

THE JEWISH VOICE AND OPINION

Promoting Classical Judaism

June-July 2015

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Tammuz 5775

The Jewish Voice and Opinion Is Now TheJewishVoiceAndOpinion.com: Same Point of View, Same Features, New Format

**By Susan L. Rosenbluth,
editor and publisher**

AFTER 28 YEARS, *The Jewish Voice and Opinion* is **moving into the 21st century**. While it will still be devoted to speaking out forcefully and unashamedly for the unique concerns of what we call "Classical Judaism," it will now do so online at TheJewishVoiceAndOpinion.com.

As an unabashedly politically conservative news-magazine, *The Jewish Voice and Opinion* has always taken as its mission to present news and feature articles of interest to the Jewish com-

munity that are not generally available elsewhere in the Jewish or secular media. The publication has always been forthright in its ardent support for the nationalist camp in Israel, including the often-beleaguered residents of Judea and Samaria and the undivided, eternal capital of the Jewish State, Jerusalem.

As it has for 28 years, the publication, now online, will accept advertising, but will carry ads from food establishments only if they are kosher and meet Orthodox-rabbinic standards. The publication will not carry ads that would en-

courage desecration of the Sabbath or holidays.

An award-winning publication, *The Jewish Voice and Opinion* has been influential in religious and political circles throughout the United States, Israel, and elsewhere. It is often quoted and reprinted. It has been admired, feared, and reviled, but never ignored. This tradition will be continued, but now online on its enhanced website.

While there will be print editions of *The Jewish Voice and Opinion* from time to time, the bulk of the operation will now be at TheJewishVoiceAndOpinion.com.

A Sleeping Giant

When *The Jewish Voice* published its first issue, back in the fall of 1987 (when it was called "The Jewish Voice of Northern NJ"), it was with the conviction that the observant-Jewish community in the United States had been a sleeping giant for too long. It had allowed its considerable intellectual, economic, and moral power to be overshadowed, leaving the American public with the impression that left-wing, non-observant Jews speak for the Jewish community as a whole.

A great deal has changed in that quarter of a century.
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TheJewishVoiceAndOpinion.com Headlines

Hamas Is in Trouble: ISIS Wants Gaza (and the PA); The PA-Hamas "Unity" Government Is on the Skids; and a Pact with Israel Could Be Their Only Hope

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Israel Says Palestinian Casualty Figures from Operation Protective Edge Were 1 Terrorist for Every Civilian Killed, but There Is Evidence That Many of the Civilians were Part of "Hamas's Civilian Army"

continued online at <http://TheJewishVoiceAndOpinion.com>

An Argument for the Sake of Heaven on the Fate of Europe's Jews and the Continent's Approach to Israel: Rabbi

Sacks vs Rabbi Boteach

continued online at <http://TheJewishVoiceAndOpinion.com>

What to Do about BDS: Ignore It Because It's Nothing? Fight It like a War? See It as the Result of Israel's Convoluted Approach to the Two-State Solution?

continued online at <http://TheJewishVoiceAndOpinion.com>

Moshiach Tzeit?: Saudis Believe Iran a Greater Threat Than Israel; Prominent Egyptian Historian Says "Drop the Palestinians and Normalize Relations with Israel;" and a Jordanian-Palestinian Says "Stop Boycotting Israel"

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A Day of Unity to Remember Naftali, Gilad, and Eyal with a Promenade, a Torah, and a New Police Hotline

FOR MANY JEWS, June 12 was a Day of Unity.

THAT DAY WAS the first anniversary of the terrorist abduction and murder of three Israeli teenagers: Naftali Frenkel, Gilad Sha'ar, and Eyal Yifrah. It prompted many individual Jews and Jewish organizations to do something to memorialize the boys as well as recapture the sense of unity that their tragedy inspired.

On June 12, 2014, the three teens were kidnapped by Hamas terrorists at a bus stop in Gush Etzion as they were making their way home

from their yeshivas. Eighteen days later, after more than two weeks of prayers and searches that seemed to absorb the entire Israeli population and their supporters around the world in a campaign that became known as "Operation Brothers' Keeper," the boys' bodies were found in the Hebron Hills.

Now, in an effort to enhance the quality of life and make the area safer, the Jewish National Fund, the Gush Etzion Regional Council, and the Gush Etzion Foundation have partnered to build a local promenade in memory of the three murdered boys.

Connecting the Area

The memorial promenade will connect the Gush Etzion Junction, the local bus stop (which was the site of the kidnapping), Kibbutz Kfar Etzion, and Kibbutz Rosh Tzurim.

Slated to be approximately one mile long, the promenade will include walking and bicycle paths named for the three boys. It will feature gardens, rest stops, and stunning views of the Judean Hills and the Elah Valley. There will also be a parking area for buses and a new roundabout to make transportation safer.

"The main observation point will house a memorial with benches

lining the area. Each year, on the boys' *yahrzeit*, a memorial walk will take place on the promenade," said Shani Simkowitz, director of the Gush Etzion Foundation, which is a division of the Regional Council of Gush Etzion.

Lone Oak Tree

She said it was especially meaningful that the promenade will pass along the so-called "Lone Oak Tree," from which the Gush Etzion town of Alon Shvut, "Oak of Return," takes its name.

In 1927, Yemenite Jews founded the first farming community in the area, on prop-
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Kol Ami: What Can Obama Do Now?

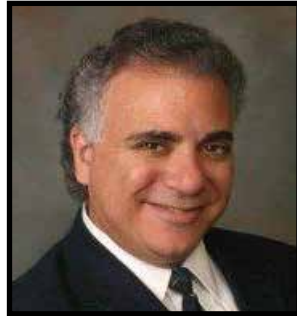
President Obama recently indicated that he is very "pained" by the "perception," in the Jewish state and beyond, that he is anti-Israel and, perhaps, antisemitic. The question this month, asked through TheJewishVoiceAndOpinion.com was:

What, if anything, could Mr. Obama do to show he is not anti-Israel, and thus win back the confidence of Israelis and their supporters around the world? ☆



It's too late. He's undermined all of our Middle Eastern allies in the last six years, including Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia (which is now 50 miles away from Iranian nukes), Libya, Syria, and Yemen (now an Iranian conquest). At some point, common sense says: He is an enemy. Friends don't destroy your safety and security for their own egomania.

Dr. Bernard J. Baars
La Jolla, CA



Perhaps he could stop being a narcissist and blaming everyone else for the consequences of his own irresponsible actions. His current talent is to blame the victims for their feelings. Narcissists do not do well absorbing criticism and typically refuse to acknowledge criticism. That's why



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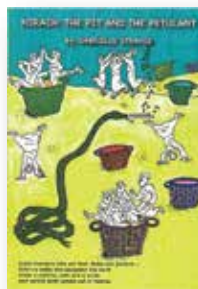
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Author *Gabrielle Strauss* is an itinerant Bible lecturer from Brooklyn, NY

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The Current Crisis: "Even in Laughter, the Heart Can Ache"

On June 18, in Tiberius, on the shores of the Kinneret, the Church of the Multiplication of Loaves and Fish was set on fire, and graffiti, consisting of a passage from the Siddur, asking that "the worshippers of idols be destroyed" was found scrawled on the walls, in Hebrew. No one was hurt.

For reasons that might make sense to those who poisoned **Socrates**, Israeli officials immediately assumed the desecration was the work of right-wing Jewish teenagers from Judea or Samaria, and 16 such individuals were promptly arrested. According to police sources, the young people had been hiking in the region and were arrested several miles from the church.

There was just one problem: absolutely no evidence linked any of those arrested with the crime, and, after a few hours, the suspects were all released.

In fact, there is no evidence, beyond the Hebrew graffiti, that the culprits are Jews at all. Anyone with even a slight knowledge of current events in the Middle East is well aware that another religious group has been far more active against Christians, and these adherents of the Religion of Peace do not hesitate, when possible, to make sure the blame is thrown at Jews.

Throughout the Middle East, Islamists have displaced, murdered, or forcibly converted Christians, painting the letter "N" (for Nazarene) on Christian houses to identify them before destroying them. In plain sight and without an ounce of shame, Islamists have demolished churches, leveled entire communities, and raped and massacred Christian men, women and children. The Islamists proclaim they will not stop until Christianity is wiped off the face of the earth.

In Israel, veteran investigative reporter **David Bedein** recalled a meeting a few years ago with the then-Vatican representative in Israel, the late **Archbishop Pietro Sambini**, who complained bitterly—and on the record—about Muslim persecution of Christians "all over the Holy Land—in Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Tiberius, Haifa, Jaffa, Nazareth."

According to Bedein, the Vatican representative could not understand why the Israel police "stand aside and simply blame Jews," instead of going after the Muslim perpetrators.

"This isn't something that came from leaders in Judea and Samaria. That came from the Catholic Church. So when we hear of a Christian institution being attacked in Tiberius, and immediately the police run to arrest some yeshiva *bochers* instead of opening an investigation against Muslims, when everyone knows Arab-Muslims in Tiberius have been attacking Christians, there's something wrong with this picture," he said.

But this did not deter one left-wing Orthodox rabbi at the Jersey Shore from shamelessly blaming the desecration of the church on Jews. He equated the event in Tiberius with the murder of nine people attending a Bible study class at the African Methodist Episcopal Church, in Charleston, South Carolina. Really!

If the rabbi wanted to tie the South Carolina act of terror with a similar event in Israel, perhaps he might have considered the incident that occurred in Dolev in the Benjamin region of Samaria, one day after the Charleston massacre. Two 25-year-old Jewish fellows, who had been hiking in Dolev, had just begun driving away when a Palestinian waved them down,

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Remembering Our Boys continued from page 3

erty purchased in the Judean Mountains directly south of Jerusalem and Bethlehem in the Judean Hills. They named the first settlement Migdal Eder for the tower established by Jacob the Patriarch as a monument to his wife Rachel when she died. Later, four more farming communities were established between 1940 and 1947 by other Jewish pioneers.

Just before the 1948 War of Independence, the Arab Legion blockaded and attacked the area in response to the UN resolution to partition Palestine into two states, one Arab and the other Jewish. For six months, 250 Jewish men and women stayed to defend their homes and hold off the invading Arab armies. All the Jews were killed in the final battle, known as the Kfar Etzion massacre, and the area became *judenrein*.

Return

After the war, the area was left outside the 1949 armistice lines and had to be abandoned. But the residents never forgot their homes there. From a distance, all they were able to glimpse on the horizon was the huge, lone oak tree.

After the 1967 Six-Day War, when Israel was reunited with Judea and Samaria, the children of the original inhabitants were able to return to re-establish the communities, now called Gush Etzion. Their return gave

new meaning to the ancient words of comfort issued by the Prophet Jeremiah to Rachel the Matriarch: "And there is hope for your future. Your children shall return to their borders."

Gush Etzion today consists of 22 communities with a population of more than 70,000.

Bringing Security

The actual ancient "lone oak tree" is now a treasured visitors' site near the town of Alon Shvut, and it will be part of the new promenade.

"By connecting these areas, JNF is helping to bring security to the region and provide a safe way to travel on foot between these communities," said Ms. Simkowitz.

The JNF's campaign goal to complete the promenade is \$1 million.

JNF is also involved in a million-dollar effort to revitalize the museum in the Gush Etzion Visitor Center at Kibbutz Kfar Etzion, which is a memorial to those who gave their lives defending Gush Etzion.

Beyond the Green Line

The fact that JNF America is involved in this effort is in its own way a small miracle as well. For many years, JNF America resolutely refused to fund any projects located outside the so-called Green Line, the line of demarcation between pre- and post-1967 Israel.

In the 1980s and early 1990s,

a series of lawsuits were mounted by activists who objected to JNF's policy of excluding Judea and Samaria. The plaintiffs claimed that by using JNF's iconic blue tzedaka box, which features the entire map of Israel, including Judea and Samaria, JNF was guilty of false advertising. The courts agreed, forcing JNF either to remove the map from the blue box, or to include a warning in large letters that no funds would be used over the Green Line.

During that time, many of the activists began donating directly to JNF's parent organization, Keren Kayemet L'Yisrael (KKL), which operated over the Green Line but, because it was strictly an Israeli organization, could not offer American donors tax deductions. Eventually, some Orthodox-American rabbis announced that donations to their tax-deductible Discretionary Funds, could be sent to KKL as well.

Change in Leadership

In 1998, when Ron Lander assumed the presidency of JNF, among the first projects announced by him and the then-new CEO, Russell Robinson, was a "ring around Jerusalem," which meant planting trees such that Israel's capital would be ringed in green. This would be geographically impossible without planting over the Green Line.

Since then, JNF America has worked on projects throughout Israel, on both sides of the Green Line. The new promenade in Gush Etzion as well as the museum are just the latest examples.

"JNF has deep roots in Gush Etzion," said Ms. Simkowitz. "As early as 1928, JNF purchased land in the area and today owns 80 percent of the land there. JNF is an invaluable partner in our effort to preserve the ancient and modern history of the region."

Torah Dedication

JNF was not the only group working to perpetuate the memory of the three slain teens this month. At the Shumriya Paratroopers' training base, a Sefer Torah was dedicated, written in memory of the boys and funded by anonymous donors. The families of the three teenagers specifically requested that the scroll be donated to this training base, in gratitude for the efforts of the soldiers there to find their sons last summer.

The families of the murdered boys as well as Sara Netanyahu, wife of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, attended the ceremony.


"You entered my heart. You entered the heart of Israel," Mrs. Netanyahu told the families.

Her husband agreed, and sent a written message to the families, which was read at the *continued on page 18*

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Eligibility is open to those born January 1, 1928 or later AND who were persecuted as Jews in the following circumstances:

- (I) in a concentration camp; or
- (II) in a ghetto (or similar place of incarceration recognized as such by the German government); or
- (iii) living in hiding or under false identity or illegality for a period of at least 6 months in Nazi-occupied territory or in Axis countries.

Individualized application forms were mailed to certain survivors who have received previous compensation payments from other programs. If you received an individualized application form in the mail, please complete it and return it to the Claims Conference.

If you believe you are eligible for the Child Survivor Fund and did not receive an application in the mail, you may obtain an application at www.claimscon.org/childsurvivor and return it to the Claims Conference. Information about the program is also on this website.

If you have submitted an application and have received an acknowledgement from the Claims Conference, you need not take any further action. If you have submitted an application, and have not received acknowledgement within 8 weeks of submitting it, please contact the Claims Conference.

Applications must be submitted by survivors. If an eligible survivor applies and subsequently passes away, the surviving spouse is entitled to payment. If there is no surviving spouse, the child(ren) of the eligible child survivor is entitled to the payment.

Hardship Fund

The German Government has recently restated that Jewish Nazi victims cannot receive a Hardship Fund payment if they were part of an organized evacuation. However the German Government clarified that this restriction only applies to claimants who were themselves the subject of an organized evacuation. For further information contact the Claims Conference.

There is no cost to apply to any Claims Conference program.

For more information, contact:

Claims Conference

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At the One Israel Fund Dinner, the Message Was the Jewish Tradition of Bravery and the Need to Help Israel's Most Vulnerable Communities

SUPPORTERS OF THOSE who reside in Judea and Samaria must stop begging the UN and other world leaders to protect the Jewish nation, according to a Jewish spiritual leader who has gained a world-wide reputation in the Jewish, Christian, and secular world as an author, speaker, and media host.

"We proclaim that our Creator protects us. We are a nation of destiny. We have to tell the world of our danger. Waiting for permission to speak weakens us," said Rabbi Shmuley Boteach.

Often referred to as "America's Rabbi," Rabbi Boteach made his remarks as the keynote speaker at last month's One Israel Fund's 21st anniversary Gala Dinner, held in Manhattan.

Supporting Yesha

Since 1994, One Israel Fund has been dedicated to supporting the welfare and safety of the men, women, and children of Judea and Samaria—Yehuda and Shomron—as well as those who have been adversely affected by the Gaza evacuation in 2005.

"These nearly 400,000 citizens of Israel are the vanguard of Israel's security and sovereignty as a Jewish State," said One Israel Fund president Steven Orlow.

During the summer of 2014's Operation Protective Edge, One Israel Fund expanded its scope to provide support and security to those Israelis living in the Gaza border communities and other vulnerable regions.

The mission of the 50-day Israeli operation was to put an end to the incessant rockets fired at Israeli civilian targets by Gaza-based Hamas terrorists.

Joseph's Tomb

An ardent Zionist who is no stranger to taking on critics of the Jewish State, Rabbi Boteach shared with the One Israel Fund's supporters his recent experience during a visit to Joseph's Tomb in Shechem (Nablus), located in territory controlled by the Palestinian Authority.

Jews regained access to the site in the 1967 Six-Day War and established a yeshiva, Od Yosef Chai, there in the 1980s, with a contingent of IDF troops necessary to protect the students.

In 1995, as a result of the Oslo Accords, Israel relinquished Shechem to the PA, which was charged with protecting the site and allowing Jewish access to it. One year later, however, Palestinian rioters attacked the tomb and six Israeli soldiers were killed.

During the Intifada War in 2000, Palestinian police stood by as an Arab mob burned Jewish books and desecrated the yeshiva's Beit Medrash. The Israeli Army outpost was also destroyed, and the IDF withdrew completely from the site, leaving it in the hands of the Palestinians.

Since then, Jews no longer enjoy ready access to the site, although pilgrims are, at times, allowed to enter under IDF armed escort.

Like Thieves

The group with whom Rabbi Boteach visited the site had 1,000 Israeli soldiers to protect them while they prayed. Nevertheless, Rabbi Boteach described the Jewish entrance into Shechem as "sneaking in as though we were thieves."

"This is unbelievable in our time. I am a Jew. I have occupied no man's land," he said.

He urged the One Israel Fund supporters not to be fearful, especially in light of the history of Jewish bravery. As an example, he pointed to the current Jewish residents of Hebron, whom he also recently visited. The young people there regularly combine Torah study with service in fighting units of the IDF.

