids (their friends) are watching children too, the maids get to know each other, continuously chat with each other and don't even watch what the baby is doing. By the time they realize that the baby is in the street or in danger it is already to late and the baby can be in critical condition. Parents shouldn't just leave their child under the maid's supervision, they should watch their child themselves.

AHARON P. (12 years old)

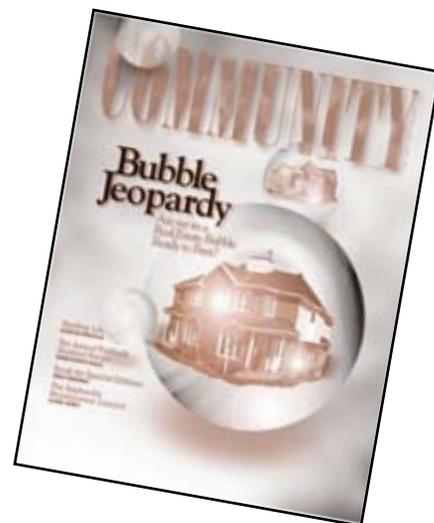
DEAR EDITOR,

Your article "Bubble Jeopardy" in the May edition was quite informative. As a residential real estate developer for many years, I can attest that home prices do fall from time to time and those who overextended in purchasing their homes end up in serious trouble. I hope that people took that information to heart and will realize that buying a house beyond their price range is not a good idea.

SAM MIZRAHI

DEAR EDITOR,

I am a member of the community who both works and learns. I want to congratulate and commend you on such a great magazine. It is such a great mitzvah to expose the community by the media of print to Torah and proper hashkafa. Tizcu Lemtisvoth and may Hashem be with the magazine la-ad.



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The Ultimate Unsolvables Mysteries

BY RABBI ELI MANSOUR

The wisest man that ever lived, King Solomon, accepted the challenge. He poured over the subject and considered every angle. He studied the attempts of others to explain the phenomenon and searched for parallels in various sources. He investigated and examined – and it was a valiant effort, but in the end, the greatest genius of all time was forced to admit that even he was stumped. The Jewish law of Para Aduma, the Red Cow, is the quintessential inexplicable ritual. The Kohen, (priest) who sprinkles the ashes of the cow unto those who are impure becomes impure himself, while those upon whom he sprinkles become pure. The mechanics of how or why this should happen is simply beyond human comprehension.

As the classic hok, (a law without a rationalization that humans can comprehend), many commentaries have drawn lessons for us to learn from this directive. One perplexing Midrash (rabbinic commentary) says, “The Red Cow, this is the Jew.” Are we being relegated to the class of cattle? Certainly not. And while there are a number of explanations to this Midrash, the focus here will be on one that is specifically relevant to our status as Jews in America.

The Ultimate Unsolved Mysteries

The comparison of the Red Cow to the Jewish people can be seen as an assessment of the mysteries each one represents. Just as the Red Cow is the greatest mystery of holy practice, the existence of the Jew is the supreme historical mystery.

How is it possible that there are still Jews in the world? For the past two thousand years, in every generation, the Jews have been the target of wars, holocausts, inquisitions, pogroms, blood libels, riots, massacres, and anti-Semitism in various forms – all by the most powerful empires of each era. No other nation in history has been targeted more for persecution. How

is it that the Jew continues to survive? This question has continually been raised by historians and writers throughout time as the passage below illustrates.

“If the statistics are right, the Jews constitute but one quarter of one percent of the human race. It suggests a nebulous dim puff of stardust lost in the blaze of the Milky Way. Properly, the Jew ought hardly to be heard of; but he is heard of, has always been heard of. He is as prominent on the planet as any other people, and his importance is extravagantly out of proportion to the smallness of his bulk.

His contributions to the world’s list of great names in literature, science, art, music, finance, medicine and abstruse learning are very out of proportion to the weakness of his numbers. He has made a marvelous fight in this world in all ages; and has done it with his hands tied behind him. He could be vain of himself and be excused for it. The Egyptians, the Babylonians and the Persians rose, filled the planet with sound and splendor; then faded to dream-stuff and passed away: the Greeks and the Romans followed and made a vast noise, and they are gone; other peoples have sprung up and held their torch

high for a time but it burned out, and they sit in twilight now, or have vanished.

The Jew saw them all, survived them all, and is now what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities of age, no weakening of his parts, no slowing of his energies, no dulling of his alert and aggressive mind. All things are mortal but the Jew; all other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality?”

From “Concerning the Jews” by Mark Twain from the September 1898 issue of Harper’s New Monthly Magazine.

The city of Caesarea in Israel is known for its historic sites. If you traveled there, you could see the remains of a magnificent amphitheatre built by the Romans who ruled over the land of Israel – and the rest of the world – for generations some two thousand years ago. But notice who would be giving the tour of the Roman ruins – a Jew. Because the Roman nation, for all its glory and might, has disappeared, while the subjugated and oppressed Jew survived – and even flourished.

Rabbi Yaakov Emden commented that the existence of the Jewish people among the nations of the world is a greater miracle than that of the exodus from Egypt.

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This thought actually comes from Hobot Halebabot, (Duties of the Heart) written by Rabenu Bachye a great Sephardic Rabbi and one of the Rishonim (early rabbinic authorities). Paraphrasing what he wrote in Shaar Habechina, Chapter 5, it says:

“If a person wants to see miracles in his time similar to those performed by Hashem during the Exodus from Egypt and Mount Sinai, let him look with a truthful eye at how the Jewish people survive among the nations of the world since they have gone into exile and how their needs are being met. We flourish even though we differ essentially from our host nations. Our inner values and outer behaviors are different from theirs and they know it. These are factors that normally arouse hatred between groups and yet we still live among them. Moreover they know that the Jew is making it – sometimes even doing better than them. Their middle and lower classes often work harder than ours do and yet we exist among them. And Hashem promised “He will not destroy abandon and not nullify the covenant he made with Abraham Isaac and Jacob.”

So when a person challenges the Rabbi, “Show me a miracle so I should believe.” The reply should be, “Go see the Jew on the street.” By all accounts, he should have gone the way of the dinosaur long ago. That our nation continues to exist is a miracle on par to those performed by Gd at Mount Sinai.

Remembering Our Status

As we bask in the knowledge that we are each a living miracle, we must continue to remind ourselves that we do not exist in the absence of anti-Semitism – rather despite it. We are like sheep surrounded by 70 hungry wolves with only a delicate barrier separating us. But to most of us in America, it doesn’t really feel that way. We are comfortable, succeeding economically, intel-

lectually and even spiritually. We have extraordinary rights and freedoms and we feel very well integrated and accepted by our host nation. We can understand how in Egypt, Babylonia and Persia, our ancestors suffered and were constantly reminded of their exile, but for us, America feels like a permanent – and ideal home.

The Satmar Rebbe was once in Miami Beach in the backyard of someone’s home. He was sipping a cold drink and enjoying fresh summer fruits when he turned to one of his students and said, “This is galus (exile) – but if you have to be in galus, this is where to be”. America is a kingdom of kindness. We are awarded variances to build synagogues, receive police cooperation to block streets when we dedicate a Sefer Torah, and we enjoy every economic opportunity. There’s a minyan (quorum of 10 Jewish men) in the Senate, more than double that in House of Representatives and an Orthodox Jew came within a few hundred votes of becoming the Vice President. We are not just surviving, we are prospering and as such we tend to forget that this is still exile, it is not where we belong.

If we heard that Mashiah was coming in January, many of us would say “Can’t he come after winter vacation?” In 1940s Europe, we can understand how they must have yearned for Mashiah, but here, for what purpose would one look forward to Mashiah? Do we want to be in Deal this summer, or in Bnei Brak? In the scheme of our lives, Mashiah is regarded as a bother, a killjoy that will ruin the party. We’ve been lulled into this state of delusional complacency, believing that everything is just perfect the way it is.

Revisiting History

There is a famous saying, “Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.” Our tradition has a slightly differ-

ent take on this concept, “Maase abot siman lebanim,” which means, “The deeds of the fathers are an indication for the descendants.” We are predestined to follow in the ways of our ancestors – so we must learn their history to discover our future.

Fortunately, acquiring this information is quite convenient – simply open the Torah and read about our forefathers. The trails of our Patriarchs represent the blueprint for our lives as well. Ironically though, we’re often too busy reading useless details about the rich and famous to analyze those valuable episodes of the Torah that reveal the key to successfully managing our survival in exile.

When Jacob our forefather was preparing for war with Esav, he separated his camp into two groups saying, “If they would defeat one camp the other would escape”. The Jews, in stark contrast to other nations have remained a cohesive group, despite being separated for centuries. This concept was played out when Hitler came to power and decimated Europe. The Jews living in other parts of the world were safe. And while the Jews of Iran and Yemen suffer under governments that oppress them, we in America are the remaining group that escapes. Yet as long as we remain in exile, there is no guarantee that we will not find ourselves in the other role – as oppressed.

The Vilna Gaon drills this concept in the Passover Hagadah. We raise our cups of wine and sing “V’Hisheamda,” which commemorates that not only one nation came to destroy us – but in every generation there are those that come up with their own version of the Final Solution to kill Jews – but Hashem saves us from them. While we chant the words in the Hagadah, most of us feel that the message doesn’t apply to us – we feel our security is assured, that maybe in World War II Poland, or Czarist Russia this notion was pertinent – but in America?

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We're in the highest positions politically, economically and socially, if anything, we're in control. So the American Jew raises his cup to this recitation, but considers it a commemoration of a bygone era.

This complacency is then shattered by the next verse, "Go out and learn what Lavan wanted to do..." The Hagadah goes on to demonstrate that the lesson of enemies coming to destroy the Jewish people in each generation applies to even those who feel completely at ease in their host nation. While Jacob was married to Lavan's daughters Rachel and Leah (there is even a Midrash that says that Jacob's two other wives Bilha and Zilpah were also Lavan's daughters) the setup seemed ideal. Jacob worked diligently for Lavan, he fathered grandchildren for him, took excellent care of his daughters and brought success and blessing to the household. Everything seemed perfect. But then one day – out of the blue, he finds out that Lavan turned on him and he wants his head. The family runs away and Jacob becomes a fugitive. Eventually, Lavan catches up and confronts him. He is up front and confirms to Jacob that he intended to kill him and his entire family. Only because Hashem intervened did Lavan abandon his plan.

Like the American Jew, Jacob was living large, feeling secure that he was in a benevolent environment. He by no means expected it – but it happened. His host turned on him and he was forced to leave or be destroyed. We must realize that it can happen – because it has happened.

The Gemara in Baba Batra, page 73b, relates a story in the name of Raba bar Rav Hana, that illustrates this concept.

We were traveling on a boat and we saw what looked like an island. But it was really a giant whale covered with sand. We got off the boat to relax and we started to barbecue. As the flames grew hotter, it burned the whale's back and the animal flipped us over. If our boat wasn't next to us, we wouldn't have survived.

This story never happened. Our rabbis explain that it is allegorical. The whale covered in sand, symbolizes our host country, which we have mistaken for a permanent abode. And the fire on its back represents the feelings of resentment that we feed when we don't keep a low pro-

file. We must not make the mistake of thinking that the exile we're in is a safe haven from the turbulent ocean around us, because no matter how secure it seems, eventually, when our host nation can't bear the heat of our growing influence, we will be ejected. And if we're not close enough to the boat, which is our Torah, we will be lost.

The Gemara's example speaks clearly to our situation in America. We don't realize we are on the back of a whale and it can turn over any moment. We believe we have an unprecedented situation with our power, influence and freedom. But it is not unprecedented.

During the Golden Age in Spain, the Jews lived for over a century in an island of tranquility reaching the highest social levels as philosophers, doctors, poets and ministers. In 1492, the great Rabbi Don Isaac Abarbanel was the Finance Minister – the most important and prestigious position in the government outside the royal family and the closest advisor to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabel. Then, one morning they turned to him and said, "Get out. Leave – you and all your people." The "whale" turned over. When he departed the country he once supervised, he was a pauper.

It happened in Germany. Jews were under the same illusion. People said "Berlin is Jerusalem"...and then the "whale" turned over.

We too are living on the back of the figurative whale. And objectively, we're forced to admit that we are stoking fires on its "back." When Jews blatantly don't follow the laws of the land, it agitates those around us. We can plainly see this in our community – and it is a microcosm of American Jewry in general. Jews feel they're above the law. Whether it's traffic laws, zoning laws, tax laws or business practice, when we feel the law doesn't apply to us, we're fanning the fire. But although we have become infamous for this behavior, it is decidedly un-Jewish. Rabbi Shimon Schwab said, "The Jew in exile should take his humash (bible) with him so he knows how to act." The Torah teaches us how to keep a low profile.

The Keli Yakar wrote about this subject in the late 16th century. The observations he made nearly five hundred years ago so

closely resemble to the situation in our community today it is uncanny. To paraphrase:

If a Jew finds some sort of success in this world, he should conceal it. Don't show it to Esav because no one hates the Jew as do the children of Esav. In their eyes, everything we possess was stolen from them when Jacob took the blessing from Esav, therefore, hide yourself. This is the exact opposite of what Jews are doing today, if a Jew achieves a little success he has to flaunt it. Somebody who has 100 gold coins builds himself a house in the manner of a person who has 1,000. and this arouses the hatred of the gentiles.

How careful we must be to avoid hilul Hashem (desecrating the name of Gd). But even in areas that are so easy we fail in this regard. A few years ago on a flight that landed in Kennedy Airport in December, the pilot announced as usual, "Please remain seated until the plane has come to a complete stop and the fasten seat belt sign has been turned off." Of course many people didn't listen – the plane was taxiing at just two miles and hour, how bad could it be to just get up? After coming to a complete stop, the pilot made the final announcement, "Welcome to New York and to all those sitting down, Merry Xmas – and to those standing, Happy Hanukah." Is this not a desecration? It's such a small regulation, but when, as a group, we brazenly flout it, it agitates those around us. We must do what we can to avoid these kinds of situations.

Our continued existence against all odds – a phenomenon as mysterious as the laws of the Red Cow – is a miracle that should make us proud. But a chief responsibility of our immortality is to understand what it means to live in exile. And we should certainly not follow the lead of the liberal Jews in Hollywood – or anyone who advocates high profile demonstrations and other attempts to put Jews squarely in the spotlight. We should emulate our forefather Jacob who deferred his honor to Esav for the sake of peace using quiet diplomacy. And we should make greater efforts to review the deeds of our fathers to understand their ramifications for our future. ■

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What Time is it? It's time to... **WALK-A-RAMA!**



As the community has grown, so have the demands on Sephardic Bikur Holim (SBH), the community's pre-eminent social service organization. SBH is constantly finding new ways to expand, to improve and to fund its many service programs. On Sunday, June 27th, SBH will be hosting its newest fundraising event, the First Annual SBH "Walk-A-Rama."

Like SBH's hugely successful Top Gun Tournament and gala Chinese Auction, **Walk-A-Rama** promises to be a ton of fun. The day will combine two already successful events, the Walk-A-Thon and the Block Party, and offer something for everyone in the family. **Walk-A-Rama** will be held in beautiful Joe Palaia Park (the Deal Test Site off of Deal and Whalepond Roads), and will feature a 5K race for runners, a scenic course for walkers, strollers and rollerbladers and rides, games, music, food and more.

Most importantly, the day will be an opportunity to contribute to SBH. We will have a split-the-pot and will raffle off other terrific prizes. Booths will be set up for volunteer sign-up for such SBH programs as the food drive, visitation of the elderly and sick, tzedaka box pick-up, the gemach, and tehilim reading. Experts and information on bicycle and pool safety will also be available.

The day will begin with a 5K early-bird race for the hard-core runners among us. Following our walkers will have a chance to warm-up and do calisthenics before taking the 3.5 mile walk through the park. All participants will receive a complimentary bagel breakfast with their registration, along with special give-a-ways to mark the occasion.

