



B. A. BIMAH

News, People, Events, Information and Jewish Life in Brooklyn Heights

A publication of Congregation B'nai Avraham
117 Remsen St. • Brooklyn NY 11201
(718) 596 4840

<http://www.bnaiavraham.com>

President: Stephen Rosen • Rabbi: Aaron Raskin

September 2008 / Elul 5768 Vol. 3 Issue 3



Eli Weinstein Gets A Haircut (Dad could use one too!)

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KIDDIE KORNER EXPANSION

by Ethan Ehrenberg

Kiddie Korner Pre-School is expanding! The plans are already in motion to bring more traditionally inspired pre-school education into the center of Brooklyn Heights with a new space on Montague Street.

After 17 years of successful growth, Kiddie Korner, a NYC licensed day care center, plans to open around the corner from its current location in the shul with a new ground-floor space at 166

Montague Street at the corner of Clinton Street. Construction has already begun and it is hoped that the doors will open this winter.

The new address has 3,500 square feet. The expansion will feature a new infant care center for children between three months and two years of age, and room for an additional 52 children in four additional classrooms. This doubles the current number of classrooms, and adds 1,000 square feet of additional office space.

The expansion project responds to what school director Shternie Raskin calls a growing need for quality infant care in the Brownstone Brooklyn community. She says that despite a growing number of local families with young children, there are few infant care options and only one offering a Jewish-

inspired curriculum. Kiddie-Korner's curriculum features a mixture of Jewish religious topics, such as holiday stories and preparation, arts and crafts, as well as secular topics such as nature and science.

Shternie says that while more than half of her clientele is Jewish, only a small fraction would consider themselves observant. Still, "regardless of religious or ethnic make-up, all our families seem to enjoy the Jewish holidays in our all-

inclusive, comprehensive curriculum and the warm, loving, and nurturing environment inspired by Jewish traditions and values." In each of the four classrooms of the current synagogue location, the curriculum is delivered by one main teacher, called a "morah," and several assistants depending on class level and number

of students. Pre-school and after hours day care runs from 8:30 AM through 6 PM, Monday through Friday with days off for Jewish and public school holidays.

Shternie expects to hire approximately 16 additional teachers as part of the expansion. The project is part of larger vision of one day opening a full elementary school in the neighborhood. Funding is being financed through a combination of Kiddie Korner funds and a fundraising campaign spear-headed by Rabbi Raskin.



Construction is already underway at the future home of Kiddie Korner at the corner of Montague & Clinton Streets



TISHA B'AV EXPRESSION: AN ARTIST'S IMPRESSION

by *Bette Bast*



Bette Bast

Two years ago, the artist/art critic Sarah Schmerler decided to do something tangible to forge a connection between her life as an artist and her life as an observant Jew. During the

depths of the three weeks of mourning, she felt an underlying current of hope for the Jewish people. She felt that somehow, some day the holy temples in Jerusalem might be rebuilt. But how? Perhaps the answer might already exist in our living, working synagogues and other places of Jewish worship.

Sarah says that the existence of synagogues help her offset the despair of the loss of the two holy temples in Jerusalem. That is how, during the nine days (excluding Shabbos) preceding Tisha B'Av she started making her graphic "rubblings." She chose a different synagogue each day. These rubblings are made by placing a piece of tracing paper over the outside of a building, using a crayon or pencil to create the impression. It is not unlike the old gravestone rubbings some of us have tried or admired.



Sarah Schmerler at work

Sarah explained that it was vital to trace the outside or surface of the building in order to reach the deeper emotional bedrock behind and underneath. Sarah explained, "I made parameters for myself with this project with a mind to open it up, not just for ... myself but for others ... especially

children. The structure could be a temple of any kind where a minyan or prayer occurred, a living temple, not a museum or a relic.

Sarah further explained that the project would not be complete until she reached her ultimate goal, that is, to become part of a spiritual journey, meaningful to herself and others. She plans to

document this process by putting it on the internet. Ultimately she will create a webpage or blog, keeping track of the results and sharing her voyage of discovery.





NATIONAL JEWISH RETREAT IN MORMON COUNTRY

By Sonia Beker

I am walking taller and prouder to be a Jew.

Maybe it was because of the majestic snow topped mountains of Park City, Utah, home of the 2002 Olympics and the Sundance Film Festival. Or perhaps it was because of the clean crisp air and green fields of purple, yellow and orange wild flowers. But really, it was because of a gifted, dedicated group of Chabad rabbis and their inspiration, warmth, poignant stories and side splitting humor as they presented, one by one, eloquent accounts of Jewish life and law at the Chabad National Jewish Retreat, July 1-6, 2008.

