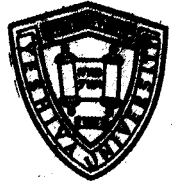


THE OBSERVER

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Rashbaum Named Valedictorian

by Miriam Berger

Rona Rashbaum, of Baltimore, Maryland, has been named valedictorian of the Stern College Class of 1986. Rona entered Stern in 1982 and spent her sophomore year studying at B'not Torah Institute in Jerusalem. Majoring in English Literature, Ms. Rashbaum is interested in communications and special education. As a result of her interests, she has been an active editorial staff member of *The Observer*, as well as a feature writer. As head of the Home Hospitality Committee of TAC, Ms. Rashbaum has had the responsibility of finding a welcoming home for Shabbat, for students who need a place to go.



Rona Rashbaum

Ms. Rashbaum has not yet made her final decision as to the career choice she will make. She has been accepted to a masters program in educational psychology at the NYU School of Education, Health, Nursing and Arts Professions, but plans to defer this for one year, to gain working experience as an editorial assistant at a publishing company. This way, she says, she will be able to make a more knowledgeable career choice. Ms. Rashbaum who also enjoys writing lyrics to popular Hebrew tunes, has already interned as an editorial assistant at Working Women Magazine.

As a result of her love of working with people, Ms. Rashbaum has remained an active member of the Atlantic Seaboard Region of the National Conference of Synagogue Youth, in which she has been involved since high school. She has held the post of Staff Coordinator and continues to be a regional advisor of the organization. Ms. Rashbaum also tutors at the Lincoln Square Synagogue here in New York.

"Stern College has left me with a strong sense of giving and a feeling of comradeship," she says. "It has given me an appreciation for Torah learning and the ability to incorporate this appreciation with my secular endeavors as well."

Shcharansky Makes Appearance At Y.U.

by Erica Schoonmaker
Ze haYom Asa Hashem Nagila Venismecha Bo

Lamport Auditorium reverberated with songs of freedom and honor on May 12th, as Anatoly Natan Shcharansky plowed through the crowd of Yeshiva University students and faculty to the podium. The intense enthusiasm seemed to overwhelm the small man but this didn't diminish from his pride. He saw before him "a piece of Israel in the center of New York," as he thanked the students for the warm reception.

Mr. Shcharansky made Y.U. his only visit to an educational institute during his ten day visit to the United States. Although many prestigious universities offered him honorary degrees, he came to Yeshiva to accept one for his wife, Avital.

Mr. Shcharansky himself was awarded an honorary Doctor of Human Letters from Yeshiva in 1984 that he was unable to accept in person because he was in a Soviet prison. In his stead, Avital accepted the degree and spoke at the University's Fifty-Third Annual Commencement Ceremonies.

Ironically, the next honorary degree awarded in absentia was for Avital and accepted by her husband. The circumstances surrounding her absence were far more positive. Avital Shcharansky, as Dr. Lamm pointed out in his introductory remarks, has left the literal role of the *aisher chaya* a militant, battling

woman fighting for principle and has accepted the traditional role of the woman of valour—the foundation of her household. This new role will begin, G-d willing, with the birth of their child.

Dr. Israel Miller, Vice President of Yeshiva, also commented on the strength of Avital's conviction when he introduced the program. He focused on her struggle and her present reward when she sees the fruit of her labor in the face of her husband.

Anatoly recounted Avital's hesitancy at first to accept the degree fearing that her education was not advanced enough for such an honor. The audience could sense Anatoly's devotion and respect for his wife when teary-eyed he said, "In her struggles she has given answers to so many important questions. They are answers you can't find in books."

Indeed, the audience, primarily students, realized in the presence of this international hero that education is also the painstaking growth that accompanies suffering. Such views were echoed by the students who spoke at the occasion.

Barry Rozenberg, speaking in English, rallied the students to further action on behalf of Soviet Jewry by stating that Anatoly's release will not remain merely a gesture. Perhaps because, "there is no stronger force than the will of a Jew yearning to be free."

The suffering of a Jew leads to his desire to be free, and Yan Wolfson,



Shcharansky with Dr. Lamm and Miller

Russian immigrant and student at Y.U., he can personally attest to this. He spent his first fifteen years living in the Soviet Union. His own self-sacrifice and that of his family gave a personal ring to his message in Russian to Mr. Shcharansky.

Our own Student Council President, Elana Goldscheider, concentrated on Avital's heroism and the shining example she is to all the women at Stern College. She both admired the dedication and self-denial of Natan and Avital and prayed for them and all Israel to know the complete freedom we will know of only in redemption.

Freedom was also the focus of Dr. Lamm's presentation of the Yeshiva University Centennial Medallion to Mr. Shcharansky. Freedom can even be achieved in prison if one leads a battle of defiance against injustice. With this medallion, Dr. Lamm wel-

comed Anatoly to the family of Yeshiva.

Anatoly characterized his own suffering as resulting from an inability to compromise his ideals. This stubbornness in the "face of evil" is the secret to Jewish spirituality. One look at his distinct features sculptured by pain, and his eyes that remember this pain, reveals his own spiritual fortitude.

May 12th marked a day of personal and communal triumph for students and faculty at Yeshiva University. It was a dream-like realization of goals long awaited. It was the privilege of standing in the presence of a hero whose past and present joy all Jews share.

G-d willing, the Jewish community will also share in the future that Anatoly Shcharansky heralded in his concluding remarks. May we join him and his wife, Avital, soon in Jerusalem.

Goldscheider Receives Remes Award

by Yael Bacon

Every year at graduation, one senior is chosen by her peers to receive the prestigious Remes Award. This year's award recipient is Elana Goldscheider, President of Student Council. The award was established by the senior class of 1978 in memory of Dr. Nathaniel L. Remes, Professor of Chemistry at Stern College for Women. Dr. Remes was known as a dedicated scientist and teacher who cared for his students and treated them as his own children. Upon his sudden passing, the graduating class established this perpetual memorial to him.

Ms. Goldscheider, a resident of Bellmore, New York, is majoring in psychology. After graduation, she plans to go into social work. In addition to her current responsibilities, Ms. Goldscheider previously served as President of the Junior class.

The selection of the Remes awardee is a unique process. There is no



Elana Goldscheider

slate of nominees and therefore, each senior is free to vote for any member of the senior class who has demonstrated outstanding personality character and school service. It is remarkable that each year one individual emerges as the choice of the majority of the class. When asked how she feels about receiving the Remes Award, Ms. Goldscheider stated that it is a special honor to be chosen by one's peers, and she is thankful that she had the privilege of

continued on p. 7, col. 3

Halevy Named Editor

by Sara Kosowsky

Sharon Halevy has been named the new Editor-in-Chief of *The Observer*, replacing outgoing editor, Sara Kosowsky. Ms. Halevy held the position of Cultural Arts Editor this past year and was previously Art Editor as well as a staff writer.

Ms. Halevy is concentrating on an English/Communications major at Stern College and a Political Science minor. She hopes to eventually pursue a career in business.

Ms. Halevy was originally led to *The Observer* because she "always had a desire to write." Now that she is editor, Ms. Halevy would like to "broaden the range of issues covered in the paper, especially political concerns." In addition, she would like "students to be more involved in the paper, since the newspaper is a vehicle to encourage student activity in school affairs and pride."

