

President Raphael wins Nobel Peace Prize

For the second time this Jewish year, an American president won a Nobel Peace Prize, or as it is called in Norwegian, "Shalom Bayit Pris." (For those not fluent in Scandinavian languages, "Shalom Bayit Pris" means "Peace in the House Prize.")

"**Millie Raphael** is the first Beth David president to win such an honor," **Rabbi Hector Epelbaum** said. "This is a wonderful achievement. Every member of Beth David should be proud of **Millie**."

Beth David executive vice-president, **Martin Hershbein**, said. "This award gives a fantastic boost to our place in American synagogues. It will help our public relations and membership committees. It is an honor to serve with **Millie**."



BETH DAVID PRESIDENT MILLIE RAPHAEL

Sadly, even before we went to press, the complaints and criticisms began. Yes, we received congratulations, but our e-mail and regular mail boxes were flooded with bitter and angry letters. Read these typical letters:

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

This is not kosher. Nominations for the prize had to be in before Rosh Ha Shanah. **Raphael** was President for less than two months by the High Holidays. This was not enough time to do anything more than write a nice speech for Yom Kippur.

(Name withheld by request), President of Congregation (name withheld by request.)

Dear Editor:

It's not hard to have a peaceable congregation when the Rabbi and Cantor get along as well as they do at Beth David. Our Board of Directors opposes this award. Our president should have won. He is always mediating between the clergy.

(Name withheld by request), Chairman, Temple (name withheld by request.)

Dear Editor:

It is well known that Beth David board meetings are civil and usually short. Most of us have long, drawn out, hostile meetings. Board members argue until way past midnight. Nobody knows parliamentary procedure; everyone thinks they do. **Millie Raphael** has it too easy.

(Name withheld by request)

Dear **Millie**:

Mazel Tov. Ignore all the kvetchers. You won because, takah, you deserved it. I know what you're going through. When you and Alan are in D. C., don't be strangers. You know where we live. We'll compare notes over tea and cookies.

Michelle and I hope you have a Hag Sameach on Purim and a kosher Pesach. Too bad you can't be here for Purim. Malia and Sasha have the cutest costumes.

Barack

Rabbi Epelbaum wows them at the Met!

Loyal readers will recall that last year we reported **Rabbi Hector Epelbaum** was hired by James Levine to sing six roles at the Metropolitan Opera in New York: Rigoletto in *Rigoletto*, Mephistopholes in *Faust*, Escamillo in *Carmen*, Figaro in *The Barber of Seville*, Canio in *Pagliacci*, and Julius Caesar in *Giulio Cesare en Egitto*.

The reviews have been sensational. Here's what they said when he sang Escamillo, the Toreador, in Bizet's *Carmen*.

The New York Times
Expect the World[®]

"It is a neat touch that Escamillo, on his first appearance, displays the bloody wounds of being gored by a bull. **Rabbi Hector Epelbaum** enacts the role admirably, and gets to sing the opera's most famous aria, *The Toreador Song*. He absolutely looks the part of the dashing, cocky toreador, Escamillo, a role that straddles the bass-baritone divide. He sang with robust sound and panache. Unfortunately for us New Yorkers, his day job at Congregation Beth David in Miami is so demanding, that we only have him for six performances."



RABBI HECTOR EPELBAUM AS ESCAMILLO

Gordon Schools' new show in rehearsal

Last years' production of *Grease* was a big success. This year, **Cantor Julie Jacobs** has taken the music from Rodgers and Hammerstein's 1949 hit, *South Pacific*, and written new words and an original book. The show will be the perfect follow up to *Grease*. She calls it, *Schmaltz*.

We've been sworn to secrecy about the plot, but we can tell you this. Like *South Pacific*, *Schmaltz* is set on an island, but not in the south seas. The island is Manhattan and the action takes place on the lower east side in the 1930's.

Cantor Julie told us, "The production is a tribute to an earlier generation of Jewish mothers and grandmothers...those thrilling days of yesteryear when no one knew anything about cholesterol. *Schmaltz* was an everyday staple in Jewish homes back then. The show will be a nostalgic look at the past for some of us, and a revelation for those too young to have enjoyed *Schmaltz*."



CANTOR JULIE JACOBS

Here are some of the songs. For a "taste" of *Schmaltz*, sing the titles to their tunes.

"There is Nothing Like Some Schmaltz"

"They've Got to Be Carefully Fried"

"Deli High"

"I'm Gonna Wash That Schmaltz Right Outta My Hair"

"Some Enchanted Grievens"

Major security breach on Kol Nidre; Joel Berger is investigating!

Did you notice this couple at Beth David on Kol Nidre? Probably not. Kol Nidre was before this picture was shown on television, in newspapers, and all over the internet after **Tareq** and **Michaele Salahi** crashed President Obama's state dinner.



