



The New York
Board of Rabbis

NYBR

Review

FALL 2005 VOL. III

*Greetings for The High Holy Days
from
Rabbi Michael Melchior*

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Training for Rabbis**

At this special time of year, I take pleasure in sending greetings from Jerusalem to the members of the New York Board of Rabbis.

As you know, Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur are distinctive among the Jewish festivals in that they clearly have a universalistic message. The Mishnah plainly tells us that all the inhabitants of the world are judged on Rosh Hashana. We repeat the blessing of *kedushat hayom* over and over on these days, referring to the Almighty as Sovereign over all the universe. The section of the Musaf prayer called *zichronot* echoes the primal moment of Noah's flood, a time before there was Jew or Gentile, and certainly before there was Reform, Conservative or Orthodox!

As we begin a New Year here in Israel, I charge you, my colleagues in New York, with the challenge of inclusiveness. This has been precisely the great character of the New York Board of Rabbis since its inception; may that message grow even stronger and clearer. By virtue of this inclusive embrace, may God grant us a year of seeing similarities rather than differences, of dialogue rather than monologue, and understanding rather than strife. We in Israel will try diligently to adopt this approach; we count on our colleagues in the Diaspora to do so as well.

May we all be written and sealed in the book of Life and Peace, and in the book of *aguda achat*—seeing ourselves as one bonded group for the purpose of understanding G-d's will, and helping ourselves and our charges to perform it.

L'shana tova tikatevu v'techatemu.

Rabbi Michael Melchior

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Jerusalem



NYBR REVIEW

Published by

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Founded 1881

One Profession One Community The Rabbinic Voice of Greater New York

The New York Board of Rabbis is an umbrella body of rabbis— Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist—residing in the Greater New York area comprising the tri-state region.

We are committed to the ideal that what unites us transcends that which divides us: that Jewish spiritual leaders need to join forces in fighting **sinat hinam**— groundless hatred: that we must band together to promote Jewish unity, continuity, spirituality and creativity while raising the importance and enhancing the influence of rabbis in our society so as better to advance the cause of Jewish religion, education and moral values.

We convene programs, conferences, seminars and social gatherings that inform us, sharpen our professional skills and enable us to deal with issues and problems that challenge us as rabbis— and as Jews.

We represent the mainstream of religious Jewry in defending and advocating for Jewish rights. We recognize that only as a collective body can we face the serious challenges confronting us today.

Our chaplains bring spiritual, emotional and pastoral care to thousands in the Greater New York community each year in hospitals, mental health and developmental centers, geriatric facilities and correctional institutions. They touch the lives of men, women and children in a uniquely rabbinic way.

We strive to work together with clergy of all faiths and communities and continue to build bridges of understanding. We are proud of our close relationships with the interfaith community as well as being the primary address to which the interfaith community turns.

In a word, we are an example of “Klal Y’Israel” in motion. In these days of partisanship and divisiveness, our commitment to a greater sense of fellowship is the hallmark of The New York Board of Rabbis.

Prayers on behalf of the

The following prayer was composed by
Rabbi Zoe Klein on behalf of the victims of
Hurricane Katrina:

If this synagogue could open her doors
Wide as a mountain pass...
If this synagogue could open her sanctuary
Wide as a superdome...
If this synagogue could open her mouth,
She'd sing out to her human family:
"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to
breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teem-
ing shore,
Send these, the homeless, tempest-
tost to me,
I raise my eternal lamp
To guide you to my door...
I have soft mats for you to sleep on,
Strong shoulders for you to weep on,

Kind words for you to keep on
Believing in yourself..."
This synagogue will open her heart
Wide as the arc of the covenant,
A torrent of empathy and love,
A white winged, olive bearing dove.
May our support be evidence of hope.
May our empathy lead loved ones to
cope.
May our love be wings with shelter
beneath.
May our tears wash, soothe and soften
the grief. Amen

A Message from Rabbi Adam Mintz, President

From The Ari's Mikveh to Achziv Beach: Summer 2005 in Israel

Rabbi Adam Mintz



I just returned from a wonderful two week trip to Israel. We traveled the land from Jerusalem to the North, visiting religious and historic sites such as the Crusader city of Acco and the fifth century synagogue in Beit Alpha. I had the opportunity to immerse in the sixteenth century mikveh of the Ari (Rabbi Isaac Luria) in Safed,

an experience that was a little chilly but filled with historical significance. We also enjoyed the recreation of Israel as we crossed the hills of the Galil in jeeps and swam at the Achziv Beach just south of the Lebanese border.

In the midst of these highlights, we saw a country and its people in conflict and transition as they experienced the disengagement from Gaza. We watched the non-stop coverage of the disengagement process on Israeli television with scenes of soldiers escorting people from their homes and commentary from both those who were being evacuated as well as from the soldiers who were evacuating the settlements. Regardless of one's political position, it was a difficult and painful picture. How could the country that looks so peaceful and tranquil be so bitterly divided?