Tradition of Bravery

A follower of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, z"tl, Rabbi Boteach recalled the bravery of the Baal Shem Tov, Rabbi Yisroel (Israel) ben Eliezer, the 18th-century founder of Chassidic Judaism. The Baal Shem Tov often ventured into dangerous woodland, training himself to fear no one.

Rabbi Boteach also mentioned Martin Luther King, Jr, who often praised Jewish efforts to establish and maintain Israel, despite the dangers, calling the Jewish state "one of the great outposts of democracy in the world, and a marvelous example of what can be done, how desert land can be transformed into an oasis of brotherhood and democracy."

Rabbi Boteach maintained that the Jewish residents of Judea and Samaria, and their supporters, follow in that tradition of Jewish bravery.

"We Jews inspire fearlessness in others. No others have inspired us more than those in Judea and Samaria, those who live under the threat of complete attack day and night. It would be an incalculable loss if we didn't have Jews of Judea and Samaria and the New York Jewish community that supports them," he said.

Continue the Visits

The One Israel Fund dinner at which Rabbi Boteach spoke was the organization's 21st annual Gala. It featured a lavish buffet catered by Mauzone and an art exhibition by Avi Polinsky of Your Arts Desire. The dinner was held in Tribeca,

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against the breathtaking backdrop of the city skyline with the Freedom Tower standing tall.

The program was opened by Eve Harow, host of the Rejuvenation program on Voice of Israel Radio and a long-time community activist in the Judean Hills. She praised the essential partnership between the people of the Yehuda and Shomron region and the people gathered that evening in support.

As the One Israel Fund's director of tourism, Ms. Harow urged its supporters to continue visiting and touring the land of Israel.

"Participate and take the trips and see the people of the communities and how they are doing there. They are doing it for all of us," she said, adding that her youngest child had recently entered the Israeli army, a fact that made the communal recitation of prayers for the welfare of the IDF and its soldiers even more heartfelt than usual.

Local Security Chiefs

The need for prayers and funds was made clear by a video tribute honoring Zeevik Etzion, z"l, who served as a *RavShatz* (security chief) of Kibbutz Nirim, located in the Negev near the Gaza border. He had devoted his life to the safety and security of his community and its 620 residents. On August 26, 2014, just hours before the final ceasefire that ended Operation Protective Edge, a mortar shell from Gaza killed Mr. Etzion and his deputy officer, Shachar Melamed, z"l.

As explained by One Israel Fund Executive Vice-President Scott Feltman and the fund's director of security projects, Marc Provisor, the *RavShatz* is the community's first responder and must be equipped to protect himself in order to carry out that critical job.

"Providing these brave men with proper protective gear and life-saving equipment and supplies is crucial in preventing future casualties," said Mr. Feltman.

"Vests 4 Israel"

At the dinner, a new One Israel Fund project was introduced: "Vests 4 Israel," an initiative, in partnership with the IDF, to supply new protective vests to the *RavShatzim* in southern Israel near the Gaza border, as well as in Judea and Samaria and along Israel's northern border.

The new project is being conducted in memory of Mr. Etzion, and is expected to save lives among his fellow *RavShatzim* in his merit.

Mr. Orlow stressed that support for the fund truly makes the difference between life and death for many of its beneficiaries.

Awardees

At the dinner, those honored with the One Israel's Fund's Community Service Award were: David Berman, Alex Cerrano, Charles Dantone, Michael Page, and Carol Szumski of Signature Bank.

Elisha Aryeh of Far Rockaway and Josh Hoffman of Staten Island were given *Manhigut Tze'erim* Awards for Young Professional Leadership, and One Israel Fund board member, Suzie Schwartzstein of Woodmere received the fund's *Aishet Chayil* Award.

Rav Yosef Zvi Rimon, the founder of JobKatif, was given the One Israel Fund's

Hakarat HaTov Award for his efforts to help the almost 10,000 Jews expelled from their homes, communities, schools, and businesses in the 2005 "Disengagement" from Gush Katif, Gaza.

JobKatif assumed the responsibility of assisting the newly homeless Jews in the task of finding jobs, an effort which often required helping them receive extensive training in order to enter new fields.

At the dinner, Rav Rimon, a leading Israeli educator and authority on halacha, explained that the Jewish people have a mission in the world. Not only do they help their own, he said, but they also assist people throughout the world in aid

continued on page 23

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The Biale Rebbe to Visit Passaic and West Orange: His Followers Expect Miracles

IN THE YEAR since the Biale Rebbe's last visit to New Jersey, there have been dozens of stories that followers of the Rebbe—and even some former skeptics—believe were miracles that resulted from his blessings.

The Rebbe, Rabbi Yaakov Menachem Rabinowicz, will be in Passaic from Tuesday June 30 through Friday July 3, and in West Orange from Friday July 3 until Tuesday July 7. During that time hundreds of people will make appointments to meet him. Some will stand on line for the opportunity to see him and receive advice. Some will be content merely to see his smile.

Known as the Rebbe of Biale Bnei Brak, Rabbi Yaakov Menachem Rabinowicz is a son of the former Biale

Rebbe, Rabbi Dovid Matisyohu Rabinowicz, z"tl. After his father's death, Rabbi Yaakov Rabinowicz was pressed to assume the responsibility of guiding his late father's followers. Long recognized as a scholar and experienced counselor, and active in outreach programs in the US, he has made a name for himself in Jewish communities throughout America.

A Wedding in Rockland

One of his followers, Yosef Vitzberger from Flatbush, recalled the winter 2014 wedding of the Rebbe's son to the granddaughter of the Skverer Rebbe. The wedding, which took place in New Square, New York, attracted thousands, many looking forward to participating in the blessing they feel such a fortuitous event generates.

As expected, thousands

of chassidim in streimels and kapotes flocked to New Square, representing the local community as well as communities throughout the world. A huge crowd of Biale chassidim arrived from Israel.

But according to Mr. Vitzberger, there were many attending the wedding who were not chassidim. There were many in knitted kippot and many with trimmed beards or no beards at all. They came from California, Florida, Manhattan, and even Bergenfield, New Jersey.

"These were people who had come from throughout the US, including doctors, lawyers, realtors, financiers, bank officials, and even some Modern Orthodox rabbis. Many of them stayed at the wedding from the beginning to the very end at four in the morning," he said. "When we asked what they were doing at the wedding, they told us, 'We are the Biale Rebbe's chassidim.'"

A Secret

One of the wedding guests was a prominent Modern Orthodox rabbi in Edison, NJ, who recalled an engaged couple in his congregation. The rabbi knew they had a problem which had been kept secret.

When they learned that the Biale Rebbe would be in the US, they decided to ask

for his blessing.

"As soon as they entered the room, even before they could say a word, the Rebbe told them he knew about their problem and proceeded to discuss it with them. The couple told their rabbi about this obvious Ruach Hakodesh, and the rabbi himself quickly secured his own appointment with the Rebbe. Since then, the rabbi has met with the Rebbe many times and makes no move in his personal or public life without the Rebbe's blessings," said Mr. Vitzberger.

The Caterer

According to Mr. Vitzberger, a popular New York kosher caterer was also among the guests at the Rebbe's son's wedding. Two years earlier, at one of his jobs, the caterer noticed a large crowd forming at the side of the hall. When he went to see what was happening, he was told that they were waiting for a blessing from the Biale Rebbe Bnei Brak.

A few months earlier, the bride's father had asked the Rebbe for a blessing for his still-single older children. Looking at the father's note with the children's names, the Rebbe replied, "For the Ribono shel Olam, it's not hard to marry them all off in one year. May He help that they all get married this year."

The bride at the wedding

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was the third daughter in that family to get married that year.

"Having heard the story and actually participated in the wedding, the caterer was determined to get his own blessing from the great tsaddik," said Mr. Vitzberger, adding that the caterer has since reported another ten miracles that he believes occurred to people who were blessed by the Biale Rebbe at that wedding.

Engagement

The caterer said he waited until 4am for his turn. Approaching the Rebbe, the caterer told about his own daughter who was then studying at university, and going out with a boy of whom the family greatly approved. But the parents did not know if their relationship was going to result in marriage.

According to Mr. Vitzberger, the Rebbe looked at

the names and told the father, "He's buying the engagement ring now."

The next day, the caterer learned that his daughter and the young man were engaged.

Countless Stories

"There are countless stories that attest to the power of the Rebbe's blessing," said Mr. Vitzberger.

These range from a distraught pregnant couple who

came to see him after having suffered several previous miscarriages, to a patient who had been diagnosed with leukemia.

