

BJC Wensa

“WENSA” MEANS “FUN” IN JUDEO-ARABIC!

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VAYISHLACH

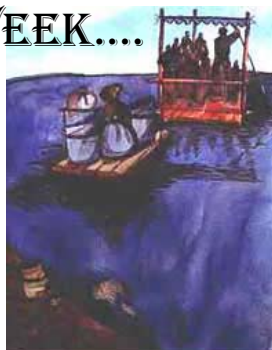
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PARSHA OF THE WEEK....

VAYISHLACH

Jacob returns to the Holy Land after a 20-year stay in Charan, and sends angel-emissaries to Esau in hope of a reconciliation, but his messengers report that his brother is on the warpath with 400 armed men. Jacob prepares for war, prays, and sends Esau a large gift (consisting of hundreds of heads of livestock) to appease him.



(c) 1999 Sarah Kranz

That night, Jacob ferries his family and possessions across the Jabbok River; he, however, remains behind and encounters the angel that embodies the spirit of Esau, with whom he wrestles until daybreak. Jacob suffers a dislocated hip but vanquishes the supernal creature, who bestows on him the name Israel, which means “he who prevails over the divine.”

Jacob and Esau meet, embrace and kiss, but part ways. Jacob purchases a plot of land near Shechem, whose crown prince—also called Shechem—abducts and rapes Jacob’s daughter Dinah. Dinah’s brothers Simeon and Levi avenge the deed by killing all male inhabitants of the city, after rendering them vulnerable by convincing them to circumcise themselves.

Jacob journeys on. Rachel dies while giving birth to her second son, Benjamin, and is buried in a roadside grave near Bethlehem. Reuben loses the birthright because he interferes with his father’s marital life. Jacob arrives in Hebron, to his father Isaac, who later dies at age 180. (Rebecca has passed away before Jacob’s arrival.)

Our Parshah concludes with a detailed account of Esau’s wives, children and grandchildren; the family histories of the people of Seir, among whom Esau settled; and a list of the eight kings who ruled Edom, the land of Esau’s and Seir’s descendants.

FAMILY DISCUSSION



This week’s *parshah* tells us that Jacob was given a new name – Israel. This isn’t the first time new names are given in the Torah. Remember when G-d changed Abram’s name to Abraham and Sarai’s name to Sarah?

There is a difference here. When G-d changed Abram’s name, He said, “And your name will not be called Abram any more.” Indeed, from then on the Torah always calls our first forefather Abraham. When Jacob’s name was changed, the Torah also says, “And your name will not be called Jacob.” Yet we see that the Torah itself continues to call him Jacob. Sometimes he is called Jacob, and sometimes Israel. And in the Talmud our sages also use both names - Jacob and Israel. Why?

Names in general, and especially the names of our forefathers, are not only given so that people know what to call each other. The names of our forefathers teach us about their service of G-d and guide us so we can follow in their footsteps. We can learn lessons from both names, Jacob and Israel.

The root of the name Jacob can also point to trickery. Sometimes, in order to overcome our not-so-good desires, we have to trick them. If a person wants to trick someone else, he doesn’t tell him clearly what he is planning to do. He pretends to go along with the other person but he ends up doing just what he wants.

We should eat, sleep and take off leisure time so we can be better people and have strength to help others. In truth, our goal is to be better people.

The name Israel points to a different lesson. It is connected to the Hebrew word that translates “to be in charge.” There are times when we must show that not-so-good voice that we don’t have to trick him to overcome him. We show him that we are in charge, and we don’t pay any attention to what he says. We do what we have to do, doing what is right to make this world a better place, with the pride and strength of a person in charge.



Iraqi Jewish Documents at the National Archives

The Remnants of a Culture's Heart and Soul



From New York Times featured article on November 11, 2013, on page C1
By: Drew Angerer for The New York Times

WASHINGTON — These are not the weapons of mass destruction that the American Mobile Exploitation Team Alpha was seeking in Iraq during the spring of 2003. But the books and manuscripts that the team found in a flooded basement of Saddam Hussein's secret police headquarters — now on display for the first time at the National Archives here — look like victims of some form of ordnance.

Iraqi Jewish archives
<http://www.ija.archives.gov>

They are ragged, warped, torn, stained. And that is after extensive restoration. This new exhibition, "Discovery and Recovery: Preserving Iraqi Jewish Heritage," presents just 24 artifacts (and some reproductions) selected from 2,700 volumes and tens of thousands of documents the American military found submerged in four feet of fetid water in the Mukhabarat, Iraq's intelligence building. Those items, which had been collected by the Iraqi office investigating Israel and the Jews, span five centuries of Jewish life in Iraq. It took weeks for the American team to gather them, set them out to dry and ship them — in disarray and black with mold — to the National Archives. Much still awaits being restored and digitized at the archives' laboratories in College Park, Md.

Their condition, though, may be the least complicated thing about them. The flooding was caused by an unexploded coalition bomb — an accident of war. The mold was partly the result of the military rescuers' inability to freeze the waterlogged material immediately, which would have halted decay. The costs of the restoration, overseen by the archives' director of preservation, Doris Hamburg, have been mainly paid with \$3 million from the State Department, which will return the materials to Iraq next year — as was agreed.

But that plan has touched a quivering nerve. Protests have been registered by Senator Charles E. Schumer of New York, a Democrat, and other members of Congress; Iraqi Jews, now in other countries, have also been pressing for alternatives to the collection's return. Passions are high, too, because the collection's state of ruin is an uncanny representation of what happened to the Iraqi Jewish population itself. It had been the oldest Jewish diaspora in the world, arriving before the sixth century B.C. In 1940, Jews accounted for a quarter of Baghdad's population; there were more than 130,000 Jews in Iraq. Now there is scarcely a handful.

So these documents, which are gradually being made available online, offer a wide-ranging requiem. On display is a 16th-century Hebrew Bible and a student's 1967 transcript from a Jewish school in Baghdad. There is a 1793 volume of the Babylonian Talmud and an 1815 copy of the Zohar, a mystical text.

But this cache really should not be called the Iraqi Jewish Archive, as the National Archives refers to it. That title implies a systematic collection. Actually, as is clear online, it is a miscellaneous assemblage of treasures and trivia, incorporating legal documents and prayer books, office correspondence and Hebrew calendars. What, then, was it doing in the intelligence services' basement? And what will be its fate?

Items in the collection may have also been seized for psychological effect, as suggested by Harold Rhode, a Pentagon analyst and an adviser on Islamic affairs for the secretary of defense from 1995 to 2010, who was present at the cache's discovery and instrumental in its rescue. In an online account, Mr. Rhode argues that part of this collection moved with the shrinking Jewish population, until it was stored at the last synagogue in Baghdad. In 1984, Mr. Hussein carted away the cache; the purpose, Mr. Rhode suggests, was to humiliate the city's remaining Jews.

This exhibition illustrates how far they had already fallen. The rare, centuries-old volumes on view testify to a Jewish community that was once worldly enough to afford such texts, yet keen to study them, feeding on a spiritual tradition of fervor and seriousness. As this show reminds us, the Iraq region is where the tombs of Daniel, Ezekiel, Ezra and Jonah are found, where the Babylonian Talmud was compiled, and where great Jewish academies were established in the first millennium.

We see, too, that Iraqi Jews were often prosperous, despite their secondary status under Islamic rule. In the 20th century, some Iraqi Jewish businesses became international. (There is a 1920 letter from David Sassoon & