

Delegitimization: The New Attack on Israel

Mehran Etessami

A new buzzword that has emerged over the past few years among pro-Israel activists and organizations is “Delegitimization.” In fact, this usage of the word is so new that my spelling-checker doesn’t recognize it yet! Delegitimization classifies recent tactics and strategies used by Israel’s enemies and Jew-haters around the world to weaken and undermine Israel. Having failed to defeat Israel militarily, the enemies of Israel have used this new line of attack to convince millions of academics, journalists, and gullible university students that Israel has no right to exist and is not a legitimate country.

Unfortunately, this campaign has been unbelievably successful. How else could so many people have been convinced that Israel, the tiny country surrounded by millions of murderous enemies who openly say their goal is the destruction of the Jewish State, is the real aggressor? How could well-intentioned people become sympathetic to the cause of the dictatorships run by tyrants and the terrorists backed by the Islamic Republic of Iran, and not sympathize with the Middle East’s only democracy? There is a very well-funded and well-organized campaign that is working toward that very goal.

It is not surprising that our enemies continuously try new and effective tactics against us. The unfortunate tragedy is that so many Jews, or so-called-Jews, have fallen for their lies and very actively support anti-Israel campaigns. Some of these traitors from within have become our worst enemies. These Jews give cover to some of the most anti-Semitic haters of Israel, because they can ask “how could our position be anti-Semitic if there are many Jews who agree with us?”

Throughout history, there have always been self-hating Jews who join our enemies and passionately attack their own people. But the scale to which Jews are targeted with and convinced to participate in these campaigns is unprecedented. Many organizations have been formed by Jews just to attract other Jews to their anti-Israel activities. They fool naïve and uninformed Jews and convince them that their anti-Israel actions are really meant to help Israel or the Jewish people.

One of the most notorious among these Jewish-run anti-Israel organizations is J Street which was founded about three years ago. J Street claims that it is “pro-Israel and pro-peace” as if other pro-Israel organizations are “anti-peace.” All of J Street’s actions since its founding challenge the notion that they are in any way “pro-Israel.” After denying it for years, J Street finally admitted that it had received about a million dollars of start-up funding from George Soros, the self-proclaimed atheist Jewish billionaire who has never given even one penny to any pro-Israel cause (J Street declared another million dollars of funding from a mysterious Chinese woman). When Israel was forced to launch Operation Cast Lead in early 2009 to stop the thousands of rocket attacks by Hamas from the Gaza Strip, J Street issued statements blaming Israel and accusing her of starting an unnecessary war. In 2010, anti-Israel radicals organized a flotilla in an attempt to break Israel’s legal naval blockade of Gaza. Israel had every right to prevent weapons from reaching its

Editorial

declared enemies. We all saw what happened when they attempted to board the vessels. J Street issued statements urging Israel to stop the blockade of Gaza, implying Israel is to blame, while ignoring the obvious video evidence of the Flotilla participants’ deadly intentions. J Street even urged the U.S. government to vote against Israel’s “settlement activities” in the United Nations. In their recent convention in Washington, J Street invited groups that promote boycotts, divestment, and sanctions against Israel to present their point of view. Somehow J Street has been able to convince thousands of Jews that their anti-Israel activities are done for the benefit of Israel!

Other, even more radical anti-Israel acts are organized by and in the name of the Jewish people. One example is Jewish Voice for Peace, which is a very radical anti Israel group that promotes the BDS (boycott, divestment, and sanctions against Israel) campaign on college campuses around the country. Every year, on many college campuses around the world, anti-Israel students hold what they call “Israel Apartheid Week;” a disgusting and unjust attack on the State that compares Israel to the old, openly racist South African regime.

If you have sons or daughters entering almost any college in the U.S., know that they will be targeted by such tactics and such organizations to turn them anti-Zionist and anti-Israel. If you don’t give your children a strong Zionist background and the ability to knowledgeably defend and support Israel, they will be susceptible to the deceptions and pressure tactics of our enemies when they go to college.

Being pro-Israel is portrayed as very “un-cool” on some college campuses, and only the most knowledgeable and strong-willed students are able to stand up to the intimidation. From a very young age we must prepare our children to face these challenges that will be present for the foreseeable future.

Another danger and opposition to our strong pro-Zionist identity will come from another unlikely Jewish source: that of the ultra-anti-nationalist anti-Zionist yeshiva world. We must take great care that any Jewish school used by our children is strongly pro-Zionist and actively supports Medinat Israel. We must avoid even those yeshivas that claim a neutral stance toward the State of Israel.

Those who choose to send their children for a year of study in Israel after they complete high-school, must be very cautious about what kind of yeshivas they send them to. Unfortunately, some of these so-called “religious” institutions do not at all support the state of Israel. Some even intentionally implant anti-Israel attitudes in their student’s minds that are completely opposite our community principles. When choosing a yeshiva in Israel please consult our community Rabbis to make sure you select one that matches our values and our identity.

Our community’s strong pro-Zionist and pro-Israel characteristic is something that keeps us well-grounded and united and it is our duty to safeguard it boldly, fearlessly and valiantly.

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Charity Through Sports

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Central Board Report

Hertzl Cohanpour

This term of the Central Board is supported by a very successful election. The Supervisory Council did a tremendous job in invigorating a large crowd to come and enthusiastically vote for their favorite candidates. The Central Board would like to thank the Supervisory Council for the job well done and more importantly, we would like to thank every single member of the community who took the time to come and vote.

Since the Election that took place in November of 2010, the Central Board has been involved in a number of different tasks that are briefly explained in this report.

Housekeeping phase:

The Central Board took over the on-going tasks of the previous board and performed the appropriate transition. Moreover, the CB quickly elected its officers for its 3-year term:

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| President : | Shmuel Livian |
| Vice President: | Hertzl Cohanpour |
| Treasurer : | Ephraim Aminoff |
| Vice Treasurer: | Ramin Kalati |
| Secretary : | Shmuel Koren |
| Recording Secretary: | Mojdeh Karimzadeh |
| Head of Real Property: | Hooshang Nematzadeh |

Operation report:

The Central Board has spent significant time on forming the standing and ad hoc Committees. These committees are the executive arms of the Central Board and they must remain functional and productive. We have therefore formed a special oversight committee that its sole responsibility will be to ensure all of the Central Board committees remain productive and functional.

Yeshiva Funding Guidelines:

The Central Board has reviewed and approved the Yeshiva Guidelines that were studied and proposed by the Yeshiva Scholarship Committee. This guideline fully supports scholarship allocation to those Yeshivas that demonstrate clear support for the country of Israel, and are sensitive and respectful of our Mashadi values, customs and Rabbis.

Social Services:

The Central Board entered into a contract with FEGS which is a UJA backed organization providing a large list of social services. All members of our community can contact our dedicated FEGS resource and solicit help in the areas of, parent child dispute, teenage related issues, Drugs and Alcohol abuse training, assistance with filling out Medicare and Medicaid application forms, marriage counseling and more. All of these services are provided 100% confidentially.

Financial Report:

This year has been only slightly better than last year as far as *kavods* are concerned. The economy is only slowly recovering and this is reflected in pledges not sufficient to cover UMJCA budget commitments.

The fact is that it is a struggle every week, especially in the spring and summer, for UMJCA to pay all the bills. This should not be the case for our community. Many people are contributing nothing or very little and are relying on others to subsidize the services that we all enjoy. Allowing for inflation, *kavods* have actually gone down over the last 10 years.

On average, the services offered to each family cost the community over \$2,000 a year. We can all do more to help the financial status of UMJCA. For instance, even if you are unable for some reason to make a Yom Kippur *kavod*, you should still send in your contribution.

Besides our regular kanissa services, UMJCA also provides Shalom pre-school, Talmud Torah, Senior Club and Lounge, Basketball, several classes (Learn it up, 7 Rabbis etc), Yeshiva scholarships, *Megillah*, *HaChodesh*, Youth programs, holiday minyans and others.

In addition, funerals and *didans* are taken care of at the lowest cost to respective families as possible.

All these services cost money. We need the community to step up and meet their obligations. The alternative is to start cutting some of these services that we have all grown to perhaps take for granted at times.

Shaare Rachamim:

The Central Board from early on decided to do everything it could to help buy the financially troubled Shira Chadasha synagogue from Valley National bank. The Central Board spent a number of its meetings discussing this topic, meeting with potential financiers and other concerned members of the community to ensure the best possible course of action would be taken. As it was expected, at the auction that took place on May 11th, the bank bought back the note and upon closing, the building of the Shaare Rachamim, including the mikveh will belong to the bank. As of the time that this report was written, no further contact had taken place between UMJCA and the bank. Once new developments occur, the Central Board will inform the community.

Decisions made together with synagogue boards:

The following items have also been reviewed and approved by the Central Board so far this year:

- The decision to exclusively dedicate the Shaare Shalom social hall to our senior citizen program on Mondays and Wednesdays.
- The decision to increase the seating area of the Shaare Shalom main sanctuary to encourage a new segment of our women to attend services without worries about a place to sit.

Shaare Shalom Report

David Kordvani

Youth Attendance was NOT acceptable:

It did not take long for all of our Board members to realize that the most urgent and serious problem facing our Synagogue and for that matter our Community, was that only a very small group of our teenagers were attending our Gym Minyan. Knowing that our Gym was the ONLY Minyan for our Community's teenagers, it was almost scary to think that only a handful or so amongst 400-500 teenagers was attending Kanisa. If we did not do anything about it, who would fill the seats of our Kanisas in the future? This was simply unacceptable to us and our Board made "Youth Attendance Promotion" one of our top priorities.

A) Promotion of the Gym Youth Minyan:

Through a series of original ideas, promotions, raffles etc. and with the tireless efforts of our Gym Director, Moshe Aziz, and our amazing young Gabbayim - Rafi Gorjian, Kevin Kashizadeh, David Karimzadeh, Nathan Kashizadeh, Elirom Kalatizadeh, Daniel Behnam and Sivan Heskia - we have already seen an incredible turnaround. Attendance amongst teenage boys and girls has gone up 5 to 6 times!! But we have to keep the momentum going!! We also say thank you to Mr. Cody Hakimian and Mr. Adam Aziz who join the Minyan to serve as role models to the boys during the break.

B) Kanisa Mileage Program:

Tickets are handed out to all those attending our Gym Minyan. We call these "Kanisa Mileage." Tickets can be redeemed at different levels for different great prizes. A brochure is being published showing these exciting prizes and the amount of tickets needed to redeem them. The brochure should create added excitement and encourage teenagers to attend on a regular basis.

Synagogue Decorum:

The Synagogue decorum during the services has always been one of the challenges of any Synagogue Board, even though we all realize that this problem exists basically due to a very good reason! It is pretty difficult to go somewhere and know and be friends with more than 1000 people and keep very quiet! In a way, this is a sign of unity and love that our people have for each other. Nevertheless, since we also understand that excessive talking is extremely disrespectful to the sanctity of the Synagogue, we discussed it thoroughly with our congregants and we are actually very pleased that there has been a major improvement in the decorum, especially during the important part of the services. We would like to thank our congregation for their cooperation.

Security Meeting

Our Board held many meetings with professionals regarding improvements in the security of our Center. Many ideas have been suggested, one of which was to have a police car with a siren and lights visible during services. We were advised that it would be one of the most effective deterrents to intruders. Since we knew that it was a practical impossibility for the Great Neck police to provide us with a car (due to a lack of police cars), we decided to "create our own security car." Many thanks to Mr. Ilan Loloi who donated a car which he adapted into a "security car," at no charge to the Synagogue. This car serves as the same deterrent as a police car would.

Maintaining a Good Relationship with our Neighbors

Our Board has held several meetings with representatives of

our neighbors, addressing their concerns regarding "after hour" noise levels especially after catered events. A very strong letter was sent by the Board to all of our vendors and caterers demanding a series of terms and conditions to improve conditions for our neighbors. A copy of this letter was sent to our neighbors' representative, Mr. Dennis Grossman. We are confident that this will maintain and even improve our good relationship with our neighbors.

Hagaddah Reprint

After years of a Haggadah shortage, a beautiful redesigned Passover Haggadah was reprinted and became available to the Congregants. Even though these Hagaddahs were privately sponsored, it was decided to allocate all the proceeds from their sales to our Youth Programs.

Wine, Matza and Judaica for Sale

Understanding the tight budgeting of our Community's Central Board - and at the same time realizing the importance of the Youth Program's promotions, gifts and raffles used in order to attract our youth to Synagogue - prompted us to sell different types of items such as matza, wine and other Judaic items in order to fund our Youth Programs.

A Kiddush Club with Rabbi Ben-Haim

Every Shabbat following the services, Rabbi Ben-Haim holds a very interesting discussion/lecture in the library in Farsi. A very nice Kiddush is served and is open to everyone. This Kiddush is already privately and anonymously sponsored for the rest of the year. Those interested can still sponsor any week and their donation will go entirely to our Youth Promotion programs.

Extra Seating for Ladies at Last

Another major problem facing our Board was the fact that there has always been a tremendous shortage of seats for the women. This problem's importance was reiterated by Mrs. Linda Kamali to our new Board.

After countless meetings and considering several suggestions, the Board finally came up with a solution:

On one side of the Sanctuary a whole section of men's seating was changed to women's. This was done only after all of the men occupying those seats were reassigned to other seats within the Sanctuary.

Mr. Changiz Hakimi and family's generous donation enabled us to provide this "New Section" with matching benches. So far the new program has proven to be one of the most successful projects ever. Young ladies that have never before had the opportunity to attend Kanisa due to a lack of permanent seating, have started to come to the Kanisa and have overnight changed the whole appearance of our Synagogue and have made "54" the place to be on Shabbat!!

We hope that this trend will continue and that as a result of these young ladies and mothers now attending, more of our youth will come as well to all of our different centers and minyans.

Improvement of our Middle Floor Programs on Shabbat & Holidays

Under the supervision of the Nassimian sisters, Natasha and Natali, and with the help of a number of teenagers, the Kanisa's middle floor now caters to 4 different age groups including a new toddler program as well as a Torah Squad (ages 9-11).

Other Projects we are working on:

- I. Improvement of the Gym's appearance for the Shabbat service.
- II. Improvement of the Kanisa's Hashkava Plate
- III. Registering more Mashadi voters
- IV. Providing a 'standard' tzitzit for our Kanisa.

Our Congregants' suggestions are extremely important to us so please let us know what YOU think can be done to improve our Kanisa.

Mazal Tov

Mazal Tov To The New Baby Boys Of...

Zachary, son of Joshua and Pamela Kashanian
David and Shifra, twin boy and girl of Afshin and Dana Bassali
Moshe, son of Ashkan and Patricia Enayatian
David Avraham Chanukah, son of Simcha and Sandy Siouni
Aaron Yehoshua, son of Jonathan and Debbie Zaboulani
Raphael, son of Gadi and Orit Edalati
Arel, son of Itamar and Shirin (Hakimian) Alpert
David, son of Steve and Sanam Ijadi
Bradley, son of Tony and Jasmine Namdar
Brendan, son of Jason and Nicole (Gohari) Idelson
Noah, son of Martin and Maya Bassali
Justin Marc, son of Michael and Daniela Levian
Akiva Moshe, son of Assaf and Yadinah Yacobi
Dylan Mason Arie, son of Harris and Melody (Kashinejad) Clark
Jonah Moshe, son of Michael and Nava Gohari
Elisha David, son of Parham and Sharona (Nassimiha) Makabi
Kyle and Claire, twin son and daughter of Todd and Yasmin Hakimi
Liem, son of Issy and Limor Livian
Twins of Ronen and Candice Kashi
Harris, son of Brian and Tiffany Hakimian

Mazal Tov To The New Baby Girls Of...

Naomi, daughter of Yosi and Maya Ghodsi
Evital and Talia, twin daughters of Jack and Michal Ezrahan
Brette, daughter of Simon and Candie Zar
Emma Emanuella, daughter of Amnon and Melanie Mordechai
Zohara Tziporah, daughter of Joshua and Jennifer Zaboulani
Ava Sara, daughter of Edwin and Ruth Livian
Jasmine, daughter of Farzad and Orit Zar
Emilie Miriam, daughter of Phillippe and Mandana (Eidgah) Dalla Corte
Elisheva Tova, daughter of Sammy and Jasmine Livian
Jolie, daughter of Jonathan and Stephanie Hezghia
Kate Devorah, daughter of Afshin and Nagmeh Dilmanian
Brielle Arianna, daughter of Jonathan and Charlotte kashanian
Natalie Bat-El, daughter of Richard and Reout Nassimi
Shalheveth Chaya, daughter of Besalel and Yvette Ben Haim
Juliette Lake, daughter of Steven and Michelle Kamali
Lia Yaffa, daughter of Rafael and Melody Etessami
Giselle, daughter of Edmond and Romina Enayatian
Monique, daughter of Allen and Rebecca Enayatian
Avia, daughter of Isaac and Ruth Kashanian
Daughter of Mechel and Gabrielle Hakimian
Micol, daughter of Yoni and Rachele Nitzani

Bar-Mitzvah

Darren, son of Babak and Sandy Zar
Yonatan, son of Michael and Ellena Khojahiney
Michael, son of yossi and Estherica Nassimi
Julien, son of Sami and Miriam Hajibay
Marc, son of Touraj and Simone Hakimian
Samuel, son of Benni and Dalia Namdar
Dylan, son of Babak and Nagmeh Kamali
Joseph, son of Younes and Suzette Bichoupan
Brandon, son of Farshad and Liza Etessami
Yonatan, son of Bahman and Rosita Djourabchi
Jonathan, son of Keyvan and Afsaneh Hakimian
Yonatan, son of Shmuel and Monica Livian

Engagements

Eli Nassimiha and Rachel Hakim
David Stern and Elisheva Namdar
Avi Charkhy and Carolin Nassimi
Eddie Kelaty and Elana Bienenfeld
Rami Ben Yehuda and Melissa Kashizadeh
Avi Hay Rachmani and Farnaz Hakimian
Steven Dilamani and Diana Nassimi
Eric Jamshidoff and Ashley Livian
Yaakov Bitton and Rivka Soleimani
Reuven Shoub and Tzipporah Gindi
Eitan Hakimi and Gabriella Zar
Adam Bassalali and Cynthia Bassalian

Marriages

Richard and Shirin (Roubeni) Ordower
Elliot and Ahuva Rachel Levian
Benjamin and Karen Koren
Ronen and Rebecca Khordipour
Issac and Paulette Nematnejad
Byron and Jamie Hakimi
Mehrdad and Esther Khordipour
Avraham and Moriah Soleimani
Ilan and Carly Hakimian

For future issues of Megillah, those parents who would like their newborn's name to be published, please e-mail your full name and your child's first, middle and/or Hebrew names to MYCNY@aol.com.

Pictures

Right page, clockwise from top left: Elliot and Ahuva Rachel Levian, Benjamin and Karen Koren, Issac and Paulette Nematnejad, Richard and Shirin (Roubeni) Ordower, Mandana (Eidgah) & Philippe Dalla Corte, Ilan and Carly Hakimian.



Community News

Rodney Hakim

The Mashadi Community Welcomes Two New *Shelichim*, Ariel and Elran

This past December, the Mashadi Community happily welcomed two new shelichim from Israel, Ariel and Elran. Having each served three years in the Israeli Army, these two young men have committed themselves to doing volunteer work for Jewish communities in the Diaspora. They enrolled in the Shelichim program Ben Ami, under the auspices of the Jewish Agency. While they are here with us in Great Neck, Ariel and Elran will be working with Mashadi teens and young adults, teaching them Hebrew, Judaism, and Zionism, and inspiring them to do volunteer work and chesed projects, as well. Ariel has served as a medic in the Israeli Army's special combat unit within the paratrooper group, Orev, as well as in Israel's birthright project. He has studied Jewish philosophy, halacha, and Tanach, is an accomplished scuba diver, and is adept at basketball and soccer. Elran served in the Israel Defense Force as a canon activator in the tank corps, fighting in the second Lebanon war. He was formerly a shaliach in Cape Town, South Africa, and a madrich in birthright programs for students visiting Israel. He also participates in both boxing and political activism. Ariel and Elran have been involved in a number of programs with Mashadi youths, including "Lunch & Learn" program for students at North High, Hebrew classes for various students at different levels, including advanced classes, an "Enrichment Program" for public school students, and mentoring during Learn It Up. We thank them for their efforts, and wish them continued success.

Mashadi Jewry Heritage Center and Exhibit on the Jews of Iran, in Israel

The Mashadi Jewry Center in Tel Aviv had its groundbreaking ceremony on December 29th, in a historic event, programmed by the Mashadi Va'ad Markazi of Israel. The property was formerly home to an operating Mashadi synagogue, but is being transformed into a heritage center for Mashadis around the world. The next night, December 30th, was the grand opening of the Exhibit on the Jews of Iran, with a special section dedicated to the Jews of Mashad, at the Beit Hatfutsot Museum at Tel Aviv University. Followed by a beautiful reception, this too was a truly historic event, and a great source of pride for the Mashadi community around the world. For more information, visit www.globalmashadi.com

IVREAD102 & IVREAD103 Hebrew Reading Classes

A Hebrew reading class began late last year, entitled IVREAD101, in which several motivated young Mashadis helped their fellow community members improve their Hebrew reading skills on all levels, from those who needed help with their Aleph Bets, to those who wanted help finding their way around the siddur, to those seeking help with more advanced topics. After the success of the first program, the IVREAD crew returned in January 2011 with the program's second iteration, IVREAD102. This second

program continued where the first one left off, helping returning students' progression with learning prayers and reading Torah, and still assisting beginners in learning the basics. IVREAD102 was also a tremendous success, leading to a third iteration of the program, started in May 2011, IVREAD103, continuing to help the returning students advance to the next level, and introducing newcomers to the siddur, so that they can be more comfortable and confident in synagogue. To find out more about the IVREAD program, e-mail IVReadMYC@gmail.com, or on Facebook, friend IVREAD MYC.

Learn It Up: New and Improved

In February 2011, the peer learning program, Learn It Up returned from its hiatus, new and improved. At Learn It Up, Mashadis young and not so young join each other for an informal discussion of various aspects of Judaism, including discussions of siddur reading, halachot, and Torah, all while being treated to a delicious dinner, sponsored each week by a different member of the community. It's a fantastic way to get to know your fellow community members, while eating a terrific free meal, and learning something new from your peers about Judaism. This program has proven to be incredibly popular, with some sessions attended by over 200 community members. This past April, Learn It Up also held its first annual Model Seder, led by Rabbi Bitton and Rabbi Kohanim, in which the rabbis went through an entire Pesach seder with the attendees, teaching them the do's and don'ts, and trading dayenus! For more information about the program, e-mail LearntUpMYC@aol.com, or on Facebook, friend Learn ItUp.

Seven Weeks with Seven Rabbis

In March 2011, a very popular program that began last year, Seven Weeks with Seven Rabbis, returned for a second iteration. In this learning program, each week for seven weeks, all seven rabbis of the Mashadi community would come together under one roof, and each rabbi would lead a discussion about a given topic. The community members attending the learning sessions were treated to a wonderful dinner, and after that, would select which rabbi's table they wanted to spend the evening learning at, depending on whether they wanted their lesson in English, Farsi, or Hebrew. The participating rabbis were Rabbi Eliyahoo Ben Haim, discussing halachot in Hebrew, Morenu Mr. Nassim Bassalian, discussing the Parasha of the Week in Farsi, Rabbi Yosef Bitton, discussing the laws of kashruth and other topics in English, Rabbi Mordechai Kohanim, discussing Torah reading in both English and Farsi, Rabbi Yedidiah Ezrahan, discussing Torah in Farsi, Rabbi Shlomo Shoub, discussing Gemara in English, and Rabbi Avraham Nissanian, discussing halachot in English. This was a hugely popular program, drawing many community members each week, and we hope it returns for a third iteration soon.

Iranium Film Screening

On Monday evening, March 14th, the Young Mashadi Jewish Center hosted a free film screening of the stunning documentary, Iranium: 30 Years of State Sponsored Terror. The 60-minute film gives a shocking perspective on what Iran's extremists have done to the Iran we used to know and love. The powerful documentary,

narrated by Academy Award nominated Iranian actress, Shohreh Aghdashloo, reports on the threats facing America and the rest of the world from the extremists in Iran, with rare footage of Iranian leaders, and interviews with 25 top politicians, Iranian dissidents, and experts on Middle East policy, terrorism, and nuclear proliferation. The film's executive producer, Richard Green, was also on hand to discuss the film and answer questions from the audience.

Clothing & Food Drive, and Shaatnez Checking

On Sunday, April 3rd, the Mashadi community held its bi-annual clothing and food drive at the Mashadi Jewish Center, collecting an enormous amount of gently used clothes, shoes, accessories, and house ware, as well as kosher food and tableware. Several youths from the community were on hand to volunteer in assisting the community members who arrived to donate place their bags of goods into the overstuffed collection trucks. On the same day, the Shaare Shalom synagogue also hosted Shaatnez Check Day, with people bringing in their clothing and suits to be checked for shaatnez (the unlawful blend of wool and linen), with the chance to win a \$200 Zara gift card in the process.

Yom HaAtzmaut Celebration

A night after the somber commemoration of the fallen soldiers of Israel, Yom HaZikaron, the Mashadi community celebrated the 63rd anniversary of Israel's independence on the happiest day of the year, Yom HaAtzmaut. The celebration took place at the Young Mashadi Jewish center on Monday evening, May 9th, and featured a barbecue, singing and dancing, face painting, and most importantly, the David Project. The David Project, featuring Middle East analyst, Matthew R. Ackerman, aims to educate voices for Israel, with a discussion entitled, "The Silence of the Jews: The Delegitimization of the Jewish State, and What American Jews Can Do About It." The rousing speech was warmly received by the large gathering of community members, young and old, and was a great way to celebrate Israel's 63rd anniversary of being the autonomous Jewish State.

Town Hall Meeting with the Central Board Regarding Shaare Rachamim

On Monday night, May 18th, the Mashadi Jewish Center hosted a Town Hall style meeting with the Central Board regarding the developing situation with the Shaare Rachamim synagogue. The Central Board presented the issues to the assemblage of over 200 Mashadi community members, telling them that Shaare Rachamim is too deep in debt to be able to maintain its current building, so it has unconditionally agreed to come under the UMJCA umbrella. The Central Board expressed its reluctance to let the building be sold away at auction, not wanting a synagogue that community members have already donated so much to be lost, not wanting the highly trafficked Mikveh Moshe to be lost, and wanting the community to have access to that synagogue for its future growth. The Central Board indicated that it does not have sufficient finances to purchase the property on their own, and can only acquire it with funds raised from pledges from the community. Having presented the issues at hand, the Central Board opened the floor to questions, with many members of the community asking about the specifics of the situation, what the plans for the building would be if it were acquired, and where the financing for it would come from. It was an emotionally charged evening, with both the Central Board and the community members expressing their thoughts and concerns about the situation, and hoping for a mutually agreeable solution.

دفتر وکالت روبرت بی چوپان ROBERT BICHOUPAN, P.C.

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Yom HaZikaron 2011:

Dr. Mordechai Kedar Visits the YMJC

On Sunday evening, May 9th, the night before the celebration of *Yom HaAtzmaut*, the 63rd anniversary of Israel's independence, the Young Mashadi Jewish Center commemorated *Yom HaZikaron*, in memoriam of all of those who have given their lives for Israel's freedom and statehood. It was a solemn event, with over two hundred Jews in attendance for the evening's program, highlighted by a visit from Israel's Dr. Mordechai Kedar, who would share his considerable insights into the crises facing Israel today, and the mentality of Israel's Arab neighbors.

The evening began with a series of video clips from Israel's soldiers and their families, documenting the unbearable losses and sacrifices that they have made and continue to make in defending the State of Israel. The stirring videos were followed by introductory remarks from Rabbi Bitton, who pointed out that 22,000 of our brethren in Israel have made the ultimate sacrifice for the creation of *Am Yisrael* in 1948, and for maintaining its freedom since then. This number includes both the soldiers killed in battle, and the civilians killed by acts of terror from Israel's Arab neighbors.

Rabbi Bitton then brought up the evening's guest speaker, Dr. Mordechai Kedar, who was a member of the Israeli intelligence for 25 years, before becoming a professor of Middle Eastern studies at Bar Ilan University. Dr. Kedar's specialties include the political discourse of Arab countries, the Arab press and media, and the mentality of Islamic groups. He has become famous in Israel and the U.S. for his recent appearance on an interview program on the Al Jazeera network (which can be found on YouTube), in which he vehemently defended the Jewishness of Jerusalem, and verbally dressed down the interviewer and his Islamic biases.

Dr. Kedar shared his unique perspective on the Middle Eastern conflict with the assemblage at the YMJC, beginning with the observation that many countries have problems or conflicts with their neighbors, including India and Pakistan fighting over the territory of Kashmir, and Britain and Argentina squabbling over the Falkland Islands. In these territorial conflicts, none of these countries are told they that don't have the right to exist, and nobody openly prays that its people will sink into the sea. They understand the difference between a



struggle over territory, and a nation's right to exist. The only exception to this in the entire world is Israel, where the Palestinians decry the "occupation" of the lands Israel won in the 1967 war. The world fails to understand, though, that the struggle is not just over these lands, but over the entire State of Israel.

In the Arab world, and especially in the Arab media, continued Dr. Kedar, Israel is delegitimized and dehumanized, and the belief is that it was a mistake to allow

the establishment of the State of Israel. According to Arab thinking, Israel is an illegitimate state for several reasons. First, the Jews are not a nation unto themselves, but a sub-community that exists within every other nation (ie- Greek Jews, Russian Jews, American Jews). Second, the Jews are not a true nation or a true religion, since Islam is the only true religion, and Islam replaced and subsumed all previous religions, so there is no reason for the Jews to have an autonomous state, especially one in which they are occupying Palestinian lands. Lastly, the Jews are not a legitimate nation, as the lands they built on are holy to Islam, the only true religion.

After these shocking statements, Dr. Kedar followed by saying that the more we stand back and allow this Arab mentality to overtake the political discourse of the Middle East, the more it will become the dominant one in academia and in mainstream thought. In this worldview, the Jews are less than human beings. This is why the Jews must fight.

Dr. Kedar went on, saying that the animosity toward the Jews from the Palestinians is nothing new, and that during World War II, they encouraged Hitler to exterminate the Jews, and guarded bridges that carried the Jews to the death camps, all so that the Jews would not emigrate to Palestine.

The wars that Israel has been engaged in by its Arab neighbors since its establishment as an autonomous state in 1948 were not really "wars," per se, insisted Dr. Kedar, as a "war" must be book-ended by periods of peace. Israel has been allowed no lasting peace with its neighbors, as between the "wars," there have been endless small conflicts and constant attacks. They are called different things, but they are all part of the same ongoing struggle, including armed conflicts and terrorist attacks. In the eyes of the Arabs, there is no difference between Israel's army and Israel's civilians, as all the civilians,

young or old, will either grow to be Israel's soldiers, were Israel's soldiers in the past, or are related to Israel's soldiers. As such, they are all enemies, and all deserve the same punishment. Even tourists are lumped into that class, as they contribute to Israel's economy, thus supporting the Jews, and as such, are enemies of the Arabs, and must die.

Dr. Kedar then displayed a photo of his family on the big screen, and explained each member of the family's contributions to Israel and involvement in its army. He said that his family is not extraordinary, but just a regular Israeli family. Like all the other regular families in Israel, though, the Kedars put their own individual interests second to those of Israel and to *chesed* projects, and without this communal, selfless spirit amongst Israelis, they would not be able to resist the hostilities of their Arab neighbors.

The first time Israel loses an armed conflict, explained Dr. Kedar, will be its last, so Israel can never afford to lose a war. Despite this, Israel wants peace, but its Arab neighbors interpret Israel's peace offerings as signs of weakness. Dr. Kedar shared a stunning insight here, saying that in the Arab mindset, peace is only asked for when you have been defeated and are trying to stay alive, to prevent your victorious enemy from chopping off your head. As such, the Arabs see Israel's quest for peace as its whimpering pleas for mercy. There are numerous peace movements and organizations throughout Israel, but zero in the Arab world. In the Arab world, peace belongs only to the one who is victorious in war, and who is invincible. The only times Israel has been granted any kind of peace with the Arabs were in the peace accords of 1978 and 1979 with Egypt, and those only came after Israel repeatedly defeated Egypt in armed conflict. Egypt's Anwar Sadat recognized Israel as the victor in war, and as invincible, so he allowed the peace treaties to be signed. The same thing happened in 1993 with Israel and the Palestinians, where the Palestinians accepted a peace treaty at the time, but only after Israel had crushed the first *Intifada*, or uprising of the Palestinian people.

According to Dr. Kedar, the State of Israel can live forever, but only in the following cases. First, it must always be willing to fight its enemies, and understand that there must be sacrifices made, and that there will be losses to Israel, but only through this can they be masters of their own fate. Life and liberty do not come for free, and Israel must be its own police with the Arab world, as nobody else will step in to save them. Second, Israel must be viewed by the world as a legitimate state, must be able to import and export, and be part of the world community. Third, the Jewish State must always be open to Jews from all other communities throughout the world seeking refuge, and must be a safe haven for them against the persecution they face around the world.

This night, *Yom HaZikaron*, concluded Dr. Kedar, we commemorate Israel's fallen soldiers and civilians, in our saddest day of the year. The very next day, we celebrate the 63rd anniversary of Israel's independence, which is our most joyous day of the year. The transition from ultimate sorrow to total joy is an incredibly difficult one, but we must always remember that the one is dependant on the other, and Israel would not have its freedom without the sacrifices of its people.

We must cherish the memory of the fallen ones, and keep their sacrifices alive in our souls.

With this, the assemblage erupted into applause, expressing their appreciation of Dr. Kedar and the insights he had shared. Robert Nowbakht was called up to read a prayer for the fallen, before a question and answer period began with Dr. Kedar.

The first question was about the threat to Israel posed by Iran, to which Dr. Kedar replied that he had been hearing rumblings about an emerging conflict between Ayatollah Khamenei and President Ahmadinejad, so Iran may fall when these two start stabbing each other in the back. The next question was what would happen if the United Nations were to recognize an autonomous Palestinian state, drawn along the 1948 borders, to which Dr. Kedar replied that this already happened once in 1988, but nobody remembers and nobody cares, and life goes on like it never happened. He suggested that Israel will remain where it is, and that the Palestinians will not truly declare statehood, because that will increase the world's expectations of them, and will thus be counterproductive to their propagandist claims that they are being victimized by Israel. The next question was about the Jews in the U.S. and around the world that believe the rhetoric from the Palestinians about being victimized, and that these Jews support the Palestinians over Israel, to which Dr. Kedar replied that unfortunately, there is no 24-hour channel devoted solely to expressing the realistic Jewish viewpoint and to disproving the constant Arab propaganda, and encouraged the Jews in the U.S. to collect enough money to get such a channel started. The next question was about the recent union between the two Palestinian factions, *Fatah* and *Hamas*, and whether it will pose additional dangers to Israel, to which Dr. Kedar replied that he didn't see that marriage of convenience between those parties lasting more than a few weeks. The next question was whether Israel would be in more danger now that the revolts in the Arab world have toppled Egypt, which was Israel's only ally in the region, to which Dr. Kedar replied that the Muslim Brotherhood that has emerged as the leaders of Egypt are certainly no friends of Israel, but he doesn't anticipate any violence from them, as they have 85 million Egyptian mouths to feed, and are dependant on Israeli grain with which to do so. The next question was about the captured Israeli soldier, Gilad Shalit, who has been held by the Palestinians since 2006, to which Dr. Kedar replied that Israel has put pressure on the Palestinians for several years to release him, but to no avail, so we in America should pressure Congress to pressure President Obama, so he and the other world leaders will stop putting pressure Israel, and allow it to take the necessary steps to recover Gilad Shalit and bring him home.

The session ended here, but dozens of audience members stayed on to ask Dr. Kedar additional questions, well past the allotted time. It was a clear measure of how enthralled we collectively were by Dr. Kedar's words and unique perspective, and how much it meant to have this representative of Israel with us on *Yom HaZikaron*, as we remembered our fallen soldiers, before we could celebrate the freedom they brought us.

Yom HaShoah 2011: Survivor Asher J. Matathias



On Sunday evening, May 1st, the Young Mashadi Jewish Center commemorated *Yom HaShoah*, Holocaust Remembrance Day. The evening began with film clips from various movies relating the terrible tragedy of the Holocaust, including *Sophie's Choice* and a documentary about Anne Frank. This was followed by the singing of the National Anthem by Jamie Karmely, and a benediction by Rabbi Bitton. The evening's emcee, Kimberly Hakim, then shared a few words, saying that even though we lost so many of our fellow Jews in the Holocaust, we ultimately prevailed against Hitler and the Nazis. She also implored us not to let the past repeat itself with the modern day Hitler in Iran, Ahmadinejad, before introducing the evening's guest speaker, Holocaust survivor from Greece, Mr. Asher J. Matathias.

Mr. Matathias commenced his speech by drawing a connection between the Mashadi community's history of religious oppression in Iran, specifically the *Allahdadi* pogrom of 1839, and the religious oppression of the Sephardic Jews of Greece and the Iberian Peninsula. Much like the Mashadis, who were told by the Muslims to either convert to Islam or be killed, the Greek Jews were given the choice of converting to Christianity, or being expelled from their country. The Sephardic Jews were expelled in 1492, taking a circuitous route before their eventual return to Greece. In World War II, 87% of the Jews in Greece were killed by Hitler and the Nazis. Mr. Matathias said that neither America nor the Greek Christians did enough to help prevent this systematic slaughter. Mr. Matathias' own uncle, for whom he was named, was killed when a bomb fell squarely on his head.

During the onset of the Holocaust, many of the Greek Jews turned to Reform Judaism, in which they would not keep *kashruth* or perform circumcision, figuring that this would assimilate them sufficiently into Greek Christian society to save them in the days ahead. The Greek Christians turned against them, though, regarding all Jews the same way. Many of these Reform Jews eventually became virulent anti-Semites as a result, and according to Mr. Matathias, anti-Semitism in Greece is still extremely high, and deeply woven into the fabric of their society.

When the Germans invaded Greece, the Greek Jews went into hiding, and lamentably, many Jewish parents put pillows over their children's faces and suffocated them, rather than allow the children to make any noise and reveal them to the murderous Nazis. In

response to these actions, the two questions that Mr. Matathias asks Greek elders that he encounters to this day are where they were during the war, and what they did to survive. Fortunately for Mr. Matathias and his family, their Greek Christian neighbors hid them from the Germans. He was a small child at the time, but even then wondered why the neighbors would endanger their lives for his family. He found out when the childless couple that sheltered them asked his parents to let them keep Asher as their own son, as the Matathias family had several children, but they had none! The authorities eventually intervened and returned Asher to his parents, and they fled to the U.S. in 1956, where Mr. Matathias has become a renowned scholar and teacher. He concluded his speech with three songs, the last being "What a Wonderful World."

Following the speech of Mr. Matathias, morenu, Mr. Nassim Bassalian, shared a few words in Farsi, saying that in the Torah, when Cain killed Abel, it had the profound impact it did, because with that murder, Cain eliminated a quarter of the world's population (Adam, Eve, Cain, and Abel). Why couldn't those four people, who had the whole world to live in, get along peacefully? When the Nazis annihilated six million Jews in World War II, they killed a third of the world's Jewry. Again, why, in such a big world, was there not room for all of us to coexist peacefully? Mr. Bassalian suggested that for the people who hate Jews, as long as there are any of us alive, there is no room for coexistence. They feel they must eradicate the Jews, and this comes from their impure thoughts, and from a lack of fear of G-d. In every generation, hateful people have sought to exterminate the Jews, and our Savior has always been and always will be Hashem, so we must be pure of thought and pure of heart, and not be filled with the same kind of hatred that fuels the anti-Semites of each generation.

At the end of Mr. Bassalian's speech, emcee Kimberly Hakim returned to the podium, along with co-hosts Rachel Hakim and Adine Levian, calling up our guest, Mr. Matathias, to light six candles, in memoriam of the six million Jews slaughtered in the Holocaust. It was a moving sight, and a fitting conclusion to the evening's proceedings, in which two luminaries of the Greek and Mashadi Sephardic communities shared their insights with us, along with discussion of our common struggles, and despite our lament, gave us hopeful words from which to learn and grow.

Youthful Poise

Halleh Hakimian

In a sea of teenage uniformity, Amanda Esraeilian shines through as a humble female role model. She embodies poise and demonstrates a youthfulness that is appropriate and relevant for her age.

Amanda Dina is named after her inspirational grandmother, Dina Khordi-Hakimian. She has inherited her grandmother's playful spirit, her grandfather's (Mehdi Khordi) pureness, her mother's (Malca Esraeilian) determination, and her father's (Saeed Esraeilian) authentic dedication to good Jewish values. Amanda's brother, Omid Aaron, is another Esraeilian-Khordi go-getter with a refreshingly polite demeanor. This young man's idea of pre-graduate summer fun is serving insane hours as a Bloomberg intern.

It's delightful to be in the company of teenagers who uplift you with their good manners. This may be the most valuable skill Amanda's parents have imparted to her. She has a natural charm that sits well with you. Her quick wit is usually followed by a bashful smile.

It would seem fitting that this Roslyn High School senior was elected NCSY's first female Sephardic International President. It is a worthy achievement for Amanda, her family, and the Mashadi community. She also serves as the co-

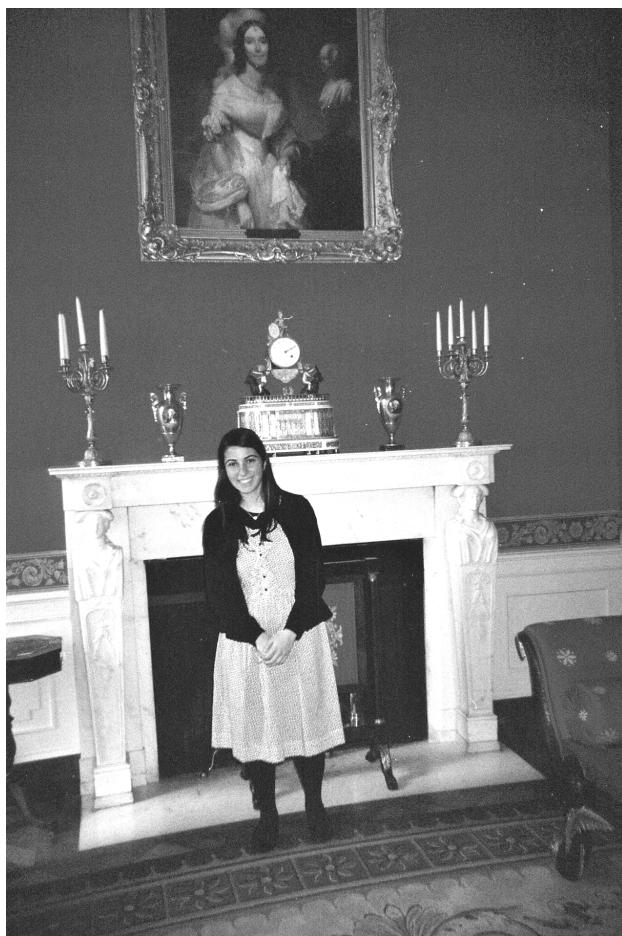
Regional president of New York NCSY. NCSY is the international youth movement of the Orthodox Union. Thus far, Amanda's been featured in Roslyn News and the Baltimore Jewish Times for her work with NCSY.

Rabbi Steven Burg of NCSY explains that the youth organization's core purpose is to get Jewish teenagers excited and passionate about their Jewish faith. He's pleased that Amanda has successfully taken on the role of inspiring her peers.

Amanda feels she is able to help Jewish kids find connections to their roots, because she has accomplished the same for herself. Ironically, she is the first public school student to serve as the international president of this Orthodox organization.

Her most remarkable accomplishment to date is an official invitation to the White House, where she met President Barack Obama, Senator Joseph Lieberman, and Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel. If you know Amanda Esraeilian, it will come as no surprise to you that she surprised the Nobel Laureate with a disarming compliment, extended a well-received NCSY invite to the Senator, and made the President of the United States laugh.

In an era where superficial factors can govern our lifestyles, inspirational teenagers like Amanda remind us where the genuine beauty and joy of life are rooted.



AIPAC 2011: The Experience of a Lifetime

Benjamin Nabavian

On Sunday, May 22, 2011 at approximately 2:00AM, Marco Hadjibay, Justin Gorjian and myself set on a journey down to Washington D.C. for the AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee) Policy Conference. I have to admit that selfishly, I did not go to AIPAC with any intentions of pro-Israel lobbying or actively listening to speeches. Though

I am very pro-Israel, and very interested in international politics, I am not the type of person who “makes a difference.” I honestly just wanted to go there for a mini-vacation – visit Washington, D.C., do some sightseeing, and maybe meet a president or prime minister here or there. When I got back on May 24th, and when someone asked me how the trip was, I said very simply that it was the most eye opening three days of my entire life. I will, *bli neder*, be returning next year, and hope to recruit double the amount Mashadis next year than came this year.

We arrived in D.C. at 5:00AM, thanks to the decisive driving by Mr. Hadjibay, and we checked in at the W Hotel (highly recommended). The first item on the itinerary was President Obama’s speech. Before he came on, there was another speech by House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD), and even though I’m not the biggest fan of liberals, he got me on my feet. After Obama’s remarks a few days earlier regarding the 1967 boarders, he put the crowd at ease by basically saying that the House is behind Israel and we need not worry. President Obama followed came on stage, to mixed reactions, and gave his speech. Again, even though he and I don’t always see eye to eye, it was definitely pretty cool to be in the same room, a pro-Israel conference, as arguably the most powerful person in the world.

After the morning speeches, we walked outside to see the protesters, including “Free Palestine” hippies and the “Jews” against Israel, Neturei Karta. It was repulsive site to see, but then I thought to myself, there are 25 people out here protesting



against Israel, but there are 10,000 people inside. Those inside are some of the most powerful people in the world, who are here *for* Israel. Big deal, let them hold signs. We have more important work to do.

We spent the rest of the day doing some sightseeing, then came back to the convention for another speech, this time by House Majority Leader Eric

Cantor. He holds the highest position ever for a Jew in the U.S. government. If you heard his speech and the affection he had for Israel, you would jump out of your seat. I believe that Cantor’s high-power position is greatly beneficial to Israel’s well being.

That night, my friends and I went out to dinner at a kosher restaurant in D.C., followed by a bar that was hosting an event for AIPACers between the ages of 20 and 30. We ran into several acquaintances, Mashadi and otherwise, and had a great night. The next morning, we continued our “vacation” by going on yet another sightseeing spree, as there is much to see in the capital city: the Washington Monument, White House, Lincoln Memorial, Smithsonian Museum, National Archives, Holocaust Museum, and more. You definitely will not be bored in D.C.

That night was the big AIPAC gala, which was catered by Foremost Catering and headlined by the speech of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Before Bibi, all 10,000 people in the room got up and sang the American National Anthem and then the Hatikvah together. This was probably one of the most amazing sights I have ever seen in my life (see it on YouTube). The first speaker, Allan Houston (of New York Knicks fame) came out to a somewhat surprised audience and expressed his support for Israel. Later on the stage were two wounded soldiers, American and Israeli, who expressed loyalty to each other. Then, Senate majority leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-OH) both gave excellent speeches showing bipartisan, unrelenting support for Israel. It is

reassuring to know that both parties are behind Israel, and even if there are a select few who have opposing views on Israel, the majority of our government is in favor.

The main event did not disappoint; Netanyahu's speech blew everyone away. The Prime Minister is truly a great speaker. The greatest aspect of the speech was how we handled the protesters. Once in a while, one of them would pop in the room and scream something, and the crowd would automatically stand up and start cheering so no one would hear them. Bibi kept his cool throughout these moments, showing his strength and poise.

After the gala, we headed to another AIPAC-sponsored mixer at a bar near by. While leaving the convention center, we saw a couple of dozen protestors standing in front of the building again protesting Israel's right to exist. Rather than doing anything violent or rash, a number of AIPAC attendees, about 100 or so young people, stood aligned right across them; we chanted songs like Shalom Aleichem and Hatikvah, and some shouted, "Free Gaza." We didn't leave until the protestors gave up and left. This was one of the best feelings of my life, something I can't put into

words.

That night we went out to the bar, and met many very influential people, such as Lee Rosenberg, the president and chairman of the board of AIPAC, as well as celebrity Rabbi Shmuely Boteach (who, incidentally, is half-Persian), of Michael Jackson fame.

The three days at AIPAC had a profound impact on my views toward Zionism in general I always cared about Israel, but now I realize that I do have a voice, and more important and powerful Americans than I ever knew share my voice. It deeply resonated with me that 10,000 people showed up this year, and next year that number will grow. As Mashadis and Zionists, we have a very prominent role, and should help drive this cause, especially the youth. I guarantee that attending the AIPAC conference will be one of the best experiences of your life. I hope you all can join me next year.

The 2012 AIPAC Policy Conference in Washington, D.C. will take place on March 4th to 6th. Make your voice heard. Register at AIPAC.org.

What does it Take to be a Champion?

Alon Gohari

It has been at least 15 years since the Mashadi Magic won a championship game. Fifteen years ago three players on this current team did not even exist. Some of the players who won the championships last have kids of their own today, but that is beside the point. I cannot explain why this team has not won over the last fifteen years because I was not there, but I can tell you how this year's team did it.

It all started in January – I don't think I will ever forget that night. There were 36 players trying out for the team, one of whom was not even in high school yet. The tryouts were abysmal at best. I had to issue out over 600 push-ups because of foul language and adolescent foolishness. I thought to myself that this was a huge mistake. I can say now how happy I am to have stayed, and how wrong I was to doubt these young men for even a second.

Once we chose our 17 players, we needed to implement our team strategy.

Coach Eli Shaer and I took a different approach in coaching offense. Most coaches rely on set plays and telling their players exactly what to do. We decided that we are just going to guide them, but they will ultimately do everything on their own. We had one rule: trust your teammates. Find the person who is open and let him shoot.

Coach Eli and myself also came up with a new type of defense that would play to our team's strengths: speed and

intelligence. This defense was intimidating and infectious. We thrived off the opposing team's fear and our fans energy. We called the defense Steve. It was very fortunate that our team didn't have a player named Steve, because I might have said Steve over ten thousand times this season.

If you haven't been following our team all season, for the first ten games all you need to know is that when we won, we won by roughly 20 points, and if we lost, it was within ten. Each and every one of our 17 players played in at least 7 of those 10 games.

We were 8-2 preparing for a game against a team we lost to, Flatbush Park. I was so upset with my team that I forced them to come to a practice on a Saturday night. In that "practice" I sat down whoever actually showed up and asked them "What does it take to win a championship?" Everyone said something different ranging from: Defense, making free throws, hard work, good coaching, heart, wanting to play the game, making shots, perseverance, etc. All of these answers were good answers, but they weren't good enough.

Our game was on the following Tuesday. Our defense was stifling again, we were up by 20 points with a minute left, and the crowd was chanting my favorite tune, "WE WANT DAVID." So to give the crowd what they wanted, I played David Hakimian. With 5 seconds left in the game David got the ball, went up for a shot, and a member on the other team pushed him three feet away from our team's bench. We were outraged, and the official blew his whistle. So I calmed the team down I clapped my hands and said thank you expecting him to call a

foul. The official says "Traveling violation on #2." My jaw dropped. In those few moments I knew we were definitely going to win this year.

As many of you know by now we made it to the championship game. The only person on our team including coaches who has ever been a part of Mashadi Magic championship game was myself. When I was 15, I was on the team, but I was not good enough to play significant minutes, so my experience in this was negligible.

We knew we were going to play the Brooklyn team, Lev Banim, who embarrassed us earlier in the season. The week prior to this game I did not sleep. I was too excited, anxious, and nervous. That team had one player who was phenomenal. He single-handedly beat us the first time, and nearly did it again when we played at home. Eli and I had to find a way to stop him, so we devised a new type of defense. We brought some older, stronger Mashadi players to practice our defense on and it worked perfectly.

We were ready. The only thing left to do was play the game. After our final practice ever as a team I told everyone, "You must come to the championship game in a suit and tie." When I told them they all laughed and were skeptical about my reasoning for this, but if you ask each and every one of them today, I am certain they will all say wearing a suit made a difference. We walked in to the championship game with a tremendous amount of confidence.

The game was finally here. Five minutes prior to tip-off we

brought the team into a huddle. Usually a player or two says something inspirational to rile up the team, but this game I was itching to say something. I brought them in and asked another "Alon question." "What does it mean to be a champion?" After I asked, 18 heads turned, slightly confused. Before they could give an answer I cut them off with my own and said, "Having each other." I reminded them of the controversial referee call from earlier in the season. "In my eyes every single person on this team was a champion from that night. No other team respects each other as an equal like we do. They tried to break us by targeting what they thought was our 'weakest link', but what they did was bring us together, and for that you are all champions."

From there on everyone on the team knew we would win the game. We not only wanted it more, but we also wanted it for each other. We won the game 40 to 28, with David making a buzzer beating shot. Our team's defense held the opposing team to scoring less than one point a minute and we once again were champions.

There are many answers for my question. The answer is ever changing to each person's personality and situation. For us it took teamwork, trust, and support from our family and friends, over 12,000 collective pushups, 2,000 "suicides," three weeks of anxiety, a lot of nights without our voices, and the urgency to prove to everyone that we are good enough to win it all.

If I could say one thing to the team it would be, I am endlessly proud of each and every one of you. It was my honor to be a part of this great experience and I wouldn't give it up for anything.



Michelle Hackman: The Mashadi Community's First Entrant into Yale Discusses Her Recent Celebrity

Rodney Hakim

If you've read the newspaper or watched the news on television in March and April 2011, chances are that you saw a feature about Michelle Hackman (Hakimian), daughter of Joobin and Shohreh Hakimian, winning second place in the national Intel Science Talent Search. You might have also heard that she is the first member of the Mashadi community to get into one of the top schools in the U.S., Yale University.

So what, you might ask, did this 17 year old high school senior, who has been blind since childhood, do to become an Intel finalist and attract so much media attention? She observed her peers' obsessive use of cell phones, and conducted an experiment to determine what would happen if the teens were deprived of their phones for a given length of time. She found that when the teens were separated from their cell phones, they became extremely listless, not knowing what to do with themselves, and often falling asleep from lack of stimulation. This finding indicates that when the teens had their cell phones taken away from them, and no longer had the frequent bursts of stimulus, like text messages or phone calls, they began to experience withdrawal symptoms, like drug addicts having their drugs taken away from them.

Her astutely observed research findings took her to Washington D.C., where she was amongst the top 40 finalists in the Intel science competition. She ultimately finished in second place, garnering a \$75,000 cash prize, and the acclaim of the Intel representatives, the other students, and family and friends.

Michelle subsequently met with President Barack Obama, whose "Winning the Future" initiative calls for the cultivation of math and science students around the country to create 100,000 new teaching roles in those two fields, to lead America into a future of scientific innovation and progress, to decrease America's dependence on foreign oil, and better be able to compete with the scientific advances of other countries around the world.

After the Intel competition and the meeting with President Obama, next for Michelle came the press. Having placed second in the Intel competition, Michelle has been all over the news in a variety of media outlets, from newspapers, to radio, to TV, to the web. She has been featured in articles and interviews in Newsday, The Gothamist, U.S. News & World Report, P.C. Magazine, the Long Island Press, News 12 Long Island, Verizon FiOS1 News, ABC Local News, CBS Local News, WPIX Morning News, Channel One News, WNYC News, NPR, Fox News, CNN, and the Gayle King Show, amongst many others. Throughout all of these interviews, many of which are available to be viewed online, Michelle has shown a distinct level of poise, intelligence, and humor that one would not



normally associate with a 17 year old high school senior.

Another accomplishment of Michelle's that shows how far beyond her years she is has been the development of the Hackman-Cohanpour School in Cambodia, which will be a school for girls in rural Cambodia, that she is working to build with one of her peers from the Mashadi community, Daniel Cohanpour. Under the auspices of the organization, American Assistance for Cambodia,

Michelle and Daniel have almost achieved their goal of raising \$13,000, which will then be matched by both the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, and will go toward the construction and staffing of the school, as well as a \$10 monthly stipend to the girls' families to keep them in school. The education that these rural Cambodian girls will be provided by the Hackman-Cohanpour School will teach them sufficient skills and give them increased worth to their communities, so as to be at far less risk of being sold into sex slavery, which runs rampant in Cambodia, and is a constant threat in their lives. Donations can be made to Michelle and Daniel's efforts by visiting www.HackmanCohanpourSchool.org.

In recognition of Michelle's many achievements and her second-place finish in the Intel science competition, as well as being the first member of our community to gain entrance to Yale University, the Mashadi Community honored Michelle after Shabbat services on Saturday, March 26th at the Shaare Shalom synagogue. The fete included congratulatory words from community luminary, Houshang Nematzadeh, a blessing from Rabbi Ben Haim, a plaque from the Mayor of Great Neck, and the presentation of two bouquets of flowers by Michelle's doting brother, Josh, with one being given to Michelle, and the other being given to their mother, Shohreh. Michelle then spoke to the large assemblage, thanking them for their support and recognition, and encouraging more youths in our community, especially girls, to pursue higher education.

I had a chance to sit down with Michelle to discuss all the amazing things she's accomplished since she was last interviewed in *Megillah* magazine just one year ago. Had you started your research project for the Intel competition at that time?

Rodney Hakim (RH): You were last profiled in *Megillah* magazine just about a year ago. Had you started your research project for the Intel competition at that time?
Michelle Hackman (MH): I was about three fourths done with my data collection, and I was very anxious. I didn't know that it would

be a before and after interview!

RH: What got you started on the cell phone research project?

MH: I was involved in a science research program, and was looking for a project to work on, and found myself fascinated with the subject of cell phones whenever it would come up in the news. I brought the idea of this project to the research program, and that's always where the best projects start from, when you have a simple, broad question that hasn't been answered before, like why are we so attached to our phones.

RH: Now that you've completed your project, do you feel like you still have more research to do about cell phones?

MH: I don't think in science you can every really answer a question. You can get closer and closer to finding an answer. In terms of research, what I've done so far is only the very beginning.

RH: So what was the conclusion you reached from your research?

MH: Basically, I observed *under-stimulation* from the kids who had their cell phones taken away from them. They experienced an extreme, abnormal level of boredom. The constant stimulation of phones, computers, and gaming devices is very intense. When a text message comes in, it's another burst of stimulation that makes you feel a similar kind of high of as a hit of a drug, like cocaine. My dad keeps telling me to stop making that comparison on national TV, because he's afraid I'll get arrested! Meanwhile that one line is so scandalous it probably bumped me into the top ten of the Intel competition. Realistically, it's an addiction we are developing to our phones. Do you ever sit and look at your phone, and wait for a text message or a call, and start to feel anxious? That's the feeling of withdrawal, waiting for your next hit of stimulus.

RH: Is there a remedy for this?

MH: People ask me that all the time, what should we do about this. Give me twenty years and I'll get back to you.

RH: Has your research affected your personal cell phone usage?

MH: Not at all! At the Intel Gala, I was standing there in my gown and I had a tiny purse with my cell phone in it, and I would be talking to these big wig scientists about how cell phones are like cocaine, and when my cell phone would vibrate in my bag, I'd get distracted and wonder who was e-mailing me!

RH: You mention the Gala. Was this part of the Intel awards ceremony?

MH: It was right before the awards ceremony, during the hors d'oeuvres portion. People were walking around the smorgasbord getting their hors d'oeuvres, and we were all standing by our poster-boards explaining our experiments to whoever stopped by. Like a very upscale science fair.

RH: Did you get tired of telling people about your experiment over and over again?

MH: Not really. I must have given the same explanation literally 1,000 times already, but each time I tell it, I'm fascinated by it, and love it every time. I think that's crucial in discussing the work that you're doing.

RH: That shows your passion not only for the subject you are dealing with, but also the realm of scientific questioning that goes with it. So is this something that you are looking to pursue in your further education?

MH: Definitely. I'm leaning toward a double major of Political Science and Psychology. I think the Political Science one would just be kind of like a fun side-major. You can't have a minor at Yale, so if I want any kind of certificate in it, I'd have to major in it. I'd love to continue my research on cell phones for the next four years, and be able to publish a few more studies about my research. I could then call myself an expert in the field.

RH: Where would you be interested in having these studies be published?

MH: In scientific journals. I'm hoping to get my current study published in a journal called *Computers & Human Behavior*.

RH: Walk us through all the things that have been going on the last few months.

MH: I submitted my application for the Intel competition in November. My teacher [Alan Schorn] must have been prescient, because that same day, he predicted that my study would get me to the finals. Now keep in mind, over 1,800 kids from around the country submit their research to the Intel competition, and only 40 finalists are chosen. I thought he was crazy, and at best I'd be one of 300 semi-finalists. In January, they announced the semi-finalists, and my name was on the list.

RH: What was your reaction?

MH: I was so excited! I was yelling and running around the house the whole day! Newsday called me the same day and wanted to profile me. Two weeks later, on January 26th, I was on the phone with AT&T complaining about my bill, when on the other line, the call came in that I had been named an Intel finalist! Soon after that, my teacher and I started preparing for the Intel competition, and I really started to study up on all the current science news, so I would be able to speak with all the people I would be meeting. There were three levels of judging for the competition. The first level was four fifteen-minute interviews, in front of twelve judges. They would ask scientific questions with no specific answers, to see how we are at scientific reasoning. One of the questions, which I mentioned in the Newsday interview, was if you went back a million years in time, what would you bring if you could only bring two hundred pounds of baggage? My answer was a person, because otherwise I'd get lonely. The winner last year said a water purifier, and I was jealous, that answer was so much smarter! They also asked me how I would design a jet pack, and I came up with a five minute answer. The next morning, we had a poster-board session, which was like a very traditional science fair, and the judges came by, and we described our experiments. Later that afternoon was my favorite part, called "Public Day," which was in the National Academy for Sciences, which is as prestigious as it gets, and random people and school kids would come in, and we would describe our experiments to all of them. At one point, I was having an animated discussion with one of the guests, and then I asked her if she was a teacher or professor, but she said she was the director of the National Science Foundation! I think the judges were also walking around and observing how we interacted with everyone.

RH: So there was a social component to it, as well.

MH: Absolutely!

RH: In the finals, how did they narrow it down from the final 40 to the final 10?

MH: They had the 40 of us standing there on risers, kind of like a chorus would, listening to different speeches and things, and eventually they announced the top 10 ranking finalists. So you didn't know if you were just one of the top 40, or in the top 10. I had no idea. My teacher told me earlier that he was sure I would be in the top 5. He's never had a student in the top 5 before, so I don't know how he knew.

RH: Did your teacher work very closely with you on your research?

MH: Yes, definitely. He was hugely supportive. He's a physics teacher, so when it came to the psychology, he was more of a mentor, giving me moral support, and keeping on top of me to send my questions to these different scientists, and so on.

RH: So when it came down to the final two spots, and they announced you, what was your reaction?

MH: Well, I had no idea that I was in the final two. There were 32 of us up there who could have been in the final two, so when they

announced my name, I was shocked! It was absolute, paralyzing shock! Someone wanted to interview me afterward, and I turned to the P.R. person and said, I don't think I can muster one word right now, so please just take photos instead.

RH: What was the media blitz of newspaper and TV interviews like that came after that?

MH: It was a whirlwind. It was crazy. At one point, someone asked me if I felt like a rock star, and I hadn't thought of it, but I guess that's what it was like!

RH: How has your sudden celebrity affected your relationships with your peers? Do people act differently towards you now?

MH: Not my close friends. They were kind of disinterested by it. Maybe a couple of them wanted to come with me to the CNN studio. Aside from that, the only other thing was maybe the cash prize. People suddenly were asking me to buy them dinners or take them on vacations! I'm speaking at a major tech conference at MIT next month, which is so amazing, and they've offered to fly me out and put me up in a really nice hotel, with one guest. So my parents and my friends all insisted they wanted to come with me! I decided to bring my teacher, instead.

RH: Has your teacher come with you to the other events? How long has he been working with you?

MH: He was in Washington for the Intel competition. He was my physics teacher in 9th grade, and has been like a mentor since then, so we have a very close relationship.

RH: You obviously have a strong drive to excel in academia. Was that instilled in you by your family, friends, teachers, or community?

MH: It's tough to say. I like the phrase, "it takes a village to raise a child," which I think is very true. My parents always stressed the importance of education. Even when I was in elementary school, my mom would tell me that I need to get my master's some day, and I would wonder, what's a master's? In terms of getting into science, I think that was more because of my teacher. Before that I wasn't specifically into science, but I was always a big questioner. So I got into studying human behavior, which felt very natural.

RH: In your *Megillah* interview last year, you seemed more interested in journalism, so how did that shift to more of an interest in psychology?

MH: I don't think I'll ever give up on writing. Some part of me wants to abandon all of this and go become a reporter on Capitol Hill. But I don't think it will happen. In scientific research, a lot of people spend 30 years of their career fixating on convoluted questions like, what is happiness. I think that's preposterous. I want my focus to be on things like my current project, where the research has a direct application and relevance to our lives. I want whatever I study academically to be able to contribute to the public conversation. Maybe even by doing commentary or writing for newspapers.

RH: Is that what your focus is going to be when you head to Yale this fall?

MH: I want to write for the Yale Daily News newspaper for sure. I definitely want to continue my research. I'll make sure to leave time for extra-curricular activities, too!

RH: Did you apply to other schools as well, or did you know you wanted to go to Yale?

MH: I applied to other schools too, but once I got into Yale, I withdrew everything else. I loved Yale so much. The think the only other school I could have seen myself going to was Stanford, but that would be too far for my parents.

RH: How do you feel the Mashadi community regards higher education, especially as it pertains to girls coming out of high school? Are girls sufficiently encouraged to pursue higher degrees?

MH: No. To be perfectly honest, I think there's a big difference between what the board tries to do and encourage and the rhetoric that is used, versus the culture that we actually inhabit. There's a real schism there. There needs to be more value given to having higher percentages of girls going to college after graduating high school, and feeling the worth of going, seeing something in themselves, and having careers of their own.

RH: I tend to agree. The rhetoric supports the pursuit of higher education, and at the annual graduation ceremony, you see more and more kids graduating with post-graduate degrees...

MH: But how many of those are girls? A girl gives the graduation speech every year, yes, and a lot of girls do actually go and get a master's degree, but then they sort of give up on it. If you get the education, that's great, but I feel like you need to be able to do something with it.

RH: Do you think you could be an example for other girls in the community to follow?

MH: I've never done anything to be an example for anyone, and people keep telling that I'm such a great role model. Really?! I hope so. It's not easy, because you sacrifice a lot. It's not like I've had a perfectly normal teenage life. Some girls are able to strike the balance very well, but on the other hand, especially for girls, if you study too hard, you never go out, and you never meet people.

RH: Do you feel like that's one of the sacrifices that you've made, giving up some of the social interactions that other girls might spend more time on?

MH: To an extent, yes, for sure.