Born in Israel, Ms. Halevy lived in Sydney, Australia for 14 years be-

fore moving to her current residence in Beverly Hills, California. She attended Sydney Girls High School in Sydney and when she moved to Los Angeles, attended the Yeshiva University of Los Angeles High School.



Sharon Halevy

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Wasting Time And Money

by Sharon Halevy

In this Age of Television, political campaigns in America are precisely calculated and finely orchestrated, to ensure the candidates major exposure in the media. Professionals are hired to groom candidates, because appearance has increased in importance. Speechwriters create clever, witty one-liners that will make suitable soundbites for the evening news. And Madison Avenue is paid millions to assist candidates win their campaigns.

Ironically, this year's Student Council elections have encroached upon this ploy of political packaging, albeit on a minimal scale. The balloons, the candy, the fortune cookies, the ice cream cones, the pens and the fuzzy animals seemed more of a bribe, than a logical, rational inducement to select the most qualified candidate.

Perhaps the exorbitant amounts of money could have been more profitably spent had they been donated to deserving charities. A gesture of such generosity should certainly have impressed voters. However, the candidates have the right to make that decision on their own. The main contention with the conduct of the campaign was the lack of relevance of all the objects on which the money was spent. Past experience, and plans for next year were barely discussed.

Since common sense had not dictated to the candidates the appropriate way to campaign, there should

be restrictions on the money spent, and the media that can be used to propagate a campaign. This would ensure that qualified candidates would run, despite limitations on their financial resources, and encourage more creativity, and sincerity.

Not all in the campaign was of a negative nature. None of the candidates for major board positions ran unopposed, and the elections generated a tremendous amount of enthusiasm and school spirit.

The incoming board should be inspired by the tremendously encouraging message of Anatoly Natan Shchuransky, and his reception at Yeshiva University. I hope that they accept the challenge and deal successfully with the responsibility inherent in leadership.

The ramifications of the responsibility I have accepted are very obvious, and I will endeavour to fulfill them to the utmost of my ability.

Saul Bellow, in his novel Herzog, describes failure: "... to my country, I was an indifferent citizen, with my friends, an egotist. With love, lazy. With brightness, dull. With power, passive. With my own soul, evasive."

Thus, if we strive to be concerned, caring, sincere and thoughtful beings, our strivings for success and happiness shall be within our grasp.

Observer Opinion

A "Light To The Nations"

by Wendy Zierler

I am of the type who attempts to juggle several things at the same time. Sometimes, the result of my efforts are schizophrenic study habits; but usually "multi-action" has served as a useful survival tool in my busy life. Naturally, I greatly respect those who have mastered the skill of integrating contradictory affairs into harmony. This is what spurred my interest in the conductor, Joseph Eger.

Last week, Joseph Eger, the founder and director of the symphony for the United Nations, and a Jew raised in an orthodox family in Pennsylvania, was in the spotlight because of a weekend Middle Eastern Musical Festival at Lincoln Center, organized by him. In the "New York Times" article describing it, Mr. Eger expressed the ideas that motivated the festival. He felt that if peace will ever be accomplished in the Middle East, then Israel must recognize her Arab neighbors as human beings, and that bringing Arab and Jew together through music and the arts would be a successful initiative. This last sentiment impressed me; he seemed able to remain a conscious Jew, yet simultaneously recognize some validity in the Arab view.

Unfortunately, I learned that Eger was not proficient at juggling. The festival boasted musicians, artists and poets from Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Morocco, but there was not one Israeli performer. It seems he became so involved in reaching out to all the other nations, that he forgot his fellow Jews.

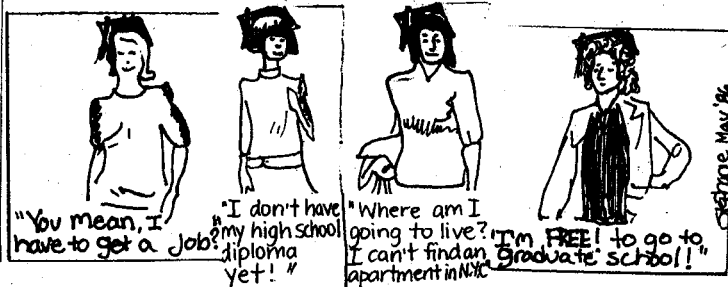
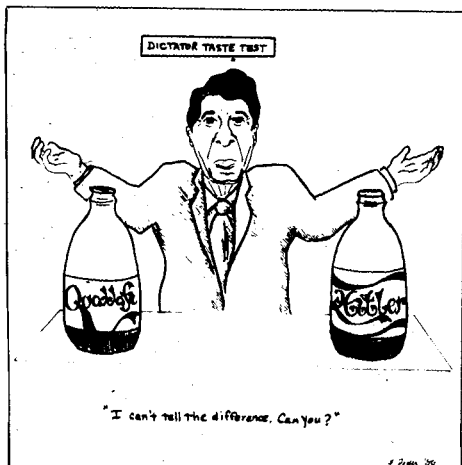
However, it need not have been the case. In order,

to understand and be concerned about other people in the world, it is not necessary to disregard one's own. This attitude is not reflected in the student activism at Stern. The students of Stern are involved in wonderful work for Israel, Soviet Jewry, and the Jewish community, at large. Yet, as a college and intellectual center, there should be concern about world issues. For example at the beginning of the year, two major natural disasters occurred: the earthquake in Mexico and the volcano in Columbia. The students at Stern College for Women did not even make a token contribution to the disaster relief funds. Most people feel uneasy about student activism for secular concerns, after all, our priorities lie with Jewish problems. I feel that we can, and should strike a balance, and attempt, when the occasion is significant, to accomplish duality.

How can we encourage this activism and awareness? The *Observer* is an excellent starting point. This is our public "well of ideas" and there is much to draw from its depths. It is the appropriate sounding board for articles that speak of these issues. Speakers should be invited to SCW to inform the student body. And everyone is free to suggest, or air her views on our pages.

For as Jews, we have the responsibility to be a "Light to the Nations;" of awareness and compassion for their troubles. Not at the expense of our own, but through a broadening of our perceptions.

The graduating class of '86 enters the REAL world . . .



It's Over!

by Sara Kosowsky

"You're going to hate it while you're doing it, but afterwards you'll be glad you did it." This was the comment two past *Observer* editors and one *Hamevasser* editor shared with me two years ago when all indications were that I would be the editor of *The Observer* during my senior year.

Now that my year is over I have only one thing to say — they were right. Well, actually, I have more than one thing to say. It is no secret that when I originally assumed the position of editor I was far from pleased. Any roommate or friend can attest to that fact. But, as the year went on, things seemed to settle into a pattern that we all could handle. It has not been easy, and many was the time my Koala Bear and I sought out an answer to the seemingly unanswerable question, "Why me?"

Despite all the frustration and complications, I am happy to say that this year *The Observer* never missed a single deadline. That doesn't mean that the writers didn't, but we still managed to come out with every intended issue — on time. Furthermore, the quality of the paper has jumped incredibly. The harsh critiques of *The Observer* have now been replaced with compliments. Of course, the staff has worked quite hard to achieve that level, but now that it has, I wish Sharon all the best in maintaining and superceding it.