Like with all of Jewish history, the answer is complicated, if not impossible, to formulate. The survival of our people seems to withstand formidable odds and often seemingly insurmountable hurdles. The decision to relocate over 10,000 people who had been encouraged to move to Gush Katif by both Labor and Likud gov-

ernments was bound to engender bitterness and divisiveness.

Yet, to my eye, the lesson of this episode in Jewish history is two-fold. First, the lack of violence on either side points to a restraint that appeared in certain instances to be almost super-human. The pictures of inappropriate behavior that appeared in the newspapers and television were the exceptions rather than the rule. Second, the care and concern that the entire nation exhibited for the evacuated was heartwarming. People from all camps and all ages converged on the hotels and guest houses where these former Gush Katif residents have been temporarily placed bringing them food for Shabbat, clothing and a warm smile and helping hand. The politics that divide us are secondary to the responsibility towards one another that unites us.

In the aftermath of the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, the message of responsibility rings louder than ever. We understand and appreciate our responsibility as members of The NYBR. We have been in contact with rabbis and members of the New Orleans Jewish community who are temporarily living in Houston and we have been begun to assist them in a number of significant ways. In addition, we are working with Gov. Pataki's office to offer assistance to those people who are being relocated in New York. While the challenges of dealing with the tragedy continue to increase, the NYBR is committed to rising to the challenge and to participating as a partner in the humanitarian work that is needed.

May the upcoming year bring health and healing to the entire world.

Shana Tova,

Rabbi Adam Mintz

Victims of Hurricane Katrina

The following prayer was composed by Rabbi Naomi Levy on behalf of the victims of Hurricane Katrina:

**The waters have flooded our souls, God.
The loss is intolerable.
Your children have been swept away.
Our homes are destroyed, our city lies in ruins.**

**Help us, God.
Give us the strength to endure, the courage to rebuild,
The faith to believe that You are near.
Fill us with hope, God.
Show us how to embrace life in the shadow of death.
Teach us to be grateful for this new day.
Gather our fallen into Your eternal shelter, God,
And cover them with Your peace.**

**Hear us, God, heal us God,
Be with us, comfort us,
Lift us up.
Lead us back to life, back to hope, back to You. Amen**

The following prayer was composed by Rabbi Dr. Barry Leff on behalf of the victims of Hurricane Katrina:

**Ribono shel olam, Master of the Universe!
Harachaman, the compassionate One!
As you blessed our ancestors Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, please bless and heal those affected by Hurricane Katrina.**

El Na, Please, God, bring physical healing to those who are sick or injured; bring material support to those who have lost their homes and their jobs; bring comfort to the neshamot, the souls, of all whose lives have been disrupted by this catastrophe.

Please God, support the hands of all those who are working to save lives and rebuild in the affected lands.

Help us to remember that the poorest have been made poorer, and we are commanded not to turn our eyes from our poor brother.

**Bring them speedily from darkness to light.
Amen**

The following prayer was composed by Israel's Chief Rabbinate on behalf of the victims of Hurricane Katrina:

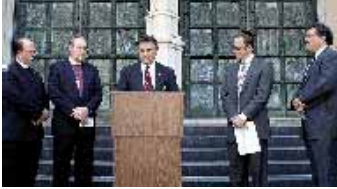
Our Heavenly Father, Founder of the world and Creator of the universe, compassionate and merciful God, Please spare and show compassion to Your creatures and the world You have created, And especially the inhabitants of the states along the Gulf of Mexico in the United States.

Save them from every calamity, from the winds of storm and hurricane, from the waters of the sea, and from every sorrow and evil, And send deliverance and redemption to all those who call upon Thy Name.

Save them from the floodwaters and rescue them from the abyss, Lead them to a place of safety, and do not abandon them, And in Your abundant mercy send them redemption in the measure of their loss, And complete healing to the sick and those in pain, and comfort to their souls and spirit.

May all the inhabitants of the Earth know and recognize that You are the Supreme King, Who rules the powers of the universe and shows mercy to His creatures, who praise Your great Name, Amen.

From the Pulpit to the Street news from The NYBR



(left to right) Bishop Sisk, Rabbis Potasnik, Mintz and Levine

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE NY "TIME TO INVEST NOT DIVEST IN ISRAEL"

On July 21, The New York Board of Rabbis and The Episcopal Diocese of New York joined forces to support Israel.

Bishop Mark Sisk presented his strong objection to recent action by the Anglican Consultative Council calling for consideration of divestment from the State of Israel.

Covered widely in the media, Bishop Sisk stated univocally now is the time to "Invest, not Divest". "Here in New York, we have had an active policy of collaborative work with the leadership of the region's Jewish congregations and institutions". "... as a result of those interfaith partnerships, there is a deep and abiding friendship between the Episcopal Church

and the Jewish community in New York", stated Bishop Sisk. "...any attempt to punish, or appear to punish one side, as I believe divestment would, is the worst possible course of action."

Officers of The NYBR commended Bishop Sisk for his courageous leadership.

