



Some guys *talk* mitzvahs while other guys *do* them. Warren Cohn, one of the latter, went to Haiti with medical supplies. See story on page two.

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On a Mission to Haiti

By Warren Cohn

After two weeks of planning and phone calls,



I have just returned from a 4 day trip to Haiti, via the Dominican Republic. The

planning process was a tremendous hurdle in itself, because it was unsure how we were going to bring the supplies to Haiti, whether we were going to land in Port au Prince or Santo Domingo or go at all.

Two weeks and two days after the devastating earthquake in Haiti, I was finally able to put all of the pieces of the puzzle together and finalize what would become a very loose itinerary to travel to Haiti. The trip was only made possible by the help of contacts through my office, Congressman Ed Towns, and through the donation of medical supplies by DealMed Inc., and donation of flights and cargo space by JetBlue.

On Sunday, January 31 at 12:55am Dr. Aman Sabharwal (Jackson Health System – Miami, FL) and I left for Santo Domingo with about 100 boxes (2,000lbs) of medical supplies.

We checked the supplies as if it were regular baggage and then had to claim it in Santo Domingo and stuff it into a van that we rented.



We drove the supplies to the hotel which we were staying at (arranged by the US Embassy) and waited the night so that we could then travel to Haiti. The next morning we woke up at the crack of dawn and drove to the US Embassy and headquarters of USAID, where we were met by some incredible, friendly and helpful individuals from all aspects of government and walks of life.

We then packed up a USAID van full of our supplies and a US Embassy driver and USAID border liaison travelled with us to Jimani, DR and then across the border to Haiti. When we arrived in Jimani (the border town between DR/Haiti) we met up with US military and special agents, who escorted our caravan across the border and into Haiti.

Once across the border we drove to a field hospital (make shift hospital out of a Haitian school) about 30 kilometers from Port au Prince and were able to hand deliver the much needed medical supplies to the hospital. It was an incredible experience to hand deliver the supplies and hear the nurses

there say that there were some operations and procedures that could now be performed because of the supplies that we brought. We aided them in stocking the supply room and pharmacy with the aid that we brought and other supplies and then toured the camp.

We walked through the hospital camp, where terribly wounded people were singing instead of screaming to alleviate their pain and suffering. We saw many broken limbs, amputees and terribly

Yosef Garbow is doing a chesed with the Chai Lifeline to send baseballs with autographs of present and former New York Yankees to sick kids. He engineered the deal through Erik Roth's sister who works with the Nestle corporation and has an in with the Yankees. All of the baseballs come with letters on Yankee stationery addressed to the children.

Wow! Home run, Yosef!



Haiti - continued from p. 1



wounded people, but amid all the pain and anguish we were able to bring smiles and joy to many people's faces and slightly change the dynamic of a very horrific and dismal situation. The next challenge we faced when we left the field hospital was driving to the border at night and getting back through to Dominican Republic (it was 9pm and the border closes at 7pm every day. Luckily we were with an amazing group of people from the department of defense and the military and they made sure to get the convoy back to the other side, after a nail-biting delay at the border. It was scary to

be sitting in Haiti, surrounded by individuals wielding guns, knives and anything that they could use to survive. The attitude in Haiti was, and has to be survival, by any means and at any cost, but with this in mind the people were much more civilized than the media has made them out to be, at least from my experience.

This should be a once in a lifetime experience; from the planning, the logistics, the openness and caring of everyone along the way, and the execution. I surely wish that there is never a need like this again, but if there should be I hope and pray that I will have the opportunity to do something like this again.

Art Opening
By Michael Bast



Elke

The Elke Sudin collection opened on April 19th at the Aish Center on Manhattan’s Upper West Side. The flyer says, “Hipsters and Hassids presents a visual comparison of the similarities between the two prominent subcultures in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.” Here’s what I saw: 24 vibrant paintings of Jews and hippies.. etc. Jews and hippies really digging what they do and who they are. Loud, unembarrassed, leaving it all out on the table. See the two paintings. As to cross-over and integration, I doubt that any beatniks will bring home a \$1300 painting of the dancing streimel-wearing guys, or that the frummies will take home the paintings of the rockers. No matter. I enjoyed them all. (Now if there were silk-screened t-shirts on sale, each side might safely sample a little of the other.)

It was a perfect venue for the exhibit. The Aish Center is a mix and match learning center for Jews, with lectures, classes, one-on-one and terrific chow. Elke’s exhibits improved the Aish Center, and vice a versa. The show will be around until May 24th.

ROCKER



HASSID DANCING



Photos on this page, courtesy of Saul Sudin.



For Women Only *By Deborah Hallen-Zelinsky*

The Women's Wednesday Morning Torah Class is now called The Women's Weekly Roundtable with Continental Breakfast. Two years ago when I wrote about the class, I said, "Rav Raskin sings to my soul every Wednesday morning. Because my life is so enriched by the Women's Torah Class, I plan my week around it. Sometimes the lesson is so powerful that I am moved to tears; other times I laugh heartily. The class enables me to fully appreciate Shabbat mornings on a deeper level than ever before. Now I am ready for Moshiach."