Although my staff has been great to work with, there are a number of people that deserve special mentions. Deena, without you there never would have been a newspaper. Over my years on the paper I never learned

layout, so if you had not known your stuff so well and had such patience with me, I never could have made it. Esthi and Esther, the two of you were always there at any hour of the night to help me out of my latest crisis. And of course, Rena; you did so much more than just edit. I don't even remember how many early morning trips to the printer and photographer you made for me, but believe me, they were appreciated. Alyssa, Rachel, Rachel, Sharon, Batya, Monica, Stephanie, Annette and Naomi, thank you for all of your hard work and input. Finally, to my distribution staff—Davis, Charlie, Doug, Ronny and countless Georges... without your help and muscle, I would probably still be in Chinatown with bundles of *Observers* around me.

Dr. Neaman, I thank you for all of your constructive criticism and Dean Bacon, I thank you for all of your patience. Of course, no thank you list could be complete without mention of Mrs. Zuroff and Mrs. Winter who were so kind to share their very small, very unventilated office with me.

Last but not least, I must thank my roommates—10E past and present—Elene, Susie, Rochel, Bluma, Frani, Sabre, Sharon, Lisa, as well as the breakfast club and my family; without all of your support, I could never have survived.

Sharon — if you are lucky enough to have such a good support system, as well as a good solid staff, you should have no problem supplying Yeshiva University's Centennial year with quality *Observers*.

Koenigsberg Receives Wachtenheim Award

by Esther Boylan

Each year, the Wachtenheim Award is given to the graduating senior who exemplifies the 'midot' of the Jewish Woman — a true *'Bat Yisroel'*. The award is special because the recipient is chosen by her fellow students, not by the faculty. This year the award is being given to Esther Koenigsberg, president of the Torah Activities Committee.

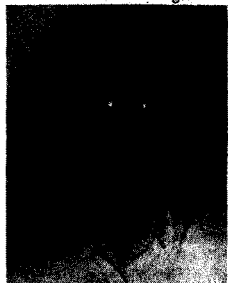
Esther spent her first year in Stern studying at B'nai L'Torah Institute in Jerusalem. In addition to her work on TAC, she has written articles for *The Observer* and is currently a dorm counselor. Esther is majoring in English and Judaic Studies. Next year she plans to attend Perkauf Graduate school where she will pursue her Ph.D. in clinical psychology. Esther also hopes to use her psychological knowledge in the area of *'Chinuch'*.

All the recipients of this award, like Esther, have gone on to careers that involve working to help other people and the Jewish Community. Arlette Loeser, who received the first award in 1982, recently graduated from NYU's masters program in occupational therapy. Matissie Rubinstein, '84, and Lisa Stern, '85, are pursuing careers in social work. Renee Paula Strauss, '83, has recently made *Aliyah*.

The importance of the award, says Mrs. Esther Zuroff, is that it gives

recognition to the very girls who have always worked hard but have never run after *'Kavod'*. The award is given to girls, who through their giving and kind personalities, have endeared themselves to their peers.

Esther Koenigsberg, this year's recipient, says Mrs. Zuroff, possesses these qualities and more. The work she has done on behalf of TAC, has demonstrated this to her classmates, as well as the school at large.



Esther Koenigsberg

The award is given for "character and service." Yet, the Hebrew translation of the words provides a better understanding of the award, *'Midot'*. Anyone who has come in contact with Esther Koenigsberg during her years at Stern knows that this year's award is well deserved.

by Chantzie Waldman

The events of this year's Student Council Executive Board elections were unprecedented. On Thursday, May 8, between the hours of nine a.m. and five p.m., an unrivaled 413 students showed up in the student lounge to cast their votes. According to Mrs. Zuroff, head of Stern College for Women Student Services, this number is "a staggering figure."

The aspiring candidates were as follows: President: Stacy Alevy and Naomi Skolnick.

Vice President: Ethel Greenstone, Judy Adler, and Rachel Mandel.

Treasurer: Marilyn Kohn and Marta Lesser.

Corresponding Secretary: Tova Rivkin and Ellie Silber.

Recording Secretary: Deena Press ran unopposed.

Deena Press was the only executive board member to run alone, as opposed to the predicament of recent years when often there was no competition for several major offices.

Another hallmark of Elections '86 is certainly the creative ambience that pervaded Stern College for one week.

Balloons went up in corridors and banners and fliers were plastered to walls and doors in almost any conceivable place. "Play it right" urged one poster bearing a picture of a piano. Another poster, depicting a jigsaw puzzle, prompted the student body to "get it together." Payphone receivers were adorned with little puff dolls urging callers to "spread the word" about a candidate. Stickers even found their way to restroom mirrors! There were centerpieces on the cafeteria tables and campaign pins on the cafeteria staff.

Both presidential candidates printed up pens bearing messages like, "Make the write choice" and distributed fortune cookies containing for-

tunes advising the recipient to "Be a smart Cookie," and vote for...

Wednesday evening, the campaign party evening, saw an acceleration in campaign spirit. Items ranging from ice cream cones to tissue paper were distributed *gratis*, and contenders strolled about modelling their campaign T-shirts.

In the aftermath of it all, however, various opinions are circulating as to the validity of this relative "extravagance." Some students advocate a limit on spending. Shira Isaacs, a senior at Stern College, felt, for example, that the "issues were not at hand" and that "this is not the general election for the President of the United States." Girls without sufficient finances, who are qualified to run, get "thrown out in the cold." Other students commented that the paraphenalia only complicates the voter's decision and does not tip the scales in either direction. Lastly, "what about using this money for *Tzedakah*?" was a comment which evidently appeared on many a ballot ticket. One student favored the banners and balloons but deemed the other paraphrenalia superfluous.

The opposite pole applauds the contestants' efforts and ingenuity, contending that campaigning may be considered a sampling of the candidates' competence and dedication and that there was a "great need" for the spirited quality of the campaigns. A noteworthy observation is that one of the winning candidates admitted that her campaign bill did not exceed three American dollars!

Naomi Skolnick, a presidential candidate, claimed that had more students attended Tuesday night's campaign speeches in the Orange Lounge, or had at least been aware of them, the campaigning would have seemed less of a farce. "Only about fifty students attended, the twelve candidates and their

friends included. A probable reason for this poor turnout was the fact that the speeches were not held till eleven o'clock at night. This occurred because the speeches were held on the night the *Yom Ha' Shoah* program was completed.

Despite all the campaigning, when election day arrived many were asking what the platforms were or even questions as rudimentary as: "Who are you running against?" and "What are you running for?" despite the candidates' room to room expeditions and chats with the students.

At five p.m., on Thursday, May 8, Mrs. Zuroff, Vice President Naomi Kupchik, and Rozzie Hanfling, head of the canvassing committee, sat down to take a tally. By eight p.m., the results were posted in the dormitory lobby. The margins of the presidential elections had been unusually small. This has led many people to demand a larger minimum majority for future elections. The new Stern College Student Council Executive Board is: President: Stacy Alevy; Vice President: Ethel Greenstone; Treasurer: Marilyn Kohn; Recording Secretary: Deena Press; Corresponding Secretary: Tova Rivkin.