RH: When you start at Yale in the fall, there will be a whole new scene of people to get involved with. Will you leave some of this all behind?

MH: I hope so! We'll all be working very hard, but after we study together, hopefully we'll all go out together, too!

RH: Since your research focuses on separation anxiety, do you feel like you'll experience separation anxiety, yourself, when you leave the family to head off to college?

MH: Possibly, but of course I'll come back and visit. Honestly, though, I've never thought of myself as moving back here. I also have a cousin who moved to Chicago after she went to college, and in moving away, developed a much closer relationship with her parents than she had before. This is not to say I don't get along with my parents; we get along very well! But it's just to say that I don't think that if I move away, our relationship would be worse. I think it would actually get even better, because you value it more.

RH: Is there somewhere specific you see yourself moving that would be more conducive to doing your research?

MH: Definitely a college town. I want to be in an urban area. New Haven would be nice!

RH: Going back to the press attention you've received, was there a best and worst experience?



MH: It's been mostly positive. Going to the CNN newsroom and meeting the reporters was very cool. One of the interviews was particularly tough because they wanted to start with the blindness topic, and I said no, you're having me on because I'm an Intel winner, not because of my blindness. I think that's important for people to realize, is that my primary purpose is to talk about my cell phone research, not blindness.

RH: Is that something that happened a lot, where people turned it into an interview about blindness, as opposed to your research?

MH: Definitely. And a lot of people told me I should be a motivational speaker. I happen to enjoy public speaking, and I would enjoy being a commentator, but I can't do the sappy Oprah stuff. There's something fun and scandalous about talking about cell phones!

RH: Tell us about your work with Dan Cohanpour on the school for girls in Cambodia. Where did the idea come from? Has the project come to fruition?

MH: Unfortunately not, because Michelle's been a little busy! We're half way to our goal of \$13,000. The idea came from a New York Times article about sex trafficking and women's rights around the world. I'm very interested in reading, writing, and talking about women's rights. It gives you perspective when you hear about girls who aren't given the chance to get past kindergarten, or who are sold into sex slavery. I'm hoping that instead of just talking about it, our little grassroots effort will give about 500 girls a chance to get an education. Since we've raised half of the total, they'll probably begin construction of the school soon! The \$10 monthly stipend given to the girls' families is more than they would make staying at home working. The incentives we're giving them are great, in that the girls will be fed (in that area, they tend to feed their boys before they will feed their girls), be healthy, and be educated. They can start their own businesses, or work for a company.

RH: So there's a direct relationship between the increased education and the decreased danger of sex trafficking?

MH: Absolutely. It's simple economics. Their market value goes up beyond what it would be if they were going to be sold, so it's less likely. That is, unless they get stolen, but that happens much less frequently than having their families sell them.

RH: How did you go about picking Cambodia for this project?

MH: Purely because I liked the organization. Plus the double match program they were running seemed very appealing. I got in touch with the guy running the program, who is also involved with the M.I.T. lab, and is a former reporter, which is very exciting.

RH: How did Dan Cohanpour get involved?

MH: He got involved from almost the beginning. I told him this is something I really want to do, and he said this is something I really want to do, too. And that was that.

RH: Do you have other people involved and contributing, as well?

MH: A little bit. My cousin is our webmaster. I'm planning on taking it to college with me, and hopefully building on it there. Maybe get a little help with P.R. I tried to mention it in a lot of the Intel coverage, so hopefully by virtue of that.

RH: It's such a noble cause! It seems like the projects that you get involved with deal a lot with the empowerment of women, and are very selfless.

MH: You think so? I think the research is pretty selfish!

RH: Really? Selfish? In what way?

MH: How is it selfish?

RH: Well, you're working on a project that would enlighten us as to something in our lives that is really an addiction, and potentially, how to prevent that.

MH: That's true. But that's a very long term way of looking at.

Currently, it's mostly that I get enjoyment out of it, more so than anything else.

RH: So is this your hobby, your passion? What else do you do outside of this for fun?

MH: Other than the research, I sing in my school's jazz choir, I'm the vice president of my school's Key Club, and the president of our Environmental Awareness Club. I write for the newspaper. I read the newspaper pretty regularly. I almost consider that like a job more than a hobby. I'm a foodie. My friends and I like to go out to restaurants around here and in the city all the time, and try different foods.

RH: Will any of your friends be going to school near where you will be at Yale?

MH: No, the closest will be in New York City, and another will be in Atlanta. It's great, it gives me an excuse to go visit Atlanta!

RH: Are you worried about heading off on your own into uncharted territory when you go to college in the fall?

MH: Not really. It's a very welcoming, fun, vibrant environment. Everyone I've met at Yale has been so nice and friendly. I've never been to an area so concentrated with nice people. That's why I chose it.

RH: You're the first member of the Mashadi community to get into Yale. How do you feel about the attention the community has given you since your Intel win, your media appearances, and your admission into Yale?

MH: It's very nice that they have such pride about it. I can't say I did it for the Mashadi community, but if they feel pride in it, that's great, I'm happy about that. More than anything, I really hope it will encourage a lot of parents to say to their kids, hey, she got into Yale, why don't you try to? I know it's hard to let your kids go so far away.

RH: What do you have planned for this summer before college begins?

MH: I'll be working at the New York Post, actually. A summer internship. I call it the vortex of evil! It is Rupert Murdoch's headquarters, so I feel like I'll be a spy in enemy territory!

RH: Have you experienced any jealousy from people throughout this experience?

MH: Not really. Sometimes they'll want to come with me to the cool places I'm going to, but they know that I take this stuff seriously. I mean, it's fun and everything, but realistically, I'm trying to build a career here.

RH: Wow, you are so focused for a girl your age! It seems like you don't get involved with frivolous things, and that you are really committed to what you want to pursue.

MH: You know, if you would have asked me even a couple of months ago, I might not have been so sure about what I wanted to study, but from giving the same speech so many times, and finding that I didn't get bored, and that I enjoyed it every time and am still fascinated by it, I figured out that research is what I really love, and really want to do.

RH: Since you are so dedicated to your research, do you feel like you've missed out on some of the things that girls your age tend to spend their time on, like fashion and all that?

MH: Not at all. The fashion stuff just sort of fell by the wayside. It's a war we have in the house all the time. My mom will say, can't you just put on a little makeup before you leave the house, you're famous now, and you need to look presentable! [Laughs]

RH: Wow, it's been a lot of fun talking with you. Thank you for taking the time to chat with us, and best of luck at Yale in the fall!

MH: Thank you!

Pantea Makabi

A Teacher of Special Education

Farrokh (Avraham) Dilmanian

One Shabbat morning, I ran into Pantea Makabi's parents in *kanisa*. They informed me that Pantea is doing very well as a Special Education teacher and that she is very happy with her profession. The conversation produced enough curiosity in me to request that their daughter write me a short description of what she does. Her writing literally brought tears to my eyes. So, I put together a few questions for this inspiring young woman and received some interesting answers:

- *Pantea, could you please tell me what you do and what educational background you have?*

I am a special education teacher working with children with disabilities. For my undergraduate studies, I attended Queens College, where I obtained a double bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology. For my graduate studies, I attended Columbia University, where I earned a Masters degree in Curriculum and Teaching with a double certification in early childhood education and special education.

- *How did you get to choose Special Ed as your major in college?*

When I was considering what profession to go into, a few thoughts came into my mind. I never wanted a job where I would say to myself, "Ucchh, I need to go to work" but rather, "Ahhh, I am going to do what I love to do." I did not want to wake up 20 years from now, and ask myself "where did my life go?" I wanted a profession where I would live my life as an exclamation, rather than an explanation. Teaching children with special needs seemed to be the perfect match for me because it is a highly rewarding profession that is not done for the fame or fortune, but rather to make a meaningful difference in the world.

- *How did you get to choose teaching children with severe disability as your specialty?*

I always said if I was going to be a teacher, it would be for the children who needed the most attention and assistance. This way, I felt I was making something of myself and really changing



the lives of young children.

- *How old are your students and what types of disabilities do they have?*

My classroom consists of children between the ages of 3-5 years old functioning at a 2 to 2.5 year age level. My students are either diagnosed with autism or Down syndrome and are mostly nonverbal. They do not "talk" the way we carry out a conversation. My assistants and I teach the children sign language as well as a system that utilizes pictures known as PECS to help them communicate their needs. If my students want something, they can use the sign language sign for a particular object as a means of requesting it or they could take out a picture of that object and hand it to an adult in the classroom. Therefore, even without verbal language, they are getting their ideas across. Furthermore, my students lack many of the basic skills most children have such as making eye contact, responding to their own name, using the bathroom independently,

eating and drinking by themselves, playing appropriately with a toy, and making friendships. Many people believe you go to school to learn academic skills. However, at my school we aim to teach life skills to help our young students become functional members of society.

- *What is the secret to your success?*

I always say the key to teaching are the 3 P's: 1) Praise, 2) Prize, 3) Pray. With any skill I want my students to learn, my staff and I break it down into simpler skills. If they need to learn how to use the bathroom, we will make a picture chart showing what they need to do and in what order, such as a picture of a child sitting on a toilet, flushing, and washing hands. With each step that they achieve, we praise them whole heartedly ("Good job", "Excellent", "You did it!"). The praise gives them the confidence that they are capable of doing anything. It also makes them feel good about themselves because they know that someone cares. Additionally, with each skill that we teach, we award them a prize after they complete the task. Their prizes may be food, a toy, or a simple hug. This way they learn that their actions can produce positive results. It also gives them the motivation to

want to learn, and once they have this motivation, the sky is the limit. Lastly, I always pray for my students' success because at the end of the day, G-d is the one who guides me to help my students. I pray that I could use my teaching abilities to help others and not be a teacher with just a degree, rather, a teacher who knows how to teach.

- *Do you get the parents to continue the teaching of the students at home?*

It is extremely important for me to bridge the gap between the school and home environments. Since several of my students come from underprivileged and overcrowded homes in inner city neighborhoods and even from homeless shelters, the parents might not have the resources they wish to have to teach their children. Therefore, my staff and I create "work job packages," where we create the same activities we do at school for the home environment. These packages include booklets to a) help my students identify shapes and colors of subjects, and recognize certain feelings b) use games to learn their numbers and ABCs, picture charts to help speed up the toilet training process, and c) conduct activities to recognize their peers via numerous class photos, CDs of educational songs as well as sign language charts to name a few. This way, my staff and I become partners with our parents with the common goal of seeing the success of their children and their never-ending learning.

- *Please give me examples of the changes you have produced in the lives of these children.*

As I previously mentioned, it is not me who produces changes in these children's lives, but rather G-d helping me to do so. Therefore, with G-d's guidance, students, who came to my class with the IEP (individualized education plan) goal of only responding to their own name, came to learn the names of their teachers as well as those of their peers. Students, who would play alone in the corner, were now greeting their classmates and playing with their friends rather than just sitting beside them. Four-year-old students, who were still using diapers, were, by the end of the year using the bathroom on their own. Students who would use their hands to eat were now eating with utensils and cleaning up after themselves. Students, who didn't even know their ABCs and could only use pictures, sign language signs and a few small words, were now identifying over 30 words, reading short books, carrying out conversations and even running some classroom activities. It just comes to show that these children can improve; they can succeed and shine like the stars that they are.

- *My last question, what would you say makes being a special education teacher indeed a "special job?"*

Recently, I was watching an Oprah Winfrey episode about happiness, where at one point she discussed job satisfaction. Based on research studies, being a special education teacher was considered one of the happiest jobs in America. As the researchers beautifully stated, it is because it is done "for the bliss, not the bucks."

Thank you, Pantea. I wish you the best for continued success in your kind and gratifying endeavor.

Nathan Etessami Named Palmer Scholar at Wharton



Megillah would like to congratulate Nathan Etessami, son of Shiva and Shahab Etessami, on his recent formidable accomplishment. Nathan has graduated from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business with a MBA degree in health care management. Nathan was named a Palmer Scholar, having earned a spot in the top five percent of Wharton's class of 2011. During his time there, he also played on UPenn's volleyball and ice hockey teams. Nathan holds an undergraduate Bachelor of Science and Engineering degree in chemical engineering from Princeton University, where he graduated magna cum laude in 2006. There, he was the captain of the ultimate frisbee team.

He will be returning to work as a consultant for Boston Consulting Group this September. In the past two years, Nathan's travels have taken him all over the world – Peru, Belize, Chile, Australia, New Zealand, and the Dominican Republic to name a few. Before September, he plans on visiting some more places, including but not limited to Tanzania, Zanzibar, Turkey, Estonia, and Finland. The well-travelled scholar and athlete also has a sense of humor. "I enjoy long walks on the beach," he said, describing his best attributes. Some may also recall his one-time stint as a Borat impersonator.

While both sides of his family battle to take credit for his genius, it can be said without exaggeration that Nathan is a jack-of-all-trades. Congratulations to Nathan Etessami and his family!

Charity Through Sports

Ariel Nassim



Israel Bonds - Ariel Kalaty, Byron Hakimi, Evan Rafinia, Brian Hakimi, Ariel Nassim, Daniel Lolai, Matthew Zaroovabeli

On April 3rd, 2011 the Israel Bonds took on the LeVian Chocolatiers in a charity basketball game at Cherry Lane gymnasium. Both teams were participating in a Jewish charity basketball league, Charity Through Sports. Charity Through Sports (CTS) is a not-for-profit organization in New York with one simple goal -- to raise money for local charities. Since 2006, CTS has donated thousands of dollars to charities ranging from ambulances, to children with illnesses, and to college organizations. The main source of fundraising is through various basketball leagues running throughout the year.

The last game of the regular season happened to be between two of our very own Mashadi teams participating in CTS, so after much last-minute effort, the game was brought to Great Neck in order to raise money for a special cause: Barzilai Medical Center. Barzilai Medical Center is a 490-bed hospital in the South of Israel, only 6 miles from Gaza. Barzilai Medical Center has been the target of numerous Qassam rocket attacks, and the hospital plays a vital role in treating wounded soldiers and terror victims. It goes without saying the great importance of supporting such an organization in the State of Israel. And support it we did. With over 100 fans in attendance, the support was undeniable, and the quality of play did not disappoint.

With playoff seeding already set for the following week, the outcome of the game was rather meaningless, but you never would

have guessed while watching. Both teams came out firing with incredible intensity and competitive play. The Israel Bonds took an early lead, but could not extend further than a few points. At halftime, the LeVian Chocolatiers, with Team Sponsor Eddie LeVian watching from the sidelines, were trailing by 2 points. But that only gave the Chocolatiers motivation to play harder in the second half. Within the first 4 minutes of the second half the Chocolatiers took a commanding lead over the Israel Bond team, led by the shooting of the Kordvani brothers, and a dominating inside performance by Daniel Mardkhai.

The Bonds continued to trail by 4 to 8 points for the remainder of the half until the last minute. Trailing by 7 with 30 seconds to go, and looking like a loss was inevitable, the Bonds picked up their game, with a running jump shot by Byron Hakimi, and a clutch 3-pointer by the team's leading scorer, Evan Rafinia, the Bonds cut the lead to 2 with 6 seconds left on the clock. With an inbounds play that looked to have been ineffective, the ball landed in Daniel Lolai's hands, the youngest member of the Israel Bond squad, when he made a strong drive to the basket, got fouled, and converted on a 3-point play to put the Israel Bonds team up by one point with 2 seconds remaining. Although stunned, the Chocolatiers were able to get a clean look at the basket, but were just inches short on a 30-foot game winning attempt. The players, families, and all fans in attendance got more than they bargained for, and received an

entertaining afternoon of competitive sports, while supporting a great cause.

We would like to express our gratitude to Eddie LeVian and Albert Bassal for their continued support and sponsorship of our basketball teams. They have both been incredibly generous when the issue of Tzedakah and charity arises, and they are great examples of philanthropist within our community. We would also like to extend a special thanks to Arnie Flatow and the North Shore Hebrew Academy. While the Jewish communities of Great Neck may at times seem segregated and uninvolved with one another, the NSHA, and especially Arnie Flatow has been more than welcoming and supportive in helping with any of our needs. And the most important thanks of all must be given to the fans who attended the game. Rather than just any other basketball game, the fans made that Sunday afternoon a great event!

At the time of writing this article, the CTS season had come to a close. The Israel Bonds and LeVian Chocolatiers met again, this time in the quarterfinals. With another very competitive game, the Israel Bonds came out victorious to advance. The championship game was played on May 9th, 2011, serendipitously the same night as Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day. The game was extremely close to the final seconds. Several late defensive stops, and some big baskets allowed the Bonds to retake the lead with 15 seconds to go. Brian Hakimi then hit two free throws to secure the championship for Israel Bonds. The win also gave right to the Israel Bonds team to allocate over \$4,000 towards the charities of their choosing.

I just want to end this article with saying that we should embrace the successful aspects of our community and facilitate their growth. Over 15 years ago, 54 Shaare Shalom was built and

the community was given a gymnasium. Nowadays, this gymnasium is being used around the clock; during school hours for gym/recess, after-school classes for kids of all ages, finally numerous leagues running every night of the week till 11pm. It doesn't end there either. The gym is used often on Saturday nights, and has classes running all day on Sundays as well. Despite this high volume use, we are at the point where one small gym no longer accommodates the growing needs of our community. Far too many people no longer use the gym because their "hours" have been taken over, and as our community grows, these are the problems we must address.

All in all, there are several hundreds of people using our gymnasium on a weekly basis. It is a safe environment, keeping younger age groups from roaming the streets, and allows for a healthy alternative to the "video-game" lifestyle that is likely to attribute too much of the childhood obesity we are seeing in this country. Aside from physical health benefits, sports have been proven to give mental health benefits, helping with chronic conditions such as depression, anger, and anxiety. With all this said, we need more resources for sports and recreation!

Gymnasiums and athletic facilities provide an organized and safe venue for sports and recreation to take place. Athletics can provide both physical and mental health benefits to children, adults, and the elderly, as well as serve as a social arena. And lastly, as we know, a gymnasium can always be converted to a place of prayer at appropriate times; however, a synagogue cannot routinely be converted to an athletic facility. I hope this can serve as a message to those eagerly looking for the next community project: Before we invest in more synagogues, we must invest in a real Athletic/Recreation center.



Levian Chocolatiers - Igal Nassim, Adam Kordvani, Daniel Mardkhai, Sammy Hakimian, Jason Kordvani, Sammy Ghassabian, Jon Eliassi

The Mashadi Community Delivers: A Day of Chesed and a Visit to Kew Gardens and Shaare Tova Synagogue

Afshin Bassali

It's not easy to wake up early on a Sunday morning. But when 380 families are counting on you to make their Pesach happen, our community springs into action. Over 50 cars from our community were involved in delivering Kosher for Passover food packages for needy families in Queens on Sunday, April 10, 2011.

Organized by Tomchei Shabbos of Queens, each family received a custom-tailored delivery based on family size, age, and other factors. Being the largest delivery on their weekly schedule, leave it to TSQ to organize an amazing drive-through pick up system, which left all of us impressed.

But more than anything else, what made this delivery day special was that we all took our kids to participate in this act of chesed (kindness) and to show them our old neighborhood of Kew Gardens and, of course, Shaare Tova Synagogue. Giving our children a tour of the majestic Shaare Tova Synagogue with the help of Rabbi Avi Nissanian and Mr. Fallah Zabihi was also an exciting experience to last a lifetime.

Raising our children in the well-to-do confines of suburbia in Great Neck certainly has its benefits, but many of our children don't realize that there are fellow Jews living only minutes away from us who need help putting food on their tables on a daily basis. After making their delivery, one parent of a teenage daughter even remarked that "today was a remarkable lesson for my child, more than anything she will learn in her [Jewish day school] classroom."

Many thanks to Romina and Kourosh Namdar for sponsoring the pre-delivery breakfast at Shaare Shalom and the post-delivery ice cream at Shaare Tova. The day would not have been possible without the help of Kami Kalaty, Benny Livian, Andy Kalitzadeh and most of all Mr. Gideon Karmily, who helps orchestrate TSQ deliveries throughout the year.

And most of all, our community's delivery effort was dedicated in memory of our friend, Allen Hakimian (Jabarzadeh) z'l, a long-time volunteer driver for Tomchei Shabbos of Queens. Although Allen was involved in the initial planning for this remarkable day, unfortunately, he was unable to join us and was certainly missed.



Dayijoon

Aviva Nassimi

I wrote the following to commemorate the 'haft' of my beloved uncle, Allen Hakiamian z'l (1971- 2011,) whose tragic death is a truly sobering occasion for the community which he held so dear. There is nothing I can ever say or write to adequately capture the spirit of such a great man, but this is my best attempt at a representation...

February 3rd, 2001, a day that was supposed to bring us the utmost happiness brought instead a devastating blow. A heavy weight was thrown onto my fragile 8-year-old body and under that immense pressure, collapse seemed inevitable. I went numb. My father was in the room, and you were right beside him. You, my dayijoon, were the one who rested your hand on my shoulder when my dad choked on every word that dripped from his mouth, as he delivered the news that I was never again to see my mother, your sister. As I stand here now, dayijoon, I can feel your same hand resting on my shoulder. My father refused, he pleaded with every ounce of his being, to bypass giving me the news on that sorrowful day, he broke...but you held him up, all the while fighting back your own tears.

You saw my body trembling, collapsing under the weight of this news, and right away, without hesitation, without giving it a second thought, you embraced me, you shielded my body. You stood strong and held the weight of all our families mending hearts. I felt safe, sheltered by the unwavering support and selfless love of your warm grip. For the past ten years you have served as our armor. It has been you, dayijoon; supporting us, holding us up, shielding us from the harshness of what was now to be our reality.

Feb 2, 2011. What once served as my support is gone, and I can again feel my body collapsing. I feel it again, the pressure of an immense weight being thrown on me, on our family. This all-too familiar heaviness straining our hearts, and I feel my knees about to buckle; the same numbness creeping up for a second time on the fragile bodies of your family. Your shoulders aren't here to embrace us, to act as an armor, to be our shield, but that is who you were - you were the support, the foundation, the rock of our family. Now,



however, the memories you have left us with are powerful enough to serve as all those things- it's your pictures, your vibrant energy, your *neshamah* that will keep us from collapse.

As we sit here and we remember Allen today we all have our own memories of who he was and how he touched our individual lives. Some of you remember his cheerful and uplifting song and dance, or his campaign platform for his run for the kanisa board or his hilarious MYC plays or his impersonations and the smiles on your children's faces when he joked with them or brought them gifts when he came over your house. When he paraded into your hospital room and cheered for your new baby you forgot about the pains of your labor. When he danced at your wedding you thought he was your best friend. When he yelled and screeched over the phone that I got into college I felt like a princess. Whatever your memory may be- however different your memory is from the next person's- each and every memory is, in essence, work or at a party or in kanisa, exactly the same because-at whether you knew him for twenty years or 10 minutes, he made you feel like the most important person in the room.

There is nothing I can say of my dayi's noble character that his *midot* didn't say for themselves. There is nothing I can say of my dayi's smile that his warm greeting for you didn't already made you feel. There is nothing I can tell you of my dayi's love for our community that his involvement hasn't already portrayed. There is nothing I can say about the devotion he had to his family that the memories bleeding in our hearts cannot attest to themselves.

Hashem uses great people to accomplish great things, as my dayi Allen had. Contained deep within him was a genuine love of life was a unique curiosity to understand the world around him and he held an equally as strong desire to share those lessons he learned, to give back that boundless, endless love. With a heart of pure gold, lacking any resentment or bitterness, he inspired us with the generosity of his time and of his self, he has delighted us

with his many talents and enthusiasm and most importantly the way he refused to take life too seriously. Whether his generosity came in the form of his humor, or his time, or his compassion, he touched us so profoundly become seldom do we come across a man who treats every person as if he or she is the most important person in the world.

Dayijoon, you watched out for us, you taught all your nieces and nephews, who admire you so much, about anything and everything. We can see that you will continue do that and more, to watch over us, guide us from above with your sister by your side. Hand in hand now, it is apparent you two were truly a pair of angels, and your mother, my imajoon the strong, brave and resilient women deserved the zchut of raising you. Khaleh joonam, you are a remarkable human being for not only all you can withstand, but the ability you bear to move foreword, and carry our family foreword as well. Imajoonam, it is only because of your infinite wisdom that this family will survive, it is only because of the strength of its bark, your spirit, that our family tree will continue to grow.

Dayijoon, you have shown me what it means to live life to the fullest. We have all heard the saying "and in the end it is not the years in your life that counts. It's the life in your years." At the young age of 39 years it is safe to say that you have dance more than a man of 120, it is safe to say that you have touched more people in your short life of 39 than a man of 120, that you have traveled, laughed and enjoyed more than many of us can dream to do in a lifetime. We have learned from your legacy that no matter what obstacles one is faced with, no matter what one is handicapped by, life is something worth living, life is worth being enjoyed and that life is beautiful.

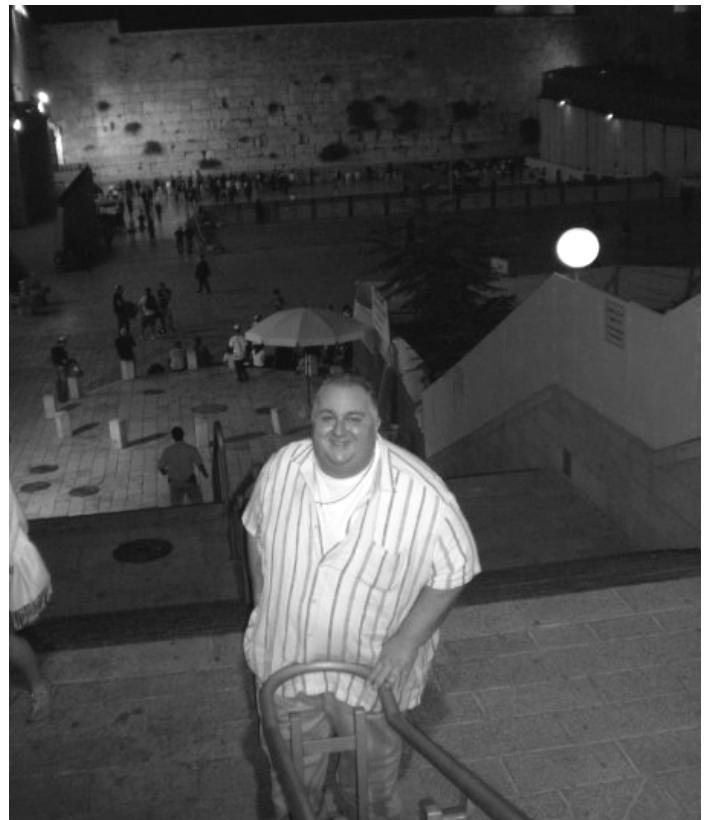
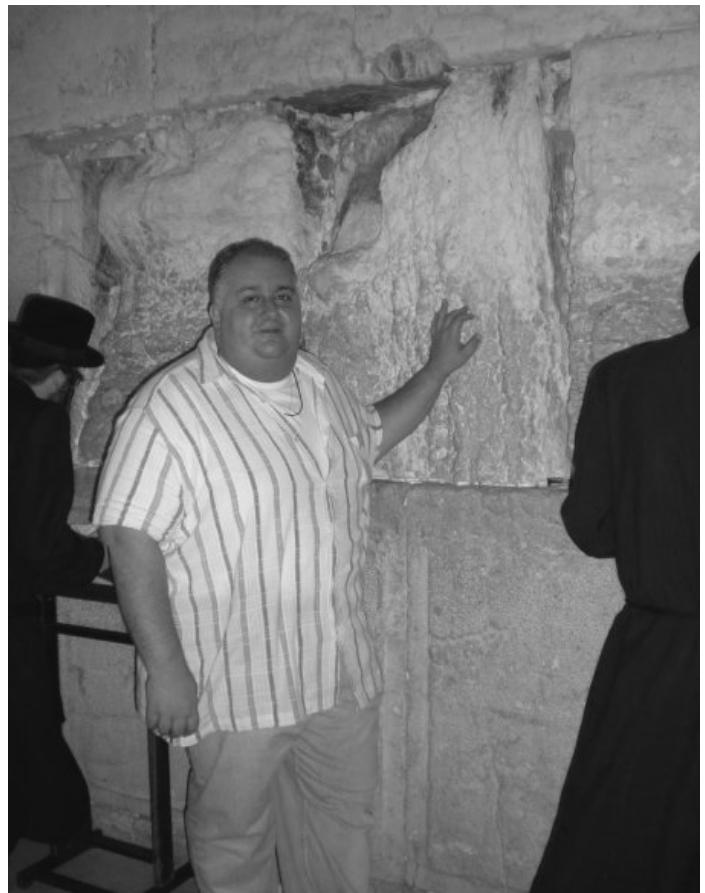
You were in school at my graduation, on the dance floor at all of our family's *smachot*, at every Shabbat dinner. You were there, with out fail, on the other end of the telephone receiver if at any time your friends or family needed to talk. You were everywhere and anywhere that I needed and now every where I look all I see is lackluster, is dull, is gray because its missing the light it once held. All I see is darkness.

The light, it seems, has gone out of our lives. Our beloved Allen z'l, our dayijoon, as we called him, the pulse of our family, the energetic youth of our community, has passed away. The light has gone out, I said, and yet I am wrong. For the light that shone for 39 beautiful years, in this community, in this family, was no ordinary light. The light that has illuminated this community for these many years will continue to illuminate this community for many more years, and be seen in this very Kanisa for the energy that it once brought.

Everything about that day you left this world is like Hashem yelling as loud as he could that it was written. On a day that you said *kadish* in the morning, on a day that you did so many mitzvot in the memory of your father and sister, you sent out an email at 10:30 AM with Subject: Yitzchak Ben Chanuka, Yahrzeit, and it read: "...May all passed loved ones souls be happy and watch over us from above and may we always celebrate each other's *simchot* during our long and happy life on earth. Allen Hakimian." For you dayijoon, we vow to do just that.

I can cry for you, I can save all your heartfelt messages, I

can hold on to your pictures, but as for the future, there is never going to be an ending to your story. There is never going to be a final page to your journey because to die completely a person must not only forget but be forgotten ... To live on in the hearts of people you left behind is to never die, my dayijoon.



A Life Which Mattered

"The Hakimian and Hematian families would like to express their immense gratitude for the outpouring of support following our dear Allen's tragic passing. Without the love and support of our community members, our darkest moments would have been unbearable. It is impossible to express in words how uplifting and heartening it was to witness the love and admiration felt towards Allen, and how his spirit infused the lives of so many.

While Allen lacked biological brothers, he certainly was not short of brotherhood, as his friends were more familial than anyone could wish for. We are comforted by the fact that Allen's spirit will endure in our shared memories, and his infectious smile will resonate in our collective conscience.

Thank you all for being part of his family."

In light of Allen Hakimian's untimely passing, many of his friends, family, and coworkers turned to his Facebook "Wall" to express their grief and shock, but also to reflect on some of the good times and memories they shared with him. Below are some of the many heartening wall-posts in the days following his passing. He was an incredible person who touched so many lives. These are just a few...

Allen...I am sitting here looking at pictures from our trips together & my heart hurts. I can not conceive of the fact that you are gone. It's been 4 days & it still doesn't seem real. Whether you are hanging me off the side of a cliff in Israel, sitting on me, or pretending to propose to me to draw a crowd, in every picture I am laughing to the point of tears. Now we are all in tears because you were taken from us much too soon. You were such an amazing friend to Tony & I... I just wish we could have had more time with you. I will NEVER EVER forget you & the amazing times we had together. Rest in peace.

- Arezou Carmili 2-6

There are no words..I am so sad and shocked. We have lost the kindest, most special person. I always enjoyed seeing you at the shows and chit chatting. Our loss is heaven's gain.

- Estelle Hedaya 2-4

The heavens have a new star.. RIP Allen.

-Rachel Sap 2-4

You know saying "you came into this world crying while everyone was smiling and when you left this world everyone crying while you were smiling". I know this is true for you Allen since you ALWAYS had smile on your face till the very end. Miss you brother

- Eddie Aziz 2-3

To my ever sweet, dear friend Allen,

As I sit here with a pain in my heart, tears in my eyes, and bewilderment in my mind, the only thing that can give me some comfort is something I always believed. Gd sends angels to live among us and you evidently were one of them...and as sudden, too soon and devastating your passing may be for us..we must trust that Gd has a plan for you and your journey here was completed. Rest in peace my friend, knowing that you will NEVER be forgotten and ALWAYS be loved, cherished and missed. ☠

- Sepi Enayatian 2-3

Allen my brother...I cannot stop thinking about you. I just want to pick up the phone and call you. I know that you are in a better place

and even though today was a tough day...we all had to let you go. I know your soul is in a better place and I know that you are watching us from above with your loved ones that you have not been with for a while by your side. It is obvious how much everyone loves you and it is clear that you will always be in our hearts. This world was a better place with you. We will miss you.

- Sean Shaverdi 2-3

Allen, I said goodbye to you today and my tears were streaming but you will always bring a smile to my face. I love you my brother. Thank you for being there for me - always.

- Kami Kalaty 2-3

It doesn't matter how long you live, rather the lives you touch and the impression you make on people's lives. Did anybody ever see you and their mood didn't automatically improve? Being near you meant feeling happy. How many people who live to be 100 could you say that about? Show me one person who didn't like you and I'll show you an idiot. From now on, I'll chose to smile when I think of you rather than cry. Your life mattered.

- Esther Rahimi 2-3 (24 "likes")

Although I am your cityville neighbor I am touched by the kind words of praise from your friends. Indeed everyone is blessed to have you touch their lives in one way or the other & the memory will linger forever. My sincere condolence to the bereaved family & I pray that god will give them the strength & courage to survive this great loss.