In June, I will conclude my third year of the class, but each Wednesday morning is like the first day almost three years ago. Every class is fresh. Now, however, I'm able to recall the previous year's teaching and build on my own knowledge base because Rav Raskin never repeats himself. I was raised in a religious home in Cheyenne, Wyoming. (We drove to Denver, Colorado for kosher meat.) I feel as if I'm back in the wonderful chedar of my childhood, learning with the sponge-like brain of a child. I love this class.

The women in the class, of diverse backgrounds and ages, start arriving for continental breakfast at 9 a.m. We start class at 9:15 with charity, prayers, and then study. The women take turns reading the parasha, in English, before Rav Raskin starts questioning, stating, explaining, questioning again, and restating. The clarity of his insights always comes through to the women. His story telling ability is remarkable, and is only exceeded by his sense of humor! The respect that Rav Raskin has for women is evident. We are made to feel like the foundations of our homes, our families, our lives. We walk into the class as women, and walk out as princesses and queens. We are challenged to listen to each other. We are challenged to understand the Torah. We are challenged to cherish our noble Jewish heritage.

If you would like to have your life enriched, please join us on Wednesday morning.



Mazel tov to Tova Weinberger who won second place in her first rated chess tournament. Note the gender of the other



Comings & Goings

Mazel tov to Chava Kaufman, Adina Weinberger and Ariel Inker on their bas mitzvahs. Mazel tov to Eric Lebovich on his engagement to Jennifer Marcus; mazel tov to Ruben Sutin on his engagement to Tziporah Pickett; mazel tov to Paul Weintrob and Abigail Golden on their expected graduations from high school and acceptances to multiple colleges (good luck with the bills to their moms and dads). Mazel tov to Abigail Frost and John Bernstein on their wedding.

Condolences to the family of shul president Stephen Rosen on the passing of his father Benjamin Rosen; condolences to Stacey Makarov on the passing of her father. Condolences to the family of Marvin Marcus on the passing of his mother.

Welcome to Schneur Zalman Raskin and mazel tov on his bris milah; welcome to new shul members Dr. Bert Agus and Debra Finkelman.



Sneur Zalman Raskin

the Golden family; Women's Torah Study Group; the Weinbergers; the Kaufmans; the

Yasher Koach to those who sponsored kiddushes in the last few months including Eric Lebovich; the Bast family, Ravitz-Brown family and Rabbi Simcha Weinstein and family; Iris G. Berman, the Cohn family,

Inkers; Frost-Bernstein family; the Brenner family; the Raskin family; Arnie Licht family; the Fox family; the Lerner family the Bender family.

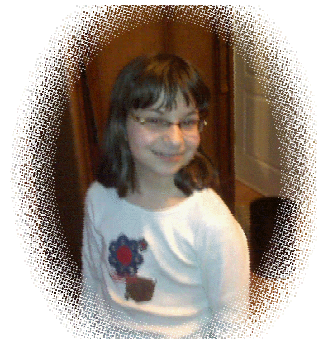


Gary Gottlieb (left)

Shul member Gary Gottlieb won a prestigious international bridge tournament in Iceland in January of this year. He and his teammates played 92 hands over a two-day period, taking first place over a strong field, which included 9 present and past world champions. Mazel tov.

Yasher Koach to Adina Weinberger on qualifying for the

Chidon ha Tanakh torah team. She is one of only five sixth graders at Yeshiva of Flatbush (17 students overall) to survive three brain-busting torah exams. She is one of 170 students nationwide who will be competing for a chance to go to the international competition in Israel. The next round is May 9th.



Adina Weinberger



Did you know?

B'nai Avraham is staggering out of the Stone Age and into the modern world. There is now an “unofficial” Congregation B'nai Avraham Facebook page up and running. It is unofficial because the Rabbi and the shul Board do not monitor or endorse it, or agree to be sued if there is anything bad in it. (G-d forbid!) But it is a valuable source of information. There are pictures, personal rants and musings, and even some musical links from time to time. New kosher products at Trader Joe's? Sisterhood planning an event? Find out here. Even if you have no friends, this site should be one of your Friends.

Join Kiddie Korner Preschool and B'nai Avraham at Crown Heights's Great Pa- rade for Lag B'Omer

Sunday, May 2, 2010
Meet at 117 Remsen Street
9:00 a.m.

We will be taking the #3 train to Crown Heights. We have a reserved location for the parade. For more information and to reserve your seat, visit:

www.heightschabad.com/kids/parade/

Shabbaton ~ Friday, May 7

The Red Leather Diary: Reclaiming Life through the Pages of a Lost Journal
with Lily Koppel

Co-Sponsored by Steve and Jana Cohn and Sonia Beker

117 Remsen Street, Brooklyn Heights

Cost: \$30; Members \$25; Children (under 12) \$10

RSVP: ravraskin@aol.com or call (718) 596-4840 x18 by Thursday, May 6, at 12:00 pm.

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