



The New York Board of Rabbis

NYBR

review

Winter 2007



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The New York Board of Rabbis

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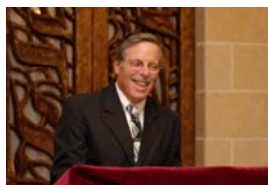
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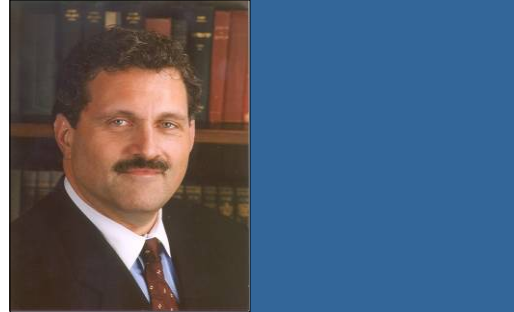
OUR MISSION

The New York Board of Rabbis (NYBR) is the largest inter-denominational body of its kind in the world serving the tri-state areas of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Its membership consists of Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist rabbis who come together for fellowship, educational enrichment and who are ready to rise above partisanship and theological differences.

The membership is committed to the ideal of unity, found in the transcendent principle of **K'lal Yisrael**- Jewish fellowship and communal welfare.

The New York Board of Rabbis is dedicated to the advancement the Jewish faith, as well as respect for all faiths, through the recognition of the sacred soul given to us by our Creator. Membership in the New York Board of Rabbis offers a wonderful way to become part of the largest rabbinical family. For more information or to find out how to join, contact our office: (212) 983-3521 or E-mail: info@nybr.org

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT Rabbi Robert N. Levine, D.D.



FOR ONE DAY ONLY

Last month I was asked to give a keynote address to the annual heads of school conference of the New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYSAIS) at Mohonk Mountain. My topic was, *Do We Care If Kids Care? Creating a Soulful Community*. I challenged the heads of schools to consider whether they spend more time resume building or character building in their school. Following my talk, the discussion was fast-paced and furious. How do we create such caring individuals? Interestingly, the subject quickly turned to the Holocaust, specifically, how a few individuals were motivated to risk their lives saving people that they did not know or barely knew.

Immediately, one of the heads of school raised his hand and said, "I read a Dutch study which indicated that often the one common factor among those who decided to hide strangers in their homes, was that they were asked to do so for only one day. Then, of course the day became a week, the week became a month, which became a year and beyond.

Ever since, I thought about the applicability of this notion: for one day only. What if we could get our members try on Jewish practice, specific *mitzvot* for one day only? Would *mitzvah gorreret mitzvah*, would one Jewish action lead to another? A most intriguing idea.

In a sermon he gave some time ago, our colleague David Fass quoted then CCAR President Rabbi Simeon Maslin:

"The miracle of the first day was the greatest. Even though those who rekindled that menorah...realized there was only enough oil for one day...they went ahead and kindled it anyway. Certainly, they could not know what lay ahead beyond that first day, but they kindled anyway. The miracle could not have resulted without that initial effort, that initial resolve."

That is why I am particularly pleased that the historic dispute was resolved in favor of lighting not eight candles the first night but one candle the first night and increasing each night thereafter. The rabbinic prescription *ma'alin b'kedusha*, that holiness increases, is not only a directive, but an apt observation. The road to holiness often begins with a single holy act. Just as evil can be infectious, so can holiness. So can caring. So can *mentshlichkeit*.



Due to technical difficulties,
The New York Board of Rabbis was unable to publish this newsletter prior to the
Festival of Chanukah as originally intended.
Please accept our apologies .

Rabbi Joseph Potasnik

I remember reading this story from *The Boston Herald* which I want to share with you:

A New Light by Joe Fitzgerald

The Markovitz family was one of just a few Jewish families in a quiet suburban neighborhood in Pennsylvania where Christmas decorations lit up the street. In their home, however, an illuminated menorah in the window reminded everyone it was also Hanukkah.

Around five o'clock one morning, Judy Markovitz was awakened by the shattering of glass. "My husband and I ran downstairs and saw our window had been broken and the menorah was on the floor. The frame was shattered. They must have used a bat. Whoever did it had to squeeze behind bushes to reach it."

For the Markovitz family, it was an assault compounded by personal history. "Both of my parents were in the camps at Auschwitz; my husband's mother was there also," explained Judy, who came to America from Ukraine in 1974. "All of my mother's family died. There are things we don't talk about, but I know older people like her have a need to feel safe, so I didn't tell her much about this. And I tried to isolate my children from it too.