- Evan Singh 2-3

I will always remember you with laughter in my heart because that's the way you made me feel. I won't remember you with tears in my eyes. That's not the way you should be remembered at all.

- Mojgan Nabavian Hakimian 2-3

the sun is shining for the 1st time in weeks, and i know you're shining down on us too...i will never forget you and i know you're in a better place now...rest in peace my dear friend.

- Maya Bassaly 2-3

You will always be loved and in our memories. You have touched everyone you have encountered with you laughter, kindness and joy of life. Baruch dayan haemet.

- Gidon Akler 2-3

Great person, great friend, great uncle - No words to describe how much i miss you Allen, no words. You took a piece of my heart with you that will always remain empty. Baruch dayan ha'emet. Love u!

- Melanie Zar Hematian 2-3

Baruch Dayan Haemet. I can't believe I'm writing on your wall, and you can't read it. Allen, I love you so much. You were truly an amazing person. One of the greatest friends. Everyone who knew you, loved you. I can't believe we'll never have another dinner together, another car ride together, or even another conversation together. I can't believe I'll never hear you say "hi jeegar" ever again. There are not enough words. You will always hold a place in my heart. Miss you already.

- Pamela Karmely Livian 2-3

"People will Forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

- Maya Angelou

It's like she wrote this about you. Baruch Dayan ha'emet.

- Lori Shapiro Nabavian 2-2

In almost eighteen years of being behind the camera, I came across very few people like Allen Hakimian. He was the heart of every party he was in. Always smiling, always full of life. I am very sorry to hear of this tragic news and my thoughts and prayers are with Allen's family at this difficult time. RIP Allen, you will be missed.

- Bobby Farokhzad 2-2

Our dear friend, we will miss you, your beautiful smile and the countless ways you made us all laugh. Baruch dayan haemet.

- Eyal Akler 2-2

Allen- There is only 3 of us in our room. Now, you left us already. I still can't believe it. Its hard to accept you aren't with us anymore. I keep praying for you coming back in my mind but you couldn't make it. its not fair how you gone, and how your leaving us so soon. Every time i see your seat, I'm gonna miss your jokes , laughs and dance...Today is the saddest day i experience after long time.

R.I.P dearest Allen ;

- Yin Moore 2-2

Allen, I only met you a short time ago thru my mom, who always thought of you as one of her best friends. I remember the time that u gave me n my brother a ride home from the bat-mitzvah party. Im so glad that I got to see you one last time in Kanissa last Shabbat. Will miss u.

- Spencer Hakimian 2-2

Well, Allen.... I miss you....who says it will get easier.... : they lied.... I miss you

its so hard with out being able to tell everyday the stories..... :xoxoxo

- Sima Khorsandi 3-22



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New Healthcare Reform Laws

Roya Dilmanian, Licensed Insurance Agent

The new Obama administration healthcare reforms passed in 2010. Some of its regulations have already been implemented and more will follow in the coming years if the legislation is not repealed. The laws, as summarized below, will go into effect over the next several years:



2010

- All children until age 26 may stay in the family plan if not married or if they have coverage through their jobs. New York state mandated that children can stay until age 29 if the group buys the extra benefit rider.
- Groups who offer insurance to their employees and contribute to the cost are eligible for up to 35% tax credit if the average salary of employees is under \$50,000 a year and the employees are not related to the owner.
- There are no limits on the annual and lifetime medical and drug benefits.
- Preventative care such as check-ups and mammograms do not have a co-pay.
- No pre-existing exclusions for children up to age 19.

2011

- Health Insurance companies must spend at least 80% of premiums on medical care.
- Companies must offer better drug benefits to Medicare part D beneficiaries.

2012

- Government will increase itemized deductions on tax returns for medical expenses from 7.5 % to 10 % .

2014

- Companies must establish insurance exchanges so individuals and those who are self-employed have more access to buying a health plan.
- Government will provide tax credits for people with incomes above Medicaid eligibility up to \$80,000 a year.

- Most individuals will be required to obtain health insurance or pay a penalty in lieu.
- Government will increase eligibility for Medicaid to 133% of poverty level.

2015

- Insurance companies are required to pay physicians based on value, not volume.

Healthy New York

There are lower-cost plans available in New York State called Healthy NY that can be purchased as an individual or employer group. For individuals, the income limit is based on the size of the household: a family of one must earn under \$27,000 a year, a family of two under \$36,000, a family of three under \$ 46,000 and so on.

For groups, if 30% of employees make under \$40,000 a year and half of the employees join the plan, they are eligible for Healthy NY.

Medicare Plans

When you turn 65 years old, you are eligible for Medicare if you or your spouse has paid social security taxes for at least 10 years. Medicare has some gaps, such as 20% of doctors' fees, hospital deductibles, and co-pays.

You have two options to cover your out of pocket costs.

Either join a Medicare advantage plan which takes over your Medicare and give you their plan, or buy a Medicare supplemental plan such as AARP; that will complete Medicare and give you more freedom, but your costs will be higher.

If you want to have coverage for home care or nursing home care, you have to apply for Medicaid (for low-income and low-asset individuals), or buy Long Term Care insurance while you are healthy.

Estate Planning for The Procrastinator

Robert Bichoupan, Esq.

Money Matters

For my clients who have worked with me over the years in drafting wills and trusts, and for those of you who have not yet done so, I have news. This is news about which you may have heard something or, if you had attended my recent seminar along with Roya Dilmanian on the new Obama Administration Estate, Capital Gains, and Gifting Rules, you may have some knowledge.

The news is that you can transfer more wealth to your children than was ever before possible. In New York State, there is no gift tax. However, under Federal law, the amount that could be gifted by a citizen or green card holder was limited to \$1,000,000. On December 17, 2010, that amount was increased to \$5,000,000 per giver. In addition, Congress increased the amount that could be passed to grandchildren or future descendants to match that amount. Again, the old rate was \$1,000,000. It is now \$5,000,000 until December 31, 2012.

However, if you think you can get around to making these gifts sometime down the road, you are sadly mistaken. The ability to make that level of gift exists only through the end of 2012. Unless Congress extends the amount or otherwise increases it, that amount is set to expire, or "sunset", back to the old \$1,000,000 rate on December 31, 2012. You, your spouse, your parent, your uncle, your aunt, your close friend, and your loved ones need to be advised of this change - you either use it or lose it.

These amounts are referred to as the estate tax exemption amounts. Unfortunately, these substantially higher limits impact Wills that were previously written, including those written by me, which contain a "credit shelter" bequest. A "credit shelter" Will often leaves the maximum amount that can pass free of federal estate taxes to one or more parties, or a trust, with the balance being passed to one's spouse. Since no one anticipated such a large increase in the exemption amounts, many practitioners, including myself, often relied upon such wills to maximize the tax free portion that could be passed to future generations. The unintended consequence, when taken in conjunction with the new rules of December 17, 2010, is that too much may be passed to the next generation, leaving the spouse unintentionally impoverished.

Another modification in the old rules is the portability provision. The new rules allow the surviving spouse to utilize the unused portion of the deceasing spouse's \$5,000,000 exemption, to the extent not previously used. In other words, if spouse A dies having only used \$1,000,000 of his/her exemption, by making a simple election on the deceased

spouse's tax return within 9 months of death, spouse B would be entitled to \$9,000,000 as their exemption. There are special rules in the event of remarriage. Although the portability provision is also set to expire at the end of 2012, I believe that this portability provision was long overdue and my hope that at least that portion of the rules will be extended.

This article is not intended to give legal advice, but to make the reader aware of current issues. Please speak with your lawyer, accountant, or financial planner for advice on these matters.

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International Planning for Taxation and Asset Protection

K. Eli Akhavan, Esq.

The current global economic environment demands a thorough familiarity with the laws governing international taxation. Individuals who conduct business around the world require sound planning and creative structuring to save significant amount in tax dollars and to avoid issues with the IRS.

Proper international tax planning is important now more than ever since the IRS has been devoting substantial resources and efforts to its tax enforcement divisions. Furthermore, with proper international planning, including the use of foreign trusts, an individual can protect his assets from potential creditors including business partners and ex-spouses.

This article follows two individuals – Agha Pool-Dar, a rags-to-riches antiques dealer living in Milan and a citizen of Italy, and his only son, Playboy Chico, a citizen of the United States who isn't really interested in the family antiques business. Through different examples, I will illustrate potential tax and asset protection issues confronting Agha and Chico, and strategies to **legally** minimize tax liabilities and to provide protection from creditors. However, please note that in general, each individual's circumstances are different and accordingly, different results may apply depending on the situation. This is a highly complex and technical area, and competent counsel should always be sought.

Example 1 – “Chico Promises to be Good” - Agha owns commercial rental properties in midtown Manhattan and Miami Beach with a total worth of \$30 million. As part of his estate planning, he wants to transfer these properties to his son Chico since Chico promised him that he will reform his ways and start getting involved in the family business.

Potential Problem - If Agha just transfers the title to the property directly to Chico, Agha may be liable for a gift tax at the rate of 35% for a total liability of \$10.5 million. Please note that

even though **Agha is NOT a citizen of the United States**, he is still obligated to pay US gift taxes if he transfers property “located in” the United States.



Being Smart - However, clever Agha retained an even more clever attorney who informed him of a tax loophole. The attorney advised Agha that he should not transfer the title to the property directly to his son. Instead, Agha should make sure that the property is titled to an LLC or a corporation, and he should transfer the LLC interest to his son – that way he is likely to avoid any potential gift tax liability. Chico will not be taxed on receipt of this gift.

Example 2 – “Give me the Cash Baby” - Chico refuses to reform his ways and his father decides that it's not wise to currently give him \$30 million worth of real estate. However, Agha still believes that Chico should be given an incentive to return to the family business. Accordingly, Agha gives Chico a \$1 million gift from his U.S. bank account.

Potential Problem – The IRS imposes a gift tax on gifts of cash drawn from U.S. bank accounts. Accordingly, Agha may be liable for a \$350,000 gift tax ($35\% \times \$1,000,000$).

Being Smart - Agha should make sure that the gift of cash is drawn from his foreign bank account. A direct transfer from a foreign bank account to a U.S. citizen **generally** should not result in any gift taxes. Alternatively, Agha can use the cash in his U.S. bank account to purchase U.S. stock (e.g., shares of Apple, Microsoft, Wal-Mart, etc.) and transfer the stock to Chico without gift tax liability (there should be a waiting period between time of purchase and transfer) – the IRS does not impose gift taxes on foreigners who transfer U.S. stock. As in Example 1, Chico will not be taxed on the receipt of the gift.

Example 3 – “Chico Goes off on His Own” – Chico decides that instead of the family antiques business, he wants to start his own

clothing company. Most of Chico's contacts and suppliers are in France, so he moves to Paris for a few years to launch his company while retaining his U.S. citizenship.

Potential Problem - The IRS taxes U.S. citizens and residents on their **worldwide income**. As a U.S. citizen, ALL of Chico's income from his Parisian company is subject to U.S. income tax and Chico must file U.S. income tax returns even if he is a current resident of France. Furthermore, as a resident of France, Chico must also file French income tax and may be liable for French taxes. Potentially, Chico may be subject to double taxation – both in France and in the United States. If Chico owns 10% or more of a corporation in France, he may be subject to IRS reporting obligations, and if he owns more than 50% of a corporation in France he may have U.S. income tax liability **even if no money is distributed** from the foreign corporation to him.

Being Smart – The U.S. allows a tax credit for taxes paid as income tax to foreign countries. Since French income taxes are generally higher than those in the United States, it is likely that Chico will owe little or no U.S. income tax. However, Chico must still file a U.S. income tax return in order to claim this credit.

Furthermore, the United States has tax treaties in effect with a number of other countries. Tax treaties provide income, estate, and gift tax relief from double taxation under certain circumstances. These treaties must be analyzed before proper international tax advice is proffered.

Example 4 – “Trust Issues” – Agha and Chico don't have any current creditors, such as business partners or ex-wives. However, given the uncertain business environment and unpredictable financial circumstances, Agha and Chico want to have a plan in place so that potential creditors cannot reach their assets. Agha and Chico may be able to take advantage of both domestic and foreign LLCs, partnerships and trust structures in order to protect their assets. Jurisdictions in which they may establish trusts for asset protection include the Bahamas, Belize, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Gibraltar, St. Vincent and Turks & Caicos. The structure and planning will depend on Agha's and Chico's needs and on the scope of their potential liabilities.

Conclusion

This is just a brief summary to illustrate the importance of international tax and estate planning. It should be emphasized that the rules are very complex, highly technical and proper counsel should be sought from an experienced advisor.

K. Eli Akhavan is an attorney with the law firm of **Meltzer, Lippe, Goldstein & Breitstone, LLP**. Eli represents high net-worth individuals, including company executives, celebrities and athletes in their U.S. and international tax, estate, and asset protection planning. Eli is a graduate of Columbia University and NYU Law School and in addition to his law degree, Eli has a masters in tax law. He has authored several articles and lectured on topics such as international taxation, asset protection, and estate planning.



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همه حق دارند از آن برخوردار باشند.

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آیا از سفید کردن دندان های خود بطور مکرر خسته شده اید؟ اگر دندانهای شما شکسته، ترک خورده یا لکه دارد یا فاصله بین آنها کم یا زیاد و یا نامرتب است، بهترین روش برای زیبا سازی دندانها پرسلان و نیز است. پرسلان و نیز هرگز لکه نمیشود و تغییر رنگ نمیدهد.

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The Largest Synagogue in the World

Mansour Karimzadeh



During our construction of the YMJC, we discussed the interior of the building and its specific main sanctuary requirements with a number of designers who were specialist in this area. One of these designers was an Israeli architect Avraham Fried. He visited us a few times during the construction of YMJC and I visited his factory at Keryat Gatt in Israel to see his work. He specializes in wood carvings and wooden heichal and bima for synagogues.

One of his proudest moments was when he showed us the picture of the heichal he had made for a synagogue in Jerusalem called the Belz Great Synagogue. He was saying the height of the heichal is 12 meters (36 feet) and it weighs 18 tons. From the picture it was impossible to visualize what this meant.

Belz Hasidim are from a town by the same name that had been occupied and been part of different countries – Austria, Poland, Germany, Soviet Union and finally Ukraine. The synagogue built in Jerusalem is a copy of the one they had built in Belz and dedicated in 1843. Many of the Jews of Belz were perished during the holocaust and before the end of the second world war, their rabbi and his congregation emigrated to Israel.

I had the opportunity of visiting this synagogue in my last trip to Israel. Then I realized what a huge place this was. From outside, it is difficult to absorb the full dimensions of size and its impact, and all the more so when one stands within, inside the huge *heichal*, You must tilt your head all the way back to be able see the geometrical sculpted ceiling rising to over 5 floors high, and to focus on the nine crystal chandeliers. This is quite overwhelming.

Look at these statistics: It took them 15 years to complete the construction of this synagogue which was dedicated in 2000. It seats 6,000 people. There are three levels of upper balconies for

the ladies and children. The *heichal* has the capacity to hold 70 Torah scrolls.

The main sanctuary is on the upper floor of the building and is used only on the Shabbat and holidays. The lower floor under the main sanctuary, contain a large number of small synagogues where daily services are held every 10 minutes. In an adjacent wing there is a large hall used for Hassidic gatherings. There are multiple floors below the floor with small synagogues with dormitory-style sleeping quarters for Belzer Hasidim from outside of Israel, who come to be with the Belzer Rabbi for Jewish holidays such as Rosh HaShana, Yom Kippur and Sukkot. There are also large rooms for other functions, such as *Seudah Shlishit* on Shabbat afternoons, weddings and Bar Mitzvah celebrations.

There is a large, outdoor courtyard of the synagogue, where Hasidim gather for outdoor addresses by their Rabbi and for large celebrations under a giant tent, such as the bar mitzvah banquets.

We asked the people there how it is possible that one *chazan* can be heard through this large synagogue. They told us that the main sanctuary has special acoustic features and that people keep very quiet. They have a special pillow on the *bima* that they beat with a sort of whip to quiet the congregants should it be needed.

A video of the Belz synagogue in session can be found in YouTube:

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=5447725737858098635&q=belzer&time=20000#>

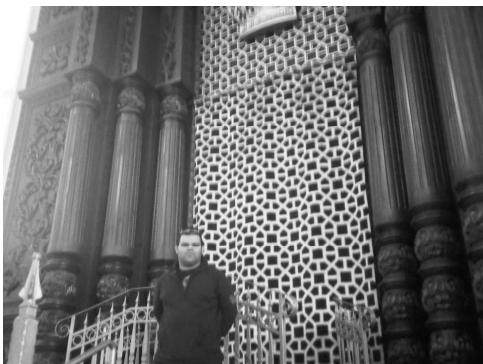
What is certain that this structure has kept these people together and united over the years.



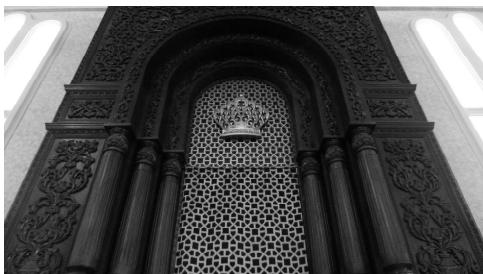
Outside area for gatherings.



The woodcarvings on the heichal



Comparing the height of the heichal to Mickey Karimzadeh



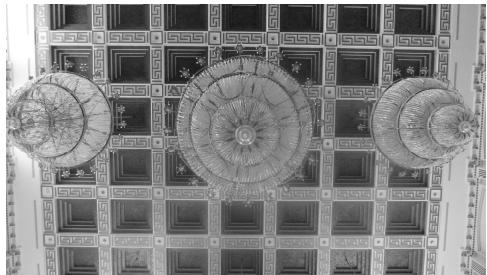
Details of the *heichal*



Large mezuzah on the entrance to the main sanctuary



Three levels of balconies for women and children



Vaulted ceiling and chandeliers



Simple wooden seating



Comparing the height of the *heichal* to my height

The Eccentric Corner: Why, Why, Why ?

Michael M. Mardkha

The pure purpose of the articles in this corner is an attempt to make you chuckle, grin, or raise an eyebrow. It has no bearing on politics, religion, finance, etc. and it has no philosophical value whatsoever. It is merely a five minute escape into the pure world of eccentric facts. Enjoy!

Why, why, why? A very interesting word that can be extremely entertaining in the English language. For example, why we drive on our parkways and park on our driveways? Why are boxing rings square? We know that English muffins and French fries are American inventions so why do we call them that? Why do we call it a hot dog when there is no dog in it (at least I hope not), or egg in eggplant, ham in hamburger, and pineapples have neither pine nor apples, so why do we call them by such names? Why is it that our nose can run and yet our feet can smell? Why can you get stuck in a revolving door? Why does near-miss imply you nearly hit something? Why do we send cargo by ship and a shipment by truck? Can we really be alone together? Please give me your original copies? Can something is a freezer actually burn as in freezer burn? The plumber came over the other day and gave me an accurate estimate. Why there is no past tense for must/beware/would/should/could/might?

There are obviously no real reasons behind these anomalies in the English language and I think it's about time someone starts making some rules. For example, if the plural for tooth is teeth then it makes perfect sense that the plural for booth to be beeth (FYI, this word does not exist). Similarly, if foot becomes feet then boot should become beet even though it doesn't make any sense. How about a box which in plural form becomes boxes and yet an ox does not become oxes (it becomes oxen).

You can't help but laugh at the unique lunacy in the English language which makes everyday people so interesting; if lawyers can be disbarred then electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, models deposed, cowboys deranged and dry cleaners depressed! A vegetarian is someone who eats vegetables so it makes perfect sense that a humanitarian eats...well let's not get into that. Did you know that they produce produce in farms? And a doctor may subject a subject to a series of tests. If you ever go on a safari make sure you don't get caught in a quicksand because, you guessed it, can slowly kill you.

So, it's no small wonder that some our glorious leaders had their share of problems with the English language in their public speaking roles. Here is a sample:

Richard Daley, former Chicago mayor – "The police are not here to create disorder; they're here to preserve disorder."

George Bush – "I think we can agree. The past is over."

Alan Greenspan, former FED chairman – "If I seem unduly clear to

you, you must have misunderstood what I said."

Marion Barry, former DC mayor – "What right does Congress have to go around making laws just because they deem it necessary?"

George W. Bush – "Natural gas is hemispheric... because it is a product that we can find in our neighborhoods."

Dan Quayle, US Vice President – "Republicans understand the importance of bondage between a mother and child."

Richard Daley, former Chicago mayor – "We must rise to higher and higher platitudes together."

Marion Barry, former DC mayor – "Outside of the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country."

Nancy Pelosi, former speaker of the House – "We have to pass this bill (the health care bill) so you can find out what's in it."

Let's see if you can guess who said the following phrases. Your three choices are President Barack Obama, former Vice President Dan Quayle, or former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin.

"Let me be absolutely clear. Israel is a strong friend of Israel 's."

"I've now been in 57 states; I think one left to go."

"On this Memorial Day, as our nation honors its unbroken line of fallen heroes and I see many of them in the audience here today."

"The reforms we seek would bring greater competition, choice, savings and inefficiencies to our health care system."

"I have made good judgments in the past. I have made good judgments in the future."

"The members of our highest court (Supreme Court) are granted life tenure, often serving long after the presidents who appointed them and are charged with the vital task of applying principles put to paper more than 20 centuries ago to some of the most difficult questions of our time."

Viewpoints

No Contest The Problem of Competitive Religiosity Jasmine Dilmanian

Wealthy suburbia lends itself to an everlasting battle of “Anything you can do, I can do better.” We all know that.

Your car, your house, the amount of toys your baby has but doesn’t touch, and your handbag are all subject to your neighbor’s scrutiny. Of course, this isn’t exclusive to Long Island. In our defense, there are just as many Mercedes convertibles purchased out of jealousy and midlife blues in Orange County, California or Lake Forest, Illinois as there are around here.

But one phenomenon has pervaded this bubble of ours over the last decade or so that I would say is entirely unique: competitive religiosity. Forget about wedding venues and offensively priced dye-jobs – there’s a new race in town, and many have opted, perhaps unwisely, to be the hare.

If you’re old enough to remember that far back, you might recollect a time when, regardless of your last name, you stood in front of Gino’s on a Saturday night waiting for plans that may or may not come to fruition. That afternoon, you were likely shooting hoops or getting splinters on the slide at Christopher Morley Park.

Then, something happened. I won’t speculate as to the cause of the shift because I don’t think there was a single cause, because I’m no expert, and because religion is a complicated and subjective thing. Bill O’Reilly says he doesn’t argue about religion because he’s “not a theologian.” In this case, I vehemently agree with a Fox News pundit.

As an observer of this new tide, however, I can point out some trends that many of us have been picking up on for a while now. (Also notice how everything Mashadis do is on a massive scale – “sheep” as someone I know calls us; a few go, the rest

follow, no matter in which direction.) Here’s a little questionnaire about your Jewish identity. I apologize if these are some things you haven’t pondered in a while:

Are you Jewish?

Do you keep kosher? How kosher? What do you define as kosher?

No bacon, yes shrimp? Meat, not cheese? Cheese, not sushi? Gelatin or no gelatin? Separated sink? Two dishwashers? Heck, two kitchens?

Are you shomer Shabbat?

Boil water for tea but don’t cook? Use the electric stove but not the gas? Sit in a car but don’t drive it? Touch the lights but not the computer? Walk but don’t carry? Carry, but only if you’ve been assured the *eruv* is in tact?

Think the *eruv* is a mere loophole? Don’t know what an *eruv* is? Ladies: Pants or skirt? If yes to skirt, how long and how tight? Pantyhose? Flash some knee for a date? Covered up on top, too? Elbows under wraps? Gulp...*shomeret negia*?

Men: Tzitzit under your Lacoste polo? Tefillin every morning? Or are you just lucky to have caught the 8:19 train after the snooze button’s third bout forced you up at 8:03?

Reform? Conservative? Modern Orthodox? Ultra Orthodox? Traditional? What does traditional mean to you and what does it mean to your neighbor?

Sorry, that was rough. You get the idea.

What’s a real shame is the fact that you probably embellish many of your answers to those questions when people ask. You might actually observe things “strictly” but not know why. Or, you might know why and not want to follow something, but do it anyway because someone is looking over your shoulder.

Then, there are those who reject the rules entirely and don't care to lie about it, either. You might not see those people around too much.

Ten years ago, there were barely any tense, uncomfortable conversations in this community about the merits of wearing a *sheitel* versus covering your hair with a scarf. People didn't accuse each other of sin because someone didn't throw out her child's Play-Doh before Passover. People didn't feel as pressured to interpret Judaism in a certain way for fear that some acquaintance with a pesky preaching habit would find out that his friend really doesn't see it the way he sees it.

On the flip side but equally as concerning: there wasn't such a forceful backlash. People were more proud to be associated with each other, not nearly as polarized, and, with less pressure to pick a side, only very rarely chose to declaratively deviate from their Jewish identity, however it was defined. This rarity is now on its way to becoming a familiar story.

Ironically, the closeness and ubiquitous moderation of our recent past is the very thing that has kept this community alive and Jewish. In 19th century Mashad, for fear of losing their lives, our ancestors became ostensibly Muslim once they left their doorsteps. So, everybody maintained a double life; it wasn't as important what branch of Judaism you practiced in your home,

but rather, that you called yourself a Jew at all. If you were a Mashadi Jew and your reputation was less than stellar, it was probably because you stole from somebody and not because you wore leather on Yom Kippur.

Judging people for the way they personally choose to practice religion, as long as they aren't hurting or trying to fool anyone, is wrong. If we can't even find two rabbis who agree on everything, who am I to say that the way you do it is wrong?

At every point on the spectrum, people sit stubbornly in judgment, peering in either direction and wondering why everybody else isn't more like them. Technically, they won't know for sure who was right until their 120 years is up.

Ultimately, our choices about religion come down to how we were raised, experiences, beliefs, personality, lifestyle, and convenience. Individual factors weigh in differently even within a single family unit, often causing major rifts. In a community that is supposed to pride itself on oneness, why are these rifts so pervasive?

If there's any lesson to be learned, it is that we are best off making an effort to take our noses out of other people's business, religious or otherwise, and stop living as a show for others and start living our own realities.

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Let's Save Israel as Americans

Anna Ben Yehuda

In one of his latest speeches, President Obama called for the Israel's 1967 borders as a starting point for negotiations between Israel and a potential future 'Palestine.' Jews around the world reacted in different ways. Some felt confused, angry, astonished and, many of us were in complete disbelief. Prior to the aforementioned speech, I wrote a short opinion piece for *Yahoo*, in which I concluded that Osama bin Laden's death actually turned me into a true American. I stated that, "the pride, joy, glory, satisfaction, and dignity that we feel living in this country, being part of the United States of America, renders this country unique. The ability to feel deeply connected to one's religion, whatever that may be, while still being intrinsically devoted to a land, a country – that's the symbol of freedom, and that's what the United States stand[s] for."

Needless to say, listening to the president in the past few weeks, I have been taken aback. Besides obviously disagreeing with his "suggestion," I felt a disconnect to America's policy. I started wondering – how is it that I am able to feel joy and pride in one instance, and true repulsion the next? How can a president spur feelings of accomplishment and security on the one hand, and turn them into something completely different just a few weeks later?

Full disclosure: I do not share the president's beliefs regarding the state of affairs in the Middle East. I will never accept giving up territories that were rightfully, militarily won by Israel's forces. I will never advocate for sitting down to come to an agreement with individuals that do not believe in the existence of Israel and openly advocate for its destruction.

I believe that everything that the President has done for Israel until now hasn't been completely intentional, but, rather, a result of some action taken towards the betterment of America. However, I am aware that President Obama's ideas aren't original ones. The Clinton administration and the Bush administration had both advocated for the same two-state solution, starting the boundaries of 1967 as a starting point for "mutually agreed land swaps," to quote Obama, during their respective terms in office. What Obama said wasn't news – but the way he said it was.

Obama did not first tell the Arabs to accept the existence of Israel, and then asked the latter to agree to territorial "swaps." Giving up certain lands in order to re-establish the borders of 1967 was a precondition to the talks, at least according to the way the president chose to deliver his speech. Of course, his AIPAC speech slightly deviated from the original one. He clearly stated that the existence of Israel isn't up for discussion, that the problem isn't whether or not Israel has the right to exist, but how to reach peace within it. My personal opinion about Barack Obama is that he is steadfastly working towards the betterment of American life.

There is no doubt, at least in my mind, that he has America's best interests at heart. Whether his policies have been helpful or successful is up for discussion, but I am convinced of his devotion to the country. But, I believe, the problem resides here. We, as Jews, cannot judge the president solely based on his local actions. As proud Jews, we are prone to judge him on a different scale as well. His foreign policies, especially the ones concerning the Middle East, are of great importance to us.

What do you give more attention to? America's prosperity and security or Israel's? It's not an easy question. After all, although we are intrinsically connected to our Holy land, we are to live by American laws all day long, all year long. We interact with American policies much more frequently than we do Israeli ones. We are Jews, but, for now, we are also American citizens.

I will never defend Obama's foreign policy with regard to this matter – which is why I did not vote for him the first time around. But I do think that we need to accept the fact that we live in America, and that the President of the United States will do anything to keep the country afloat and prosperous. Staying neutral, according to Obama, will protect America's future. Our own New York was directly attacked by Arab extremists – Obama is, somehow, trying to prevent that from happening again by assuming a rather non-neutral neutrality. Is his position moral? Is it ethical? Does it benefit Israel? Absolutely not.

So here is where we come in. Although we need to understand that we live in this country and that the president will always put Israel in second place, we can also try and change that. We subscribe by American laws, so who's stopping us from rallying to change them? Or to change the public's collective consciousness and perception? Just like Rabbi Bitton said in a recent Shabbat speech, we have an enormous amount of resources. From social media to many of our community members' contacts within the political world – we actually can make a change.

We can show the American public that openly siding with Israel does not necessarily come with a threat to America's security. As previously stated, I believe that all the positive things that the president has done for our homeland haven't been completely intentional. Osama bin Laden's death, for instance, was only possible because the latter had attacked the US. I highly doubt that Obama would have gone after him had he attacked Israel on a comparable scale.

I call for this to change. Let's push Israel to the forefront of any debate, let's protest Obama's words, and let's show everyone that we are here to fight, and will never accept to negotiate with "humans" that deny our very existence. Let's save our real homeland.

How To Get Your Wife To Stop Using Her Phone

An Inappropriately Silly Satire

Michael Hakimian

Credentials: Michael Hakimian (PhD, Esq., CPA, PE, etc.) is considered by some⁽¹⁾ to be the world's foremost expert on the effects of technology on relationships. His vast experience includes reading an online article about the subject, overhearing a specialist⁽²⁾ talking about it during a subway ride, and listening to the song "Technology" by Justin Timberlake. Today, he is finally ready to share his knowledge with you, free of charge.

Hello. Yes, the above is true. Most of you will also remember me from an article that was published in *Megillah* about 10 years ago about some miscellaneous subject.

Let's cut to the chase, shall we? One of the biggest crises that society faces today is that women are always on their 'smart' phones. Much like the atomic bomb, 'smart' phones were invented with the intention of good, but have ended up harming husband-kind via interruption, irritation, stress, and occasionally, murder. Tired of being second to the accursed device? Below are some illustrations that will get you out of the most typical binds:

Situation 1: "When you get home"



Solution - Blurt out "Chanel," "Tiffany's," or anything else that will faze/stun her. Be prepared for minor verbal abuse when you empty-handedly explain that you just wanted her to stop using her phone.

Good luck!

P.S. If you have found any of the above to be offensive or inappropriate, please contact Yossi Abrahimi, contributing editor at the *Megillah*. That's Yossi, pesareh Minoo o' Khosrow for any issues, or even if you just want to complain, cry, or use someone as a human punching bag.

P.P.S. At this time, I request of Michelle Hackman the phone number for the Intel Challenge, so that I can submit the above study.

P.P.P.S. If you are looking for some serious advice, then you have read the wrong article. The only real recommendation is to try to establish "no phone times" when neither spouse can use the phones, i.e. while dining out, Shabbat dinner, past 10 PM, etc. Men can be equally or more guilty when using phones for business purposes during family time, but usually only do so about 4.5%⁽³⁾ of the time.

(1) 'Some' refers to mostly people with mental problems, homeless bums, derelicts, etc.

(2) 'Specialist' here refers to a man with glasses who looked like a college professor.

(3) '4.5%' is the writer's estimation, based on no factual or documented information, and is probably incorrect. It just sounded right.

Situation 2: "Phone a Guest at Dinner"



Solution - Be very sloppy when you eat, and spill food everywhere. She will hurriedly put the phone away to shield it from water/ketchup damage.

Situation 3: "Disrupting Evening Activities"



Solution - Offer to plug her cell into the charger for her, and then carefully break the phone into small pieces using a hammer, crowbar, your bare hands, teeth, etc.

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Megillah would like to thank all of those who responded to our request in the past issues by sending in their contributions. The names of contributors appear below in alphabetical order within each category. Contributions of \$50 or more will be recognized for one year in Megillah.

