

NYBR REVIEW

THE NEW YORK BOARD OF RABBIS · WINTER 2004 · TEVET 5765



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Rabbi Yaacov Yosef
of Polnoye

"If one does not recognize one's own worth, how can one appreciate the worth of another?"

"IF ONLY I HAD LEARNED THAT IN RABBINICAL SCHOOL" Rabbi Diana S. Monheit

"If only I learned about that in rabbinical school!" These are the words that many of us utter, silently or aloud, when we are presented with a new challenge in our rabbinate. Such was the case in my rabbinate. Within the first six months following my ordination, a member of the Jewish community found her way to the door of my study and shared her life story with me. Her home-life was filled with fear and pain caused by the rage of her husband. It was a life without *shalom bayit*. Quickly, I scrambled to find the resources and support for her within the Jewish community. The resources were

scattered, but I knew what to look for, and I knew what she needed from me. She needed me to believe her and, she needed my support. However, I never expected what I would gain through this experience. I knew her pain and her fear and her story. It was my story too, and this experience helped me to find my voice as a survivor. As a Jew, I have the sacred responsibility to reach out to my community, to share my experience and to provide a shelter of peace and support. As a rabbi, the responsibility is even greater. Today, more than ever before we know that rabbis are critical in the effort

to end violence in Jewish homes. This year Jewish Women International in Washington, D.C. completed their study, "A Portrait of Domestic Abuse in the Jewish Community,"

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For more information or to register go to:

www.jwicalltoaction.org

AMBASSADOR ARYE MEKEL HOSTS THE NYBR

Consul General of Israel in New York, Ambassador Arye Mekel hosted a luncheon, December 1, 2004 for The New York Board of Rabbis. The event took place in the offices of the Israeli Consulate and was open to all

NYBR members. The Consul General recently assumed his new position, and this event created the opportunity for Ambassador Mekel to introduce himself and address the group on a number of significant issues and developments

pertaining to Israel and the Middle East.

Ambassador Arye Mekel, the child of Holocaust survivors,

(con't Page 15)



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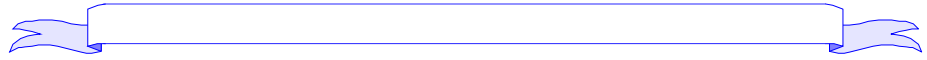
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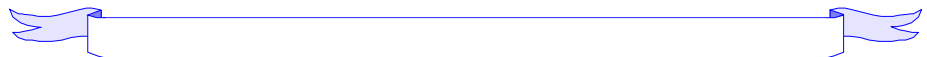
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New York Board of Rabbis is the largest inter-denominational body in the world providing many services to the Jewish community and the general public in the New York metropolitan and tri-state area.

For membership information please call (212) 983-3521.

From the President Rabbi Adam Mintz

Thomas Friedman began his post election column with the following words, "As grandma used to say, at least I still have my health." Whether or not we are happy with the election results we recognize that the Jewish community "still has its health", and it will be our job, working together with our elected politicians to ensure the health and vitality of our community.

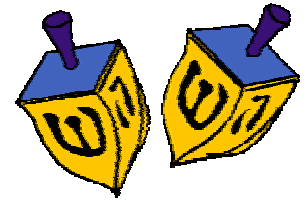
The Book of Maccabees provides the earliest description of the Chanukah story. According to this work, which is not included in the Jewish Bible but is part of the Apocrypha, the initial reason for the establishment of the

holiday was the fact that the Hasmoneans rededicated the Temple after it had been desecrated by the Greek/Syrians. It is very exciting to me personally and to the Board as a whole that as we approach the holiday of Chanukah we have begun our own process of rededication and strategic planning for the future. Many of you joined us for our day long session in which we were challenged to articulate our visions for the future of the Board and its role in strengthening the Jewish community. I am confident that you will continue to participate in this effort, and that together we can chart a course for our future.

There are some historians who suggest that Chanukah was introduced in the winter to raise our spirits during the short and cold winter days. While this is contrary to the traditional explanation, we can appreciate it symbolically. This winter we have a special responsibility and opportunity to lighten up our lives and the lives of our community. Let us make sure that our community remains healthy and grows with the Board playing an instrumental role in the process.

