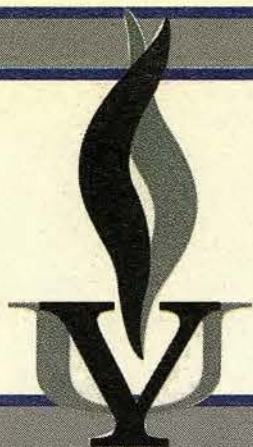


# OBSERVER



## Peer Advisors Welcome New Students

BY CHANI OZAROWSKI

The presence of many aqua-colored shirts is a good sign—at least this is what Peer Advising Co-Coordinator Yael Grunseid believes. This year, as incoming students crowded the area in front of Brookdale Hall on move-in day, there was an equally notable attendance of aqua-clad ‘veteran’ students, waiting to welcome the newcomers. The t-shirts made these peer advisors easily identifiable for the new students, and so, in Grunseid’s words, a sea of aqua during move-in day “shows dedication and effort on behalf of the Stern student body [to welcome the new students].” The turnout of advisors, she says, “was so good that it was almost like every girl moving in

had two girls welcoming her.”

This year’s program involved two types of peer advisors. Some were general advisors, ‘floating around’ orientation, proctoring placement exams, and answering incoming students’ questions

Other advisors were matched up with a specific group of new students whom they contacted during the summer. These advisors will continue communication with their groups throughout the students’



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## Inaugural Night Seder Fills Beit Midrash

BY AVIVA SEGELMAN

More than 45 Stern students filled the Beit Midrash on the first day of school last Wednesday to kick off the new night seder program. Conceived by several students and propelled by Atara Lindenbaum, night seder provides a formal yet comfortable setting for people to come and learn Torah together and is scheduled for 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Enthusiasm for this new program has been generated by the student body, the administration and the faculty.

several students are working to arrange formal *chavrutot* for students in that program, so that they can do their homework and preparation for class at night seder, fusing all academic levels of Torah learning into one cohesive unit.



Many people came with a *chavruta* (study partner) already set. For those who did not, the organizers circulated a list throughout the room for each person to write her name, interest and level, and pairs will be set accordingly. The coordinators of the newly developed Basic Jewish Studies Track and

Some students learned with *chavrutot* from past years, some prepared for their upcoming Judaic studies classes and some met new people and studied new material. Elissa Riss and Judy Gorelick-Feldman, two SCW juniors, continued their study of *Mishnah Berurah* from last year. “We thought we would continue our *chavruta* in a set time under the formal night seder program,” Riss explained.

In contrast, Ariella Nadler, a transfer student from York University, and Miriam Ausubel, who studied at Shaalvim this past year, prepared for the Advanced Talmud *shiur* which meets each morning. “One of the main reasons I transferred to Stern was the learning available inside and outside classes, such as tonight’s program,” said Nadler.

Night seder provides a real Beit Midrash atmosphere where preparation for classes such as Isaiah and *Parshanut* can be done.

For many students, preparation for these classes is like homework, and night seder is a way to transform these assignments from required homework and reading into fixed Torah learning. The university requirements for CORE and additional Jewish studies classes have the effect of grouping Torah along with other requirements such as science

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## Bigger and Better Program for Beginners in Judaic Studies

BY TIFFY UNTERMAN

Beginnings are often a rocky road to ride. Starting a Jewish education is no different. Although most of the student body at Stern College for Women consists of women who have had an extensive formal Jewish education, there are a substantial number of students who have not. Previously, these women have taken part in courses structured much like the intermediate and advanced level Judaic courses, where the learning experience essentially began and ended with the start and finish of the class.

This year, all of that is changing.

SCW is starting a new Judaic studies program for the elementary level. This initiative will consist of both formal and informal educational components. The goal of the program

is to create “a more comprehensive, more welcoming, more attractive learning environment,” says Rabbi Ephraim Kanarfogel, dean of the Judaic Studies Department.

Heading the program, called the Basic Jewish Studies Track (BJST), will be Rabbi Lawrence Hajioff, who has previously taught at Stern part time, and Mrs. Shoshana Schechter, who has and will continue to teach an upper level Tanakh course at Stern in addition to this new position. They will serve both as teachers and as mentors for the program. Additionally, Schechter will serve as the program coordinator. Rabbi Gideon Shloush will also be teaching in the program.

For the coming year the BJST will consist of two tracks of about fifteen students each, one class slightly more

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## CJF Reaches Out to Jewish Communities

BY ILANA LEVIN

The vague plans and purposes of the Center for the Jewish Future (CJF) that were outlined at its inception last year are coming into focus as the new academic year begins and promise to redefine Yeshiva University’s contribution to world Jewry.

The Center was created by President Richard Joel in October of last year, beginning with the appointment of Rabbi Kenneth Brander of Boca Raton as dean. The structure of the Center has developed into seven departments, each with its own director and function: Think Tanks Research headed by Rabbi Josh Joseph; Student Training, Development and

Recruitment by Rabbi Moshe Bellows; Association of Modern Orthodox Day Schools and Yeshiva High Schools by Rabbi David Israel; Community Initiatives by Rabbi Ari Rockoff; Jewish Communal Service Career Development and Placement by Rabbi Ronnie Schwartzberg; Professional Education by Rabbi Marc Penner; and Rabbinic and Community Education by Rabbi Dr. Jacob J. Schacter, senior scholar of the CJF and university professor of Jewish history and Jewish thought at YU.

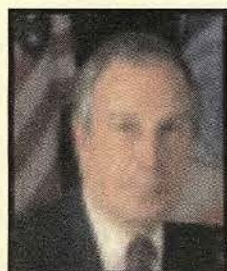
As an institute for the university at large, the CJF has offices on both the Wilf and Beren campuses. The storefront location on Amsterdam Avenue serves as the Center’s headquar-

ters for student programming and an additional storefront location next to the 245 Lexington Avenue building is the Beren Campus counterpart. The CJF also occupies offices on the fourth floor of Furst Hall, the third floor of the Gottesman Library and the fourth floor of the Beren Campus Schottenstein Cultural Center.

The first of on-campus programs scheduled for this year is a three-day event to be held on both the Wilf and Beren campuses on September 12 through 14. Throughout the event, called “You Are the Ticket to Our Future,” students will be able to meet with CJF staff and learn about and contribute to upcom-

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Interested in Working  
for the Observer?

Please join us for dinner  
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**Ilana Levin**  
Editor-in-Chief

After spending the past two summers in government offices where a developing sense of suspicion and cynicism of the free press took hold of me—both self-actualized and co-worker-induced, I find myself somewhat ironically in the position of co-editor-in-chief of the Observer for this year.

To be fair, even a First Amendment absolutist would leave an internship with the New Jersey Department of Law & Public Safety's Open Public Records Unit believing that a free press is the worst thing to happen to taxpayer dollars since King George III. Over the two months of my work, a quarter of all requests for public documents came from journalists, and theirs were often the most broad and burdensome, requiring an inordinate amount of time and money to be spent retrieving, reviewing and redacting records all in the name of a free press, despite the congestion it causes in every affected

office. From my perspective within this office, the value of freedom of the press unjustly eclipsed the importance of government efficiency and effectiveness.

My internship this past summer in the nation's capital reshaped my previously black-and-white, hostile view of the press into one that is more nuanced and diplomatic. The relationship between government and the media that was primarily parasitic in New Jersey becomes symbiotic in Washington. The two sides need each other to survive, and each becomes a carefully constructed weapon in the hands of the other. Any message-oriented government office in D.C. will use the media as its bulletin board in exchange for granting coveted access.

The chairman of the House subcommittee for which I worked published an op-ed in The Washington Times discrediting the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes in the days before a vote on the subject; a week after our hearing on "Fighting Methamphetamine in America's Heartland," Newsweek ran a cover story taking up our mantra of "The Meth Epidemic." The issues of our office were reflected in the press in a satisfactory way.

But the media doesn't always go along with the government's cues, particularly when they're

given by the Republican Party. On the issue of evolution and intelligent design and their respective places in the classroom, the mainstream press has come down firmly opposing my former office's position (which is not to say it represents the position of the entire majority party). The increasing media coverage of the escalating debate suggests that the press will apply any pressure it can to fight the positions of President Bush, Senator Rick Santorum and others by taking part in ripping apart intelligent design theory, or at least in contesting the theory's place in public schools (and perhaps rightfully so).

Nevertheless, the disruptive aspect of the media remains and is amplified in Washington, obstructing government from serving the public by forcing it to serve the press. Parasites masquerading as pundits establish non-stop coverage of nothingness and dissect every aspect of it better than any "Seinfeld" episode. The camp-outs on Chief Justice Rehnquist's front lawn in waiting for his resignation, the constant search for an ulterior motive in Senator Clinton's actions and words and the distasteful "death watch" of the late Pope John Paul II are examples of the media's efforts to generate and prolong news despite the lack of newsworthy information.

But in becoming an editor-in-chief for the Observer I have surrendered, or at least relaxed, some of my views of the free press. I realize I have a wall to scale, and while recognizing that I cannot leave behind my previous experiences or innate cynicism, I also know I will have to approach this position with respect for journalistic ideals. I am ready to join the opposition, whose self-determined duty is to question, counter and restrain the excesses of authority, be it the federal government or a university administration.

Reading "All the President's Men" and Natan Sharansky's "Fear No Evil" after returning from Washington has eased my transition and change of allegiances. The abuse of power in the Nixon Administration and the use of the American free press to keep government honest contrast sharply with the KGB "supervising" both the government and the media. Sharansky's nine-year imprisonment and struggle against the system prove that without a truly free press, the law and justice enacted by government can easily become a charade.

Contributing to my preparation for this position is my brother, who is majoring in media studies and whose view of the government/press relationship is a mirror image of my own in his skepticism of the government and will-

ingness to give free reign to the media. Our vigorous debates, usually ending in a draw, nevertheless assist me in seeing that "other side" I have often ignored in the past.

With my new ideology solidifying, one of my goals as an editor of the Observer is to generate hate mail. Or any kind of mail. There is nothing more dispiriting to a newly created First Amendment enthusiast than complete apathy by a targeted audience. Of what use is a free press without readers' praising and, more importantly, scathing letters to the editor decrying a newspaper for its self-serving exploitation of others in the name of constitutionally-endorsed journalistic integrity?

I realize that a controversial topic is a necessary prerequisite to inspire letters written in the spirit of Maureen Dowd, so I hope to use the Observer, within the limits of responsible journalism, as a forum to discuss themes sorely in need of dialogue.

Dialogue, however, requires multiple perspectives and engaged debaters. So what do you have to say?

*Ilana can be reached at ilevin@yu.edu.*

## Scaling the Wall of Separation Between Journalism and State

## A Lesson Learned



**Adinah Wieder**  
Editor-in-Chief

Over the past few years, I have had the opportunity to intern in many settings. From working with the developmentally disabled in a group home, the terminally ill in a radiation therapy clinic, middle school children in a classroom setting, and conducting research in a laboratory, my experiences have varied. Despite the vast disparity in my experiences, I have always extrapolated a meaningful lesson and this past summer was no exception.

I intended to conduct medical research for most of the summer and then prepare for the upcoming academic year. Shortly before I had finalized my plans, I received a phone call from the NCSY Midwest Regional Director. There was an opening for an advisor on NCSY's pilot summer program, Summer Medical Experience, and he was looking for someone to fill it. The program would consist of morning classes at Northwestern Medical School with the after-

noons spent learning medical ethics in the Chicago kollel and/or conducting rounds with doctors in various hospitals throughout Chicago. The objective of the program was to introduce high school students interested in pursuing a career in medicine to Orthodox doctors and expose them to the concept of Torah Umaddah first hand.

It was a tempting offer and one I was admittedly unprepared to accept. Honestly, my experience with NCSY was limited. I had a few friends who had participated in NCSY events and a bentcher in my home, which we kept for our non-Hebrew language readers, whenever they joined our Shabbat or Yom Tov table. At first, the thought of being an advisor was daunting. My comfort zone was in a laboratory setting not with high school students. The entire scenario appeared to be out of my league. Nevertheless, in keeping with my mantra of facing new challenges, I accepted the position. I anticipated that it would be a positive learning experience and so, I prepared for my trip to the Midwest armed with confidence and determination. What I did not expect was to learn some of the most critical lessons for leading a Jewish life.

As the participants began to arrive, I had serious doubts about

the journey upon which I was about to embark. While the many years of yeshiva education would serve me well, the prospect of answering a multitude of questions over the next three weeks of the program beleaguered me. On a practical level, I could demonstrate the life of an Orthodox Jew by making berachot and davening. The challenge was to imbue the campers with a love of Judaism and to inculcate a desire to connect with G-d. I knew that every move I'd make would be closely scrutinized and dissected. It is with these thoughts reverberating in my mind that I proceeded to welcome everyone.

As I watched the campers sing zemirot on Shabbat tears formed in my eyes. The newness of reciting a bracha with them and seeing the flame of Torah rekindled is an image permanently embedded in my mind. I thought it ironic that I was the one supposed to be inspiring the soul search and ended up with an inspired soul. I gained a more profound meaning for the concept of *ameilus b'Torah* and *moser nefesh* for Judaism. My "charges" taught me as much as I taught them. I am glad that I was asked the questions that I prayed I would not be asked. I am thankful that I didn't always have the right thing to say, because I quickly learned that sometimes there is nothing to say.

Growing up, Judaism came easy to me; I was raised in an Orthodox home with parents who are very involved in the community. I faced the usual inner turmoil that I assume many face at some point. However, my struggles with Judaism were within a realm surrounded by observant Jews. Unlike some of my campers, I never had to be the only girl in school wearing a skirt nor did I have to sit in my room on Shabbat because everyone else in the household was violating Shabbat. My home was always the place to stay on Shabbat because nothing could compare to the beauty and tranquility there; I never had to leave to celebrate Shabbat.

The NCSY Summer Medical Experience was a unique opportunity to influence the lives of precious, Jewish souls who seek answers about their heritage and how it applies to their daily lives. Teaching them how to lead a *mezumin* or wash for *hamotzi* was just the beginning. No yeshiva, Mishna, or Rambam could have impressed upon me what it means to toil and sacrifice for Torah the way some of these high school students did. Going into the experience, I thought I would gain insight into various realms of medicine that I have yet to experience. Instead, I came out of the program with an even deeper pas-

sion and fervor for Judaism and a greater commitment towards making a difference in the lives of fellow Jews.

Sacrifice and persistence are key elements to life, particularly when trying to maintain your identity as a Torah Jew and pursuing a career. It is now the beginning of a new academic year and I urge you to create for yourself high spiritual, academic, and intellectual goals. Add a new dimension to your daily activities. Elevate that which has become rote and mundane in your life. Make meaningful sacrifices that will influence your life, as well as the life of others. Sacrifice is a risk, but it is a risk worth life. Make meaningful sacrifices that will influence your life, as well as the life of others. Sacrifice is a risk, but it is a risk worth taking. You too can experience a lesson learned!

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The Observer  
thanks Josh  
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and Ari Fridman  
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# EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

The University is to be commended for its efforts to bring aesthetic improvements to the Beren Campus in the hopes that the physical upgrades will be reflected in an overall upgrade in attitude on the parts of returning students, F-TOCs and even administrators and faculty members.

The physical renovations are an important step in revitalizing the environment—but they are only the first step. More significant in raising the

general mindset of those who walk these halls daily is improving the academic offerings at Stern.

The newly developed Basic Jewish Studies Track is certainly a great stride towards achieving that goal. Finally, students with little or no prior formal Jewish education will be able to begin at the beginning, learning—and learning how to learn—with experienced teachers guiding them and with the texts opened in front of them.

But all students learning Judaic studies, which means all of the students at SCW, should continuously be learning and learning how to learn. Beginners, intermediate and advanced students should all be afforded a similar program. Focusing only on Judaic studies in the morning hours of the school day is not new to Yeshiva University: the men uptown have had that schedule since the college's inception. That's because it works.

Lastly—and we have to mention this—a larger and better-stocked central Beit Midrash is a crucial example of a physical structure that can potentially impact the academic aspect of an education. The university has expressed its intention to improve its physical grounds to reflect its academic goals. We can't think of an edifice as representational of Yeshiva University as a Beit Midrash.

The Yeshiva University

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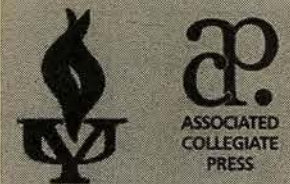
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## POINT-COUNTERPOINT

### Roommates: Friends or Potluck?

BY SHOSHANA FRUCHTER AND ESTHER GENUTH

Rooming with friends, or at least arranging a room with acquaintances before the school year begins, is an easy way to ensure a better experience at Stern College for Women.

The daily schedule at Stern, which involves balancing on average six courses, all the work a dual curriculum entails and often a job or internship in addition, does not leave much time for chilling out with friends; rooming with friends guarantees spending time together. "You really don't see your friends around school—unless you happen to be in class with them," says SCW junior Shosh Kramer. "That's really why I roomed with good friends."