Megillah

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Mr. & Mrs. Nassrollah Alishahian

Mr. & Mrs. Aram Bakhshi

Mr. & Mrs. David Bassalali Elishaoff

Mrs. Sara Bassaleli

Mrs. Hanna Bichupan & Family

Mrs. Jaffa Bichupan

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Davoodzadeh

Dr. Farrokh Dilmanian

Mr. & Mrs. Martin Ghodsi

Mrs. Afsar Gorjian

Mr. & Mrs. Amir Gordjian

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hadi

Mr. & Mrs. Aghajan Hakimian

Mr. & Mrs. Friedoon Hakimian (Lotfolahzadeh)

Mr. & Mrs. Lotfollah Hakimian (Javadoff)

Mr. & Mrs. Parviz Hakimian (Mortezazadeh)

Mr. Phillip Hakimian

Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Hoshmand

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Ilian

Mr. Nowruz Kalatizadeh & Family London – New York

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Mr. & Mrs. Farajollah Kashimallak

Mr. & Mrs. Fereydoun Kashimallak

Mrs. Esther Kelaty

Mr. & Mrs. Eshagh Kohanim

Mr. Steve Levy

Mr. Daniel Mordechai

Mrs. Nazi Nabavian & Son

Mr. Ebrahim Sani

Mr. & Mrs. Jalal Zar

Mr. & Mrs. Nasser Zar

Under \$50

Mr. Nasser Amirian

Mr. & Mrs. Moris Aziz

Mr. Yehezkel Lavi

۵۰ دلار و به بالا

خانم و آقای نصراله البیشاھیان

خانم و آقای آرام بخشی

خانم و آقای دیوید بصلتلی (الیسفاف)

خانم سارا بصلتلی

خانم حنا بی چوبان و خانواده

خانم یافا بی چوبان

آقای روبرت داودزاده

آقای دکتر فرج دیلمانیان

خانم و آقای مارتین قدسی

خانم افسر گرجیان

خانم و آقای امیر گرجیان

خانم و آقای روبرت هادی

خانم و آقای آفاجان حکیمیان

خانم و آقای فریدون حکیمیان

(لطف الله زاده)

خانم و آقای لطف الله حکیمیان

(جوادف)

خانم و آقای پرویز حکیمیان

(مرتضی زاده)

آقای فیلیپ حکیمیان

خانم و آقای شمائل هوشمند

خانم و آقای دانیل ایلیان

آقای نوروز کلاتی زاده و خانواده

لندن - نیویورک

آقای موسی کاشی ملاک

خانم و آقای فرج الله کاشی ملاک

خانم و آقای فریدون کاشی ملاک

خانم استر کلاتی

خانم و آقای اسحق کهنهیم

آقای استیو لیوی

آقای دانیل مردخای

خانم نازی نبویان و فامیل

آقای ابراهیم سانی

خانم و آقای جلال زر

خانم و آقای ناصر زر

زیر ۵۰ دلار

آقای ناصر امیریان

خانم و آقای موریس عزیز

آقای یحزاک لاوی

۱۰۰۰ دلار و به بالا

خانواده نسیمی

۵۰۰ دلار و به بالا

خانم و آقای ژوف داودزاده

خانم و آقای عبدی یعقوبی

۲۶۰ دلار و به بالا

خانم فلوریا آشر و خانواده

خانم و آقای پرویز حکیمیان

خانم و آقای خسرو حکیمیان

خانم یافا حکیمیان (مرتضی زاده)

و فامیل

خانم و آقای فتح الله همتیان

خانم و آقای امین آقا خوردیان

خانم و آقای حاجی نعمتی

خانم و آقای منصور زر

۱۰۰ دلار و به بالا

آقای دانیل امینی

خانم و آقای دیوید امین نیا

خانم و آقای خسرو بنی لیوی

خانم و آقای لطف الله بنی لیوی

آقای موسی بنی لیوی و فامیل

خانم و آقای دیوید بی چوبان

خانم و آقای الیاهو بروخیم

خانم و آقای آخاخان داودزاده

خانم و آقای سلیمان کهن

خانم و آقای سیروس ایلیان

خانم و آقای یعقوب گرجیان

خانم مهری و آقای ادموند حکیم

خانم و آقای چنگیز حکیمی و فامیل

خانم و آقای آبرات حکیمیان

خانم و آقای دانیال ایلیان

خانم و آقای جیکوب اسماعیلی

خانم و آقای یوسف لاویان (لندن)

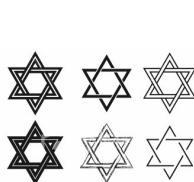
آقای استیو لیوی

خانم و آقای اوراهام محبان

خانم و آقای هوشنگ رفیع نیا

خانم و آقای پرویز روبنی

خانم و آقای هوشنگ زارح





ای خداوند من، ای مادر من!
ای پرستار شب بیماری
ایکه جان باد فدای دل تو
گله های تو پریشانم کرد
وز تو صد ناله دلگیر رسید
گر بمیرد پسر ناخلفی
راستی از پسرت رنجیدی؟
کردم از مادر خود صرف نظر؟
پسرت رفت و فراموشت کرد؟
جان فدای تو چه میپنداری؟
بازی و رقص و تماشا هیچ است
ز من از بهر خدا کم گله کن
وز تو نازک دلی آموخته ام
«دکتر علی آبادی»

ای نگهدار من و سرور من
ای ترا بهره ز من غمخواری
ایکه از عشق شد آب و گل تو
نامه ات آمد و گریانم کرد
اندکی نامه من دیر رسید
ناله کم کن که ندارد اسفی
چونکه از من خبری نشنیدی
بگمانست که چو رفت بسفر
آتش الفت دیرین شد سرد
شکوه از عاطفه من داری؟
بی تو نزدم همه دنیا هیچ است
نامه گر دیر رسد حوصله کن
که بجان از غم تو سوخته ام

تاج از فرق فلک برداشت
جاودان آن تاج بر سر داشتن
در بهشت آرزو ره یافتن
هر نفس شهدی به ساغر داشتن
شب بُتی چون ماه در بر داشتن
صبح، از بام جهان چون آفتاب
روی گیتی را منور داشتن
شامگه، چون ماه رؤیا آفرین
ناز بر افلک و اختر داشتن
چون صبا در «مزرع سبز فلک»
بال در بال کبوتر داشتن
حشمت و جاه سلیمان یافتن
شوکت و فر سکندر داشتن
تا ابد در اوج قدرت زیستن
مُلکِ هستی را مسخر داشتن،
بر تو ارزانی، که ما را خوشتراست
لذتِ یک لحظه: مادر داشتن.
«فریدون مشیری»

مادر

روزی که پایداری آن چون همیشگی است
روزی که نام اصلی آن روز زندگی است
از اولین قدم، از لحظه نخست.
جز روز تو عزیز دلم، روز خوب نیست.
هر روز نیک، روز تو، هر شام، شام تست
زیبایی و طراوت گلهای ز نام تست.
مهتاب روشنی تو، فروغ ستاره ای
زیباترین بهار منی، ماه پاره ای.
از گرمی وجود تو خورشید گرم شد
دلهای سخت و سنگ، در بر مهر تو نرم شد
خالق تویی، مربی من جز تو کس نبود
غیر از تو هیچکس گل من دادرس نبود.
من در خیال و فلسفه درجا نمی زنم،
حرف از بهشت و دوزخ و فردا نمی زنم
حرف از خدای صخره و صحراء نمی زنم،
پابند این حقیقتم و جا نمی زنم
اول تویی، میانه تویی، انتهای تویی
«علی حیدری»

کشد رنج پسر بیچاره مادر
ترا بیش از پدر خواهش که خواهد
نگهداری کند نه ماه و نه روز
از این پهلو با آن پهلو نغلطد
بوقت زادن تو مرگ خود را
 بشوید کنه و آرابد او را
 تموز و دی ترا ساعت ساعت
 اگر یک عطسه آید از دماغت
 اگر یک سرفه بیجا نمائی
 برای اینکه شب راحت بخوابی
 دو سال از گریه روز و شب تو
 چو دندان آوری؛ رنجور گردی
 سپس چون پا گرفتی تا نیتی
 تو تا یک مختصر جانی بگیری
 بمکتب چون روی تا باز گردی
 اگر یک ربع ساعت دیر آئی
 نبیند هیچکس زحمت بدینیا
 تمام حاصلش از زحمت این است
 «ایرج میرزا»

پس از حل جدول در خانه های اطراف جدول به یک ضرب المثل دست خواهید یافت.

جدول و سرگرمی

طرح از: داریوش رحمانی

افقی:

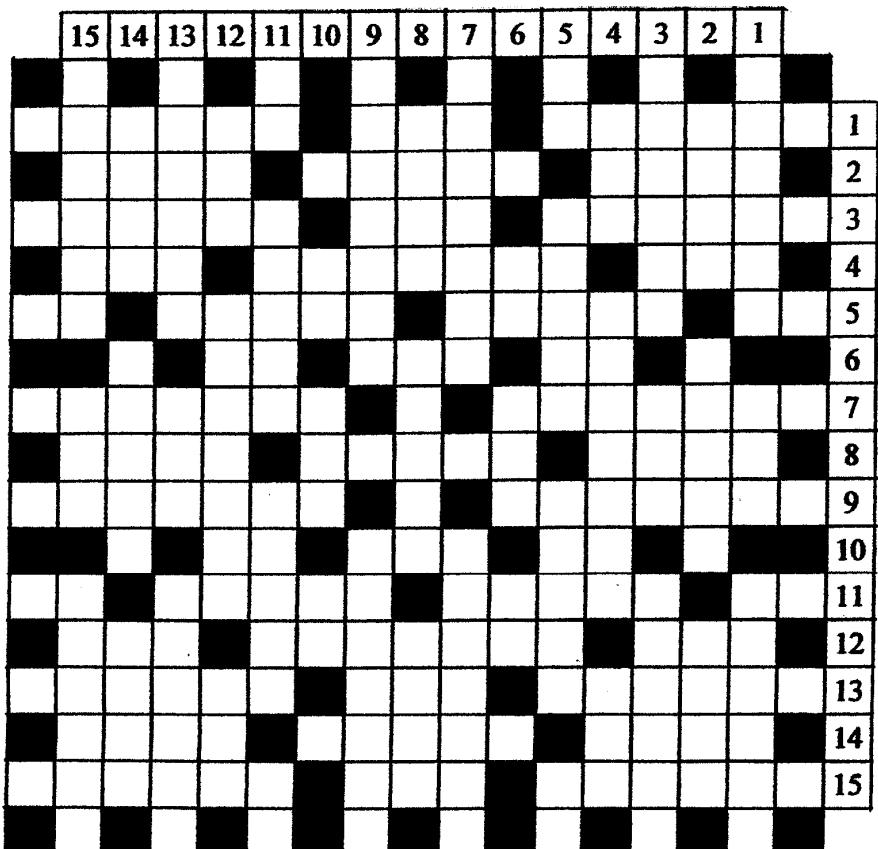
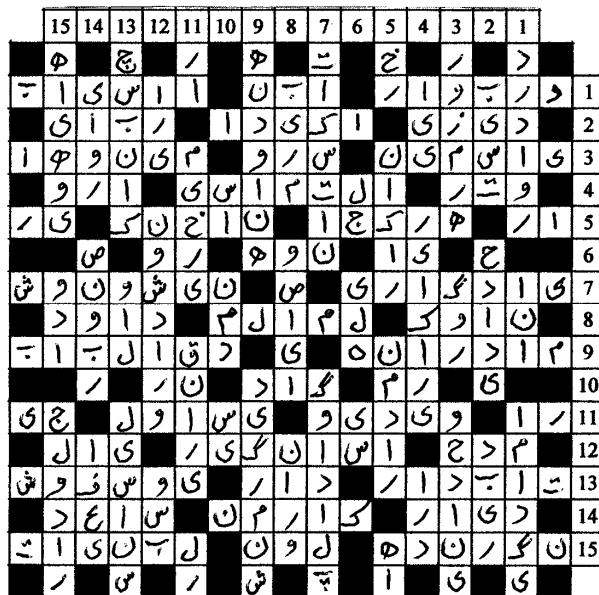
- ۱- قضاویت و داوری - بالا - رنگی متمایل به زرد ۲- نو - راندمان -
از ماههای عبری ۳- کشف مدام کوری - برنج آبکش - برادری بود
ولی بهم خورد ۴- جوانمرد - از رودهای بزرگ ایران - از حروف
الفبا ۵- علامت نداری - دور نیست - تماشائی - دریا ۶- ضمیر
انگلیسی - اندیشه و فکر - گشاده ۷- به کسی آموختن - برای
یادآوری میدهدن ۸- خداپرستی - دربر - بازی بچگانه ۹- ضیافت
- از بخش های اوستا ۱۰- نیم صدای سگ - آزاد - اشاره بدور ۱۱-
بوی رطوبت - از پا تا سر - مارکی بر تلفن های دستی - از
ویتامین ها ۱۲- دستی - کنایه از دارا و ندار - دوازده ماه ۱۳-
باربری - نیت کردن - از واحدهای کوچک ۱۴- جمع ماده - آنچه
که رسم باشد - برده زن ۱۵- کسانیکه دل ندارند - نیایش - مربی
شاهزادگان.

عمودی:

- ۱- منسوب به قومی وحشی - آینده - از پیامبران بنی اسرائیل
 - ۲- پرستار بچه - بدگو و بی تربیت - از سلاطین یهود ۳- ورزش کردن - نوعی کشت - نوعی خورشت خوشمزه ۴- اشتباه - خسارت بار - نوعی بالاپوش ۵- چه وقت ۶- بسته شده - از هنرهای تجسمی - یار سوزن ۷- داخل عربی - عضو تنفسی - از اعضای بدن ۸- از آثار نظامی - روش آینده ۹- لیدر در هم ریخته - محل کار کارمند - گشاد و پهن ۱۰- رنگ آسمان - مانند کرم، سربار گونه ۱۱- ضمیر غایب - ناگهانی - دوستی ۱۲- خاندان - دارو به مزاجش نمی سازد - از زندگی خیری ندیده - از حروف انگلیسی ۱۳- دوست - غیر مرئی - کیت در هم ریخته ۱۴- پشتک - سود - کج و مایل ۱۵- ما همه هستیم - یوول کاغذی ۱۶- شایسته - بزرگنمایی در عکاسی.

حـاـ حـدـوـاـ شـمـارـهـ ۵ گـذـشـتـهـ

ردمز جدول شماره گذشته: درخت هر چه
بارش بیشتر، سرش یا پین تر می‌آید.



ریشه های تاریخی امثال و حکم

خلاصه و تنظیم از داریوش رحمانی

اقتباس از کتاب «قصه های تازه از کتابهای کهن» - نگارش مهدی آذر یزدی

لعت به کار دستپاچه

بارک الله. مرد او قاتش تلخ شد و گفت آخر کی میخواهی بسازی، گهواره را برای من سفارش داده بودند و حالا می بینی که من بزرگ شده و بچه دار شده ام و تو هنوز امروز و فردا میکنی؟ خلاصه خودت میدانی یا بیعانه را پس بده یا گهواره را تا فردا حاضر کن در غیر اینصورت اگر فردا حاضر نباشد من میدانم و شما.

نجار جواب داد: آقا اصلاً میدانی چیست، من هیچ وقت از کار دستپاچه خوشنم نمی آید، حالا که شما اینقدر عجله دارید و بیست و دو سال است مرا ناراحت کرده اید من آن بیعانه را به شما پس میدهم و گهواره را نمی سازم، مرا بگو که می خواستم به شما خدمت کنم ولی لعت به هر چه کار دستپاچه است، بفرمایید این هم بیعانه تان، اگر خیلی عجله دارید بروید سراغ یک نجار دیگر.

این مثل را می آورند تا به کسی که کاری را زیاد معطل میکند به شوخی طعنه بزنند و با کسی که نمیتواند تمام کردن کاری را در مدت زیاد هم قبول کند به مزاح میگویند به کار دستپاچه لعت.
و اما قضیه این مثل:

بچه ای تازه بدنیا آمده بود و در خانه گهواره نداشتند. پدر بچه به نجار سر گذر سفارش کرد که یک گهواره برایش بسازد؛ نجار قبول کرد و چند روز گذشت و مشتری چند بار آمد و رفت و یک روز اعتراض کرد که بابا اگر نمی خواهی بسازی بگو بروم جای دیگر سفارش بدhem. نجار گفت: چرا میسازم ولی رسمش این است که برای کار سفارشی باید قدری بیعانه بدھید که ما بدانیم حتماً گهواره را لازم دارید. مشتری قدری پول هم به رسم بیعانه به نجار داد و قرار شد سه روز دیگر گهواره را حاضر نماید.

چند روز از وعده گذشت و چون مشتری بیعانه داده بود و بجای دیگر هم مراجعه نمیکرد. گاهی می آمد می پرسید «آمده شد؟» نجار میگفت همین فردا، پس فردا تمام میشود، مشتری می رفت و باز چند روز دیگر می آمد و چون گهواره ساخته نشده بود، او قاتش تلخ میشد و دیگر تا چند روز نمی آمد، باز هم که میآمد کار تمام نشده بود.

اما بچه گهواره لازم داشت و چون گهواره حاضر نشده بود، در خانه یک ننو برایش ساختند و به دیوار اتاق بستند که خیلی دست و پا گیر بود و منتظر بودند که وقتی گهواره حاضر میشود ننو را جمع نمایند ولی هر چند وقت یک بار پدر بچه به سراغ نجار می رفت و می دید که هنوز گهواره آمده نشده و بگومگوئی میکردن و می گذشت.

در خانه کم گمک با نبودن گهواره عادت کردن و بچه بزرگ شد ولی چون پدر بیعانه داده بود برای اینکه بیعانه از میان نرود گاهی سراغ گهواره را می گرفت، هر وقت هم میگفت بیعانه را پس بده نجار میگفت «نخیر آقا گهواره را می سازم» و کم کم از بس طول کشید، موضوع فراموش شد.

آن بچه بزرگ شد و ده ساله و بیست ساله شد و بعد زن گرفت و خودش بچه دار شد، وقتی بچه تازه متولد شد باز هم گهواره در خانه نبود، مادر بزرگ به پرسش گفت، راستی حالا که گهواره لازم داری، خوب است بروی بیش آن نجار و آن گهواره را که چندین سال پیش بیعانه داده بودیم بگیری که هم بیعانه نقد شود و هم گهواره بکار بیاید. پسر رفت از نجار گهواره را مطالبه کرد. نجار گفت خیلی گرفتارم و هنوز نتوانسته ام بسازم، انشاعله یک گهواره خوبی بسازم که بگوئی

Lili Zarabi, MS, CSP
Psychologist
516-492-8511



- Living a meaningful life
- Social skill groups
- Counseling
- Increasing self-worth
- Parenting workshop
- Coping with anxiety/depression
- Organization skills for students
- Complete Evaluation
- Relationships and wellness
- Anger management

آرامش بیشتر زندگی بهتر

لیلی ضرابی - روانشناس

- چطور میتوانیم زندگی کامل و بی دردسر توانم با موفقیت داشته باشم؟
- چطور با فرزندانمان صحبت کنیم که حرفمن را گوش کنند؟
- بهبود روابط بین والدین و فرزندان و زوجها کمک فکری و درک احساسات یکدیگر برای روحیه بهتر
- بالا بودن انتکاء به نفس - کنترل عصبانیت
- درمان ترس و دلهره و غم و دلواپسی

زیادی را به دنبال جایی مطمئن و دارای امنیت اقتصادی هدایت می‌کند.



کنیسای کروئی در کویا در سال ۱۹۰۶

آنتی‌سمیتیزم

به طور سنتی، ضد سامی گرایی (آنتی‌سمیتیزم) در آذربایجان وجود ندارد. هرچند، در شوروی کمونیسم آن‌ها بر اکثریت دارایی‌ها یهودیان تسلط یافتد. با سقوط اتحاد جماهیر شوروی، بسیاری از این ساختمان‌ها برگردانده شد. در روستای «اگوز» (Auguz) که تقریباً ۸۰۰ یهودی زندگی می‌کردند، کنیسایی به تازگی به اجتماعات یهودیان بازگردانده و بازسازی شده‌است. این کنیسا که در سال ۱۹۰۶ ساخته شد در سال ۱۹۳۰ توسط شوروی مصادره شده بود و تا زمان حال به عنوان انبار استفاده می‌شده است. کنیسای گرجستان در باکو در سال ۱۹۹۱ بسته شد. (این کنیسا هم‌اکنون توسط ربای خباد بازسازی شده و مورد استفاده قرار می‌گیرد). زمانی که موسسات یهودی تحت حمایت گارد مسلح واقع شدند، یهودیان از پوشیدن کیپا «کلاه مخصوص یهودیان» در انتظار عموم ایایی نداشتند و احساس امنیت می‌کردند. بسیاری از هنک حرمت‌ها به قبرستان یهودیان در آذربایجان اتفاق افتاد. در اکتبر ۲۰۰۱، ۴۱ سنگ قبر در گورستان شهر، مورد بی‌احترامی قرار گرفته و تخریب شد. البته بعد از گذشت مدتی، تعقیب عمومی در این مورد در اداره شهرداری باکو انجام گرفت و این قبرستان ترمیم گشت. جماعت یهودیان از روابط گرمی با دولت آذربایجان برخوردار هستند. سازمان‌های یهودی به دولت در اسکان هزاران نفر از پناهندگان در کشور یاری رساندند که اغلب از «نگورنو کاراباک» می‌آمدند.

شیعه در سواحل شمالی زندگی می‌کردند و یهودیان که در کناره‌های جنوبی اقامت داشتند. نیمی از یهودیان به عنوان «یورسکایا اسلوبدا» و یا مقیمان یهودی شناخته می‌شدند. زمانی که اتحاد جماهیر شوروی غالب شد، آن‌ها را «کراسنایا اسلوبدا» و یا «اقامت کنندگان قرمز» نام‌گذاری کردند. یهودیان اسلوبدا از سرزمین‌های بلند و دهکده‌های دره‌ای از «کولگاتا»، «کوساری»، «چیپکنت»، «کارشاگ»، «شودو» و «کریز» آمده بودند.

در سال ۱۷۸۰ میلادی، یهودیان از گیلان و دیگر استان‌های ایران به «اسلوبدا» مهاجرت نمودند. هر یک از گروه‌های جدید یک چهارم از آن محله را برای خود مشخص نمودند و کنیسایی را با نام شهرزادگاه خود نام‌گذاری کردند. بسیاری از اقامت کنندگان در «اسلوبدا» از سرزمین‌های شمالی دهکده Tati از شودا آمده بودند. مسلمانان تاتی معتقد بودند که یهودیان اسلوبدا، خویشاوندان آن‌ها هستند و با آن‌ها با مهربانی رفتار می‌کردند. سال‌ها پیش، تعدادی از یهودیان «شادو» به اسلام گرویدند. در حالی که بعضی دیگر از آن‌ها در روستا مانده و در «اسلوبدا» اقامت گردیدند. Tati‌های «شادو» و یهودیان «اسلو بودا» تا امروزه روابط نزدیکی داشته‌اند. در اوخر قرن نوزدهم ۹۷۲ خانواده از یهودیان کوهستان در «اسلوبدا» زندگی می‌کردند که یازده کنیسا و بیست مدرسه یهودی را اداره می‌کردند. جدا از آنتی‌سمیتیزم تندخویانه و برنامه‌های اروپای شرقی، زندگی مساملت‌آمیز در کنار همسایگان مسلمان، جماعت یهودیان را رشد داد. «اسلوبدا» به عنوان اورشلیم کوچک شناخته شد که به عنوان جماعت کامل یهودیان خارج از سرزمین مقدس بود. هر چند که ۸ سال پس از آن که اتحاد جماهیر شوروی، آذربایجان را در سال ۱۹۲۰ احاطه نمود. یهودیان کوهستان را مجبور به تغییر زبان از کلمات «عبری» سنتی‌شان به الفبای لاتین نمود. سپس در سال ۱۹۳۸ Tat ساخته شد تا به الفبای «سیریلیک» وفق پیدا کند. شوروی مؤسسات فرهنگی را تعطیل نمود. اما انجام مراسم عبادی در خانه‌ها و مغازه‌ها ادامه پیدا کرد. یهودیان در سال ۱۹۳۷، از استفاده از زبان عبری منع شدند. همچنین در سال ۱۹۳۳، در رژیم کمونیسم، جمعیت یهودیان اسلوبدا به حداقل ۱۸۵۰۰ نفر می‌رسید که بعد از فروپاشی اتحاد جماهیر شوروی در سال ۱۹۹۱، اسلوبدا به تدریج دچار بحران شد. شغل‌ها از بین رفته و تعداد زیادی از یهودیان برای یافتن فرصت‌های بهتر شغلی به خارج از آن کشور، از جمله به، آمریکا و اروپا مهاجرت نمودند. از زمان تشكیل جمهوری آذربایجان، رئیس جمهور این کشور «حیدر علی‌اف» سه کنیسا را باز گرداند و كالج یهودی که توسط شوروی ملی شده بود را مجدداً به جماعت یهودی واگذار کرد. او به ترمیم ساختمان‌های ویران شده یهودیان آذربایجان پرداخته و تاکنون بازسازی هفت کنیسا از یازده کنیسا آغاز شده است. کنیسای «گیلاه» که در سال ۱۸۹۶ ساخته شد و کنیسای بزرگ «کروئه» (Kraei) از آن جمله‌اند.

امروزه جمعیت یهودیان کویا تقریباً ۳۰۰۰ نفر است. اگرچه تعداد جمعیت آن روبه کاهش است. ولی اجتماع ۳۵۰۰ نفری یهودیان کوهستان طُرق، تاریخی از زندگی در مناطق روستایی اطراف کویا را باقی گذاشته است. بقای این اجتماعات نامطمئن است، زیرا فقر تعداد

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جماعت اشکنازی‌های اروپایی در اوایل قرن نوزدهم وارد باکو شدند که بعد از جدا شدن آذربایجان از روسیه، آن‌ها یک کنیسا را به سه کنیسا افزایش داده و ۱۰ تا ۱۵ سازمان یهودی که شامل اجتماعات مذهبی باکو از یهودیان اروپایی است را تأسیس کردند. مرکز با برنامه‌های آموزشی، سازمان‌های زنان یهودی، جماعت کارآزموده جنگی، روزنامه‌های یهودی، و مرکز رفاه «هاوا» برای زنان و بچه‌ها از آن جمله‌اند. یهودیان آمریکایی به جماعت پخش شده‌ای که مهدکودک‌های یهودی را اداره می‌کردند و همچنین مرکز نیکوکاری Hesed و مرکز دانش آموزی Hillel پیوستند. بنیادهای فرهنگی یهود به فعالیت‌های همچون آموزش زبان عبری، برگزاری اردوگاه زمستانی بچه‌ها و تأسیس باشگاه اولیا می‌پردازند. یک ربای حسیدیک روز شبات را در مدرسه‌های عبری تعطیل نمود. در سال ۲۰۰۲، مدرسه‌آموزشی «ابنر خباد» در باکو بازگشایی شد. در این مدارس، ناهار تازه طبخ می‌شود و هیچ شهریه‌ای نیز از دانش آموزان دریافت نمی‌گردد. در مدرسه‌ها مراسم ملی و مذهبی نیز برگزار می‌شود.

پریولنو

«پریولنو» دهکده‌ای دورافتاده در بخش شمالی کوه‌های تالش می‌باشد که محل سکنای دو اجتماع کوچک از یهودیان کوهستان جریم یا جریم زدک است، روس‌های محلی تقریباً در ۲۰۰ سال پیش، از مناطقی در حدود DonRivers و Volga در بخش‌های مرکزی روسیه و قسمت شمالی Caucasus به این مناطق آمدند.

از سوی مقامات منطقه، زمین‌هایی به آن‌ها اعطا شد که معاف از مالیات و خدمت اجباری هستند. بنابراین این منطقه به عنوان «پریولنو» شناخته می‌شود که منطقه آزادی است که بیشترین اقامت کنندگان «جریم» در «ترانس کاکاس» می‌باشد. چهار منطقه در شهر وجود دارد دو «جریم» و دو «سویوت نیک» که ۳۴ الی ۴۱ درصد پریولنو را شامل می‌شود، اکثر آن‌ها اشکنازی‌های ارتوodox تحصیل کرده هستند که مردان جوانی را به یشیوا (مدرسه‌ی علوم دینی) در روسیه اعزام می‌کردند. در ابتدا دو کنیسا در این منطقه وجود داشت. اما در طول پاکسازی استالین از سال ۱۹۳۶ بسته شد. علی‌رغم این که هیچ کنیسا و هیچ حاخام (در آنجا) وجود نداشت، «جریم» بسیار مذهبی باقی ماند. نسل مسن‌تر کشروت را جدی دنبال می‌کردند. اجتماعات «جر» در سال ۱۹۶۰ شروع به تجزیه کرد. افراد جوان برای تحصیل در دانشگاه‌های روسیه شروع به ترک اجتماعات خود کردند و اکثریت آن‌دان دیگر به پریولنو بازنگشتد و ادامه این روند جمعیت «جر» را به بیست خانواده تقلیل داد، که میانگین سنی آنان امروزه ۵۵ سال است و آخرین جمعیت یهودی آن که عبری می‌دانستند، سه سال قبل دهکده را ترک نمودند.

اجتماعات سویوت نیک پاییندی بیشتری به اصول دینی یهود داشتند. آن‌ها به طور سنتی، دستورات را در توراه دنبال می‌کردند.

کوبا

کوبا در سال ۱۷۴۲ توسط فتحعلی خان ثبت شد که به عنوان پناهگاهی برای یهودیان در طول مدت اقامتشان بود. رودخانه کوچک «گودیال چی» شهر را به دو بخش تقسیم می‌کند. آذری‌ها و مسلمانان

يهودیان آذربایجان

برگرفته از سایت انجمن کلیمیان تهران



را آزادانه اظهار می‌کنند، مسائل اقتصادی باعث مهاجرت بسیاری از آنان گردیده است. اجتماعات یهودی در باکو از زمان «یهودیان کوهستان» و از موقع اشکنازی‌ها که حدود ۵۰۰ نفر در گرجستان بوده است چند برابر گردیده است. آنها از سرزمین مقدس در ۲۲۶ سال قبیل از میلاد تبعید شده و در کوهستان‌های Caucasus مستقر شدند. دیگران اعتقاد دارند که یهودیان کوهستان در اواسط قرن هجدهم به جایی که اکنون ایران نامیده می‌شود مهاجرت کردند و آن‌ها «کراسنایا اسلوبودا» را تثبیت کردند که اطراف شهر باکو در سرزمین‌های بلند آذربایجان شمالی قرار دارد. برطبق همه اطلاعات یهودیان «کراسنایا اسلوبودا» جمعیتی در حدود ۱۸۰۰ نفر را دارا بودند، اما از بعد از جنگ جهانی دوم و مهاجرت، تنها ۴۰۰ نفر از آنان باقی مانده‌اند.



گشایش کنیسای باکو پس از ۱۰۰ سال

آذربایجان در لبه جنوبی Caucasus واقع شده است و هم مرز با روسیه، ارمنستان، گرجستان، ایران و دریای خزر می‌باشد. این کشور جمعیتی در حدود ۵ میلیون و هفتصد هزار نفر را در خود جای داده است. اکثریت ساکنان آن ترک هستند شامل مسلمان شیعه مذهب که همانند ارمنستان و مسیحیان لزگینز، همگی ترکی صحبت می‌کنند. تقریباً ۲۵ هزار یهودی در این کشور زندگی می‌کنند.

تاریخ اولیه :

يهودیان قرن‌ها در آذربایجان زندگی کرده‌اند که می‌توان آن‌ها را به دو گروه تقسیم کرد. اشکنازی‌ها و یهودیانی که منشاء سفارادی دارند. اشکنازی‌ها از قرن ۱۹ در آذربایجان اقامت کردند، در آن زمان تزارهای روسیه تلاش می‌کردند که از ورود فرهنگ روسیه به آن منطقه جلوگیری کنند. دیگر اشکنازی‌ها در طول جنگ جهانی دوم برای فرار از نازی‌ها به آذربایجان وارد شدند. یهودیان سفارادی هم‌جنین به عنوان یهودیان کوهستان (Caucasian) معروف بودند و ورود آن‌ها به آذربایجان را قبل از قرن پنجم می‌توان در آذربایجان دنبال کرد.

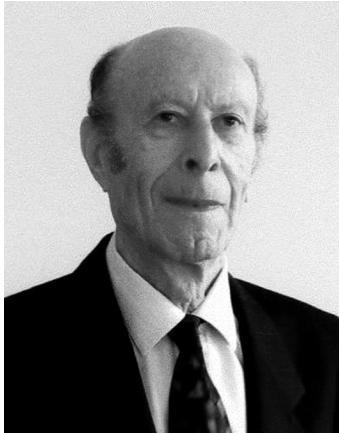
تاریخ آن‌ها بیش از ۲۰۰۰ سال قدمت دارد و آذربایجانی‌ها به صورت تاریخی به آن‌ها خوش‌آمد گفته‌اند. یهودیان کوهستان قرن‌ها است که در Caucasus زندگی می‌کنند و گفته می‌شود که از نسل قبایل گم شده‌ای هستند که بیت المقدس را بعد از ویران کردن اولین معبد در ۵۸۷ سال قبل از میلاد مسیح بنا نمودند. پدر بزرگان و جد آن‌ها در قسمت جنوبی آذربایجان سکنی گزیدند که اکنون بخش شمال‌غربی ایران است، آن‌ها خود را با مسلمانان تات (Tat) زبان و فق داده‌اند اما هنوز یهودی مانده‌اند. از این اختلاط زبانی پدیدار شد که تبدیل به گویش Judo-Tat شبیه فارسی - یهود گشت. عده‌ای از یهودیان به دهکده‌های کوهستانی بر روی دریای سیاه و دریای خزر مهاجرت کردند. در پایان قرن ۱۹ و آغاز قرن بیستم یهودیان کوهستانی به کشاورزی و باگبانی مشغول شده و در اجتماعات کوچک و جداگانه زندگی می‌کردند.

اسکان تاریخی یهودیان آذربایجان در شهرهای پریولنو، کراسنایا، اسلوبودا و وارتاشن می‌باشد.