Happy Chanukah

Adam



From the Executive Vice President Rabbi Joseph Potasnik

Natan Sharansky in his recently published book "The Case For Democracy" writes "If anyone would have asked me in prison if I felt more solidarity with Labor or Likud, religious or secular, Orthodox or Reform, I would have considered the question ridiculous. Having served as an activist and spokesman for Soviet Jewish groups, I was certainly aware of internecine rivalries and conflicts- and experienced quite a few first-hand- but in prison, in the struggle against the KGB against evil itself these differences were meaningless. It was the connection I felt with all the people of Israel, with our moral destiny, that was the source of my strength." To me, Sharansky embodies

the essential message of Chanukah- namely that we must be proud Jews regardless of denominational designation. I vividly recall the first Chanukah lighting ceremony at Ground Zero, December 2001. The Port Authority, The Mayor and Governor's Offices approved the placement of a nine foot high Chanukiah at the site. Members of the Carpenters Union who had helped secure the beautiful symbol felt it should be higher since it stood next to a twenty foot high Christmas tree. A representative of the Union who was Christian said, "I want the Jewish people to see those Chanukah lights and be proud of their presence in America". He with other volunteers from the

Carpenters Union built a special platform so that the Chanukiah could be more prominently viewed.

In the Chanukah blessings we speak of the miracle in those days and ours, we recognize that just as Jews faced external and internal crises during the Maccabee period, so must we confront the challenges of the modern world.

The NYBR with its pluralistic design demonstrates the Maccabee spirit as it addresses the concerns of the Jewish people. This past month, we spoke with one voice to representatives of The Presbyterian and Episcopalian communities in New

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From the Associate Executive Vice President Rabbi Stephen Roberts



Chevrei – May the lights of Chanukah brighten your homes and your lives. Chaplaincy continues to play a prominent role within The NYBR. Below is a update on various programs.

New York State (NYS) Correctional Chaplaincy – The NYBR is the official endorsing agent for the State of New York for Jewish Chaplains. Rabbi Arthur Morgenstern, the NYBR official chaplaincy representative to the State of New York, and I met with almost 25 NYS Jewish Correctional Chaplains in Albany on November 10. Attending the meeting was Mr. Anthony Annucci, Deputy Commissioner and Counsel, John Nutall – Deputy Commissioner for Program Services, and Mark Leonard – Director of Ministerial and Family Services. The primary focus of the day was on various legal rulings which have a significant impact on the provision of chaplaincy services within the correctional system. Other issues covered during the day included: Who is a Jew? The

NYS Legal Perspective; Dealing with Hebrew Israelites; and The Role of The NYBR.

Seforim Project – The NYBR has received hundreds of Seforim for distribution to prisoners and has distributed over a hundred *Chumashim* and *Siddurim* to NYC correctional chaplains and over 250 to NYS correctional chaplains. If you have Hebrew/English *Chumashim* or *Siddurim* that you would like to donate to this project, please email Rabbi Roberts. At the current time, no other Seforim are being accepted.

Cabrini Medical Center – The NYBR completed a contract to provide Jewish chaplaincy services with Cabrini. The position was advertised to our membership and we had a full complement of NAJC Board Certified Chaplains who applied. I am pleased to announce that Rabbi Jeff Marker started November 1st in this position.

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) – The NYBR Extended Unit began in October. The

class is full, and applicants were turned away. We have clearly heard that many colleagues are interested in taking CPE but are unable to fit it in their busy schedules. Therefore, we are currently exploring offering classes specifically targeted to our congregational rabbis. In particular: Instead of 400 hours during the course of the school year, the class would be 200 hours. Instead of a full unit of CPE, participants would receive a half unit of CPE accredited by ACPE. Instead of Manhattan, classes would be offered either in Westchester and/or Long Island.

Literature – The NYBR *Tehillim* project is moving along. We expect by Pesach to have published with KTAV Publishing a *Tehillim* booklet for use by our chaplains. Further, The NYBR literature is beginning to be revised. We hope to send out the materials to the chaplains in our database the first revised piece by year-end.