NYBR SERMON SEMINAR

The NYBR was most privileged to enjoy the erudition of three outstanding preachers at our High Holy Days Sermon Seminar. We are most grateful to: Rabbi Benjamin Blech, Rabbi Lisa Grushcow and Rabbi David Wolpe for their generosity of spirit and substance in providing us with exceptional Chomer L'Drush.

"Sermonizing during the High Holy Days is a most daunting responsibility" said Rabbi Potasnik. "It is remarkable to hear rabbis who have the ability to synthesize traditional texts and contemporary themes in a most meaningful manner."

The NYBR is most fortunate to have such gifted colleagues at our seminar.

Sermon Seminar is a very meaningful experience for all of us, and we look forward to our next presentation before Pesach.

GROUND ZERO

As many of you are aware, The NYBR has assumed a most sacred responsibility since the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

We continue to work closely with Governor Pataki, The Port Authority of NY/NJ and Mayor Bloomberg in coordinating special spiritual moments at the site.

This year as in the past, we prepared a Selichot service enabling families who have lost loved ones to remember and renew relationships before the High Holy Days.

During the Festival of Chanukah we will light the Chanukiah each evening- inviting family members, representatives of various rescue services and rabbis of different denominations to participate.

This past summer, The NYBR hosted a gathering at the site of Israeli fire fighters as well as individuals from Israel who themselves were victims of terror.

Sign Up:

Sh'ma Kolenu Training for Rabbis & Educators

Facts about domestic violence
in our community

- A woman is abused every **9 seconds**.
- **37% of mothers**, from every walk of life, have been physically abused during pregnancy.
- **1/3 of teens** report physical, verbal and/or emotional in their romantic relationships.
- **15 to 25 percent** of Jewish households - reform, conservative and orthodox alike - experience domestic violence in the US and Israel.
- **Rabbis-
Make a Difference!**

- A additional details on page 9

Sh'ma Kolenu Prayer

Hear our voice

Sh'ma kolenu

Listen to our anguish

Sh'ma kolenu

Acknowledge our pain

May our homes be a harbor of safety
May our relationships be anchored in dignity and strength
Envelop us in a canopy of loving kindness
May today's sorrow be replaced by tomorrow's joy

These are our prayers for the New Year

Hear us,
Believe us,
Do not deny us.

A Message from Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, Executive V.P.



A father entered a toy store to buy something for his little boy. Picking up an interesting looking gadget, he asked the clerk, "Isn't this a rather complicated toy for a small child?" "Well sir," was the reply, "it's an educational toy designed to help a young person adjust to living in the world today." "Anyway he puts it together, it is wrong."

I find preaching for the Holy Days presents us with a similar challenge. We hope to say that which is right in a world where so much is wrong.

Recently I listened to Ayelet Pearl, daughter of our colleague Rabbi Jonathan Pearl deliver a most insightful Bat Mitzvah discourse. She spoke about the importance of separation as found in the Torah when the People of Israel were asked to separate a benediction from a malediction, or simply right from wrong.

Jewish tradition teaches us the importance of separation throughout our lives. We highlight the act of separation in the Havdalah ceremony as we speak of the secular and the sacred. Tithing to help others is performed by separating ten percent of adjusted gross income (AGI). The Torah strongly warns us to separate from a multitude seeking to do evil.

We at The New York Board of Rabbis however will not allow a certain type of separation. We will not condone any attempt to separate Jews from one another.

Last month, a group of rabbis from The NYBR visited The Center for Jewish History to see the historic Talmud exhibit. It was a de-

fining moment as the curator from Yeshiva University spoke to a diverse group that looked at the texts from different perspectives. Literally we were all "on the same page" even though we held different viewpoints about the written statements.

When we stood with Episcopalian clergy on the steps of St. John the Divine to support investment-not divestment-in Israel we were one body of rabbis passionately protecting the interests of the people of Israel. It is important to show this unanimity of thought about such a critical issue.

I recall reading of different "Hakhel" ceremonies held at the end of the Sabbatical year during The Festival of Sukkot. They served to reenact the giving of the Torah to one people. This experience underscored that all of us are equal beneficiaries of that sacred tradition.

The strength of The NYBR is that we feel the beauty of "Hakhel" continually when we face one another as a rabbinical family.

As you know, the Kohen before blessing the people would publicly proclaim that he was doing so with love. It is relatively easy to speak of love from afar. It is more meaningful when you express it directly to your partner. At the NYBR we do not just declare our love for K'lal Yisrael, but we demonstrate it in our relationship with one another. As we begin 5766, may our prayers be answered for life, goodness and peace.

L'Shanah Tova,

JP

NOVEMBER KICK OFF YEAR OF LEARNING

In early November, The NYBR in partnership with UJA Federation/NY, CLAL and AJC will kick off "The Year of Learning - Intra-Jewish Dialogue Project."

As we complete the celebration of 350 Years of American Jewish life and look forward to the next 350, it behooves us to advance the cause of Jewish unity through intra-Jewish study and dialogue. The path toward Jewish unity can begin with understanding our fellow Jews across denominational lines and mutually revealing the nature of our respective Jewish commitments.