باکو

باکو پایتخت آذربایجان، خانه بخش گستردگی از جمعیت آذربایجان است که ۱۶۰۰۰ یهودی در آن‌جا اقامت دارند. اجتماع یهودیان توانسته‌است در محیط متعادل دولتی رشد یابد. قانون آذربایجان جدید، به مذاهب آزادی انجام فرائض دینی خودشان را داده است. هر چند، مهاجرت به روسیه و آلمان در اوایل قرن ۱۹ تلفات زیادی را به جمعیت ۸۰۰۰۰ نفری یهودیان آذربایجان وارد

- دیابت خطر بروز بیماری های قلبی و جریان خون را دو تا چهار برابر می سازد.
- زیاده روی در مصرف الکل ممکن است چربی های نامناسب خون را افزایش داده و باعث بیماری قلب شود.
- ارزش یابی از تندرستی قلب:** با انجام آزمایش های زیر می توانید تا حد زیادی با تندرستی قلب خود و چگونگی کار آن آشنا شوید.
- کلسترول خون:** همانگونه که در بالا اشاره شد، اگر میزان کلسترول خون بالا رود ممکن است تنگی رگهای قلبی و بسته شدن آن بروز کند. میزان کلسترول در فرد تندرست ۲۰۰ میلی گرم یا کمتر در دسی لیتر است که طبیعی است. میزان کلسترول بد یا (LDL) ۱۶۰ میلی گرم یا کمتر از آن طبیعی است. اگر دارای یک عامل خطر باشد ۱۳۰ میلی گرم یا کمتر باید باشد.
- اگر دو عامل خطر زیادی وجود داشته باشد: ۱۰۰ میلی گرم یا کمتر. اگر عوامل خطر زیادی وجود داشته باشد باید میزان کلسترول بد را در خون زیر ۷۰ میلی گرم در دسی لیتر نگاه داشت.
- کلسترول بد باعث رسوب چربی روی دیوار درونی رگ می شود.**
- کلسترول خوب یا HDL:** میزان آن برای مردها ۵۰ میلی گرم یا بالاتر و برای زنها ۴۰ میلی گرم یا بالاتر طبیعی شناخته شده است. کلسترول خوب چربی های خون را کاهش میدهد و از گرفتگی رگها جلوگیری می کند.
- تری گلیسرید:** میزان Triglyceride با زیاده روی در مصرف الكل و یا مواد قندی، در خون افزایش می یابد. چه این مواد باعث افزایش کالری شده و چربی تری گلیسرید تولید می شود. میزان طبیعی آن ۱۵۰ میلی گرم یا کمتر در دسی لیتر خون است.
- فشار خون بالا:** فشار خون نمایشگر میزان فشار جریان خون روی دیوار رگهاست. میزان ۱۲۰ روی ۸۰ و یا کمتر از آن طبیعی است. میزان درصد خون خارج شده از قلب با هر ضربان یا Ejection Fraction "معمولًا" برابر با ۵۵ تا ۶۰ درصد از حجم کل خون طبیعی است. اگر این میزان کاهش یابد، خللی در دریچه ها و یا عارضه دیگری در قلب وجود دارد.
- میزان گلوكز خون:** بطور ناشتا میزان آن ۱۰۰ میلیگرم در دسی لیتر یا کمتر از آن طبیعی است.
- توقف نفس زدن در خواب:** اگر این حالت که بطور موقت در خواب رخ میدهد و هنگام بیداری با خستگی همراه است تکرار شود احتمال بروز فشار خون بالا و یا سکته قلبی افزایش می یابد.
- اندازه دور کمر:** برای زنها ۳۵ اینچ و برای مردها ۴۰ اینچ اگر زیادتر شود شکل بدن از شکل گلابی به شکل سیب در می آید و گفته می شود که امکان بروز بیماری قلبی را افزایش میدهد.
- راه های تشخیص و درمانی بیماریهای قلب:** پیشرفت چشمگیر و گستردۀ دانش و تکنولوژی پزشکی، راههای ساده و تازه ای در اختیار کارشناسان و جراحان قلبی قرار داده است که تشخیص و درمان این بیماریها را بسیار مطمئن و آسان ساخته است.
- تشخیص:** با کمک Stress Testing هنگام ورزش بیمار روی Treadmill یا با کمک دارو، ضربان قلب شدت یافته و پزشک می تواند بیماریهای سرخرگ قلبی را تشخیص داده علت درد در ناحیه



قلب

با قلب خود و کار آن آشنا شویم

(بی نظمی ضربان) Irregular Heart Beat و یا بیماری بنام Atrial Fibrillation بروز می کند.

پس مشاهده می شود که این اندام پرکار، تا چه حد ساختاری ظرفی و حساس دارد و ممکن است به بیماری های گوناگون دچار شود. هر یک از این بیماری ها اگر موقع مناسب پیش گیری و یا درمان نشود ممکن است بافت ماهیچه ای قلب را از کار بیندازد و بیماری نارسائی قلب بروز کند (Heart Failure).

پیش گیری از بیماری های قلب:

- اگر با بهزیستی قلب خود و کار آن آشنا باشیم، می توانیم از بسیاری از ناراحتی های قلبی پیشگیری کنیم. چگونه؟
- پیشنهاد بهداشتی خانواده را بررسی کرده و اگر پدر یا مادر در سن پیش از ۶۰ سالگی دچار بیماری قلبی شده باشند و یا از آن در گذشته باشند لازم است با پزشک کارشناس قلب ملاقات کرده و با او به مشورت پردازید.
- اگر هنگام ورزش و یا کار دچار درد سینه شده و با قطع ورزش این درد برطرف شود لازم است با پزشک کارشناس قلب مشورت شود.
- اگر احساس کوتاهی تنفس، درد سینه و یا سرگیجه می شود و یا اگر دارای عوامل خطر هستید از قبیل: فشار خون بالا، کلسترول بالا، دیابت (بیماری قند) و چاقی باید با پزشک کارشناس قلب مشورت کنید.
- **معاینه:** پزشک کارشناس قلب با انجام معاینه و آزمایشهای لازم می تواند از وضع قلب آگاهی یافته و برای درمان آن اقدام کند.
- **عوامل خطر و پیشگیری از بروز بیماری:** با گزینش شیوه زندگی مناسب و بهداشتی، پاره ای از عوامل خطر را می توان زیر کنترل درآورد:

 - اعتیاد به دود سیگار، امکان بروز بیماریهای سرخرگ قلب را دو تا ۴ برابر می سازد.
 - کلسترول بالا باعث تنگی رگهای قلب و گرفتگی رگها می شود. کلسترول بالا باید درمان شود.
 - فشار خون باعث فشار روی ماهیچه قلب شده آنرا سخت و سفت می کند.
 - کم کاری بدن. با ورزش می توان آنرا جبران کرد.
 - چاقی بویژه در ناحیه کمر خطر بیماری قلبی را افزایش میدهد.

قلب پر کارترین اندام بدن ماست که بدون وقفه در تمام دوران زندگی، می زند و خون و اکسیژن و مواد غذایی لازم را به سلول های بدن می رساند.

در بسیاری از موارد، فرد، زمانی از مشکل قلبی خود آگاه می شود که کمی دیر شده است و نیاز به چاره جوئی فوری داد بنابراین بهتر است با وضع قلب خود پیشایش آشنا کنیم تا اگر مشکلی بیابیم، از خطر جلوگیری شود و موقع مناسب به درمان آن بپردازیم:

ساختار قلب: دو حفره راست و چپ قلب بوسیله یک دیواره از هم جدا هستند. هر حفره قلب نیز بوسیله یک دریچه به دو حفره بالا (دهلیز) و پائین (بطن) تقسیم می شود. حفره چپ، در هر ضربان، خون سرشار از اکسیژن را بوسیله سرخرگ آورت به تمام بدن می رساند.

حفره راست، خون برگشته از بدن که بیشتر اکسیژن و مواد غذایی را از دست داده است و رنگ آن تیره تر است را دریافت می دارد و در هر ضربان آنرا به ریه می فرستد تا دواره از اکسیژن سرشار شده و مواد زاید را از دست داده و به حفره چپ بازگردد.

کیسه ماهیچه ای قلب با هر انقباض خود، یک ضربان قلبی را بوجود می آورد که خون از بطん چپ به بدن ارسال می شود و سپس خون تیره رنگ به حفره راست بر می گردد.

بیماری های قلب: ماهیچه قلب بوسیله سرخرگهای تاجی تغذیه می شود. بنابراین، بهزیستی ماهیچه قلب و یا سرخرگهای تاجی قلب برای انجام کار قلب و ضربان منظم آن لازم است. اگر در سلامتی ماهیچه خلی پیش آید ضربان قلب نارسا می شود و اگر سرخرگهای قلب به علی تنگ شده و خون کافی به قلب نرسد، ممکن است سکته قلبی بروز کند.

هر یک از دریچه های قلبی نیز ممکن است به علی، خوب باز و بسته نشود و باز هم در کار قلب نارسائی بروز کند و بیماری دریچه قلب ایجاد شود.

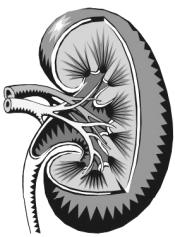
سرخرگ آورت که خون را از بطん چپ می گیرد و به بدن میرساند نیز دارای دریچه ای است که اگر خوب باز و بسته نشود بیماری دریچه آورت بروز می کند.

کار قلب بوسیله یک مرکز که در دهلیز قرار دارد تنظیم و کنترل می شود. این مرکز با ارسال جریان الکتریسیته به ماهیچه قلب، ضربان آنرا هدایت می کند. اگر در سر راه این جریان الکتریکی، خلی پیدا شود ضربان قلب نامنظم می شود، قلب تند یا گند می زند و بیماری

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هست، اینطور اشخاصی که منتخب و مسخ شده خداوند هستند، ظاهرشان هم واقعاً با بقیه افراد معمولی فرق میکند چون ابهت و جذابیت آنها خود گویای این مطلب است. مخصوصاً با اینکه با یهودیان از طریق فرامین توراه کتاب مقدسان امر شده در هر مملکتی (در گالوت) که زندگی میکنیم به رئیس آن مملکت (فرق نمیکند شاه، رئیس جمهور یا نخست وزیر) باید احترام گذارده و آنها را دعا کنیم. من هیچوقت صورت مهربان و محجوب شاه را در آن لحظه که چین و چروک روی پیشانی شان ظاهر شده بود از یاد نمیرم ولی در همان حال فکری بچگانه به معغم خطور کرد و این سوال برایم پیش آمد که اگر ما در مملکتی زندگی میکردیم که روسایشان افرادی چون فرعون ها، هامان ها، هیتلرها باشند، آنوقت تکلیف ما چه بود؟ آیا باز هم باید آنها را تعظیم و تکریم و دعا نماییم؟ که خودم جواب آنرا پیدا کردم: صد البته که نه، چون آنها فقط قابل لعنت هستند!

در این افکار بودم که دیدم مسابقه مدتی است شروع شده و آنطوریکه من تشخیص دادم مثل بقیه مسابقات جدی نبود و بیشتر جنبه نمایشی داشت و باب طبع من نبود. فکر کردم اگر این مسابقه تا ساعت ۱۲ شب طول بکشد تکلیف من چون به والدین قبلاً چیزی نگفته ام و قطعاً آنها دلوپاس میشنوند. آن روزها هنوز تلفن های همراه (سلولار) هم به بازار نیامده بود که بتوانم تأخیر خود را به آنها اطلاع دهم و از همه بدتر اگر مأموران دولتی مرا در آن موقعیت با لباسی که مناسب آنجا نبود می دیدند نمیگفتند این پسربچه آنجا چه میکند و چطور توانسته داخل این قسمت چون به والدین قبلاً خیلی مهم است بباید؟ که البته اگر قضیه بر ملا شود آیا مرا با اردنگی از سالن بیرون نمی اندازند؟ پس هر کس احترام خودش دست خودش میباشد، لذا من قبل از اینکه کار بجهاتی باریک بکشد از جایی بلند شدم و یواشکی سالن را ترک کردم.

جالب اینجاست به محض اینکه قدمم به خیابان رسید، آن چند تا دلال بازار سیاه فوراً مرا محاصره و سوال پیچ کردند، چرا زود برگشتی؟ آیا طوری شده؟ و آیا بليط را هنوز هم داری؟ و من در جواب گفتم چرا این سوالها را از من میکنید که گفتند ما حاضریم اگر بليط را داشته باشی آنرا ۵۰ تومان بخریم که فوراً یک شخص دیگر گفت: من حاضرم ۱۰۰ تومان آنرا بخرم.

راستشن اول فکر کردم آنها دارند مرا که پسربچه ای هستم دست می اندازند ولی وقتیکه راستی راستی اسکناس ۱۰۰ تومانی را در دستش دیدم بليط را تحويل داده و پول را گرفته و رهسپار خانه شدم. لازم به تذکر است در آن موقع ۱۰۰ تومان خیلی پول بود و خیلی ارزش داشت و شاید اگر اشتباہ نکرده باشم حقوق یک ماه پسربچه ۱۶-۱۷ ساله ای مثل من بود) و وقتیکه به منزل رسیدم، دیدم مادرم منتظر و چشم براه من است که با عصبانیت از من پرسید: تا این وقت شب کجا بودی که ما داریم از غصه و دلوپاسی چی میشویم؟ که من هم صادقانه تمام قضایا را از سیر تا پیاز برای آنها تعریف کردم که چطور شانسی، موقعیتی پیش آمد که من سعادت داشتم تا شاه و ملکه را از نزدیک ببینم و آنها را دعا نموده و برای خودم آرزو نمایم که «هشیم» دعای مرا قبول نموده و حاجتم را برآورد.

خاطرات گذشته

از: سعید حکیمیان

چون محل اجرای آن در باشگاه افسران و نزدیک منزلمان بود، یک شب بعد از کلاس به تنهایی برای دیدن بازیکنان رفتم آنجا و وقتیکه رسیدم جمعیت زیادی جمع شده و یک صف بلند برای مهمانان خارجی، خارجی بخصوص آمریکائی تشکیل شده بود و همه منتظر بودند تا بنوبت داخل شوند و اینطوریکه من حس کردم غیر از مهمانان خارجی، مهمانان متشخص ایرانی مانند افسران ارتضی و مقامات مهم کشوری بودند که در صف جداگانه داخل میشدند. پس چون هیچ گیشه ای برای فروش باز نبود، باید تمام مهمانان دعوتی باشند و اینجا بود که «حسش» من بیدار شد که اینهمه پول داده ام تا درس انگلیسی یاد بگیرم، موقع آن رسیده که بینم چند مرد حلاجم!! پس فوراً دست بکار شده و زدم توی صف مهمانان خارجی و با انگلیسی شکسته و بسته و نیمه غلط و با لهجه غلظی ایرانی از هر یکی شان پرسیدم:

Do you have ticket any??!

که اتفاقاً بعد از مدت مديدة مثل اینکه یکی شان دلش بحال سوخت و یک بليط اضافه را مجاني داد بمن و منه گفتم مرسي!! حالا من با خيال راحت صاحب یک بليط شده بودم که دلال هاي بازار سياه داشتن از حسودي دق ميکردن! و چون بوقت شروع مسابقه چيزی نمانده بود کم کم با بقیه تماشاچيان بطرف در ورودی رفتيم ولی متأسفانه يا خوشبختانه چون اکثر مهمانان خارجی قد بلند بودند کسی متوجه من نشد، پس بدون اينکه بليطم كترل شود داخل سالن شدم و صندلي ام را در قسمت لر پيدا کردم و برای چند دقيقه به صندلي ام آمداده و چشمهايم را بستم تا قدری خستگی از بدنم رفته و تمدد اعصاب پيدا کنم... حالا زمانش رسیده بود تا چپ و راست و جلو عقب خود را دید زده و موقعیت خود و اطرافيان را ببینم. همانطور که ميدانيد صندلي هاي بالکن بيشتر بطرف سرازيری و شبيه هستند تا صندلي هاي سالن اصلي. پس من جلو خود را روشن تر و واضح تر ميديدم تا پشت سرم را و منكه حالا نگاهم متوجه قسمت جلو بود، ناگاهان متوجه شدم که دو رديف جلو من اعليحضرت همایونی باتفاق ملکه و تني چند از خانواده سلطنتی با مشاعیت چند تا افسر و آجودان جلوس فرموده بودند و از جای من صورت شاه را بطور واضح ميشد ديد. البته بين خودمان باشد چند لحظه اول من برای چند مرتبه چشمهايم را باز و بسته ميکردم تا بینم خوابم يا بیدار!! نخير درست می بینم من بيدارم و آنها هم خانواده سلطنتی هستند. اصلاً وضع طوري فراهم شده بود که مسحور اين صحنه شوم و در عالم رويا خود را داخل کاخهای سلطنتی ميديدم و چيزی نمانده بود از روی ذوق و شادي بال در بياورم. خيلي زحمت کشیدم تا اعصاب خود را كترل نموده و به حالت نرمال برگشته و خونسردي خود را حفظ کنم و حالا من دل بودم وقتیکه مسابقه شروع ميشود بازی بسکتبال را تماشا کنم یا شاه و شهبانو را؟!! پيش خودم حدس مي زدم يك چيزی

در ایام نوجوانی، من با تفاق چند تن از رفقای مشهدی در يک کلاس انگلیسی شبانه درس میخواندیم که نام آن شکسپیر بود و اسم معلم مان آفای روحی که شخصی بود خشک و سختگیر. ما هر شب به مدت دو ساعت و کلاً بمدت ۱۰ ساعت در هفته درس می خواندیم و شبهای شنبه و یکشنبه تعطیل بود. هنوز چند ماه از تحصیل ما نمیگذشت که يك شب آفای روحی موقع رفتن رویش را بما کرده و گفت: آی بچه ها بدانید و دانسته باشید که از فردا شب ما نیم ساعت آخر را دیگر حتی يك کلمه فارسی با یکدیگر صحبت نخواهیم کرد و هر کس حرفی داشته باشد باید به زبان انگلیسی بیان نماید؛ مهم نیست که غلط بگوید یا صحیح. در اینصورت هر کس بر خلاف این مقررات عمل نماید باید برای هر کلمه فارسی مبلغ ۱۰ شاهی جریمه بیاندازد توی صندوق! و ما بچه ها هم از روی سادگی و با این فکر که این عمل او در اصل بخاطر دلسوزی است که میخواهد ما زبان انگلیسی را زودتر روان شویم، با پیشنهاد او موافقت کردیم و هر کس بموقع خود ۱۰ شاهی ها را می انداخت توی صندوق. در پایان هفته اول، یعنی اولین شب جمعه، آفای روحی در صندوقچه را در حضور همه باز کرد و پولها را که جمعاً حدود ۴-۵ تومان میشد شمرد و داد بدست یکی از پسربرچه ها و گفت: میروی پایین آنور خیابان، فنادی نوبخت است و همه پولها را میدهی و نان شیرینی ناپلئون میخری و بفوریت میآوری!! او هم طفلکی همین کار را کرد. با جعبه شیرینی برگشت و داد تحويل آقا معلم که او هم در جعبه را باز نمود و بعد از اینکه خودش اولین را نوش جان کرد، بقیه آنرا به ماها هم تعارف کرد که هر کدام یکی از آنرا خوردیم و آقا معلم هم بقیه شیرینی های را که حدود ۳۰ عدد میشد گذاشت توی یخچال و ما هم فکر کردیم هفته بعد مابقی شیرینی های خوش مزه را می بینیم و از خوردن آن لذت میبریم! ولی مثل اینکه کور خوانده بودیم، انگار شیرینی ها دود شده و به آسمان رفته بودند. چه در درسته بدهم؟ هر هفته این داستان ادامه داشت و ما نمی فهمیدیم آقا معلم با شیرینی های باقیمانده چکار میکند و چه بلائی بسر آنها میآورد...

بعدها کشف کردیم آقا معلم خودش عاشق و شیفته این شیرینی هاست و هر هفته شب جمعه بعد از اینکه کلاس تعطیل شد، مابقی را میرید خانه اش و جمعه و شنبه که کلاس تعطیل است با دوستانش صفا کرده و به ریش ماها میخندند! ولی «عدو شود سبب خیر». این «خیمه شب بازی ها» وجودان یک فایده برای ما داشت و آن این بود که ما اجباراً زبانمان به انگلیسی باز میشد و احتمال داشت زودتر از معمول آنرا یاد بگیریم و خود حقیر اولین نفری بودم که نتیجه آنرا دیده و از آن بهره بردم. یک روز در حین رفتن به کلاس، در روزنامه ها خواندم تیم بسکتبال هارلم آمریکا برای اجرای مسابقه دوستانه و نمایشی در حضور اعلیحضرت به ایران آمده اند و منه

همه جا پیش میخورد.
به دیدار آرامگاه مشهدی ها رفتم. وقتی به آستانه دروازه قبرستان
قدیمی رسیدم قلبم به لرده افتاد. دیگر آثاری از قبرهای بازماندگان
واقعه الله دادی و اجدادمان دیده نمیشد. تمام قبرستان را اسفالتی سیاه
پوشانده بود و آفتابی داغ بر آن می تایید.

بی اختیار آپیاش را پر از آب کردم و بهر سو میرفتم و آب
می پاشیدم. اشکهای من و آبهای روی اسفلت داغ از شدت گرمای آن
روز بخار شده و در هوا گم شدند. سرایدار قبرستان گفت: غصه
نخورید. بسلامت بروید. من تا اینجا هستم روی قبرهایتان را آب
می پاشم. اشکهایم را دید و گفت گریه نکنید، روزگار همین بوده و
هست. همه می‌آیند و می‌رونند.

ساعتها و روزها با بی بی حرف زدم تا بتوانم او را به سفر آمریکا
راضی کنم. بی بی میگفت خانه و زندگی مشهدم را دست نزنید. گفتم:
بچشم؛ باز راضی نمیشد. گفتم بليط هوایپیامیان را رفت و برگشت
میخرم که هر وقت دلтан خواست برگردید. به این شرط تن به آمدن
به آمریکا داد. پس از آن چمدانهای خالی را آوردم. چادر اولین چیزی
بود که بی بی در چمدان گذاشت و بعد از آن چارقدهای ملمتش را.

بی بی میگفت: این بالشت پر قو را می بینی؟ بالشت جهازی من
است! من بدون این بالشت خوابم نمیبرد. گفت بچشم، بالشت را هم
میبریم. بی بی را چند روز بردم خرید. او برای یکایک فامیل و نوه ها و
نتیجه های خودش سوغاتی خرید و چمدانها را پر کرد.

در روز وداع با ایران، بعض در گلو بودم و جلوی خودم را میگرفتم
که اشکهایم را بی بی نبیند.

با خود میگفتم، آیا سعادت دیدن و قدم زدن دوباره در ایران را
خواهم داشت؟!

پر از قالیچه و مخده. میوه ها در جوبهارها و دیگهارها روی اجاقها و کابایها
روزی منتقل ها. نهر کرج پر از آب بود. آبهای سرعت و تندی را
میشد و همه چیز را با خود میبرد.

دقایقی لب آب نشستم و به جریان تندر آب دیده دوختم و بیاد
کودکی سنگ ریزه ها را به درون آب پرتاب کردم و با بغضی در گلو
راهی تهران شدم. روزهای بیشماری در تهران از اینسو به آنسو رفتم و
پس از آن عازم مشهد شدم. رفتن به مشهد خاطره انگیزترین قسمت بازگشت سفر من به ایران
بود. رفتن من به مشهد باعث شادی همه شده بود و همه به دیدنم
میآمدند.

باغبانمان با سبدی گیلاس و خیار و خربزه شختک به دیدنم آمد و
میگفت حتماً چند روزی به باغ بروم و بیاد گذشته ها شاخه های
درخت توت را تکان بدhem و توت بخورم. روزی دیگر رفتم نزد
کفسدووز سر حیطه؛ گفت از روزی که شما جدیدالسلام ها رفتید دیگر
برکت هم از دکان ما رفته. کفشهایم را واکس زد و برق انداخت و
دعایم کرد. مشتی پول در دستش گذاشتم و رفتم. از قصابی خبری
نیوی. دیگر کشتار یهودی نمیکردند، چون دیگر جماعتی نبود، همه جا
برایم سوت و کور میآمد. رفتم به جنت هیچکس را ندیدم جنت خالی
بود. غمگین و افسرده رفتم به باغ ارگ. فواره های آب و حوض بزرگ
و قوهای زیبا سر جایشان بودند. خودم را به فواره های آب نزدیک تر
کردم، قطرات آب مانند شلاق به سر و صورتم میخوردند و آرام
میکردند.

رفتم به طرقه و کوه سنگی و شاندیز. همه برای خودشان شهری
شده بودند. دیگر آن صفاتی گذشته را نداشتند. از کوچه پس
کوچه های کاهگلی خبری نبود. اسفلت های بیقواره و پهن و باریک

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بازگشت به ایران

از: فلوریا آشر

گذشت ساعتها و نشستن در اتوبوس خسته ام نمیکرد. دیدن دوباره دشت و صحراء و استشمام بوی خاک ایران، رسیدن به یکی از آرزوهایم بود. به مسافرخانه بین راه که رسیدیم بوی خاک نم زده، انسان را تحریک میکرد که مشتی از خاک را برداشته بوبکشد. به اصفهان که نصف جهانش مینامند رسیدیم.

فردای آنروز به قدم زدن در چهارباغ مشغول شدم. درختهای بلوار چهارباغ از بس بلند شده بودند سر شاخه هایشان از دو طرف بهم گره خورده بودند و سایه گاهی زیبا برای پیاده روها درست کرده بودند. نشستن روی نیمکتها و از آن دورها به سی و سه پل نگاه کردن چه منظره زیبائی داشت. قدم زنان از روی سی و سه پل رد شدم و در پایین پل وارد پارک قشنگی که در دو طرف زاینده رود درست کرده اند شدم. آب زاینده رود خیلی بلندتر از گذشته شده بود. جریان آب و نسیم بهاری و بوی گلهای رُز در فضای پیچیده بود.

به منارجنبان و عالی قاپو رفتم. در میدان شاه از این طرف میدان آنطرف میدان را نمیدیدی. از کناره های میدان شاه قدم زنان رد شدم و صدای چکش قلم زنها مرا بیاد هنرمندان اصفهان انداخت. از آنجا راهی بازار شدم. هر کجا که میرفتم همه میگفتند خوش آمدید، حال شما چطور است؟ فamilی و بچه ها چطورند.

دل میخواست دسته در آخرین خانه ای که در اصفهان در آن زندگی کرده بودم بصدأ در بیاورم و لب استخرش بروم و ببینم هنوز هم پر از نیلوفر و زنبق آمی است. سرگشته به هر کوچه و پس کوچه میرفتم و بیاد خاطرات گذشته اشک ریزان برمیگشتم.

پس از چند روز عازم شیراز شدم. اتوبوس از دروازه قرآن رد شد، به خیابان زند وارد شد. همه خیابانها را یک فلکه گرد و حوض های بزرگ با فواره های آب بهم وصل میکرد. فردای آنروز به سعدیه رفتم و از آب روانی که از لابلای کوههای سعدیه جاری بود به سر و صورتم زدم و به ماهیهای رنگارنگ درون آب چشم دوختم. پس از آن به حافظیه رفتم و بر مزارش فال گرفتم و بی اختیار این سخنان بر زبانم جاری شد. ای حافظ سوریده دل، سر از خاک خفته بردار و بین شیراز متزلگه عشقت چه بوده و چسان گشته است! به باغ ارم رفتم، درختهای کاج باغ ارم همه صاف و بلند و یک اندازه سر به فلك کشیده بودند و منظره ای تماشای داشتند. ساعتی بعد خود را در جاده باریکی که به باباکوهی میشهد یافتم. رفتن به باباکوهی یکی از سرگرمی های سالیان ما بود. به بالای کوه و باغ باباکوهی رسیدم. فنجانی چای نوشیدم و ساعتها از آن بالا شیراز زیبا را تماسا کردم. نسیم فرح بخش بهاری از اینسو به آن سو می کشاندم.

بی اختیار این بیت شعر بر زبانم جاری شد:

خوش شیراز و وصف بی مثالش

خدواندا نگهدار از زوالش

فردای آن روز به باغی رفتم و در حوضچه آب روانش دست و صورت شستم. هر روز در شیراز کارم این بود که یک نان بستنی را گاز بزنم و ظرفی پر از پالوده بخورم. چند روز بعد با شیراز وداع کردم. عازم تهران شدم؛ تهران شلوغ و پرهیاهو. یک روز به کرج رفتم. به باغ وینه؛ دیده به نیمکت ها دوختم؛ همه

قصه اوایل آمدن من به آمریکا قصه ای نامطلوب و فراموش نشدنی است زیرا پس از بخاک سپردن عشقی که با تار و پود من درآمیخته بود انجام گرفت. با خود عهد کرده بودم اگر به وطن برگردم بوسه بر خاکش زنم و بیاد روزهای خوش گذشته و با حسرت از دست دادن آن روزهای سعادت بار قطره اشکی بر خاکش بربزم و عقدہ دل خالی کنم.

به دیدار مزار عشق بخاک خفته ام و دیگر عزیزان که در وطن بخاک سپرده ام بروم و در ضمن بی پیر را راضی به ترک وطن کنم و با خود به آمریکا ببرم. خد-ایا تو که بمن قدرت دادی که غم بزرگ از دست دادن و بجا گذاشتن همه چیز در وطن و دربردی در دیار غربت و بی زبانی را تحمل کنم، تو که یار و یاور من شدی، تو که درهای بسته را برویم باز کردی و هر دقیقه و ثانیه وجودت را بمن ثابت کردی؛ خد-ایا منکه همه عشق و آرزوهایم را در خاک وطن بجا گذاشته، منکه خود از عاشقان وطنم و در دیار غربت هر دقیقه و هر ثانیه در آرزوی بال و پر زدن بسوی وطنم. چگونه بر سر مزار عشق از دست رفته ام بروم و پس از آن با چه کلامی بی بی را راضی کنم که ترک وطن کند؟ پس قدرت این کار را بمن بد.

بازگشت به ایران برای من بازگشت به گذشته بود و از گذشته گذشتن سخت ترین دقایق بود. پس از شار بوسه بر مزار عشق از دست رفته ام در اولین روزها با صدای مردی که گاری را میراند و با صدای بلند میگفت «آهای لبوی داغ و عدسی داریم»، بیدار شدم و پس از آن با صدای مردی که الاغی را بدنبال خود میکشید و فریاد میزد «آهای خیار و گوجه فرنگی، کدو و بادمجان داریم» بلند شدم و دقایقی بعد صدای مردی بگوش میرسید که میگفت «آهای، آب انبار خالی میکنیم، آب حوض میکشیم».

قدم زدن در آفتاب تابان و روشن و حیات بخش ایران چقدر لذت بخش است زیر سایه درختان چه نسیم فرح بخشی دارد. میتوان ساعتها در کنار جویبارها قدم زد و از زیر سایه درختان رد شد و به صدای شر شر آب جویبارها گوش داد و از گرمای مطبوع لذت بردا. روزها گرم و انرژی بخش و شبها آسمان صاف و پرستاره. به کهکشان که دیده بدوزی میتوانی ستارگان را بشماری و ستاره های دنباله دار را نظاره کنی و در آرامش و سکوت شبهای ایران در آرامش پلک هایت را بر هم بگذاری و به خوابی عمیق فرو روی. پس از گذشت سالها دوری از وطن این آرامش شبها آرامم میکرد و بر قلب داغدارم مرحمی میگذاشت. روزها طول کشید که خودم را بازیابم. دید و بازدیدها تمام نشدنی بود.

نمیدانستم از کجا شروع کنم، به کجا بروم. با عزمی راسخ بلند شدم و قلم و کاغذ را بدبست گرفتم. با خود گفتم از اصفهان شروع میکنم. تصمیم گرفتم هر کجا میروم با اتوبوس بروم که بین راه را هم ببینم. خودم را به شرکت اتوبوس رانی رساندم و یک بلیط سفر به اصفهان خریدم. دقایقی بعد شاگرد شوfer داد زد: مسافرهای اصفهان سوار شوند. سوار شدم. اتوبوس به حرکت افتاد. شاگرد شوfer با صدای بلند گفت یک صلوات بفرستید که بسلامت برسیم. اتوبوس از کوچه و خیابانهای تهران خارج شد و در جاده خارج شهر شروع بحرکت کرد.

بازدید از شهر کیریکو در سال ۱۹۹۴

سفری که بخیر گذشت

از: فرخ حکیم (ترجمه از متن اصلی انگلیسی)



نمیدانم چرا این جمله قیافه صاحب مغازه و اطرافیان را عبوس و گرفته کرد؟! من که قدری نگران شده بودم اضافه کردم که ما از ایرانی‌های «جديد الاسلام» هستیم. صاحب مغازه با شنیدن «اسلام» لبخند و خوشحالی در قیافه اش آشکار شد و مجددًا سخن از تمجید عرفات گشود و خواست ما هم با او هم‌صدا شویم.

من که در ته دل میخواستم سر به تن عرفات نباشد، مصلحتانه سخن از تمجید او گشودم و گفتم او یکی از زرنگ ترین افراد فلسطینی میباشد. گرچه ته دل فحش و ناسزا بود که

تشارش میکردم که چگونه پولهای کشور را

برای خود و قصرهایش استفاده می‌نمود.

من و پسرم پس از خرید قدری سوغاتی

از مغازه خارج شدیم و به اتفاق فامیل به

طرف وانت برآمدیم. در وانت راننده

عرب با سؤوال اینکه از این بازدید شهرک

یریکو راضی هستیم اصرار داشت که قدری

بیشتر شهر یریکو را بما نشان بدهد ولی من

که هنوز اضطراب و دلهزه داشتم گفتم که ما

را بس! و از راننده عرب خواستم که هر چه سریعتر ما را به دریاچه

نمک برساند.