Several plans projected by the new student council for next term include: mandatory joint meetings between YC and SCW clubs and committees, a model *Knesset*, a weekend retreat, a telephone recording keeping students posted on cancelled classes, a xerox machine on dormitory premises, and more exercise facilities. The President extends an invitation for students' input and has already commenced to take opinion polls.

When asked to comment on this year's elections, Dean Bacon said, "I congratulate the winners and look forward to a successful year." Congratulations!

"Seven Years Of Plenty"

by Rachel Mandel

After seven years of working as dormitory and associate dormitory directors (respectively), Sema and Mordechai Reich will be leaving Brookdale Hall this June.

When they were offered the job seven years ago, Mrs. Reich had completed a Masters degree in Jewish Education & had seminar experience, and Rabbi Reich was in school studying clinical psychology. However, Sema had a three month old baby, so rather than leaving her child with someone else to raise, becoming "dorm parents" was the perfect solution, a job that would utilize their abilities, but not compromise an important priority.

Sema feels "professionally satisfied" with all that she has accomplished in her years at Stern, but that it is time to move on. Her major goal was to realize recognition from the uptown administration about the many necessities and deficiencies of the residence hall. Her pet projects included a *Beit Midrash* that would serve the student's needs sufficiently; an exercise room; and renovation of the study halls.

Although both Sema and Mor-

dechai described their years at Stern as "really great" Sema explained that "it's hard to work where you live," and that people's work and their personal lives should be "clear and separate domains."

As for their future plans, Sema stated that they will be moving to Oceanside, New York, but are seriously planning on making *aliyah* sometime in the future.

Rabbi Reich expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to have lived among so much "youth and vitality," and will especially miss conducting, and being, at Stern on *Shabbat*.

Mrs. Zuroff, director of student services expressed her "sadness for

us, gladness for them" at the Reich's departure in June. She said that the students were lucky to have this family living among them to serve as their role model of what a family should be. She described the Reich's job as "unenviable" — dealing with problems and calamities 24 hours a day, but that it was a job that they did beautifully.

As of yet, there is still no replacement for dormitory director, although both Sema and Mrs. Zuroff expressed their hope that a family or couple would fill the job, rather than a single woman or man, no replacement has been found despite numerous ads, and a search committee.



From l.-r. Betzalel Mordechai, Shalom Moshe, Sema and Nechama Reich

In A State of "Hester Panim"

by Mireet Greenspan

On "Yom Hashoah," May 6, 1986, a memorial service was held at Yeshiva University to commemorate the six million Jews killed in the Holocaust. In addition to memorial prayers, there were readings from Holocaust literature and a major address by Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, president of the University.

In his speech, Rabbi Lamm informed the audience of the 3 main views of why the Holocaust occurred: retribution for the sins of the people, a lack or excess of Zionist feelings, and the lack of religiosity of the people. Then, Rabbi Lamm renounced all three views as blasphemy. He noted that throughout "Tanach" prophets were punished for criticizing the nation. Furthermore, Chazal consider the act of passing judgment a grave transgression.

In fact, the Biblical passage does not say "because of their sins" but "because of our sins." One should not search for others' sins, but instead must examine his own deficiencies. How can we, who sit in a content exile, pass judgment on others? Instead, Rabbi Lamm proposed an

interesting theory. It is possible that the Jewish nation has been in a state of "Hester Panim" since the destruction of the Second Temple. G-d's promise to never totally destroy the Jewish people has insured the nation's survival, yet, the Jews are still vulnerable to the chances of the world.

A state of *Hester Panim* only indicates that there exists an intimate relationship between G-d and "Bnei Yisrael." G-d is always willing to accept his people back. If we turn our heads back to G-d, He will recip-

rocate.

In fact, the time for a true state of "*Hester Panim*" is coming closer. *Hashem* will sometimes come out of a total state of "*Hester Panim*." The birth of a Jewish state indicates that G-d is reaching towards his people. It is now the responsibility of modern orthodox Jewry to reciprocate G-d's initiative by not only strengthening our own spirituality, but also by bringing back those fellow Jews who have strayed. Only then can we hope for an open and direct relationship with G-d.



Cantor Bernard Beer with children of Holocaust survivors lighting commemorative candles.

Honoring "The Coach"

by Batya Spin

On Monday night, May 12, Yeshiva University held its annual sports dinner. Ostensibly it was to honor those athletes who had excelled in intramural and team sports. It became, however, a gathering to honor "The Coach." Professor Arthur Tauber, the outgoing director of athletics at Yeshiva and Stern Colleges.

Dr. Norman Lamm, President of YU, called this past year a bit-ter-sweet one; it was good because this was the year that the Max Stern Athletic Center opened, and sad because Professor Tauber announced his retirement. Dr. Egon Brenner, Executive Vice President, said, "In the athletics department you'll be missed, at Yeshiva you'll be missed, but most of all I will miss you." Cited for his integrity, commitment, talent and ability by the Senior Vice President, Dr. Israel Miller, the Coach, as he is affectionately called by his students, seemed touched when the audience gave him a standing ovation after being invited back for next year's dinner.

Professor Tauber thanked the administration for their compliments and assured the students that his ties to Yeshiva University will be as strong as ever after he leaves. "I'm not cutting the umbilical cord between us," he said. "I will keep associating with YU for as long as *Hashem* gives me the ability to do so. My dream came true with the building of the Max Stern Center, so I felt the time had come to step down. I'm quite sure the program will grow and will make its mark in the field of athletics as well as in the academic and Jewish worlds."

Dean Karen Bacon received a special commendation award in recognition of her "outstanding leadership and dedication for furthering

athletics in SCW." When giving out the intramural awards for swimming, fencing and cross-country, the dean commented, "We at the college are proud of all your achievements, gained under not the most encouraging of circumstances." Appreciative laughter broke out from the women in the audience.

The meritorious award was given to Mrs. Florence Miller, who is presently the administrative assistant in the registrar's office of SCW. She served for 25 years in Yeshiva's athletic department, and was honored for her outstanding service to the students and the college's athletic program.

Letters were handed out to the Stern women who competed on the tennis, cross-country and basketball teams. In addition, a special coach's award was given to the captains of the teams: Suri Bashkowitz, Jacqueline Katzenstein, and Judy Adler, respectively. Pamela Gold received all-conference recognition for tennis and Naomi Skolnick received a plaque for being the high scorer and rebounder of the basketball team.

In the men's division, the Norman Palefsky Memorial Award in honor of the member of a varsity team who is both excellent in athletics and academics, was presented to David Pinchus. The Bernard Sarachek Award for the member of the basketball team who portrays leadership and teamwork was given post-humously to Mr. Gil Davidoff. His son Eli took the award for him.

Other men recognized by their respective conferences were Ayal Hod, who was the Rookie of the Year, Joey Eaves, who received all-conference recognition in basketball, and Ralph Grosz and Joseph Goldblatt, who made the all-star team in fencing.