MICHAELE AND TAREQ SALAHI

Executive Director, **Joel Berger**, testified before Beth David's Executive Committee. He had no idea how the Salahis got into Kol Nidre. "Our security is very tight," he said. "We spent many hours on this with our staff and volunteers." **Berger** added, "No one had gotten in before that shouldn't have. We are reviewing our protocols, but these people are very, very good."

While **Joel** investigates, we had questions for the Salahis. Our society editor reports:

A source told me, "Go to the Supreme Court." My *Not So Gansa Megillah* press pass got me into the press section with a good view of the visitors' gallery. Oral arguments ended with no sign of the Salahis. An hour later, our source said, "They weren't listening to the case; try the Justices' private chambers." Too late. I spotted that tell-tale red outfit as they were saying good-bye to the Justices. I heard **Scalia** thank them for their advice, followed by "Muchas gracias por su ayuda," from **Sotomayor**. Before I could reach them, they jumped into a waiting black limousine and were whisked away.

Another source said they would be in the cardiac operating room at Cedars-Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles. I caught the next LAX flight, hoping they would be all right when I got there. My press

pass didn't get me into the O.R.; only the viewing gallery for med students. There they were: not patients, but handing instruments to the surgeons doing a heart transplant. Michaele's red sari was visible at the bottom of her scrubs. When finished, they left through a side door, and again, I couldn't reach them before they raced off in that black limousine.

I got another tip and gave it one last try. This time they were supposed to be at the United Nations. Racking up more frequent flyer miles, I flew to La Guardia. I didn't think they'd be in the visitors' gallery watching the General Assembly, so I waited outside a closed session of the Security Council. When they came out, I stopped them before they could get into the black limo. Waving my press pass, I asked for an interview. Tareq said, "You're from *Beth David's Not So Gansa Megillah*? We're happy to talk to a Pulitzer Prize-winning publication."

"Are you Jewish?" I asked. "No," said Tareq. "Do you read Hebrew?" "No." "So why did you sneak into Beth David on Kol Nidre?"

Michaele said, "Our Jewish friends told us it was impossible to get into a shul on the high holidays without a ticket. We thought it would be a good warm up for Obama's state dinner. Compared to Beth David, crashing the White House was a piece of marble cake. As they say at Beth David, 'If you can get in here, you can get in anywhere.'"

I said, "I didn't notice you on Yom Kippur." "No," Michaele said, "They don't serve food till 8:00 pm. We couldn't wait that long." And with that, they entered the limousine, and were gone.



JOEL BERGER, INVESTIGATING THE SECURITY BREACH

Investors wanted

Bruce Litwer and **Roger Merritt** are looking for investors who want to make lots of money. **Bruce** explained their idea to us.

"There are 4,000-plus organizations that certify that foods are kosher. There is not one organization certifying that a food product is traif. Yet more items are traif than kosher. More restaurants serve traif than kosher. Our exclusive hecksher is easily identified."



Roger said, "This will be a time-saving boon for most people, all over the world. Jews who want to keep kosher won't waste time reading the small-type list of ingredients to make sure nothing traif is included in packaged foods. When you see our **C T** label, read no further. It means, 'This food is not for you.'"

"**Bruce** added, "There will be big demand for this in the Muslim world, too. **C T** not only means 'Not Kosher,' it also means 'Not Halal.' This will also help non-Jews who want healthier kosher food."

According to **Roger**, "We need start-up capital to hire and train inspectors. Our company has the highest standards of traifness. We want to flood the planet with salespeople and inspectors before anyone else tries to get in on the action. We guarantee a steady stream of fees for our investors."



**BETH DAVID ENTREPRENEURS
BRUCE LITWER AND ROGER MERRITT**

For a prospectus, call the Beth David office. Their new company is "**Goys Are Us**™."

Purim Puzzle by Ken Mendelsohn

(with apologies to the New York Times)
Print to do puzzle. Answers on Page 5.

"Ridiculous Acronyms" *



ACROSS

1. Mr. Spock asks Abe for an aliyah
14. It takes 10
15. Say hello to our Gabbai
16. Of the Hebrew persuasion
19. Mid East trouble maker
21. Silly nonsense word from Monty Python
23. One is on Miami Beach...there are others
28. Little bits
29. Not of the Hebrew persuasion
30. A bunch of Legal Eagles
31. Hector Epelbaum
32. Beth David Sisterhood Past President
33. Industrialized Indispensable Yiddish Engineers *
34. Some years there are two of these
35. Mythical medieval brutish beasts (today we call them congressmen)
36. Queen Esther without her lisp