And don't forget to bring the kids! Kids of all ages are welcome to walk the course

and there will be special activities for those who just want to hang around while mom, dad, grandma or grandpa get in their exercise. Balloons, face-painting, pony rides, carnival rides and games and other attractions are planned.

So mark your calendars and kick the summer off at the **Walk-A-Rama!**

Sponsorships for Walk-A-Rama are still available and donations always welcome. There is no charge for pre-registration. Registration for the Walk-A-Thon portion is \$10 per adult; kid's walk free. For the Block Party portion, \$10 per child will purchase a bracelet for unlimited rides and fun. To pre-register or for more information about sponsorships and the event, please call Chaya at the SBH Deal office at (732) 531-1117.

Teens Have a 'Fun'-Raising Basketball Tournament.

BY JOEY J. HIDARY

Do you know where your 7th grade son was last Sunday? Chances are he was one of the 65 or more 12 year olds that participated in a fund raising basketball tournament benefiting the Sephardic Bikur Holim. The event was arranged by Isaac Dana and Marc Sabbagh and hosted in the home of Joey J. Hidary on Avenue S at Van Sicklen St. Hashem smiled on the efforts of these good guys and blessed us with a gorgeous sunny afternoon – perfect basketball weather. The games lasted from 12 PM to 5 PM and everyone had a great time! Winners *Jack Katton, Raymond Harary, Jack Gindi and Louy Bildirici* all received beautiful trophies.

Tournament Participants included: *Norman Jemal, Max Yedid, David Shomali, Freddy Jemal, Joey Hidary, Harry Dana, Cedric Sakal, Joey Souliman, Sonny Natkin, Michael Shamah, Joseph Kassin, Joseph Sutton, Joey Cohen, Enie Ballas, Victor Kassab, Charles Cohen,*

Ramond Harary, Albert Armouth-Levy, Benjamin Mann, Jack Gindi, Stephen Greenstein, Abie Nissim, Joey Bawabeh, Joey Tobias, Joseph Rudy, Eli Mizrahi, Morris Setton, Michael Eliahu, Daniel Manopila, Albert Sutton, Ronnie Shalom, Albert Manopila, Isaac Betesh, Maurice Shmool, Abraham Kassin.

Honorable mention goes to the whole group who helped set up, clean up and have a great time while enjoying each others company and raising money for the Sephardic Bikur Holim!

Joey J. Hidary is 12 years old and is finishing 7th grade soon at Magen David Yeshivah.





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Splitting

Why So Many Jewish Women

BY: RABBI YIRMIYAHU ULLMAN

The Rabbis who oppose the use of Indian-hair wigs are not just splitting hairs. The root of the problem is that the hair from India seems to come from idolatrous ceremonies. Worshipers grow their hair in honor of a certain god, pledging to cut the hair at the temple of the god as a sacrificial thank-offering when their prayer is answered. Of the 20 million annual pilgrims to the Tirupati temple in Andhra Pradesh, millions offer their hair. Six hundred barbers are employed by the temple to shave the pilgrims' hair 24 hours a day. Inside the "tonsuring" room, devotees sit cross-legged on the floor, and bend their head forward to let a temple barber shave their scalp with a straight razor blade. Attendants collect the bundles of hair in dustpans and deposit them in large bins.

The hair is then auctioned to wigmakers, earning the temple a hair-raising 5.6 million dollars. Although India is a small part of the global hair business compared to China, Indian temple hair heads the industry in price. Indian hair is generally finer than Chinese and more similar to European and American hair. After being processed, Tirupati hair longer than 16 inches sells for as much as \$165 a kilogram (2.2 pounds). Shorter hair goes for about \$100 a kilogram. Some strands bought at auction are made into hair extensions that are sold to Western women for as much as \$3,000 for a full head of hair.

The problem is that the Torah not only forbids idolatry itself, but also prohibits deriving benefit from any accessory, decoration or sacrifice to idol worship. Primarily, such a sacrifice is forbidden only when it is similar to the Jewish Temple offerings of meat, flour, oil, wine and water. However, when this object of idolatrous sacrifice (tikrovet avoda zara) is what's normally offered, and is cut or broken in honor of the god, it is also forbidden to derive benefit from it in any way. Furthermore, the sacrificed object can never be nullified, even if it's been changed or altered by some process, and even if it's been indiscernibly mixed with some other permitted material.

According to this, the Indian woman who tilts her head to have her hair cut, as well as the idolatrous barber who cuts it, are both actively offering a sacrifice to the god (even if the hair is later discarded), prohibiting the hair from being used in any way, even if it's eventually processed and mixed with other, permitted hair. [In fact, L-Cysteine, a certain food ingredient that can be produced from human hair, would also prohibit an entire food if the source is hair from India, for the above reason that anything which is sacrificed to idolatry can never be nullified.] This means that any wig with human hair would be forbidden to wear unless it could be ascertained for certain that none of the hair originated in India.

A leading Torah authority, Rabbi Moshe Sternbuch, asserts that there are other problems than just wearing such a wig. Rambam



Hairs

Burned Their Wigs

writes that the prohibition against deriving benefit from offerings to idol worship is from the verse, "Nor shall you bring an abhorrence into your house" (Deut. 7:26). Accordingly, he writes, it should be forbidden to keep such a wig in the home even without wearing it. Also, since the actual money received for objects sacrificed in idol worship becomes forbidden, one must be careful not to receive money from one who sells or otherwise works with such wigs. He suggests that one who buys a synthetic wig or other permitted item from a person who profits from such wigs should pay the exact price in cash, or with a check or credit card, in order to avoid receiving change from money that may have been paid for them.

HaGaon Rabbi Elyashiv has also recently prohibited Indian wigs. After sending Rabbi A.D. Dunner of London to India to witness the Tirupati temple ceremony first hand, he ruled as follows: Regarding human hair wigs in Israel, since most are from such hair, all are forbidden unless the origin is known. Regarding wigs in other countries, if the majority of wigs are from a permitted source, all wigs are technically permitted, but one must clarify the source of each specific wig. Regarding wigs made from synthetic hair, if they contain human hair as well (which is often the case), they must be treated as other human hair wigs as above. In a case of doubt whether they contain human hair, they are permitted. Rabbi Efrati, in the name of Rabbi Elyashiv writes that since objects associated with idol worship are to be burnt in fire, wigs from hair generally known to originate in India should be burned, while wigs specifically known to be from the Tirupati temple must be burned.

Editor's Note: As always, each person should consult his/her local rabbi to determine the proper course of action.

Sources:

- ◆ Avoda Zara 50a,b
- ◆ Shulchan Aruch, Yoreh Deah 139:1,2,3
- ◆ Rabbi Moshe Sternbuch, Da'at v'Halacha; Teshuvot v'Hanhagot 2:414; Public letter of Iyar 5764
- ◆ Rabbi Mordechai Gross, in Teshuvot M'Beit Levi (regarding L-Cysteine)
- ◆ Rambam, Avoda Zara 7:2, also see Rashi, Avoda Zara 64a, s.v. "Rabbanan"
- ◆ Shulchan Aruch, Yoreh Deah 133:1
- ◆ Public letter of Rabbi Joseph Efrati in the name of HaGaon Rabbi Elyashiv, 22 Iyar 5764

Rabbi Ullman teaches in Yeshivat Ohr Somayach, Jerusalem and writes the weekly "Ask the Rabbi" column for Ohr Somayach's website. For other interesting and informative articles see <http://www.ohr.edu>



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Ask Jidoh

Ji•doh (jīdō) Grandfather [Arabic]

Dear Jidoh,

Someone has suggested setting me up on a blind date with a particular girl. As it turns out, I went out with her sister some time ago and she really broke my heart. On the one hand I'm worried that if we start dating, the feelings I had for the sister - who is now married - may resurface, which would be bad for everyone. On the other hand maybe I will end up feeling the same way about the sister as I did about my old flame. What is your advice?

**Signed,
Sensitive about sisters**

Dear Sensitive about sisters,

In my opinion you should take the opportunity to date this girl and you should go into it with an open mind, a fresh perspective, and focusing entirely on whether or not she is the right girl for you. Your experience with her sister is a memory of the past, and although youthful memories of old 'crushes' are hard to forget, she is a married woman now, she has found her zivug (soulmate) now and was therefore not the one meant for you. By all accounts it is foolish to allow those old feelings to limit your chance of finding your zivug. On another note, you probably have somewhat of head start in the

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fact that you are already comfortable knowing the family setting. If the younger sister is willing to date you, go for it!

All the Best,

Jidoh

Dear Jidoh,

A friend of mine asked me to borrow money to purchase an expensive item he claims to "need", but I'm not sure I should lend it to him. I know this person has borrowed money from others and failed to pay it back.

I'm afraid that if the same thing happens when I lend him money we'll stop being friends. On the other hand if I don't lend him the money the same thing may happen. If I thought he really needed it to live, it would be no problem, but it seems to me that he's not asking for the money for this purpose. What should I do?

**Signed,
Confused**

Dear Confused,

I'm sure you feel that both your points seem valid. It may not be in your best interest or your friend's best interest for you to lend him money if the money will be spent inappropriately or add to his overall un-payable debt. On the other hand you don't want to give your friend the impression that you are unwilling to help him with something he believes is important.

You may want to start by having a frank talk with your friend. You may begin by saying that you'd like to help him out but first you'd like to discuss some of the parameters that you have set for yourself before lending money to friends. You want to make him aware that on principle you do not like to lend

money for what most people consider non-essential things. You can honestly say that you do not wish to jeopardize your friendship should the loan become un-payable. You may find that he understands your point of view.

Depending on the level of your relationship, you may want to offer to help him sort out his financial situation and get a better handle on why he feels he "needs" something that seems to be impractical given his financial situation. Many people in our community feel that they must maintain the appearance of 'normalcy' through spending and acquisition of material things even though their material pursuit is unrealistic and actually exacerbates their already challenging financial reality.

Unfortunately this is a cultural phenomenon of our community that though understandable in its context, is a very serious problem.

If you feel your friend is forthcoming with both a very good reason for needing the money and can demonstrate a feasible way of paying it back in a reasonable time frame, you may wish to compromise and help him in the following way: Provide a loan that is somewhat less than what he requested for and ask him for a series of dated checks to pay the loan in small increments over time. Again, depending on your relationship you might offer to help him prioritize and deal with other pending loans or his overall financial situation in a similar fashion.

This strategy might also go a long way to assure your friend that you truly have his best interests in mind and that your reluctance in handing him whatever he asked for is a sign of concern not apathy.

All the Best,

Jidoh

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Giants of The Glory Days

Hacham Shelomo Laniado זצ"ל

ROOTS OF THE LANIADO FAMILY IN ALEPPO

By: Rabbi David Sutton

Hacham Shemuel

In the early 1500's Rabbi Yosef Caro, the Beit Yosef, received a letter from the Jewish community in Aleppo, Syria. Following the expulsion from Spain in 1492, the influx of Sephardic Jews changed the composition of the community. The Jews of Halab – now a much larger group – needed a person fit to serve as their spiritual guide and chief Rabbi. The author of the Shulhan Aruch and resident of the holy city of Tzfat responded, "I am sending you someone that is equal to me."

Rabbi Shemuel Laniado, the Beit Yosef's choice, had also originated from Spain. His voyage from Israel to Syria to assume the position of chief Rabbi of the community in Aram Soba was the onset of the Laniado dynasty – eleven generations of consecutive Chief Rabbis from the same family, eventually ending only when one Rabbi died young and didn't have a son old enough to take over. Subsequent Chief Rabbis in the recent era included Hacham Abraham Sutton, Hacham Abraham Antebi, Hacham Yaakob Dweck, and Hacham Yom Tov Yedid – but no family held the crown of piety and leadership of our community for longer than the Laniados.

Rabbi Shemuel was known as the "Ba'al HaKelim," after his books, the "Keli Hemdah" on Torah, the "Keli Yakar," in Neviim, and the "Keli Paz," on Ketuvim. He named his books after valuable objects (Keli means vessel in Hebrew and Yakar means valuable) to remind himself of the miracle Hashem performed for him during his journey to Syria. While on the boat, he befriended a man who was in the possession of many barrels of salted fish. The man died on the boat, and as the captain did not have any desire to retain the fish, he offered to sell

it to Rabbi Shemuel. He purchased them, but when he arrived at the home that the Syrian community had prepared for him, he was surprised upon opening these barrels. There weren't any fish – instead, the barrels were filled with diamonds, pearls, and jewels! Rather than needing the support of the community, Rabbi Shemuel arrived with the ability to support others both spiritually and financially. This eased his transition into the new position and enabled him to gain respect with greater facility.

HACHAM SHELOMO POWER OF TEHILLIM

Hacham Shelomo Laniado was born from this great ancestry and into this dynasty some 200 years ago. His own merit though, was evident from the numerous stories that only a man of great piety could experience.

On one rainy day, Hacham Efraim, Hacham Shelomo's son, saw his father follow a funeral procession. Jewish law dictates that when coming into contact with a funeral procession, a person is obligated to follow the procession for four amot (six feet). On this occasion however, Hacham Efraim watched his father follow the procession – not for six feet – but for

its entirety, through the wet weather, until the deceased reached the cemetery and was buried. The man who had passed away was a simple water carrier – Hacham Efraim wondered why his father had paid that man such extreme respect. Hacham Shelomo told him, "When I saw the funeral procession passing, I saw thousands of angels singing Tehillim with beautiful voices – and then I saw one big angel who looked like King David singing amongst them. How could I not follow a funeral like that?"

What could this simple water carrier possibly have done during his lifetime to merit being accompanied by King David to his grave? Hacham Efraim requested a "She'elat Halom," he prayed to Hashem to answer him in a dream. The deceased man appeared to him and said, "True, I was a simple man. I couldn't read or write – but I knew the first chapter of Tehilim by heart. Each day after work, I came to the Midrash. Since that was the only thing I knew, I said it slowly and with feeling. In the merit of that act, I was bestowed such honor."

AN ACT OF CHARITY

In another incident, as a grave was being dug in the cemetery, the body in the

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ON OUR SIDE**

adjacent plot was exposed – and was revealed to be still whole, though the man had been dead for thirty years. Many remembered him as a simple merchant of knitting utensils, not known for special piety. Hacham Shelomo was curious as to reason this man merited such a miracle for his departed body, so he also did a “She’elat Halom.” The man appeared to him in a dream and told him, “I started working when I was 13, and didn’t spend any of my money. I saved it all in an earthenware jar. I continued this way my whole life, living very frugally. By the time I was an older man, I had hundreds of thousands saved. A new Sheik took over in Aram Soba, and had made a decree that the Jews could no longer participate in selling a certain item. I knew that two hundred families were involved in this industry, they had done well with it, and I knew that they depended on the income from selling this item. So I went to speak with the Sheik and befriended him – and gave him my life savings as a bribe to cancel the decree so the families could continue to make a living. In the merit of saving those families, Hashem saved me.”

ASKING FOR ANGELS

When he was older and not feeling well, Hacham Shelomo spent one Rosh Hashanah at home. His son led the congregation in his place. After shul, he asked his visitors how his son had done blowing the shofar (ram’s horn). They told him, “In the beginning he was nervous, the sound was not coming out so well...after a few moments, he was himself again.” Knowing that his son was already experienced in blowing the Shofar, Hacham Shelomo was surprised to learn that he had difficulty. When he asked his son what happened, Hacham Efraim explained. “After I said the ‘Yehi Ratzon’ (request before blowing), I began to blow the shofar. But as I did, I saw angels flying into the shul and I became scared.” The words of the short ‘Yehi Ratzon’ prayer include a passage which, roughly translated, says “Please Gd, send the angels to bring up the sounds of the shofar.” Hacham Shelomo’s son merited to actually see those angels come, just as his father had seen every year. His father commented “What did you think, we ask for angels and they don’t come?”

KEEPING TO HALACHA

When a new Sheik took over in the region that included Aram Soba (Aleppo, Syria), one high-ranking Jew in the Syrian government was framed and falsely accused of treason. His pleas of innocence



from a distance.