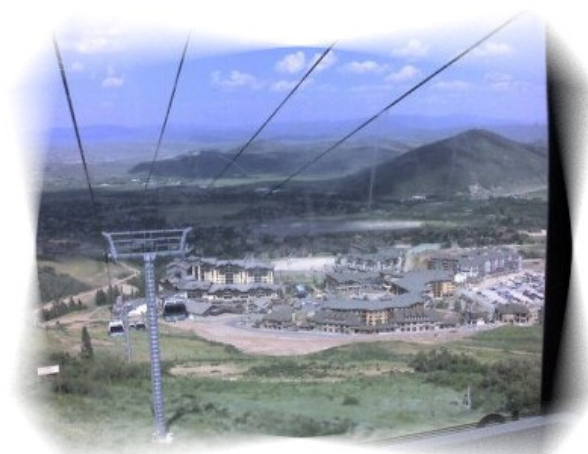
To raise and inspire Jewish consciousness through learning, Chabad's JLI (Jewish Learning Institute) created the National Jewish Retreat, now in its third summer. Careful scouting for natural, awe-inspiring settings resulted in Colorado Springs and Copper Mountain resort centers the past two retreats. This year, the selection was a beautifully appointed ski resort, the Canyons, right outside of Park City, Utah.

Gifted rabbis and rebbetzins from Chabad communities across the country, including star speaker Manis Friedman, presented continuous innovative, lively lectures and seminars on Jewish attributes and how to maximize personal potential, relationships between men and women, and how to connect Jewishly in a challenging world, enticing us with titles such as "Did You Hear What I Meant to Say? A

Kabbalistic Understanding of Communication", "Mind Control: Understanding Ourselves From the Inside Out", and more traditional offerings, such as "Talmud Ethics I: Saving Yourself vs. Saving Others," and "The Talmud: Debunking the Myths." Participants were treated to three full gourmet kosher meals daily plus snacks.

And, in case you were wondering, our time was not all work and no play.

There were hikes up the mountain (not too tough, don't worry!) with breathtaking views and meditations; a lavish barbecue on a mountaintop accessible by gondola (see photo); a challah-baking class and Shabbos farbrengen and opportunities for forays into Park City for sightseeing and shopping, and chances to talk with old friends and make new ones.



Canyons Resort in Park City Utah where the Jewish National Retreat was held, as seen from a ski lift.

After experiencing the buildup of excellent learning, the celebration of Shabbat and the cool down of Sunday morning, we began the sad process of packing up. We said our final goodbyes, exchanged cards, addresses and phone numbers and lugged suitcases to the airport to make our departing flights. Upon finally arriving at JFK and retrieving my luggage, I got on a very long taxi queue. In front of me was a young couple. "Were you at that Retreat?" the woman asked, as she'd sat beside another retreat participant on the plane. "Yes!" I answered definitively. "Wow! So many Jews! I can say that because I'm Jewish!" "Hey," I answered. "You could say it even if



THE GREY ZONE
Secret Places
By Michael Bast

Dear Grey Zone:

I want to wear a tallis katan, one of those little undershirts with the little tzit-tzit. I intend to hide this from my wife, by wearing the fringes inside my pants. I am going to change into my jammies in the bathroom for a while. Can I wear the tallis katan in the bathroom?

Signed,
Moving Ahead

Dear Moving,

The fringes on the tallis katan remind us of all the mitzvot, a laudable aspiration. However, you cannot hide a major spiritual development from your wife. If you believe that for some reason she is not ready for this change, you must slow down your ritual development until she is ready.

So, the short answer is yes, you can wear a tallis katan in the bathroom. The long answer is no; if you try to hide this from your wife, you may as well bring your pillow in there too.

Yours truly,
The Grey Zone

Shabbatons
**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!**

September 26

Frozen Chosen ~ David Avraham Voluck

October 31

The Sistine Secrets ~ Roy Doliner

December 5

Cool Jew ~ Lisa Alcalay Klug

January 9

The Jewish Organ Donor Dilemma ~ Robert Berman

February 20

The Fortune Cookie Chronicles ~ Jennifer 8. Lee

May 23

Parenting the Explosive Child ~ Dr. Edwin Yisroel Susskind

BA Bimah needs your submissions. Write something? Send something!

National Jewish Retreat continued from p. 4

you weren't!" She laughed. "How was it?" she asked. "Exciting, exhilarating, life-changing!" I answered emphatically. Her boyfriend added, "It sounds terrific! You know, I really like those guys who go around in the mitzvah trucks – they're so warm, direct, totally unafraid to be who they are and ask, 'Are you Jewish?'" I smiled. And stood up tall.

For more information, go to www.jretreat.com.