A good group of friends, especially at Stern College, is indispensable. At secular colleges, groups of people with similar interests and backgrounds easily form through the Hillel or other Jewish activist groups on campus. Since the women at Stern are relatively homogeneous with regard to religious tendencies, compared with secular colleges, venues like Hillel are not around to

aid in creating a cohesive community.

"Your roommates make your experience" is a commonly quoted proverb at SCW, which is true because without that formal framework of friends, the support system and community are lacking.

Though it's true that rooming with perfect strangers is one way to broaden one's horizons upon entry to an exciting new stage in life called college, it is certainly not a good idea when avoidable. Often potluck doesn't work out quite so perfectly. How often have you heard the complaints: "My roommate won't let me sleep at night, she'll start watching a movie at twelve o'clock!" or "My roommates are slob!" Our room looks totally disgusting." Significant personal habit discrepancies—and the subsequent "roommate issues" which follow—are avoided when friends review, discuss and make decisions based on those habits beforehand. Wisely chosen self-arranged roommates can make all the difference.

Choosing to room with unfamiliar people can be a stressful and daunting decision. However, it is a rewarding choice that will introduce you to new people and at the same time give you a wholesome college experience.

Potluck roommates often find common ground and even form friendships. It is common for roommates who were initially placed through the potluck process to choose each other as roommates for the following year.

"If your roommate is not a clone of you, don't stress out that you're not going to click," stated a Quinnipiac College freshman on collegebound.net. "When you're in college, you have a chance to become friends with people that you would not have necessarily been friends with in high school because of cliques."

For those students who are hesitant regarding the rooming process, it is important to recognize that Residence Life does

not pair students at random. The housing application process gives students the options to choose roommates who share similar lifestyles, bedtimes and noise level preferences.

An SCW sophomore referred to her experience of living with one friend and two potluck roommates as "surprisingly working out for the best." Furthermore, living with good friends is often not the "fun and games" it appears to be. Students who choose to live with friends from before college often find that tension arises in the relationship after rooming together. Many even find that it is harder to address dorm issues that arise when they have had a relationship with the roommate from before dorming together. While a potluck roommate relationship takes patience and hard work, with communication and time it is a valuable venture worth trying.

### Math Boot Camp versus a Day at the Beach

BY TOVA STULMAN

Summer doesn't seem so much fun anymore. This past summer, I spent a long three months doing stuff that I seem to be doing during the year. Work one month, a class another month, punctuated by papers and trips to the library. The majority of my friends had similar agendas: work, school or both.

The last time I checked, summer was for fun things, such as camp or vacation, spending the days with your friends and doing whatever catches your fancy. It's not supposed to be like every other month of the year. In fact, it's made more monotonous by the stultifying heat, which makes everything seem to go in slow motion. Even the people on the streets of Manhattan seem to walk slower in the summer than during the

rest of the year (although, admittedly, that could be because most of them are tourists).

After much introspection, I've come to the conclusion that I'm just in a tough age group right now—when it comes to summer, college students seem to get the raw end of the deal. You reach university-age and suddenly all that is on your mind is sprucing up your résumé and impressing your future bosses with your long list of accomplishments. A major consideration may be the amount of credits you are compelled to accumulate to graduate in three years instead of four or to be a double major. You might need to deal with the fact that it's time to earn a salary, because, as your parents keep reminding you, they will not pay your cell phone bills forever.

Even if you are the sort of

relaxed person who plans to work only after graduation and who is willing to graduate in the recommended (albeit somewhat less impressive) four years, it's hard to remain immune to peer pressure. *You* might not feel the need to garner several internships to lengthen your résumé, but once you see the majority of your classmates frantically acquiring work experience, you're likely to change your mind. It's come to the point where people are ashamed to admit they don't have much of anything planned for the summer, other than spending lazy nights watching fireflies in the breeze and visiting as many theme parks as possible.

Well, guess what? Summer was made for doing things less than constructive—it was made for fun, and fun is not often productive. That's why it isn't

called work. It's one thing if you're the type of person who likes to keep busy with work and class, but I highly doubt that defines all of us. Some of us would be happy doing nothing much at all. Yet instead, in this age of "it's never too early to start planning for the future," we're taking MCAT and LSAT classes after sophomore year, working in offices to make connections for future careers, and running from class to class, all to add spice to our list of accomplishments. I won't be surprised if little Moishy and Mindy start spouting to their confused parents about how these prepubescent years are the crucial ones for future careers in law or accounting, so Kaplan for Kids and Math Boot Camp are really better options than day camp.

I'm not saying I didn't have fun this summer; I attended

some requisite summer blockbusters with my friends, and I had more free time to read books I've been meaning to read all year. But frankly, summer seems a lot less magical than when I was younger. I know it's not creaky knees or crow's feet, but when the thought of summer doesn't make you sigh with satisfaction or eagerly start unpacking your T-shirts from the downstairs closet, it seems to be one of the telltale signs that you are getting older. So I come back to school, older and wiser, and honestly, quite willingly—and suspecting that many of my peers feel the same way. Welcome back, everyone. The summer is over—and not a moment too soon.



## "If I Could Just Have a Minute..."

BY AVIVA HOROWITZ

How many times have people tried to recruit you to help with a cause, imploring that "you too can make a difference" or "a few minutes of your time could really help"? These terms have become so cliché, or perhaps we have become so jaded that we often shrug them off with little more than an apologetic, but annoyed, smile. It is not that we aren't sympathetic to the cause or we wouldn't love to help, but in the busy world of college courses, part time jobs, and trying to squeeze in a social life somewhere, people don't seem to really have the few minutes to spare. Most of us seem to think that a few minutes of our time won't really matter in the long run anyway.

This is the prevalent attitude on college campuses today, and perhaps it isn't all that unwarranted. There are many major issues facing the Jewish community, be it the fight against anti-Semitism on college campuses or the global fight for Israel's legitimacy, but what can we actually do to change the world? Furthermore, Yeshiva

University is a secure environment with no anti-Semitism and a strong Zionist community, so how can we endeavor to tackle these issues when they don't even exist on our own campus?

It is our responsibility to look past our immediate surroundings and reach out to help others. "Kol Yisrael Aravim Zeh Lazeh" are not just the words to a nice song, but a responsibility that each Jew has to ensure the safety and happiness of his fellow Jews. While it may seem like a colossal task to undertake, it all starts with "just a minute of your time," and then "you too can make a difference."

To help achieve this, a new club, the Yeshiva University Public Action Committee (YUPAC), is starting on the Stern and Yeshiva campuses this semester. The club has been formed with the goal of effecting change in issues pertaining to the Jewish community at large. While we will be sponsoring speakers to address our campuses about the pertinent issues, we are most importantly an *action* committee. All our programs will involve actually tackling the issues that we are learning about

in an effort to really make a difference.

The first task we will be undertaking this coming semester is helping our fellow students on other campuses who face anti-Semitism and anti-Israel biases. We have spent the summer networking with student leaders and activists from various colleges who will contact us when a problem arises on their campuses. One of the greatest problems in fighting such situations is that on any given campus the Jews and the Israel sympathizers often make up such a small minority—and that's where YUPAC comes in. We will provide the numbers, as well as the voices, to help equalize the playing field. We will mobilize students from our campus as well as those from other colleges who are committed to the cause. What we need is for students from Yeshiva University to come and fill the seats when another college is holding a protest. What we need is for you to write letters to editors of other campuses' newspapers when anti-Semitic or biased pieces are published. What we need from you are just those few

minutes of your time. All those minutes added together can, in fact, bring about a positive change.

We also plan on running other programs over the next semester. We recognize that Yeshiva University students will be foremost figures in society, and accordingly, we are launching the Proud to Be Jewish Campaign, which will bring current Jewish leaders from political, communal and business realms to address the leaders of tomorrow about the challenges of living a public life as a Jew and the importance of being involved in the community. We hope that students will be able not only to learn and be inspired by these leaders, but to perhaps establish connections with them which may assist them in the future.

Additionally, we hope to run a lobbying mission to Washington along with the support of the Political Science Society and the Israel Club. Last year YU ran a successful mission to Washington, lobbying Congress to support a bill to prevent Iran's proliferation of nuclear weapons. While we have

not yet determined the message of this year's mission, we will once again send a group of passionate student leaders to Washington to lobby for issues pertinent to the Jewish community. We will also present the congressmen with the student-run "Israel Solidarity Petition" that we began last year. Over two months we managed to collect over twelve hundred signatures from the Yeshiva University community. This is a testament to the difference each person can make.

As the semester begins, look around school for postings about our opening event and our website. Speak to your friends from other colleges and see if they would be interested in getting involved. Most of all, sign up to be part of YUPAC because with *your* help we really can make an impact.

*For more information or to become more involved, please email Aviva Horowitz at [always-blve@aol.com](mailto:always-blve@aol.com) or Avi Posnick at [posman25@aol.com](mailto:posman25@aol.com).*

### A Message from Academic Advisement:

A first time on campus (FTOC) student meets a returning student and the following conversation ensues:

FTOC: I can't believe I'm actually starting college. What if I can't handle it? This class I'm taking has so much work already. The professor expects us to read 100 pages a night! I'll never get through it all. CORE, how do I know which course counts for what? And what is CORE anyway?

STOC: Don't panic! I also felt overwhelmed my first year on campus. I'd call home everyday with ten-thousand complaints. But within a few weeks, I started to feel better. I fell into a routine.

FTOC: What routine? In high school everything was laid out for us. Now they want us to pace ourselves over the entire semester. I can't even keep up with the weekly reading. It's tempting to go to class unprepared, but I know it will catch up to me later. Should I drop this course or what? I don't think I'll be able to handle it. I'm not a fast reader and with all my other courses, I'm worried I'll mess up.

STOC: You know, last semester I was freaking out over my chemistry class. I was having trouble reading the textbook. I would read a page and have to stop. I wasn't processing anything. I went to see an academic advisor. She patiently listened to my complaints and when I finished, we opened the text and read it together. She showed me some pointers about sorting information. I nearly doubled my grade on the next test.

FTOC: I thought academic advisors were only available to sign us into classes.

STOC: Things have changed! They not only sign us into classes, but help us choose courses, give us study support, guide us through rules and regulations, and just really listen to all of our concerns. They are here to help us plan our academic college experience to make things run as smoothly as possible.

FTOC: Where do I find an academic advisor?

GET THE MESSAGE?  
WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO VISIT.  
LET US GET TO KNOW YOU.

WE ARE LOCATED IN THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN IN  
ROOMS 104, 105, 106.  
Miriam Schechter, Director  
Rochelle Mogilner  
Dr. Gail Gumora

## Misplaced Envy? The Grass Seems Awfully Greener on the YC Side

BY TOVA STULMAN

Whenever I reveal my feelings of envy towards the YC men for their Washington Heights locale, away from the epicenter of the City, I inevitably get some strange looks and outraged exclamations. "But the shopping!" my friend Fraidy will say. "The culture!" my father will say. "The fact that we're in the middle of nowhere!" my YC acquaintances will say. I cannot deny the shopping mecca that is Herald Square, located mere blocks away from Stern, but as someone who seems to shop a lot less than many of my Stern peers, and certainly less than my friend Fraidy, I cannot feign too much excitement about the nearby shopping attractions.

The culture of midtown Manhattan is undeniable, but I'd be lying if I said I was taking advantage of the array of enriching opportunities available in the city in the forms of museums, plays and exhibits. Trying to manage schoolwork, extracurricular activities, and squeezing in a social life somewhere leaves me, and many other students, very little free time to pursue the enriching of the mind that my father likes to talk about. As for the fact that the YC campus

seems to be situated in the middle of nowhere, it might seem a bit random, as if a small Jewish community had been plucked from somewhere and transplanted smack in the middle of a vibrant Cuban and Dominican community. However, the long stretch of YU territory offers an almost tranquil and quaint feel—the grassy lawn, the benches and tables alongside the street. Trying to lounge around beside the extremely busy 34th Street—well, it just won't quite work, especially if you value your life.

People often argue that Stern has a unique campus, an urban city setting, certainly besting the uptown campus at least in location. Yet upon reflection, I realize that while it is, at least initially, great to have the liveliest city in the world as our "campus," it doesn't seem very conducive to fostering a united campus feeling. Dormitories and school buildings are blocks apart, and while I can appreciate the skyrocketing rents and atrocious real estate configurations of this great city that no doubt make it difficult to consolidate all Stern buildings on one city street, it doesn't help to foster a united feeling, instead giving the appearance of rather separate entities that come together for

classes several times a week.

I confess that for me, the hustle and bustle of Midtown Manhattan lent a glamorous and oh-so-sophisticated world-weary tinge to my college experience, with modestly dressed Stern students seamlessly (or not always so seamlessly) blending in with arguably the most diverse group of people in the world.

But after the initial excitement I've grown somewhat jaded. I attribute my feelings of ennui to being the source of my lack of initiative in embracing Manhattan culture. Many popular college campuses like Binghamton, Cornell, and even Harvard, are located *near* a major city, not smack in the middle of one, and so seeking out excitement and cultural opportunities becomes a stimulating challenge, something to do when you grow bored of your tucked-away-in-a-nook-of-civilization status.

Though Washington Heights is not exactly a rustic little niche, it does have more of an isolated feel than Midtown does. I long to be located in one of those nooks so I can once again become excited for the best of Manhattan.

Do you care about anything?  
Opinions: [tstulman@yu.edu](mailto:tstulman@yu.edu)



# A Message From Your Presidents



DEENA HASSAN  
SCW STUDENT COUNCIL  
PRESIDENT

This is my first article in the first paper of my last year in Stern College for Women. In life, things happen for the first time only once, and it has always been my goal to make the first time important and memorable. The concept of time is continuously on my mind; the idea that it will never again be September 6, 2005 is important to remember. If we all understood that statement to its fullest we might put more effort into the things we do, or make sure we take advantage of the time we have and be as productive as we can be. For

example, I have chosen to devote my time to Stern this year to be Student Council president so that I can make the most of my college experience.

When I began Stern College in the spring semester of 2004 I did not fully appreciate the importance of time. I was not the same person you know today or will know tomorrow. I was the student who sat in the back of the classroom, who picked up dinner at the end of the day and went back to my room and ate alone watching a movie; I was the girl who packed up every Shabbat and traveled all over the New York area to find a home cooked meal.

However, all that changed at the end of the spring semester when my Resident Assistant, Molly Fink, convinced me to get involved. I went to one or two events and stayed in school for Shabbat, which allowed me to realize how much time I had wasted by not participating. I thought if I became more involved in school activity I could make a difference, so I ran and was elected junior class president for the 2004-2005 academ-

ic year.

Getting involved in Stern completely changed my outlook on school. I began to enjoy my time more and I began to benefit from my classes more; instead of getting excited for vacation time, I dreaded it. I also decided to spend the majority of my Shabbat in the dorms; taking advantage of the Shabbat Enhancement Program that Stern provides made a huge impact on my college experience.

I tell you this not to plug different programs and not to tell you that Stern is enjoyable only if you run for a student body position. I am trying to give you some friendly advice, student to student. The best way to enjoy your time at Stern College is to get involved and to participate in the many programs we will be providing. The student leaders are here for you, so take advantage of what we have to offer. Don't sit in your room and eat your dinner, and don't feel that you need to leave for Shabbat. Make this school your home, and try to make every minute one to remember.



HILLARY LEWIN  
TAC PRESIDENT

Beginnings are always difficult. I know this sounds trite, so I'm going to modify the cliché. It is precisely the difficulty one faces at a certain point that can create a beginning. With each day, we are given opportunities for beginnings when faced with something unfamiliar. Upon experiencing a new event there is always a possibility for growth, depending on how the event is perceived, interpreted and how we choose

to act as a result. It is easy to notice something new, appreciate it for its unfamiliarity and choose not to act on it. It is even easier to ignore everything that is irrelevant to one's life and to solely involve oneself with activities and interests that are comfortable and familiar. I believe, however, that these two attitudes are the antithesis of an ideal college experience.

College is a time for awakening new interests, developing character, exploring spirituality, setting goals and creating relationships that will hopefully last a lifetime. Please take advantage of these precious years at Stern College. The more effort we put in to our experience here, the more growth we will be able to achieve both personally and as a university. With each new challenge we create for ourselves, the concept of "beginnings" becomes so much more pleasant.

This year, the Torah Activities Council (TAC) aims to provide learning programs as well as entertaining events ranging from *chagigot* and concerts to diverse *shabbatonim* and *chessed* opportunities that are tailored for every "flavor" of Jew at Stern College for Women. Thankfully, our student body is diverse enough that TAC has the ability to be creative and flexible with our student activities.

This year's TAC board is comprised of unbelievably dynamic and diverse women, each with their own visions and goals for the year. Together we will work to accomplish them all. Ariella Weisz (vice president), Tiffany Khalil (vice president), Racheli Braverman (secretary), Ettie Zerykier (treasurer) and I are prepared and excited to serve the student body to the best of our capabilities.