Lay members representing different congregations will partake of this excellent

opportunity to study biblical texts in light of the 350th anniversary of the American Jewish Experience.

NYBR PUBLISHES PSALMS

With great pride and joy-

The New York Board of Rabbis announces its newest publication: **"Tehillim-Psalms of Hope, Comfort and Courage."**

This publication was developed specifically to meet the needs of congregational rabbis and professional chaplains. It is compact, easy to read and widely accepted throughout the community.

In addition, each Psalm is transliterated, encouraging those who may be rusty-to recite in Hebrew.

This project -spearheaded by Rabbi Roberts- would not have been possible without the generous support of our beloved colleague Rabbi Ben Kreitman.

"This gift allows us to make the publication available to our members at an extremely affordable purchase price" said Rabbi Roberts. Best order early!

212.983.3521 x19



Fireworks over Jerusalem

NYBR NOSTRA AETATE PROGRAM

On the evening of November 16th, the New York Board of Rabbis, the Tanenbaum Center, and the Primo Levi Center are presenting a program at the Center for Jewish History, commemorating the 40th anniversary of Nostra Aetate. The symposium will explore the history of Jewish-Christian relations before, during and after Vatican Council II, reviewing the pertinent issues, the struggle over the document, the progress and pitfalls that followed, and the tensions both between and within the Catholic and Jewish communities engendered by that struggle.

Participants include: Dr. Georgette Benett, Judith Banki, Dr. Mary Boys, Rabbi Irving Greenberg and a representative of the Italian Jewish community.



Remembering Those Who are Spending the High Holy Days in Iraq

As the holiest time in the Jewish calendar approaches, Jewish chaplains stationed in the Middle East prepare to provide spiritual support to approximately 600 Jewish military personnel deployed there. The chaplains will conduct services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in different locations in Iraq, bringing to the tired soldiers a sense of the awe and transcendence of these days of reflection and renewal. The following article was written by NYBR Officer Rabbi Alan Schranz, Spiritual Leader of Sutton Place Synagogue.

Suddenly the headlines became very personal to me. It was on the day my brother went to Iraq as a U.S. Navy chaplain. No longer were they about the fate of 175,000 or so American troops but about one soldier, Mitchell Schranz, serving as the second highest ranking chaplain of the Allied Command.

Many read the Forward article about his service to American soldiers, bringing them a taste of home, the warmth of Judaism and the support of the larger Jewish community. American Jews take pride in this American Jewish chaplain.

But for me there is something more in this story, a brother whose life is in jeopardy on a daily basis. And there is also something more disturbing, self evaluation. I often quip that Mitch practices what I preach. I speak of giving of oneself for the ideals one believes in; this is what he practices. And not only he, but his family. His wife and children pay the price of having a father/husband far from home, in jeopardy. Their worry is as relentless as their pride is deep.

The forward article spoke of what Mitch does. We his family also knows who he is. We can only imagine what it costs him to give of himself, all the while knowing that he runs the risk of "himself" being taken away by a sniper's bullet or bombs.

As the Schranz family thinks of Mitch on this Rosh Hashanna the words "inscribe us in the Book of Life" have more urgency than ever before.

A memorable moment at Ground Zero

Recently as we gathered at Ground Zero for our Selichot service, three people who served in the Armed Forces asked to join us.

Coincidentally, they were visiting the site a week before they were going to Iraq and felt the need for spiritual support. They were Christians who had never attended a Jewish service but felt connected to our community.

After the service one of these visitors shared his feelings with us. He said that he admired New Yorker's for their resilient spirit following 9/11 and was proud to live in a country where different faiths can stand together as members of one human family.

During the High Holy Days let us remember the people like Mitch Schranz, these three strangers at Ground Zero and the many others who selflessly serve

The New York Board of Rabbis

Would like to welcome the following new members:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Rabbi Deborah Bravo | Rabbi Rebecca Joseph |
| Rabbi Scott M. Corngold | Rabbi Mark A. Popovsky |
| Rabbi Mark Dratch | Rabbi Solomon Segal |
| Rabbi Jason Herman | Rabbi Samuel Shor |
| Rabbi Jonathan Stein | |



File Photo: September 2003 Torahs Being Sent to Iraq and Kuwait

I am Jewish I am Jewish I am Jewish

In a four-minute videotape that recorded the execution of Daniel Pearl, the Wall Street Journal reporter declared his Jewishness. "I'm a Jewish American." "I come from, on my father's side, a family of Zionists. My father is Jewish. My mother is Jewish. I'm Jewish. My family follows Judaism." Islamist terrorists intended that to be a confession of guilt. But Pearl's father, Judea Pearl, has transformed his son's February 2002 murder into an opportunity for dialogue with Muslims.

Before he was murdered, *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl spoke the words, "My father is Jewish, my mother is Jewish, I am Jewish."

On **Tuesday, November 1 at 11:30 a.m.**, The New York Board of Rabbis invites members to a very special conversation inspired by Daniel Pearl's last words, with **Professor Judea Pearl**, Daniel's father.