TAC Notes

New Beginnings

by Esther Koenigsberg

Well, it's that time of year again. The mood is somewhat mellow (especially for seniors) as we approach the end of a wonderful (even if imperfect) time. But, don't lose your smiles! The message of the *Sefirat Haomer* season is far more hopeful.

Pesach was a beginning, fresh and full of potential. We had left the oppression of *Mitzraim* to become a new people of G-d. We counted 49 days and, at last, reached the culmination and climax of an era with the acceptance of *Torah*. But, if *Shavuot* was an end, it was also a new beginning. The Sinai experience could only be meaningful if we, as a nation, were to make the *Torah* a dynamic force, a force that could change an entire world. The count had never been a countdown, but, rather, a "count up."

We've pondered many ends during the last month or two. The loss of Rav Moshe Feinstein zt"l and Rav Yaakov Kaminetzky zt"l had a profound impact upon millions of lives. On *Yom Hashoah* and *Yom Hazikaron* we honored those who had died at

Kidush Hashem in the Holocaust and throughout the rebuilding of Eretz Yisrael. During *Sefirat Haomer*, we have mourned the loss of thousands of *Talmidei Chachamin*.

Yet, we have the power to create a new beginning. Our assembly with Natan Scharansky, our *Yom Haatzmaut* chagiga and our Student Council/Tac Shabbaton are only the first steps. The *Achut* and *Ruach* at Stern this year have been truly special. Student Council and TAC have worked as one body and we have all shared many exciting and meaningful experiences. Let us hold on to that seed and make it grow. If R. Akiva's talmidim and, indeed, the very *Beit Hamikdash* were destroyed because of pointless hatred, we can redeem our past only by continuing to strengthen our *Achdut*.

Chani, Rozzie and I thank all of you for everything and all we ask is that you work with Faigi Bandman, Caroline Peyser and Aviva Kahane, our new TAC board, to make 5747 even more special. May our *Achdut* spread and usher in the era of *Mashiach*, an era of true peace and unity.

The Risk Of Being A Jew

by Dr. Ruth A. Bevan

Two recent experiences of very different circumstances conveyed to me a similar message. The one experience happened just before *Pesach*. I walked into a Riverdale supermarket to pick up last minute items and ran into a former student whom I had not seen in years. I spontaneously called out his name and he mine; we beamed at each other. Beside him stood a woman, obviously his wife, obviously soon to give birth. He had moved into the neighborhood not long ago. He was working for a corporation in urban planning analysis. He would quit the job soon. What next? *Aliyah*. When? After the baby is born. What will you do in *Eretz*? "I'm not sure; we'll find something."

The second experience occurred on Saturday night, May 10. With a coveted ticket I joined those who assembled to hear Natan Scharansky at the Hebrew Institute in Riverdale. Crowds thronged inside and out, yet their greeting for Scharansky, though certainly warm, appeared restrained. How could one do proper justice to this Jewish hero? It seemed impossible to absorb his spiritual presence in our midst. His message was clear: each Jew must resist those who, in every generation, seek to destroy the Jewish people.

These two disparate encounters shared a similar factor — risk-taking. A new father braving *aliyah* encounters risk. Natan Scharansky refused to accept release from a Soviet prison due to ill health. He preferred to risk himself as a Jew. Obviously there are differences in the severity and gravity of the circumstances of risk in each example, but they both illustrate the desire to risk being an authentic Jew.

The historical Jewish experience teaches us the lesson of risk. It would seem safe to say that to be Jewish is to risk — to reform. To be Jewish and to be comfortably secure appear as a contradiction. For one fleeting moment I envied Natan Scharansky his time of risk. In the next moment I realized that to be Jewish in America is the hardest task of all. Everything here is so compact, so easy, so comparatively safe. We seek to de-riskify our Jewish existence. Natan's small physical stature symbolized to me the comparative insignificance of our physical comfort while his spiritual grandeur appeared as a sign of our calling. How much he taught me that night.

It caused me to reflect upon our Yeshiva University community. Why do we educate ourselves? What are our goals? The trend is to approach education in the spirit of professional utility. We see a college degree basically as an insurance policy — through education we secure ourselves in the comfortable harbor of middle-class America. From this point of view no wonder the liberal arts curriculum is judged anachronistic. Why should one take courses seemingly irrelevant to one's work goal? In line with this point of view, professors are reduced to information belts, and the maintenance of the liberal arts curriculum is crassly interpreted as the attempt to save faculty jobs.

This is not education. Even though we dress up the process with all the external certifications of education like credits, grades and degrees, the substance of education is missing.

To become educated is to be confronted not simply with the unknown but with competing images and values of reality. To become educated is not merely to accept and fit into the status quo but to create for oneself a sense of identity and purpose. Education is, therefore, not mass indoctrination and socialization but an intensely personal, individualistic process which should be a life-long endeavor. It is probably the one thing we do in life which has no saturation point. We can eat or sleep too much, but we can never learn and think too much. Our college years are essentially a time for listening to and questioning the values and viewpoints professed by our professors. The relationship between professor and student should be intellectually combative and supremely honest in that one dares to risk exposure. At rock bottom, to become educated is to become open to the challenge of creative risk.

One of the songs that inspired Natan Scharansky as he languished in prison was "All of this life is a very narrow bridge." We each fashion our Life's network through the choices we make and string together. The quality of that narrow bridge directly relates to the kind of decisions we make (or don't make). Natan called upon all his mental and spiritual understanding and courage to make the choices he did. He rose above his situation of imprisonment to create his own reality and sense of worth. We can learn from him. Are we allowing ourselves to be challenged or are we retreating into conformity? Are we making out of our education an imprisonment of our souls or are we learning to accept the risk of a dynamic, creative Jewish identity?

Gardner Takes Sabbatical

by Devorah Lichtenstein

Assistant Professor of Art, Susan R. Gardner, will be leaving Stern next year to go on sabbatical. Gardner has been honored by the Award Commission of the Center of Cultural Affairs to work on a mural. Every year the Center of Cultural Affairs donates 1% of its budget towards an art project. This year the money will be given to the Board of Education to paint a mural in the entry halls of a public school in Sun-set Park, Brooklyn. Gardner was selected from a group of artists to work on the project.

The motif of the mural is of intertwining animals, from different geographic areas. When asked why

she picked this particular theme Gardner replies, "I'm a bonafide animal nut." She feels that animals appeal to children because of their imaginary quality. "Children like fanciful things," she says. The mural will be painted and made up of metal reliefs. For example, when drawing a deer, Gardner will paint its body but will use metal projections for its antlers. Gardner has already begun painting sections of the mural in her studio. She is responsible for all aspects of the project — from painting to actual installation of the mural.

This year marks Gardner's eighth year as art teacher at Stern. She teaches a variety of courses — art history, drawing, sculpture, design, and painting. Before working at SCW, Gardner worked for the

CUNY school system. Gardner feels that her experiences at Stern are far more rewarding than at her previous job. "I'm very content working here," she says. "The students are on a higher academic level, persevering, and have a tremendous amount of intellectual curiosity. What you give out will be received nine times out of ten." Regarding her art career, Gardner spoke enthusiastically. "I never grow tired of the art works. I feel privileged to see them again and again."