The couple had been informed that their unborn child would be disabled and that they should consider adoption as their only route to parenthood. However, the Rebbe predicted that the unborn child would be born healthy, and *continued on page 16*

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The Log: "Separate Yourself Not from the Community"

Mon., June 22

"Jews in the Middle Ages," Shel Haas, JCC Rockland, West Nyack, 10:30am, 845-362-4400

New Jewish Parents Group Meet-Up: Jewish Music Experience, private home in Hoboken, 11am, www.facebook.com/groups/JewishParentsHudsonCounty/

Rutgers University Hillel Gala, honoring Beth and Marty Aron, Mitch Frumkin, Joseph Hollander, Sarah Sideman, and student rising stars: Jordan Davis, Seth Deneroff, Mollie Kahn, and Julia Motis, The Crystal Plaza, Livingston, 5:30pm, 732-545-2407

Junior High School Mishna Shiur Siyyum, for those who participated in the Cong Rinat Yisrael program, at EJ's Pizza, Teaneck, 6:30pm, 201-837-2795

Benefit Concert in Support of Leket Israel, Israel's National Food Bank and the Largest Food-Rescue Network, with Ben Hyman from BensGuitar.com, and Keren Schwartzman, at Mexicali Live, Teaneck, middle school concert, 6pm; high school concert, 8pm, 201-331-0070 or bensguitar613@gmail.com

Israel Advocacy Training, for teenagers 13 and up, Sarit Catz, Cong Ohr Torah, West Orange, 7:45pm, 973-669-7320

Tues., June 23

The Teacher Expo: Expanding Horizons, for teachers and parents, Doubletree, Fort Lee, 10am-4pm, 201-634-0338

Caregivers Support Group, for those caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease, JCC, Tenafly, 10:30am, 201-569-7900

Torodojo Class, to watch Elie Minsky be promoted to purple belt, Cong Ahawas Achim Bnai Jacob and David, West Orange, 6pm, howardsragow@yahoo.com

Cong Shomrei Torah Sisterhood Spring Dinner, honoring Dena Heller, Cong Shomrei Torah, Fair Lawn, 6pm, Dj7622@aol.com or Paris.allyson@gmail.com

Sisterhood Donor Dinner and Boutique, honoring Lilli "Morah Lilli" Tamman, Cong Ahawas Achim Bnai Jacob and David, West Orange, 6:30pm, 973-736-1407

Torodojo Class, to watch Elie Minsky be promoted to purple belt, Cong Ahawas Achim Bnai Jacob and David, West Orange, 6pm, howardsragow@yahoo.com

Parent Training Workshop: "Talking to Our Children about Safety," for parents of children of all ages who are going to day and sleepaway camps, spons by Project SARAH, private home in Bergenfield, 8pm, 862-703-8578

Wed., June 24

Fair Lawn Gown Gemach, by appointment only, appointment hours 1-2:30pm and 7-8:30pm, 201-799-1770

Cancer Support Group, Holy Name Medical Center, Teaneck, 4pm, 201-833-3336

Second Generation, for children of Holocaust Survivors, Jewish Family Service, Teaneck, 7pm, 201-837-9090

"Diabetes Seminar: Everything You Want to Know about Diabetes," Dr. Mark Wiesen, Holy Name Medical Center, Teaneck, 7pm, 201-833-3336

Makhela Israeli-Style Choir,

for those who know how to read and sing in Hebrew, Zvi Klein, JCC, Tenafly, 8pm, 201-408-1427

Tehillim Group, Cong Shaare Tefillah, Teaneck, 8:15pm, 201-289-5474, 917-902-9303, or 201-836-3431

Thurs., June 25

"Can You Hear Me Now? Addressing Hearing Loss," Audiologist Dr. Samuel Fox, Holy Name Medical Center, Teaneck, 1pm, 201-833-3336

Summer Girls Learning Initiative, for high school students, CB Neugroschl, Lazy Bean, Teaneck, 7:15pm, afrohlich613@gmail.com

Parsha Shiur, Rabbi Yosef Adler, Cong Rinat Yisrael, Teaneck, 8:30pm, 201-837-2795

Ma'amar Based on the Teachings of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, for men, Rabbi Levi Shemtov, Chabad of Riverdale, 8:45pm, 718-549-1100

Fri., June 26

"Jewish Sparks: What Happened When Moses Hit the Rock," Rabbi Avrohom Rapoport, spons by Chabad at the Shore, at the Linwood Library, 12:15pm, 609-992-4100

Rachel Keren, scholar-in-residence, topics include "Rabbi Raphael Aharon Ben Shimon, the Chief Rabbi of Egypt between 1890-1920, and His Halachic Solution for Agunot," "Between Halacha and Meta-Halacha," and "Shiur in Midrash," Davar, Teaneck, through Shabbat, June 27, 201-837-1995 or lkrule@aol.com

Shabbaton for Orthodox/Machmir Singles in Their 20s and 30s, with Rabbi Yaakov Neuberger, Dr. Shani Ratzker, and Gila and Carl Guzman, includes meals and melave malka kumsitz with David Ross, in Bergenfield, through Motzei Shabbat, June 27, rzr8k@gmail.com or 201-522-4776

Shabbat, June 27

"Listen You Rebels: Moshe's 'Sin' Revisited," Rabbi Yitzchak Etshalom, scholar-in-residence, Cong Netivot Shalom, Teaneck, noon, 201-801-9022

Women's Shiur, Chana Frumit Stern, Cong Adas Israel, Passaic, 5:30pm, marstrul@aol.com or

973-773-7272

"Hidden in the Cave: In-Depth Analysis of the Story of Rabbi Shimon ben Yohai," Rabbi Yitzchak Etshalom, Cong Keter Torah, Teaneck, 8:10pm, 201-907-0180

Motzei Shabbat, June 27

"Paint Night with Cong Ahavat Shalom of the Teaneck Apartments," for couples, at Creative Spirits Pottery, Englewood, 10:15pm, fays621@gmail.com

Sun., June 28

Free Smoke Alarm Installation, for residents of Clifton, spons by the Red Cross Home Fire-Preparedness Campaign, the city of Clifton, and FMBA Local 21, to make an appointment, smokealarms@cliftonnj.org

Minyan Appreciation Day: Davening and Bikur Cholim at Daughters of Miriam in Clifton, meet at Cong Shomrei Torah, Fair Lawn, 8:15am; davening, followed by breakfast and bikur cholim, 8:45am, samapprais@aim.com

Community Collaborative Conference: "Educating and Inspiring Our Children Together," Cong Bnai Yeshurun, Teaneck, "Midrashic Models of Education," Shani Taragin, includes breakfast, 8:30am; "Helping Our Kids Find Meaning in Tefillah," Rabbi Dr. Jay Goldmintz; "Functional Illiteracy and 'Edu-tainment'—Balancing Substance and Excitement in Our Classrooms," Rabbi David Katz; "Making Middot Permanent," Rabbi Steven Pruzansky; "Inspiration Sparks: Gifting Our Children with Gifts of Value," Sharon Richter; "Breaking the Tefilla Apathy," Rabbi Ezra Weiner, 10am; "Buy Low, Sell High: Financial Principles as a Strategy for Inspired Jewish Education," Rabbi David Bashevkin; "Aggada, Questions, and Conversation: Tools for Making G-d a Reality at Home and in the Classroom," Rabbi Tanchum Cohen; "The Na'aseh V'Nishma Paradigm: Discovery, Learning, and Fostering a Growth Mindset," Rebecca Hirschfeld; "Raising Women Leaders: Does the Torah Embrace Glass Ceilings?" Rabbi Zev Gold-

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New Classes This Month

Sundays

Krav Maga Israeli Self-Defense, for women, Eilon Even-Esh, Cong Ahavas Yisrael, Edison, 9am, eevenesh@shomer360.com

"Personalities of the Talmud," Rabbi Gedaliah Jaffe, Cong Ahavas Yisrael, Edison, 9:15am, 732-762-0996

"The Key to a Successful Life," for women, Rabbi David Bassous, Cong Etz Ahaim, Highland Park, 10am, 732-247-3839

Beginning Israeli Dance, for women and girls, Elyse Litt, Cong Etz Ahaim, Highland Park, 11am, 732-247-3839

Beit Midrash Program, for women, Rabbi Yitzi Genack and Rabbi Nachshon Rothstein, includes the thought of Rabbi Aaron Lichtenstein and halacha from text to practice, Riverdale Jewish Center, 8:30pm, 718-548-1850

Mondays

Advanced Talmud, for women, David Nachbar, spons by Lamdeinu, Cong Beth Aaron, Teaneck, 9:30am, lamdeinu@aol.com, begins June 29

Babyccino, for moms and

babies ages 0-3 years, Chabad of Hoboken, 10am, 201-386-5222

"Pirkei Avot: Psycho-Educational Understanding," for men and women, Leah Herzog, Cong Darchei Naom, Fair Lawn, 10am, drora@arussy.com, begins July 29

"Almost on My Own with Me," for ages 18-24 months, Cong Sons of Israel, Manalapan, 10:15am, 732-446-4924, begins June 22

"Establishing Financial Freedom" Support Group, Jewish Family Service, Teaneck, 7pm, 201-837-9090

"Soul Food: The Book of Deuteronomy," Rabbi Asher Herson, Chabad Center of Northwest NJ, Rockaway, 7pm, 973-625-1525, begins July 6

JRecovery Anonymous, peer support group and 12-step program for Jewish alcoholics, addicts, and anyone affected by addiction, including family members and friends, Jewish Family Services, Milltown, 7:30pm, 732-777-1940