DOWN

1. Ponzi schemer's initials
2. A world war
3. L-O connector
4. Variant spelling of "All in favor say _____."
5. Mordechai And Others Put Simchas In Shushan *
6. Every Night It's Latkes...(whoops, wrong holiday) *
7. A kind of turn
8. Bedtime attire (singular)
9. Fancy initials for salesman
10. Bromide spelled wrong
11. Emergency Room birth givers
12. No fangs, no mane, but a nice Jewish name
13. Jewish moms love to see these on your report card
16. Who is Beth David's beloved BMOC?
17. Beautiful color from a slippery denizen of the deep
18. Yiddish H₂O
20. _____ my Eggo
22. Beloved Beth David Cantor
23. A slimy creature
24. Epsilon Tau Beta Alpha (ancient shushan fraternity) *
25. Must Always Bring Rabbi (ancient Talmudic principle) *
26. Emergency Office of Rotten Garbage *
27. Bristol _____ Squibb (drug company)
28. Type of retirement plan

"Tweet"

Here's vital information for those who remember when "tweet" was a bird sound. Today, "tweets" are messages sent via cell phone or e-mail. Each "tweet" can only have 140 characters. The twittering masses use acronyms and abbreviations. How do newcomers know what they are? We asked our technology whiz (a fourth grader in the Gordon Schools) to compile a short list of the most common ones to get you started. We present it as a public service.

<u>Tweet</u>	<u>Definition</u>
OMG	Oy, mishah gahs
LOL	Lots of lox
LOLK	Lots of luchshen kugel
LMG	Luz mir geyn
GGH	Gay gezinter hayg
EKG	Electro cardiogram
EKH	Ein Keine Hora
EKN	Eine Kleine Nachtmusik
EF	Essen fress
OVM	Oy vey is mir
OV	Oy vey
O	Oy
O?	Oy?
O!	Oy!
GS	Gut Shabbes
SS	Shabbat Shalom
GY	Gut yontif



ORIGINAL TWEETERS



Holiday honors contest

Beth David's **Gabbai, Jerry Coburn**, is running a contest. What do you say when G-d sneezes? The best answers will win an honor during the High Holidays. Just follow these simple rules:

1. Write your answer, in 25 words or less, on the back of a signed check, made payable to:

The Gabbai's Discretionary Fund.

2. Entrants must be members of Beth David.
3. Children and adults are eligible to enter.
4. Relatives of the Gabbai are not eligible.
5. Personal friends are.
6. There is no limit to the number of winners. Enter as many times as you wish, as long as each entry is on the back of a separate signed check.
7. Originality and aptness of thought are crucial.
8. Send your entries to HONORS CONTEST, Beth David, 2625 Coral Way, Miami, FL 33129.
9. Contest ends two weeks before Slichot.
10. Winners will be notified before the high holidays.
11. The best answers will be printed in next year's *Not So Gansa Megillah*.
12. In case of ties, ties will be awarded.
13. All entries become the property of the Gabbai and cannot be returned.
14. The decision of the judge is final.

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The High Holidays Are Coming.

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JRI (Jewish-Related Injuries) on the rise

On December 1, 2009, *The Wall Street Journal* ran a story beginning on page one with this headline: "To Keep the Finger Out of Finger Food, Inventors Seek a Better Bagel Cutter." The lengthy article described "the ever-expanding ranks of BRI victims." A BRI is a bagel-related injury. We are not making this story up.

According to the WSJ, a government report in 2008 showed 1,971 people went to emergency rooms with a BRI. Only chicken-, potato-, apple-, and onion-related injuries exceeded BRIs. Bagels were implicated in more finger cuts than pumpkins, cheese, turnips, or wedding cakes. *The Wall Street Journal* described many inventions for slicing bagels safely, but concentrated on the "Bagel Guillotine."

"The Original Bagel Guillotine" has been on the market since 1984. Sales are a steady 80,000 a year. We are still not making this up, as you can plainly see.



FROM "THE ORIGINAL BAGEL GUILLOTINE" WEBSITE

An ER doctor at Beth Israel-Deaconess Hospital, in a Jewish section of Boston, told this to friends: "I always know when there was a Jewish wedding. Brides and grooms show up with bruises from falling out of chairs. Guests come with sprains and pulled muscles from lifting the chairs and dancing around with the newlyweds." We're not making this up either.



IS THE EMERGENCY ROOM NEXT FOR THESE JEWS?

Are these isolated incidents or a pattern? We sent our science and medical editor to find out. It's a pattern! Consider the following items. Be very careful if you are Jewish. It's dangerous out there.

The American Association of Orthopaedic Medicine reports a sharp rise in new carpal tunnel cases right after Chanukah. Over enthusiastic dreidel spinning appears to be the reason.

Testing laboratories report a spike in abnormally high cholesterol and albumin readings for patients who have their annual physicals the week after passover. So many eggs at the seder, in matzoh brei, and in baking pesadich cakes are apparently the culprits.



ADDITIONAL CAUSES OF JRI

Tefillin are also a source of JRI. Bruised arms are the result of over eager Chabadniks grabbing Jews on the street and tying tefillin on their arms too tightly...too tight on the head results in migraine headaches.



TEFILLIN----THE ORIGINAL BLACK BOX

(Surprise, we made up the last parts of this story.)

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Rewrite editor: Ezra the Scribe

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Circulation: 2,350,482 (but who counts?)