Gardner will be replaced by two art professors, Joanne Root and Terry Lichtenstein. She will be returning to SCW in Fall 1987. "I will miss my students and teaching, but I am grateful for my year on sabbatical," she says.

The Judaic Studies Dept.

by Sara Stein

Registration, as always, is a hectic and confusing process. Trying to fill up a schedule with classes that don't have too much work, but are also "good", can become a very difficult thing to do. It's reassuring to know, then, that with the close of a very successful year in the Judaic Studies department at Stern, the coming year seems even more promising.

The Judaic Studies department has enlarged its faculty and added new and revised courses to its curriculum for the fall semester. Rabbi Ephraim Kanarfogel, head of the Judaic Studies department, has worked on continuing to pursue the level already achieved in the department. His main emphasis lies in "developing and stressing that which we've already done." This includes broadening the range of course subjects, particularly in the areas of

halacha and Jewish history, adding new members to the faculty, and focusing on a more intense textual study in methodology.

The new faculty includes new female professors and visiting professors from Israel. Dr. Maori will be teaching a course entitled Biblical Exegetes, which is a survey, given in Hebrew, of major Biblical commentators in medieval France and Spain. Dr. Maori is Professor of Bible at Haifa University and a teacher at Revel. Mrs. S. Tiktin is a student of Nechama Leibowitz. Her course, *Megillat*, will also be taught in Hebrew in the style of Nechama Leibowitz. Dr. Nitza Druryan is from Bar-Ilan and currently teaches at Central High School. She will be offering a class in Modern Jewish History. Contemporary Israeli Issues is a new course to be given by Dr. Aviezer Ravitzky. Dr. Ravitzky, from Hebrew University, presently holds

the Andrew N. and Rose Miller Chair in the History of Zionism and Modern Israel at Yeshiva University.

Besides the new faculty for this coming semester, current professors in the Judaic Studies department are offering new courses. Dr. Bernstein will be teaching a new Hebrew class concentrating on the language of Tanach, and Rabbi Kanarfogel will be teaching a new class in Jewish history. Among the Jewish philosophy courses, Dr. Raffel and Rabbi Carmy are expanding their curriculum. Included in the new and revised classes in Judaic studies are courses by Rabbi Nueberger, Rabbi Kahn, Rabbi Flaum, Rabbi Berman, and Dr. Havazelet.

Some of the faculty previously only offering courses on the Advanced level, such as Rabbi Berman and Dr. Raffel, are now offering courses below the Advanced level as well.

Presidents Column

Good-bye and Farewell

by Elana Goldschieder

"Goodbye, farewell, fare you well, adieu, adios, so long, bye-bye, see you later, take it easy, shalom. . . ."

My year has come to a conclusion, and I don't want it to end. This has been the best year of my life — and that is due to 'you.' You've stood behind me, supported me and showed that you care about our school. THANK YOU!!!

This has been a year filled with fun, excitement, and enthusiasm. There were new and innovative events, and new clubs, a new magazine, great ideas, and many great times. With every sad ending there is a new and exciting beginning.

There is a *medinah* on Khollet that describes two boats docked at a pier. One returning from a voyage, and one preparing to depart. While this attracted a large crowd, everybody's attention was focused on the

ship which had returned from the voyage. The ship had been through a long and hard journey, and had successfully returned.

The explanation the *medinah* gives for this is that while no one knew what would happen to the ship that was about to leave, the crowds wanted to celebrate the ship that had weathered the storms and returned safely. But the ship leaving needs our support and our cheers, so that they will have the strength to weather the storms ahead.

I would like to congratulate the winners, and offer my cheers and hopes that next year will be everything you want it to be and more.

And now I must say so long, farewell, shalom . . . and be thankful that I got the opportunity to serve you and to enjoy it so much.

Thanks

L'Shana Habah . . .

by Stacy Alevy

It has become a habit. I seem to be walking in Elana's footsteps. She served as Junior Class President, so did I. She became Student Council President, so have I. It was her accomplished leadership and subtle diplomacy, which I observed throughout the year, that inspired me to seek higher office. Thank you, Elana. Following you is going to be a difficult task; I hope to be able to serve with the same dedication and commitment.

However, for this year to be successful, the participation of the entire student body is of great importance. In the past two weeks, we have proven that Stern College is not a "one woman show", but involves a cast of hundreds. The show must go on . . . the show of dedication, involvement and devotion must continue in order that next year will be a hallmark in the history of Stern College for Women.

"We need a cohesive student body, to have an effective student lobby."

L'shana habah. . .

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1986-87

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Lisa Fenakel—Vice President
Rachel Kronish—Secretary
Dasi Hiesiger—Treasurer
Lisa Gottesman,
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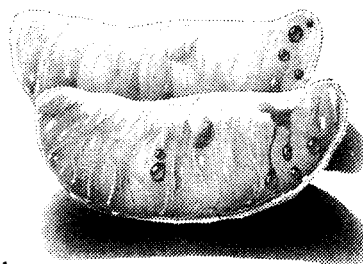
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A defense against cancer can be cooked up in your kitchen.



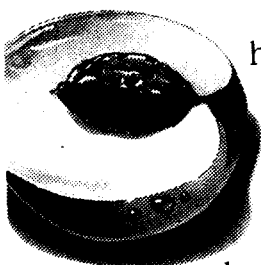
Fruits, vegetables, and whole-grain cereals such as oatmeal, bran and wheat may help lower the risk of colorectal cancer.

Foods high in fats, salt- or nitrite-cured foods like



There is evidence that diet and cancer are related. Some foods may promote cancer, while others may protect you from it.

Foods related to lowering the risk of cancer of the larynx and esophagus all have high amounts of carotene, a form of Vitamin A which is in cantaloupes, peaches, broccoli, spinach, all dark green leafy vegetables, sweet potatoes, carrots, pumpkin, winter squash and tomatoes, citrus fruits and brussels sprouts.



Foods that may help reduce the risk of gastrointestinal and respiratory tract cancer are cabbage, broccoli, brussels sprouts, kohlrabi, cauliflower.

fish and types of sausages smoked by traditional methods should be eaten in moderation.

Be moderate in consumption of alcohol also.

A good rule of thumb is cut down on fat and don't be fat.

Weight reduction may lower cancer risk. Our 12-year study of nearly a million Americans uncovered high cancer risks particularly among people 40% or more overweight.

Now, more than ever, we know you can cook up your own defense against cancer.

No one faces cancer alone.

Meet Rodin At The "Met" Speak Your Mind

by Jennifer Notis

The highly acclaimed Metropolitan Museum of Art affords the arguing public vast resources. The students of Stern College are particularly fortunate because the museum is a short bus, or subway ride away. For maximum enjoyment of this enormous and comprehensive treasurehouse, the museum should be perused in a leisurely fashion, perhaps concentrating on only one or two sections in a visit. The art works and artifacts housed within the Met's imposing stone edifice cover practically every age and period. The newest exhibition, which will run through June 15, 1986, is RODIN: The B. Gerald Cantor Collection.

manifested in many of his most important works, which he based on great literary works.