Summer Kollel, Rabbi Gedaliah Jaffe, Cong Ahavas Yisrael, Edison, Open Beis Midrash, 7:30pm; Chavrusa Learning, 9pm; Shiur on Halachic

Topics in the Parsha, 9:30pm; 732-762-0996, begins June 29

Tuesdays

"The End of Moshe's Life in Peshat and Derash," for men and women, Rabbi Nati Helfgot, spons by Lamdeinu, Cong Beth Aaron, Teaneck, 8:15am, lamdeinu@aol.com, begins June 30

Mekor Zumba, for women, Rikki Samel, private home in Highland Park, 9am, maydl49@aol.com

"Halachic Perspectives on Marriage, Intimacy, and Family Life," for women, Nechama Price, spons by Lamdeinu, Cong Beth Aaron, Teaneck, 10:15am, lamdeinu@aol.com, begins June 30

Awareness through Movement, for women, Joyce Bendavid, OTR, Cong Rinat Yisrael, Teaneck, 2pm, jdbendavidotr@gmail.com or 201-759-4222

Torodojo Jewish Martial Arts, for beginners to teens, Cong Ahavas Achim Bnai Jacob and David, West Orange, 6pm, howardsragow@yahoo.com

Alateen, for frum girls ages 9-19 who have friends or family with addiction, Rikki Wisotsky, Cong Tiferet Israel, Passaic, 7pm, 973-249-7435

Tehillim Shiur, for women, Rabbi Chaim Silver, private home in Wesley Hill-Spring Valley, 8pm, 917-968-2642

Pottery, for women, Michael Preston, Cong Bnai Yeshurun, Teaneck, 8pm, begins June 30, TheSheinfelds@gmail.com

Wednesdays

Advanced Talmud, for women, David Nachbar, spons by Lamdeinu, Cong Beth Aaron, Teaneck, 9:30am, lamdeinu@aol.com, begins July 1

"Sefer Yonah," for men and women, Rachel Friedman, spons by Lamdeinu, Cong Beth Aaron, Teaneck, 10:15am, lamdeinu@aol.com, begins July 1

"Rattle and Grow with Me," for ages 6-12 months with a parent, Cong Sons of Israel, Manalapan, 10:30am, 732-446-4924, begins June 24

continued online along with chesed ops and The Great Idea Dept. at <http://TheJewishVoiceAndOpinion.com>

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Ess Gezint: Jewish Soul Food for Summer

Jewish Soul Food: Traditional Fare and What It Means by Carol Ungar (Brandeis University Press) is not another "coffee-table" cookbook, almost too beautiful to risk staining in the kitchen. This is a slim paperback with a mission: to showcase the deep link between Jewish foods and Jewish beliefs. For example, she explains that Majadah is eaten before Tisha B'Av because lentils are closed spheres without an opening or a mouth, just like mourners. She also gives detailed instructions on how to fashion almost two dozen spectacular challahs. ☆

Doctored-Up Gefilte Fish

- 1 frozen log gefilte fish (do not defrost) to taste
- 1 medium-size carrot, left whole
- 1 small onion, minced whole
- 1 tsp salt ¾ cup granulated sugar
- ¼ tsp ground pepper or (optional)

Put fish roll in a pot with a lid and pour in enough water to submerge the roll halfway. Add onion, salt, pepper, and the carrot. If you like it sweet, add sugar. Bring to a boil, then reduce to a simmer. Continue cooking for 1¼ hours. Check periodically, adding water as needed. Drain, cool, and serve. Serves 8. Does not freeze well.



Anglo-Jewish Gefilte Fish Balls

- 1 frozen log gefilte fish Vegetable oil for deep frying
- ¼ tsp black pepper Ketchup, chutney, or dipping sauce
- 1 cup matzoh meal (optional)

Defrost gefilte fish by leaving it in the refrigerator overnight. Add pepper and then matzoh meal, one handful at a time so that you can form the fish into walnut-sized balls. The mixture should be soft but able to be handled. Heat 2 inches of oil in a stockpot or deep saucepan. There should be another 2 inches of clearance over the top of the oil. When oil reaches 365° on a deep-fat frying thermometer, drop balls in batches into the hot oil. Do not crowd the pot. Deep fry for about 6 minutes, until browned on all sides. Remove with a slotted spoon to paper towels to drain. Serve hot or cold, with or without ketchup, chutney, or dipping sauce. Makes 3-40 balls to serve 10.

Rice-and-Lentil Pilaf (Majadah)

- 1 cup brown or green lentils 3 medium Vidalia onions, sliced into thin crescents
- 1½ Tbs plus ¼ cup vegetable or olive oil ¼ tsp cumin
- 2 cups basmati rice ¼ tsp black pepper
- Salt Greek yogurt for serving
- 6 cups boiling water or stock (optional)

Cover lentils with water in a saucepan and simmer, covered, for 20 minutes until tender. Drain. Heat 1½ Tbs oil in a large saucepan over medium flame and sauté rice briefly, stirring. Add lentils and 2 tsp salt. Pour boiling water or stock over rice and lentils. Simmer on a low flame, covered, for 20 minutes. Heat remaining ¼ cup oil in a skillet over a medium flame and sauté onions, stirring frequently, until dark brown, about 10 minutes. Add cumin, pepper, and salt to taste. To serve, spoon rice and lentils onto a serving platter and top with fried onions. Can be served with yogurt. Serves 4.

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Gabi Antosofsky, Pinny Balsam, Daniel Becker, Oren Benharush, Eitan Bernath, Dovid Cari, Mendel Dashevsky, Elliot Eisner, Dov Fireman, Aviv Fox, Avraham Frolich, Sholom Fruchter, Dovy Fuchs, Yosef Aryeh Gilbert, Jonathan Golan, Joe Greenbaum, David Kapelyan, Morriel Kasher, Yair Katz, Raanan Kilimnick, Yoel Meir Kinzelberg, Jeffrey Kladerman, Aryeh Kossove, Gidon Lefkowitz, Moishy Leiser, Yechiel Lerner, Peretz Levin, Yoshie Marcus, Kovi Pahmer, Eli Sabo, Andrew Schwartz, Hillel Schwartz, Mikey

Schwartz, Yaakov Schwartz, Moshe Shimshon, Evan Solomon, Eli Sudwerts, Aryeh Teller, Efraim Tugenberg, and Daniel Weinberger

Mazal Tov to Rabbi Benjamin and Rebbetzin Shevy Yudin on their 50th anniversary

Mazal Tov to Rabbi Dr. Bernhard and Charlene Rosenberg on the birth of Sarah Lily to their children Ayelet and Ari Feder

Mazal Tov to Rabbi Shmuley Boteach on being honored by the Endowment for Middle East Truth (EMET) at their Raus of Light

Current Crisis continued from page 5

apparently asking for help. As soon as the Israelis' car pulled up, the Arab asked them for water...and then shot them at point-blank range. **Danny Gonen**, z"l, an electrical engineering student, was killed and his friend wounded.

While the world is rightly clamoring for the death penalty for the Caucasian terrorist who murdered the nine African-Americans in Charleston, no one is calling for the death penalty for the still-at-large Palestinian terrorist who murdered Danny Gonen.

White supremacist racism (some "analysts" say it is encouraged by Fox News, the Republican Party, or anyone who thinks the Second Amendment allowing Americans to bear arms should be preserved) has been identified as the culprit in Charleston. No one is blaming Arab racism for the death of Danny Gonen. Journalists are not asking how the Arab terrorist managed to secure his weapon to kill a Jew.

The European Union, **President Obama**, and the Orthodox rabbi at the Jersey shore expressed horror at the tragedy in Charleston. None of them—not even the Orthodox rabbi—expressed a word of condolence for the Gonen family.

And while nine African Americans lost their lives in Charleston, 56 people, most of them African-Americans, including a four-year-old little girl, were killed over the Memorial Day holiday in Chicago. Neither the EU nor the President—nor the Orthodox rabbi—said a word about that.

In the era of Political Correctness, the scope of the outrage depends not on who does the dying. It depends only on who does the killing. White-on-black crime or Jews killing Palestinians in a war of self-defense elicits charges of racism and war crimes. Arabs killing Jews or African Americans killing each other merits not a peep. S.L.R.

continued online at

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Biale Rebbe continued from page 11

advised the couple to undertake additional mitzvot. He told the couple he personally would attend their healthy son's brit milah, and he did.

The patient with leukemia received a blessing that he would be cured in the merit of putting on tefillin every day.

"Less than a year later, the man came to the Rebbe with medical documents that reported his clean bill of health," said Mr. Virtzberger.

A Son

He recalled a story told by the rav of a Chassidic community in Monsey, who

received his first blessing from the Biale Rebbe Bnei Brak eight years ago. The Monsey rabbi had three daughters, the youngest of whom was then six. When the Biale Rebbe asked him about a son, the Monsey rabbi replied that he would love a boy. The Biale Rebbe told him to wait for the blessing.