Judea Pearl, a professor of computer science and statistics at the University of California in Los Angeles, said his son's brutal murder three years ago broke his heart.

But he said Daniel's death, at the hands of Islamic radicals in Karachi, Pakistan, has infused him with the faith to fight terrorism and hatred while building bridges linking East and West.

Pearl, a native Israeli, is the president of the Daniel Pearl Foundation. It was formed by the late journalist's family and friends to promote interfaith understanding through such projects as peace concerts, public dialogues between Jews and Muslims, and fellowships for Pakistani reporters in the United States.

Pearl, whose family was among the founding fathers of Tel Aviv's Bnei Brak Orthodox neighbourhood, said his son's last words were underpinned by pride in being Jewish.

Judaism was a source of strength for him during Daniel's brief life and during his final moments in captivity, said Pearl, a graduate of the Technion.

Describing his son as a fair and objective journalist whose resiliency was his strength, Pearl said the phrase "I am Jewish" could be interpreted to mean he had a right to be different.

After relating how his father left eastern Europe to buy land in Palestine, Pearl said Jews are the world's biggest "exporter" of tolerance and freedom. He urged Jews to reach out to others in the spirit of conciliation.

Declaring himself to stand for sanity, decency and courage, Pearl said he regards *I Am Jewish* as a weapon against hatred in the post-Sept. 11 era.

Pearl accused the Qatar-based Al Jazeera satellite news station of promoting anger – a component of terrorism – among Muslims. He compared this anger to combustible fuel that can easily be set afire. "Al Jazeera should be held responsible for the violence this anger produces in the Arab world," he said.

Pearl also likened anti-Zionism to racism because it denies the Jewish people's right to self-determination in "a sliver of land called Israel." "It's an attack on our historical identity," he said of anti-Zionism. "Jewish university students are currently being subjected to a vicious form of anti-Zionism," Pearl observed. He hailed these students as heroes.

Pearl said Jews and Muslims should together combat Islamophobia and anti-Zionism. Turning to the Arab-Israeli conflict, he said the real test for the Palestinians is whether they truly accept the State of Israel.

Following the lecture, Professor Pearl will also be available to sign copies of *I Am Jewish: Personal Reflections Inspired by the Last Words of Daniel Pearl*, a collection of essays he edited that were written by Jewish personalities ranging from Israeli politician Shimon Peres to New York Times foreign affairs columnist Thomas Friedman.

For further information or to make a reservation, please contact, K. Dubrow at 212.983.3521 or E-mail: kdubrow@nybr.org



Professor Judea Pearl

The story of Danny's life and death has touched thousands of people who never knew him. By developing original programs, the Daniel Pearl Foundation brings light to the world the way Danny did through his stories and music.

International Network of Concerts

Daniel Pearl Music Days uses the power of music to promote cross-cultural understanding and reaffirm our commitment to humanity. Anyone can participate by dedicating a pre-scheduled musical concert or a song, or by organizing a special event, as part of Daniel Pearl Music Days with a statement from the stage or in the written program in support of tolerance and "harmony for humanity."

October 1-10, 2005

ANNUAL DANIEL PEARL FELLOWSHIP

The [Daniel Pearl Fellowship](#), established in partnership with the Alfred Friendly Press Fellowships, brings promising, mid-career foreign journalists to work for six months in a US newsroom. It is an invitation to Danny's former journalism colleagues to continue his mission by writing for the audiences for whom he wrote, working with his colleagues and getting to know the U.S. press from the inside. Journalists from South Asia, the Middle East and/or North Africa are encouraged to apply.

PEARL WORLD YOUTH NEWS

The [PEARL World Youth News](#), a partnership with the International Education and Resource Network ([IERN](#)), is a unique web-based news service by secondary school students from countries across the world. Adhering to the highest journalistic standards, students will select which issues get reported, write articles, edit copies, and publish their articles on the new online news service. School newspapers will be able to publish articles from the PEARL World Youth News to add an international component to their papers.

A message from Rabbi Stephen Roberts

As the New Year approaches I return to my favorite teaching by Rabbi Tarfon: "You are not obligated to finish the task, neither are you free to neglect it." (Pirkei Avot 2:21). The Board has accomplished much over the last year, and yet, our task is unfinished with even more to do this coming year.

I would like to take this opportunity as the year 5766 begins to look back and highlight some of what The Board accomplished in the area of chaplaincy last year in 5765: 1) A booklet of *Tehillim* for both chaplaincy and congregational use was developed and is soon to be published. Look in your mail shortly for more details. 2) The Board is working hard to begin to create new chaplaincy positions. As a result of this effort the first new chaplaincy contracts in many years were signed to provide professional chaplains at Cabrini Medical Center, Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center and Queens Boulevard Extended Care Facility. 3) The Board instituted an open and advertised search policy for new chaplains. Notification of each new chaplaincy position was sent to the general membership, interviews were held with multiple candidates and qualified chaplains were hired for each new position. One of the chaplains hired is an NAJC Board Certified Chaplain, the second is Board Eligible and the third is taking CPE as part of the process to become an NAJC Board Certified Chaplain. 4) A number of new correctional chaplaincy positions were filled throughout New York State this year. The most recent was Rabbi Joanna Katz who was selected and endorsed to be a chaplain by The Board to be the Jewish Chaplain at Taconic Correctional Facility.