Kol tuv,
Stephen

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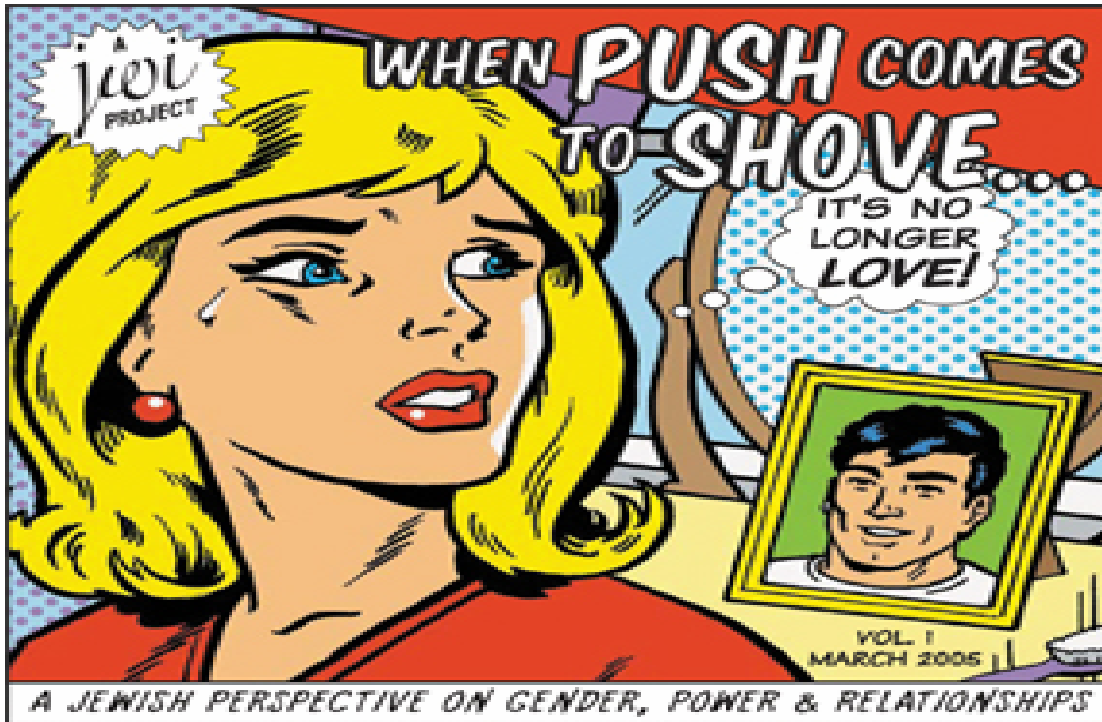


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" Sh'ma Kolenu: Clergy Domestic Abuse Project, a joint project of The NYBR and Jewish Women International"

IF ONLY I HAD LEARNED THAT IN RABBINICAL SCHOOL

(Continued from Front Page)

which confirms that domestic abuse is a significant issue impacting Jewish families in every sector of the Jewish community, and that the needs of these families largely go unmet. The report also confirms that Jewish women are more likely to seek help from rabbis who publicly recognize that abuse can and does occur in Jewish homes. To this end, the New York Board of Rabbis is actively working towards raising rabbinic awareness about domestic violence and linking rabbis and their families with the resources available in the local, regional, and national Jewish community. We are also reaching out and creating partnerships with other Jewish organizations doing this sacred work.

Last June, we took a tremendous first step when we came together at the Sutton Place

Synagogue to sponsor a program entitled, "Creating a Community of Safety: The Role of the Rabbi" in partnership with Project Eden of the Kings County District Attorney Office. This evening of awareness and education involved representatives of different denominations and became a catalyst for a new rabbinic education and outreach program for the NYBR. In the months that followed, we have taped an episode of *In Conversation with Rabbi Joseph Potasnik* entitled "Silence No More" that aired in October, which is also Domestic Violence Awareness month; met with the UJA Taskforce on Family Violence; and sat down with Jewish Women International in Washington D.C. to develop and implement *Sh'ma Kolenu: Clergy Domestic*

Abuse Prevention Program, a joint project of the New York Board of Rabbis and Jewish Women International. Twenty years ago this issue was largely untouched by Jewish leaders and today we have the opportunity to stand up and lead our communities in building safe havens where *shalom* prevails. In order to do this, we must begin by educating ourselves about the causes of abuse, how we can intervene, and how we can prevent future abuse ... and then we must get involved!

Mark your calendar and join us in Washington, DC! The conference will provide opportunities for clergy to learn, teach and strategize. Join us on March 21, 2005 for a day of skill building workshops for clergy. For more information on the conference and to register go to:

www.jwicaltoaction.org

To reach
Rabbi Monheit
Please call
(212) 983-3521
Email:
info@nybr.org

STRATEGIC PLANNING AT THE NYBR An interview with Professor Ed Bobrow and Bill Liss-Levinson



Professor Ed Bobrow
NYBR Strategic Planning Forum.

The New York Board of Rabbis is currently engaged in a year long strategic planning process. Professor Ed Bobrow and Dr. Bill Liss-Levinson are well known strategic planning professionals who are donating their services to The Board as advisors in this process. The Board is extremely grateful for the hundreds of hours that they are donating. Below are their thoughts on the current planning process.

Rabbi Stephen Roberts: *What is strategic thinking and planning in general?*

Professor Bobrow: Strategic thinking helps an organization develop a focused plan that takes into account the organizations resources: people, talents, abilities, and financial capabilities as well as gaining knowledge of the internal and external situation in which an organization exists. Strategic planning helps develop a stated vision/mission for the organization, determine which resources are available, and to develop specific quantifiable goals and objectives.