بازدید از دریاچه نمک نه تنها بسیار لذت بخش بلکه خیلی آرامش

بخش بود بخصوص که دیگر هیچگونه دلهزه و ترسی در دل نداشتم و

همگی به آب تنی و گردش و تماشا مشغول شدیم.

در حقیقت باید بگوییم که کلاً این سفر یک سفر تاریخی و

بیادماندنی برای همه مان بود.

در مورد این بازدید از شهر کیریکو باید دوباره بگوییم نه من دیگر

آن جوان مجرد هستم و نه ترس دوره نظام وظیفه در ایسrael را

داشتم، بلکه حدود سی سال پیرتر و صاحب همسر و فرزند و فامیل و

مسئولیت یک خانواده را بعهده داشتم و کوشش من بر آن بود که از

هر گونه واکنشی بین خود و عربها جلوگیری کنم.

در حقیقت هنوز هم مطمئن نیستم که گفتن اسم «جديد الاسلام»

بما اصولاً کمک کرده بود یا نه ولی بهر حال خوشحال هستم که بنظر

خودم بدین طریق از هر گونه واکنشی جلوگیری کردم.

امیدوارم که همیشه صلح و صفا در کشور ایسrael برقرار باشد تا

همگی بتوانند بدون ترس و هراس و با فکر و خیال راحت از آن

بازدید کرده و با سلامتی و خوشوقتی در این سرزمین اجدادی زندگی

کنند. آمین.



در ژانویه سال ۱۹۹۴ درست ۱۷ سال قبل به اتفاق فامیل برای زیارت و دید و بازدید و همچنین برای آشنائی فرزندان به سرزمین مقدس برای اولین بار به اتفاق کل فرزندان و فامیل یک سفر گردشی به ایسrael را شروع کردیم. سفر ما بسیار جالب بود و از شهرهای تل آویو، بروشالیم و ایلات دیدن کردیم. در آخر سفر تصمیم گرفتیم به دریاچه نمک (Dead Sea) برویم ولی پیدا کردن یک تاکسی بزرگ

برای همه فامیل خیلی مشکل بود.

بالاخره راهنمای هتل برای ما یک وانت

براندگی یک فرد عرب پیدا کرد و ما

همه خوشحال داخل وانت شده و بطرف

دریاچه نمک روانه شدیم.

ما از راننده خواسته بودیم که ما را

به دریاچه نمک برساند ولی ناگهان

متوجه شدیم که در یریکو هستیم و

راننده خواست که از این محل دیدن

کنیم.

بله، این آقای راننده مهربان و موquer ما را از یک جاده انحرافی به شهرک عرب نشین یریکو برد و پیشنهاد کرد که قدری در این شهر و مغازه‌های آن گردش کنیم.

شهرک عرب نشین یریکو مدت کوتاهی بود که از ایسrael به فلسطینی‌ها پس داده شده بود و شهرکی تمام عیار عرب نشین و محل فعالیت فلسطینی‌ها شده بود.

ما همگی قدری با نگرانی از وانت پیدا شده و بگردش و مغازه گردی مشغول شدیم. در مغازه‌ها بیش از همه عکسهای یاسر عرفات بچشم میخورد و در ضمن احساس میکردم که مردم محل خیلی روی خوش باما نشان نمیدهند.

من که در جوانی خدمت نظام وظیفه را در ایسrael انجام داده بودم و در آن موقع هیچگونه ترس و وحشت نداشتم در اینجا بیش از حد نگران بودم که محیط خصمانيه ایجاد نشود.

بالاخره بااتفاق پسرم وارد یک مغازه لوازم سوغاتی برای تماشا شدیم و صاحب مغازه پس از خوش آمد بزبان انگلیسی پرسید کجایی هستید و از کجا آمده اید؟ در این موقع متوجه شدم که چند فلسطینی جوان جلوی در مغازه را مسدود کرده‌اند. داخل مغازه پر از تصاویر رنگارنگ عرفات بود و در ضمن منتظر عکس العمل ما بودند. در اینجا من گفتم که ما از آمریکا آمده‌ایم و در اصل ایرانی هستیم.

جلسه‌ای بود که اخیراً بیش از ۴۰۰ ربای کنسرواتیو از سراسر جهان در آن شرکت داشتند. همچنین در اجتماعی با نام "Young Jewish Leaders" (رهبران جوان یهودی) بیش از ۱۲۰۰ جوان یهودی، عنوان داوطلب خدمت در امور اجتماعی از سراسر امریکا به لاس و گاس آمده بودند تا در باره فعالیت‌های جوامع یهودی در امریکا به بحث و رایزنی پردازند.



اخیراً گفته شده است که بنظر میرسد که لقب شهر لاس و گاس را که به «شهر گناه» معروف میباشد، بایستی تغییر داد و آنرا شهر کنفرانس‌های عام المنفعه نامید.

آزادی جاناتان پولارد

چندی پیش یک جوان یهودی امریکائی بنام «جاناتان پولارد» به اتهام جاسوسی برای کشور اسرائیل، از طرف مقامات قضائی آمریکا بازداشت شد و پس از محاکمه، محکوم به زندان گردید و هنوز هم در زندان بسر میبرد.

در این رابطه آقای «یوناتان متسرگر» راو راشی جامعه یهودیان اشکنازی در کشور اسرائیل طی یک سخنرانی اظهار داشته است که اگر پرزیدنت اوباما میخواهد در دور بعدی انتخابات ریاست جمهوری امریکا به موقوفیت برسد بایستی هر چه زودتر جاناتان پولارد را آزاد کند تا بدینوسیله آراء مثبت یهودیان آمریکا را در انتخابات آینده ریاست جمهوری بدست بیاورد.

راو متسرگ خاطرنشان نمود که در غیر اینصورت مسلماً یهودیان به او رأی نخواهند داد.

آنینه نشان خواهد داد که سرنوشت جاناتان پولارد چه تأثیری بر انتخابات ریاست جمهوری آمریکا خواهد گذاشت.

يهودیان در ایالات متحده

بنا بر آماری که اخیراً توسط مقامات دانشگاه «براندیس» ارائه گردیده، جمعیت یهودیان در ایالات متحده امریکا بیشتر از آن است که قبلاً تصور میشد. براساس این آمار جدید، تعداد افراد امریکائی که خود را یهودی میدانند در سال ۲۰۱۰ بالغ بر شش میلیون نفر اعلام گردیده است در حالیکه در سرشماری که در سال ۱۹۹۰ انجام یافت، جمعیت یهودیان آمریکا پنج و نیم میلیون گزارش شده بود و این ارقام نشان میدهد که جمعیت یهودی آمریکا در این ده سال، حدود ۲۰ درصد افزایش پیدا کرده است.

براساس همین آمار، حدود چهار و نیم میلیون از یهودیان آمریکا کم و بیش به آداب و سنت‌های مذهبی پایبند میباشند و یک و نیم میلیون نفر از آنها خود را یهودی «سکولاو» غیر مذهبی معرفی میکنند. یادآوری میشود که فرق عمدی بین این یهودیان در این است که یهودیان مذهبی غالباً عضویت یک کنیسا را دارا میباشند و سنت‌های مذهبی را طبق روش کنیسای خودشان اعم از ارتودوکس، کنسرواتیو، رفورم و غیره انجام میدهند ولی یهودیان سکولاو، اغلب شان به سنت‌های مذهبی پایبند نیستند و همین عدم پایبندی باعث میگردد که آمار ازدواج با غیر یهودی در بین آنها متأسفانه بسیار بالا رفته و در درازمدت باعث کم شدن جمعیت یهودیان در ایالات متحده آمریکا گردد که این رویدادی بسیار تأسف انگیز است.

اخیراً مقامات فرقه‌های مذهبی جامعه یهودیان امریکا در صدد چاره جوئی برآمده و سعی میکنند با خانواده‌های یهودی تماس بگیرند شاید بتوانند با همکاری یکدیگر تا حدودی جلوی این فاجعه را بگیرند.

лас و گاس و یهودیان

лас و گاس، این شهر خشک و کویری، در گذشته دور یعنی قبل از اینکه تبدیل به مرکز تفریحات و قمار بشود اقامتگاه عده‌کثیری از یهودیان بود که از نقاط مختلف جهان به آمریکا مهاجرت میکردند.

در دهه ۱۸۵۰ میلادی بخاطر منابع زیرزمینی مختلفی که در این شهر کشف شده بود عده زیادی از یهودیان برای کسب درآمد و امراض معاش در لاس و گاس سکونت گزیدند و در مشاغل مختلف مانند ایجاد کازینوها و هتل‌ها و تسهیلات توریستی به فعالیت پرداختند.

آقای «الیوت کارپ» که در حال حاضر سرپرستی فدراسیون یهودیان را در شهر لاس و گاس بعده دارد اظهار میدارد که از سال ۲۰۰۰ به بعد جمعیت یهودیان در لاس و گاس با سرعت بیشتری رو به فزونی گذاشته است و آنها در رشته‌های مختلف اقتصادی به فعالیت پرداخته اند.

او می‌افزاید که در سالهای اخیر، جلسات و اجتماعات گوناگون بسیاری در شهر لاس و گاس ترتیب داده شده است که از جمله آنها

فعالان این کنیسا شد و با همت او حتی یک روز نیایش صبحگاهی در این کنیسا متوقف نشد. جالب اینکه حتی یک روز قبل از فوتش در تهران آمده و به خانواده بپیوندد و سپس با کمک مالی ابراهیم آقا،

او یکی از اعضای فعال و خوش نام کمیته مذهبی مشهدی بود و با توجه به داشت فراوان او از توراه و فرامین آن و آگاهی کامل از سنن مذهبی یهودیان مشهدی و نگاه بدینه او به خرافات دینی، همیشه مورد احترام تمامی اعضاء این کمیته بود. ابراهیم آقا از ابتدای تشکیل انجمن مرکزی، از اعضای هیئت نظارت بر انتخابات بود.

ابراهیم آقا عزیز، پنج فرزند تحصیل کرده و شایسته و سه نوه بیادگار گذاشته است.

این هم برگ خوشنگی از درخت پریار زندگی ابراهیم آقا عزیز. خاطراتش بیاد ماندنی است. روانش شاد.

کمک های معنوی و مالی او به یکی از عموهایش قابل ذکر است؛ او اولاً باعث شد که عمویش پس از مدتهاز زیاد دوری از فامیل به تهران آمده و به خانواده بپیوندد و سپس با کمک مالی ابراهیم آقا، صاحب منزلی پنج طبقه در جوار ساختمان مسکونی خود شد.

هنوز بیش از ۳۵ سال از اردواج او نگذشته بود که دست تقدیر همسرش را از او جدا نمود و با فوت همسرش که او را خیلی دوست میداشت سرنوشت ابراهیم آقا، یک باره عوض شد.

حالا او مانده بود بدون همسر و مستول سرپرستی پنج فرزند پسر بدون مادر. او بتدربیج از فعالیت های تجاری خود کاست و مجبور به زندگی بازنیستگی زودرس شد. از همین سالها فعالیت اجتماعی او بیشتر و بیشتر شد. او که قبلاً هم در تهران یکی از مسئولان کنیسای رفیع نیا بود، این بار با افتتاح کنیسای کلبه و سپس شعره شالوم یکی از

معافیت مالیاتی ارت بمیزان پنج میلیون دلار فقط تا آخر دسامبر ۲۰۱۲

از: روبرت بی چوپان (ترجمه از متن اصلی انگلیسی)

احتمالاً اخبار زیر را از طریق رسانه ها گروهی و یا از طریق سمینار من و خانم رویا دیلمانیان در کنیسای شعره شالوم در باره روش مالیاتی حداکثر مبلغ قانونی بدون پرداخت مالیات را میتوان به هر فرد یا شخص منتقل کرد و بدین ترتیب با افزایش معافیت به مبلغ پنج میلیون دلار، ممکن است وضعی ایجاد شود که هیچ مبلغی برای همسر باقی نماند. از این لحاظ در وصیت نامه ها باید مجدداً تجدید نظر شود. مسأله دیگر موضوع "Portability Provision" است که همسر وارث میتواند باقیمانده استفاده نشده از پنج میلیون دلار حق معافیت مالیاتی هدیه را استفاده نماید. بدین معنی که اگر فردی قبل از فوت فقط مبلغ یک میلیون از معافیت انتقال سرمایه استفاده کرده، الان همسر وارث او میتواند از چهار میلیون باقیمانده همسرش علاوه بر پنج میلیون دلار معافیت مالیاتی خودش را نیز بدون پرداخت مالیات استفاده نماید. گرچه این قانون در آخر سال ۲۰۱۲ خاتمه پیدا میکند ولی پیش بینی میشود که این موضوع تمدید شود.

مانند همیشه این مقاله بعنوان راهنمایی قانونی نوشته نشده است بلکه قصد دارم موضوعات و مشکلاتی که در قانون وجود دارد متذکر شوم که آگاهی بیشتری پیدا نمایید. لازم است حتماً با وکیل یا حسابدار و یا مشاور مالی خودتان در این مورد مشورت نمایید.

احتمالاً اخبار زیر را از طریق رسانه ها گروهی و یا از طریق سمینار من و خانم رویا دیلمانیان در کنیسای شعره شالوم در باره روش مالیاتی جدید رئیس جمهور آمریکا آقا اوباما در مورد استفاده از Capital Gains و قانون هدیه دادن شنیده اید.

اکنون شما میتوانید خیلی بیشتر از سابق سرمایه خود را بدون پرداخت هیچگونه مالیات به فرزندان انتقال دهید. از لحاظ مالیات ایالتی نیویورک (NY State Law) – در ایالت نیویورک هیچگونه مالیاتی به هر نوع انتقال ثروت بصورت هدیه تعلق نمیگیرد. ولی از لحاظ قانون مالیاتی فدرال آمریکا هر گونه انتقال ثروت بصورت هدیه که تاکنون تا مبلغ یک میلیون دلار بدون پرداخت مالیات بوده، از تاریخ ۱۷ دسامبر ۲۰۱۰ تا تاریخ ۳۱ دسامبر ۲۰۱۲ بمبلغ پنج میلیون دلار این معافیت مالیاتی افزایش یافته است و کنگره آمریکا این معافیت را بمنظور انتقال ثروت به نوه ها یا نسل آینده بسط داده است. مجدداً یادآور میشوم که این معافیت قبلاً تا یک میلیون دلار بوده و حالا تا پنج میلیون دلار افزایش یافته است.

اگر فکر میکنید که این معافیت مالیاتی برای انتقال ثروت بصورت هدیه بمبلغ پنج میلیون دلار همیشه برقرار است در اشتباه هستید. این معافیت برای هدیه بمیزان پنج میلیون دلار فقط تا آخر دسامبر ۲۰۱۲ میباشد مگر اینکه کنگره آمریکا تجدید نظر نماید. در غیر اینصورت این مبلغ مجدداً به مبلغ یک میلیون دلار برخواهد گشت.

باید تذکر دهم که متأسفانه این افزایش معافیت تا این حد، مشکل بزرگی در وصیت نامه های قبلی ایجاد نموده است و آن موضوع

یادی از شادروان ابراهیم عزیز

از: فریدون حکیمیان

کارخانه روده شوئی شروع کرد تا اینکه در اوایل سالهای ۱۹۵۰ میلادی با تفاوت خانواده خود به تهران مهاجرت کرد.

مدتها او بعنوان واسطه و دلال خرید و فروش قالی مشغول بکار بود ولی بواسطه علاقه و پشتکار زیاد او به فراگیری فن قالی بافی، بزودی یکی از افراد کارشناس و فوق العاده خوش نام بازار فرش ایران شد تا جائیکه شهرت او باعث شد تا سفارشات زیادی از طرف تجار معروف مشهدی مقیم اروپا دریافت نمود و بعد از مدتی، مارک تجاری ابراهیم آقا عزیز آنچنان معروف شد که خریداران اروپائی، بدون اتفاق وقت، محموله مارک ابراهیم آقا عزیز را می خریدند.

هر آنچه به اعتبار و صداقت و کارشناسی او اضافه میشد، به همان نسبت متضایان همکاری با او نیز بیشتر میشد.

در اواخر سالهای ۱۹۵۰ او ابتداء از برادر بزرگتر خود، اکبر آقا که تا آن موقع



مشغول شغل رانندگی برای مؤسسهای مختلف بود دعوت به همکاری نمود و با اینکه برادرش اطلاعات زیادی از فن قالی بافی نداشت او را وارد شرکت خود بعنوان شریک مشغول بکار کرد. بعد از آن نوبت به امیر عزیز، برادر کوچکتر او شد که تازه از اسرائیل بازگشته بود و بکار رانندگی ماشین آلات راهسازی مشغول بود (حتی با کمک مالی ابراهیم آقا صاحب چند دستگاه بولدوزر شده بود). او را هم دعوت بکار کرد و با سهم خوب وارد تشكیلات خود نمود.

در اوایل سالهای ۱۹۶۰ دو برادر کوچکتر او، هوشنگ و موسی، با تشویق ابراهیم آقا برای ادامه تحصیلات عالی راهی امریکا شدند و پس از اخذ مدارک تحصیلی، متوجه بکار تخصصی خود و بالاخره در اواخر سالهای ۱۹۶۰ دعوت به همکاری با تجارت خانه بزرگ و معتربر ابراهیم آقا را به خوشحالی پذیرفتند و جزء شرکاء او شدند.

ابراهیم آقا بینهایت خداپرست بود. دین را مسیر خداشناسی میدانست و به خرافات دین به دیده بدبینی نگاه میکرد، او معتقد بود که هر چه را خدا به او داده باید با بقیه تقسیم کند بنابراین به همه کمک میکرد، کمک های مالی و معنوی او تمامی فامیل عزیز را شامل میشد. عمه پیر او میگفت: ابراهیم آقا مسیر زندگی تمام فامیل عزیز را عوض کرد و برای بیشتر آنها کسب و کار آبرومندی بوجود آورد.

برای یادآوری زنده یاد ابراهیم آقا عزیز با نزدیکی ویژه ای که با او داشتم، پا در میان میگذارم و سعی بر آن دارم که خاطراتی از او را برای خوانندگان مگیلا بنویسم. هر چند در عمل می فهم که این کار با توجه به شخصیت والائی چون شادروان ابراهیم آقا کار چندان آسانی نیست؛ از این رو تنها به کارهای مهمی از این شخصیت بالرزش و با کوتاهی و اختصار اشاراتی خواهم داشت.

او را در ظاهر انسانی آرام و متین میدیدی؛ ولی در درونش بی تاب بود و اگر بدرستی با او آشنا نبودی، به این باور میرسیدی که از سخن گفتن چیزی کم دارد و یا از گفتن بیمناک است، اما هنگامیکه سخن میگفت (از سر بی نیازی کم هم سخن میگفت) میدیدی چقدر مفید و مؤثر و بُرنده سخن میگوید.

ابراهیم آقا عزیز ۸۴ سال پیش در یک خانواده ملاک، و نه مرfe و از مادری فوق العاده فعال در مشهد بدنیا آمد. فرزند دوم خانواده و دارای چهار برادر و یک خواهر بود. هنوز به سن یازده سالگی نرسیده بود که برادر بزرگتر او، اکبر آقا همراه با کوچ یهودیان رهسپار سرزمین مقدس (ایسرائیل) شد.

چندی بعد برادر کوچکتر او امیر عزیز هم راهی ایسرائیل شد. پس از آن ابراهیم آقا راه را در آن دید که باید مشغول به کار شود. تا مدتها با درآمد خود قسمتی از مخارج خانواده را تأمین می نمود. ابراهیم آقا ضمن کار روزانه از فراگیری اطلاعات مذهبی غافل نماند تا جایی که بعنوان معلم مدراس (مدرسه مذهبی یهودی) و بعدها در مقام ناظم این مدرسه خدمات فراوانی به افراد مشهدی نمود.

از آنجاییکه معتقد به کسب تحصیلات بود در سن بالا مشغول تحصیل در مدارس شبانه آن وقت مشهد گردید و موفق به اخذ دیپلم دبیرستان و حتی گرفتن پذیرش از یکی از دانشگاههای آمریکا شد.

در این زمان ابراهیم آقا بر سر دوراهی، ادامه تحصیلات عالی، و یا حفظ مسئولیت خانواده، راه دوم را انتخاب نمود و از ادامه تحصیلات عالی منصرف شد و تمام وقت خود را به کسب درآمد بیشتر و به امید تدارک زندگی بهتر خانواده خود گذراند. او کار کردن را از پادشاهی در تجارت خانه ها، تا انجار کرک پاکنی، و

تبریکات

تبریکات صمیمانه ما بمناسبت بر می تصوای:

دارن، پسر بابک و سندی زر
یوناتان، پسر مایکل و النا خجینی
مایکل، پسر یوسی و استریکا نسیمی
جولیان، پسر سامی و میریام حاجی بای
مارک، پسر تورج و سیمون حکیمیان
ساموئل، پسر بنی و دالیا نامدار
دیلن، پسر بابک و نغمه کمالی
ژوفز، پسر یونس و سوزت بی چوبان
براندون، پسر فرشاد و لیزا اعتمادی
یوناتان پسر بهمن و روزیتا جورابچی
جوناتان، پسر کیوان و افسانه حکیمیان
یوناتان، پسر شموئل و مونیکا لیوبان

تبریکات صمیمانه ما بمناسبت نامزدی:

الی نسیمی ها و ریچل حکیم
دیوید استرن و الیشا نامدار
آوی چرخی و کارولین نسیمی
ادی کلاتی و الانا بینفلد
رامی بن یهودا و ملیسا کاشی زاده
آوی حی رحمانی و فرناز حکیمیان
استیون دیلمانی و دیانا نسیمی
اریک جمشید اف و اشلي لیوبان
یعقوبو بیتون و ریوکا سلیمانی
رئوبن شوب و سبیورا گیندی
ایتان حکیمی و گابریئلا زر
آدام بصلیلی و سینتیا بصلیان

تبریکات صمیمانه ما بمناسبت ازدواج:



ریچارد و شیرین (روینی) اوردور
ایلوت و اهوا ریچل لیوبان
بنجامین و کارن کورن
رون و ریکا خردی پور
آیزیک و پولت نعمت نژاد
باپرون و جیمی حکیمی
مهرداد و استر خوردی پور
اوراهام و موریه سلیمانی
ایلان و کارلی حکیمیان

تبریکات صمیمانه ما بمناسبت تولد نوزاد پسر:

زاکاری پسر نورسیده جاشوآ و پاملا کاشانیان
دیوید و شیفر، پسر و دختر نورسیده افشنین و دینا بصلیلی
مشه، پسر نورسیده اشکان و پاتریشیا عنایتیان
دیوید اوراهم خنوکا، پسر نورسیده سیمخا و سندی صیونی
اهرون یهوشوع، پسر نورسیده جاناتان و دیز بولانی
رافائل، پسر نورسیده گادی و اوریت عدالتی
آرل، پسر نورسیده ایتمار و شیرین (حکیمیان) آلبرت
دیوید، پسر نورسیده استیو و صنم ایجادی
برادلی، پسر نورسیده تونی و جاسمین نامدار
برندان، پسر نورسیده جیسون و نیکول (گوهري) آیدلسون
نوآه، پسر نورسیده مارتین و مایا بیتلی
جاستین مارک، پسر نورسیده مایکل و دانیئلا لیوبان
اکیوا مشه، پسر نورسیده آصف و یادینا یعقوبی
دیلن میسون آری، پسر نورسیده هاریس و ملودی (کاشی نژاد) کلارک
جونا مشه، پسر نورسیده مایکل و نوا گوهري
الیشا دیوید، پسر نورسیده پرهام و شارونا (نسیمی ها) مکابی
کایل و کلر، دختر و پسر نورسیده تاد و جاسمین حکیمی
لیوم، پسر نورسیده ایزی و لیمور لیوبان
هریس، پسر نورسیده براین و تیفانی حکیمیان
دو قلوهای نورسیده رون و کندیس کاشی

تبریکات صمیمانه ما بمناسبت تولد نوزاد دختر:

نایومی، دختر نورسیده یوسی و مایا قدسی
اویتال و تالیا، دختران دوقلوی نورسیده جک و میخل اذر احیان
برت، دختر نورسیده سایمون و کندی زر
اما امانوئلا، دختر نورسیده امنون و ملانی مردخای
زوهارا سبیورا، دختر نورسیده جاشوآ و جنیفر زبولانی
آوا سارا، دختر نورسیده ادوبن و روت لیوبان
جاسمین، دختر نورسیده فرزاد و اوریت زر
امیلی میریام، دختر نورسیده فیلیپ و ماندانا (عیدگاه) دالاکورت
الیشیوه طووا، دختر نورسیده سامی و جاسمین لیوبان
جولی، دختر نورسیده جاناتان و استفانی حرقیا
کیت دوورا، دختر نورسیده افشنین و نغمه دیلمانیان
بریل آریانا، دختر نورسیده شارلوت کاشانیان
ناتالی بت ال، دختر نورسیده ریچارد و رئوت نسیمی
شالهوت خیا، دختر نورسیده بصلیل و ایوت بن حییم
ژولیت لیک، دختر نورسیده استیون و میشل کمالی
لیا یافا، دختر نورسیده رافائل و ملودی اعتمادی
ژیزل، دختر نورسیده ادموند و رومینا عنایتیان
مونیک، دختر نورسیده آلن و ریکا عنایتیان
اویا، دختر نورسیده آیزیک و روت کاشانیان
دختر نورسیده میخل و گابریئل حکیمیان
دختر نورسیده راکله و یونی نیتسانی

ناتان اعتصامی

فارغ التحصیل فوق لیسانس با بالاترین درجه افتخاری از دانشگاه Wharton پنسیلوانیا بنام Palmer Scholar

مسافرت‌های تحقیقاتی به اغلب نقاط دنیا از جمله پرو، برزیل، شیلی، استرالیا، نیوزیلند و جمهوری دومینیک و نقاط دیگر نموده است.

قبل از شروع کار در ماه سپتامبر او قصد دارد به نقاط دیگر جهان از جمله تائزانیا، زنگبار، ترکیه، استونی و فنلاند مسافرت نماید. او نه تنها یک دانش پژوه اهل مسافرت و ورزشکار است بلکه دارای طبع شوخ نیز میباشد.

او میگوید «من از راهپیمایی کنار ساحل لذت می‌برم!» و شوخ طبیعی را یکی از بهترین صفات خود میداند. عده ای شاید بیاد آورند که ناتان چقدر قشنگ در نقش «برات» دوستانش را سرگرم میکرد.

بدون تردید ناتان یک مرد همه فن حریف است. با صمیمانه ترین تبریکات به ناتان و فامیل او.



نشریه مگیلا تبریکات خود را به ناتان اعتصامی پسر شیوا و شهاب اعتصامی برای کسب این موقیت بزرگ در دانشگاه ابراز میدارد. ناتان از دانشگاه بازرگانی «ورتن» پنسیلوانیا با درجه فوق لیسانس در رشته «مراقبت‌های بهداشتی» فارغ التحصیل گردیده است. ناتان با بالاترین درجه افتخاری Palmer Scholar یکی از بهترین دانشجویان کلاس ۲۰۱۱ دانشگاه مزبور شناخته شده است. در ضمن در زمان تحصیل در دانشگاه در تیم والیبال و اسکی روی یخ شرکت داشته است.

ناتان در سال ۲۰۰۶ لیسانس خود را در رشته مهندسی شیمی از دانشگاه پرینستون با درجه افتخاری Magna Cum Laude بدست آورد. او در آنجا نیز کاپیتان تیم «فریزبی» بود.

ناتان از ماه سپتامبر ۲۰۱۱ بعنوان مشاور در شرکت Consulting Group مشغول کار خواهد شد. در دو سال اخیر ناتان

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در اولین فرصت نماینده دانشگاه "Yale" که دارای بالاترین شهرت جهانی میباشد و میشل در امتحانات ورودی اش قبول شده بود، موفقیت بزرگش را تبریک گفت. تلویزیون های Fox, CNN, CBS, NBC, ABC و رادیو NPR با او مصاحبه کردند و مهمترین روزنامه های انگلیسی زبان از جمله «نیویورک تایمز»، «واشنگتن پست» و «وال استریت ژورنال» و همچنین روزنامه فارسی زبان «ایران تایمز» این خبر را بطور مشروح منعکس کردند.

در روز ۱۵ مارچ ۲۰۱۱ میشل همراه با ۳۹ تن از افرادی که به فینال این مسابقات رسیده بودند به کاخ سفید دعوت شدند و با پرزیدنت باراک اوباما ملاقات کردند.

در روز شنبه بیست و شش مارس، شهردار گریت نک در میان هلهله حاضران در کنیسای مرکزی یهودیان مشهدی، لوحه افتخار به میشل حکمن اهدا کرد.

لازم به یادآوری است که موضوع تحقیقات میشل که منجر به احراز مقام دوم برای او شد، اعتیاد به استفاده از تلفن های همراه (سلولار) در بین جوانان بود. او با مطالعه بر روی ۱۵۰ جوان و با همکاری یک تیم ده نفری نشان داد که اگر تلفن جوانی را که به استفاده مدام آن عادت کرده از او بگیریم دچار افسردگی روانی میشود. «مگیلا» این موفقیت را به خانواده حکیمیان و همه افراد جامعه صمیمانه تبریک میگوید.

شرکت عظیم سازنده «چیپس»های کامپیوتري "Intel" هر سال بمنظور کشف نوعی جوان، آزمونی را در بین هزاران دانش آموز با استعداد که به دست آوردهای علمی مهم نائل شده اند، در سراسر آمریکا ترتیب میدهد.

در گذشته شرکت «وستینگهاوس» مبتکر این آزمون سراسری بود و خوب است بدانیم که هفت نفر از ده نفر اول این امتحانات تاکنون موفق به دریافت جایزه نوبل در رشته های مختلف شده اند.

در ماه ژانویه امسال اعلام شد که از میان ۳۰۰ نفر ممتازترین دانش آموزان، چهل نفر به مرحله قبل از فینال رسیده اند و در میان آنها یک دختر خانم ۱۷ ساله یهودی ایرانی ساکن گریت نک نیویورک میباشد. شهره و ژوین حکمن (حکیمیان) مادر و پدر این دختر از موفقیت دخترشان شگفت زده شده بودند. چطور میشد باور کرد دختری که از نعمت بینائی محروم است با این همه نابغه رقابت کند؟!

در تاریخ پانزدهم ماه مارچ، طی مراسمی که در شهر واشنگتن برگزار شد، مجری برنامه شروع به خواندن نام ده نفر بهترین ها، به ترتیب از مقام دهم کرد. هر نامی که خوانده میشد شهره و ژوین به این که فرزند آنها جزو بهترین ها باشد کمتر میشد. بالاخره گوینده اعلام کرد که نفر دوم از گریت نک نیویورک «میشل حکمن» (حکیمیان) است که برندۀ ۷۵ هزار دلار جایزة «اینتل» میباشد. در مدت کوتاهی این خبر افتخارآمیز جامعه یهودیان مشهدی و همچنین ایرانیان ساکن آمریکا را غرق در غرور و شگفتی کرد.

آماندا اسرائیلیان

دختری موفق و قابل تحسین

از: هاله حکیمیان
(ترجمه از متن اصلی انگلیسی)



از اینکه توانسته برندهٔ صلح نوبل را شیفته کند، به سنتور لیبرمن بقبولاند که دعوت به NCSY را پذیرد و پژوهش آمریکا را بخنداند، تعجب نمیکنید.

آماندا نیز خود میداند که استعداد آنرا دارد که کودکان و نوجوانان یهودی را به ریشه فرهنگ و ایمان یهودیت تشویق نماید همانطوریکه خودش این کار را کرد. جالب است که آماندا اولین فارغ التحصیل دبیرستان دولتی (Public School) است که به این مقام در این سازمان "OU" رسیده است.

در دورانی که پرداختن به مشغولیات سطحی و بیهوده زندگی بسیاری از جوانان را پر کرده، وجود افرادی چون آماندا مایه امیدواری است که چگونه پیام آور و الهام بخش زیبائی حقیقی و زندگی شاد میباشد.

در دنیای یکنواخت نوجوانی، دوشیزه آماندا اسرائیلیان بعنوان یک دختر نمونه در جامعه میدرخشد. او شادابی جوانی را با متناسب و وقار توأم دارا میباشد. آماندا نه تنها نام عبری خود «دینا» را از مادر بزرگ خود خانم دینا خوردی-حکیمیان گرفته بلکه روحیه شوخ طبع او را نیز دارا میباشد.

آماندا اصالت و پاکی را از پدر بزرگ خود مهدی خوردی و اراده قوی را از مادر خود ملکا اسرائیلیان و فرهنگ و ارزش‌های معنوی یهودیت را از پدر خود «سعید اسرائیلیان» آموخته است. برادر آماندا نیز بنام امید(اهرون) یکی دیگر از افراد خانواده اسرائیلیان-خوردی است که بسیار مؤدب و پوینده میباشد. او بجای تفریح تعطیلات تابستانی، در کمپانی بلومبرگ با ساعات کار زیاد کارآموزی نمود.

چقدر دلپذیر است که نوجوانانی بتوانند با ادب و رفتار خود، ما را مجدوب خود نمایند! این یکی از خصوصیاتی است که والدین آماندا به او آموخته اند. او با لطفت طبع و لبخند دلچسب، ما را فریقته خود میکند.