One of the most significant accomplishments of The Board during the past year was our work on our Strategic Plan. The plan was approved by the Board of Governors in August. A copy will be sent to each member of The Board during the fall. The process leading to the completed strategic plan included: 1) Over 40 members participated last fall in *Hayom U'Machar*: NYBR Members' Strategic Planning Conference. The foundation for The Board's strategic plan was developed that day including our Vision and Mission statements. 2) In the winter all members were contacted and invited to participate in the work of this strategic planning process. Over 50 members accepted the invitation and These became involved and active on specific task forces. The task forces were responsible for creating the detailed recommendations of the strategic plan. A kick-off meeting was held February 16. The work of the various committees concluded shortly after Passover. 3) Shortly after Shavuot the first draft of the strategic plan was completed. Our consultants reviewed it and made a number of technical suggestions. The officers and those who had served on the various task forces also provided input into the final draft which the Board of Governors passed unanimously.

passover appeal We are most grateful to each person who participated in our 5765 Passover Appeal. The NYBR was able to supply over 2,000 packages to prisoners, those in long term facilities and a wide variety of Jews struggling just to make it through each day. We provided many of the essential ritual supplies to our chaplains who ran *Sederim* for thousands of developmentally disabled individuals throughout the tri-state area who might not otherwise have participated in the holiday. Finally, as part of our commitment to *Tikun Olam*, the packages we send out were put together by developmentally disabled people who are provided sheltered work opportunities by our FECS, one the NYBR's long time partners.

As we look to the New Year our agenda at The Board includes: increasing the number of NYBR chaplains who have taken CPE and are moving toward NAJC Board Certification; expanding professional opportunities for all of our chaplains; publication of the Board's booklet of *Tehillim* and making this widely available for both congregational and chaplaincy use; and the distribution and implementation of The Board's Strategic Plan.

We know in advance that we will not "finish the task" envisioned in our strategic plan in the coming year, but we will work hard to make sure that The Board is part of the process of helping our members' lives become better and the world, in general, a better place.

Shanah Tovah.

Rabbi Stephen Roberts

Spiritual caregivers broadcast Sunday, October 2 CBS

When a tragedy strikes, whether an act of terror, a natural disaster, or the loss of a loved one, each leaves one or many families without a mother, father, spouse or friend and members of the clergy are among the first responders. **SPIRITUAL CAREGIVERS: IN THOSE MOMENTS OF TRAGEDY**, an interfaith special to be broadcast **Sunday, October 2 on the CBS Television Network**, takes an inside look at spiritual caregivers who offer support during times of great trauma and how they sustain themselves during such emotionally draining work.

Included in this broadcast is our own **Rabbi Stephen Roberts**, Associate Executive Vice President of The New York Board of Rabbis. Rabbi Roberts with extensive experience in Disaster Spiritual Care discusses the role clergy members play during a disaster and the importance of self-care.

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SH'MA KOLENU

a joint initiative to unite clergy against domestic abuse



"Rabbi, just between you and me, this isn't really a problem in our part of the Jewish community. It only really happens..." These are the ever-present words of individual congregants throughout the Orthodox, Conservative, Reconstructionist, and Reform communities, each proudly assuring me that Shalom Bayit reigns in every family within their individual sect.

"Domestic violence is not something that I need to address in my congregation; no one has ever approached me about this problem during my rabbinate." Countless times I have heard this argument from rabbis and members of the clergy around the nation. However, following a sermon on this subject or a column in the monthly newsletter on the realities of violence in the home opens a gate of opportunity for pained congregants to come forward and seek spiritual, emotional, and physical assistance from their rabbi.

Last year, Jewish Women International completed the needs assessment *A Portrait of Domestic Abuse in the Jewish Community* and the study found that "Rabbis play an important role in speaking out about domestic abuse in the Jewish community and in providing support to the victims of abuse and their families... Jewish women are more likely to go to a rabbi for help and guidance if the rabbi has previously spoken out about the issue."

To date, JWI has successfully trained over a hundred rabbis in the past year around the country. This year, as a rabbinic community, let's put families first! You have all received our Sh'ma Kolenu package of Tishrei materials to assist you in adding prayers to all of the holidays this season along with sermon sparks and we urge you to integrate this important material.

In addition to utilizing the new materials, it is time to learn about domestic abuse and what we as rabbis can do. Following the Holy Days we are holding Domestic Violence 101 and Skill Building programs for the NYBR community and every rabbi will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the trainings.

Don't wait! Our families need you now!

Together we can make this a *Shanah Shel Shalom*,
Rabbi Diana S. Monheit

how to get educated ...