The family sat Shivah, and a few months later, the wife wished to remarry. Hacham Shelomo told her, “No witnesses actually saw him die. We never had the body. Halacha says that you can’t remarry.” Apparently, the authorities never returned the body back to the Jewish community. As a result, this woman remained an agunah (a woman whose husband’s status is unknown). Countless Rabbis and important people pleaded with the Hacham to have mercy on the women and allow her to continue with her life. They argued that there was ample evidence that the man had died – they had seen everything but the actual death!

Years later, Hacham Shelomo gathered the Rabbis of the town and told them, “I changed my mind. This women’s husband is dead...she can now get married.” The document giving her permission to marry was drawn up and passed to each of the rabbis to sign. At the moment that the last signature was fixed, the woman’s husband walked into the room. All faces turned white – except Hacham Shelomo.

Before being forced to the gallows, the man had managed to smuggle a precious gold coin with him. Minutes before his impending death, he bribed the executioner to let him go, promising to leave town so no one would know of his release. The executioner accepted and while out of site released the Jew and grabbed a random non-Jewish drifter off the streets to hang instead so he wouldn’t be caught for not performing his duty. Now, the Sheik had died, and the man knew it was safe to come back to the town. He didn’t want to shock his wife, so he came first to the home of Hacham Shelomo. Rather than simply announce this man’s surprise arrival, Hacham Shelomo saw an opportunity to use the situation to strengthen the community’s faith in halacha (Jewish law). That was why he called the meeting of rabbis and pretended to suddenly reverse his position – he wanted to prevent the leaders from ever allowing their emotions to cloud their judgment in such matters again.

KABBALISTIC POWERS

During an outbreak of the cholera epidemic, many members of the Syrian community were dying each day. Hacham Shelomo devised a means to end the decree of death which was plaguing his people. He prepared a parchment and gave it to the Shamosh (his aide) instructing him to bring it to the shul that night. Kabbalists know that demons come to the shul at night, and one shouldn’t go there alone. The Shamosh



were unheeded, and his sentence was carried out. The Jewish community watched the executioner drag him to the gallows and minutes later, they saw a body hanging

was to wait for the demons to come, and when he heard the sound of the winds, throw the parchment up in the air. He did as instructed, and went to the shul around midnight. At 1am, then 2am, he had still not heard the winds, and fell asleep. Suddenly, the winds started to sound, and as he was half asleep, he heard the demons reading off names. He woke up and threw the parchment in the air, then heard, "Woe unto us, we lost our livelihood."

The next day, the plague was over—but there were a few casualties. Those whose names were read before the parchment was thrown had passed away during the night. Hacham Shelomo's great merit was able to save him community from death. When people pass away or tragedies happen, we attribute it to fate. The cholera epidemic two hundreds years ago is like any disease or tragedy today. With great Rabbis and merit, we can avert disasters.

A SNAKE BRINGS JUSTICE

Hacham Shelomo saw the connection between tragedies and their causes. He used this knowledge to help awaken his community to be better. During an argument between two businessmen, the man being accused repeatedly ignored the Rabbi's requests to come to Beit Din (Jewish court) and subsequently skipped town. While traveling, the refugee stopped at a rest stop and sat down. A snake slithered up between his feet and bit his ankle. The poison killed him. At the funeral, Hacham Shelomo was clear in the eulogy, "This man died because he was called to court and didn't come. The pasuk says, 'Someone that breaks the 'fence of justice' will be bit by a snake.' Because this man broke the 'fence of justice', this was the cause of his death."

ENFORCING HALACHA

Hacham Shelomo's name is mentioned in many books written by Rabbis of our generation. Hacham Ovadia Yosef, in Yabiaa Omer (Vol. 2, Orah Haim, Siman 21), quotes from the "Hanan Elokim," by Hacham Haim Abulafia of Tiberias, "The proper amount of time to wait before ending Shabbat is 72 minutes, as defined by Rabbenu Tam. This is agreed by most of the Poskim (authoritative rabbis), and anyone that is lenient is taking a risk." Hacham Shelomo Laniado's response is also recorded there. "I announced this, and warned people that it was sinful to wait any less. Everyone accepted upon themselves to wait 72 minutes. I commanded in the largest shul in Syria, that Arbit shouldn't be

prayed until an hour and fifteen minutes after sunset. No candles should be lit, and no work should be done." He continues, "We even made a Herem on this, and the Hachamim got together and agreed, and accepted it on the future generations." Although most people don't have this custom today or even in his times, he had a unique ability to enforce Halacha.

In another place, the Yabia Omer quotes the Sefer Tzedakah UMishpat of Rabbi Sadka Hussein (Vol 7, Orah Haim 41), "Also it is the custom in Aram Soba, on a regular fast day, one should wait 72 minutes...also on Yom Kippur. That is what our master Hacham Shelomo Laniado said, and Hacham Shelomo even waited 72 minutes

after Yom Kippur while he was sick.

As previously mentioned there were many generations of Rabbinical Laniados. In our times we merited Hacham David Sion Laniado author of "L'Kedoshim Asher B'aretz an encyclopedia on Syrian Gedolim (great rabbis) and a source for our series. An entire article will be written on him in the future.

The effects of Hacham Shelomo's brave leadership, astute judgments, scholarly rulings and uncompromised commitment to the community of Aram Soba continue to be felt two centuries later. May the lessons we learned from this great sage help us to continue in the ways of our distinguished tradition.

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Beit Medrash Shaare Torah

BY ALEX MILLER



Where can you find working boys and men sitting and learning Torah at night after a full day at work?

Where can you hear lovely sounds of Torah early in the morning while the world soundly sleeps?

Where can you find successful business men devoting half a day to study Gemara before they go to the office?

In Beit Medrash Shaare Torah. Come take a tour of this lovely place of learning, friendship and growth in Avodat Hashem.

Rabbi Hillel Haber Shlita, Rosh Yeshiva Shaare Torah established this highly successful program over eight years ago to serve the needs of the young men of our community. Rabbi Haber understood that our boys and men have to stay connected to their yeshiva, their Rebbeim, and the Torah. The boys look forward to their learning slots and the atmosphere of togetherness and camaraderie that they enjoy with their friends and Rebbeim.

The uniqueness of this program lies in the individual attention that each member receives from the director of Beit Medrash Shaare Torah, Rabbi Dovid Kipper Shlita. Rabbi Kipper's focus is to help each person grow in Avodat Hashem and to develop on their own level of learning. The emphasis is on "learning how to learn." The goal is for the students to be able to learn Gemara on their own. The advanced students are challenged with deep analysis into the broad subjects of Shas. At **Beit Medrash Shaare Torah**, it is not only the page of Gemara which is emphasized, but how to take the Torah teachings and put them into actual practice. Rabbi Kipper takes an active role in guiding his talmidim through the many personal and daily challenges of living a Torah true life.

The members of this program also enjoy the expertise of many Torah scholars. Amongst the scholars are the well known Rabbis; Rabbi Ezra Zafrani Shlita, Rabbi Shlomo Wadiche Shlita and Rabbi Yaakov May Shlita.

Baruch Hashem, there are approximately 60 men learning in this program. We welcome new students to join, from the beginner who is interested in learning once a week to the advanced student who participates in our half day Kollel. The schedule at the Beit Medrash is extremely flexible; sessions begin at 6:15AM – 12:00NOON daily and 8:00PM-10PM nightly.

Any one interested in joining or to sponsor a night or week of learning, please contact **Rabbi Dovid Kipper 718-339-3106**.

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BY DR. JACQUES DOUECK



If you've never bleached your teeth listen to this. And even if you have bleached in the past this technique for extreme bleaching is an easy way for you to push the whiteness of your teeth to the extreme. My patients are demanding. They demand easier, faster and better ways to get their teeth whiter. At first I thought the easiest fastest best way to bleach teeth was with one hour bleaching. Boy was I wrong.

An independent dental research organization has been testing bleaching systems for 15 years. At a recent all day symposium by the head of CRA (Clinical Research Associates) he presented his findings.

Here are the startling results.

◆ Although many of the In-office bleaching systems claim "nine shades of whitening" in one hour the research has shown that two shades is more accurate. Our own experience has been the same. Therefore CRA recommends that In-office bleaching should only be used to "jump start" your home bleaching.

◆ What's the best toothpaste for getting my teeth their whitest?

This question has been addressed by CRA and they have found that there is only one toothpaste that really guarantees bleaching – and it works! That toothpaste is Rembrandt Plus™. But the most interesting part of the research is that this toothpaste is made with bleaching gel.

Therefore you can use this toothpaste inside your custom-made bleaching trays after you've completely your "regular" home bleaching – this will allow you to keep bleaching every day for as long as you like. You can follow the system that we will describe below.

◆ The research has also shown that when it comes to at-home bleaching the first 15 minutes gives you about 40% of your effectiveness. The first ½ hour gives you about 70% of the results and over the next hour you will get the rest of your results. That's it. What that means is that after the first hour and a half you're not really getting any more bleaching. That means that you really don't gain anything by sleeping with your bleaching trays. In fact you can actually get a great result by just bleaching for ½ hour while you take a shower and get dressed. If you're really want to see results in a few days do it twice a day for ½ hour.

◆ If you're one of those people that have sensitive teeth or get sensitive when you bleach you can put a small amount of Sensodyne™ toothpaste inside your custom trays and wear it for 15 minutes before you bleach to make the teeth less sensitive. Don't put the Sensodyne™ in your bleaching trays together with the bleaching gel. The Sensodyne is meant to be used alone. You can do this as often as necessary.

◆ Once you've used up the bleaching gel in your kit you can decide if you want to buy more bleaching gel or start using the Rembrandt Plus™ tooth paste in your custom-made trays. By using the toothpaste as bleach you can push the system to get extreme whitening and save money.

Here's the System:

1. You must use custom-made bleaching trays. This is the single most important part of the system. Without custom bleaching trays you won't be able to really maximize your whitening.

2. Using bleaching gel that you get from your dentist for about ½ hour to 1 hour once or twice a day, you will be able to bleach your teeth in about 7-10 days or until you run out of bleaching gel. An easy time to bleach is while you take a shower and get dressed.

3. After you finish your bleaching gel you can continue bleaching with more bleaching gel or start using the Rembrandt Plus™ toothpaste in the trays and as your fluoride toothpaste.

4. When you decide that you want to use the bleaching gel again you can always pick up more bleaching gel and repeat the process.

Today there is no excuse. Everyone can have whiter teeth. Get started now and you'll feel better about your smile and about yourself.

ATTENTION!

Wedding Season Is Right Around The Corner!

If you or someone you know is getting married or going to a wedding... Please Read This Immediately!

Wedding Photos Don't Lie!

Dear Friend,

Since wedding season is quickly upon us, I want to make sure that all of my patients are looking their best in those wedding photos. Whether you are in a wedding, getting married, attending a wedding or not, it doesn't matter. I am knocking \$100 off all teeth whitening. That means you can come in to get your teeth whitened and it will only cost you \$200 for teeth whitening, instead of the usual \$300!

\$100 OFF TEETH WHITENING!

Also, if you have any friends or family who would like the same deal, all they have to do is call by June 30th, 2004. Plus, if you know anyone who is getting married and give them the below coupon, I will put \$200 toward any cosmetic care that you decide to get above and beyond your teeth whitening when they mention your name.

I can't wait to see you, and can't thank you enough for telling others about this limited time special offer. Remember, **you must call and schedule by June 30th** or else the special offer will no longer be available. Please call us at **718-339-7982** to reserve your spot and get \$100 Off Teeth Whitening!

"You're Getting Married This Summer And Your Photos Are Going To Last A Lifetime... Would You Like To Have A Beautiful, White Smile That Lights Up The Room?"

Dear *Bride-To-Be*,

Your wedding day is one of the most important days of your life. Your family, friends will all be there. If you would like to guarantee that your smile dazzles then! invite you to call my office for a very special offer.

I'm knocking **\$100 OFF** all teeth whitening for you, and putting an extra **\$300** in your personal account for any extra cosmetic work you would like to have done in my office. Plus, since you are the bride, for every person in the wedding party, family, or friend you send to our office before the wedding, I'll add an additional \$100 to your account!

The one catch is that you must call before June 30th and schedule your appointment. Even if you don't get married until August or the fall, we can schedule you in later in the summer to guarantee you have a magical, dream smile that everyone talks about.

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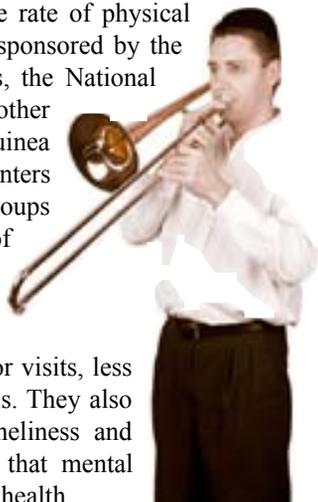
To Your Health

'PACING' YOUR HUNGER PANGS

A "pacemaker" for the stomach that regulates hunger through electrical impulses could prove a revolutionary tool for weight loss. The Implantable Gastric Stimulation device, manufactured by Transneuronix, is an electrical pulse generator about the size of a pocket watch. It is implanted under the skin in the abdomen and connected to the wall of the stomach with two wires. It delivers electrical stimulation to the stomach, causing a feeling of fullness. Surgeons are still unsure exactly why it lessens the appetite, but some believe it includes an impact on the nerves, changes in digestive hormones or direct stimulation of stomach muscles. The device could replace other surgical treatments for weight loss, such as gastric bypass, if proven safe and effective.

THE ART OF HEALTHFUL CREATIVITY

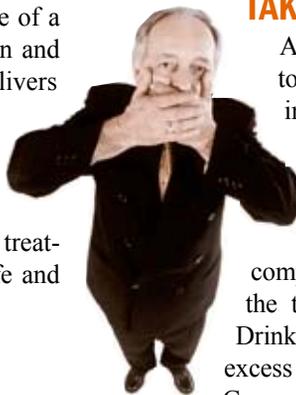
Forget broccoli – take up pottery classes. Doing something creative is good for your health. That's the conclusion of a recent study assessing the health effects of participating in music, art, dance and poetry programs. Such activities help people feel happier and perhaps slow the rate of physical decline with age. The study was sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Institute of Mental Health and other organizations. In Brooklyn, the guinea pigs were a mixture of writers, painters and jewelry makers, all over 65. Groups were being monitored on a range of measures from physical strength to mental health and social behavior. After a year, the study group reported better health, fewer doctor visits, less use of medications, and fewer falls. They also reported less depression, less loneliness and higher morale. All this suggests that mental activities play a significant role in health.



BRAIN'S EARNING DESIRE

People who win or inherit loads of money don't get as much satisfaction from their cash as those who earn it, according to a new study on the brain's pleasure center. Yet New Yorkers sweating it out on the job said that if they suddenly inherited a zillion bucks, they could somehow still be happy. In the study, Emory University researchers measured brain activity in two groups of volunteers playing a computer game. One group worked to earn money while

playing, and the other group simply received rewards. The researchers found that the brains of volunteers who worked for what they got were more stimulated.



TAKE A BREATH...BUT NOT TOO CLOSE

As dieters shed pounds, many are saying goodbye to carbs and hello to halitosis. The types of foods ingested play a role in one's breath. Most cases of bad breath originate from the breakdown of food particles that produce sulfur compounds, and from bacteria on the gums and tongue. High-protein foods can produce more sulfur compounds, especially overnight on the surface of the tongue when saliva production is diminished. Drinking water, however, can help cleanse teeth of excess bacteria and food debris. The Academy of General Dentistry recommends also chewing sugarless gum after meals to help keep bad breath at bay. Saliva production increases during chewing, and this can help neutralize acid production and rinse food particles from the mouth. Chewing parsley can have the same effect, since it also increases saliva production. Brushing and flossing at least twice a day can help keep your mouth healthy and prevent odors. Cleaning the tongue with a toothbrush or tongue scraper after meals can also help alleviate odors.