A major sculpture, The Gates of Hell, and entire series including "Paolo and Francesca" and "Torso of Ugolino Sons," have their foundation in Dante's *Inferno*, classical mythology and in the Bible. Another of Rodin's principal works, "The Burghers of Calais," was based upon *Chronicles* by Jean Froissart, written in 1347 about the Hundred Years War. Rodin's sculptures became increasingly erotic due to his preoccupation with Dante's works and Charles P. Baudelaire's *The Flowers of Eve*.

Rodin utilized bronze to depict achievement and character in male figures, and marble to portray the beauty and sensuality inherent in women. His techniques, in materials and concept, are unique. Just as Picasso is often juxtaposed with

Cubism, Rodin is often equated with Fragmentation. He promoted the sculpture of single body parts as an independent study of art. Fragmentation had always been part of Christian religious art, but was not recognized as an art form. Late in his career, Rodin began to sculpt dancers. Unlike his contemporary, Degas, he was uninspired by classical ballet, preferring modern dance.

Most people will recognize the sculpture, The Thinker, as it is one of Rodin's most famous works. Rodin was influenced by Michelangelo, as is evident from this piece. He, too, left his mark on the direction of art history, by influencing later artists.

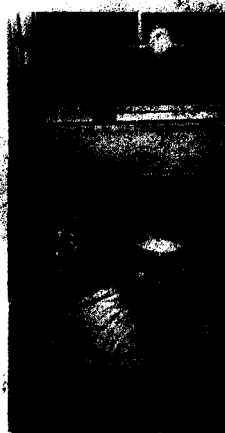
The Rodin Exhibition, while quite large and comprehensive, has been designed to ensure that even a viewer with little or no knowledge of the subject matter will find this exhibit both informative and entertaining.

by Necha Treitel

What do you plan on doing next year? How has Stern served your purposes?

Next year I plan on working, but I have not yet decided in what field. I will most probably be seeking employment in marketing or business. My education at Stern provided me with a well-rounded liberal arts background. I just wish they had a better internship program.

Minda Steen, Senior



How did you feel seeing Shcharansky at Y.U.? And what do you feel can be done to further the cause of Soviet Jewry?

Shcharansky is a truly unique hero. His freedom is the culmination of hard work and unflinching effort on the part of many. It illustrates that all efforts to free Soviet Jewry are not in vain. Much more political pressure is necessary in order to coerce the Soviet Union to free other political prisoners and refuseniks. Natan Shcharansky has given us hope for the future.

Robin Bash and Debby Nowolski, Freshmen

For The Record . . .

I was really excited to hear Stern had gotten air-conditioning for the hot summer days!! Now, when are they going to turn it on?
Renata Serphos, Sophomore



Dorm-Ez View

It's Been Real!

by Mordechai Reich

We arrived with a 3-month-old baby and a lot of trepidation. We leave with a couple more children, greyer hair, and with a sense of gratitude for having had the opportunity to spend these years with you.

You wonderful students kept us young with your high energy, youth and vitality. You taught us much with your dedication to *Chessed* and learning. You let us share your joys and sorrows and we learned from you. We also know that sometimes we made you angry with us. Disciplinary issues or dorm counselor selections are not easy matters to negotiate. For this, we ask your *mechila*.

To our wonderful staff of this year and of years past, we cannot begin to express our thanks. You were up

all hours of the night with lockouts and emergency room visits and counseling matters. You kept this dorm together with your love and concern and good humor. And you, Sarah Beth, led this gallant crew. We officially grant you a doctorate in human relations.

To our comrades in arms in administrative and teaching capacities, thank you for your support and wise guidance and counsel. Our students are indeed fortunate to have you at the helm. In particular, we want to thank Pauline Winter for her graciousness in accepting the workload we gave her and for her good humor and the fastest hands in the East. And you, Mrs. Zuroff, yes, you know who you are—you were an M&M—a mentor and mother. We couldn't

have done it without you.

Thanks also to all the support staff. Our security guards and maintenance people helped make the dorm a clean and safe place in which to live. Thanks to Dr. Sar and Lillian Newton, R.N., who kept us healthy and entertained.

Before concluding this article, we'd like to thank *Hakadosh Baruch-Hu* for sending us to all of you, and for the friendship that you extended to us and our family. It's our hope that, as Milton Erickson, M.D. once said, you'll all leave a trail of happiness and look forward to the days when you can look back.

Our love to all of you.

Sema, Mordechai, Betzalel, Nechama, Shalom Moshe



25 Years of Dedicated Teaching

by Aviva Goldberg

After 25 years of dedicated teaching at Stern College for Women, one of our most distinguished professors, Benson Appel, is retiring.

Dr. Appel began teaching at Stern in 1961, on a part time basis, and in 1967, on a full time basis. In 1968 through 1971, Dr. Appel was an Adjunct Professor of Hebrew Studies at the New York University Graduate School of Arts and Science.

Appel received his Bachelor of Arts, Ordination and Doctor of Hebrew Literature at Yeshiva University. Harvard University also granted him a Doctorate of Philosophy.

In addition, Appel is an accomplished author of several books, including *Sefer ha-Neyar, Studies in Jewish Law, Philosophy and Literature, and The Concise Code of Jewish Law, Volume I*. Appel has also written several articles, such as, "Jewish Social Studies," "Sura," "Hadarom" and "Tapiot."

Some of the most prestigious universities have bestowed honors, fellowships and grants on Dr. Appel, among them are a fellowship from

Harvard University, Outstanding Educators of America Award, and a Faculty Research Grant from Yeshiva University.

Furthermore, Appel is a member of several Academic Societies. He has diversified Stern College Appointments, served in college and university services, rabbinical appointments and communal affiliations.

Appel plans to devote his retirement to writing. He is expanding on two of his already published books.



Dr. Benson Appel

He is currently working on *Mitzvot*, a book in Hebrew to be published in Israel.

Dr. Appel commented upon the advantage of teaching at the same college for a lengthy period of time, the ability to actively participate in setting the foundations of the school. He further commented that he enjoyed teaching at Stern College; "I found the students interesting and seriously minded. The students possess Jewish qualities of 'midot', have a commitment to Torah ideals and a dedication to Israel."

The *Encyclorama of Israel* is a seven-volume encyclopedia that deals with the 5,700 year history of "Israel". Its pages are filled with numerous details about its people's past, present and future, attempting to relate the multi-faceted reality of Israel.

The publisher, Pierre Ilouz, in his preface to the encyclopedia, queries: "What can explain the passionate interest of public opinion, aroused by the rebirth of this little country buried in the Middle East, by its struggles, adventures, by its entire historical journey through the centuries?" To find a reply . . . should we turn to mysticism and call upon historical memory?

Each subject is explicated by authors who are specialists in their fields. Instead of utilizing archive materials, the photographs of the "Encyclorama", most of which are in vivid color, are usually original illustrations.

The encyclorama retails for \$695. The publishers are eager to encourage sales, and therefore are offering \$100. to anyone who sells the set. Call 784-1242.

Dr. N. Remes Award

cont. from page 1, col. 3

serving her college and her classmates. This year marks the first time a Student Council president has won this award. In previous years, the awardees have included: Phyllis Dubinsky (1982), who now teaches at Ramaz; Simoneh Rudoler (1983), who is now living in Israel; Laura Eschwege (1984), who is getting her

master's from NYU in hospital administration, and Jan Pion (1985), an accountant in a top firm.