Of course, the activities can-

not be successful without suggestions, participation and feedback from the student body! We are approachable and open to your ideas and comments. Please visit the TAC office located on the sixth floor next to the Beit Midrash to hang out, help plan events, offer suggestions for improvement, or develop your own program! In the meantime, look out for signs, read your emails and listen for announcements about the various TAC events to come this month.

I highly encourage each student attending Stern to create personal beginnings through challenging yourself. Challenge your mind. Challenge your character. Challenge your soul. Use the tools available here to develop your interests, find time to introspect and to discover hobbies or subjects you thought you would never appreciate. May each one of you be blessed with

the ability to make the most of your year and to maximize your time here in Stern to strengthen your Jewish identity, to be involved, and to grow from every beginning you encounter.

RIVKA KAHN  
SSSB STUDENT COUNCIL  
PRESIDENT

I would like to start off my first of many columns in this venerable newspaper by welcoming everyone back. I hope everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing summer and is now ready for a phenomenal year ahead. My board and I, along with Deena Hassan, Hillary Lewin and the rest of SCW and TAC student councils, have spent an immense amount of time planning the upcoming year. We have many amazing activities, exciting speakers and

tremendous events planned. You will hear more about those events as the year progresses, but take it from me: they are not to be missed. Now I'd like to touch on a few issues that relate to the business school.

First of all, as many of you know, Dean Jaskoll is now the interim dean of Sy Syms. I can assure you that Dean Jaskoll, my board and I will work closely together this year to make sure that the needs and wants of all SSSB students will be met and fulfilled. Please know that Dean Jaskoll has an open door policy and he is always looking to help students,

especially with their transition from summer to school.

The events that Sy Syms School of Business hosts are not only fun programs and great opportunities to meet fellow business students, but also great networking and carrier-building activities. With every program my board and I plan we have your future aspirations in mind. The business world is all about what you know and who knows you know it. It is no secret that networking plays a large role in a successful career in business and we hope to facilitate the students of Sy Syms School of Business in networking as much

as we can. All of our events have the students' needs in mind. For example, coming up soon is the Sy Syms reception on September 20. That night there will be a club fair where you can get information about all the different clubs and events SSSB has to offer. We will also be hosting a guest speaker to kick off a new series that we will be having this year. Of course, as always there will be great food and gifts for all! Keep an eye open for the Sy Syms Shabbaton which will be taking place the following Shabbat with a special guest. Another highlight for everyone to look forward to is the annual

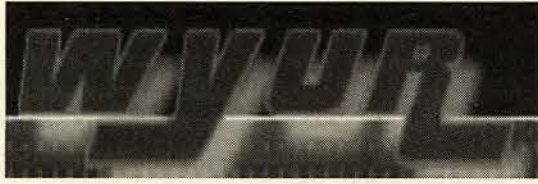
Sy Syms dinner, which helps with the networking process and is a fun evening out!

SSSB also offers you a great career placement and advisement office, whose staff will sit down with you and go the extra step to help you refine your résumé and interviewing skills. This is just a taste of what is in store for you this year at the Sy Syms School of Business. My board and I are really looking forward to an exciting year and I hope you're all ready to join us in what's sure to be a fantastic time.



## NEWS

## The Future of WYUR



BY SARA CHAMAMA

Israel has had one. While the United States has not, Britain, Sri Lanka, India, Canada and a handful of other countries have. Now, to join the elite ranks of female leaders is Rachel Levinson, the first female station manager of Yeshiva University's radio station, WYUR.

In the past, the position has always gone to a Yeshiva College student for logistical reasons more so than for discriminatory ones. The radio station itself is situated on the Wilf Campus in the Schottenstein Cultural Center, making it more practical and easier for a YC student to be the station manager. "It had been an old boys' club for 25 years," says Levinson regarding WYUR, "but my new board doesn't think twice over the fact that I'm not part of the old boys' club."

"It was less complicated than you think," said last year's station manager Moshe Glasser about the decision to appoint Levinson to the position. "She had more experience than anyone else at the station. She's been part of the team from early on, so she has a good sense of

the future of the station and its long-term goals."

While most of Levinson's long-term goals sound rather ambitious, they also sound fun, exciting and useful. They range from podcasting the shows (don't expect to see this one until spring semester), to broadcasting *shiurim* from 7 a.m. until noon, to archiving old shows so that if you missed your favorite show the night before, you can listen to it the next day. The station is also updating their equipment this year. "The equipment we have now is very old," explains Levinson, "it's been around since the 70's. A few things have happened since then," she says between laughs.

Her aspirations for the station go beyond the technical and mechanical to extend into the realm of personal, person-to-person contact. "The station is not just a place to come, do your work, and then leave," she explains. "It's more the type of place where you come to enjoy yourself, meet people and have fun. It's a very relaxing environment."

"People complain that there's nothing to do," Levinson continues. "Other colleges have frat houses, and while we're not

a frat house, it's a great place to hang out. Through the station, I have gotten to know so many students. It's a huge network of friends that you wouldn't otherwise have."

Auditions for new D.J.s begin the week of September 12, and interested students should email [radioyu@gmail.com](mailto:radioyu@gmail.com) for more information. "WYUR is not like any other college radio station," assures Levinson. "We don't force D.J.s to play any particular music, or anything. They pretty much have free reign."

On September 28, a big party is planned at the station for new and old staff to meet and mingle. Non-staff are encouraged to join as well. "Anybody from the outside can come to hang out," Levinson offers. "Some of our best shows evolved from people who were just hanging out in the station with their friends, and decided to go on-air." You can also listen live, starting after the *chagim* at [wyur.org/live.html](http://wyur.org/live.html).

Who knows? Maybe this upcoming year Levinson will finally achieve her dream of WYUR "becoming the voice of YU and being the central nervous system of all of YU."

## New Basic Jewish Studies Track

continued from front page

advanced than the other. Although some of the women taking part in the program will be foreign students, many will not. Class will go from nine a.m. to noon Monday through Thursday, creating a framework for the start of the day while fostering a supportive community-like environment during this transitional educational experience.

This comprehensive schedule will be accompanied by many informal events, including *shabbatonim* and trips, as well as informal programming run by TAC one evening a week. "The goal here is to immerse them in these studies so that they can master both the necessary text and thinking (and learning) skills to move up to the intermediate level after a year or two," says Kanarfogel, and so that "these students learn and grow in an environment that is most productive for them while integrating into the larger Jewish studies pro-

gram and Stern College community."

The general plan is for the students to be in BJST for their first and second years of Stern, and by their third year they should be at the level where they can integrate into more advanced Judaic studies courses. Zelda Braun, dean of Student Affairs, also stressed the importance that will be placed on exposing these students to different Jewish communities since many of the students have never been extensively involved with one.

NCSY and other programs that involve those who have a minimal Jewish educational background and are interested in a Jewish college education are feeder programs for BJST.

Dr. Hillel Davis, university vice president of Student Life, noted that many students who take interest in Jewish life during their high school years do not have many options for a significantly structured environment

where they can continue that interest on the university level. With enthusiasm and optimism, Davis asserts that "we owe it to ourselves as a Jewish community to do it right," and that we intend to "revisit, reenergize and reinvest," in the Judaic Studies Department in Stern.

Hopes run high for the success of the program. Those involved in planning the BJST are confident and eager to see to its success. An all-encompassing Jewish educational experience is both thrilling and appropriate for Stern College, and expectantly only the start of a better structured and more developed Judaic Studies Department reaching to all levels of learning.

Looking for Weekend Plans?  
Why not stay in?

BY RIVVY ACKERMAN

The Stern Shabbat experience exposes a different side of Stern College than the one visible during the week. Without the usual chaos, food lines and study sessions flooding the cafeteria, Shabbat infuses the caf with a unique sense of calm and peacefulness. The tables are rearranged in a friendlier, more intimate setup, and the never-ending food lines are replaced with student waiters and waitresses who bring food to each table. The number of students who typically stay in the college fluctuates between 100 and 150 students, depending on the Shabbaton planned for that weekend.

Each week, the Shabbat Enhancement Program plans a Shabbaton sponsored by a club, often involving the club's counterpart at Yeshiva College. Each Shabbat is designed by fellow students to create a structured, yet relaxed atmosphere. The goal of the Shabbat programming according to Dean of Students David Himber is "to provide the students with the best, academically and intellectually, and to make sure students enjoy themselves. We are building a community and we view the Shabbat enhancement programming as an integral part of community building."

It is one of many ways that YU continues to challenge students beyond the classroom. Dr. Efreim Nulman, senior university dean of students, commented that "our hopes are to do two things; one is to get as many students as possible to stay in for Shabbat and two is to change the programming in order to accomplish number one."

To improve attendance for Shabbat at Stern, Special speakers are often brought in to educate and inform the students regarding numerous topics of interest. Last year's Israel Club Shabbaton, which attracted over 200 Yeshiva University students as well as students from other colleges, brought in popular talk show host Dennis Prager and esteemed Harvard

Professor Ruth Wisse, among others, to offer their unique views and opinions regarding politics in the Middle East.

While flying in speakers and arranging interesting discussions and workshops is sure to keep some students on campus for the weekend, there are still other reasons for students to stay in Stern for Shabbat. However tempting it may be for students hailing from New York and New Jersey to flee home for Shabbat, staying on campus gives students the opportunity to meet men and women who are not members of their college classes, hometowns or high schools, and gives them a chance to form new friendships that might not have otherwise been formed.

In addition to meeting new friends by staying in, Shabbat is also a great time to spend with old friends that students may never see during the busy weekdays spent studying and attending class.

"My favorite part about staying in for Shabbat is not having to make Shabbat plans, pack a bag and worry about transportation," says Talia Weiss, a senior from Cleveland. "For out-of-towners, it gets tiring to scramble around each week for Shabbat plans and constantly be coming and going. What I sometimes most prefer is being in my own room and spending Shabbat with my friends."

These efforts are in response to students from outside of New York who share a common feeling of disappointment when half the school leaves for the weekend instead of staying in and adding to the sense of togetherness experienced only on Shabbat. A few of these students wrote a letter to the SCW Board of Directors about improvements for the Beren campus and stated: "For those of us who do not live in the New York area, we feel as if we are attending a commuter school; the large majority of students flee Manhattan for home on Thursday afternoon leaving the 'out-of-towners' to fend for themselves."

Write for News:  
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## Peer Advisors

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first semester on campus. According to Grunseid, the advisors will go out with their group around once a month to accomplish this, whether to hang out at an arcade, to go bowling, or just to chat over a slice of pizza. The goal of this multi-faceted program, according to the "Guide to Peer Advisement," a booklet put together by Presidential Fellow Diana Benmergui, is "to help acclimate and transition new incoming students into college life."

To best accomplish this goal, both types of advisors attended two special training sessions the week before orientation, run by co-coordinators Karen Feit and Yael Grunseid. In addition to developing and running the training sessions, SCW seniors Feit and Grunseid also created schedules so each peer advisor would know what job they needed to do during orientation to make the program run as smoothly as possible. The co-coordinators contacted every advisor and dealt with any complications that came up.

While Stern College has always had some type of Peer Advisory Program, this year's agenda was more extensive than in years past, according to SCW Dean of Student Life Zelda Braun. Every year there is a review of the orientation in hopes of making improvements, she said, and one issue raised at last year's meeting was peer advisory.

This topic was of particular concern to Benmergui, who ran the student orientation last year. Upon reflecting on the program, she realized that a more long-term connection between new students and established students was needed, as incomers have many questions and do not know where to turn. Thus, in her new position as presidential fellow, Benmergui made the project a priority, meeting with Dean Braun, Feit, and Grunseid to develop it as a supplementary program to the already-existing P2P peer counseling program, also led by Feit and Grunseid. Discussions about the Peer Advisory Program led to a program with increased training as well as plans for more lasting

relationships between the students involved, including joint activities for advisors and new students.

The outcome, according to most, was a delightful success. One parent coming from Venezuela who was waiting in the check-in line in front of Brookdale remarked, "It is so warm over here, so warm - I want to go back to college now!" Another parent, who has a daughter who already graduated Stern in addition to a daughter who is beginning college, noted that every year there are more and more improvements to the program.

New students found the program to be helpful. Rina Pekar, a new student arriving as a sophomore from Germany, commented about the program, "It's great; I think everyone is very friendly even though we just met for a second, they helped me set up a schedule and figure out how everything works her." Pekar also found the easily identifiable shirts a plus.

Shira Margulies, a new student entering Stern as a sophomore, also had challenges finding her way around. However, she noted that the peer advisors contacted the students before school, so she did not really have any questions upon arrival. Perhaps an idea to improve on next year would be to have an on-campus meeting between new students and their advisors to become familiar with the geography of the campus.

The challenges, especially for overseas students such as Pekar, are overwhelming, and Feit and Grunseid have already noted that another point to improve upon for next year is to have special, separate advisors for international students.

Overall, however, the program was successful and appreciated. In the words of Karen Feit, "We really feel like we've helped out a lot of people, whether with schedules, or directing them where to go, where the Levy Lobby is, where Koch is, and just really answering questions."

## Night Seder

*continued from front page*

and English, and night seder is a way to emphasize the value of learning *Torah lishma* (Torah for its own sake), and for some students, to make a distinction between their English homework and their Bible homework.

At the beginning of the evening, Shira Schwartz of Cleveland, Ohio gave a *d'var Torah* (short address), discussing the value the Rambam puts on learning Torah specifically at night, as well as setting aside a fixed time each day for Torah study.

The night, she said, represents difficulty and lack of clarity. The achievement in learning Torah comes when we challenge ourselves and set aside time each day to learn, despite

the difficulty. She commended the participants for setting aside time at night for Torah learning, and expressed the hope that this would continue. Other students also conveyed excitement over the turnout and anticipation for a successful year.

"I think it's beautiful

and I think it's beautiful" students were taken aback by the number of women who gathered in the Beit Midrash Wednesday evening. In the words of Ariel Belson, "I'm really happy, but I'm not surprised. Stern is filled with awesome students who are yearning to learn Torah."



that there are so many people here," commented Meira Levinson, a senior at the University of Pennsylvania who was visiting the Beit Midrash that night. But not all Stern stu-

In explaining both the immediate and far-sighted goals, Lindenbaum said, "We're hoping that night seder will provide a forum for people to come together and learn Torah in a comfortable, open atmosphere. We're hoping a consistent group of students will come and form a community that in the future can not only learn for their own personal growth, but will also be of service to the larger community of women who learn Torah."

## Center for the Jewish Future

*continued from front page*

ing programming. Rabbi Brander will give a *shiur* on Wednesday, September 14 at 2:40 p.m. in the Levy Lobby on the Beren Campus and at 9:40 p.m. in the main Beit Midrash on the Wilf Campus. "We are excited to introduce the Center for the Jewish Future's activities to Yeshiva University's students," Rabbi Brander announced in a press release. "Students can get involved in a multitude of ways, assisting communities locally, nationally, and abroad."

The Center subsumes currently existing and active programs under its umbrella organization and creates new programming. Several student-run groups, such as Teach for Israel, which trains YU students to run informal educational programs on Israel advocacy in yeshiva high schools, and Lman Achai, which raises funds to feed Israelis in need, are now under the auspices of the Center. Describing the relationship between the university administration and the students who run Lman Achai, Hillel Rapp, who works for the Department for Community Initiatives, says that "Last year's efforts to feed Israel's hungry were so popular that it really brought Lman Achai to a different level. It became clear that the initiative was too large not to have a professional staff, and so, the CJF has taken it on and approved a budget for the program." Rapp stressed that the program would continue to be a student-run program.

Aside from sponsoring

internal YU groups, the CJF aims to reach out to Jewish communities on a larger scale. To observe Tisha B'av last month, for example, Rabbi Schacter led a full-day program at Congregation Keter Torah of Teaneck. After delivering a *shiur* called "The Dialectic of Tisha B'Av: Mourning and Consolation" to an audience of several hundred, he conducted the reading and studying of *kinot* based on the explanations of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveichik. Rabbi Schacter is also coordinating a *yarchei kallah* in Teaneck from September 12 through 14 for over 40 rabbis. The schedule includes a two-part lecture by Rabbi Schacter called "The Life and Works of Rashi: On the 900<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Death," two addresses by Rabbi Brander, and a workshop by Yocheved Schacter, a licensed social worker and a psychoanalyst, entitled "Where Do I Turn? Balancing Family and Community."

The Center has also expressed its intention to coordinate with Yeshiva and Stern student leaders in organizing and developing programming. In August, Rabbi Brander met with several student representatives to generate ideas for helping the recently displaced Israelis from Gaza.

Yael Schiller, co-president of the Israel Club, characterized the relationship between the CJF and student leaders in positive terms. "The Center for the Jewish Future, under the auspices of Rabbi Brander, is committed to student-initiated campaigns," says Schiller. "This ini-

tiative, as well as anything else that comes out of the Center, will be what the *students* aspire, and represent what the *students* feel is valuable."