DRINKING SODA LINKED TO GULLET CANCER RISE

The rise in cancers of the gullet in developed countries could be explained by the increase in the consumption of carbonated drinks, suggests a new study. The volume of soft drinks downed in the US has increased nearly five-fold in the 50 years, while in the last 25 years rates of esophageal cancer have rocketed by nearly six-fold in white males - the group with the highest soft drink consumption. Tata Memorial Hospital in India found a significant correlation between the rise in consumption and esophageal cancer globally. In countries where soft drinks have not caught on like Japan or China, there has been no increase in the cancers affecting the esophagus, the tube linking the mouth and stomach. The study says that fizzy drinks can lead to gastric reflux - the acid of the stomach is thrown back into the food pipe - which causes the gullet to become acidic for long periods.



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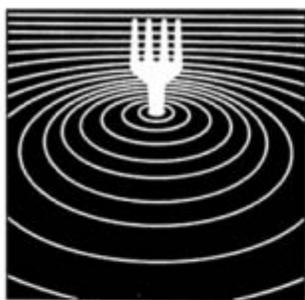
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To Junior's Health

POLLUTION COULD AFFECT UNBORN CHILDREN

Soot and other types of air pollution can not only affect animals and people, but their unborn children, too, researchers have reported. In a lab, scientists found that genetic mutations known to be caused by some pollutants can be passed on to baby mice. Presumably, the same thing could happen to human beings, a report in the journal *Science* said. Mice that breathed polluted air from a steel mill were much more likely to father offspring with clear genetic mutations than mice that breathed filtered air, the team at McMaster University in Toronto found. Air pollution has also been linked to heart disease, lung cancer and birth defects.



EXERCISE BENEFICIAL – EVEN WITHOUT WEIGHT LOSS

Obese teens can reverse early signs of artery disease by exercising even if they do not lose weight, new research suggests. The study from the University of Western Australia tested blood vessel function in 19 obese and 20 lean adolescents before and after they participated in an exercise program. The youth were all healthy nonsmokers who had normal cholesterol and blood pressure. The results of the study appear in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*. Obese teens, who were not advised to change their diet, did not lose weight while on the exercise plan. But they did experience healthy changes in their body composition, including increased muscle mass. They also experienced a decrease in fat around the abdomen. This type of fat is strongly associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease. But to keep vessels healthy, teens have to stay active. Exercise quickly improved blood vessel function, but these benefits soon dissipated once teens stopped exercising.

PARENTS SHOULD FIZZLE OUT SODA

Ask mom and pop to take away the soda pop. A yearlong study showed that even small amounts of carbonated beverages can add weight to children. The United States Department of Agriculture reports that American children between the ages of 12 and 19 consume almost a gallon of carbonated beverages a week. The beverages contribute empty calories with little, if any, nutritional value and often are chosen in place of foods that offer health-promoting vitamins and minerals. Parents are encouraged to delay the introduction of carbonated beverages or

reserve them for special occasions. From a nutritional perspective, offering milk or water is preferable to soda pop.

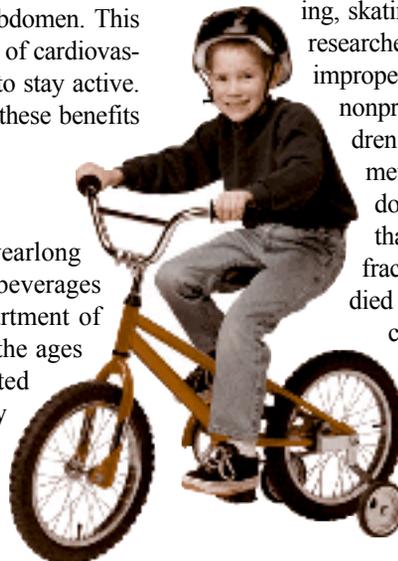
CHILDREN'S MOTRIN MIX-UP

Bottles that were supposed to contain Children's Motrin grape chewable ibuprofen tablets might mistakenly contain an adult dose. A lot that was distributed nationwide between February 5 and April 1 might mistakenly contain eight-hour extended release Tylenol Geltabs, McNeil Consumer & Specialty Pharmaceuticals said. The adult product contains an adult dose of acetaminophen. The children's product is a purple tablet with a grape smell. The adult product is a shiny red-and-white, gelatin-coated tablet. The manufacturing lot number, which is embossed on the carton end flap, and printed on the bottle label under McNeil's address, is "Exp 1/06 JAM108." In children, an acetaminophen overdose can lead to nausea and vomiting, abdominal pain and liver failure, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. Anyone identifying one of the bottles is asked to contact McNeil's Consumer Relationship Center at 1-800-962-5357.



HELMETS REDUCE RISK OF BRAIN INJURY BY 88%

Fewer than half of US children wear helmets while biking, skating and riding scooters, said a survey by safety researchers. A third of children observed wore helmets improperly, leaving them vulnerable to head injury, the nonprofit Safe Kids campaign found. A third of children watched on residential streets were using helmets, the campaign said. Most parents and kids don't understand just how fragile the brain is, and that a fall from a little as two feet can cause a skull fracture. In 2001, 134 children ages 14 and under died and nearly 314,600 were injured in bicycle crashes. More than 176,000 children ages 5 to 14 are treated each year in hospital emergency rooms for injuries related to skateboards, scooters and skates. Helmets reduce the risk of brain injury in a bike accident by 88 percent. The study watched about 9,000 bicyclists nationally.



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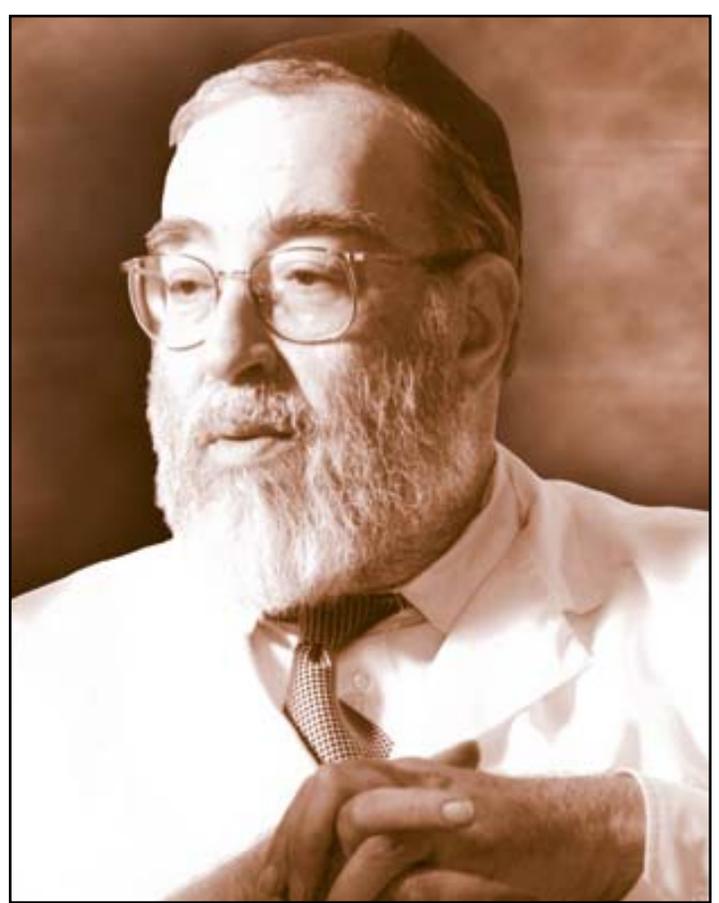
BY: JACK COHEN

HUMILITY

Humble and unassuming, Rabbi Shemuel Chamoula hid his greatness from the casual eye. As the premier *mohel* (one who circumcises according to Jewish tradition) of the Syrian Sephardic community for nearly four decades, no one would have blamed him for developing some sense of elitism – but his nature did not allow this. He lived his entire life with dignified humility and deference to all who were fortunate enough to make his acquaintance.

But behind his simple demeanor was a man of remarkable talent. In addition to being a premier Mohel and an accomplished *Talmid Hacham* (Torah student), Hacham Shemuel was also a *Baal Koreh* (reader of the Torah), *Baal Tokeh* (blower of the *shofar*), *Hazan* (cantor), and *Shohet* (ritual slaughterer). He spoke six languages, including Syrian Arabic, French, Spanish, Hebrew, English and a Moroccan Arabic so authentic that native Moroccans didn't believe that he was really raised in Egypt and not Morocco. He also possessed an extremely sharp wit and was skilled at playing the keyboard and accordion – but few knew of such talents because his most accomplished skill of all was modesty.

In the days following his passing, dozens of Rabbi Chamoula's exemplary deeds, which he tried so hard to hide during his life, began to surface. No doubt, these stories of selflessness, sacrifice and service to Hashem and to his fellow



12 Shevat 5702 (January 30, 1942), Alexandria, Egypt
 – 27 Iyar 5764 (May 17, 2004), New York, NY

man, are merely the tip of the iceberg. Rabbi Chamoula's consummate modesty insures that we will probably never know the true extent of his greatness.

One rabbi, not even half the age of the *niftar* (deceased), told the mourners about how Rabbi Chamoula would stand up for him when he approached, simply because the Mohel once heard one *halacha* (Jewish law) from him. When the Mohel answered the phone and someone asked to speak to "Rabbi Chamoula," he would tell him or her, "There is no Rabbi Chamoula here – I'm not a rabbi." In his efforts to avoid the spotlight, he would not volunteer to the *minyan* whether he had a *milah* that day – only the truly determined were able to extract the information from him and thus adjust the prayers accordingly. He would never speak about favors he did for others and when his children would ask him about a good deed they heard he performed from a grateful friend, he would interrupt and change the subject.

PURE BEGINNINGS

Born of Syrian descent to Shaul and Frieda (nee Harari) Chamoula ז"ל, Rabbi Chamoula began learning to perform the mitzvah of *brit milah* (circumcision) at the behest of his father. While still in Egypt in his early teens, he would pay a significant sum of money for each opportunity to practice on



Rabbi Miller Dances with Rabbi Chamoula at a wedding

gentile babies.

In 1957, Rabbi Chamoula was brought to New York by Rabbi Avrohom Kalmanowitz רבנו, the Mirrer Rosh Yeshiva. He completed his studies in *milah* there, under the guidance of Rabbi Bronstein.

His father was the right hand of Hacham Helfon Safdieh א"ח in Alexandria, Egypt. Never would one see Hacham Helfon walking without also seeing Shaul Chamoula next to him. And so borrowing a page from his father, and in a manner indicative of how he would live his whole life, Rabbi Chamoula quickly volunteered to serve as the *shamosh* (assistant) to the Rosh Yeshiva in Brooklyn. For the five years he studied there, Rabbi Chamoula joyfully brought the Rabbi breakfast each morning.

BRIT MILAH

When his family joined him in Brooklyn in 1962, Rabbi Chamoula stepped up to support them by working in the jewelry trade. Although he soon became a prolific Mohel, Rabbi Chamoula did not regard this as his livelihood, steadfastly refusing to accept payment for his services. This went on for the first 15 years he was performing *milot* (circumcisions), until finally, his Rebbe, Rabbi Miller told him, "You have to take money." Still, as Hacham Baruch said at the *Arayat*, "If he felt that the family couldn't afford it or if the father was a Torah student, he did not allow them to pay.

Rabbi David Ozeri illustrated this point during the *levaya* (funeral) with a personal account. After coming to check his baby on Friday, performing the *milah* on Shabbat and coming to check the boy both Saturday night and Sunday, Rabbi Ozeri tried to hand him an envelope. "He ran away from me like he saw a fire. I chased after him, I said, 'Please take it.' He said, 'No, no, no, never,' and he ran."

Even from those who were able to pay, he never made a request – he left the matter entirely for the father of the baby to decide. He performed countless *milot* at no charge for people who didn't have much religion and whose boys would



Rabbi Miller Dances with Rabbi Chamoula at a dinner

otherwise have remained uncircumcised. Rabbi Ozeri recalled a case where he enlisted Rabbi Chamoula's help in circumcising the son of a former neighbor who had little understanding of Jewish law. When the father of the boy asked afterwards, "Is there a fee for your services?" without hesitation, Rabbi Chamoula replied, "No. But I'll be back tomorrow to check on the baby."

Once, when the *Mohel* sold a diamond for an engagement ring to a particular gentleman he told him "Your first 10 *milot* will be free!" The man had many sons each of whom was circumcised by Rabbi Chamoula. And true to his word, the Rabbi refused to take any sort of payment for his services. When the man continued to insist, he finally told him, "Make the check out to Mirrer Yeshiva."

Although he performed thousands upon thousands of *milot*, Rabbi Handlesman asserted that he performed each *Brit Milah* with the same seriousness, excitement and enthusiasm as if it was his first. Serving the community for nearly forty years, he also merited to perform *milot* on the children of those who themselves were circumcised by him.

In his eulogy, Rabbi Saul Kassin, related the events of one particular morning when he accompanied Rabbi Chamoula on three *milot*, the first in Ahi-Ezer, then in Shaare Zion and finally at Shore Boulevard. Amazingly, this was a common occurrence for Rabbi Chamoula. And true to form, Rabbi Chamoula happily drove Rabbi Kassin that day to each destination just as he had done hundreds of times before.

LOVING HIS FELLOW MAN

One night, in the early hours of the morning, the Mohel received a call that a baby he had performed *milah* on was crying. Although the name did not sound particularly familiar, without hesitating he got up and went to the house. It turned out that he had done the *milah* on the child three months earlier. A lesser man would surly have scolded the parents for summoning him in the middle of the night when obviously the



Hacham Mordechai Eliyahu with Rabbi Chamoula

baby was not crying because of the *milah*. But Rabbi Chamoula's reaction was quite different. Instead of getting upset and storming out, he spent some thirty minutes trying to help the parents figure out the real reason the baby was crying. And although he received many calls from worried parents – each of which turned out to be a false alarm – he never got upset, even when the concerns were frivolous.

After performing one *milah*, the Mohel noticed a young brother of the baby crying. He asked the boy what was bothering him and was told that he wasn't allowed to watch the *milah*. Rabbi Chamoula immediately deputized the young boy. He asked that he accompany him upstairs to check the baby and assigned him all sorts of tasks, from fetching gauze pads to helping apply the ointment. The feeling of involvement made the youngster's face light up with pride.

Rabbi Ozeri related an incident when he saw Eli Romero, the gentile that works in Congregation Bnai Yosef, in a hurry to get somewhere he asked him, "Eli what's the rush?"

"I have to go to the hospital to see Hacham Shemuel the Mohel," he answered.

"Why do you have to go?" Rabbi Ozeri inquired.

Mr. Romero explained, "When I suffered a mild stroke and I came out of the hospital, I came to the shul and he came running over to me and said, 'You know I prayed for you every day.' He prayed for me! I have to go visit him."

When one of his neighbors was asked if there were ever any problems from the Mohel, he replied jokingly, "Too many Rabbis." Once a contractor who was doing work on a neighbor's house rang the doorbell and asked to speak with Rabbi Chamoula. He wanted to tell him personally that he couldn't believe that after all the problems caused by the construction, the noise, the constant blocking of the driveway and the street, the mess etc, no one from the house ever complained.

Many visitors at the shiva related how Rabbi Chamoula would not accept any money after he performed their sons' brit.



Rabbi Chamoula receives a blessing from Rabbi Khadoury

Mr. Ashear related that when his first grandson was born he instructed his son that he would have to pay for the mohel, while he, Mr. Ashear would pay for the reception. After the brit Mr. Ashear inquired whether he had done his part to which his son answered "I tried to pay him but he said that he's best friends with my father-in-law and therefore cannot accept any money". And once again when his next son had a boy he gave the same instructions and when asked the answer was "he wouldn't take any money. "You're learning in yeshiva all day. I cannot accept any money".