Rabbi Roberts: *Why should The NYBR engage in strategic planning now?*

Dr. Liss-Levinson: Strategic planning is particularly appropriate when an organization installs new leadership,

as the NYBR did earlier this year. It is a process that helps the new leadership, both the professional staff and the elected officers, to achieve a significant measure of consensus with the larger membership about the organization's mission, vision and strategic directions.

Rabbi Roberts: *Almost 70 members participated in filling out a strategic planning survey over the summer. What stands out most for you in the results?*

Dr. Liss-Levinson: First, the high participation rate. For a survey of this kind, the expected response rate is 3% to 5%. The response rate was over 10% and very closely mirrored the membership's demographics (* see graph). Second, the overwhelming agreement among respondents that the greatest strength of The NYBR is its multi-denominational membership.

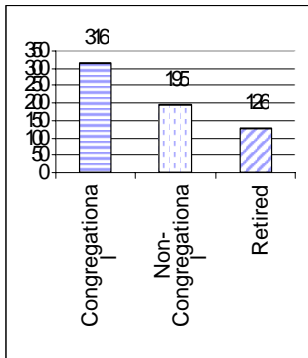
Rabbi Roberts: *On October 21st close to 40 members of the NYBR came together for Hayom U'Machar: NYBR Members' Strategic Planning Forum for the Future. Professor Bobrow, you*

facilitated the day. What was it like to have all these rabbis meet?

Professor Bobrow: It was a wonderful opportunity to capture the thoughts and ideas of these members who seemed so very representative of the entire body's thinking. Working with these men and women, who do have excellent analytical skills and seeing them use these skills for the organizations best interest moved us greatly ahead in the process. I was pleasantly surprised at how motivated they were and willing to follow the process and work together for the good of the Board. They were open, direct and unselfish in their participation. It was most unusual that no individual had an axe to grind.

Rabbi Roberts: *Dr. Liss-Levinson, what was the feeling in the room?*

Dr. Liss-Levinson: There was a palpable sense of excitement that participants were going to be part of a dynamic, creative – and NEW – process that had the potential to transform The NYBR, and the Rabbinic and larger Jewish community for years to come.



NYBR Major Membership
Categories & Number of
Members



Rabbi Eric Lankin &
Rabbi Judith Edelstein

Rabbi Roberts: What was accomplished that day?

Professor Bobrow: Where shall I start? So much was accomplished. We had clear input:

- 1) Having so many members participate in the meeting helped in obtaining an even better understanding of the memberships needs then what the surveys produced.
- 2) Our vision became clear.
- 3) Our mission will benefit from the number of ideas set forth and help us to draw up a clear inclusive mission statement.
- 4) Task forces were suggested and members stepped forward to lead the various task forces.
- 5) We were able to designate next steps and will now be able to set forth clear goals and strategies to support The NYBR's vision and mission derived from representatives of its membership.

Dr. Liss-Levinson: The foundation was developed – along with clear committee structures and directions – to begin the arduous task of creating a master strategic plan for the NYBR. Of equal importance, however, what was

accomplished is that we were able – as a group – to demonstrate the dynamic depth and breadth of talent and energy that resides among The NYBR and that the new leadership was committed to CHANGE.

Rabbi Roberts: From the membership survey and what was said during the strategic planning forum, what are the three most important issues facing The NYBR.

Professor Bobrow: First, as I have already indicated, we were able to confirm our understanding of the expectations and needs of the membership. Secondly we had a general agreement on the basic mission from the overall membership, and third we were able to develop task forces and have members step forward to lead them. All of which will insure that the Board meets the present and future needs of rabbis in this 21st Century.

Rabbi Roberts: How can a strategic plan help to advance The NYBR in its organizational evolution?

Dr. Liss-Levinson: Developing a professional strategic plan takes a significant amount of time. As cur-

rently envisioned, from the beginning of The NYBR's process to a completed plan will take almost a year. The actual work of developing the detailed written strategic plan will start in January. Committees have been agreed upon to look at the major areas of the organization. They are: **Programming** to be chaired by **Yaacov Rone**; **Membership** to be chaired by **Charles Klein**; and **Community Relations, Collaboration, and Networking** to be chaired by **Robert Levine**. Each committee will focus on a variety of critical issues, many of them articulated during the October 21 planning day. Each committee will develop specific goals and objectives upon which the Board of Governors will first provide feedback. The committees will take the feedback, continue their work and then submit their recommendations to the Board of Governors for their approval. The complete process of creating the plan will involve a large number of members and the results will help shape the organization in the coming years.



Rabbi Bennett Rackman and Rabbi Gabriel Maza

Every member of The New York Board of Rabbis is invited and encouraged to participate by joining a committee. Please contact Rabbi Roberts at Sroberts@nybr.org to join.