Though the meeting was "largely a brainstorming session" according to Schiller, specific responses to disengagement were discussed. "The first idea was to raise money," says Hillary Lewin, president of the Torah Activities Council (TAC), "and the second was to actually send YU students to Israel to provide aid to families. It has not been decided yet, but hopefully the money collected will be distributed directly to a cause such as donating computers to a new school, or helping to build a shul."

The political sensitivity of the recent disengagement from Gaza seemed to not be an issue at this meeting. "We felt that it was important to leave politics at the door," says Schiller. "At the end of the day there are fellow Jews without homes, schools and basic needs. Regardless of how each of us felt regarding the disengagement, we are all committed to helping these communities."

The Center's outreach extends beyond its own campuses, as plans are in development for possible visits to other college campuses. Additionally, participation in this year's United Jewish Communities General Assembly, which will take place on November 13 through 16, will be sponsored by the CJF. A 20 or 30-person delegation is expected to attend the conference, including the Shabbat before the actual event.

Join the Observer  
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# The Downtown Connection: Election Season

BY SARA CHAMAMA

*So much happens around us, and for a majority of us here at Stern (note, please, that I do not want to speak for everyone or make sweeping generalizations), we walk obliviously on. A friend of mine who graduated last year used to lament over how many people she knew at Stern never stepped outside of the little bubble that is Beren Campus, from Madison to Lexington, and (now this is if you're lucky) from 29th to 36th Street. "You live in the city," she would say. "Walk around! Walk to Central Park, Washington Square Park, Union Square, Times Square. Go exploring!" We live in The City, The Big Apple, Gotham City, The City That Never Sleeps (which is a good thing, because neither do we!), the Capital of the World. This column will take advantage of the abundance of happenings (usually political) and aims to inform, enlighten and maybe even allow Sternettes to become more involved in the world around them. It's not that scary of a place. I promise. Just take a look around. Enjoy.*

The major event upcoming in New York City's political landscape, which anyone who deems herself a New Yorker should know about, is, of course, the elections. The last time New York held citywide elections was in the shadow of September 11th. Now, four years later, we have an opportunity to take stock and see what needs to be changed and improved.

The most important of the elections this year will be that of mayor. Current Republican NYC

Mayor Michael Bloomberg (MikeBloomberg.com) will be running for reelection. Opposing Mayor Mike, for the Democrats are: Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer (ferrer2005.com), Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields (www.mbpo.org), NYC Council Speaker A. Gifford Miller (www.millerfornewyork.com), and United States Congressman Anthony Weiner (anthonyweiner.com).

The polls show Bloomberg ahead of all the opposition, despite the fact that the mayor is a Republican in a heavily Democratic town. He even has strong showing in the Hispanic communities, even though Ferrer is Puerto Rican. Ferrer has the second most support, and the rest of the candidates are close behind. A Marist Poll reported on August 10 states that three-quarters of the voters polled believed that it doesn't matter who wins the Democratic primary because Mayor Bloomberg will still win the general election.

"Look, I am just going to focus on a couple of things," Bloomberg said in June. "One is bringing crime down, two is improving the school system, three is building housing in this city, and four is bringing jobs to this city... I'll let the politics take care of themselves."

While the mayoral election is certainly the most notable upcoming election, it is by no means the only election. Also on the ballot are City Council members, city comptroller, public advocate, borough presidents, judges (both for the New York



City Supreme Court, as well as for civil court), and the district attorneys for Brooklyn and Manhattan.

The responsibilities of some of these jobs are obvious, such as the judges. But what exactly does the city comptroller do? The comptroller, who is elected to a 4-year term with a yearly salary of \$160,000, is responsible for all the finances of New York, including the issuing and selling of city bonds.

The position of public advocate is a recent addition—only 16 years old—and an interesting job. In the words of current Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum (www.betsy2005.com), the job of public advocate is defined in that "the difference between calling 311 and calling us is that you actually get a live person who will help you solve your problems." The public advocate reviews complaints from citizens about city problems, stands in line to replace the mayor if the mayor is away or ill, and can break a tie vote in City Council. Some candidates for public advocate are campaigning on quirky campaign positions; Andrew Rasiej (www.advocatesforrasiej.com/) wants free wireless internet access all over the city and Jim Lesczynski (www.leszczynski.com/) promises, "If I am elected public advocate, I promise to report to work just long enough to fire the staff

and padlock the office."

It is also interesting to note that Beren Campus is located in City Council's District 2. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, District 2 is nearly 56 percent white, 7 percent black, 11 percent Asian and 22 percent Hispanic. It is made up of the Lower East Side, Alphabet City, the East Village, Gramercy Park, and Murray Hill (that's us!). There are no incumbents running for City Council in our district, so the election is a free-for-all. The New York Times called District 2 "the most hotly contested City Council district race[s] in Manhattan." The candidates are:

Michael Beys [www.mike-beys.com](http://www.mike-beys.com)

Darren Bloch [www.blochforcouncil.com/site/](http://www.blochforcouncil.com/site/)

Joan Brightharp (no website)

John Carlino [www.carlinoforcouncil.com](http://www.carlinoforcouncil.com)

Brian Kavanagh [www.kavanaghforcouncil.com](http://www.kavanaghforcouncil.com)

Mildred Martinez (no website)

Rosie Mendez [www.rosiemendez.com/](http://www.rosiemendez.com/)

Christopher Papajohn

[www.chrispapajohn.com/en/index.php](http://www.chrispapajohn.com/en/index.php)

Daniel Peterson [www.petersonfornyc.com](http://www.petersonfornyc.com)

Gur Tsabar [www.gurforcity-council.com](http://www.gurforcity-council.com)

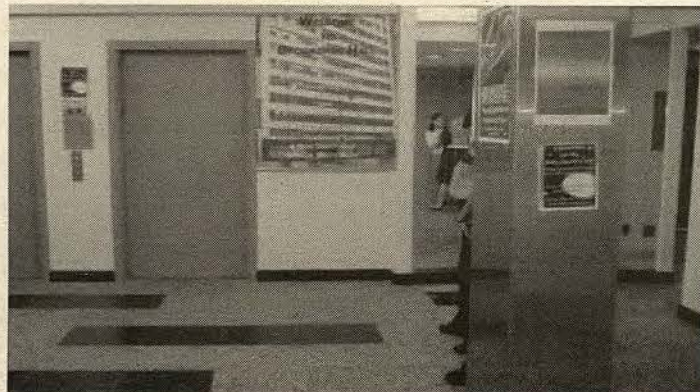
So how can you join the fray and vote? Well, I'm so glad you asked; it's really very easy. First of all, you must be registered to vote in New York. To be qualified to vote in New York you must be a citizen of the United States, a resident of New York City for at least thirty days (which you will be by the time elections roll around), 18 years of age by election time, not be serving jail time (which I hope you aren't), not be adjudicated mentally incompetent by a court, and not claim the right to vote elsewhere outside New York City.

To find the registration form, go to: [www.vote.nyc.ny.us/pdf/forms/boe/voterreg/voterregenglish.pdf](http://www.vote.nyc.ny.us/pdf/forms/boe/voterreg/voterregenglish.pdf)

The form must be mailed in 25 days before Election Day, so if you are not already registered to vote, then I'm sorry to say that you have missed the deadline for the September 13 primaries. However, as long as you send in the registration form by October 15, you're good to go for the General Elections on November 8.

## Campus Renovations

*from right, clockwise: Brookdale Hall entrance, expanded exercise room, lobby, 245 Lex cafeteria*





UNIVERSITY BRIEFS

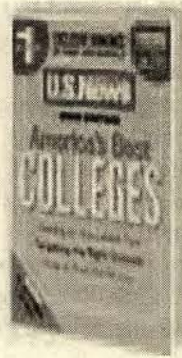
**Yeshiva University ranked with Columbia and NYU as top three national research universities in New York area**

The rankings are out. US News and World Report has ranked Yeshiva University 45<sup>th</sup> among national universities, one step up in the ranking from last year. There are only three universities in the New York area to be named within the top fifty. It is very encouraging to note that for the last ten years YU has been included in the rankings as a top-tiered school.

YU ranked lower than other top-tiered universities in acceptance rates. The acceptance rate at YU is 83%, while at most schools in the top tier it is significantly lower. Analysis of the SAT scores of incoming students to YU compared with students attending other high level universities indicates that the scores are comparable.

A school's ranking is based 75% on academic quality which is measured in a variety of

ways. The remaining 25% is based on surveys tallied from assessments done by peer educators. University officials are asked to rank the quality of academics at their school and schools within their group. Officials are asked to respond "Don't know" if unfamiliar with a school in their group. Graduation rates account for a large percentage of a school's academic quality. There are a total of fifteen fields of academic excellence that are evaluated. Each field is given a score and the weighted average is tallied. The colleges are ranked based on their overall weighted score.



**Tzelem: The First Incubator Project**

Tzelem is a nonprofit organization designed to address the issues of sexuality in the Orthodox community, the first Incubator Project implemented. The object of the Incubator Project is to provide financial support and resources to students and alumna involved in humanitarian affairs.

Tzelem, which means "image" in Hebrew, was created by YU alumni Jennie Rosenfeld and Koby Frances, who identified a need for an honest examination of sexuality and gender relationships in the Orthodox community.

The goal of Tzelem is to encourage discussion and a healthy approach to sexuality. Future planning for the program includes premarital counseling and seminars to aid students in their relationships with the opposite gender.

The daily management of the organization such as fundraising and events is the responsibility of Tzelem. However, the organizers of the program will have a consultative committee chosen by YU. Assistance from YU will be provided for three years to enable the organization to be self-sufficient.

**Associate Professor of Physics at Stern College, Dr. Anatoly Frenkel Obtains Research Grant**



Dr. Anatoly Frenkel, professor of physics at Stern College, received a \$900,000 grant from the United States Department of Energy. The grant is for \$300,000 per year for three years. Funds will be divided among Yeshiva

University and the University of Delaware and will be spent on upgrading the existing facilities at Brookhaven National Laboratory and building new ones dedicated to catalysis and nanoscience research. The funds will be used to create a Synchrotron Catalysis Consortium. The study will examine the mechanism of catalysis, a process that helps speed up chemical reactions making them more efficient. The grant will fund summer research internship positions for four undergraduates, two studying at YU and two from the University of Delaware. All four students will spend the summer at Brookhaven and will be in charge of research support of visiting research groups. Each student receives a \$5,000 grant for three months.

**Yeshiva in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina**

More than 500 students packed the main beit midrash in Zysman Hall on the Wilf Campus and in the cafeteria on the Beren Campus in Midtown to hear a videotaped plea from Yisroel Shiff, rabbi of Beth Israel Congregation in New Orleans. Rabbi Shiff was evacuated with his wife and seven children from New Orleans and spoke from a friend's home in Memphis, TN.

Rabbi Shiff began his brief but stirring presentation by addressing President Richard M. Joel, Chancellor Norman Lamm, dean of RIETS Rabbi Zevulun Charlop, dean of the Center for the Jewish Center Rabbi Kenneth Brander, and students of Yeshiva University, stressing that recuperating his community is something he not do alone and that he "greatly

appreciate[s] Yeshiva University's willingness to aid [him] in this true chesed (charitable good deed)."

Plans are underway for teams of YU students to provide frontline support for the refugee community.



Calendar of Events

September 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Orientation event: Billiards	2 Orientation event: Chessed project	3 ORIENTATION SHABBATON  Movie Marathon
4 Orientation event: Double Decker Bus	5 ROSH CHODESH ELUL  Night Seder	6 Orientation event: A night at Madame Tussauds	7  Night Seder	8 Orientation Event: Laser Park	9	10  SPANISH CLUB SHABBATON
11 9/11 Memorial Schottenstein Cultural Center	12 Blood Drive Koch Auditorium  Night Seder	13	14 -Film Festival: "Hiding and Seeking" -P2P event Night Seder	15	16	17  YACHAD SHABBATON
18  Orientation event: Great Adventure	19  Night Seder	20 -Sy Syms School of Business reception/club fair -Guest Speaker R' Hanoch Teller	21 CLUB FAIR  Night Seder	22	23	24 SY SYMS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS SHABBATON
25	26  Night Seder	27	28 -Israel Club event: guest speaker -WYUR welcoming event -Night Seder	29	30	



## THE ISRAEL SECTION

## Yavneh Olami SIP: A Vacation? Sort of

BY SARAH MATARASSO

The summer is finally slipping away and, as the semester begins, many students are probably thinking back to the freedom, fun and sunshine that was theirs not so long ago. Some wonder how they could have spent the precious time locked up in a stuffy office, suffering through a dreadfully boring internship they aren't quite sure how they managed to commit themselves to. Yet others were able to enjoy the best of both by participating in the Yavneh Olami Summer Internship Program (SIP), a special summer program that has been developing in Israel over the last few summers.

Gila Hoch, a sophomore at Barnard College, explained, "I had a great summer because I spent time in Israel, but was able to do something that would look good on a résumé as well." Most students feel pressure to spend their summers doing something that will look impressive on résumés or various applications, but dread the thought of a boring summer internship. SIP is a way to gain experience while meeting other college-aged students and spending time in Israel. Open to students who have completed at least one year of college, the internships can be very helpful for those trying to decide upon a major or who wish to get a closer look at possible career opportunities.

Hoch, who requested a med-

icine-related internship that would have her working with children, was placed in the Alin Rehabilitation Center, located in Jerusalem. Describing it as a hands-on volunteer position rather than as an internship, she says she was quickly put to work. While most of the hospital provides occupational and physical therapy, she was placed in the respiratory unit. "While many others in the program spent a fair amount of time sitting back to watch professionals at work, I spent a lot of time actually working with patients," says Hoch. While she doesn't know whether she would do the SIP again, she would consider another summer working in Alin.

Centrally located, the semi-nary buildings of Machon Gold were home to about 90 of the participants who lived in the official program housing located in the Emek Refaim area of Jerusalem. Although there were approximately 150 students on the program, many found their own accommodations.

There was also the option of enrolling in a joint program, incorporating the internship portion with Torah learning. These students lived in Michlelet Mevaseret Yerushalayim, dividing their time between *shiurim* and interning. Though they did not live in Machon Gold, they were also able to participate in the programs offered by the Yavneh Olami staff.

Aside from the housing

costs, the program fee of \$450 (which does not include airfare) included three shabbatonim, two of which were preceded by Friday *tiyulim* (trips) in Yerucham and Keshet Yonatan. Other *tiyulim* took place in Yaffo and the Old City of Jerusalem. Hoch participated in all three shabbatonim and greatly enjoyed them.

Brauna Doidge, a sophomore at the University of Toronto, opted out of this part of the program as this was her second summer with Yavneh Olami. Doidge spent the past two summers interning at the Shalem Center, a think tank operating out of Jerusalem. Unlike most other participants, she arranged for the internship herself; the center has its own application process.

Last summer, realizing that she would be virtually alone in Israel if she were not to affiliate herself with an organized program, Doidge paid a reduced fee of \$150 to Yavneh Olami, enabling her to attend various SIP events without committing to their housing arrangements. "It was a very convenient way to meet peers," says Doidge. "After work, I had people to see and activities to look forward to." She was impressed by the organizational character of the program.

Although the number of students almost doubled from 2004 to 2005, Doidge commented on how things were more "on time" this year and how smoothly

everything went. The second time around, she chose to live in Machon Gold with friends, explaining that "it was a great deal, and the location was very convenient."

Whereas Hoch's internship was arranged by Yavneh Olami and Doidge organized hers on her own, Jennifer Shuldiner, an SCW junior did a bit of both. Interested in learning more about the field of genetic counseling, she was placed by Yavneh Olami in Machon Puah, an organization run by various rabbis who give sessions around the country on topics relating to infertility and halakha. Aside from the sessions, counseling is provided to over 100 couples every day. They place *shomrim* (guards) to watch over procedures in infertility clinics, making sure that everything is done properly according to Jewish Law. The organization operates in five languages, and Shuldiner worked with Rabbi Weissman who heads the English-speaking division. Along with another SIP participant, she put together a survey that was sent out to the couples who had been in contact with Machon Puah.

However, there wasn't much more work for her to do there so she contacted the head of the volunteer department at Sha'arei Zedek hospital. Shuldiner was placed in the pediatric department where she spent three days a week over a span of three weeks. Aside from helping out

around the hospital, she had the opportunity to meet with doctors and nurses who provided her with information about career opportunities in Israel. She also attended a number of *aliya* informational sessions organized by Yavneh Olami aimed at providing the students with practical advice for moving to Israel. "Even though I felt the need to look into other volunteer opportunities," Shuldiner said, "I gained a lot from my original placement. But by doing the extra work, I was able to learn a lot more than I had originally thought I would."

These three students are among those who were able to enjoy the freedom and fun of summer while working productively at the same time. Although they each organized their summers in different ways, it was the Yavneh Olami set-up that allowed them to maximize their time in Israel. Whether it was biking around the Kinneret with friends, attending interesting lectures or just walking the streets of Jerusalem, what they all had in common was a summer to remember.