One young man made a special visit just to relate the following story: The ground in front of his house had been damaged and water started to leek. Having little money, the young man's wife volunteered to sell her engagement ring and with the money they would repair the sidewalk. Knowing how honest Rabbi Chamoula was the fellow approached him to sell his stone. The stone was sold and the money, a few thousand dollars, was used to pay for the repair. A week later, this person received a call to come down to Rabbi Chamoula's office. Rabbi Chamoula returned the original mounting to the fellow with a cubic zirconia as the center stone that looked exactly as it did before. "Give this to your wife" he was told "make her happy".

At the *arayat*, Rabbi Handlesman credited Rabbi Chamoula with literally saving his life. It was the sixth night of Hanukah in 1975. After dropping off a check by Rabbi Kalmanowitz's house, Rabbi Handlesman declined the option of taking a car service home and chose to walk even though it was icy and extremely cold out. As he came to the intersection of Quentin Road and Ocean Parkway, he was suddenly attacked by no less than six large dogs. He was petrified. After being knocked down at first, he jumped to his feet and ran into the middle of Ocean Parkway where he was in mortal danger on two fronts, first from the dogs whose bites had already penetrated his skin and then from the cars who were speeding along the icy road. In the middle of the intersection, one dog threw the Rabbi down on the ground. As Rabbi Handlesman tells it, "At that



Rabbi Yehudah Cohen, Rosh Yeshivah of Yakire Yerushalayim with Rabbi Chamoula

moment, like an Angel...Rabbi Chamoula arrived with his car, he got out...and with one hand and with one foot he was driving away the dogs and with the other hand he stopped the traffic. He picked me up from the floor, took me into his car, took me to Maimonides Hospital and was there all night with me...I told him he could go home but he said, no, he'll take me home – he'll wait till he can take me home."

Rabbi Handlesman continued that since that time, "When I would see him on Ocean Parkway, he would greet me in such a way that would sometimes make me feel like I saved *his* life and he didn't saved *my* life."

This "turning of the tables," was one of the Mohel's greatest talents. One Rosh Yeshiva, who Rabbi Chamoula used to drive around, would say that he was always made to feel as though *he* was doing the Mohel a favor by *allowing* him to drive. This was quite typical. It's been said that he spent half his life waiting in the car for people he was driving – yet he never double parked because he couldn't imagine being the cause of a traffic buildup.

Among a few of the regulars that Rabbi Chamoula would chauffeur in his car were, Rabbi Shalom Schwadron זצ"ל, Hacham Ben Sion Abba Shaul זצ"ל, Rabbi Yehuda Cohen, Rabbi Manis Mandel, Rabbi Saul Kassin and Hacham Baruch. When his car began to have costly mechanical trouble, he refused to give it up because he felt it was too holy after being occupied by so many great Rabbis especially his rabbi, Rabbi Miller a"h.

HOSTING GUESTS

Relaying his feelings on the Mohel, Rabbi Yehudah Cohen, the Rosh Yeshiva of Yakire Yerushalayim told Rabbi Ozeri, "I was a guest in his home for over 20 years. Every single year I come and I move in on them. But it doesn't end there...we go to the *Netz* (sunrise) minyan and he then waits for me and I try to get away, but he doesn't let me. He says, 'Come, I'll take you where you need to go.' And he drives me from shul to shul for



Rabbi Miller with Rabbi Chamoula

hours in the morning...and I keep telling him, 'Go home, I'll get around.' He always tells me, 'No, I have nothing to do anyway, don't worry.' And he waits in the car with a book, learning Torah while I go from place to place trying to raise money for the Yeshiva."

"I always came a month before *Pesah* and I stayed until almost *erev Pesah*. And I would be embarrassed, because I would bring cookies and other *hametz* (leavening) into the room and I would apologize. But his wife and he would tell me, 'Please Rabbi, we wait for you all year...don't worry, you bring blessing to our house.'"

When his partner in the jewelry business found out that a rabbi who was staying in Borough Park was not being accommodated, he called Rabbi Chamoula. Without thinking twice, Rabbi Chamoula drove to Borough Park to meet the unknown rabbi for the first time and bring him home. He was a guest at the Chamoula house for a month.

The house was a veritable hotel hosting scores of rabbis over the years – sometimes even four at once. During the *shivah* (seven days of mourning), rabbis from all over came to visit – many of whom said that they stayed many times in the Chamoula home over the years.

One Purim, in an unusual situation for the Chamoula household, there were no guests for the Purim meal and Mrs. Chamoula was visibly disappointed. With only scant time to begin the meal, the Mohel got into his car after attending Rabbi Miller's class and went out looking for a rabbi to bring him home for the meal. After searching for some time, he found a rabbi – a stranger to him – whom he proudly brought home and cheerfully served.

DEDICATION TO HIS RABBIS

Every Thursday night, at the class of Rabbi Avigdor Miller זצ"ל, he was in charge of the tape recorder that spread Torah throughout the world. For thousands of classes that translated into millions of tapes over some 25 years, it was his



Rabbi Chamoula operates the tape recorder in the early days of recording Rabbi Miller's class

honor to make sure that the recording was done properly. So great was his dedication to Rabbi Miller's classes that he refused to take personal vacations. Even on the night his son got married, Rabbi Chamoula excused himself quietly from the wedding hall at 7:45pm and went to Rabbi Miller's Gemara class, returning at 9:15pm to the wedding hall.

Like clockwork, he attended Rabbi Miller's Gemara class every morning and night and recorded the tapes from these classes himself. He would then come home and play the tape, editing it for hours and hours. The sound of Rabbi Miller's voice echoed throughout the house daily.

The tapes were his most prized possession, and so he always attended to them personally lest something should, Gd forbid, happen to them. Over the years, he accumulated 18 complete *masechtot* (chapters of Gemara) that he himself recorded, aside from many parts of other *masechtot* that were not complete.

In Rabbi Miller's handwritten will, which was read at his *levaya* two years ago, Rabbi Chamoula was the first to be mentioned, among those from the Sephardic community, to whom the Rav wished to express gratitude.

When explaining his extreme devotion to those did not understand it, he would say, "If the Hafetz Haim was in town to give a class wouldn't you go? Rabbi Miller is our Hafetz Haim." Hacham Shemuel also acted on his words, incorporating many of the principles that were cornerstone of Rabbi Miller's teachings. When the Mohel bought an expensive tape recorder for Rabbi Miller to record his class, the rabbi asked how much the unit cost and insisted on paying for it. Hacham Shemuel refused to accept the money, but Rabbi Miller was adamant and in the end Rabbi Chamoula was forced to accept reimbursement. It was based on this trait of Rabbi Miller that he internalized the rule of never accepting gifts himself and would always insist on paying for anything that was bought for him.

Self-control was yet another hallmark of Rabbi Chamoula. In 1977, when Hacham Shemuel went with an uncle to the



Rabbi Chamoula sits next to Rabbi Miller at the Yarhei Kallah in 1973 on one of his nature walks

hospital to visit another uncle who had suffered a heart attack, his companion said to him, "You know why we're visiting him?" and he pointed to a pack of cigarettes in the Mohel's pocket. In those days, Rabbi Chamoula was smoking three packs a day. But that one remark was all it took to put that to an end. He removed the box from his pocket, threw it in the trash and never touched cigarettes again.

Much of the credit for Rabbi Chamoula's learning in Torah belongs to his wife, Joanie (nee Shamah), of 32 years. She encouraged – not just supported his efforts and was always willing to sacrifice for the simplistic life he desired. Their modest home was constantly open for visitors, and many prominent rabbis were frequent guests over many decades. Hachnasat orhim was a way of life for Rabbi Chamoula and his family as he constantly instilled in them these values that were so important to him.

Whenever Rabbi Shalom Schwadron, the famous *Maggid* (lecturer) of Jerusalem מ"צ, would come to New York, Hacham Shemuel was his shamosh. Even while he still worked in jewelry, he would take the day off, pick the *Maggid* up from where he was staying on avenue M in flatbush, take him to the *mikveh* (ritual bath) then to vatikin at the Bine Yosef synagogue and drive him around all day wherever he had to go.

DEDICATION TO TORAH AND MITZVOT

Hacham Shemuel would make frequent trips to the Jewish bookstores. He loved to buy new sefarim (books) and his night table was always stacked with the newest volumes which he would read at all hours of the day and night. Hacham Baruch commented that Torah was the purpose of his life "I remember many times he would ask me questions and if he heard something new, he jumped from joy and showed his happiness with such a smile."

When it was the time of the month to say the blessing for the new moon, Hacham Shemuel would sometimes drive around for hours until he found a place that allowed a clear view of the



The Maggid of Yerushalayim, Rabbi Shalom Schwadron, attending the Bar-Mitzvah of Rabbi Chamoula's son Shelomo

moon unobstructed by cloud cover.

HONESTY IN BUSINESS

In the jewelry district, his name was gold. His son Shelomo recounted how when he entered the business many years after his father's semi-retirement, he walked into the office of wholesalers with nothing but his name. It turned out to be all he needed. The mere mention of his father's name was enough to allow him to take practically anything he wanted on consignment, in an industry that's known for its strict credit standards.

Hacham Shemuel's practice of preparing 14 karat gold was unique. He would carefully weigh the alloy and then mix in the proper amount of pure gold to insure the correct ratio. Then after he had the exact measurement, he would add a bit of extra gold to make sure that on the off chance that his scale was off by one iota, he would still not be cheating anybody.

The process of cutting the gold into smaller pieces suitable for use in making jewelry involved heating the gold. The standard practice in the industry was to then dip the piece in water to cool it and then weigh it while it's wet. Rabbi Chamoula would do no such thing. Before weighing the piece, he would put it into an oven to dry so that the recorded weight of the gold – which is the basis for the selling price, would not include even trace amounts of water.

A business associate described one interesting transaction to Rabbi Chamoula's sons. After purchasing about \$50,000 worth of silver from the Mohel on a Friday afternoon, he received a call on Monday morning asking him to bring all of the silver back to his office for a full refund. When the man asked to know why, Hacham Shemuel said that the price of silver was about to drop and he didn't want him to take a loss on the transaction. The man complied and sure enough, that week, the price of silver fell.

Throughout his career, there were those who beat him for money, and he was encouraged to take them to *beit din* (court).



Hacham Ben-Sion Abba Shaul with Rabbi Chamoula

But he refused on the grounds that there was a chance that he didn't recall the facts precisely as they were, so he said, "Forget about the money."

The Mohel ended up leaving the jewelry business, ostensibly to focus more on *Brit Milah*. However, some people who were close with him believe that the real reason was his inability to tolerate constant exposure to crookedness in the business world.

Rabbi Chamoula is survived by his wife; his sons, Rabbi Shaul Chamoula and Shelomo Chamoula, and a daughter, Frieda; nine grandchildren; and his siblings; Hazan Ezra Chamoula, Rabbi Eliyahu Chamoula and a sister, Iris. Continuing in his ways, both his sons and his son-in-law are Talmide Hachamim.

At both the *levaya* and the *arayat*, the family expressed gratitude to Hatzalah, and in particular, the crew who responded to his heart attack in March, for their exceptional efforts in working continuously for 40 minutes until they got his pulse going again. Special mention was also made of Rabbi Webber, the founder of Hatzalah, who constantly offered the family *hizuk* (strength) and hope during the most difficult times in the ICU.

Hacham Shemuel passed away on May 17, exactly 49 days after his heart attack. The numerical value of *lev tov* (good heart) is also 49 and while we know he had a *lev tov* in the spiritual sense, it turned out to be true in the physical sense as well. It turned out to be an infection that he acquired in the hospital that exhausted his life and not his heart. But as Rabbi Shmuel Miller said, in the end, the specifics of how he passed on are irrelevant, because the only reason his soul departed was because Hashem wanted him.

Rabbi Chamoula has produced thousands of copies of Rabbi Miller's tapes for dissemination to public. The family intends to continue to distribute these tapes Leilu-nishmat Rabbi Shemuel ben Frieda Chamoula zt"l. To contact the family regarding these tapes or to relate personal stories about Hacham Shemuel, call 718-627- 2747 or write to 1723 Ocean Parkway Brooklyn, NY 11223

We are happy to introduce a new, monthly column by the wonderful educator and special parenting advisor, **Rabbi Dov Brezak**. Rabbi Brezak has been active in education for over 16 years; first as a teacher, then as a principal, and then as a director of **Talmud Torah Ezrat Torah** in Israel. His book, **Chinuch in Turbulent Times**, has sold thousands of copies, and is a powerful tool for parents and educators. Filled with many true stories with real lessons of insight and encouragement, it also includes many comments from the great Rabbis of the generation on how to deal with certain situations.

A popular lecturer, Rabbi Brezak often speaks at shuls and bake sales

throughout Brooklyn and Deal and through other speaking engagements throughout England, Canada, the United States and Israel reaches over 8,000 people, live, each year.

Nearly three years ago, Rabbi Brezak founded a worldwide parenting organization called **Kavey**, (from the words “Kavey el Hashem,” which means have hope in Hashem) to help parents and children. Through the years of responding to situations of children in crisis, Rabbi Brezak realized that by providing parents and educators with the right tools and guidance from the beginning, many of the extreme problems that we are facing today could be prevented.

Juvenile Behavior

Child Rearing Strategies



BY RABBI DOV BREZAK,
 DIRECTOR OF
 PROJECT KAVEY,
 JERUSALEM

EMPOWERING (Part One)

On November 4, 1997, in Derby England, John Evans balanced a Chevrolet car weighing 350 lbs. on his head for a period of 12 seconds.

Impressive?

Anthony Clarke is able to push a three-ton elephant around in a wheelbarrow and lift cars off their back wheels with ease.

Incredible?

In October of 1997, David Huxley single handedly pulled a 170-ton Boeing 747 a distance of 298 feet across the tarmac at Sydney airport in Australia.

Physical strength can be extremely helpful when moving elephants and airplanes. It can also make things easier when moving apartments.

I recently helped a close relative move from his large house to an apartment. For those of you who are not familiar with the process, let me just say that this is a major undertaking. To make the move successfully, it was necessary to: (1) pack the contents of entire house in boxes; (2) get those hundreds of boxes along with the furniture and other paraphernalia onto two large

moving vans; (3) unload the furniture and boxes from the vans and carry them into the new apartment.

Obviously, it takes a group of strong human beings to perform this formidable task, and the movers we hired fit the bill. By the end of the day, after much time and effort, our mission was accomplished.

As I watched, my compassion was aroused for the one newcomer on the job, a middle-aged Israeli man who had just joined the group of seasoned movers. He did fairly well for most of the day, especially considering it was his first day on the job. During the last stage of the move, though, he ran out of strength. The other movers were briskly unloading the boxes from the truck and passing them to him to bring into the apartment, but he was unable to carry them in.

Some of the other movers became impatient with him, while others understood and tried to reassure him.

“It’s only your first day,” one of the movers said. “You’ll get used to it.”

Judging by the look on the fellow’s face, he really wanted to keep working. He, too, seemed frustrated, but his strength had run out. He stood by watching as his

fellow workers completed the job.

This man knew what he was supposed to be doing; that was not the problem. What he lacked was the necessary physical strength to carry it out.

Emotional strength is more than extremely helpful for getting through life; it is essential. If we want our children to succeed — and which parent doesn’t? — we must act toward them in ways that builds their emotional strength, not saps it.

High ranking among the methods of parenting that incapacitate is the demand for perfection.

The story is told of a captain who wanted a package delivered. He turned to his lieutenant and said, “Lieutenant, I want you to deliver this package.”

The lieutenant replied, “I will do my best to deliver the package, sir.”

“No,” countered the captain, “I don’t want you to do your best. I want you to deliver this package.”

“I will deliver this package, or I will die,” said the lieutenant.

“You misunderstand,” said the captain. “I don’t want you to die. I want you to deliver this package.”

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Parental Predicaments Q & A

Dear Rabbi Brezak,

My son is in the fifth grade and has been having difficulty completing his homework many nights. He is bright, but he gets home around 5:30, and has both Hebrew and English homework to do. On his own, it can easily take him until 9:30 to complete his homework (with a break for dinner in the middle). We are advocates of not doing our children's homework for them, but he is really struggling. What should we do?