NYBR members attending "Hayom U'Mahar"

AMERICA - ISRAEL FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



The America-Israel Friendship League

Established in 1971 The America - Israel Friendship League is a dynamic proactive grassroots organization, which provides a unique outreach platform for the people of the United States and the people of Israel. As a non-sectarian, not-for-profit, non-political organization, the AIFL encompasses Americans and Israelis of all ages, faiths, ethnic backgrounds and political affiliations.

The mission of the AIFL is to promote the mutually beneficial relationship between America and Israel. Both nations embody the values of democracy within a modern society and continue to make significant contributions to the world in the areas of sci-

ence, healthcare, education, technology, defense, arts and culture.

The AIFL's 'People to People' outreach platform includes educational, business and cultural exchange programs, information dissemination, leadership forums, as well as specialized missions to Israel. All programs are designed to strengthen the unique relationship between the two peoples, and over the years, AIFL program participants have become ambassadors of friendship and goodwill, inspiring generations of Americans and Israelis.

The AIFL is led by a culturally diverse coalition of prominent citizens from both

countries that serve as members of the board of directors and the national advisory board. These dedicated men and women continue the mission of the League's founders through their support of AIFL educational and cultural exchange programs.

Mortimer B. Zuckerman
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Dr. Charlotte K. Frank
Chair, Executive Committee

Ilana Artman
Executive Vice President

For more information visit their Website:

<http://www.aifl.org>

From the Executive Vice President

(Continued from Page 3)

York about the threat of divestiture, the security fence, and in these conversations we have forged a stronger relationship with those who support our stance. We are finalizing plans with organizations such as American Jewish Committee, CLAL and UJA to develop a "Year of Learning" with congregations of different denominations

The prayer book states:

ותוליכנו קוממיות לארצנו

"Lead us upright to our Land of Israel".

Someone once explained that

we know of many who are buried in Israel. The prayer reminds us not to wait until we die to go to Israel but to do so as a living and proud people. The Jewish experience in America as confirmed by Professor Jonathan Sarna tells that respect for Jews reaches its proper place when Jews properly respect themselves.

A story is told of a young man who was signed to play ball by a major league team. As the athlete was being fitted for his uniform, the manager asked, "How does the hat feel?" Sliding his cap around his head, the young recruit

replied, "The cap seems to be a little big." "See that it stays that way," roared the manager.

We are preparing a series of educational programs that deal with issues such as stem cell research, domestic abuse, and clergy/confidentiality which will strengthen the resources of our rabbis.

We at The NYBR may not be perfect, but we are proud of ourselves and of one another. We work together because we are at our best when we keep it that way.

Happy Chanukah,



MARCH OF THE LIVING

2005 March of the Living: History in the Making

This May 2005, The March of the Living program will become a part of history. To mark the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the death camps and end of World War II, 18,000 marchers will participate in the largest ever public commemoration for the victims of the Nazis. This experience is paired with the most somber and joyous days in Israeli life.

The March of the Living program will take place over two weeks where participants will bear witness to the undying spirit of the Jewish people. Since 1988, more than 100,000 people, from 45 nations have participated in the program.

In Poland, on Yom Hashoah, Israel's Memorial Day, re-people have the opportunity to join 18,000 others in a were lost in Israel's wars and community from around the in terror attacks. This leads world honoring those who into the exultant, joyous Yom lost their lives and those who Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Inde-survived the Nazi acts. pendence Day. Groups will Groups will visit death camps, also visit beautiful ancient becoming equipped with a and modern sites reflective of clear and visceral knowledge the diversity of Israel such as they can transmit to others of Jerusalem, Masada, Tel Aviv, the horrors that occurred. the Galilee and the Negev. They will also visit sites of This is an opportunity to be a religious and educational im-part of history. For more in-portance that functioned in formation interested parties Poland's Jewish community can contact 212-252-0900. for hundreds of years as well as meet with local Jewish For more information visit communities. their Website:

In Israel, participants will witness the somber, reflective day of Yom Hazikaron,