"We were home much of that day because my husband had to get the window replaced," she recalled. "Neighbors kept approaching us to say how sorry they were." One of those neighbors, Lisa Keeling, now living in North Carolina, explained her thinking. "I know that a menorah represents a miracle by our God before our faith was known as Christianity. I know of the king who told the Jews they couldn't practice their religion. When they reclaimed the Temple, they wanted to reconsecrate it, but found only a tiny bit of oil, enough for a night. They decided to use it anyway and it burned eight nights.

"That was a miracle from the same God we worship, and why anyone would take a symbol of his love and use it for hatred, I don't understand."

There were things the Markovitzes did not understand as well. After workmen repaired their shattered window, the family went to Judy's brother's home, unaware that their neighbors were working determinedly to repair something else.

That evening, when the Markovitzes came home from their visit and turned onto

their street, they were met by an extraordinary sight: Nearly every home on the block was adorned by an illuminated menorah.

Vicky Markovitz, Judy's daughter, now 18, remembers those glowing windows as an affirmation of compassion and community. "It was as if they said, 'If you break their windows, you will have to break ours.'" And the light spread.

If you think about it, the spreading of the light really is the Chanukah miracle. Sometimes, our people seem to drift away from meaningful Jewish living. They are on the margins of our shuls and schools, sometimes looking for a way in, sometimes looking for the way out. Our job is to ignite in them a spark of holiness, make them a one time offer and bring them in. More often than we know, then, they will come home. By kindling that *chanukiah*, they will rekindle the connection back to Sinai.

So this year, instead of only focusing on the miracle that lasts eight days, I'll settle for a miracle that happens once. That miracle all by itself can kindle renewal and that light will spread.

Rabbi Robert Levine

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT Rabbi Joseph Potasnik

Reaching Out by Reaching In



I recall a rabbi who boasted that he could adapt the Friday headlines of the *New York Times* to the Torah portion of the week. I told him that the greater challenge was to take the sensational headlines of the *New York Post* and relate them to the parsha of that Shabbat. Truthfully, we rabbis develop a sermonic eye that seeks to find meaning in the scenes of daily life.

There is a sermonic sight on the Belt Parkway in Brooklyn as one approaches the entrance road leading to the Verazano Bridge which connects Brooklyn to Staten Island. Shortly before that approach, the driver can see the presence of Fort Hamilton multi-faith chapels. Perhaps that geographical arrangement reminds us that the best way to travel safely across the bridge is by lanes making sure there is room for all who are different to travel together.

Recently, Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky

addressed a Jewish audience in New York City. He spoke of himself as a “Baptist born in Alabama now representing the people of Kentucky” where the Jewish population was one tenth of one percent. He stated that he was a strong supporter of Israel because many years ago, a Jewish resident of Kentucky wrote an article in which he asked the following question: “If an attack on Jews took place in America, would my next door neighbor hide me in his attic?” McConnell realized that he had a responsibility to that Jewish individual to demonstrate that the Jewish people were integral members of a free society and could enjoy the steadfast support of their Christian neighbors.

The proximity of Chanukah and Christmas reminds us of the pluralistic paradigm of an American society where people of all backgrounds and beliefs are promised full equal-

ity. Chanukah teaches us that we as Jews should also be mindful of the diversity of our people. The symbolism of the Menorah with shared roots and different branches, the lighting procedure to accommodate both Hillel and Shamai, the ability of a candle to light others and retain its own identity all reinforce that we as a people are many and one simultaneously.

Former Chief Rabbi of Israel, Rav Kook would speak of *Ahavat Yisrael* rather than *Ahavot Yehudim* fearing that people would exclude some from the Yehudum configuration while *Yisrael* designated an entire people. Rabbi Simchah Bunim a great Hasidic teacher said you can magnify all the Hebrew letters except one without changing their

meaning. If you enlarge the Yud too much, it becomes a different letter. Those who see themselves as superior to other Jews often risk the severance of relations for no constructive reason.

Recently, we noted the 60th anniversary of the UN Partition Plan creating two independent states. While we recognized that intentional decision, we cannot accept the school of thinking that seeks to exclude different branches of Jewish life. Our tradition reminds us, *The Divine Presence* does not dwell among a people with a divided heart (*Numbers Rabbah* 15:14).