Concerned Parents

Dear Concerned Parents,

The purpose of homework is to develop a child's learning skills and to teach him responsibility for the subjects being learned at school.

However, giving a child responsibility will only make him responsible when he can carry out the task successfully. Demanding of a child that he fulfill a responsibility that is beyond his capacity will result in a loss of self-confidence and, eventually, in burn out. The child will slowly begin to feel increasingly incompetent.

Even if your son succeeds in struggling through the four hours and completing his homework, a daily four-hour struggle is too much to expect of such a young child.

The recommended approach in this case would be to work together with your child. Have an honest discussion with him to determine just how much of the homework he can really do on his own without feeling overwhelmed. (This can be measured in portions of time, such as one-and-a-half-hours' worth, or portions of the homework, such as one half, and so on.)

After determining the correct amount, give your child total responsibility for his part. Of course, you can assist him if necessary, but don't do it for him. If he needs your help with his share, try to guide him so that he will come up with the answers on his own. In this way, he is learning to bear responsibility, but in a way that will build him up rather than knock him down. (If your child is having a very hard time doing the homework, you may want to seek advice from a capable educator or from a recommended professional. It is possible that a medical problem, vision problem or undetected learning disability may be complicating the situation.)

As far as the remaining homework, possible options include helping your son quickly through it, obtaining permission from the teachers for your son to do less (provided that he doesn't tell any other classmates about it), or doing it yourself.

Wishing you success,
Sincerely,
Rabbi Brezak

In the army, good intentions are not good enough. The problems begin when we act in a similar manner at home.

I receive a considerable number faxes and e-mails on an ongoing basis. Some of them come from children who were brought up in homes where anything less than perfection was unacceptable. The letters are invariably filled with deep emotional pain.

One person writes: "I always tried pleasing my parents, but when I got a 99, they would ask why I didn't get a hundred. All I heard from my parents was what a terrible

child I was. Never did I hear that I did something right. If I wanted encouragement, it wasn't forthcoming. Even so, I would try to elicit some positive response from my parents. 'Aren't you proud of me?' I would ask. How many times did I want to please my parents, but fail to get approval."

Another person writes: "Before we start, let me tell you that I used to read your column in the Yated every week, but it started to drive me crazy, because you always talked about different things parents should do while bringing up their children. The things

you said seemed logical, but you never told people like me, the children of parents who did everything wrong, how to deal with it. My father expected us to be perfect. When I was a boy, I studied a lot. During the long Shabbat afternoons, I would learn straight through from 11 am till 6:30 pm — but, have no fear, even that wasn't good enough."

The demand for perfection or that a child attain standards impossible for him almost guarantees that the child will feel incompetent and guilty about everything he does. Demanding perfection from our children incapacitates them. Instead of leading to success, it is almost guaranteed to doom the child to failure.

Another person writes: "My parents made me feel guilty for enjoying life or just for being happy. I find it hard to accept myself and my mistakes. I recently realized that I am motivated mostly by guilt, and that I suffer from low self-esteem. Why can't my parents ever praise me?"

A father I know of belonged to this school of thought. He felt it his duty to evoke as much guilt as possible in his children for not meeting his expectations. He often told his children that the anguish they were causing him would give him a heart attack.

One of the children took the father's words seriously and actually became traumatized by fear. Day after day, he would wake up in the middle of the night and go to his father's room to make sure his father was still breathing.

If we wish to help our children we cannot interact with them in the very way that undermines any chances they may have for success. To help our children succeed in all areas, let us deal with them in a way that empowers them and gives them strength.

— *To be continued be'ezrat Hashem.*

*With sincere wishes for your success
and siyatta diShemaya,*

Rabbi Dov Brezak

*Rabbi Brezak's bestseller, **Chinuch in Turbulent Times**, can be ordered directly from ArtScroll/Mesorah or purchased at your local bookstore. Rabbi Brezak's tape series, "**Chinuch Concepts 1 & 2**," can be ordered through **Irgun Shiurei Torah at (718) 851-8651**. Rabbi Brezak can be reached by fax at (718) 338-2533 or by email at eomevd@actcom.co.il.*

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With the blossoming of the kiruv movement, real sustenance for hungry souls has become available in hundreds of venues. If a person searches the Jewish newspaper, the web or even the phone book, he has a good chance of encountering a reliable source of authentic Torah learning.

The web, in particular, has opened many new doors. Recently, Oorah Kiruv Rechokim, which has been doing door-to-door kiruv in the New York-New Jersey area for the past 30 years, branched out into cyberspace. Oorah's outreach website, gottorah.com, gives visitors a gentle introduction to the concept of Torah learning and Torah education for children. They have a chance to see videotaped interviews with kiruv rabbis, parents who have transferred their children into day school and others who have begun adopting Torah observance.

With its presence on the World Wide Web, gottorah.com has become a world wide Jewish connection. Hawaii, Ecuador, Portland, Oregon and dozens of other spots across the country and the globe have been starting points for the spiritual return of long-lost Jews making contact through gottorah.com.

A woman from Hawaii was given a telephone chavruta (learning partner),

who has been guiding her toward Shabbat observance. "I appreciate the fact that she doesn't push," the woman reports. "In fact, she tries to slow me down when she feels I'm taking on too much at once. I feel so fortunate to have her in my life."

In Ecuador, a recently widowed father of two boys contacted gottorah.com looking for some spiritual sustenance to give his children. Now he is learning with a chavruta, and Oorah has provided him with tefillin, sefarim (holy books) and Spanish language Jewish books for his children.

Upon receiving the tefillin, he wrote, "I want to thank you for the tefillin you sent me. It's the most important gift I've ever received in my life. Now I will be able to teach my kids to put on tefillin when they are bar mitzvah. Thank you very much — I am really happy."

Our Own Back Yard

Closer to home, Oorah and gottorah.com are having a gradual but real impact on the non-religious Jews who abound in the towns surrounding Lakewood, NJ, where Oorah is headquartered. To anyone who has ever crossed Lakewood's borders, the black-hat yeshivah contingent is a familiar sight. But to most, it's not a very comforting

sight, for the community seems exotic, if not downright eccentric, to those looking in from the outside.

Oorah volunteers break down the barriers. They arrive at the door of a Jewish home with a gift, a business card and a smile. If the family wants nothing to do with them, they just leave the gift and the card behind, hoping that, left to their own devices, they might begin to reconsider. Perhaps they will log onto gottorah.com. Perhaps they'll be a little less hostile if there is a "next time."

In about one in ten instances, however, the family will be receptive. They may not even open the door at first, but they'll accept the gift, converse a little and perhaps ask the volunteers to come back again at a later date. Sometimes they will open the door, and open their ears and hearts, and reach out for the spiritual lifeline they are being handed.

It's there, in every Jewish heart — the spark of holiness that somehow, even in the midst of the most secular lifestyle, still insists on being heeded. As long as a Jew maintains a Jewish identity in some form, that spark is combustible. The urgent task of kiruv is to uncover the spark wherever it can be found, and then feed it with the pure truth of Torah. It might taste strange at first, but the Jewish soul knows what's good.

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ENDURING THE PASSION

The Anti-Semitism Upsurge

BY: RABBI YOSEPH M. MANSOUR & RABBI MICHAEL Y. MANSOUR

Millions of people of all convictions express their hostilities against the Jewish nation, unsympathetic to its faith or state. Their religious and racial prejudice against our people has reached an apex, so much so, that many otherwise indifferent nations of the world passionately declare and brashly hope for the same as our adversaries – the disposal of our people into a black container of eradication. Accepting this can be of assistance to us in dealing with this new unreasonable upsurge of anti-Semitism in all corners of the earth.

The Prevalence of Jew Hatred

There are many anti-Semitic acts that most of us are not aware of since they do not make it to the headlines. In Russia, on February 16, 2004 some 50 graves in the Jewish cemetery in St. Petersburg were desecrated, some of them having swastikas daubed on them. A group of young Muslims in London, the Soul-Silah band, have recently released a new rap-style recording. The song praises Bin-Laden, Hizballah and Hamas, and promotes the idea of an anti-West Jihad. The record jacket also sports a swastika.

In the Ukraine, recently published results of a survey among Ukrainians conducted by the Sociological Institute in Kiev are very telling. In answer to the question as to whether Jews should be allowed to live in Ukraine, only 17% answered “yes”. This is a drastic drop from the data 10 years ago when 76.5% of



Jewish Gravestones vandalized in St. Petersburg, Russia

those asked said that the Jews should be allowed to live in Ukraine.

Headlines around the world about the film “The Passion...”*, words accompanied by pictures leave a powerful impression on the mind. No matter that a disclaimer is offered – the damage is done. The Vatican criticized anti-Semitism when it repudiated the “deicide” charge that blamed the Jews as a people for the death of their divinity. They issued a document to that effect, “Nostra Aetate”, during the Second Vatican Council in 1965. Nevertheless, the pope himself is reported to have personally approved of the film “The Passion” after a screening in his apartment in early December 2003. He is quot-

**According to Jewish law, watching movies in general is forbidden. According to some opinions, viewing this particular film involves prohibitions against Avodah Zara as well.*

ed as saying, “It is as it was twelve hours before his death.”

As it is being shown in places around the world, where passions are more raw and Jews are far more vulnerable, it will most certainly be used by Anti-Semites to rationalize their bigotry.

What can Be done?

Is there a remedy for this irrational hate and bias? Many Jews anticipated that after the tragedies of the holocaust, at least the civilized nations of the world would look at our survival in kindness, or perhaps in sympathy, to atone for their previous acts of iniquity and injustice. Clearly, this didn’t happen.

An Illogical Phenomenon

The more historians and academics try to understand the Jews and society’s attitude towards them in every generation, the



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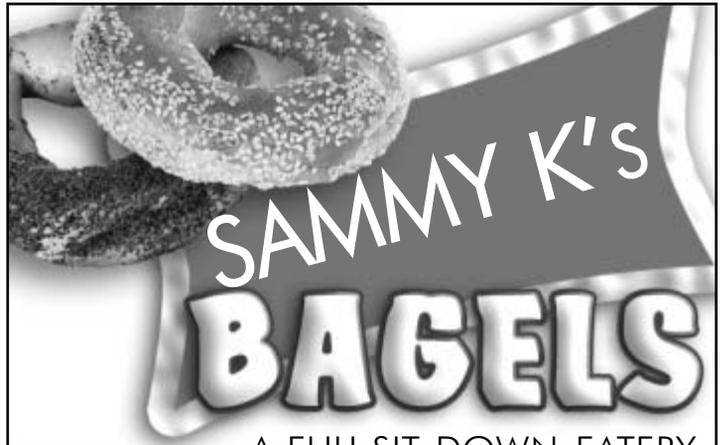
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more they stand in wondrous despair of the intentional aggression directed against them in all times and in all countries. The abuses, degradation and mass murders are for some reason, a permanent part of the history of this nation.

“Anti-Semitism is absurd,” wrote the historian Martin Gilbert in 1978. From all types of jealousy that control human nature; there is nothing so absurd as anti-Semitism. For the anti Semites a Jew cannot do anything right, if he’s rich – it must be that he steals, if he’s poor – he’s dirty, if they ask for peace – it’s because they’re cowards. This tendency is so excessive, that it draws one to the conclusion that the “nature” of the nations of the world towards the Jewish people are beyond logic.

But as we consider our place in history, we may conclude that there is a higher message in the ridiculous and irrational attitudes of the nations towards us.

Without this illogical anti Semitism, the intermarriage predicament we are facing would be further advanced out of control.

A statistical analysis predicts that in 10-20 years the Jewish population in the United States will plummet from roughly five million to two million – half of which will be Orthodox. In other words there is a quiet, settled Holocaust going on however unintentional, that, G-d forbid, could fulfill the objective of our enemies – the shredding down of the Jewish people. Anti-Semitism forces us to awaken and reestablish our identity.

The root origin of intermarriage is the loss of Jewish uniqueness and identity starting with our youth. When asked “What is a Jew, what makes you Jewish?” College students remain silent, high school children scratch their heads. Where are their answers? It defies reason, that the college campus where the greatest seeds and actions of anti- Semitism are spreading is the abode of our youth. Students on the campuses go so far as to side with our enemies in order to screen their identity.

The Midrash describes: that the Jewish nation is analogous to fire, and the nations of the world are like water. If there is a

barrier between the water and the fire, then the nearby waters are kept warm by the fire. So too when there are barriers between us, the nations of the world “enjoy” the company and the warmth of the Jewish people. The moment the barrier is broken down or removed the “water flows furiously” in an attempt to tear down and wipe out the fire it once looked to keep warm. A straightforward way to arrest this vicious Anti Semitism is to put the barriers up again, secure our Jewish identity and our individuality. G-d promises that under all circumstances our identity, as Jewish Nation under G-d would never be lost. Predictably we suffer anti Semitism in proportion to our loss of Jewish identity.

We can and must return to our roots by studying the history of our people and its culture, opening the pages of our sages and learn their logic. We are a nation predestined by G-d to be isolated, if we respect those barriers, we could avoid further anguish, and “passions” would simply melt away.

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JOKE HEAD

President Bush asks the CIA Chief:

"How come the Jews seem to know everything before we do?"

The CIA chief says, *"The Jews have this expression – *vus tuzuch?* (Yiddish, meaning *what's happening?*) They just ask each other all the time and they end up knowing everything."*

The President decides to personally go undercover to determine if this is in fact true. He gets dressed up as an Orthodox Jew with a complete disguise including a black hat, beard, payot (side-locks) etc. Then, in a top secret operation, he is flown in an unmarked plane to New York, picked up in an unmarked car and dropped off in Brooklyn's most Orthodox

neighborhood. As the first little old Jewish man comes shuffling along. The President stops him and whispers *"Vuz tuzuch?"* The old guy responds *"Bush is in Borough Park!"*

JOKE HEAD

Three men were arguing over who's method of giving charity was best. The first man said *"I draw a box on the ground with a line going through the center. Then I throw all of my money to the center and whatever lands on the left side I keep and whatever lands on the right side is for Hashem and I give to charity."*

The second man says *"My way is better. I draw a big circle on the ground and throw all my money towards it. Whatever lands in the circle is for Hashem and I give it to charity and what ever lands outside I keep."*

The third man scoffs at the two others *"You men have no faith. My method is the best. I don't draw anything on the ground. I just throw all of my money up to Hashem, whatever he wants, he keeps. And then I only take whatever he sends back down!"*

A. Schweky

JOKE HEAD

My seven year old son was doing his math homework. The assignment was to put 10 cubes in a bag, six red, three blue, and one yellow, reach into the bag ten times and record how many times each color cube came out. He was then asked which color came out the most times. He wrote red. Which



came out the least? He wrote yellow. The third and final question was, "Why do you suppose this happened?" To my happy surprise my son had written... "Because Hashem wanted it to."

JOKE HEAD

My nephew was praying for a raise, but his employer turned him down...for trying to go "over his head".

Jack V Grazi

JOKE HEAD

A man comes to his friend depressed. "I don't know what to do," he says. "A huge shoe

store just opened up right next door from me and they put up a giant red and yellow sign saying that they are having a big sale next week. What should I do? I'm worried that nobody is going to buy shoes from my little store!"

"No problem," the friend answers. "I'll take care of it." On the day the blockbuster sale was to begin, the friend arrives at the small store and puts up a big sign he just had made up. "Problem solved" he told the store owner. Curious, the store owner goes outside to check it out. The red and yellow sign simply read 'Main Entrance.'"

JUNIOR JOKES

Q. How many feet are in a yard?

A. It depends on how many people are in there.

Q. Why did the playground cross the road?

A. To get to the other slide

Q. Why did the skunk cross the road?

A. To get to the odor side

Q. What did the dime say to the nickel?

A. I have more sense then you do

David Massry

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Putting a Price on the Peculiar

Italian police cruiser: \$165,000

ROME (Reuters) - If you are thinking about speeding on Italian highways this year, think twice. You might find yourself being chased by a Lamborghini.