شاید این خصائص باعث شده که این دانشجو که سال آخر دبیرستان رازلین را میگذراند به عنوان اولین دوشیزه به ریاست سازمان بین المللی سفارادی مذهبی جوانان "NCSY" انتخاب شود. این نه تنها برای خود آماندا بلکه برای والدین او و حتی جامعه مشهدی افتخارآمیز است. آماندا ریاست بخش نیویورک NCSY را نیز بعده گرفته است. مؤسسه NCSY، سازمان بین المللی جوانان یهودی وابسته به Orthodox Union، همان نام آشنای "OU" میباشد.

ربای استیون برگ، از NCSY در توضیحات خود اظهار داشت که برنامه مهم این سازمان، تشویق و آشنا نمودن نوجوانان به میراث، فرهنگ و ایمان یهودیت است؛ و او معتقد است که آماندا از هر لحظه دارای چنین ذوق و استعداد میباشد.

دعوت شدن به کاخ سفید و ملاقات با پژوهشیت باراک اوباما، سنتور ژوزف لیبرمن و الی ویزل برنده جایزه نوبل، برای او مهمترین دستاورده محسوب میشود. اگر شما آماندا اسرائیلیان را خوب بشناسید



روزهای شبات در آنجا حضور داشته باشد. ما امیدواریم که این امر را داشته باشد و به کنیسا آمدن این بانوان نیز باعث شود که جوانانمان نیز بیشتر به کنیساهای مینیان هایمان بیایند.

بهتر ساختن برنامه های کودکان در روزهای شبات

با نظارت و همکاری ناتاشا و ناتالی نسیمیان و با کمک عده ای از جوانان «تین ایجر» برنامه های طبقه میانی کنیسا در روزهای شبات اکنون به چهار گروه مختلف از جمله گروه کودکستانی و تیم توراه (۹ الی ۱۱ سال) نیز سرویس میدهد.

پروژه های دیگر بورد کنیسا

۱. بهتر ساختن سالن جیم برای مینیان روز شبات

۲. بهتر ساختن تابلو هشکارهای داخل کنیسا

۳. ثبت نام هر چه بیشتر اعضای جامعه برای انتخاب محلی و سراسری

۴. تهیه صیصیت های استاندارد برای کنیسا

پیشنهادات اعضای جامعه برای ما حائز اهمیت بسیاری است. لطفاً با ما در راه بهتر ساختن کنیسا همکاری فرمایید.



بسیار جالبی به زبان فارسی در کتابخانه کنیسا برگزار می کنند. از شرکت کنندگان با کیدوش بسیار زیبایی پذیرایی می شود و شرکت برای همگی آزاد است. این کیدوش بطور شخصی و خصوصی برای بقیه سال هدیه شده است. علاقمندان میتوانند هنوز هر هفته ای را که بخواهند هدیه نمایند و هدیه ایشان به مصرف برنامه های جلب جوانان به کنیسا خواهد رسید.

صندوقهای جدید برای بانوان

یکی از مشکلاتی که بورد کنیسا پیوسته با آن روبرو بوده کمبود جا برای بانوان میباشد. این مسئله توسط خانم لیندا کمالی مجدداً به بورد کنیسا یادآوری شد. پس از جلسات متعدد و پیشنهادات مختلف، بورد کنیسا راه حلی برای این موضوع درنظر گرفت. در یک طرف کنیسا کلیه صندلی هایی که متعلق به آقایان بود برای مصرف خانمهای در نظر گرفته شد. البته باید خاطرنشان ساخت که برای کلیه این آقایان صندلیهای دیگری در نقاط مختلف کنیسا تهیه شد. آقای چنگیز حکیمی و خانواده شان مجدداً با هدیه خود به ما کمک کردند که نیمکتهاي جدیدی که مشابه سایر صندلی های کنیسا هستند برای این قسمت تهیه شود. خانمهایی که قبلاً بخاطر نداشتن صندلی به کنیسا نمی آمدند، شروع به آمدن به کنیسا نمودند و ناگهان حالت کنیسا تا حد زیادی تغییر نموده است. خوشبختانه کنیسای ساختمان ۵۴ استیم بوت رود، تبدیل به محلی شده که اکثریت بانوان علاقمندند که



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گزارش بورد کنیسا شعره شالوم

از: دیوید کردوانی
(ترجمه از متن اصلی انگلیسی)

ماست. ولیکن همگی میدانیم که صحبت بیش از اندازه در کنیسا، بی احترامی به قدوسیت کنیساست. این موضوع با اعضای جامعه بارها در میان گذاشته شده و بنظر میرسد که خوشبختانه چندیست که سکوت بیشتری در کنیسا مراعات میشود، بخصوص هنگام قرائت قسمت های مهم تفیلاها. از همگی جماعت محترم برای برقراری سکوت و حفظ قدوسیت کنیسا سپاسگزاری می نماییم.

اتومبیل سکیوریتی

بورد کنیسا جلساتی با افراد حرفه ای برای بهتر ساختن امنیت این مجموعه گذاشته است. بما توصیه شده بود که قرار دادن یک اتمبیل سکیوریتی یکی از مؤثرترین روش های دور کردن مزاحمین و خطرات می باشد. نظر به اینکه ما کاملاً می دانستیم که برای پلیس گریت نک اختصاص یک اتمبیل برای امنیت کنیسای ما امکان پذیر نیست، بورد کنیسا تصمیم گرفت که اتمبیل امنیتی خودمان را تهیه کنیم. در اینجا لازم میدانیم از آقای ایلان لولوئی برای خرید و تهیه این اتمبیل سکیوریتی تشکر کنیم.

روابط دوستانه با همسایگان

بورد کنیسا طی چندین جلسه با همسایگان در باره نکاتی که باعث ناراحتی آنها شده گفتگوهایی داشته است. سروصدای زیاد جشنهای که با کیترینگ همراه است از ناراحتی های اصلی آنهاست. نامه ای بسیار قوی از طرف بورد کنیسا به کلیه کیترینگ ها و فروشندگانی که با کنیسا کار می کنند فرستاده شده که به این اشکالات رسیدگی نمایند. کپی این نامه به نماینده همسایگان آقای «دنیس گروسمن» نیز فرستاده شده است. ما امیدواریم که این امر در راه بهبود روابط ما با همسایگانمان کمک زیادی خواهد کرد.

چاپ مجدد هگدادای پسح

پس از سالها کمی بورد هگدادا برای پسح، هگدادای زیبایی با چاپ و طراحی جدید در اختیار جامعه قرار داده شد. باوجود اینکه بودجه این هگدادا بطور خصوصی تأمین شده بود، تصمیم گرفته شد که کلیه درآمد حاصله از فروش این هگدادا بمصرف برنامه های جوانان رسانیده شود.

شراب، مصا و اجناس مذهبی برای فروش

بورد کنیسا هر ساله شراب، مصا و اجناس مذهبی را برای فروش در اختیار افراد جامعه قرار می دهد. این امر نه تنها باعث میشود که افراد جامعه بتوانند این اجناس را با قیمت نسبتاً نازلتی تهیه کنند بلکه کمکی است به بودجه کنیسا خصوصاً در مورد تهیه جوائز و هدایا برای تشویق کودکان و نوجوانان به آمدن به کنیسا.

«کیدوش گلاب» با ربای بن حییم

هر شبات پس از پایان تفیلا، ربای بن حییم جلسه بحث و یادگیری

کمیبد شرکت نوجوانان در کنیسا

یکی از مهمترین مشکلات بورد جدید کنیسا و همچنین جامعه این است که که عده بسیار کمی از نوجوانان در مینیان «سالن ورزش» شرکت می کنند. با اینکه این تنها مینیانی است که برای جوانان «تین ایجر» تدارک دیده شده، جای نگرانی است که از ۵۰۰-۴۰۰ براخا نوجوانانم، عده بسیار کمی در این مینیان شرکت می کنند. اگر اقدامی در این باره نشود چه کسانی صندلی های آینده کنیساها میان را باید پر کنند؟ این امر برای بورد کنیسا غیر قابل قبول بود لذا شرکت هر چه بیشتر نوجوانانم را از اهداف عمدۀ خود قرار دادیم.

شرکت نوجوانان در این مینیان به همراه ایده های تازه، از جمله تبلیغات و اهداء جوائز و با همکاری خستگی ناپذیر گردانند گان این مینیان آقایان مشه عزیز و گبائیم جوان را فی گرجستان، کون کاشی زاده، دیوید کریم زاده، ناتان کاشی زاده، الیرام کلاتی زاده، دانیل بهنام و سیوان هزقيا تغییر بسزایی کرده و تعداد بسیار بیشتری از نوجوانان هر هفته در این مینیان ها شرکت می کنند. شرکت نوجوانان دختر و پسر، پنج الی شش برابر شده ولی هنوز باید از این موقعیت بیشتر استفاده کرد. همچنین بدینوسیله از آقایان کودی حکیمیان و آدم عزیز برای شرکت و رهبریشان برای تقویت این مینیان تشکر و سپاسگزاری می نماییم.

به کلیه نوجوانانی که در «مینیان سالن ورزش» (جیم) شرکت میکنند بليط هایی داده شده که به آن «مايلج برای کنیسا» میگويند. اين بليط ها در همه سطوح مختلف می توانند صاحب جایزه ای شوند. بروشوری از اين جوايز با تعداد بليط های لازم برای نوجوانان عزیز در دست تهیه است. اين بروشور باعث ایجاد شور و هیجان بیشتری در میان نوجوانان خواهد بود و آنها را تشویق میکند که بطور مرتب به کنیسا بیایند.

مینیان شباهی شباهی شبات در شعره شالوم

شرکت نوجوانان و کودکان در مینیان شباهی شباهی بطور قابل ملاحظه ای افزایش یافته است. از آقای یوسی نامدار و دستیاران جوانشان تشکر می نماییم. هر «روش خودش» نیز طی قرعه کشی، جوازی بین این نوجوانان تقسیم میشود. لطفاً فرزندان خود را با خود به کنیسا بیاورید.

سروصدای کنیسا

سر و صدا در کنیسا همیشه یکی از مسائل اصلی بورد کنیسا بوده است. با اینکه همگی واقفیم که این مشکل عمدها وجود دارد، ولی بسیار مشکل که بتوان کنیسايی آرام با شرکت بیش از ۱۰۰۰ براخا دوست و رفیق داشت و در حقیقت اینها نشانه های اتحاد و دوستی جامعه

آزمایش بزرگ

از: فتح الله همتیان

تمایل به جداسازی این کنیسا را دارند، گروهی دیگر علاقمند هستند که پیوستن و اتحاد جامعه را تبلیغ نمایند. گروهی دیگر با هدفها و نظریات مختلف آستین بالا زده اند تا با کمک مالی و فکری خود این کنیسا را از دست بانک برهانند و دوباره به اعضای محترم جامعه و اعضای کنیسای شعره رحمیم بازگردانند. هدف این افراد خیر، صرفاً خرید ساختمان نیست بلکه همبستگی و یکپارچگی جامعه میباشد.

پس نظر کلی بر اینست که اعضای کنیسای شعره رحمیم هر چه زودتر باید به زیر چتر انجمن مرکزی آمده و نهایتاً خود را با تصمیمات انجمن و اساسنامه آن وقف دهند و از آن پیروی کنند. باید همچنین خاطرنشان ساخت که نظر کمک کنندگان بایستی کاملاً بدون هیچ قید و شرطی بوده و کنیسای شعره رحمیم نیز بدون گذاشتن شرایطی به زیر چتر انجمن مرکزی درآید. نکته ای دیگر را که باید یادآور شد اینست که کلیه کنیساهای ما باید نهایت سعی و کوشش خود را بنمایند که با همت اعضای خود و بدون آوردن فشار بر روی انجمن مرکزی خود کفا شده و بودجه و مایحتاج خود را تأمین نمایند.

در پی این هیاهوها باید دانست که این آزمایشی است بزرگ برای جامعه. با تمام این تفاصیل همگی باید بدانیم که همه ما برای خانه خدا و رضای او در حال اقدام هستیم. باید بدانیم که این کنیسا که با دو میکوه بمنتظر قدوسیت، تفیلا و طهارت بنا شده و هر هفته صدها نفر از آن استفاده می کنند خداوند خودش حاضر و ناظر بر کلیه اعمال بندگانش است. او نگاه می کند و قضاوت می کند که چه کسی قد علم کرده و به مخالفت و بدگوئی پرداخته است. چه کسی برای کنیسا سینه سپر کرده و چه کسی موضوع گرفته تا مانع شود پس باید واقف باشیم که هر آنکس که در این راه صمیمانه قدم می گذارد اجر خود را از پروردگار می گیرید و هر آنکسی که با نیتی غیر از آن رفتار می کند خود باید جوابگو باشد. پس بیائید همه با هم با نیتی درست همکاری کرده و کنیسایی که متعلق به همگی است را دوباره به جامعه برگردانیم و اتحاد و یگانگی جامعه مان را که همیشه زبانزد خاص و عام بوده حفظ نماییم و همگی سربرلنگ از این آزمایش بزرگ بیرون بیاییم.

چندی است که بحث اصلی جامعه ما مسئله کنیسای شیراخداشا (شعره رحمیم) و آینده آن است. این کنیسا با دو میکوه بسیار زیبای زنانه و مردانه که در زیر آن قرار دارد بنویسه خود در این منطقه منحصر بفرد است. ولیکن درگیری مالی این کنیسا بحث بسیاری را در جامعه برانگیخته است. هر کسی عقیده ای دارد. یکی انتقاد میکند، دیگری راه حل پیشنهاد میکند. یکی طرف می گیرد، دیگری محاکوم میکند. یکی مقصّر می داند و دیگری حق می دهد. ولی کمتر کسی است که نسبت به آینده این مجموعه کاملاً بی تفاوت باشد زیرا در نهایت یکی از کنیساهای جامعه محسوب شده که با سرمایه جامعه بالا رفته و برای استفاده همگان ساخت شده است.

بعنوان یک جامعه سفارادی با سنتی دیرینه و پایه هایی بسیار استوار، خوشوقتیم که راه و روشمان تا حدی با جوامع اشکنازی متفاوت است. ما سفارادی ها معتقد به دسته بندی و گروه بندی نیستیم. «ریفورم» و «کانسرواتیو» و «ارتودوکس» برای ما معنی و مفهوم ندارد که در کنیساهای مختلف تفیلا بخوانیم و از هم جدا باشیم. ما همگی با وجود تفاوت های عقیدتی در کنار هم در زیر یک سقف تفیلا می خوانیم و شیرا می خوانیم، جشن می گیریم و برای یکدیگر شادی می کنیم و یا در ناخوشی های یکدیگر اشک می ریزیم و اظهار همدردی می کنیم. همه با هم و در کنار هم بخاطر داشته باشیم که در گذشته نیز با وجود تفاوت های زیاد در سطح مذهبی و اجتماعی افراد جامعه، همگی در کنیسا یکسان بودند و شخصی بر دیگری برتری نداشت و این راهی بوده که اجتماع ما را طی سالیان دراز با هم نگاه داشته و پیشینیان ما با دوراندیشی این امر را همیشه در مدد نظر داشته اند.

ما همگی واقفیم که همه ما اعضای همه کنیساهای جامعه هستیم و کلیه کنیساهای نیز متعلق به کلیه جامعه هستند. اعضای کنیسای شعره رحمیم نیز نباید خود را از جامعه جدا دانسته و هدف باید این باشد که کنیساهای ما پر باشند و همه با اتحاد و همبستگی زندگی کنیم. در این میان خوشحالیم که اعضای کنیسای شعره رحمیم (شیراخداشا) آمادگی خود را برای پیوستن به انجمن مرکزی اعلام داشته اند. انجمن مرکزی نیز با نظریات مختلف اعضاش به تکاپو افتاده تا برای مذاکره با بانک و بازخرید مجدد این کنیسا اقدام نماید. در حالیکه گروهی هنوز

گزارش انجمن مرکزی

از هر تصل کهن پور (ترجمه از متن اصلی انگلیسی)

که اقتصاد خیلی آهسته رو به بهبودی میرود ولی بهر حال سطح کاودها برای بودجه UMJCA کافی نیست؛ در حقیقت ما برای پرداخت مخارات هر هفته به مشکل کم پولی برخورد میکنیم خصوصاً در فصل بهار و تابستان. چنین چیزی نباید در جامعه ما اتفاق بیفت. مشکل این است که تعداد زیادی از افراد جامعه هیچگونه یا خیلی کم کمک مالی میکنند و انتظار دارند که دیگران هزینه این خدمات را که همه استفاده کاودها از ده سال قبل کمتر شده است.

رویه مرفت خدماتی که داده میشود بیش از ۲۰۰۰ دلار در سال برای هر خانواده هزینه برمی دارد. ما همه موظف هستیم که در هزینه UMJCA شریک باشیم و بدین ترتیب اگر شما بهر دلیلی نتوانستید کاود کیبور بنمایید، ما انتظار داریم که وظیفه خود را بعداً انجام دهید. غیر از خدمات معمولی کنیسا، UMJCA هزینه کلاس‌های تلمود توارا، کلوب سالمدان، بسکتبال، کلاس‌های عمومی با هفت ریای، بودجه کمک هزینه تحصیلی یشیواها، هزینه چاپ مگیلا و هخودش و برنامه‌های جوانان و هزینه کنیساها برای ایام موعدیم را بایستی تأمین نماید.

در ضمن بایستی باطلاع برسانیم که هزینه مراسم تدفین و دید و بازدید با حداقل قیمت در اختیار جامعه قرار میگیرد. تمام این خدمات هزینه بر میدارد و ما از جامعه انتظار داریم که دست یاری و سخاوت خود را زیاد نموده و در حقیقت وظیفه فردی خود را انجام دهند. در غیر اینصورت ما مجبوریم بسیاری از خدمات ضروری را قطع نماییم.

شعره رحمیم

انجمن مرکزی تصمیم داشت که کنیسا شیرا خداشا را که با بحران مالی روبرو شده از خریداری نماید. بدین ترتیب طی جلسات مشاوره با مشاوران مالی و اعضای جامعه سعی نمود بهترین راهکار را پیدا کند. همانطوریکه انتظار میرفت در آکشن ۱۱ می امسال خود پیدا کند. همانطوری که انتظار میرفت در آکشن ۱۱ می امسال خود تعلق گرفت. تا زمان این گزارش هیچگونه تماس دیگری بین بانک و انجمن صورت نگرفته است. مسلماً انجمن جامعه را در جریان برنامه جدید قرار خواهد داد.

تصمیمات بورد کنیسا

تصمیم گرفته شد که سالن اجتماعات شعره شالوم در روزهای دوشنبه و چهارشنبه فقط برای کلوب سالمدان مورد استفاده قرار گیرد.

تصمیم گرفته شد که تعدادی صندلی بصورت نیمکت های متتحرک برای سالن اصلی شعره شالوم زیاد شود که خانمهای جوان بتوانند به کنیسا آمد و بدون نگرانی محلی برای نشستن داشته باشند.

دوره جدید انتخابات انجمن مرکزی با موفقیت چشمگیری برگزار گردید. کمیته نظارت با زحمات زیادی موفق شد که مردم را تشویق نموده که با علاقه فراوان به کاندیداهای مورد علاقه خود رأی بدهند. انجمن مرکزی بدینوسیله از کمیته نظارت برای این کار مهم که بنحو احسن انجام دادند و همچنین از فرد فرد جامعه که وقت خود را صرف نموده و در رأی گیری شرکت کردند تشکر می نماید. برنامه هائی که از نوامبر ۲۰۱۰ پس از انتخابات انجام شده بشرح زیر است:

انتخابات اعضا بورد انجمن مرکزی

بورد جدید انجمن مرکزی مسئولیت بورد قدیم را بعهده گرفت و اعضای بورد جدید را برای مدت سه سال به ترتیب زیر تصویب رساند.

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| پرزیدنت | شموئیل لیویان |
| معاون پرزیدنت | هر تصل کهن پور |
| خزانه دار | افرائیم امین اف |
| معاون خزانه دار | رامین کلاتی |
| سکرتر | شموئیل کورن |
| معاون سکرتر | مژده کریم زاده |
| مشاور مالی و املاک | هوشنگ نعمت زاده |

گزارش اداری

همانطور که میدانید کمیته ها در عمل، بازوی اجرائی انجمن مرکزی هستند و بدین منظور انجمن مرکزی پس از صرف وقت زیاد، کمیته جدیدی بنام کمیته "oversight" یا بازرگانی ایجاد نموده تا راندمان امور کمیته ها را رسیدگی و کنترل نماید.

بودجه یشیواها

انجمن مرکزی بودجه تحصیلی یشیواها را مطالعه و مورد تصویب قرار داد. بدین ترتیب بودجه کمک تحصیلی به یشیواهای تعلق خواهد گرفت که از کشور اسرائیل حمایت نموده و به سنن و آداب و رسانیم جامعه مشهدی احترام بگذارند.

کمکهای اجتماعی

انجمن مرکزی قراردادی با FEGS از سازمان «یو.جی.ای» که خدمات اجتماعی بسیاری ارائه میدهد امضاء نمود. بدین ترتیب تمام افراد جامعه میتوانند با FEGS تماس گرفته و هر گونه کمکی از قبیل اختلافات فرزند با والدین، مسائل مربوط به نوجوانان، مسائل مشروبات الکلی و مواد مخدر، تهیه و پر نمودن فرمهای مديکر و مديکید و مشاورتهای لازم برای ازدواج را درخواست نمایند. کلیه این خدمات صد درصد محترمانه میباشد.

گزارش مالی

سطح کاودها امسال کمی از سال قبل بهتر بوده است و بنظر میرسد

مَقْرِبَةٌ

Megillah



مگیلا نشریه ای است غیر انتفاعی از انتشارات:

کمیته جوانان مشهدی

والد چالیری مشهد

وابسته به سازمان

يهودیان متحده مشهدی آمریکا

آدرس مکاتباتی:

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E-mail: MYCny@aol.com

مدیریت:

بهناز دیلمانیان

هیئت نویسندها:

مهران اعتصامی، یوسف دادزاده، جاسمین دیلمانیان

نویسندها و مترجمین همکار:

حشمت بصلی، میشل دیلمانی، منصور کریم زاده،
دکتر فرج دیلمانیان، هرمز دیلمانیان، خسرو حکیم،
داریوش رحمانی، برنارد لیوی، یوسی ابراهیمی

ضمیمه جوانان:

جاسمین دیلمانیان

تاپ ست و صفحه آرایی: بهناز دیلمانیان

عکسها: میکی کریم زاده

هیئت مشاوران - سردبیران سابق مگیلا:

بهمن کمالی، نانسی حکیمیان، لاله آشر،

لوئی عبرانی، برنارد لیوی، ناتاشا نسیمی

لیست پستی آبونمان: مهتاب اعتصامی

تبیغات: بهناز دیلمانیان

حسابدار کمیته جوانان: یاسمین رحمانان

ساختمان در قسمت پخش:

آرام بخشی، یوسی ابراهیمی، امیل بن داوید، تانيا عربانی، شارلن حکیمی،
لئون حکیمیان، استیو کهن، ادین لیویان، اندی لیویان، ریچل نویان، ایلان نسیمی

مگیلا برای تأمین قسمتی از مخارج خود آگهی دریافت میکند.

مگیلا مسئولیت صحت کشوت مؤسسات آگهی دهنده را بعهده نمیگیرد.

چاپ در ایالات متحده آمریکا

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عکسهای روی جلد:

میشل حکیمیان، برنده دوم جایزه اینتل
مسابقات بسکتبال برای امور خیریه

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دکتر نوید حکیمیان

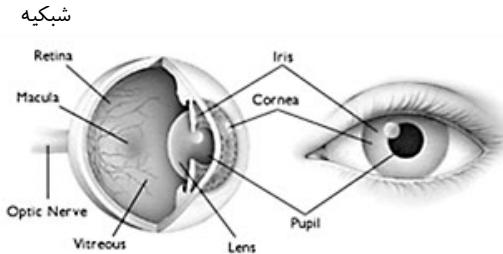
متخصص جراحی چشم
 فوق تخصص در بیماری های شبکیه
 دارای بورد تخصصی چشم

- Specialist In Ocular Inflammation
- Laser Surgery for Senile Macular Degeneration
- Laser Surgery for Diabetic Eye Disease
- Laser Surgery for Retinopathy of Prematurity
- Surgery for Retinal Detachment
- Surgery for Diabetic Retinal Disease

- متخصص امراض تورمی چشم
- جراحی لیزر برای امراض پیری شبکیه
- جراحی لیزر چشم برای مبتلایان به قند خون
- جراحی لیزر چشم برای نوزادان زودرس
- جراحی چشم برای جدا شدن شبکیه
- جراحی شبکیه چشم بیماران مبتلا به قند خون

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در بوستن

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ایسrael در مقابل غزه سازماندهی کردند. البته حق طبیعی ایسrael و هر کشوری جلوگیری از ارسال سلاح به دشمنان خود میباشد. با اینهمه ما شاهد بودیم زمانی که این کشتی ها در صدد پهلو گرفتن در سواحل غزه بودند چه اتفاقی افتاد! «جی استرتیت» بار دیگر اعلامیه ای علیه ایسrael صادر نمود و بدون اینکه اشاره ای به ویدئوهای خشونت بار افراد مسلح بر روی کشتی ها بکند، ایسrael را متهم نمود. «جی استرتیت» حتی از دولت آمریکا خواست تا علیه «فعالیت های شهرک سازی ایسrael» در سازمان ملل رأی دهد. «جی استرتیت» در مجمع اخیر خود در واشنگتن از گروه هایی که در ترویج تحریم علیه ایسrael و کاهش سرمایه گذاری در آنجا تلاش میکنند دعوت نموده بود که نظریات خود را بیان نمایند. بطور اعجاب آوری «جی استرتیت» میتواند هزاران یهودی را مقاعده کند که عملیات ضد ایسraelی که انجام میدهد بنفع ایسrael است!

سازمان های دیگری نیز هستند که عملیات افراطی ضد ایسraelی را زیر چتر «يهود» انجام میدهند. یک نمونه دیگر از این گروه ها، «صدای یهود برای صلح» میباشد که گروه رادیکال ضد ایسrael است و در دانشگاه ها و کمپ های دانشجویی، تحریم و کاهش سرمایه گذاری و بمارزه علیه ایسrael را تبلیغ میکند. هر سال در بسیاری از محیط های دانشگاهی در سراسر جهان، دانشجویان ضد ایسrael هفته ای تحت عنوان «هفته آپرتابید ایسrael» برگزار نموده و با حمله نفرت انگیز و غیرعادلانه، ایسrael را رژیم قدیم نزدیک است آفریقای جنوبی مقایسه میکنند.

اگر شما والدین دختران و پسرانی هستید که بزودی در هر یک از کالج های آمریکا تحصیلات دانشگاهی خود را آغاز میکنند، آگاه باشید که ممکن است فرزندان شما تحت تأثیر تاکتیک ها و تبلیغات ضد صیونیستی و ضد ایسraelی این سازمان ها و گروه ها قرار گیرند. اگر زمینه و اطلاعات صیونیستی فرزند شما قوی نباشد و توانایی نداشته باشد از کشور ایسrael دفاع نموده و آنرا حمایت نماید، ممکن است تحت تأثیر فربی ها و فشارهای دشمنان ایسrael در محیط کالج قرار گیرد.

اکنون در برخی دانشگاه ها، طرفدار ایسrael بودن «مُد» نیست و تنها دانشجویان بسیار آگاه و بالاراده قادر به ایستادگی در برابر ارعاب دیگران میباشند. ما باید از عنفوanon جوانی فرزندان خود را با رویارویی با این چالش هایی که همیشه وجود خواهند داشت آماده نماییم.

یکی دیگر از خطراتی که هویت صیونیستی جامعه ما را تهدید میکند از سوی یک منبع دیگر غیرقابل باور یهودی است! این تهدید یشیوهای افراطی ضد صیونیستی و ضد ملی گرایی میباشد. ما باید بشدت مراقب باشیم که مدارس یهودی که مورد استفاده فرزندانمان قرار میگیرند صیونیست باشند و بطور فعال از کشور ایسrael حمایت نمایند. ما حتی باید از یشیوهایی که ادعا میکنند موضع بی طرف نسبت به کشور ایسrael دارند اجتناب نماییم.

آنانی که فرزندانشان را برای یک دوره یکساله تحصیلی پس از دبیرستان به ایسrael میفرستند باید بسیار احتیاط نمایند که چه نوع یشیوایی را انتخاب نمایند. متأسفانه برخی از این به اصطلاح مدارس مذهبی حامی کشور ایسrael نیستند و بعضی دیگر حتی عمدتاً عقاید ضد ایسraelی را در ذهن دانش آموزان تقویت میکنند که کاملاً مخالف اصول و اعتقادات جامعه ماست. قبل از انتخاب یک یشیوای در ایسrael لطفاً با ربای های جامعه مشورت نمایید تا مدرسه ای که مطابق ارزش ها و هویت جامعه ما میباشد به شما معرفی نمایند.

پشتیبانی و طرفداری از ایسrael، صفت برجسته جامعه صیونیست ما میباشد و جامعه را بر پایه های محکم اعدال، همیشه متعدد و همبسته نگاه داشته و ما وظیفه داریم شجاعانه و بدون واهمه از آن حفاظت نماییم.

واژه تازه ای که در چند سال اخیر مورد استفاده گروه ها و سازمان های طرفدار ایسrael میباشد «Deligitimization» (متشروعیت زدایی) است. این واژه به تاکتیک ها و استراتژی هایی گفته میشود که دشمنان ایسrael و یهودستیزان برای غیرمشروع جلوه دادن موجودیت ایسrael بکار میرند. چون این دشمنان یارای رودرودی نظامی با ایسrael را ندارند، روش تازه ای پیش گرفته اند تا میلیون ها نفر به اصطلاح روش فکران، دانشگاهیان، روزنامه نگاران و دانش آموزان را مقاعده کنند که ایسrael یک کشور مشروع نیست و حق حیات ندارد.

متأسفانه، موقوفیت این گروه ها باور کردنی نیست. از چه راهی میتوان بسیاری از مردم را قانع نمود که «ایسrael»، این کشور کوچک احاطه شده توسط میلیون ها نفر از دشمنانی که آشکارا هدفشان نابودی دولت یهودی است، خود متجاوز واقعی میباشد؟! چگونه مردم دلسوز و با حسن نیت میتوانند با هدف دیکتاتوری ظالمان و تروریست های تغذیه شده بوسیله جمهوری اسلامی ایران همدردی و دلسوزی داشته باشند و نه با ایسrael، تنهای کشور دموکراتی خاورمیانه؟! متأسفانه کمپین بسیار متسلکی که از منابع مالی غنی برخوردار است برای رسیدن به این هدف مخرب مشغول کار و فعالیت میباشد.

تعجب آور نیست که دشمنان ما به طور مداوم سعی می کنند تا از تاکتیک های جدید و مؤثر استفاده نمایند. فاجعه تأسف بار این است که بسیاری از یهودیان و با «به اصطلاح یهودیان» نیز به دام دروغ های آنان افتد و در راه مبارزات ضد ایسraelی با آنان همگام شده و برخی از آنان به بزرگترین دشمنان ما تبدیل شده اند. این یهودیان پوششی بر عملیات ضد یهودی دشمنان ایسrael می نهند زیرا دشمنان ما می پرسند «چگونه عملیات ما ضد یهودی است در صورتی که یهودیانی نیز با ما موفق هستند؟»

در طول تاریخ، همیشه یهودیانی وجود داشته اند که از خود و دین خود بیزارند و به دشمنان ما پیوسته و بیرحمانه به مردم خود حمله میکنند؛ ولی تعداد یهودیانی که در این دوره مورد سوءاستفاده این کمپین ها و گروه ها قرار گرفته و با آنان همکاری میکنند بیسابقه است. متأسفانه برخی از این گروه ها و سازمان ها با هدف ضد ایسraelی بوسیله یهودیان تشکیل شده اند! این گروه ها، یهودیان ساده لوح و غیر مطلع را گول میزنند و آنان را مقاعده می سازند که اقدامات ضد ایسraelی آنها در واقع بمنظور کمک به کشور ایسrael و یهودیان است!

یکی از بدترین سازمان هایی که بوسیله «یهودیان ضد ایسrael» ایجاد شده «جی استرتیت» است که فعالیت های خود را حدود سه سال قبل آغاز نمود. «جی استرتیت» ادعا میکند که «طرفدار ایسrael و طرفدار صلح» است. انگار که سایر سازمان های طرفدار ایسrael «ضد صلح» هستند! هیچگز از اقدامات «جی استرتیت» در این سالها نشان نمیدهد که آنها طرفدار ایسrael هستند. پس از آنکه «جی استرتیت» مدت‌ها این واقعیت را انکار میکرد، سرانجام اعتراف نمود که یک میلیون دلار بودجه راه اندازی این سازمان را از «جورج سوروس» دریافت کرده که اعتراف میکند فردی یهودی است که به خدا اعتقد ندارد و تاکنون حتی یک دلار به سازمان های طرفدار ایسrael کمک مالی ننموده است. «جی استرتیت» اعلام کرده که یک میلیون دلار دیگر نیز از یک زن ناشناخته چینی کمک دریافت کرده است. زمانی که ایسrael در سال ۲۰۰۹ به اجبار برای متوقف کردن هزاران حملات راکتی تروریست های حمام از سوی نوار غزه، عملیات «سرب گداخته» را آغاز نمود، «جی استرتیت» با انتشار بیانیه ای ایسrael را سرزنش نمود و اعلام کرد که جنگ غیر ضروری را آغاز نموده است! در سال ۲۰۱۰ افرادیون ضد ایسraelی کاروانی از کشتی را در تلاش برای شکستن محاصره دریایی قانونی