Until making *Aliyah* a few years ago, Mrs. Remes attended senior dinner to personally present the award to its recipient. Since then, the award has been presented by Mrs. Esther Zuroff, Director of Student Services.

The Observer
Wishes You
A Happy,
Healthy Summer

NAAM Chapter Opens At Stern

by Vicky Fernandez

Aliyah and you. How much serious thought have you given it, and if you have given it some serious thought, are those thoughts now lying dormant? Good news! NAAM — the North American *Aliyah* Movement — is opening an *Aliyah* chapter at Stern College in the fall. Its purpose is to cater to any needs you may have regarding *Aliyah*.

Students have a variety of needs regarding *Aliyah*. Firstly, there is a need for encouragement and group support; for meeting others just like ourselves who are also interested in settling in Israel. And secondly, there is a desire to translate that group support into concrete action.

The purpose of NAAM's *Aliyah* chapter is to address such needs.

There are over 50 NAAM chapters across the United States and Canada. These chapters provide group support and access to information about *Aliyah* that is current and comprehensive through *Aliyah* workshops, conferences, lectures, and audio-visual presentations.

Since the destruction of Jerusalem and the Second Exile, the yearning for Zion has been a part of Jewish consciousness. Throughout the centuries, waves of Jews journeyed to Israel, and by blood, sweat, and tears, toiled to inhabit the land. In fact, in the early days of settlement, the blessing we recite over products from the soil — *Borai Pri Haadama* — was changed to — *Borai Pri Haeven* — products from the rock. In its isolation, the land had rusted. The return

of the Jews stimulated the economy which in turn spurred the growth of towns and cities.

For all its strength, Israel is a little country facing overwhelming problems: religious and cultural polarization; a constant state of military preparedness in case of war; economic upheavals. These are some of the problems and some of the reasons why *Aliyah* is so important. Israel needs skills to assist in raising its economic, social, and cultural scale. Besides what you can do for Israel, Israel can do a lot for you. As a fulfillment of one's own Judaic yearnings, or because of the enjoyment that comes from knowing that you are actually influencing the course of history, *Aliyah* is or can be a special dream to take hold of.

A Piece Of Israel In New York

by Esther Boylan

On Wednesday night, May 18, the Fifth of Iyar 5746, Yeshiva College and Stern College students celebrated Israeli Independence Day at a *Chagiga* sponsored by the Torah Activities Committee and the Student Councils of both Yeshiva College and Stern College for Women. The event was marked by a spirit and *ruach* fitting for the celebration of thirty eight years of Jewish statehood.

The night began at eight-o'clock with an hour of enthusiastic dancing. Tens of students held up the Israeli flag as the other students danced around them. A few women brought with them some of the noisemakers in the shape of a hammer that dominate the Israeli streets on Independence Day. They proceeded to jokingly hit their fellows on their heads with the hammers. At nine o'clock there was a break in the dancing for

a special *Maariv* and a *sichah* by Rabbi Blau, Mashgiach Ruchani of Yeshiva.

Rabbi Blau spoke about the importance of celebrating *Yom Ha'Atzmaut* in America, despite the controversial nature of the holiday. He pointed out that one of the special attributes of Yeshiva University is that the University is probably one of the few *Yeshivot* that has an official celebration of the holiday.

Many students commented that the only disturbing part of the evening was that during *Maariv* and the speech, several students continued to speak in loud tones. This prevented students from davening with proper *kavanah*, and showed a lack of respect for the serious words being spoken by Rabbi Blau.

This incident, however, did not prevent the evening from being a special celebration of Israeli Independence Day. In fact, following the

speech, students displayed more spirit than ever before. The Stern College women continued dancing even after the time at which the buses were scheduled to return to Stern. Esther Koernigsberg, President of TAC and Elana Goldscheider, President of Student Council, had a hard time persuading the women to leave.

The fact that students practically refused to leave, says Esther Koernigsberg, showed the tremendous success of the *Chagiga*. The *Chagiga*, she said, "was overall an expression of the *ruach* and *achdut* of the students." Elana Goldscheider also feels that the spirit exhibited by the students was "simply wonderful." Just the day before, she pointed out, Anatoly, now Natan, Shcharansky, said that he had found in Yeshiva University "a piece of Israel in the middle of New York." The truth of these words was evident at the *Yom Ha'Atzmaut* celebrations.



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R. Gross Reviewed

by Sharon Halevy

R. Gross, the vegetarian and dairy restaurant on Broadway, has been a landmark of the garment district for 80 years. Testimony to the role it has played in feeding the generations of workers in the immediate vicinity, is the huge painting of the garment worker bent over his sewing machine.

Recently, R. Gross underwent a change in management. However, the changes in the restaurant have been very minimal; it still retains its old-world charm. The decor of the restaurant is starkly simple. The tables are adorned with white linen tablecloths, and the walls with cream fabric.

The extensive menu incorporates "Jewish/European homestyle" cooking, delicatessen (dairy, of course) and vegetarian dishes. They serve 5 kinds of fresh fish, which are served boiled, meuniere, or sautéed (\$11.85-13.50); 5 dishes that are variations of fish (\$9-11.50); as well as 9 smoked fish and herring platters (\$7.75-10.75). The crepes are "au fromage", strawberry, potato or huckleberry (\$6.50). Their pasta dishes include "primavera" and "fettucine a la Gross" (\$8-9). The selection of entrees is rather typical of any vegetarian/dairy restaurant, including eggplant, vegetable platter, pirogen and kreplach (\$7-8.50). One can choose 10 different "Eggs and Omelettes", which are all served with home-fried potatoes.

Salad lovers can find 14 "Salad Platters" (\$6.25-9.25). They serve fresh "Garden Vegetables" and

fruits. Gross' does all their own baking on the premises, so their desserts, of which there are 18, are guaranteed fresh (\$1.30-2.50). They even serve ice cream and malts (\$1.50-2.95).

In addition, to the a la carte menu, they offer a special deal. One can order a 5-course meal: either the "Special Dinner" or the "Fish Dinner" (\$16.50). The meal began with freshly baked rolls and rye bread. The chopped eggplant appetizer was attractively served on lettuce and garnished with tomato, lemon and onion, but tasted a little bitter. However, the pickled herring served in a cream sauce with onions and tomato was very delicious. The fresh tossed salad was made of lettuce and red cabbage with a black olive, green olive and cherry tomato as garnish. My partner dined on broiled salmon, topped with onion, tomato and peppers. The fish was deliciously moist, tender and flaky, and accompanied by a baked potato and very fresh green broccoli. I ordered a vegetable cutlet, which was smothered in a very tasty, light mushroom sauce. But, the cutlet was quite bland. It came with a potato pancake (too floury), and fresh cauliflower.

Dessert was delicious: deep, rich chocolate layer cake; and strawberry shortcake, made of light, airy sponge cake and fresh whipped cream.

R. Gross is a great place to enjoy a light, healthy dinner, a hearty Sunday brunch, or any meal. They're open Monday through Thursday 7am-10pm; Friday 7am-3pm; and Sundays 11am-10pm. In the fall, they will open on Saturday evenings until 1am.



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