That Friday evening, at the Biale Rebbe's Oneg Shabbos tisch, the Rebbe took a piece of fish with a bone from his portion and sought out the Monsey rabbi. Using a play on words ("bein" in Yiddish means "bone," and "bein" in He-

brew means "son"), the Biale Rebbe told the Monsey rabbi, "Take a *bein*."

After the tisch, the Biale Rebbe suggested a few other mitzvot the Monsey rabbi should adopt. Nine months later, the Biale rebbe received a phone call from the Monsey rabbi, waiting outside the delivery room of the Rockland County hospital: the Monsey rabbi's newborn child was a boy. The Biale Rebbe wished him mazal tov and told him he already knew.

Hundreds

"These are just a few of the miracles that people merited through the Rebbe's blessings. It is not surprising that hundreds of people flock to his door, awaiting his advice and blessings," said Mr. Virtzberger.

Parents throughout the world consult with the Rebbe on educational issues, as do husbands and wives who are in conflict.

"Many times, the Rebbe provides surprising advice which brings about a complete change in the entire household. Countless cases of conflict between couples are solved following the Rebbe's instructions," said Mr. Virtzberger.

He mentioned that helping singles find marriage partners is one of the Rebbe's favorite "hobbies." While many single men and women and their parents come to him for blessings and encouragement, the Rebbe often actively seeks marriage partners for them, regardless of age.

15 Children

The father of 15 biological children, Rabbi Rabinowicz heads the Mishnas Shimon yeshiva in Beitar Illit as well as the Biale shuls and kollels in Bnei Brak, Jerusalem Beitar Illit, Modi'in Illit, Ashdod, and Beit Shemesh.

Perhaps closest to his heart is the Fund for Orphans and Widows, which functions under the Rebbe's personal supervision. It provides clothing, shoes, personal items in the yeshiva dorms, and pocket money for orphans studying in the Biale yeshivas.

"The Rebbe takes these precious souls under his wing, opening his home to them and caring for their needs as only a father would. He follows up on their learning and pairs them with private mentors. He personally sees to it that they have new clothing before each holiday. Once, when the Rebbe returned from an overseas trip before Pesach, he went straight from the

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airport to visit the orphans, even before he saw his own family. He gave each orphan gifts and money to buy clothing for Yom Tov, and only then did he go home," said Mr. Virtzberger.

Constant Calls

The Rebbe's days are the same whether he is in Israel or the US. Calls constantly come in from Jews who feel the need for the Rebbe's blessing or advice. Hundreds of emails come in, and, according to Mr. Virtzberger, the Rebbe devotes time daily to answer the questions that arrive from all corners of the world.

"He prays for each of them, either in his Beit Midrash, at holy sites, or at his ancestors' graves. He carried the burden of the whole nation, feeling their sorrow and rejoicing with their simchas, because all Jews are his children," said Mr. Virtzberger.

The large number of requests requires seven gabbais to work around the clock. "Their greatest satisfaction is to tell the Rebbe the good news of another miracle, a child who was born, or a couple that became engaged due to his holy blessing," said Mr. Virtzberger.

New Building

Among his current projects is a new building for the yeshiva in Beitar Illit that will house a Beit Midrash and shul for Biale chassidim, as well as a logistic center to aid the hundreds of orphans, widows, and

needy families supported by the Rebbe.

Last year during the Gaza war, the students in the yeshiva heard sirens as missiles and rockets were launched by Arab murderers right over the roof of their school, housed in a prefabricated structure. As the war continued, the yeshiva rented a building in Tsfat so that the students could continue to learn as they rested and recuperated from the horrors of the war.

Private Homes


In Passaic and West Orange, the Rebbe will be staying in private homes, where he will hold meetings. In West Orange,

where he will be for Shabbat, a large crowd is expected at the Oneg Shabbos tisch on Parshat Balak at 9:15pm.

"A special part of the tisch is when the Rebbe recites the Kiddush using a special nussach, which electrifies the crowd to his holy avodah," said Mr. Virtzberger. "It is a known fact to his chassidim that the recitation of Kiddush is a special time with potential to bring about great salvation."


For more information or to make a personal appointment in either Passaic or West Orange from June 30 through July 7, call 917-272-4045 or email BialeBneiBrak@gmail.com.

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New website at TheJewishVoiceAndOpinion.com continued from page 1

According to polls, the Orthodox-Jewish community is the fastest-growing segment of the affiliated Jewish community. In the five boroughs of New York City plus Nassau, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties, more than 60 percent of all children under the age of 18 who identify as Jewish are Orthodox. There is no reason to suspect those numbers are much different in New Jersey, or in Rockland and Riverdale in New York.

As TheJewishVoiceAndOpinion.com will make clear, sleeping giants need not sleep forever. In calling attention to our common goals, the magazine intends to continue its task of nudging one particular giant into fulfilling its destiny.

Local Readership

While *The Jewish Voice and Opinion* has always appealed to readers throughout the Jewish world, it has also remained true to its geographic roots. In making the move online, the publication intends to continue appealing to its local readership.

For 28 years, it has reached virtually every observant-Jewish household, from Modern Orthodox to more traditional, throughout all of northern and central New Jersey (reaching as far south as Cherry Hill and Atlantic County), and thou-

sands more in neighboring Rockland County and Riverdale, New York—over 20,000 target-marketed homes. Because of the size of the families in those homes, demographers estimate that the *JVO* reaches some 80,000 adult readers.

The Log

The Log, *The Jewish Voice's* calendar, has been recognized as the most complete list of events of interest to the observant-Jewish community anywhere in the New Jersey/Rockland County/Riverdale area. It lists *shiurim*, classes, lectures, and programs held in Orthodox synagogues or private homes, as long as the editor determines that the events are of interest to the Orthodox-Jewish community.

Now that the publication will be online—without the size constraints of a paper-and-ink magazine—many more events will be able to be included.

The Log, is expected to be updated daily. It includes the names of the events, who are leading them, when and where they are being held (no private home addresses are ever listed, only the town), and contact phone numbers or email addresses.

Mazal Tovs will continue to be given by TheJewishVoiceAndOpinion.com to all bar and

bat mitzvah boys and girls. For security reasons, the parents' names and the communities will not be listed. Only the child's name will be published.

The publication will continue to list new *minyanim* in the New Jersey/Rockland and Riverdale New York area, as well as "chessed ops" and opportunities for scholarships, monetary awards, internships, and other beneficial connections.

Regular and New Features

The paper's popular features will continue in the new format as well. They include *Kol Ami*, in which a question is asked and four random Jews are given the opportunity to respond; *Ess Gezint*, featuring new cookbooks and cooking classes; and *The Current Crisis*, *The Jewish Voice's* chance to sound off on items in the news, which prove that the proper response to the outrageous is still to be outraged.

There will also be some new features on the website, including regularly updated reviews of films, shows, books, and DVDs that are deemed of interest to the Jewish community locally and throughout the world.

Readers who want to be notified by email when a new article is posted can arrange for that service. And of course,

those who want to comment on articles and features will have the ability to do so without having to wait until the next print edition comes out.

Pre-Shabbat Print Out

When informed about the change of format, some readers complained that they will miss reading *The Jewish Voice* on Shabbat or holidays. To help those who want to read the publication on Shabbat, TheJewishVoiceAndOpinion.com doesn't quite offer a "Shabbos Mode" button, but, with one click, readers can access the "Pre-Shabbat Printout" feature, which will allow them to print out as many articles as they wish easily.

For more information about TheJewishVoiceAndOpinion.com, including advertising rates, inclusion of events in The Log, and requests for coverage or email alerts, please call 201-569-2845, email susan@jewishvoiceandopinion.com, or go to the website at TheJewishVoiceAndOpinion.com.

By going digital, TheJewishVoiceAndOpinion.com gains creativity and flexibility for its readers. Journalism is not about print-and-ink. It's all about breaking news and the perspective *The Jewish Voice's* readers have come to like and depend on. That will not change.

Remembering Our Boys cont. fr. p. 6

ceremony.

"In the months since Operation Brothers' Keeper to return the boys who were abducted and murdered by villains, we have not forgotten your spirit and faith. Thanks to your standing firm and your deeply noble conduct, the nation united, and both Israeli and Diaspora Jews rallied in

hope, prayer—and pain. The bright characters of your sons will stay with us forever. They will serve as a symbol of love for humanity, the nation, and the country. You show mental power, strong faith, and awe-inspiring strength," he said.

New Police Hotline

The Israeli police, who failed to take seriously the

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Remembering Our Boys cont. fr. p. 18

emergency call issue made by one of the teens after they were kidnapped, took an important step to prevent similar tragedies. Last month, the police force started a new emergency hotline whose goal is to reduce traffic on the police's primary hotline.

The new hotline, outfitted with technology enabling it to remain functional even in the event of a nation-wide power failure, is to be used for non-emergencies only, thus freeing the primary hotline for emergencies such as that experienced by the abducted teenagers.

It has been determined that in Israel, 40 percent of the 8.5 million calls received annually on the police hotline do not deal with emergencies.