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THE BOOK CORNER

WORDS ON FIRE: The Unfinished Story of Yiddish

By David Katz, Publication Date: Oct. 1, 2004, 430 pp., \$26.95

Reviewed by Rabbi Bernard Rosenberg



WORDS ON FIRE: The Unfinished Story of Yiddish (Basic Books, October 1, 2004) draws on almost thirty years of scholarship. Prominent Yiddish scholar David Katz traces the origins and evolution of the Yiddish language. The first account of its kind, *WORDS ON FIRE*, offers an engaging delineation of the rich history of this unique language. Katz traces the origins of Yiddish back to the Europe of a thousand years ago and illustrates how these origins are themselves an uninterrupted continuation of the previous three millennia of Jewish history and cul-

ture in the Near East. *WORDS ON FIRE* narrates the history of Yiddish from the eleventh century to present day, through its development as written literature, particularly for and by Jewish women. In the wake of the secularizing and modernizing movements of the nineteenth century, Yiddish rose spectacularly in a few short years from mass folk idiom to the language of sophisticated modern literature, theatre, and journalism. Although a secular Yiddish culture no longer exists, Katz argues that its resurgence among religious Jewish communities ensures

that Yiddish will continue to thrive into the twenty-first century. For anyone interested in social tradition, linguistics, or Jewish history, *WORDS ON FIRE* promises to be the definitive account of a remarkable language and of the culture that created and sustained it. Please take note of the inside of this beautifully illustrated book, as there are numerous prints, drawings, charts, and maps. In a time of emerging Yiddish cultural awareness, Katz's work is a much-needed chronicle of the evolution and modern understanding of the language.

THE NEW ANTI-SEMITISM

By Phyllis Chesler, San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, A Wiley Imprint 2003, 307 pp., \$24.95

Reviewed by Rabbi Bernard M. Zlotowitz

There is no respite from anti-Semitism. Throughout the ages we have suffered and been subjected to a merciless *sinat chinam*—unjustifiable hatred—so intense that it defies belief. For over 2,000 years we have been driven from pillar to post by a relentless enemy who cherished our misery and rejoiced in prosecuting and murdering us. The blood libels, the Spanish Expulsion of 1492, the Chelmitzki pogrom of 1648, the expulsion from Brazil in 1654, the Nazi death camps of the 30's through mid 40's are but part of the monstrous tragedies that have beset our

people. The abomination of those times are emblazoned on our minds and psyches for all time.

Who would have believed that after the Holocaust, anti-Semitism would raise its ugly head again! We thought that after the horror of these events the nations of the world would be so ridden with guilt that they would never allow such evil to infiltrate the minds and speeches of the people of the world: that anti-Semitism was dead and buried forever. How wrong we were.

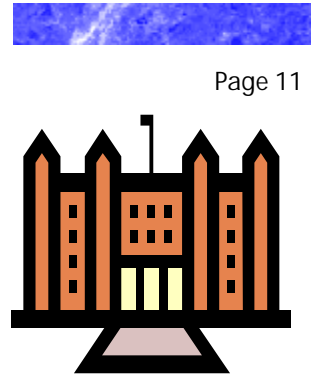
Anti-Semitism has not abated. There is a new anti-

Semitism afoot with a new twist that our author has identified. It is as vicious as in the past.

“And what's new about the new anti-Semitism is that for the first time it is being perpetrated in the name of antiracism and anticolonialism.” (p.87) And what's new about this anti-Semitism is that it is world wide and spreading like wildfire. It is totally uncontrolled and inflaming the passions of the

(Continued on Page 12)

New York Campuses Need Rabbis As Partners



For tens of thousands of Jewish college students, the campus Hillel is literally a lifeline for their heritage. The Hillel offers a place where they can "hangout" with other Jewish students, participate in Jewish events and find out about different programs that can take them to Israel or other places where they can deepen their Jewish understanding. The Hillel is a working model of pluralism; Reform, Orthodox, Conservative, Reconstructionist and the unaffiliated come together to participate in Jewish life. For the past 18 months I have had the privilege of working on several NY campuses as a representative of NYBR. Helping with programming, creating resources, teaching and just

being a rabbinical presence has been an unforgettable experience. It is now time to deepen this partnership between the NYBR and campus Hillels. Many of the smaller Hillels lack resources perform their mission to the fullest extent possible. To help bring Jewish campus life to an even higher level, the leadership of the Board is asking rabbis to partner with their local campuses. This can be done in several ways:

- 1) Volunteer your time to give a class or do a program
- 2) Sponsor Hillel programs, either a holiday event or scholarships to go to Israel
- 3) Have your synagogue part-

ner with a Hillel. This involves a combination of the above plus having interested lay leadership work with the Hillel's professionals. We have an excellent opportunity to strengthen the next generation of Jewish leaders.

For more information, please contact Rabbi Craig Miller at (212) 983.4800 ext. 124 or E-mail: rabbibin@aol.com

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The New Anti-Semitism

(Continued from Page 10)

“Our author shares with us the tragic consequence of a world gone mad and off the deep end.”

Rabbi Bernard Zlotowitz

multitude including intellectuals and learned professional people who should know better.