Sh'ma Kolenu Module I: Recognizing the Signs

November 2, 2005
11am-1pm New York, NY (NYBR)

November 30, 2005
6-8pm New York, NY (NYBR)

Sh'ma Kolenu Module II: Do No Harm*

December 6 and 20, 2005
6pm-8pm: 2 sessions New York, NY (NYBR)

December 9, 2005 - 9am-1pm:
1 session-- New York, NY (NYBR)

\$36 Suggested contribution per module.
*** Following the second module, participants will receive a certificate of completion.**

To learn more about NYBR Sh'ma Kolenu training or to schedule one for your staff, please contact Rabbi Diana Monheit at 212.983.3521 x.21 or E-mail: dmonheit@jwi.org

a point of pride **Rabbi Craig Miller**

There are many reasons to be proud of the New York Board, the Board's response to Katrina is one of them.

Since the Hurricane made landfall on August 29th, the Board office has been in frequent contact with several agencies providing disaster relief including: The Federal Department of Health and Human Services, The American Red Cross, Mayor Bloomberg's Office, The Fire Department of New York and United Jewish Communities.

The Board remained open on Labor Day Sunday and Monday communicating with members, the public and relief officials.

In addition the Board sponsored students from the Bronfman Center for Jewish Student Life at NYU who were invited down to Houston to help with relief work over the Labor Day weekend.

As many of you are aware the Board has taken a lead role in incubating Disaster Chaplaincy Services. This interfaith organization uses the lessons learned as a result of 9-11 to create appropriate disaster chaplaincy models. DSC's expertise has been recognized by both the City and Federal governments. Its chaplains have deployed at the local Disaster Assistance Center in the City and in Baton Rouge and New Orleans. Board member Rabbi Zahara Davidovitz-Farkas is now in Washington DC overseeing nation chaplaincy issues for the Department of Health and Human Services.

Rabbi Stephen Roberts, NYBR Associate Executive Vice President, serves

on The National Disaster Spiritual Care Oversight Committee of The American Red Cross (and founding Chair of DSC) has been offering invaluable advice in the deployment of certified chaplains of all faiths in the areas affected. As a NYBR Vice President & Vice President of DSC, I have the honor of working closely with Fr. Emile Frische, President of IDSC, Stephan and Zahara to ensure that the highest standard of chaplaincy is upheld and that a long-term Spiritual Care plan is developed in the wake of Katrina. We are helped in this effort by the DCS Executive Director Rev. Julie Taylor.

This extraordinary effort would not be possible without a consistent commitment by NYBR to inter-faith chaplaincy work.

In our discussions with relief agencies, The NYBR continues to explore the possibility of NYBR on-site clergy participation. To date, agency officials have asked that we await a further assessment of specialized needs in order to maximize the support and minimize confusion caused by unsolicited visitation

The NYBR is in contact with leaders of the Jewish communities in Alabama, Mississippi and Texas to offer our assistance. Each community, here too, is examining its needs and will forward to us an itemized list so we may best help them.

We should be proud of the the many expressions of confidence in The New York Board of Rabbis shown by our members and relief & government agencies. Together we should pray that the many victims of this overwhelming tragedy will find the strength to rebuild their lives, and that the myriads of relief workers including our members, return safely to their families.

Nichum Avaylim

Our condolences to The Steinberg Family on the loss of our esteemed colleague, Rabbi Paul M. Steinberg.

Our condolences to Rabbi Matthew and Sara Rubinow on the passing of their son, Rabbi Joshua Simon.

Our condolences to Rabbi Michael Miller on the passing of his beloved mother, Ruth Miller.

Our condolences to Rabbi Dan Frelander on the passing of his father, I. Robert Frelander,

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

NYBR

Recent Print & Media Coverage

The Jewish Forward	Fox 5 News
The Jewish Post	WABC News7
The Jewish Week	Channel 11
L.A. Jewish Week	CNN
The NY Sun	MSNBC
The NY Times	
Lifestyles Magazine	
The Mann Report	
Science & Theology News	
London Economic Times	

Membership Dues

Individual Membership \$125


Supporting Membership \$180
For rabbis who wish to support the vital work of The NYBR.

Associate/International \$90 Membership
For rabbis who reside outside of the tri-state area.

Chaplaincy Membership \$90

Student Membership \$45
For rabbinical students enrolled full time in a recognized institution.

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With great pleasure-

The New York Board of Rabbis

welcomes

Ms. Wendy Feinberg

to our

volunteer staff.

LOSING THE RAT RACE – WINNING AT LIFE

By Marc D. Angel, Jerusalem, Israel: Urim Publications, 159pp., \$19.95

Reviewed by Rabbi Bernard M. Zlotowitz

Rabbi Dr. Marc D. Angel has made an invaluable contribution with the publication of his Losing the Rat Race – Winning at Life, a self-help book on how to better our lives in a world where a dog eat dog philosophy prevails. He takes readers on a step-by-step journey on how to improve the quality of life and enjoy healthier relationships with family, friends and community.

We live in a world where we are taught to beat the other guy before he beats us and swallows us up, and Angel insists that by getting out of the rat race, it is possible to win at finding a more fulfilling way of life. This is a reachable goal, which can be accomplished with sheer will power, as he demonstrates in chapter 5: *Starting to Win: Self-Discovery*.

Angel provides some sound advice, “know thyself.” “When we listen to the verse phrases that have made the hard journey through time, space and language”; we are exhilarated by what we hear. Solon (c.639-c.559 BC), the Athenian law-giver and poet impressed upon the minds of men, “know thyself,” and in Hamlet, William Shakespeare had Polonius advise his son, Laertes, with words now immortal, “This above all: to thine own self be true, and it must follow as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man.”

There have been a plethora of books and declarations on how to improve our lives and live the life emblazoned in the Declaration of Independence that each of us deserves: *Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness*. Angel writes in the tradition of Joshua Loth Liebman’s Piece of Mind, which over a half a century ago was an international best seller and which met the needs of that generation; but this is now a far different world, a far cry from that time and clime. Today, more than ever, we are living in a rat race.

As Terry Golway put it, “what they [the early labor union organizers] who fought for a shorter work week and the right to enjoy a life outside the work place might not have understood is how casually so many of us have allowed work to intrude on life.”

Marc Angel reaches out to us and pleads like a father to a child, for the sake of our mental health, to avoid the pitfalls of our society. In a way, he echoes the words of the Ethics of the Fathers, “Who is rich? He who is happy with his portion.” The message is simple: Get out of the rat race—win at living; enhance your life and enjoy your family.

We are slowly killing ourselves—mentally, physically, emotionally, clawing our way to reach the top of the economic ladder—but at what cost to our emotion and body? Marc Angel shows us a better way.

If you want to live a more fulfilling life, then read Losing the Rat Race – Winning at Life. It is the road map to a new and enhanced life of mental health, better physical appearance and thanking God for the gifts bestowed upon us.

The New York Board of Rabbis

NYBR Member Upcoming Events

Saturday, Sept. 24

Selichot
at
Ground Zero

Thursday, Oct. 20

Film Premiere
USHPIZIN

Tuesday, Nov. 1

"I Am Jewish"
with
Professor Judea Pearl

Wednesday, Nov. 2

Sh'ma Kolenu
"Recognizing the Signs"
Training

Wednesday, Nov. 16

NYBR Nostra Aetate
Program

Wednesday, Nov. 30

Sh'ma Kolenu
"Recognizing the Signs"
Training

Dec 6 & 20th

Sh'ma Kolenu
"Do No Harm"
Training

Friday, Dec .9

Sh'ma Kolenu
"Do No Harm"
Training

Dec. 24 - Jan. 2

Menorah Lighting
at
Ground Zero



I am Jewish I am Jewish



I am Jewish

In a four-minute videotape that recorded the execution of Daniel Pearl, the Wall Street Journal reporter declared his Jewishness. I'm a Jewish American," "I come from, on my father's side, a family of Zionists. My father is Jewish. My mother is Jewish. I'm Jewish. My family follows Judaism." Islamist terrorists intended that to be a confession of guilt. But Pearl's father, Judea Pearl, has transformed his son's February 2002 murder into an opportunity for dialogue between Muslims and Jews.

The New York Board of Rabbis

Cordially invites you

to join

a very special conversation

with

Professor Judea Pearl

Tuesday, November 1, 2005

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm

B'nai Zion Auditorium

136 East 39th Street

NYC

RSVP Required.

Book signing to follow.

For further information or to make a reservation please contact K. Dubrow at 212.983.3521 or E-mail: kdubrow@nybr.org

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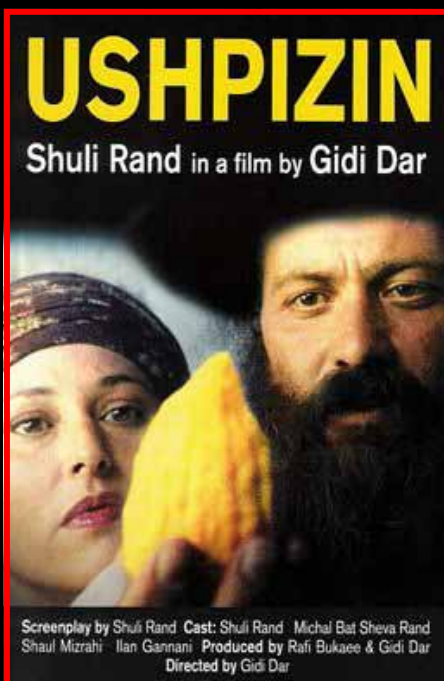
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The New York Board of Rabbis



Cordially invites you
to a
private screening
of

USHPIZIN

Thursday, October 20, 2005
7:30 pm

Universal Screening Room
666 Fifth Avenue
New York City

RSVP Required.

For further information or to make a reservation please contact Karen Dubrow at (212) 983-3521 ext. 15