Anyone interested in finding out more information about the SIP or about Yavneh Olami in general, check out their website at [www.yavneholami.org](http://www.yavneholami.org).

Write for The Israel Section  
[matarass@yu.edu](mailto:matarass@yu.edu)

## Israel Club Aims to Inform and Act

BY Yael Schiller

Wherever you may have spent the summer, there is no doubt that you came across an image or a clip of the disengagement in Gaza. Regardless of personal political perspectives, I doubt there is a Jew in the world who was not deeply affected by the images of the recent disengagement. Now, more than ever, our solidarity with our brethren in Israel is of utmost importance. The Israel Club is committed to begin this year with expressing our solidarity via fundraising for the Jewish families of Gaza.

Last year, one of the Israel Club's greatest successes was raising awareness on campus of the situation in Israel. It is essential that students understand the roots of the conflict in Israel to understand the current events. I am excited to present our opening program with featured guest speaker Elliot

Chodoff on September 28. Captain Chodoff is a captain in the Israeli army and a political and military analyst specializing in the Middle East conflict and the global war on terror. He was extensively involved in the recent disengagement and is one of the most exciting speakers to discuss the current situation. We are fortunate that Captain Chodoff will be in the United States and has made time to visit Yeshiva University. This is a unique opportunity and I encourage you to attend.

The Israel Club depends on student involvement. Our board is comprised of students that are committed to ensure that the Israel Club is the most suitable outlet for each and every student to contribute and connect to Israel. The board includes Miriam Kahn, Rachie Jakobson, Shoshana Agetstein and Rachel Goldstein. We are excited to launch several initiatives such as speakers, discus-

sion groups, fundraising, *aliyah* promotion and much, much more! As president of the Israel Club, I am honored to be in an institution where I could take my love and passion for Israel and translate it into action, knowing that I have the full support of my university. Please feel free to contact me with ideas, questions and comments at [YaelSchiller@yahoo.com](mailto:YaelSchiller@yahoo.com) or just stop by my room in BRH 6G.

I strongly encourage each and every one of you to get involved. Do not underestimate the power each of us has to contribute to Israel. I look forward to a very exciting and fulfilling year to strengthen the connection that our university and the student body has with Israel.

*Yael Schiller is the co-president of the YU Israel Club*

## A Personal Perspective: Watching Disengagement

BY RACHELI DAVIES

Disengagement. Impending Doom. Helplessness.

When I was in Israel over this eventful summer, these feelings were constantly with me. Six weeks before the set date for the disengagement I was on my way home from the airport and was already thrust into the color war that was raging. There was the orange team who were anti the disengagement from Gaza battling the blue team, pro the government's decision to disengage. At every major intersection there were handfuls of people handing out ribbons with their team's color. Most of the cars passing through already had a ribbon hanging from their cars. This had been going on for some time.

From where I stood, the orange team seemed to be winning. Aside from the ribbons on the majority of cars passing by, there were tables set up throughout the streets of Yerushalayim selling bright orange Gush Katif T-shirts, bracelets and other paraphernalia. Much of the gear

was labeled with the slogan "yehudi lo m'garesh yehudi"—"a Jew does not uproot a fellow Jew." The inhabitants of Gush Katif were appealing to their government, to their army and to their fellow countrymen. They did not want to be dragged from their homes.

I was in Gush Katif just before it was closed off to non-residents. While I was there I saw a short film on how those communities had come into existence. I viewed scenes showing Ariel Sharon encouraging people to go and breathe life into the deserted land. Shortly after viewing the film I met a woman who had moved to Gush Katif 29 years ago, an *olah* from Brooklyn, NY. She led us through her greenhouse and told us how she was buying and planting seeds to be harvested months after the disengagement was set to take place. She didn't believe it was going to happen. The people of Gush Katif protested intensely and plastered the country in orange, with the faith that what was scheduled

*continued on page 15*



# SUMMER

## Ladin Begins ACLS Fellowship

BY SHOSHANA FRUCHTER

Though summer break usually evokes images of beaches, summer camps and, frankly, a respite from intense academic activity, many SCW professors spent their summer "break" hard at work. Dr. Jay Ladin, David and Ruth Gottesman professor of English, spent the past few months researching for his upcoming book which will explore the effects of democracy on language.

Ladin's busy summer marked the beginning of his sabbatical, made possible by the American Council of Learned Societies, a private non-profit federation which networks national scholarly organizations. The ACLS's competitive Fellowship Program awarded 60 scholars grants for postdoctoral research in humanities this year, giving Ladin \$30,000 to further develop his project, named

"Democracy, Diction, and the Birth of Modernist American Poetry."

The thesis, which builds primarily on research by Kenneth Cmiel, who documented "democracy's destabilizing effects on linguistic authority in America," explains the sudden shift in language in the early twentieth century. Poets like Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson who wrote with strange diction and a new creativity of language, Ladin argues, were "a belated adaptation of nineteenth-century rhetorical strategies for marshalling linguistic authority."

An extremely popular method of "marshalling linguistic authority"—establishing "who's the boss" via language—is the "middling style." Developed by Cmiel, this trick involves a speaker's manipulating his or her language to impress authority upon listeners without patronizing them.

The need for this technique is easily understood by way of a simple analogy. Ladin instructs, "Imagine (God forbid) that you are trapped with four other Stern students in an elevator. Each of you has a different idea about what you should do." Obviously, each person's goal is to convince the other three students that indeed her idea is the most effective so that they would get to work on implementing it (and hopefully get to class). But, Ladin asks, "How do you convince each other that YOUR voice is the voice that should be followed? That is, how do you gain the verbal authority over those who are your equals that is necessary to lead them?"

In such a case, each student would begin explaining to the others why she is the most qualified in the group to solve their elevator problem. Each

*continued on page 15*

## SCW Students Participate in YTS Summer Kollels

BY ABBY ATLAS

As a core value of Stern College for Women, Talmud Torah is not something limited only to the school year. This summer, under the auspices of the Max Stern Division of Community Services, students of both SCW and YC were sent to different communities all across the country to set up kollels. These kollels, collectively referred to as Yeshiva Torah Seminars, functioned as communal learning programs, allowing the students time to learn on their own, but they were primarily aimed at enhancing the learning and Jewish communal activity of the places to which they were sent.

The logistics of each kollel were custom-fit to the host community. The number of people sent, the length of time they stayed for, and the topics and level of *shiurim* all varied with

the location. The daily schedules of the Stern students also differed between one town and another. The general daily schedules included *minyanim* in a local Orthodox *shul*, meals either in the *shul* or in the homes of members of the community, *chavrutot* (study groups) with the local children and adults, and *shiurim* given and prepared by the Stern students.

The five-day learning program in Kansas City, Missouri presented the community with three *shiurim* on varying topics. Each of these classes had a large turnout of approximately twenty-five women attending each one. In addition to these adult-gear classes, a special *shiur* was arranged for teenage girls, drawing a crowd of fifteen. The *shiurim* had creative themes and were informative. Titles of the classes that were given included

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## High School Students Study in "Summer at YU"

BY AVIVA SEGELMAN

While the Wilf and Beren campuses were empty of Yeshiva University students this summer, they were filled with a different population: 28 high school students, from across the United States and Canada, who arrived in July to participate in "Summer at YU," YU's new and innovative program for high school students. These incoming seniors spent a month at YU studying Torah and science, getting to know New York and getting to know each other.

The program had assorted goals, but perhaps the most important of them was to present Yeshiva University to high school seniors, and by doing so, expose them to the Torah U'Madda philosophy and model of education. "I wanted to develop a program which reflected the university's mission of Torah and Madda, of knowledge and values," said Stern College for Women Dean Karen Bacon. As she disclosed to the group on their first Shabbat, YU embodies Judaism's definition of freedom. While most high school seniors look at college with a "free at last" attitude which translates into a discarding of restraint and a loss of direction, "Summer at YU" aimed to show seniors that freedom is not about lacking bounds. The independence that comes with college life carries with it a great responsibility, and "Summer at YU" sought to demonstrate that YU is the place

where both the freedom and the responsibility of college can coexist and work together.

From the students' perspective, this goal was accomplished. "It was an amazing experience," reflected Matt Williams of Atlanta, GA. "You take a bunch of kids from different places and backgrounds, throw them together in an environment that fosters the values of Torah U'Madda and look what you get," referring to the now-cohesive group who not only enjoyed the program, but "whose lives are changed for the better."

"Summer at YU" was unique because it was not a summer camp. Bacon considers this "a service to the Jewish community," something which YU makes a top priority and does on a regular basis. There were two additional objectives which go hand in hand: One was to enrich the academic experience in both Jewish and general studies of high school students from across the country, and the other was to expand their cultural horizons. YU prides itself on academic excellence in both areas and considers New York City its extended campus. "Summer at YU" gave its participants a month-long taste of the entire YU experience, and in doing so, was successful in achieving both of these goals.

The young men lived in Washington Heights and the young women were housed in Midtown, while everyone spent his or her morning in *shiur* and

afternoon in class. The male students could opt to study "The World of Finance and Investment" or "Explorations in Genetics and Molecular Biology." The biology class took place in the laboratory, introducing students to molecular biology, and the finance class took advantage of being in New York City. Students had the opportunity to visit places such as the New York Stock Exchange on Wall Street and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. The female students were also offered "Explorations in Genetics and Molecular



Biology," or they could enroll in "Computer Design," where they learned to use Macintosh computers to design various presentation materials, including web pages.

During the evenings, the two parts of the program joined and the routine varied. One night a week was movie night, another was set aside for college preparation, and each week the students had a free night during which they could go out with family and friends. The remaining evenings and the weekends were well spent getting a taste of the Big Apple.

"I wanted to be able to see the City and really experience New York," said Tali Abell of Chicago, Illinois. Tali was able to do just that; the program opened with a tour of Madison Square Garden and a scavenger hunt around Times Square. The group then went to the State Fair at the Meadowlands to enjoy July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks. Other exciting outings included the off-Broadway show "Stomp," a Mets game, a trip to the YU Museum, Madame Tussaud's Museum and the Empire State Building. The students heard from Rabbi Nosson Slifkin, the "Zoo Rabbi," at the Turtleback Zoo, and they enjoyed a barbeque dinner in Riverdale at the home of our very own President Joel. "Summer at YU" fully took advantage of New York and showed the students how much YU's extended campus really has to offer. In addition to touring Manhattan, "Summer at YU" gave the students an opportunity to spend some time in different communities in the area. They spent one Shabbat in Passaic, one in Stamford, another in Teaneck, and the last in Riverdale.

A final goal was to encourage the students to seriously consider YU for their undergraduate education. President Richard Joel believes this goal was accomplished: "My contact with several of the students confirmed my hopes that, in addition to a quality educational and cultural experience,

these young people return to their high schools both looking forward to being YU undergrads, and telling their classmates around the country what a stellar place YU is, even in the summer." The students entered the program with this in mind as well. "One of my goals this summer was to learn more about Stern, and to help me decide if it is the appropriate place for me," remarked Abell. "Summer at YU" definitely gave me a great sense of what Stern is like, and now I know that it is the best college for me."

Feedback from the students and staff indicates that the summer was a success, especially for a first year program, and its goals and expectations were met. "I think it was a success," remarked Bacon, and when asked about the various aims, program coordinator Aliza Stareshefsky said, "Each of our goals was met, and we could not have asked for a better group of young leaders to participate in the first year of this amazing program." In the words of Matt Williams, "It was an incredible experience, not only allowing us a glimpse of college life, but challenging us academically and socially as well. It was possibly the greatest summer of my life (even though I'm only 17)." Plans are underway to ensure that next year's program will build on the successes of this summer and will be even better.



# IN REVIEW

## Stern Students Study in London

BY ALANA RUBENSTEIN

Summer plans can come in a variety of forms; some people travel while others choose to take summer classes. Seven Stern College for Women and Sy Syms School of Business sophomores and juniors had the opportunity to do both simultaneously. For ten days the students studied literature in an interactive setting as part of a course titled "Literary London."

The group left New York on May 29 to study under Dr. Nora Nachumi as a part of the S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program. Although it was Professor Cynthia Wachtell, director of the Honors Program, who first suggested a summer English course overseas, Nachumi addressed the specifics. "The idea for the course itself stemmed from my participation in a conference entitled 'Literary London' (London, summer of 2004)," she explained, "which inspired me to think about the relationship between literature written in and/or about London and the city itself."

Mrs. Miriam Schechter, director of Academic Advisement for SCW, accompanied by her husband, and Hadassah Bienenfeld, a member of the SCW Board of Trustees, chaperoned the trip.

The group stayed at the Croft Court Hotel, a kosher bed-and-breakfast in Golders Green,

one of two predominantly Jewish areas in London. The hotel was a short walk away from Golders Green Road, home to many kosher restaurants, bakeries and supermarkets, as well as the tube station, the main method of transportation.

Most mornings the students attended lectures given by Nachumi or renown guest scholars. The lecturers discussed literature the students were required to prepare in advance, including four Shakespearean plays. They also covered a variety of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century works such as "Samuel Pepy's Diary," Fanny Burney's "Evilina" and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes."

In the afternoons, the students experienced the city from both a literary and historical perspective. They attended organized tours of Shakespeare's London, the London of Sherlock Holmes, 18<sup>th</sup> Century London, and Jewish London. The group visited the Museum of London, the Tate Museum, the National Gallery, and the Tower of London.

For Aliza Forman, a SCW English major, the highlight of the trip was the British Library and its collection of rare and original manuscripts. "Seeing the manuscript of Jane Austen's novel 'Persuasion' on her actual writing desk was inspiring," said Forman. "It's my favorite

novel and to see it in its creator's hand, with cross-outs and smudges, gave me a newfound appreciation for both the novel and the author."

The group also visited some of London's premier tourist spots, including Buckingham Palace during the changing of the guards and Kensington Palace, the home of the late Princess Diana.

Evenings were spent at the theatre. In their short time abroad, the students saw four Shakespearean plays, including two at the Globe Theatre. "I wanted students to see several styles of playing Shakespeare, ranging from innovative productions like 'Pericles' to more traditional versions," Nachumi said. The students also saw "The Woman in White," an Andrew Lloyd Webber musical, and "Mousetrap," the longest running play in theatre history.

One of the highlights of the trip included an excursion to Stratford-upon-Avon for a tour of Shakespeare's hometown and seeing a modern adaptation of "A Midsummer's Night Dream" at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre.

Shabbat was spent in Golders Green experiencing the Jewish community of London. The students went to a different synagogue for each service and divided into groups to eat Shabbat lunch with various

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## Students Expand Their Horizons

BY JULIA FRANKSTON-MORRIS AND SHOSHANA FRUCHTER

Ahhh. "Those crazy, lazy, hazy days of summer" is a refrain from one of those old songs, which irritatingly repeats in your head and recalls images of beaches, frisbees, and dog-eared paperback books. While the summer of 2005 had its share of hazy and, to be quite honest, gross days, for most Stern College women, it was anything but lazy. This summer found Stern students active in a range of activities that kept them busy in their far-too-brief time away from school.

Some students, motivated perhaps by a love of knowledge, attended summer school programs at Stern or in their hometowns. Many students, among them Ariella Leve from Baltimore, Maryland took classes at their local community colleges in order to "be at home and spend time with family, while staying within a certain budget." Some women even continued their studies on the Beren Campus, participating in the Stern Learning Program.

Across the East coast, other Stern students held a variety of internships. Jacquelyn Volmer continued to earn bylines in the Baltimore Jewish Times as an editorial intern. Bella Belsky pursued her interest in politics as she interned for the political

campaign for City Council for Patrick Murphy in New York City. Bella found that "the best part of the experience was the close environment because I got to work directly with the candidate and campaign manager."

While many students traveled with formal Jewish summer camps, programs and "experiences" up and down America's shoreline and around Israel, teaching day school students how to learn and relax in an Orthodox framework mostly on varying NCSY and Bnei Akiva programs, some chose to extend their horizons a bit further. Maytal Fligelman, new on campus, begins college after touring Italy over the summer. Starting in Rome and moving on to Florence, Milan and Venice, she and her travel partner, Leora Schwed, a freshman at Columbia University, "allocated three days for each city," explained Maytal. The first day was spent getting a general impression of the area and the remaining two days were for visiting specific historical and cultural landmarks. The trip involved "touring the country: seeing the culture, seeing the sites," including a quick visit to the controversial Vatican. Another focus of their trip was the Jewish community in Italy, where they saw the remains of ghettos in Rome and Venice and the Holocaust Museum in Venice.

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## A Voice from South Africa

BY ADINAH WIEDER

Rebecca Rosenberg, former Editor-in-Chief of the Observer, is currently living in South Africa as an employee of the University of Cape Town. An interview was conducted with Rebecca via email to discuss some of her experiences and responsibilities in South Africa.

AW: Whom do you work for and what is your position at the University of Cape Town?

RR: I work for Christina Murray, head of the Law, Race and Gender Unit at the University of Cape Town. The last month and a half I've been working on a project that deals with a unique part of the government called the NCOP, which is closest to the Senate yet still quite different.