Italian police took possession Friday of a sleek, 500-horsepower, two-seater Lamborghini Gallardo, which can hit a top speed of 192



miles per hour. The sports car, painted in the police's distinctive blue and white colors, comes complete with a siren and flashing blue light on the roof and will initially patrol the Salerno-Reggio Calabria motorway – a road notorious in Italy for wild driving.

The Lamborghini will also be used to transport human organs for emergency operations. Lamborghini, which is owned by Volkswagen and based near Bologna in northern Italy, donated the car. The six-speed, two-door luxury vehicle is able to accelerate from zero to 60 mph in four seconds, and has a list price of \$165,000.

5,000 pounds of used Oklahoma restaurant grease: \$380

OKLAHOMA CITY (Reuters) - Oklahoma police are looking for grease bandits who made off with 5,000 pounds (2268 kg) of used cooking oil and grease from three restaurants. Police in Edmond, north of Oklahoma City, said on Thursday the grease bandits have hit an area of Mexican, Chinese and steak restaurants over the past three months. The robbers took the used cooking grease that was stored in large cylinders in back of the restaurants. The restaurants were planning to sell the grease to a recycling company and the total value of the stolen goods was about \$380.

Glynda Chu, a spokeswoman for the Edmond police said the bandits had a good idea of how to get money in the used grease market, but she thinks it odd that anyone would put so much effort into making off with so much cooking byproduct. "It would be a

big chore to haul that smelly stuff away," Chu said. "They did, however, make a slick getaway."

North Dakota cell phone tantrum: \$2,000

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — A man who said he was fed up with his cellular phone service went to a Fargo mall and started hurling phones across a store, striking an employee and causing more than \$2,000 in damage, authorities said.

Jason Perala, 22, of Fargo, told The Forum newspaper that he planned only to yell at employees at Verizon Wireless. "Then I just lost it," he said. "I just started grabbing computers and phones and throwing them. I just destroyed the place. I kind of regret that I did it, but I hope my message got across."

Police said Perala took off his shirt and put on safety glasses before throwing around computers, phones and other items. One employee was struck in the shoulder by a phone before he and other workers dashed into an office, locked the door and called police, Sgt. Kevin Volrath said. Other businesses in the West Acres mall lowered their steel security gates during the incident.

Lucky Chinese mobile phone number: \$1.1 million

SHANGHAI, (AFP) — An online buyer has paid nine million yuan (1.1 million dollars) for a cell phone number on a Chinese auction site, state press reported. A deal for the number 135 8585 8585, which has a similar pronunciation in Chinese to 'let me be rich, be rich, be rich,'



was completed after an exchange of some 70 bids, the Shanghai Daily reported. "We have checked our records and confirmed the deal," the newspaper quoted Tang Lei, a public relations manager at EachNet.com, as saying. Tang added that he believed it was the highest price ever paid for a phone number online.

EachNet.com said prices for cell phone numbers auctioned on its website have risen in recent years, with numbers believed to be lucky selling from 100 yuan (12 dollars) to as much as 100,000 yuan. Sellers pay a 0.25 percent commission to EachNet.com - in this case about 22,500 yuan. However, the website cannot enforce the deal and "the possibility cannot be ruled out that purchasers will break the deal and negotiate another price offline," Tang said.

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Washington cab ride: \$3000

EVERETT, Wash. - What started out as just another early morning fare turned out to be an odyssey stretching about 2,300 miles for taxi driver Mark Forbes. "When I look back at it, it was one of those cab rides that you think about, but you never realize it's going to come true," Forbes said. "I think every cab driver has a once-in-a-lifetime trip."

The 62-year-old cabbie was nearing the end of a 12-hour shift April 10 when he picked up two men at a Days Inn and one asked to go to a destination near Seattle, about 25 miles to the south.

After they had gotten a few miles south, the passenger changed his mind and said they wanted to visit his brother in Milwaukie, a Portland suburb. Once the 1991 Chevrolet Caprice Classic got to Portland, the passengers used Forbes' cellular telephone to call the brother for directions that didn't line up with the streets.

"Are there two Milwaukees?" the taller passenger asked.

"Yes," Forbes said. "There's another Milwaukee. In Wisconsin."

"How much for you to take us there?"

Figuring it had to be close to 2,000 miles to Milwaukee, the driver asked for \$3,000, a discount from his normal rate of \$1.60 a mile, and the two agreed. The trio arrived in Milwaukee the next evening. The bill was paid and Forbes began the long trip home. But he said his view of the job has changed. Now, he says, when a fare asks to go to the mall or a restaurant, he thinks, "Is that all?"

Shopping in Germany on the Internet: \$160 Million

BERLIN (Reuters) - Three German teenagers were being investigated for fraud after they placed orders for 130 million euros (\$160 million) worth of merchandise and property in a two-hour Internet shopping spree because they were "bored," authorities said. The 19-year-olds splashed out on light aircraft, patents, industrial machinery, restaurants and artwork after hacking into an account on an Internet auction site.

"They gave boredom as the motive and made no attempt to disguise what fun they had buying only the most expensive things," according to police in the western town of Limburg. State prosecutors are investigating.

Cigarette break in Ukraine: \$725 million

KIEV (Reuters) - Two smoking soldiers set off tons of ammunition that killed five people, caused \$725 million in damage and sent debris showering across southern Ukraine.

A series of blasts hurled debris as far as 25 miles after fire broke out last Thursday at a warehouse complex where 92,000 tons of artillery ammunition was stored. "At about 12 o'clock on Thursday, two servicemen, who were stocking military ammunition, began smoking at their working site. It caused the fire and set off the explosions," emergencies minister Hryhory Reva told parliament.

The blasts caused some \$725 million in damage to the defense ministry and population in the Zaporizhya region, he said. They destroyed buildings in a two-mile radius, including a local railway station. A minor gas pipeline was also damaged. Metal fragments and other debris were thrown 40 km, causing fires in nearby towns and resulting in the evacuation of some 7,000 people from the surrounding area.

Riddle: Cartographic Conundrum

Submitted by: J Cohen

A man hands his pilot navigation instructions that read: West 113 miles, South 1 mile, North 1 mile and East 226 miles. After boarding the helicopter and taking off, the pilot follows the flight plan exactly and lands the chopper a few hours later.

When the man disembarks at the destination he realizes that he is in exactly the same place he started. All of the instruments, compass altimeter, and odometer are functioning correctly - there were no malfunctions. And the odometer correctly indicates total distance traveled at 341 miles. How is this possible?

Junior Riddle: Rising Tide

Submitted by: Eddie Gindi

You are on a ship, over the side hangs a rope ladder with half meter rungs. The tide is rising at the rate of one meter per hour. At the end of three hours, how much of the ladder will remain above the water assuming that nine rungs were above the water when the tide began to rise?

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LAST MONTH'S RIDDLE: HEADS UP

Blindfolded, you are told there are 64 coins showing tails on the table in front of you and an unknown number of coins showing heads. Without looking, you must divide the coins into two collections which have an equal amount of coins showing tails. You are not able to feel anything to differentiate the coins. You are permitted to turn coins upside down.

SOLUTION:

Take any 64 coins to one side and flip them over.

Before flipping over the selected 64 coins, the selection will contain X number of tails and 64-X number of heads. The original lot will contain 64-X number of tails. Therefore by just turning all 64 coins in the new selection over, you will have the same number of tails in both lots.

CORRECTLY ANSWERED BY: Ray Mizrahi, Joseph R. Levy, Raymond Levy, Raphael Cohen, Dr. Victor Douek, Jack Grazi

LAST MONTH'S JUNIOR RIDDLE: FILLER UP

You have a five gallon jug, a three gallon jug and an unlimited amount of water. How can you measure four gallons exactly?

SOLUTION:

Fill the five gallon container. Pour it into the three gallon container, leaving two gallons in the five gallon container. Empty the three gallon container. Pour the two gallons from the five gallon container into the three gallon container. Fill the five gallon container. Fill the three gallon container using the water in the five gallon container. Since there were already two gallons there, only one more gallon will fit. This will leave exactly four gallons in the five gallon container.

CORRECTLY ANSWERED BY: Judah Bergman, Michael Stein, Gloria Massre, Yaakov Nissim Ani, Raphael Cohen, Shlomo Y. Dabbah, Sol J. Wahba, Esther Jemal

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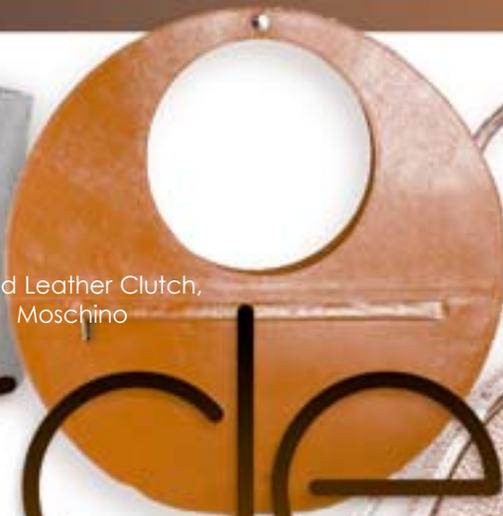
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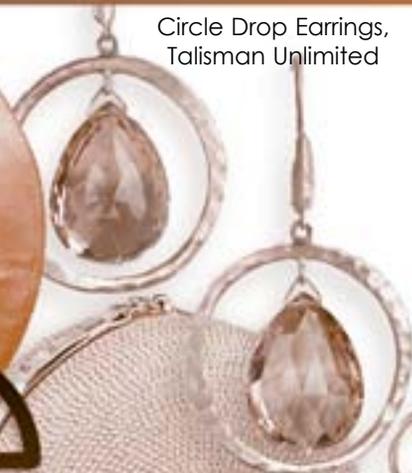
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Carolina Bucci



Apple Circle Cut Out Bag,
Moschino Jeans

BY: JENNIFER COHEN

What is it about summer that makes this season so completely irresistible? Is it the sweet smell of freshly cut grass? The sprawling azure sky sans a trace of clouds? Or, is it the appropriately mod accessories of the moment boasting a well rounded shape? Well, I personally don't believe in picking and choosing (why buy one cute skirt when you can buy two!) so I'll take all three as reasons. I'll also take one (or two!) of these superbly spherical clutches and op-art shoulder bags. But remember, the key to a well rounded life is to diversify your circular sensations. Thankfully, our little round friends are also popping up on shoes and jewelry. And, all you fans of 80's fashion, rejoice! The hoop earring is back in a big way, only now it's coming refined with precious gemstones and hammered gold. So go ahead, make like our wonderfully circular sun and shine all summer long, 'cuz before you know it, fall will be just 'round the corner!

Ring Handle Polka Dot Bag,
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Round Handle Straw Bag,
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LIFE IN THE BIG CITY

BY DAVE GORDON

Library cards go hi-tech

Now, using the library is as easy as ABC. The Brooklyn Public Library has introduced a new card - The Access Brooklyn Card (ABC) - that functions as both a debit card and a library card. Patrons can add monetary units to it at one of the library's service kiosks. The card can be used in the library's copy machines, to pay to print pages from the Internet, or to pay library fines. The ABC can also be used just as a library card. The ABC will be distributed in all 58 Brooklyn Public Library branches by fall.



photo-

"Schlepping" on the MTA

MetroCard vending machines have learned Yiddish. At seven subway stations in Brooklyn, The Transit Authority has reprogrammed some of its vending machines to provide service in der mamaloshon. Machines with the new Yiddish software are at Marcy Avenue in Williamsburg on the J/M line; Fort Hamilton Parkway; 50th street; 55th Street on the D line; 18th Avenue on the F line; and Hewes Street on the J line. The Kings Highway station on the B/Q line also has machines that display Hebrew - another first. Assemblyman Dov Hikind (D-Brooklyn), who asked the Transit Authority to install the Yiddish software into MetroCard vending machines, initiated the move. Some machines in other neighborhoods also offer services in Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Greek, Russian, Italian, Japanese, Polish and Creole. Some estimate there are tens of thousands of Yiddish speakers in New York.



Customers can't leave cleaners hanging

Don't get steamed if you can't get your dry cleaning back after six months - you were forewarned. Governor Pataki signed a law that will require dry-cleaning businesses to hold unclaimed garments for a half-year only. After that, you're likely to find your forgotten duds on the racks of thrift shops. The legislation was enacted after complaints by the National Cleaners Association that unclaimed garments clog cleaners' storage spaces for years at a time. They cited a case in which a New York City woman sued a dry cleaner for discarding her items after five years - and won. The

measure, in effect as of November, will allow business owners to post a sign warning customers that clothes left more than six months will be subject to donation. The alert also must be spelled out on receipts.

Milk prices causing ice-cream headache

Ice cream lovers face a rocky road this summer, as big-name dairies and mom-and-pop ice cream parlors pass their higher costs for milk and other ingredients on to consumers. The mad cow scare sent a ripple effect across world milk prices. But ice cream prices also are being boosted by other world calamities, including rebel fighting in Ivory Coast, which hurts the chocolate harvest, and cyclones in Madagascar, which grows half the world's vanilla. A pint of Ben & Jerry's is going up 8%, the most in the company's 26 years. Breyer's is watching its costs but has not decided to raise prices yet, and Baskin-Robbins has left the decision up to its local franchise owners. Experts foresee ice-cream cone prices rising 20 cents in New York - but don't think it's enough to make people waffle. In fact, many shops say sales are up 10% from last year because this spring's weather is better.

Brooklyn express bus service continued

It's a set of wheels that costs a cool million. MTA weekend express-bus service continues on the X27, X28 and X29 lines for another year, thanks to new state funding. The MTA had threatened to discontinue the weekend bus service following the return of full subway service over the Manhattan Bridge, but city officials intervened. The express-bus lines serve residents of Southern Brooklyn communities under-served by subway service, such as Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights, Bensonhurst, Fort Hamilton and Bath Beach. Borough President Marty Markowitz and New York Senator Golden spearheaded the campaign.

Get a degree for free

If you're 60 or over and a New York resident, you can go to college without paying tuition. "My Turn," the free college education program, is being offered at Kingsborough Community College. "My Turn" students are integrated part of the regular student body, and are permitted to take as few, or as many, credits as



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they wish. Applicants need not have graduated high school or college. In each academic year more than 2,000 “My Turn” students are in attendance. Only the \$70 registration fee must be paid each semester. Some courses may require students to buy supplies or textbooks. Students can enroll at the College to start classes in Early September, late December, February or June. For info: (718)368-5079

Felder Leads Charge To Limit Trash Ticketing

The New York City Council voted 50-0 to override a mayoral veto of a new law imposing strict limits on the hours homeowners can be ticketed. The legislation – known as Felder’s Fair Fines Law – allows for Sanitation ticketing only during predetermined hours, ensuring that the current round-the-clock ticketing policy is trashed.



“This is a major victory for homeowners,” said the bill’s primary sponsor, Simcha Felder (D-Brooklyn). “There is no reason why the City should drive everyone crazy with tickets.”

Goethals Bridge To NJ Closed Nights

As part of a deck rehabilitation project started mid April, the Goethals Bridge which connects Staten Island to New Jersey will be closed overnight through November 15. Closures are from 9:30 pm – 5 am Mondays – Thursdays, 11:59 pm Fridays – 8 am Saturdays and 11:59 pm Saturdays – 8 am Sundays. To accommodate expected increases in weekend traffic, the span will be open in both directions on Sunday nights and holiday weekends. The Port Authority recommends using the Bayonne Bridge or Outerbridge Crossing as alternate routes.



NY Still in the Running for 2012 Olympics

The International Olympic Committee has included the Big Apple among five finalists considered capable of staging the 2012 Summer Games. At a breakfast celebration in Manhattan’s Bryant Park that drew some 300 dignitaries, athletes and officials, Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Gov.



Proposed plan for Jets/Olympic Stadium on the Manhattan’s West side

George Pataki declared they would do “whatever is necessary” to make New York City the most appealing host to the IOC.