What’s new about this anti-Semitism is that it is now respectable to be an anti-Semite under the guise of anti-Zionism and anti-Israel. Stabbing of Jews, torching of cars, fire bombing synagogues and Jewish schools by perpetrators that go unpunished because in many countries the governments refuse to face up to these nefarious episodes. One high French government official with whom I spoke last year in Paris had the gall to tell me - “that these acts are merely the acts of hooligans, not anti-Semitic acts.”

The author takes the reader step by step through the paces of what is actually happening in Moslem and European countries— how anti-Semitism is increasing and how the world is acquiescing. When Israel inadvertently does something wrong there is an outcry, hardly a whisper. The Arabs have unjustly gained the sympathy of the world. When a suicide bomber mur-

ders innocent Jews— women and children, no nation except the US— cries out against this horrendous act. When Israel defends itself there is a cry of protest— “how dare they defend their citizens”.

Our author shares with us the tragic consequence of a world gone mad and off the deep end.

To her credit, Chesler is also critical of those Jews who are more concerned for the Palestinians than for the Israelis who are fighting for their very lives. Chesler singles out those Jews for criticism who condemn Israel for putting up a wall. There never would have been a wall if the Palestinians hadn’t sent suicide bombers to murder Jews. There would have never been an occupation of the West Bank if the Arabs didn’t start wars in 1948, 1956, 1967, 1973 in an attempt to annihilate the Jews.

There is an underlying hatred of our people that is so ingrained and unjustified that it is hard to eradicate this virus. How do we overcome this plague?

Chesler’s suggestions on how to combat this scourge is to focus on the real problems of the world— combating the AIDS epidemic in Africa, eradicating famine, forming alliances with Christians, restoring college campus civility and fighting the big lies. These are very commendable goals, but when you deal with blind hatred, few, if any, are willing to listen to reason. Nonetheless we have to make a beginning to eradicate this terrible evil. It is going to be difficult. As the Rabbis point out *kol hatchaloth kashoth*— all beginnings are difficult. Chesler is right on target— we have to shift focus. Good people must meet with good people of different views and exert every effort to work on the problems that face humanity.

I commend Phyllis Chesler for her valiant effort in bringing to our attention and guiding us and encouraging the world community to confront the problems that need our desperate attention to help eradicate the scourges of our time rather than concentrating on perpetuating hatred for the Jewish people which is based on lies and falsehoods.



UPCOMING EPISODES

Matthew Hiltzik
 Professor Jonathan D. Sarna
 Congressman Peter T. King
 Professor William Helmreich
 Aaron Lansky

Please check your weekly NYBR Update for a program schedule.



The New York Board of Rabbis Lifecycles

Mazel Tov

Rabbi Sheldon and Zelda Goldsmith on the birth of a granddaughter, Aliza Perel.

Rabbi Gilbert and Susan Klaperman on the birth of their grandson, Aaron Ami Chai and to their children Tuvia and Dr. Shira Book.

Rabbi Dr. Bernhard and Charlene Rosenberg on the birth of their first grandchild, Akiva Yosef Merl.

Rabbi & Mrs. Charles A. Spirn, grandparents, and Rabbi & Mrs. Nahum J. Spirn, parents, on the birth of Yerachamiel Nissim.

Rabbi Moses A. Birnbaum and Rabbi David K. Holtz were elected Vice Presidents of the Greater Carolinas Association of Rabbis.

Rabbi Steven Moss on his promotion to the rank of Deputy Chief of Chaplains, Suffolk County Police Department.

Nichum Avaylim

Our condolences to Rabbi Jay Rosenbaum on the passing of his beloved mother, Bea Rosenbaum.

Condolences to Rabbi Harold & Sophie Konovitch on the death of Sophie's sister, Lini May Stock.

Our condolences to Rabbi Robert N. Levine on the passing of his beloved father, Irving H. Levine.

Mark Your Calendar

Notify your Congregants – Please plan on attending

Third North American Chevra Kadisha Conference

June 5, 6, and 7, 2005

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Continuing Rabbinic Education

The Trauma of Terrorism

Sharing Knowledge and Shared Care, An International Handbook

NYBR Member

Rabbi Zahara Davidowitz-Farkas

CEO, Institute for Disaster Spiritual Care, contributed a chapter to this book entitled "Religious Care in Coping with Terrorism".

Zahara@dscs-ny.org

Learn intervention strategies to counter the effects of terrorism

In the twenty-first century, terrorism has become an international scourge whose effect devastates individuals, weakens societies, and cripples nations. **The Trauma of Terrorism: Sharing Knowledge and Shared Care, An International Handbook** provides a comprehensive, penetrating look at the effects of terrorism, at the prevention and treatment of immediate and long term sequelae, at preparedness for terrorism, and at a range of individual, community and national responses.