[The NCOP, the National Council of Provinces, is the national government in South Africa and represents provincial and local government. The goal

of the NCOP is to unite all forms of government. It is the second chamber of South Africa's national parliament. It provides provinces with a voice in national policy-making and it is meant to compensate for the limited power that the provinces have individually.]

The South African constitution allows a province to intervene in a municipality when it is failing. The NCOP must oversee this process to ensure that the provincial intervention is fair to the municipality. Therefore, I'm reading government reports that discuss the problems in these municipalities. Quite frequently, the problems include misuse of funds. There are council members of these minuscule municipalities that issue themselves salaries higher than the president, Thabo Mbeki. Many people are not receiving electricity, water or even the most basic services such as having their buckets (human waste) picked up.

AW: How long do you intend to be in South Africa?

RR: It looks like I will probably stay at least two years now. I'm applying to graduate school in journalism at the University of Cape Town. Within the next month I will begin working for the Cape Times, the largest newspaper in the area.

AW: Do you feel that your experiences at Stern adequately prepared you for your career path?

RR: I was extremely fortunate to receive such a fabulous education at SCW and this has been a major help. The other day I interviewed at the Cape Times. Two editors, who are from the opposite side of the world, sat in a room with me and the first thing one said when looking at my resume was, "Yeshiva University, that is a good school."

However, it is also challenging at times because there is a lot of anti-American and anti-Israel

sentiment in this country. One of the first conversations I had with my co-workers dealt with America and Israel, and I found myself struggling to defend them both. Here many academics compare the Israeli government to the apartheid government [of South Africa] and identify with the struggle of the Palestinians. When I say I went to Yeshiva University, it is like wearing a badge that says "I support Israel," and sometimes I would prefer having more control over when or whether to announce such a position. Considering that YU has such a public policy of supporting Israel, which is a wonderful thing, they should require all YU students to take at the very least one course either on modern Israel or the history of Palestine.

AW: Do you feel that your courses at Stern sufficiently prepared you for your current position?

RR: My first day here, Professor Murray handed me 700 pages of legal and government documents and a copy of the constitution. She said, "Read this by next week," and assigned me a project to work on. I have no legal background whatsoever. Therefore, I don't think SCW could have prepared me for that. I must have read the same section of the constitution over 20 times trying to understand what it was discussing. Gradually things fell together, and I'm getting it.

AW: As you look back at your experiences in Stern what do you feel was most valuable about your time there?

RR: A majority of my courses were incredibly helpful and valuable. However, the connections that I made from taking various courses are what helped me the most. For instance, Professor Carole Silver of the English Department secured this

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## Literary London

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members of the community. They also had plenty of time to recover from their busy week since Shabbat did not end until after 10 p.m.

The dynamic of the group only added to the remarkable nature of the trip itself. "I was extremely happy with the trip," said Eva Simmons, an SSSB marketing major. "I went not knowing anyone else going and not really knowing what the trip would entail. It exceeded my expectations. We saw and learned so much about London and its history, but since it was a small group we also got to meet new friends and become really close. It was a privilege to be part of such a special group of girls."

Schechter sang similar praises of the experience. "I think the trip turned out better than we could have anticipated," she said. "This was due to

Dr. Nachumi's excellent planning of 'Literary London,' the wonderful guest lecturers, the informative tours, the exciting plays, and most of all it was due to the outstanding students who enrolled in the course. They were intuitive, analytical, insightful and adventurous! It was a wonderful opportunity to share an experience with the students outside of the classroom and to really see how much they have to offer. And, they were fun."

The trip was equivalent to a three-credit English course. To receive the credits, which can go towards a B or an E requirement, the students had to keep a journal on the trip, write three reviews of museums tours or plays and submit a research paper that incorporates research, a work of literature and their personal experiences.

## Neighborhood News: eee's

BY ATARA LINDENBAUM

Although Rachel Sabo and her husband of Kew Gardens Hills, Queens only became the owners of eee's café on 34th Street last May, Ms. Sabo knew that the sudden influx of Stern College students returning for the school year could only be beneficial to her new entrepreneurship. A banner that reads "eee's welcomes the Stern collegiates, nice to have you back," affords the small café, but is only a small taste of how the famous patronage of Stern College students affects this café manager's decisions.

"Today has been the busiest day since we've opened," Sabo explained on the second day of SCW orientation, as she sipped her iced soda. Sabo and her staff are aware that the work will only increase, if not double, as the school year officially starts and the upperclassmen return to catch a bite on those distinctive yellow tables on 34th Street. Without hesitating, Sabo stated that Stern students definitely make up more than half of eee's customers.

Although eee's is mainly a café and bakery shop, the owners are intent on maintaining the salad bar in order to please their customers from Stern College. The fruit salad and the low-fat yogurts are must-stays on the menu for similar reasons. When asked if she was implying that the women at Stern needed to be more weight conscious, Ms. Sabo immediately shook her head and explained that, "They just all like that stuff."

Another benefit the café gives Stern students is a 10% discount for purchases over five dollars. The discount will be granted to those who

show their Yeshiva University ID cards. Sabo warned, however, that identifications discovered to be false will result in a penalization of a 10% price increase, even if the item costs less than five dollars. While it is unclear if this student discount will profit the Sabos' new business, it will most definitely benefit the college customers.

Until last May when the Sabo couple bought eee's, they had no previous specific interest in the restaurant business. "It was just an offer, and it looked like a good investment," Sabo explained. The former owners were not making a profit and were therefore forced to sell their business. Many women at Stern recall the free food that the salesman at eee's used to give to the Stern students. Apparently, though that tactic created loyal customers by guaranteeing their satisfaction, it did not succeed in profiting the business sufficiently, and so it subsequently forfeited.

Even if customers may no longer receive free food at eee's café, the new owners are hoping that the newly renovated décor will attract a herd of students. Floral curtains now adorn the storefront and the food options are much easier to discern due to brand new menu plaques above the register. One returning sophomore, Julia Frankston-Morris, commented that the restrooms are much cleaner. "They even have an electric hand sanitizer!" Frankston added excitedly.

Will these building improvements increase the amount of diners? Will the Sabos fair better than their fore-runner? There's no guarantee, but no doubt Stern women will continue to color eee's future.

## Student Internships

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But more than revisiting the Jewish past and death in Italy, their goal was to discover the Jewish life there. To that end, Fligelman and Schwed specifically sought out the different Jewish communities, conversing with shopkeepers to gain a better understanding of their lives in Italy. A highlight Maytal noted was a Shabbat spent in Florence at the Chabad house there, which they found "really cool," witnessing the unity of our people. Since "the Jewish community in Italy is so small, everyone would come together—it really just becomes a community" of its own, says Maytal. "Everyone would start singing: half the people would know the words, the other half not, people with *kippot*, people without."

One Stern student even traveled to Africa this summer. As part of a fifteen-person delegation from the American Jewish World Service, Cindy Bernstein traveled to Ghana, a country on the Ivory Coast of Africa. "Although our immediate purpose was to build a library, we also helped out in the primary school, a school for special needs, and worked with an organization called Pro-link on promoting AIDS awareness in town," Bernstein explains. The American Jewish World Service organizes several seven-week volunteer corps which travel to the Ukraine, Peru, Ghana and Honduras.

Cindy detailed her schedule which began by waking up at 5:30 each morning, lighting the stove [to avoid issues of eating food cooked by a non-Jew] and walking an hour through the hills near the village. By 7:30 the group would leave for the work site. "They don't really have books and paper in the school, but they can read," explained Cindy. The hope was that by building a library they would foster a more productive learning environment. On the first day "they threw a pick, ax and shovel in my hand and said, 'dig.'" They dug. When the volunteers were done digging, "they gave us all cement and

water and sand and said, 'here is cement—make bricks.' We molded them, stacked them in the trenches we made and built the library."

To rest after the physically exhausting morning, the volunteers had the afternoon free to go into town for shopping and money changing and to truly experience the town. "Through the time spent in the village we made friends, so that's when we visited them, and on Thursdays we taught [school children in the village] how to type, not on computers—they don't have computers—but on a drawing of a keyboard."

"Everything is colorful and beautiful, chiefs, elders, women carry bottles on their heads," Cindy described. While the experience was incredible, it was also really difficult. "You have to be constantly on; they worship you, and think America is unbelievable, gold," Bernstein explained; white people are foreign to them. Though the Africans expressed deep admiration of the American society the volunteers come from, Cindy thinks that in truth "their lives are so beautiful and simple there. They are satisfied with their lives, this is the way they've been doing it and this is the way they'll continue doing it." The tradition of this small village, that satisfaction and completeness, is worth much more than the "gold" of competitive and insatiable communities in America.

This pluralistic program "was also meant for us all to come together as Jews, in a completely unknown setting, and to discuss various issues such as poverty, globalization, understanding social justice in a Jewish context," says Bernstein. "Everyone there does look like they just walked out of National Geographic," Cindy mused regarding the Africans, "but now they're not just faces, they're people, they each have their own story."

Judy Gorelick-Feldman, an SCW junior, took part in the Rusk Institute for Rehabilitation Medicine's

Health Career Opportunity program at NYU, where she interned on the cardiac rehabilitation unit. "I was assigned to shadow the attending physician on that floor, but I quickly got bored of the unexpected amount of paperwork he did," Gorelick-Feldman said. To relieve her intense boredom, Judy, who until this summer's experience was considering becoming a physician, usually made her way to the out-patient gym, where recovering patients are monitored during routine exercise. When asked about her change of heart regarding her future career goals, Judy answered that she "would like to spend time with her patients, not sit around writing multiple copies of everything: every note, every prescription." She explained that each detail was both handwritten and typed into the computer systems. Expressing her frustration with this summer's program, Judy vented, "Because we don't have the training and we're not legally allowed to touch the patients, there's nothing for us volunteers to do—and I don't want to spend my summers doing busy office work." By spending time in the out-patient gym with different therapists who were constantly working with the patients, Judy realized how little time the corresponding doctors had to spend with their patients. After these informative weeks, Gorelick-Feldman says she's reconsidering her career options.

"Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability," says pop-philosopher Sam Keen. While this may be true in some circles, our investigation of what Stern students did this summer defies the adage. The women of Stern found their respectability this summer with purposeful activity, strengthening their own education or contributing to others, volunteering at home and abroad, working on the present or for the future.

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## Disengagement

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totake place would just not transpire. It was only a few weeks before the disengagement, but the people of Gush Katif were going on as usual with their lives.

At that point I too was feeling as if it wouldn't happen; it couldn't happen. The notion of thousands of people being taken from their homes—entire Jewish communities being dislocated—made me sick. There was nothing anyone could do to change things, except hope and pray that everything would turn out with the best possible outcome, given the difficult circumstances. There were many protests and organized *tefilah* gatherings at the Kotel. Many people camped out right outside of Gush Katif, where protesters and soldiers were seen praying together from opposite sides of the fence closing off the area. Despite all of the forceful response and the utter disbelief that had permeated the air, the plans for the disengagement were underway. Soldiers were being trained to physically drag people out of their houses without causing harm. They were being prepared to complete this incredibly emotional task.

The set date was approaching and the signs of protest were becoming increasingly harsh. "Achi, al tigaresh Oti"—"my brother, do not uproot me"—a more personal pleading version of the already well-known slogan. References were made comparing the disengagement to the Holocaust, a

shocking idea, although the analogy was unfairly incongruent. Leading up to Tisha B'Av, the day before the disengagement, I saw a sign saying "Eichah?" I, too, wondered, how could this happen? This allusion to the *megillah* of Jewish mourning seemed chillingly appropriate. Tzahal, our Israeli Defense Force, was being compared to the Romans who destroyed our temple and trampled our nation so long ago.

The worst part of it all relates back to "Achi al tigaresh oti." It wasn't the Romans or the Nazis who would be orchestrating the evacuations. It would be a Jewish soldier pulling out his Jewish brother. There was tension everywhere. People tried to protest as strongly as they could without resorting to any form of violence. Soldiers refused orders and were sent to prison to avoid the ominous task that lay ahead of them. Other soldiers thought it wrong to refuse, and then had to deal with the pain of following the orders they were given.

The day came for the disengagement to take place. All over the news were pictures of soldiers sobbing after having pulled a family out of their home. Devastation reigned as soldiers put on a brave front while their hearts were breaking, and Gush Katif inhabitants struggled to keep their homes, schools and *shuls* in their possession. The whole country was sitting with bleeding hearts, watching the news.

The disengagement went through, almost too smoothly, after all the protests

and the hopes that things would turn out differently. Now hotels are full of thousands of families who don't know where their kids will be going to school this fall. They have no jobs. They have no homes. They have nowhere to go. The government may be arranging accommodations, but for now, they're homeless.

My last night in Israel was spent in the old city of Jerusalem. It was just a few days after the evacuation from Gush Katif was complete, and it was the beginning of the evacuation from the West Bank. The Kotel plaza was filled with families from Gush Katif. Men, women and children gathered late into the night. These were the people I had seen on the news; these were the people who had just gone through an unimaginable experience. I felt a deep sense of brotherhood toward these people.

Towards the very end of my trip, I was in the secular and leftist city of Tel Aviv. It was there that I saw a billboard that really struck me. It was an Israeli flag made up of thousands of names affirming the statement "Rak shelo nitnatek echad mehasheni"—"as long as we don't disengage one from the other." No matter what your political standpoint, there is pain to be felt and it is our people's to share.

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## Ladin's Sabbatical

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will point out her unique capabilities relevant to the decisive escape operation, says Ladin, "to show that she is superior and thus has the qualifications necessary to lead." In the elevator analogy it is acceptable for one student to fully impress her authority upon the others, but in the parallel case of a political election, where candidates possessing "unique capabilities relevant to the decisive operation" of leading the constituents, attempt to prove to the public that they are the most qualified, this unilateral message seems condescending. Because of the resolute precept of equality which so defines Americanism, it is thorny for one individual to attempt to impress his authority without causing listeners to perceive that attempt as offensive and arrogant. "This is more or

less the problem that American democratic ideology creates in public discourse," Ladin concludes.

When employing the middling style, speakers try to balance the two opposing goals of establishing their authority and stressing that they are not—and do not think they are—inherently more proficient than the audience. Middling style was used in the nineteenth century by Abraham Lincoln and Henry Ward Beecher, whose speeches Ladin will excerpt in his book. A piece of the Bush-Kerry election debate will be covered as well, because even today politicians find themselves caught up in this complicated conundrum and attempt to reconcile it through language.

This knotty political quandary and indispensable linguistic trick, Ladin argues, are what "birth[ed] the modernist

poetics"; they caused early twentieth-century writers to test the bounds of language and transform American poetry. The poets, Ladin further argues, "were able to explore in exaggerated form what middling style does to language, to relationships, to authority, to the very nature of meaning—and that these explorations in turn illuminate the much subtler effects of middling style in American public discourse."

Scheduled to return to SCW for the fall semester in 2006, Ladin plans to further develop his ideas in the American literature and poetry classes he instructs. Ladin says he has already sketched a new course on modernist poetry that will draw specifically from his own research and that he is very enthusiastic for his return to teaching at Stern.

## South Africa

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internship for me. She resides in South Africa for part of the year. I was also fortunate to secure an internship at NBC with Jane Hanson. These internships are major highlights of my resume.

AW: What is the status of the Jewish community in South Africa?

RR: The community is a decent size and people are very friendly. Unfortunately, the only shul I have been to is the Chabad, which is around the corner. The shul has a class every Monday night that focuses on the structure of the siddur. There are quite a few excellent kosher restaurants and they are surprisingly inexpensive. The grocery store has an enormous kosher deli with all kinds of South African specialties, kosher style.

AW: What do you do in your free time?

RR: People do many outdoor sports here. We go hiking at least once a week up Table Mountain or Lion's Head. There is a kosher winery called Eshkol that gives tours of the

estate and offers wine tasting. The wine country here is beautiful. There is an area called Hermanus where you can whale watch. Sometimes there are dozens of whales in one spot. My personal favorite is the zoo. I prefer it to the zoos in America because the animals aren't as enclosed here. The animals are roaming about and you can get really close to them. They also have an elephant sanctuary about an hour north where you can ride the elephants. My fiancé and I just started learning Xosa, the dominant African language here. It is a funky language because there are many clicks in the words. It is super hard to get the clicks in the right place. For some words, you have to use the front of your mouth and for others you have to click the side. This really is a great country to be in right now because it is so young and has so much potential—it is only eleven years old! Whether this country makes it as a viable, first world nation will determine a lot about the African continent as a whole. With the impending economic collapse of Zimbabwe, there is a lot of pressure on South Africa to emerge as a credible world leader.

## YTS Summer Kollels

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"Why Exactly are We Mourning Now?" and "Bringing Shabbat in the Week." This formal learning was supplemented by many hours devoted to one-on-one *chavrutot* with the women of the community.

