

Time to Recharge

THE ANSWER TO A BETTER YOU!

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# 5 TOWNS Jewish Times

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**CANDLE LIGHTING**  
October 16 - 5:54 PM  
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### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

BY LARRY GORDON

## Israel, Obama, And Peace

Now that President Barack Obama has won the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize without attaining any tangible peace to speak of, does Israel specifically need to be concerned?

Like most of the questions emanating these days from the Middle East, the precise answer to that query is both yes and no. It's important to note several things about the meaning of the much-coveted award being given to Mr. Obama at this stage of his presidency. First, the Peace Prize itself has now been

as seriously downgraded as a common stock on some foreign market. An award once presented and assigned to statesmen for courage and initiative in the diplomatic arena has now become the number one object of derision by television's late-night comics. How far the mighty have fallen.

Mostly unknown about this latest Nobel decision is that the nominations are made in February of each year, and the

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### A JERUSALEM SIMCHAS TORAH



Hakafot Shelini were joyously celebrated by 20,000 participants at the Liberty Bell Garden in Jerusalem, sponsored for the 38th consecutive year by Eugen Gluck and family of Forest Hills Gardens, major benefactors of Bnei El and many other important Jewish causes. Mr. Gluck is flanked by (R-L) Dr. Meyer Abitran and Dr. Paul Brody, holding Torahs, and by his grandson Marc Yehoshua, husband of granddaughter Davidia Friedman Yehoshua, all of Great Neck. The Hakafot were a tribute to the memory of Dr. Maurice A. Jaffe.

## WOMAN OF THE BOOK

Up Close And Personal With Rachel Friedman  
BY ROCHELLE MARUCH MILLER



Rachel Friedman

When Rachel Friedman graduated from Columbia Law School in 1985, she embarked upon a path in corporate law, feeling certain that she had found her professional calling. Years later, however, on maternity leave and the mother of two small children, she felt that

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### HEARD IN THE BAGEL STORE

## Somewhere To Eat

BY LARRY GORDON

It was supposed to be a simple, uncomplicated conclusion to a day full of hustle and bustle. All we wanted to do was recharge our exhausted systems and garner some much-needed energy for moving on to the rest of the day and night.

The objective, after yet another day of stepping out of the safe and customary routine, was to find a restaurant in the city with a sukkah suitable for a meal on

this day out with the family. Granted, there is no shortage of excellent glatt-kosher restaurants in New York City. But, I have to admit, finding one of those restaurants with a sukkah proved, for some reason, to be unusually challenging.

It's important that the reader understands that we were hungry and tired after a long day of doing various things. There's nothing like a delicious hot

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### Rav Kook Draws A Crowd



At the Chel HaMoed Sukkot Sefer Torah dedication and Chanukas HaBayit in Rehovot, Israel (L-R): Mr. Harl Rothchild, president of Mitzvot Canada; Rabbi Nissan Zvi Finkol, Rosh Yeshivas Mir; Rav Simcha Kook; and Yossi Stern with his sons. See Page 43

## LAWS OF DAVENING

BY YAIR HOFFMAN

The halachic laws regarding a woman's obligation to pray have perhaps been somewhat enigmatic. We have all heard that women are exempt from time-bound mitzvos. And yet, although the mitzvah of davening is a daily obligation, with different times of the day associated with different tefillos and the recitation of the Shema in the morning and evening, numerous poskim, including the Mishnah

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## LIFE IN THE BERKSHIRES

BY MICHELE HERENSTEIN

If you've wondered where I've gone, or if any of you are even now wondering who in the world I am (although I thought I had become quite a public figure through my writing for the Five Towns Jewish Times), then please allow me to reintroduce myself. My name is Michele, I'm originally from the Five Towns, and, after writing for the 5TJT for several years, I

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### Woman Of The Book Continued from Front Cover

something was missing. In spite of her skill at juggling her religious, family, and professional responsibilities, Mrs. Friedman wanted more. She wondered, "When I look back at my life when I am 80 or 120, what contribution will I have made?"