The Cooking Maven

GETTING HER ACT TOGETHER AND TAKING IT ON THE ROAD

“Have crockpot will travel.”

It was decided by my boys that we were going away for Shabbos. Hey, why wasn't I consulted?

“Ma, we have it all planned out. We leave Wednesday afternoon after summer camp and drive to Hershey, Pennsylvania. We did an Internet search and the Hotel Churban is only \$79 a night. So what if the bathroom has to be shared by everyone on the floor. They have two double beds (minus the bedbugs for an extra fee) and there is a mini refrigerator in the room. Ma, please!!! We promise we won't fight in the car.”

My big guy then solemnly promises to help me drive part of the way and will drive extra careful. When I get in the car with my elder son, I start immediately saying Tehillim. Don't ask me what compelled me to agree to all of this nonsense; but, I said yes.

Traveling Jewish means making sure that the Hotel Churban is within walking distance to a frum shul. It means making arrangements with the hotel to be able to get into the room, because all the doors have electronic keys which we can't use on Shabbos. It means that we have to bring our own food and all the necessities for Shabbos Kodesh. One of the necessities is Mommie's famous crockpot. This crockpot has traveled! It has seen politicians bickering in Washington, D.C. It has seen the famous jazz sax phoniest in New Orleans. It has seen lions licking their lips at the cholent meat in San Diego, California. All the food that we will eat on Shabbos will go into our handy-dandy crockpot.

We pack. The ice chest is taken down (puff-puff the dust is blown off from last Chol Hamoed Pesach trip and my big guy tells the spiders to take a hike and join the roaches for a week) and the ice packs are placed inside with my package of chicken, potato kugel, deli, fruits, salads, cereal, milk, cheese, peanut butter and jelly for sandwiches. We take along challah, grape juice, havdalah candle, Shabbos candles, besomim, challah board, salt, jar of gefilte fish, becher, siddurim, plastic tablecloths, paper dishes, plastic utensils, matches, plastic cups and our masking

tape to tape up the lights and the electronic door so we can get in and out of our room. (Later, I got a bill for violating five fire codes, four police rules, three hotel regulations, two safety laws and one is Hashem, the greatest cook of all.) By the time I am finished packing all the food stuff, we have no room for our clothes. My younger comes up with the idea to tie our clothing into bundles on the roof of the car.

My elder son insists on driving the first leg of our journey. He adjusts the seat and mirrors and pops in a Lipa tape. He then proceeds to blast my ears with Lipa singing “Gelt”. (which I won't have at the end of this trip) He insists that he can get there; but Ma, we need to buy a GPS. I tell him that Mapquest is good enough for me. After much deliberation, we head over to Going Out of Business, Inc. (same slogan since 1926) to get the GPS. After leaving with a copier, printer, laptop and a GPS (that salesman was such a cutie), it takes us about two hours to get lost going to the Hotel Churban.

We get a two day pass to Hershey Park and settle down to enjoy all the rides. Friday comes and we all hurry back to Hotel Churban. I throw the beans, potatoes, kishke, and chicken with water into the crockpot. I turn it on high. Right before benching light, I switch the crockpot onto low. The food smells wonderful. My boys walk to shul and I set the “table”. Table usually means the desk in the room or the top of the dresser. My kids come home and we settle down for a gesmaka Shabbos seudah. We turn in to sleep after the seudah, zmirros, and devrei Torah. Two o'clock in the morning, we hear the fire alarm go off. My boys grab their clothes and teffilin. I start to panic that the crock pot set off the alarm. Quick, I yell to my kids throw a blanket over the crockpot. Hide the chicken bones!

To be continued!

From the “Cooking Maven





Comings & Goings

Mazel tov to Ian Kessler on his bar mitzvah; mazel tov to Eli Weinstein on his upsherinsh; mazel tov to Rhonda and Lawrence Obstfeld on the birth of baby Moshe Chananiah born January 9th; farewell to Raphael Fodde and Sarah Regeur, who are moving to upper Manhattan.

Condolences to the family of Eric Lebovich on the recent passing of his father.

There seems to be a vegetarian restaurant moving into the space previously occupied by the Green's. Might it eventually go kosher, like the Green's? Why not stop in and ask them when they are going kosher?

Many thanks to the families who have sponsored kiddushes since the last issue: Kessler, Schulsinger, Cohn, Bast, Raskin, Lerner, Forman, Bender, Kaufman, Howowitz, Rotlewicz.



Ian Kessler and Rabbi Michael Goldin



A birthday cake for Moshe Golik, *gabbai sheni*.



After the front doors were vandalized again on August 4th, the synagogue took decisive action by putting up a sign for future vandals.