The participants of the different kollels formed strong ties with the people with whom they learned this summer. They did this not only through academic study, but also through other fun events which specifically targeted the children and teenagers. The Stern students sent to Richmond, Virginia spent a day with the girls from the community together in an amusement park. An SCW junior who was sent to the kollel in Richmond spoke of the "ongoing relationship" she and her peers have with the teenagers there, explaining that this bond is particularly beneficial to the community. When the high school seniors graduate, they often leave to study in *yeshivot* in Israel, New York or another place outside of Virginia. Because of this, the college-age bracket is mostly absent, so there are very few people close to the age of the high school students who can serve as role models. The kollel in Richmond and the continuous relationships between the youth there and the students of Stern allow this gap to be filled.

A program unique to the kollel in Atlanta, Georgia was the weekly Jewish film fes-

tival. Over the six weeks of the program, they watched titles such as "Ushpizin" and "The Devil's Playground." Fruma Farkas, a recent alumna of the Graduate Program in Advanced Talmudic Studies, says that because the showings of the film alternated between two local Orthodox *shuls*, Young Israel and Beth Jacob, the impact of this program was essentially twofold in that it served, Farkas says, as a "unifying force" in Atlanta.

Kansas City's learning program also devoted time to hands-on activities with the younger population ranging from *challah*-baking to a meaningful Tisha B'Av project. Additionally, children involved in Kansas City's kollel worked on arts and crafts together with the elderly on a trip to the local Jewish nursing home.

Through learning, *chessed*, and bonding with the community, the YTS programs were able to form a strong relationship with their respective host communities on a very real and deep level. Yael Seruyah, a leader of the Kansas City learning program, said, "The community loved it! I'm still hearing positive feedback about it... They were blown away by the knowledge that the Stern girls had, as well as the presentation. Seruyah concluded, "The Stern girls were genuine role models to the community."



# Arts and Culture

## Living it up in NYC

BY REENA MITTELMAN

There's no question about it: living in New York City can be overwhelming. Aside from the usual screeching taxis, mammoth buildings and crowded streets, there's always a new show opening on Broadway, an interesting art exhibit appearing at a local museum, a famous director filming a movie down the street, or a pop star holding a concert in the park. Add a multitude of festivals, parades, restaurants and pricey stores to the mix, and...well, there's just too much to do! A recent web search revealed a staggering 510 events occurring in Manhattan during the month of September alone. With such a dazzling array of cultural enrichment, nightlife and entertainment, planning ahead is a necessary step. Here is a diverse sample of some exciting things to do in New York in the coming weeks and months. Enjoy!

### A Movie Location Walking Tour

April 1, 2005 - December 31, 2005

Soho  
212-675-5078 / [www.sohonyc.com](http://www.sohonyc.com)

Have fun while visiting Soho, where A-list celebrities such as Richard Gere, Julia Roberts, Adam Sandler, Kate Hudson and Demi Moore shot over 20 movies (including "Spiderman") on location. Maybe you'll see a celebrity!

For reservations and ticket info, call 1-800-941-7080.

### "Matisse: The Fabric of Dreams, His Art and His Textiles"

June 23, 2005 - September 25, 2005

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Fifth Avenue @ 82nd Street, New York, NY 10028 / 212-879-5500 / [www.metmuseum.org](http://www.metmuseum.org)

The impact of Henri Matisse's lifelong interest in textiles is shown in a selection of approximately 65 paintings, drawings, prints and painted paper cutouts.

Members free; \$7 recommended for students.

### Two Gentlemen of Verona, The Musical

August 16, 2005 - September 11, 2005

The Delacorte Theater  
Central Park, 79th St. & Fifth Ave. / 212-260-2400 / [www.publictheater.org](http://www.publictheater.org)

Celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary season of Shakespeare in the Park with a "hilarious musical that infuses Shakespeare's comedy about love, sex, and mistaken identities with the exhilarating sounds and textures of big city life." The musical originally opened in 1971 to wide acclaim and eventually moved to Broadway, where it won the Tony Award for Best Musical. Kathleen Marshall ("Wonderful Town") directs and choreographs, with a score from Galt MacDermot ("Hair") that ranges from soul, rock and Latin, to funk, gospel and pop. Pick up your FREE tickets to Shakespeare in the Park on the day of the performance beginning at 1 p.m. at The Delacorte Theater in Central Park, or from 1 to 3 p.m. at The Public Theater at 425 Lafayette Street, just south of Astor Place. Limit 2 tickets per person.

### NY Nosh Food Tour

August 18, 2005 - December 8, 2005

The Enthusiastic Gourmet  
Lower East Side / 646-209-4724 / [enthusiasticgourmet.com](http://enthusiasticgourmet.com)  
Explore kosher food shops, taste Jewish delicacies and learn about ethnic flavors and cultures. From knishes to bialys, the tour explores the Jewish Lower East Side and offers a taste of a variety of treats. Most of the places visited are family-run and date back to the early 1900's.

The tour is \$45 and lasts about 2.5 hours. Reservations are required. For more information or reservations, contact [info@enthusiasticgourmet.com](mailto:info@enthusiasticgourmet.com).

### Film Festivals: "All Change: France in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century" and "Homer Lives!"

August 28, 2005 - December 11, 2005

Dahesh Museum of Art  
580 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022 / 212-759-0606  
[www.daheshmuseum.org](http://www.daheshmuseum.org)  
Beat the heat and enjoy a variety of films in the Dahesh's air-conditioned theater. Check the website for listings and times of featured films, which include epics, adventure films and documentaries, some in French with English subtitles.

Movies are free to Dahesh members; non-members pay regular museum admission (\$4 for students) plus \$5 per afternoon. Some films are free to all with regular museum admission.

### New York City Opera

Fall Season: September 7, 2005 - November 20, 2005  
New York State Theater

20 Lincoln Center Plaza, New York, NY 10023 / 212-870-5570 / [www.nycopera.com](http://www.nycopera.com)  
The fall repertory includes "The Little Prince," "The Mines of Sulphur," "Ariane et Barbe-Bleue," "Patience," "Capriccio," "Madama Butterfly," "Tosca," "Turandot," "Il Viaggio a Reims," and "The Barber of Seville."

Check the website for information about student discounts such as "Student Rush," which offers a limited number of \$16 tickets based on availability.

### 102 Minutes

September 7, 2005, 6:30 p.m.  
The Graduate Center @ City University of New York  
365 Fifth Ave @34th St / 212-817-8215 /

[web.gc.cuny.edu/cepp](http://web.gc.cuny.edu/cepp)  
The untold story of the fight to survive inside the Twin Towers. New York Times writers Jim Dwyer and Kevin Flynn use interviews, emails and phone and radio transcripts to reconstruct the 102 minutes that the Twin Towers stood after the attacks of September 11, 2001. Hailed as a "masterpiece of reporting" by Kevin Baker of the New York Times.

\$5 for students.

### "MT&R: In The Prime" Fall Television Season Preview

September 7, 2005 - September 16, 2005

The Museum of Television & Radio  
25 West 52 Street / 212-621-6800 / [www.mtr.org](http://www.mtr.org)

The first public screening of the new television season, "MT&R: In the Prime," offers a preview of some of this year's most-talked-about new prime-time series.

Members free; \$8 for students.

### Olumpus Fashion Week, Spring Collection

September 9, 2005 - September 16, 2005

Bryant Park, 42nd St. & 6th Ave. / 212-253-2692 / [www.olympusfashionweek.com](http://www.olympusfashionweek.com)  
Stop by Bryant Park to catch a glimpse of the Spring 2006 collections from scores of designers, including Donna Karan and Zac Posen, as they show their new collections to celebrities, media and the fashion industry.

### 2005 New York Musical Theatre Festival

September 12, 2005 - October 2, 2005

Theatre District  
212-352-3101 / [www.nymf.org](http://www.nymf.org)

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Musical Theatre Festival features over 300 performances. Locations vary throughout the theater district, so visit the website for schedules and tickets. All tickets are \$15.

### The 2005 New York Jewish Music & Heritage Festival

September 13, 2005 - September 25, 2005

Manhattan and Queens / 212-484-1292 /

[www.o.y.h.o.o.c.o.m](http://www.o.y.h.o.o.c.o.m)  
This festival will run for 10 days and includes over 60 concerts in prestigious concert halls, venues and synagogues. It culminates in an outdoor all-day free event for thousands of people. This unique event is geared towards a broad audience—young and old, religious and unaffiliated—and

promises to "facilitate a shared connection."

### "The Art of Medicine in Ancient Egypt"

September 13, 2005 - January 15, 2006

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Fifth Avenue @ 82nd Street, New York, NY 10028 / 212-879-5500 / [www.metmuseum.org](http://www.metmuseum.org)  
Much of ancient Egyptian artwork reflects a concern for the prevention and cure of illnesses, yet these issues have been given relatively little attention by researchers. This exhibition explores Egyptian artwork associated with protection and healing.

Members free; \$7 recommended for students.

### Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center

September 15, 2005 - May 07, 2006

Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center  
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## YU Film Festival Kicks Off With "The Chosen"

BY OBSERVER STAFF

Yeshiva University is not generally known for its expertise in the visual arts department, and the emergence of the YU Film Festival is, therefore, a refreshing change. President Joel recently initiated this innovative endeavor to facilitate culture and bring a refreshing breath of the performing arts to an otherwise staid and conservative university. As head of the festival, Rebecca

Stone, a presidential fellow, has organized a sequence of films revolving around the conflict of leading an observant life while living in a secular society. This dichotomy is an apt focus for the festival, as the YU community struggles continuously to reconcile Torah values with the best of secular culture.

The film festival began with a screening of "The Chosen," a screenplay based on Chaim Potok's well-known

novel. The book is now standard reading for Jewish day school students and has received both acclaim and criticism since its publication in 1967. Potok describes his novel as an exploration of the interaction "of cultures in tension with one another." The film also explores this conflict, and though minor facets differ from the book, the central conflict remains the same. Following the movie, Professors Gurock and Jacobson of YU led

an interactive discussion. Both utilized the expertise of their respective fields to critically examine the historical accuracy of Potok's novel as well as compare the film's artistic choices with the actual novel.

"The Chosen" primarily revolves around the modern Orthodox Reuven Malter and Chassidic Danny Saunders who encounter each other one day on the baseball diamond. From the start of the film, the tension

between the two groups is wholly evident. From the wardrobe choices of the costume director to the angles at which the director films, the distinction between the two groups is depicted clearly. The Chassidic set wears the classical black and white garb, complete with velvet hats and skullcaps, and is always filmed as a large group from steep angles, huddled together and represented more as a mass than as

*continued on page 18*



## “Outwitting History: The Amazing Adventures of a Man Who Rescued a Million Yiddish Books”

Aaron Lansky  
Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill  
312 pp; \$24.95

BY CHAYA SARAH SOLOVEICHIK

Imagine this: you're in the midst of a competitive game of Trivial Pursuit, and the stakes are high when your opponent asks the following question: "What was the first literature to be digitized?" A sly smile instinctively escapes you—after all, you've just read "Outwitting History"—before you decisively respond with a quick and simple, "Yiddish."

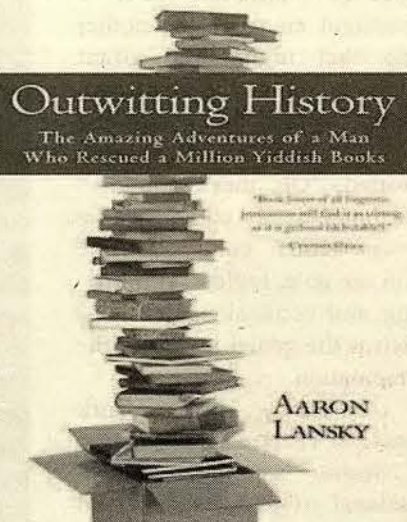
You would, of course, be correct. Of more significance is that Aaron Lansky's escapades and ventures into the captivating world of Yiddish books and culture began long before the creators of Trivial Pursuit incorporated that particular question into their game in 2001. In "Outwitting History," Lansky reveals the reasoning and emotions that propelled him as a young graduate student of 23 years to hunt down Yiddish manuscripts and salvage them from ruin, ultimately even digitalizing them. The book's subtitle, though somewhat bombastic, states nothing but the truth.

Much of the narrative's appeal lies in reading about

someone who does what many only dream of—conceiving an objective and simply taking off to achieve it while enjoying the numerous adventures along the way. With diminutive funds and support, that's exactly what Lansky does in 1979 after apprehending the habitual destruction of Yiddish volumes. Only a few months later, he establishes the National Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Massachusetts and commences book collecting. This is no easy task, as Lansky soon understands when he and his cohorts confront rain-filled Dumpsters, warehouses reeking of fish, communist Cuba and ninety-degree weather.

Moreover, little does Lansky initially realize that every additional truck stop and destination is a submersion into a remote past and culture. Mrs. Leah Ostroff, an elderly Jewish woman who is originally from Vilna and lives in Sea Gate, Coney Island, tells Lansky that her non-Jewish neighbors contend, "... all you do is talk. Talk, talk, talk, night after night. What is there so much to talk about?" For those compelled by various reasons to transmit their

Yiddish books, however, there is much to verbalize, and so as they provide Lansky and his coworkers with vast amounts of tea, cookies and kasha varnishkes, they also convey their stories. As readers, we are pulled in easily to what they have to say, and



as Lansky listens, we do as well.

There is Mr. Ostroff, who is born in 1900 in White Russia and attends a German medical school in his late teens with the intention of becoming a doctor. He finds it necessary to quit before receiving a diploma, but ultimately travels to America and becomes a plumber, which he claims is really "the same thing." Mrs. Baram, on the other hand, is a former resident of Poland and Palestine. She cur-

rently heads a Yiddish book club in Queens that plants a tree in Israel for every club member who dies.

Lansky also encounters Marjorie Guthrie, wife to Woody Guthrie and daughter of the Yiddish writer Aliza Greenblatt. Although not an Orthodox Jew herself, Marjorie believes her children are capable of choosing for themselves whether they will be observant, and consequently hires an Orthodox Hebrew tutor for them—Meir Kahana, whom she recognizes many years later on television. Each stop leaves Lansky laden with more stacks of books and supplementary knowledge of Yiddish literature and culture. Along the way, he familiarizes us with distinguished Yiddish authors and poets, including Mendele Moykher Seferim, Sholem Aleichem and I.L. Peretz, among others. As readers, some of us also amuse ourselves stumbling over the Yiddish translations of familiar titles, such as "Der prints un der betler" ("The Prince and the Pauper") and "Di shtime fun blut" ("The Call of the Wild").

But that is not enough. Throughout his narrative, Lansky continuously contemplates the origin and purpose of Yiddish as he analyzes the who,

what, when, why and how of it all. Why, for instance, did Yiddish suddenly flourish among the Jewish population and primarily amid those living in central and eastern Europe? Why did the language rapidly begin disappearing from frequent use? And why would one undergraduate presently claim, "Nowadays Yiddish is hip!"?

Lansky expresses his views and opinions even as he continues to maintain our rapt attention with his humorous stories. This holds true even when we find him jumping sporadically from narrative to narrative. "Outwitting History" is not so much a remarkable work of literature as it is a vivid, laugh-out-loud journey, which, once we begin with Lansky (as the older Yiddish folk often refer to him), we only want him to further engage us in talk, talk, talk.

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## There's No Escaping "Scapin"

BY CHAYA SARAH SOLOVEICHIK

I found myself laughing out loud before I even understood what the actors were yelling. Of course, this had something to do with the fact that four minutes after my younger sister and I made our late entry into Central Park (my first time actually inside), the troupe of actors and the motley audience all stood up and walked about fifty feet to the fourth of numerous locations, while an accordion strummed pleasantly in the background. Welcome to the New York Classical Theatre.

This past summer was my first in New York City and I had grandiose plans. It was supposed to be the Summer of New York, the Summer of Traversing the Subway, the Summer of Museums, the Summer of Trekking across Bridges, and the Summer of Biking New York's Paths. And although my Grand Summer didn't go exactly as planned ("Bridges," for example, turned into "Bridge"), I made my way at the end of the summer to a presentation of Molière's "Scapin," beginning right off of 103rd Street and Central Park West. Truth be told, I made my way twice.

My first encounter with "Scapin" was more of an experience than an actual screening. At first, confused as we were due to our tardiness and drained after a long day, my sister and I decided to picnic nearby instead of attending the performance. But if I thought my meeting with "Scapin" and the New York Classical Theatre was done for the night, I thought wrong.

Shortly into our dinner, two lavishly costumed women ambled past us while chatting, taking a break between entrances. As the sky gradually darkened, we also observed the various runners and bikers in Central Park only to glimpse two dainty joggers noticeably exaggerating their movements before scampering quickly down the hill to rejoin the production. Aside from such laughs and getting lost later on the subway, however, I learned a significant fact that night: "Scapin" is not pronounced with a long "a."

Three evenings and an ordinary subway ride later, we arrived at Central Park once again to view the entire presentation. With two young suitors and their ardor for women unapproved of by their fathers, manipulative and wily servants, and an ending too unrealistic to be believed (going far beyond the hearty "mazel tov!" at the end), but performed drolly and successfully, this Molière comedy is without doubt entertaining.