Soon after, Mrs. Friedman started auditing classes in Bible. She then immersed herself in the serious study of the Bible and classical Jewish texts and ultimately earned a master's in Bible from Yeshiva University. Mrs. Friedman began teaching in formal and informal settings and soon realized that teaching Torah, rather than practicing law was her life's calling.

A distinguished teacher, author, and lecturer, Mrs. Friedman was recently named Associate Dean and Chair of Tanach Studies at Drisha Institute. In addition to her administrative duties, she continues to share her passion for Torah with her many students. She recently launched an exciting new CD series, focusing on *Sefer Bereishit*. The series will demonstrate the many ways that Biblical narrative captures the ambiguities of the human experience with remarkable nuance. The first tape explores the Creation narratives, offering a fresh perspective on two great dichotomies in the human experience—the creation of Adam and Chava and the emergence of good and evil.

"For me, blending Torah scholarship and academic skills and using this synthesis to teach Bible and Jewish studies to diverse audiences is a *raison d'être*," Mrs. Friedman

explained. "Teaching Torah has brought me a sense of fulfillment and purpose in my professional and family life, although it is often demanding, even more so than law, and requires personal sacrifice."

Returning to graduate school as a mother, particularly after having been out of school for over five years, was daunting. Tests, papers, and interacting with peers who had not yet been out in the "real world" all proved to be a challenge.

Preparation of a 90-minute *shiur* can be the equivalent of writing a 25-page paper. And it is done on an almost daily basis!

"The hours are more numerous even if less circumscribed. The perception that it is easier to teach Jewish studies than to work in the business world is illusory. Research and preparation can be an all-weekend and all-night job. Preparation of a 90-minute *shiur* can be the equivalent of writing a 25-page paper. And it is done on an almost daily basis! This does not take into account the many hours spent with students in guidance and instruction."

For Rachel Friedman, the intangible rewards of teaching Torah are infinite.

"The excitement of a spirited classroom, of students who probe, question, and offer creative insights... the knowledge that what goes on in the classroom will resonate in and enrich their personal lives... a sense of having a lasting impact on the future of the Jewish community—these are powerful sources of satisfaction."

Mrs. Friedman explained the reason for the renaissance of interest in Torah study that has transpired in the last half-century, particularly within the international Orthodox community. "Why? The answer is clear. The Torah speaks to all of the people all the time—it is a timeless lens into the nuances and challenges of everyday human experience."

Drisha Institute is a center for the advanced study of Jewish texts. It is dedicated to teaching Torah to women as a means of strengthening Jewish life, and building more knowledgeable and committed Jewish communities. Drisha strives to transform Jewish life through engagement in intellectually challenging and serious programs of Jewish learning. Through Drisha's many classes and programs, the institute affords students the opportunity to rigorously encounter Jewish thought and teachings.

Graduates of Drisha's full-time programs serve as educators, scholars, and leaders in the Jewish community and the world at large. Creating opportunities for women in Jewish scholarship, education, and leadership, Drisha Institute is located at 37 West 65th Street in Manhattan, between Central Park West and Columbus Avenue. To obtain further details, write to [inquiry@drishainc.org](mailto:inquiry@drishainc.org) or call 212-595-0307. ❖

## An Advisor Of Her Own

Ten Years Of Nishmat's Koren Ariel Yoatzot Halachah Program  
BY TOBY KLEIN GREENWALD

Along with the laws of Shabbat and *kashrut*, the laws of *toharat ha'nishpachah*, family purity, are among the linchpins of the Jewish home. Those of us who have the privilege of being the parents of married children who adhere meticulously to *halachah* have the *Zchut* to share with them both the joy and—sometimes—the struggles.

About four days before the marriage of one of my daughters, she called me into her bedroom. She was standing nervously by the window, not sure of her *halachic* status. I gave her my own opinion that it was okay. "But why wonder?" I said. "There is a *yoatzer halachah* who lives five minutes away."

We called up a *rebbezin* from a nearby community, who is also a renowned Tanach teacher and one of the graduates of the Nishmat pro-

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