Our respected colleague and member Rabbi Benjamin Z. Kreitman told me that he was a driving force in changing the name *Conservative Movement* into *Mesorati Olami* – World Council of Conserva-

From the Pulpit to the Street

News from the New York Board of Rabbis



On September 5th, the NYBR unveiled its official Jewish New York History and Heritage Map at a press conference hosted by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg at City Hall. Later in the month, separate launches were held with City Council Speaker Christine Quinn and Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz. The Jewish New York History and Heritage Map lists scores of noteworthy sites throughout the City. The NYBR is particularly grateful to Howard Teich and Jeff Gottlieb, as well as, the entire Jewish New York History & Heritage Map committee for all their hard work.

NYBR Sukkah in the Sky Event

This year, for the first time the NYBR hosted its Sukkah in the Sky event at The Park Avenue Synagogue. The honoree Andy Fier was recognized for more than fifty years of service to the Jewish community. We are most grateful to Stephanie Garry and the staff of Plaza Jewish Community Chapels in helping make this occasion so meaningful and memorable.

Project ORE

Annually the NYBR participates in the Project ORE Thanksgiving program under the auspices of the Educational Alliance. Volunteers from both organizations helped distribute food to Jewish homeless and hungry on this day to bring culinary sweetness and spiritual strength to those facing these difficult challenges of life.



Rabbinic Mission to New Orleans

Rabbinical Mission to New Orleans

Recently, the NYBR and the United Jewish Communities partnered in a special mission to New Orleans. This was not just a visit but a real “hands on” op-



portunity for rabbis to see and contribute to the rebuilding of the Jewish and larger communities. Rabbi Myrna Matsa, our pastoral counselor in the Gulf Region, continues to play a major leadership role in the area working closely with clergy of different faiths.

Rabbi Wulliger Honored for Thirty-Four Years of Dedication

The numerical value of “lev” is 34, and certainly Rabbi Shlomo Wulliger has a heart overflowing with love and loyalty to the developmentally disabled. Recently, he announced his retirement and was recognized for thirty four years of service as a chaplain who gave his heart and his hands at the Brooklyn Developmental Disabilities Services Offices.

Not only did Rabbi Wulliger serve the clients at the Center but he oversaw the welfare of the developmentally disabled throughout the Borough of Brooklyn. Rabbi Wulliger has been a strong advocate for the rights of chaplains challenging the State to retain civil service protection for those who serve the community so selflessly.



Rabbi Roberts, Rabbi Manber and Dayenu! Board Chair, Lois Beekman light the Menorah at Ground Zero.

Governor Eliot Spitzer with Rabbi Joseph Potasnik at the "Bowling Green Grand Menorah Lighting"

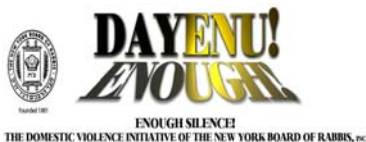
FDNY Chief Salvatore Cassano, Rabbi Potasnik pose with Madame Tussauds wax figure of Golda Meir.



NYBR Meetings with the Federal Bureau of Prisons

The NYBR has participated in several meetings with the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Washington D.C. to resolve the *Library Project* issues. Inmates will now find it much easier to obtain educational reading and visual materials housed at the prison libraries. The NYBR

is also publishing and distributing a newsletter for Jewish inmates quarterly throughout the system. To request a copy, please contact Rabbi Stephen Roberts.



DAYENU! Enough Silence is now working in collaboration with the Council of Churches of the City of New York. Rabbi Diana Manber and Rev Dr Willard Ashley are adapting the *DAYENU!* Training curriculum and worship place program for Protestant clergy and their congregations.

NYBR Grand Menorah Lighting at Bowling Green



Grand Menorah at Bowling Green
by Artist Kamil Kubik

We are very proud to have hosted our first Grand Menorah Lighting at Bowling Green. This special event which was followed by a private reception at the Alexander Hamilton Custom House. Among the more than two hundred guests in attendance were Governor Eliot Spitzer, Consul General Asaf Shariv, NYC Councilmember Alan Gerson and Chief of the FDNY Salvatore Cassano.

The event also enabled the NYBR to recognize the historic uniqueness of the Downtown Manhattan area, where Jews first arrived in 1654.

The event was enhanced by the presence of the FDNY Emerald Pipe & Drums; a short performance by Zalman Mlotek and The National Yiddish Theatre as well as a wax figure of Golda Meir courtesy of Madame Tussauds Wax Museum.

The private reception which followed the public lighting was held in the rotunda of the Alex-

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SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 1, 2008
FOR
DAYENU'S VOICES OF VALOR AWARDS LUNCHEON
LOCATION: 320 PARK AVENUE
TIME: 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: MS. GERALDINE FERRARO
MASTER OF CEREMONIES: MR. DOMINIC CARTER



Geraldine Ferraro

2008 HONOREES INCLUDE:
DR. SHIRA EPSTEIN, PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION AT JTS,
MS. IONA SIEGEL, FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SAVI -
MT. SINAI
RABBI PAULA MACK DRILL, ASSOCIATE RABBI OF THE ORANGETOWN
JEWISH CENTER AND
THE HON. JOHN LEVENTHAL, JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT IN THE
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT (BROOKLYN AND STATEN ISLAND) IN THE
STATE OF NEW YORK - PRESIDING OVER THE NATION'S FIRST FELONY
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT.

NYBR Grand Menorah Lighting
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ander Hamilton Custom House. Guests enjoyed a wide array of vodka, latkes and sushi while Howard Leshaw and the Golden Land Orchestra provided a mix of Klezmer, Jazz and Israeli music. The event, a successful fundraiser, was co-chaired by NYBR Lay Advisory members Mr. Steve Cronin and Mr. Mark Scharfman.

The NYBR is extremely grateful to the many generous supporters of this event with special recognition to both event co-chairs and Mr. Andrew Albstein of Goldberg, Weprin and Ustin for supporting this event as an official sponsor. The event outside was coordinated in association with Arthur Picollo and the Bowling Green Association.

Renowned artist Kamil Kubik, born in Czechoslovakia, famous for cityscapes, graciously agreed to a new release signed, limited edition printing of his famous "Chanukah at Bowling Green" for the event. These prints are available for purchase through the New York Board of Rabbis.

The NYBR looks forward to hosting the Grand Menorah Lighting and private reception on annual basis.

For further information on the new release, signed limited edition print of "Chanukah at Bowling Green" please contact:

Karen Dubrow at 212 983-3521



NYBR RABBI OF THE YEAR

On Monday evening, December 10th over three hundred guests turned out



Oakdale, New York. Rabbi Dr. Steven Moss, a graduate of Hebrew Union College, in addition to serving as spiritual leader of B'nai

Israel has for nearly thirty years served as a chaplain in several major hospitals as well as the Suffolk County Police Department.

Rabbi Moss nominated by his peers for the Finkle Award is "truly a rabbi's rabbi" said Rabbi Joseph Potasnik. "He has brought remarkable achievements and much wisdom to both his community and his congregation". Mazel Tov.

to honor **Rabbi Dr. Steven Moss** as he received the Maria and Joel Finkle Prize as the NYBR's Rabbi of the Year.

The award was presented by Rabbi Yaakov Kermaier, NYBR Officer and spiritual leader of Fifth Avenue Synagogue at a ceremony hosted by Rabbi Moss's synagogue— B'nai Israel Reform Temple in





DAYENU! ENOUGH

ENOUGH SILENCE!
THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INITIATIVE OF THE NEW YORK BOARD OF RABBIS, INC.



In one Jewish family, there are two young children, ages one and three. Their parents are both professionals and respected members of their synagogue, but nobody really knows what goes on behind closed doors. The neighbors often hear arguing and the crashing of household items, but no one gets involved because it is considered to be a private matter.

Three months ago, following another terrible fight, a neighbor who is also a member of the same synagogue, spoke to the rabbi. After learning about the violence in this family's home, the rabbi made one phone call to DAYENU! to make a referral and get the right information about what he should do. I can tell you that this family is now accessing help and is taking steps toward safety.

This NYBR rabbi, made a tremendous difference for this family and probably saved their lives. By simply sharing the right information the rabbi was able to start them on a road to freedom

from fear and nightmares that occur when they are awake.

This Jewish family is just one example of the estimated 1.3 million women who are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year and the 3.3 million children who witness this violence annually.

If you are sitting and thinking that this is not happening in your congregation, think again. It is a statistical certainty that domestic abuse exists in every congregation – in your congregation.

Without regard to religious or financial indicators:

- 1 in every 4 women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime (National Institute of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).
- Every nine seconds, a woman is battered in the United States.

These women are our mothers, our daughters, our sisters, grandmothers, aunts, cousins,

Contact Info:

Rabbi Diana Manber
(212) 983-3532
dmanber@nybr.org



Rabbi Diana Manber

Mission Statement

DAYENU! Enough Silence is committed to:

- Assisting NYBR members, their congregations and institutions, in the recognition of, and response to domestic violence and child sexual abuse
- Engaging clergy in new approaches towards discussing and addressing domestic violence's impact on their congregations and communities through advancement of education, public awareness and understanding about abuse
- Working with religious and public institutions, boards of trustees and communities to implement progressive domestic violence worship and workplace policies and safety plans
- Supporting city, state and federal initiatives and training aimed at fostering faith community engagement.

friends and congregants.

Since 2005, DAYENU! Enough Silence (formerly known as Sh'ma Kolenu) has been working to end the culture of silence that has long veiled this painful reality. Seldom does our director speak in any congregation or community, be it in a Reform, Reconstructionist, Conservative or Orthodox setting when someone does not share his or her story of fear, shame, and hope; their story of abuse.

If no one is confiding in you, it is your obligation as a Jewish leader to ask the question: "Am I doing enough?"

As Rabbis we regularly deliver sermons and advise on religious, spiritual, communal and family issues. When we fail to name abuse as an issue, our silence allows the perpetuation of the stereotypical myth that this issue does not exist in Jewish life. We are in a unique position to effect change. Through one-on-one consultations and group training DAYENU!'s goal is to better assist our members' ability to encourage discussion, provide support and safety to those you serve.

From the Worship Place to the Work Place

Ending the silence surrounding domestic violence is no longer only a moral imperative. The States of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut have adopted Domestic Violence and the Workplace legislation for state agencies. In addition, the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration ("OSHA") requires employers to protect employees who have given notice that domestic violence exists. Now, it is not only your moral imperative, it is now a legal imperative.

Without appropriate policies in place, we also expose our-

selves and our places of worship to legal liabilities. For the first time, congregations and institutions can become partners with *DAYENU! Enough Silence*, in order for you and your community will benefit from our experience, knowledge, resources and training.

The DAYENU! Partnership

By joining in partnership with *DAYENU! Enough Silence*, you and your community will benefit from our experience, knowledge, resources and training.

Partnership offers you :

- "Do No Harm" training for staff and community leadership - One focused 2 hour session
- Certificate of Partnership with DAYENU! Enough Silence - The Domestic Violence Initiative of the New York Board of Rabbis
- Handbook on creating **Domestic Violence in the Worship Place Policy**
- Partner-specific local resource coordination
- Educational and reference material for distribution
- Quarterly updates on legislation and sample articles for community engagement
- Inclusion of partners on NYBR/DAYENU! website

DAYENU! Partner Congregations and Organizations can access our ongoing training, education, technical support to meet the recommended requirements for the *Domestic Violence and the Worship Place* policy and safety plan for its employees and members.

Prevention Trainings and Programs:

- **Healthy Dating**—dating violence prevention education for teenagers and young adults. This program is appropriate for confirmation class, youth groups, Hillel, and camps.
- **Love Healthy**—dating

violence prevention education for parents, teachers, and educators, and youth leaders.

- **Stewards of Children®**—Darkness to Light's nationally recognized sexual abuse prevention training program for organizations that serve children and youth.

- **Before the Chuppah**—pre-marital education training for clergy provides tools that screen couples for signs of domestic violence.

Intervention Programs:

- **Do No Harm**—a two-hour awareness and educational domestic violence program to assist clergy and community members in aiding victims of abuse.
- **Building Safer Communities**—a half day of domestic violence training program designed to empower religious leaders to address the issue of domestic abuse.

By becoming a DAYENU! Partner and the adoption of Domestic Violence and the Worship Place policies, congregations and institutions will protect victims' rights to safety and send a clear message to the entire community that abusive behaviors will not be tolerated.

This year stand up and recognized for what you did to protect your community and not for ignoring your moral and legal imperative to end the silence.

For all the rabbis who have already taken the DAYENU! training, and the people that they have been able to help, we thank you. Like our colleague who responded to the needs of his congregants four months ago by making his first call to DAYENU!, you too can begin to learn more, educate your community, and soon answer the question, "Am I doing enough?" with "Yes."

You may never know how many victims' lives you save and children you protect, but you will know that you and your community will have made an enormous difference.

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT Rabbi Stephen Roberts



Chaplaincy – Working with the Various Correctional Systems

The NYBR Jack D. Weiler Chaplaincy program includes more than just our professional chaplains working directly for the NYBR in hospitals and nursing homes; more than our chaplaincy training including the Clinical Pastoral Education Program and Continuing Chaplaincy Education courses; and more than the healing literature we both produce and make available. A significant amount of time which the office devotes to chaplaincy involves working with the various correctional systems with which we have involvement.

The largest block of ongoing time is with the New York State Department of Corrections (DOCS). Rabbi

Arthur Morgenstern oversees this work. He has over 30 years of experience with DOCS and know almost everyone within the system. The NYBR is the endorsing body for Jewish Chaplains within DOCS. This means in practical terms that when there is an opening for a position we find a suitable candidate for DOCS. Often this involves advertising the position, multiple interviews (both phone and in-person), background checks and more.

At the current time we have 25 endorsed chaplains. The last three chaplains we endorsed are Rabbis Tzvi Max, Helene Ferris and Teresa Snyder. Each brings unique abilities to the position they hold. Rabbi Snyder was just ordained from JTS and works full time for DOCS in

Watertown (as upstate as one can be). Prior to the seminary, she had worked within a state correctional system, including a short period of time as a correctional officer. Rabbi Ferris recently retired from full time congregational work. The position she holds is part time, and it allows her to stay involved on a completely new level. Rabbi Max will soon be over half time with DOCS. He is in the middle of his career and loves the one-on-one work this involves. These three rabbis represent the diversity of the colleagues within the DOCS system. They cover the full range of stages in a career, locations around the state, and rabbinic organizations of which they are members.

We also work closely with the state office in

Albany that oversees our chaplains. All Jewish chaplains must retain their endorsement with the NYBR to continue working within the system. We take this endorsement very seriously. As such, we work closely with our endorsed chaplains. Each year we have a two day kallah in Albany focused on the issues they face. The kallah gives them an opportunity to express concerns and provides us with the opportunity to help better serve them.

Throughout the year, as their endorser, we provide a range of services including: 1) providing *seforim* for both their libraries and also to be given directly to inmates; 2) working closely with them and DOCS, providing guidance and assistance, when various issues arise with which they are confronted with; 3) putting together a list of

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Rabbi Joseph Potasnik

tive Synagogue. He felt that while his movement should be independent, it should also be seen as part of an integral member of a world body of tradition.

I heartily recommend a book entitled *Common Ground – The Weekly Portion Through the Eyes of a Conservative, Orthodox and Reform Rabbi*. The introduction contains the following story of an early Chasidic leader who led his disciples on a walk one day. He pointed to a particular group of Jews and described them as “dead.” “They are dead,” he explained, “because they have stopped asking questions and searching for answers.” Suddenly one of the followers appeared very troubled and asked, “Rebbe, how do I know that I am not dead?” The rabbi reflected for a moment and responded, “Because you asked.”

We are blessed to live in a country where people of different faiths readily ask questions of one another. May we also continue to bring our people closer so that we are not only on speaking terms but on “asking” terms.

Kol tuv,
JP

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Rabbi Stephen Roberts

Jewish holidays that is distributed throughout the system. The information on the holiday calendar includes information as to when inmates should not be transferred, when they are should not be required to work due to holy days, when fast days begin and end; 4) creating newsletters specifically for the inmates. The newsletters focus on the various Jewish holidays and distributed both within NYS and also in correctional facilities around the country.

We are also the long term endorser for New York City, the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP). Recently, when issues arose involving the FBOP, we intervened. We worked closely with the administrative FBOP staff regarding the review of prison library books which received extensive press coverage. We also worked with them insuring that all BOP Jewish chaplains positions, whether full-time or on a contract basis, are open to all ordained rabbis, irrespective of denomination.

Rabbi Stephen Roberts

CONDOLENCES

Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler on the loss of his beloved father, Stanley Wechsler.

E. Magnus Oppenheim on the loss of his beloved mother, Gerda P. Oppenheim.

Rabbi Myron Rakowitz on the loss of his beloved sister, Florence Roth.

Rabbi Ed Goldstein on the loss of his beloved mother-in-law, Lillian Goodman

Rabbi Lorraine C. Heller on the loss of her beloved mother, Marion W. Heller.

Rabbi Charles Sheer on the loss of his beloved mother, Trudy M. Sheer.