Perhaps one of the strongest actors is Erik Gratton as Sylvestre, servant to one of the two young men. His tiny green hat perched amusingly to the side of his head, and his antics, miming and gorilla-like growling, kept the crowd of about one hundred chuckling throughout. His failed attempts at disguise, involving a beard and makeup, were no less humorous.

Nonetheless, it was the interactive and relaxed nature of the presentation that made this production so appealing. Actors sometimes ambled

through the audience as part of the play, and every few minutes, we also strolled alongside them only to continue the comedy at another location in Central Park. Some people arrived with their dogs, others lounged on sheets or beach chairs at each destination, and most sat comfortably on the grass or stood.

A small boy from the audience stumbled over a streetlight en route to another stop that night, and Grant Neale, acting as the chief conniving servant for whom the play is named, engagingly retorted, "Oh, that's nothing," and immediately commenced a seven-second comic routine with the pole, replete with hugging and comical expressions. Such is the genial nature of the presentation.

The New York Classical Theatre's presentation of "Scapin" is not the most professional of performances and is certainly not a Broadway show, but it doesn't pretend to be, and that makes all the difference. Its website ([www.newyorkclassical.org](http://www.newyorkclassical.org)) contends, "The Park takes away the formal conventions of a traditional theater venue, allowing people to wander into the show as they please and move around during the performance." With this in mind, viewers can enjoy each production for what it is: an adventurous and enjoyable night out. The flashlights appearing at dark, the people fishing nearby and the crickets certainly add to the ambiance.

## Film Festival

*continued from page 16*

individuals. The modern Orthodox team, by contrast, dress in casual t-shirts, jeans and sneakers that characterized the 1950s, is noticeably bare-headed, and is filmed at wide angles in informal stances spread apart from each other. As Gurock pointed out in the discussion, both Potok and the film director use the Chassidim as caricatures of the Orthodox Jew from "the old country" to provide a stark contrast with the modern Jews of the United States.

Danny and Reuven start out as enemies and slowly form a very close friendship despite the differences in both their backgrounds and lifestyles. Danny comes from a staunchly traditional Chassidic home, and his father is the rebbe and leader of his Chassidic faction. The community expects Danny to follow in his father's footsteps and lead his father's community after becoming a rabbi. Reuven, on the other hand, is raised by his journalist father who dedicates

himself wholeheartedly to the Zionist cause. Reuven, too, eventually decides to study to become a rabbi, but in a far more modern fashion. The film explores the ebb and flow of the relationship between these two young men, a coming-of-age story in which each must decide which path to take in life. Their ultimate resolutions are influenced in part by their backgrounds, but far more by the impact that each has on the other. Danny Saunders progressively moves away from his Chassidic background and lifestyle, developing a keen interest in Freud and psychology, while Reuven remains more static as he learns to appreciate the warmth and beauty of the Chassidic way.

Both the book and film convey the intriguing story from the modern Orthodox perspective of Reuven Malter. Therefore, while the portrayal of the Chassidic community is generally positive, it is presented as somewhat irrational and at times "obscenely" conservative to the liberal, secular mind of

the modern Orthodox Jew. In the film, as in the book, Danny Saunders ultimately chooses a more modern lifestyle and pursues psychology at Columbia University. Unlike in the book, however, Danny and his father sustain a stronger relationship once Danny has made a more modern choice. The book is more willing to leave the ending ambiguous and does not feel pressured into making the Hollywood-style, feel-good ending that the film does.

The film and book are both disturbing in that they seem to insist that the modern Orthodox way is the better approach and the proper choice to make. The conclusion is not to meet in the middle, but rather places the "right" choice more squarely in the modern domain than in a traditional Chassidic one. For many modern Orthodox Jews, it is a reassuring and positive statement that reinforces their lifestyle. However, it is essential to note that even the film is willing to acknowledge that the warmth, sense of community and love for

## Museum of the City of New York: "Jews in Early New York"

BY CHAYA SARAH SOLOVEICHIK

In the English translation of Peter Kalm's "Travels into North America," published in 1772, the author describes his experiences. "During my residence in New York, this time, and in the two next years, I was frequently in company with Jews. I was informed, among other things, that this people never boiled any meat for themselves on Saturday, but that they always did it the day before; and that in winter, they kept a fire during the whole Saturday. They commonly eat no pork; yet I have been told by several men of credit that—" Although his account doesn't end there, the page is taped down and the book enclosed in glass, consequently preventing any further reading. Therefore, we never do discover what exactly Peter Kalm now knows.

This display is only one of many comprising the exhibit currently housed by the Museum of the City of New York until October 2, entitled "Tolerance and Identity: Jews in Early New York, 1654–1825." Like all the other items, Kalm's account quickly evokes curiosity and interest, but ultimately leaves one slightly disappointed and craving for more.

A large family tree spans one wall, while various portraits, documents, letters and artifacts constitute the rest of the presentation. The large canvases stand out the most due to size and color alone, and the likenesses they depict are an invitation into a distant past. Abraham Rodriguez Brandon, donator of a massive chandelier to the first Jewish synagogue of New York, stares down thoughtfully at viewers with his light brown eyes. Isaac Moses, known for blockade-running during the Revolutionary War and heading his synagogue, wears a large skullcap. The explanatory blurb points out that this head covering doesn't appear in a different self-portrait of Moses.

It is with some of the smaller and outwardly trivial items, however, that the exhibit is at its best. The admission ticket to Mordechai M. Noah's 1844 discourse on "Restoration of the

Torah and family that the Chassidim have is unmatched by anything in the modern Orthodox world.

"The Chosen" procures most of its material from the book, but is forced by virtue of its medium to accede certain points to the Hollywood movie plot, to make it more feel-good and less dark and ambiguous. Both the novel and the film are willing to paint the Chassidim in an archaic, outdated, stereotypical way in order to demon-

Jews," for example, seems almost insignificant at first. Yet it's intriguing to think that more than 150 years ago, there were those in America who felt the Jews should repossess Palestine, leading Noah to appeal to the Christians for support in his lecture.

Noah's persona initially comes across as multi-faceted, and viewers can't help but contemplate him curiously. He seems very much the Jewish advocate and Zionist, yet he was also an accomplished American playwright and a political diplomat sent to Tunis in 1813.

His character becomes somewhat clearer when considering what originally prompted him to suggest the establishment of a Jewish homeland. James Madison had Noah return from Tunis in 1815 with the claim that Judaism interfered with his duties—but the motivation, as Noah blatantly asserted, was really anti-Semitism. Therefore, although Mordechai M. Noah was very much a playwright (a well-known one at that) and a civil servant, he also consistently considered himself very much a Jew.

The same holds true for Bilhah Abigail Levy Franks, who passed away almost 30 years before Noah was even born. She plainly expressed her love and concern for her many children, as is evident from letters posted to her son, Naphtali, nicknamed "Heartsay"; one of those letters is on view in the museum's exhibit. Bilhah was also spunky and strong-willed. When her daughter, Phila, defied her will by wedding the Christian Oliver Delancey, Bilhah refused to speak to her for over a year. Bilhah's portrait is not what excites viewers, but what they learn of her from the museum's explanation and from her own correspondence.

The Jews of the past and the lives they led are intriguing. The various displays at the Museum of the City of New York introduce spectators to a range of interesting artifacts and people, almost making it seem as if 1654 wasn't quite so long ago.

strate their point about the benefits of modern Orthodoxy more clearly, and neither illustrates a reassuring picture of tolerance and reconciliation between the two lifestyles. "The Chosen" leaves the viewer with more ambivalence than peace of mind at the happy ending—but perhaps that is merely a typical reaction to the exploration of subject matter that is ultra-sensitive to all Jewish communities today.



# City Life

*continued from page 16*

**“Changing Hands: Art Without Reservation, Part 2”**

September 22, 2005 - January 15, 2006  
 Museum of Arts & Design  
 40 West 53rd Street, New York, NY 10019 / 212-956-3535 / [www.madmuseum.org](http://www.madmuseum.org)  
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**CultureFest 2005**

September 24, 2005 - September 25, 2005 @ 11 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., rain or shine.  
 Battery Park  
 Battery Place and Broadway  
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[www.nycvisit.com/culturefest](http://www.nycvisit.com/culturefest)  
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Magnet Theater  
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[www.magnettheater.com](http://www.magnettheater.com)  
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**National Comedy Theatre**

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**/ www.manhattancomedy.com**

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& guide gratuity not included. \$19 for adults.

**Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island Escorted Tour**

New York City Vacation Packages (nycVP)  
 Paramount Plaza, Broadway between 50th & 51st Streets / 570-714-4692 / [www.nycvp.com/statue\\_of\\_lib\\_WalkingTour.htm](http://www.nycvp.com/statue_of_lib_WalkingTour.htm)

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# Sports

## The Wild Card Race to the Finish

BY BELLA BELSKY

This September the New York Yankees are smack in the middle of both the pennant race in the East and the American League Wild Card race. The contenders are the New York Yankees, the Cleveland Indians, the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim and the Minnesota Twins. After a season that had as many downs as ups and too many bumps in the road to count, the ongoing pennant race is something to look forward to and get excited about.

After the Yankees won the season opener over the Boston Red Sox and after watching Tino's long anticipated return to pinstripes, fans had reason to expect a return to the playoffs on top of the American League East. On paper the Yankees seemed perfect. But then all the troubles started. The team could not seem to get it together. The wins did not add up. When the pitching was good the hitting was dormant. There appeared to be a lack of passion among the players and no consistency at all. From April through June the Yankees were a very streaky team. In April they lost 9 out of

14 games and ended the month with a 10 and 14 record. New York was in fourth place with six and a half games between them and the first-place Orioles. In the central division the Cleveland Indians were 9 and 14 and seven and a half games in back of the first-place Chicago White Sox. The Minnesota Twins, also of the central division, were right in the thick of things at 15 and 8 and only one and a half games out. The LAA Angels had first place in the West at 13 and 11 with the other four teams in their division nipping at their heels.

The Yankees have managed to straighten themselves out, but it took them a few months before they became consistent. In May they started off the month by losing five out of six. On May 6 the New York Yankees reached a new low of 11 and 19 to go into a tie for last place with the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. Last place was something the Yankees and their fans had not experienced for a long time. Then, when the season seemed hopeless, they turned around and won ten straight and then another six out of eight games. (At the end of May, the Yankees were at 27 and 23 and four games back.)

However, the Yanks went on to lose eight out of eleven to begin June. Once again a turnaround ensued and they won twelve of the next fifteen. Finally, in July the Yankees' persistence showed as they began to win games on a consistent basis without sliding into repetitive losing streaks.

Thus far in the season, the Yankee pitchers have been plagued by injuries, which have contributed to the poor performance. Kevin Brown's back has been a constant source of problems and he has been on and off the disabled list. Carl Pavano pitched tolerably at first, but as he was showing signs of improvement he was placed on the disabled list in early July with shoulder tendonitis. Both Brown and Pavano appear to be gone for the rest of the season as they have just been placed on the 60 day disabled list. Jared Wright has also been out most of the season due to injuries. He finally returned in August and has been looking more like the pitcher the Yankees thought they signed. Randy Johnson has pitched well, but has not been as dominant as expected due to his back problems. Mike Mussina has been, for the most part, a

solid and reliable pitcher, but he too had some minor injuries along the way. Chien-Ming Wang joined the Yankees from Triple A to help them get by while many of their pitchers were out due to injuries. His strong performances (6-3) were very important in turning things around for the team. Ruben Sierra, often a designated hitter or late inning pinch hitter, also sustained an injury that really hurt the Yankees. He usually got the instrumental hits when the game was on the line, and his bat was sorely missed—especially when games were close. One of the key reasons the Yankees are still in the pennant race is due to the help they received from the players they traded for or brought up to fill in for their many injured players.

Despite all the injuries, the Yankees have managed to find a way to pull through. This was not always the case in the beginning and middle of the season when the Yankees struggled mightily, sometimes with hitting and sometimes with pitching. For instance, earlier on in the season they could not win a game in which they scored three runs or less (twenty-one games).

New stars, a re-emerging star, new additions, and the usual key players helped to get the team to the pennant race. Robinson Cano, second baseman, has emerged as a good rookie who can be counted on to get the job done well—both defensively and offensively. And after a terrible start of the season, Jason Giambi has made a magnificent comeback, helping the Yankees in their bid for the playoffs. The new additions to the pitching staff, like Sean Chacon, Al Leiter, and Aaron Small have all come up big for the Yankees. As the Yankee radio announcer John Sterling always says, "You can have the best closer in the game on your team, but you have to be able to get him in the game." These pitchers have done a great job, better than any one expected, in getting the ball to the bullpen and keeping the game close. Finally, there are also the usual everyday stars like Derek Jeter, Hideki Matsui, Alex Rodriguez, Gary Sheffield, and Mariano Rivera, who have always been there to keep the team going or to pick them back up.

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### YESHIVA UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S TENNIS '05-'06



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Van Leaves at 7:15 pm from Brookdale Hall.  
Season begins on Wednesday, September 9th

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Tryouts: Wed, August 31st & Wed, September 7th 7:40-8:55 pm in 11th  
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# Science and Health

## And then there was...Darwin?

BY ELANA MYERSDORF

Evolution has once again taken center stage in both the Jewish and secular world. Not a year ago, students at Stern College had the privilege of hearing Rabbi Nosson Slifkin, whose books were officially put into *cherem* in January 2005 due to his theories on Torah and evolution that have caused an uproar in the Orthodox community. Slifkin's books attempt to infuse new meaning into Torah through scientific knowledge. Students also heard Dr. Gerald Schroeder's enthusiastic reconciliation of Orthodox theology with modern scientific theory.

More recently, the controversy over evolution has been reignited on a national scale by comments made by President Bush in early August. Bush stated that intelligent design should

be taught in schools alongside the theory of evolution. Bush's seemingly anti-evolution sentiments have gotten mainstream scientists screaming and design sympathizers applauding.

Intelligent design, an idea propagated by the Discovery Institute in Seattle, challenges Darwinism by saying that some organisms are too complex to have arisen through natural selection, rather some form of higher intelligence must have created them. Many design proponents believe in the ability of mutation and natural selection to act on a small scale, but not on the large scale that Darwinism suggests.

Mainstream scientists are quick to denounce intelligent design as old-fashioned creationism masquerading as scientific theory. The fact is, says renowned chemist and Nobel

laureate Herbert A. Hauptman, that to believe in God or any higher power is "damaging to the well-being of the human race" (NYT 8/23/05). As far as Hauptman and most mainstream scientists are concerned, there is no proof whatsoever of involvement of a supernatural being, while there is abundant proof supporting Darwin's theory of evolution. For example, the genes of humans, other mammals and bacteria are so astoundingly similar that even design supporters cannot help admitting that the theory of natural ancestry is somewhat credible.

Additional supporting evidence of natural selection is Darwin's own finches of the Galapagos Islands. The original species of finch from South America had a beak shaped in a way conducive to eating seeds. On the islands, however, Darwin

found that the original finch had diversified into 13 different species, each with a differently shaped beak conducive to eating whatever the environment offered. (NYT 8/22/05)

Given the near-dogmatic approach of scientists regarding the theory of evolution, the Discovery Institute has come under attack from many sides. Critics of intelligent design liken deniers of evolution to deniers of the Holocaust, a somewhat ironic comparison to the Orthodox Jew to whom believing in the Holocaust is a given truth and believing in evolution borders on heresy.

Dr. Richard Land, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberties Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, maintains that supporters of intelligent design are not denying the *theory* of evolution, but

object to it being taught as fact (NYT 8/3/05).

Through listening to both sides of the argument, we must realize that there are two elements to the debate: political and scientific. Politically, the inclusion of intelligent design in the classroom is problematic with regard to separation of church and state. That should be left for the courts to decide. Scientifically, the challenge posed to Darwinism by intelligent design reawakens the centuries-old struggle of science versus God, fact versus belief and Torah versus Maddah. There are those who claim that reconciliation is impossible and that the twain shall never meet. And then there are those who do not look at them as diametric opposites but as symbiotic partners in the great and unflinching quest for the truth.

## Wild Card Race

*continued from page 13*

Now that August is over, the pennant races are going into the final stretch. The standings are as follows: The Yankees have a 75 and 57 record. They are two and a half games in back of the Red Sox in the East and are holding onto first place in the Wild Card by a game. The LAA Angels are 74 and 58 and are only one game behind the Athletics in the Western division as well as one game back in the Wild Card race. In the Central division, both the Cleveland Indians and the Minnesota Twins are battling for the Wild Card. Cleveland has a record of 74 and 59, and is seven games

behind the division-leading White Sox. However, they are strong contenders in the Wild Card race at only one and a half games behind the Yankees. At 70 and 63, the Twins are eleven games out of first place, yet they are still in the Wild Card race at five and a half games back. At this point it is any team's game. May the best team win.

Can you write about a team besides the Yankees?

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Write for Science:  
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