Taped Tragedy

On June 12, 2014, a call was placed to the police hotline at 10:25pm. For two minutes and nine seconds, Gilad Sha'ar issued garbled pleas for help, with the police respondent saying only "Hello," apparently not understanding what the teen was trying to say. Eventually the officer on the line asked the teenager where he was, but at that point, Mr. Sha'ar

was cut off.

In the background, the tape of the call recorded various noises, including shouts by the kidnapers to the teenagers, telling them to "keep their heads down," an Israel Radio program, several gunshots, and finally singing by the terrorist-murderers.

Apparently thinking the call was a hoax, the police ignored it until the parents of one of the teens filed a missing person's report at 3am. It was still several hours before police connected the frantic call with the report.

The incident led to intense criticism of the Israeli police, which has continued despite the dismissal of five officers following an internal investigation.

Closing a Circle

The ceremony marking the inauguration of the new non-emergency hotline was attended by the Frenkel and Sha'ar families.

Gilad's father, Ofir Sha'ar, said the new hotline "closes a circle."

"For us, with all the pain we have, we still appreciate the Israeli police and security forces," he said, noting that the families have been

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in close contact with the police throughout the year since the murders. "I am of the opinion that behind every computer center stands a man who is supposed to address and resolve cases that will save future lives. It is the responsibility of every person who is behind the other side to know Gilad's story and that his act of heroism can save lives."

Did The Right Thing

At the ceremony, Israeli Police Commissioner Yohanan Danino said his goal is to "strengthen the sense of personal security and increase trust in the police."

He praised Gilad Sha'ar as "a brave and tough boy who in moments of fear and terror acted calmly and with remarkable resourcefulness."

"He did the right thing by calling the Israeli Police hotline,

but, unfortunately, as we have heard in the chilling recording, the damned murderers never gave them a chance," he said.

"Find Me"

Mr. Danino said his goal is to institute a system that will allow the hotline operator to see the caller on a map via satellite tracking. However, that measure has not yet been approved under Israeli law, he said.

To that end, the Israeli police have acted to develop the "Find Me" app, which sends a text message to the primary police hotline, which will then relay the caller's location to the police.

According to Mr. Danino, the application has already helped save many people in the short time in which it has been operational. S.L.R.

A Sephardic "Merchant of Venice" Deals with Love, Commerce, and Bigotry

By Chana Lieba Rosenbluth
"THE MERCHANT OF VENICE" currently running at the Center for Jewish History in Manhattan will not please Shakespearean purists. But it should please everyone else.

Long viewed as the archetype of antisemitic literature, this "Merchant" reflects the sensibilities of the American Sephardi Federation, under whose auspices it is being presented. In this production, the Jewish characters are Sephardic Jews. When they sing, it is either in the Hebrew of the Siddur or the Ladino of their culture.

In fifth grade, my class at the Rosenbaum Yeshiva of North Jersey presented an abridged version of "Julius Caesar," using a girls-only cast in a play that originally boasts exactly two female characters. The RYNJ version, which was cut so that

it ran only about 45 minutes, retained only the barest bones of Shakespeare's powerful story, character, and language, but it was enough: I fell in love.

That is what this production of "The Merchant" should accomplish for those students fortunate enough to see it.

Written, produced, and directed by David Serero, who also assumes the pivotal role of Shylock, this "Merchant" is passionate and vibrant. While keeping the story basically intact, he has simplified most of the more obscure language and removed the complexity of three subplots. His focus is almost exclusively on the Shylock story.

In returning Shylock to his Sephardic, Ladino roots, Mr. Serero has given him depth and history. When Shylock realizes that Jessica, his beloved daughter and only family, has

betrayed him, her community, and her tradition by eloping with a Christian (and stealing a fair amount of her father's wealth in the process), he breaks into a tragic Ladino song of farewell. This Shylock uses Ladino exclamations the way an Ashkenazi Jew might wail "Oy Vey!"

The production isn't perfect. Inexplicably, the Ladino influence seems to infect Portia (played by the lovely Dina Desmone), who sings a Ladino love song to Bassanio (Joseph Talluto).

While Jessica is mentioned, her part and virtually her entire plot is gone, making Shylock's bereavement less understandable to those who have neither read nor seen the play before.

But quibbles aside, Mr. Serero has given us a production rich with food for thought. While Antonio (James Bocock) was seen by Shakespeare's audience as a noble character, Mr. Serero emphasizes his antisemitism. When Shylock notes bitterly the abuse he has suffered at Antonio's hands, it is no surprise to the audience, who can bear witness to the cruelty.

Perhaps most interestingly, Mr. Serero makes it quite clear that despite the forced conversion, this Shylock remains true to Jewish tradition. His final "Shalom Aleichem," not only mirrors the opening of the play, but serves as a testament to the Jewish tradition of brave defiance in defense of their beliefs.

The other characters in the play, including the Duke of Venice, the prince of Morocco, and Tubal were played well by Ron Barba.

Mr. Serero is no stranger to antisemitism. Born and raised in Paris, he is a trained actor and operatic baritone. He now



David Serero as Shylock

brings his considerable talents to New York, where he now resides. He says he left Europe because of the increased, growing intolerance of antisemitism.

"I know what it's like to walk in the street and have people hiss 'Jew, Jew,' at you," he said in an interview after the first performance.

He brings that sensitivity and sensibility to this "Merchant."

His hope is that Jewish organizations and, especially, students throughout the country will see "The Merchant" through his eyes and, thus, gain a new understanding of the character of Shylock and the play.

For more information on bringing Mr. Serero's "Merchant" to schools and other locations, he can be reached at davidsereroopera@gmail.com or www.davidserero.com.

The play will be shown at the Center for Jewish History, 15 W 16th St, in Manhattan, on Sunday, June 14, at 7pm; Monday, June 22, at 8pm; and Wednesday, June 24, at 8pm. For tickets, call 1-800-838-3006 or go to www.asfmerchant.bpt.me.

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Letters to the Editor "Thought Is the World of Freedom"

Conversion Depends on What Ruth Said

In the May issue, Carol Greenwald from Chevy Chase, MD, answered the Kol Ami question about the controversial Conversion Bill in Israel [Kol Ami: Conversion Law? May 2015] by correctly referring to Ruth as a model for Jewish conversion,

What is puzzling is Ms. Greenwald's ignoring the rest of the verse. In addition to "Your people are my people, your G-d is my G-d," Ruth says: "Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge...where you die, I will die and there I will be buried."

Why all these extra words? The Talmud in Yevamos 47b indicates that, in addition to accepting the G-d of Israel, a prospective convert must also accept the laws of G-d's Torah to be part of His chosen people. Without accepting the Torah, one is only a "wannabe." That is why we must have honest rabbinical authorities who can make the determination of sincerity based on Halacha.

Chaim Lasky
Spring Valley, NY

Blech Safety

As a result of the recent tragedy in Brooklyn in which seven Jewish children were killed by a malfunctioning hotplate serving as a *blech*, I have read many articles to improve the safety within our homes. Hopefully, some lives will be saved resulting from this tragedy.

I heartily agree that heat, smoke, and carbon monoxide detectors should be installed in every apartment and in every home.

One recommendation, however, suggests that the use of *blechs* is dangerous. As an engineer for many decades dealing with fire safety and fire prevention systems, I can unequivocally state that if a *blech* is installed covering low flames from one or two gas burners it is totally safe for the full Shabbos.

Seymour Berkowitz, P.E.
Teaneck, NJ

Terrorism: If You See Something, Say Something

In the past several weeks there have been sightings of Arab women in hijabs (head coverings) checking out yeshivas in the Northern New Jersey area. In one instance, in Passaic, they seemed to be taking pictures of an area shul.

In the case of the shul, the police and 1-866-4SAFE-NJ (866-472-3365) were contacted. They took the information seriously, and the police said they would give extra attention when patrolling in the shul area. The patrolman did say it is not illegal to take pictures of a building, but if someone is involved in illegal plotting, they can be prosecuted as long as there is sufficient evidence.

The Jewish Voice and Opinion welcomes letters, especially if they are typed, double-spaced, and legible. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and style.

Please send all correspondence to susan@jewishvoiceandopinion.com or through the website at <http://thejewishvoiceandopinion.com/contact-us/>

The phone number is 201-569-2845

The snail-mail address is POB 8097, Englewood, NJ 07631

Of particular concern was one woman in a floral headdress, wearing pants and a long shirt, who was spotted a couple of times.

Both the police and office of homeland security (SAFENJ) said a picture or license plate number would be very helpful. So, if you see something, say something. If you see someone engaged in suspicious activity, try to safely get a picture or license number and report it. Call the non-emergency number of the local police, and SAFE NJ number, 1-866-4-SAFE-NJ.

If appropriate, say: "I am calling to report a suspicious behavior which could be terror surveillance." If in doubt as to whether or not to call 911, inform local law enforcement by calling the police department.

If there is no immediate threat to life or property, inform SAFE-NJ by downloading the SAFE-NJ App to your mobile device. For Androids, go to Play Store (not Appstore) and search for SAFE-NJ (dash is important, no space). Touch "More" because it may not be listed at the top.