Rabbi Joseph Brodie on the loss of his beloved mother-in-law, Antonia Rosa Goldman.

Rabbi Abraham Feldbin on the loss of his beloved wife, Beatrice Feldbin.

Rabbi Malcolm Thomson on the loss of his beloved wife, Barbara Thomson.

The NYBR mourns the loss of our long time member and esteemed colleague, **Rabbi Maurice Simckes** of Temple Israel of Merrick.

The NYBR mourns the loss of our long time member and esteemed colleague, **Rabbi Gilbert Epstein**, Placement Director of the Rabbinical Assembly until his retirement in 1991.

The NYBR mourns the loss of our long time member and esteemed colleague, **Rabbi Philmore Berger**, Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Avodah of Oceanside, NY

May the families be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF RABBI ROBERT LEVINE

While it is customary to read a book once, there are times as with a classic when we reread the chapters because of the greatness of the written words. Shortly our President Robert Levine will conclude his term of selfless service to the NYBR. Following Adam Mintz, Bob, too, demonstrated an embracing style making every member an important and indispensable part of this great rabbinic body. One of my most poignant recollections is traveling to Israel with an NYBR delegation and seeing Bob distribute funds so generously to so many diverse charitable causes. Never did he ask the denomination of the group before making the decision, but rather he reminded us that K'lal Yisrael includes any group that needs us. We are most excited that Bob will oversee our office in Israel opening in February 2008. Perhaps it is best to describe Bob as one who demonstrates "sharity", the synthesis of charity and sharing to the many privileged to be the beneficiaries of his many kindnesses.

He is truly the exemplar of "Rodeph Sholom", the congregation that he faithfully serves, and through his love and pursuit of peace he has done so much to bring our people closer to one another.

Erik Erikson said, "You have heard of the rabbi who felt inhibited when he was asked to make a speech in Heaven. 'I am only good at refutation,'" he said. There are some rabbis who excel in refutation, always finding fault with others. Robert Levine has been a great president who through his love and loyalty to our people affirms our right to retain our spiritual identity providing we recognize that right of others as well. May he continue to bless us with all that he does and all that he is as rabbi, friend and special human being.

JP



Senator Clinton, Rabbi Levine and Rabbi Potasnik
NYBR Installation 2006



Rabbi Levine during a visit with wounded IDF
soldiers at Bnai Zion Medical Center in Haifa,
Israel Summer 2007



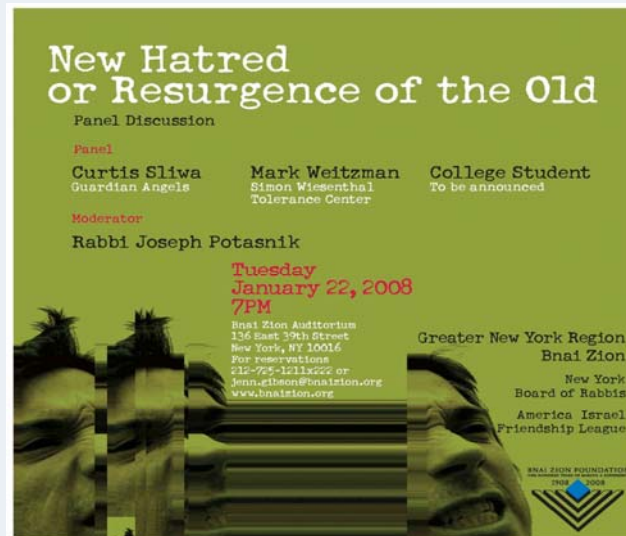
Rabbis Levine, Ellenson and Potasnik with special
guest Dr. Arnold Eisen. NYBR Sukkah in the Sky
Event 2007



Rabbi Levine with Mayor Bloomberg at the launch
of The Jewish New York History and Heritage Map.

Save the Date

January 22, 2008
7:00 pm



January 28, 2008

U.N. Holocaust Remembrance Program

January 29, 2008
Evening

Installation Ceremony
New York Board of Rabbis

February 28, 2008
Luncheon

NYBR Members Only Luncheon with
Consul General of Israel Asaf Shariv

March 2008
TBA

Mowshowitz Award

April 1, 2008

DAYENU! *Enough Silence*
Luncheon with Geraldine Ferraro

Coming Soon!

Technology and the Rabbi-
Seminar showcasing the latest technology and
demonstrations on how to use it.