An all-European field – London, Paris, Madrid and Moscow – joins New York in the most high-profile competition ever contested for the world’s oldest and most prestigious international sports event. Based on a 90-page evaluation of nine “applicant cities,” the IOC’s executive board dropped Rio de Janeiro; Havana; Istanbul, Turkey; and Leipzig, Germany, from the race. A final vote to award the 2012 Games, by the IOC’s full 123-member body, will be held in Singapore on July 6, 2005.

NYC2012’s budget for the Games, in 2012 dollars, is \$3.3 billion, to be covered by roughly \$1 billion apiece from television rights, corporate sponsorships and ticket sales. That budget does not include the Hudson Yards Project – which encompasses a plan to expand the Jacob Javits Convention Center, a \$1.4-billion West Side Stadium and extension of the No. 7 subway line. Covering the bill for those capital improvements will be \$800 million from the Jets, \$500 million from the hotel industry and other private development and \$4 billion of future sales tax to be generated by the new development. Also accessory to the NYC2012 budget is the \$1.5 billion for a series of high-rise apartments to be privately built on the Queens/Brooklyn border of the East River to be used as the Olympic athletes village and sold afterwards.

Hours after the announcement that New York was among the five finalists, details of their architectural plans for the stadium which will sit atop the Long Island Rail Road’s rail yards on Manhattan’s West Side were released by the Jets. The plan boasts that the structure will be the “greenest building to date” with environmentally friendly sources of power such as solar collection tubes and wind turbines.

New York City Parking & Sanitation Schedule

Date	Occasion	Garbage* and Recycling	Alternate** Side Parking	Parking Rules
July 4, Sunday	Independence Day	Suspended	Suspended	Holiday Rules
July 5, Monday	Independence Day	Suspended	Suspended	Holiday Rules

*Garbage: Residents who are normally scheduled for collection on the day of a holiday should place their trash out at curbside on the holiday evening for collection. Some residents will experience a disruption of on-time household collection service.

Recycling: Residents who are normally scheduled for recycling collection on the day of the holiday will not receive service that week. They should place their recyclables out at curbside the following week on their regular day of service.

**For snow and other emergencies call 212 or 718 CALLDOT (225-5368) to get an update of parking rules for a particular day.

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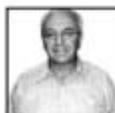
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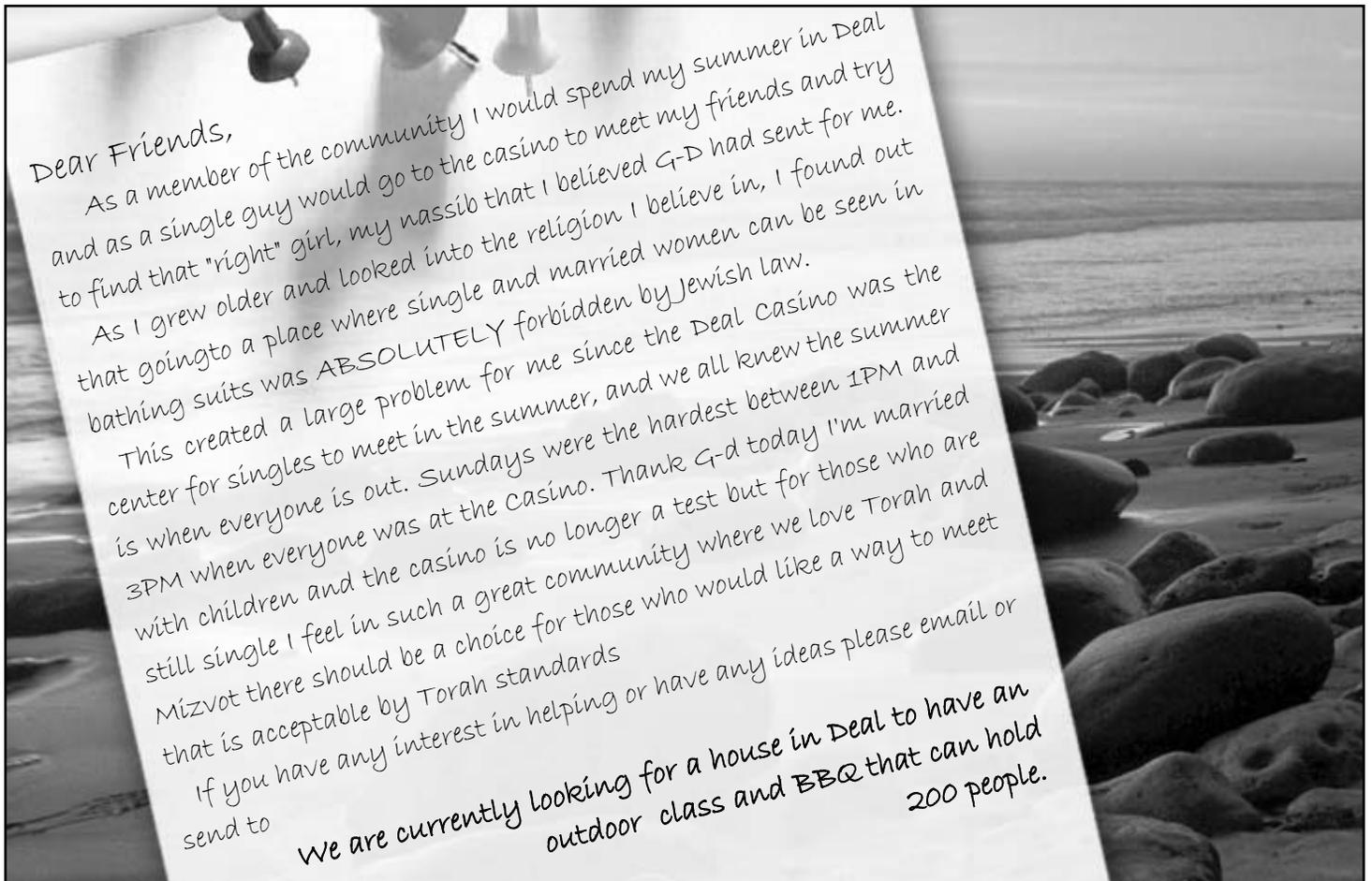
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This created a large problem for me since the Deal Casino was the center for singles to meet in the summer, and we all knew the summer is when everyone is out. Sundays were the hardest between 1PM and 3PM when everyone was at the casino. Thank G-d today I'm married with children and the casino is no longer a test but for those who are still single I feel in such a great community where we love Torah and Mizvot there should be a choice for those who would like a way to meet that is acceptable by Torah standards

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BY: RENA BETESH

I awoke this morning to a phone call. "Did you see the paper?" my friend asked. I responded "No". I thought to myself "Do I want to see the paper?" I did.

Once more lives were shattered. Mothers had lost children. Fathers had lost children. Children had lost mothers. Children had lost fathers. Sisters had lost brothers. Brothers had lost sisters. Friends had lost one another.

This wasn't the headlines about the war. This was Tuesday in Israel. Just one incident has affected so many lives.

I held my head in my hands. My heart hurt, I felt my soul begin to cry. I am a mother, I am a wife, I am a sister, I am a child, and I am a friend. How many times can I read the same words? How many times can I hear the same words? Can I just sit idle as if it is just another Tuesday? I can't and I won't. I must do something. You must do something. I must help. So you must help. It is my responsibility. So it is your responsibility. You and I are the same. We are all family.

Israel has suffered many casualties. The children and parents, the victims, need your help. We can not change the past but we can lend a hand for their future.

On July 17th and 18th these children will be here with the "One Family Fund" which was created in response to the ongoing tragedies affecting families and children in Israel caused by terrorism. The fund promotes the long-term physical and emotional health, educational, housing, income maintenance and other needs of survivors and their families. One Family has helped more victims and families than any other

private organization. These include the family of Efrat nineteen months old and Shachar, nine months old who were left orphaned when their parent's car came under fire on August 25th, 2001. Their mother Sharon covered the children with her body, saving their lives. The children since have been living with an aunt. One Family has helped this family build a second floor to accommodate these children.

One Family has also stepped forward and helped the Ben Sheetrit family. In August 2002 their son Avi was injured by a drive by shooting. He is now paralyzed from the neck down. One Family has helped them financially, and also donated the laptop computer which enables Avi to communicate with the outside world. One Family has enlisted a Psychologist to meet with the family weekly, and sends volunteers twice a week to be with Avi and show him he is not alone.

As 19-year old Yifat Gavrieli sat on bus #361 the morning of August 4, 2002, a suicide bomber sitting in the back set off a bomb he hid in his backpack. Yifat and eight others were killed and 51 were wounded. Yifat is survived by her parents and two younger siblings. In 1998 when her brother Efraim was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease and had to undergo chemotherapy, Yifat took care of her sister and the house. She was the light of the family. Yifat's mother Ronit is inconsolable. She is unable to function or attend properly for her children. They require a caregiver and intensive financial help. One Family has been there for them.

Please help these families envision a

better tomorrow. It is during these times that the human spirit must prevail and we must lend a hand.

Terrorism has also affected tourism in Israel. People no longer vacation in Israel the way they use to. Families who were supported through tourism are now finding themselves struggling to make ends meet. On July 17th and 18th, 25 Israeli vendors will be presenting the best art, jewelry, Judaica, and so much more. Supporting the vendors means supporting Israel. Buying one piece of art or one piece of jewelry goes along way. Upon their return to Israel your money will become part of many people's livelihood. Your money will be supporting the communities and the families in Israel. Israel is coming to you. Support them and you will support us.

You are given a chance to reach out and make a difference so please do.

The Israeli Expo weekend at the JCC in Deal will bring these great causes together. One Family will be presenting and available to answer any questions. It is vital that we support these efforts. Your presence will make all the difference.

Donations to this important cause can be made directly to One family during the Israeli expo at the JCC.

Or donations can be made by mailing to:

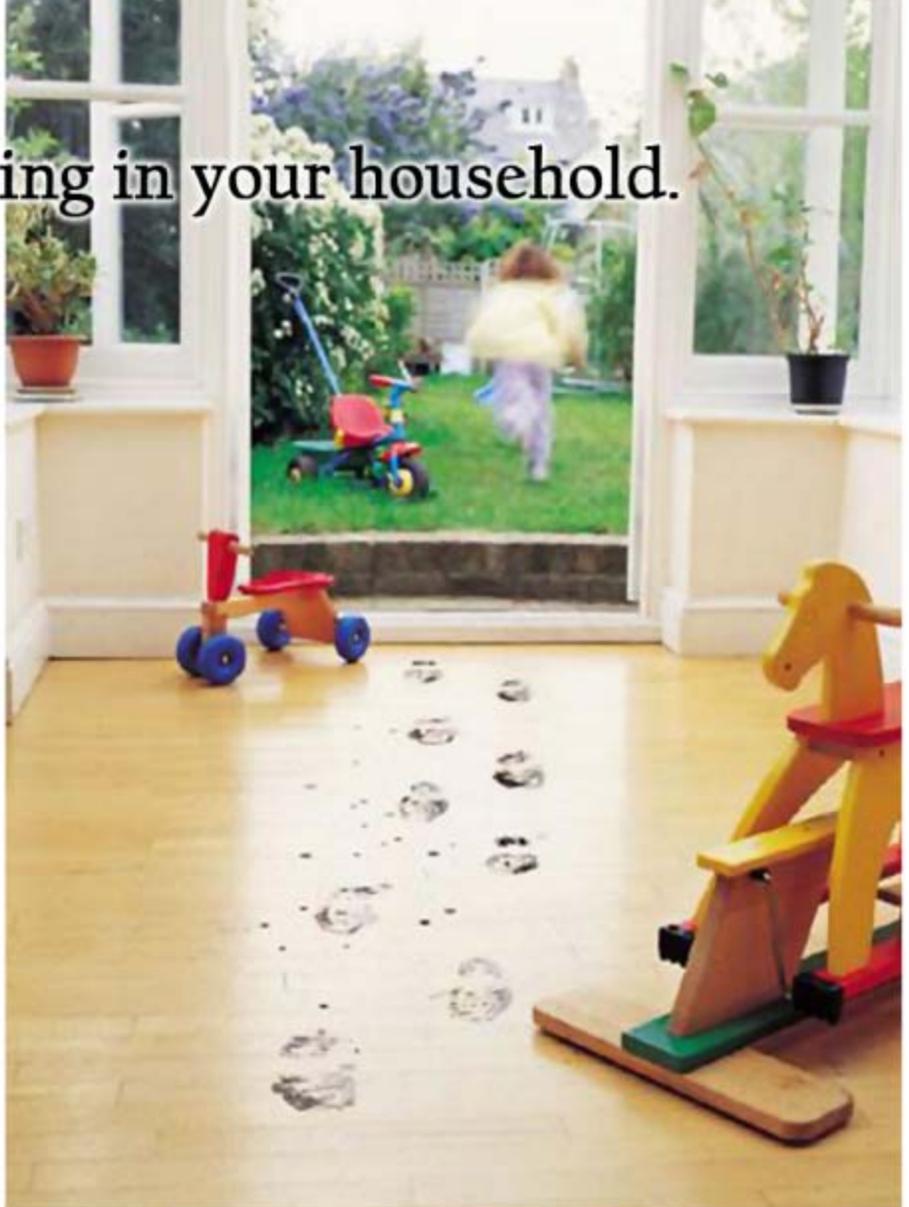
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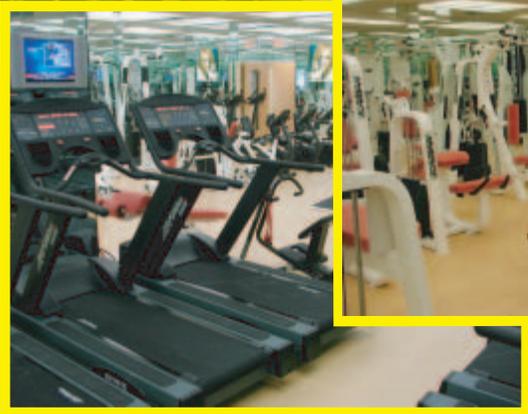
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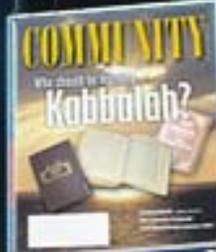
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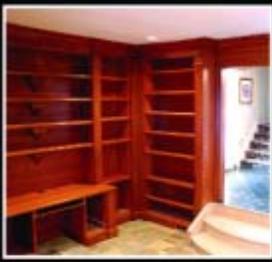
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July 17-18

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What can you do to help?

- All proceeds go directly to Israeli vendors
- 10% of total sales directly benefit victims of terror

Let's come together to support Israeli Terror Victims

Saturday Night, July 17: 9:30pm - 1:30am
One Family speaker & presentation 10:30pm

Sunday, July 18: 9:00am - 9:00pm,
Bar-b-que at 5:30pm

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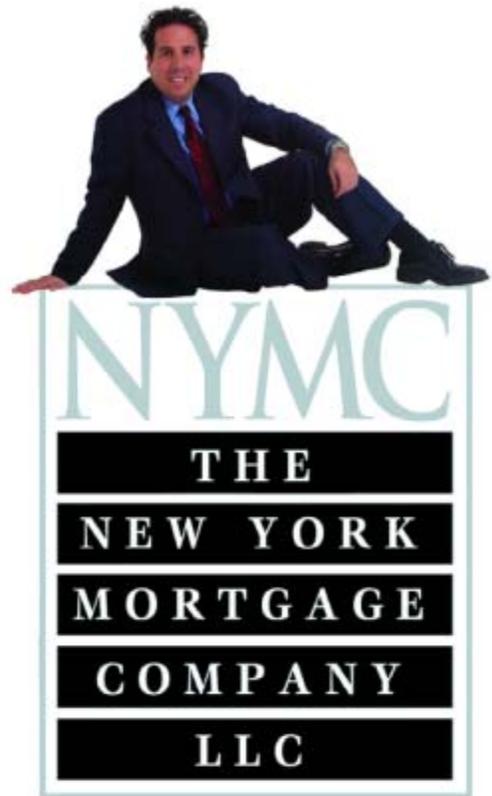


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