Apple users, go to iTunes and follow the same instructions.

Recent news reports have reported that ISIS is recruiting women, and there are thousands of ISIS operatives currently in the US. They are being told to engage in independent terrorist acts. Recently, on 1010 WINS, it was reported that domestic US army bases were upgraded to the highest security level because of this new information.

We should know only good things.

Name Withheld
Passaic, NJ

Safety and Sanctity:

A Rabbi's Thoughts Before Summer

Now that summer is officially upon us, a friendly reminder about safety as well as summer attitudes towards sanctity and kedusha is appropriate. On a metaphysical level our eternal values are as important as our temporal values.

Safety:

1. Sunscreen. Just about every study and article about the dangers of the sun recommends putting sunscreen on exposed parts of the body, especially when one will be outdoors for a few hours. When in the sun for extended periods, heads should be covered.

2. Bike Helmets. Biking accidents are never good for riders, but while most injuries have a better chance of recovery, brain injuries don't have such luxuries. Please wear helmets—be a role model for the children and insist that kids do too, even when biking on your block. Review the laws of the road with your children so that they know how to ride safely, especially on local streets. Advise them to stick to the sides of the road instead of the middle and to be aware and courteous to pedestrians and oncoming traffic.

3. Hydration. We are not always aware how much the heat or humidity affects us. In general, at least 80 oz of liquid should be consumed a day. On hot days spent outdoors, even more

continued online at
<http://thejewishvoiceandopinion.com>

"Childless Mother" Dr. Amy Neustein: A Legacy of Standing Up for Women and Children

LAST MONTH, WHEN Passaic-based author and attorney Michael Leshner introduced the keynote speaker, Dr. Amy Neustein, of Fort Lee, at the 11th Battered Mothers Custody Conference (BMCC) at the Clarion Hotel in Secaucus, it served as the reunion for two veteran fighters against child sexual abuse in the Jewish community.

The conference was a weekend-long program dedicated to helping women victims of domestic abuse, who have been doubly victimized by the family court system in the United States.

Dr. Neustein's history includes her more than 26 years as a "childless mother," stripped of custody of her only child—eventually even the right to visit her daughter—because Dr. Neustein believed the child's report of having been molested by Dr. Neustein's ex-husband three years after their divorce. When her daughter, Sherry, now 34, reached her majority, she still refused to acknowledge or even see her mother, a situation Dr. Neustein and others attribute to parental alienation akin to brainwashing.

"In court, no one, not even Sherry's father, ever contested the fact that Sherry and I had a warm and loving relationship, and,

for well over a year, my child pleaded with the judge and the court-appointed experts to be reunited with me," said Dr. Neustein.

Sherry was eight years old when the family court ended all visitations with Dr. Neustein. Court papers show the judge acted because, although Dr. Neustein had been ordered not to seek medical care for the child without the father's consent, she and the Rebbetzin who was appointed by the court to supervise Dr. Neustein's visits with Sherry, believed there was an emergency. Together they took the little girl to the King's County Hospital Emergency Room in Brooklyn. The pediatrician on call, who diagnosed the child with anorexia nervosa and admitted her to the hospital, testified that without the trip to the emergency room, the child would have died. Nevertheless, the judge ended all contact between mother and child and the two have never seen each other since.

25 Years of Pain

Dr. Neustein spent the next 25 years trying to reconnect with her daughter, in the process helping Jewish and non-Jewish women who, like herself, were guilty only of trying to protect their children from suspected sexual abuse by the fathers. Many experts have argued that even when the courts rule there has been no sexual abuse by the fathers, there is no reason to destroy the relationship between the mothers and their children.

"In the beginning, I'd count the hours since I lost my daughter, then the days, weeks, the months, the years, and, now, sadly, the decades," she said, explaining that the calendar became her marker as a childless mother.

She said she feels fortunate not to have known at the beginning that the first painful hours of separation would expand into decades.

Sublimated Pain

An observant woman and the daughter of a prominent, Brooklyn-based Orthodox rabbi, Dr. Neustein sublimated her own pain as a childless mother into service for others.

"Over the years, she became a beacon of light for mothers of all faiths, and a symbol for all women fighting the scourge of childless motherhood," said Mr. Leshner, who

has published numerous articles dealing with child sexual abuse and other topics.

Mr. Leshner first learned about Dr. Neustein's story in 1995. The blatant injustice of her situation prompted him to use his talents as a writer and attorney to tackle similar cases among Orthodox Jews when he found credible charges of child sexual abuse that were being suppressed.

His most recent book, *Sexual Abuse, Shonda and Concealment in the Orthodox Jewish Communities* (McFarland and Co., Inc.) focuses on cover-ups of abuse cases among Orthodox Jews.

Political Activism

As part of her efforts, Dr. Neustein converted her personal tragedy into political activism and scholarly writing, including two books and numerous articles on child-abuse issues. One of her books, *Tempest in the Temple: Jewish Communities and Child Sex Scandals* (Sarna Series in American Jewish History at Brandeis University Press), was the first to address the issue.

In 2010, Dr. Neustein and Mr. Leshner were awarded a Pro Humanitate Literary Award by the North American Resource Center for Child Welfare for their work on that topic.

Although many journalists have detailed Dr. Neustein's personal tragedy, the author herself has not done so. Many of her supporters and colleagues believe the time has come for her to tell her story in her own words, of how she abruptly went from being a loving mother to a childless one.

"That is a book that still needs to be written," said Mr. Leshner.

"Protective Mothers"

At last month's conference, once again, Dr. Neustein did not revisit the details of her own story. Instead, she spoke about how in the shadow of her grief over losing all contact with her only child, she galvanized a movement to help others in similar straits. Dr. Neustein's activism has called national attention to the plight of "protective mothers," while her writing has established models for badly needed remedial legislation.

"For too many years, I kept telling myself I could be happy only if I had Sherry back," said Dr. Neustein. "I was wrong. I realized the winds of happiness breeze through our lives and we can go only in



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the direction they blow in."

Asked why she had never remarried and tried "to get on with her life," Dr. Neustein said, "I'm a one-child mother."

"Carrying the Torch"

Many of those in the audience said Dr. Neustein's most moving comments concerned the professional accomplishments of her daughter, who is now a lawyer specializing in children's rights and welfare. Despite having no contact with her mother for more than 25 years, Sherry ironically has also devoted herself to legislative work on behalf of children.

"She could be earning five times as much had she chosen another legal specialty," said Dr. Neustein, with a note of pride that despite their estrangement, mother and daughter have chosen similar lines of work.

Prof Maureen Therese Hannah, founder and chief organizer of the BMCC, said this part of Dr. Neustein's address "moved me to tears."

Dr. Hannah recognized that Sherry had "carried out of this horrific scenario something good and noble, despite the evil forces that took her from [her mother]."

Dr. Neustein agreed. "Even if I never see Sherry again, I am gratified to know she is carrying the torch," she said.

A Broken Family Court System

Mr. Leshner said that recognition resonated with him as well. "When I addressed the conference, it was to talk about my work on behalf of Jewish victims of child

abuse, both as a writer and a lawyer. Dr. Neustein's daughter Sherry is a lawyer too, and so I am able to feel a kind of bond with the child of the woman whose tragedy led my work in the direction it has taken," he said.

Asked how he felt sharing the podium with Dr. Neustein, Mr. Leshner said he felt he was doing more than merely "honoring a remarkable activist and scholar."

"I was continuing a career that unites me with the hopes and goals of all the childless mothers and all the motherless children our all-too-broken family court system continues to produce, both inside the Orthodox-Jewish community and outside it," he said.

Standing on Her Mother's Shoulders

Mr. Leshner was not the only one at the conference who saw the professional

connection between Dr. Neustein and her daughter. One of the conference attendees said that when she heard Dr. Neustein speak, she could imagine "Sherry standing on her mother's shoulders."

The obvious parallel in Jewish tradition struck Mr. Leshner as particularly poignant.

"Those who pursue the work prepared by others stand, in effect, on the shoulders of their predecessors. Though Dr. Neustein can never roll back time and replace the missing years when she should have held Sherry, as a young child, lovingly in her arms, her daughter is now standing on her mother's shoulders. In that sense, this tragic story is a testament to Jewish survival, Jewish willpower, and [the] true meaning of *tikkun olam*," he said. S.L.R.

One Israel Fund

cont. from p. 9

missions, such as the recent one in Nepal. He called the IDF "the world's most compassionate army."

Tours

For more information on "Vests 4 Israel" and other One Israel Fund programs, including its tours, the fund can be reached at 1175 W Broadway # 10, Hewlett, NY 11557, or by calling 516-239-9203.

Mr. Feltman closed the program by encouraging supporters of the One Israel Fund to participate in the organization's upcoming tours this summer in Israel with Ms. Harow.

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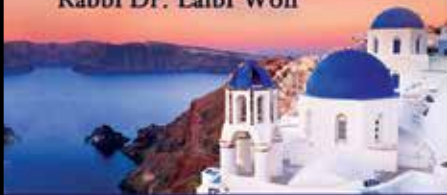


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