International authorities discuss the latest knowledge and research about terror, its root causes, and its psychological

impact on individuals, families, societies, and nations, as well as the societal and political responses and services that may help lessen the impact.

This compendium explores numerous issues in detail, such as the nature and psychology of terrorism, how to foster a communities capacity for resilience, the psychological consequences of terrorism in children and adults, the centrality of traumatic grief, the need for multicultural understanding in services and treatment, interventions for children and adolescents, training programs for mental health professionals and proactive community organization in the face of terrorism.

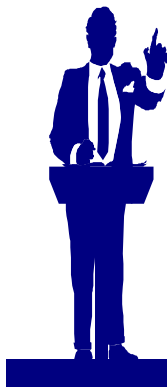
This is essential reading for

Rabbis in the New York region who may well be faced with having to respond to terrorist acts similar to those experienced on 9-11.

While the book will help you understand the broad complexity of disaster response, it can also help you think through and identify your role within the disaster context, and the ways in which you can effectively prepare yourself, your immediate community and your neighborhood for response & resilience.

Additionally, you will learn intervention strategies that can assist you in your day-to-day work as a rabbi in the Jewish community.

The Trauma of Terrorism
Sharing Knowledge and Shared Care, An International Handbook
 Edited by Yael Danieli, PhD,
 Danny Brom, PhD., Joe Sills, MA
 The Haworth Press, Inc.
 Publication Date: January 1, 2005



The New York Board of Rabbis Lecture Bureau

Lecture Bureau Set to Start

The NYBR Lecture Bureau is about to begin offering this new service. The Bureau is a chance to participate in meaningful speaking events. There is still time to be part of this exciting project.

Please send Rabbi Craig Miller a brief bio, suggested fees, speaking topics and contact info. His contact info is: [:rabbibin@aol.com](mailto:rabbibin@aol.com) or 212.983.4800 ext. 124

Ambassador Arye Mekel Hosts The NYBR

(Continued from Front Page)



(from right to left) **Rabbi Adam Mintz** - President, NYBR; **Ambassador Arye Mekel**, Consul General of Israel in NY; **Rabbi Joseph Potasnik** - Executive Vice President, NYBR; **Rabbi Moses Birnbaum** - Officer, NYBR; **Mr. Morris Gurley** - Member of the NYBR Advisory; **Rabbi Yaacov Rone** - Member of NYBR Board of Governors. credit: Israeli Consulate.

was born in the former Soviet Union in 1946. Three years later, he moved to Israel with his parents, where he was raised in the Haifa area. Ambassador Mekel's career in the public sphere began with his military service in the Israel Defense Forces, with three years as a Military and Political Correspondent for Israel Army Radio. He obtained the rank of sergeant. Afterwards, he was a Senior Editor and Political Correspondent, and then the United States Correspondent for Israel State Radio – The Voice of Israel. He was also an Adjunct Professor of Judaic Studies at the University of Cincinnati and a representative of the World Zionist Organization in Cincinnati, Ohio (1976-1979).

Ambassador Mekel joined Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1984 as a Senior Researcher at the Center for Political

Research. He has held a long succession of prominent positions since then, including advisor to Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir (1985-1986), Consul General of Israel to the Southeastern United States based in Atlanta, Georgia (1993-2000), Director of the Government's Media Center during the peak of the latest round of terrorism in Israel (2000-2002), Charge d'Affaires at the Embassy of Israel in South Korea (2001), Special Advisor to the Deputy Foreign Minister on Combating anti-Semitism (2001-2002), Special Government Spokesman for Foreign Media (2000-2002), and Deputy Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations (2003-2004).

During his briefing to The NYBR, Ambassador Mekel pointed out that Israel is now entering a new phase that may bring the possibility for renewed opportunities for peace with the

Palestinians.

This assumption is based on: Israeli efforts to destroy the terrorist infrastructure, the effectiveness of Israel's Security Fence and the recent death of Arafat. He expressed hope that with the ongoing support of the U.S. Government, progress towards peace can be made.

Following the briefing Mekel opened the floor for a question and answer session, joking that it is rare for Rabbis to be in the audience, asking the questions, as opposed to up on the pulpit.

" ... it is rare for Rabbis to be in the audience, asking the questions, as opposed to up on the pulpit."

Ambassador Arye Mekel

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for allowing us once again
the privilege of

The Lighting of the Meno-
rah
at
Ground Zero



NYBR Menorah Lighting at Ground Zero
25 Kislev 5765

(From left to right) **Laura Lehrfeld**, who lost her father Eric on 9-11; Naomi Henoeh; Jacob Henoeh;
Ambassador Arye Mekel, Consul General of Israel in NY; **Rabbi Joseph Potasnik** - Executive Vice President, NYBR;
credit: Israeli Consulate.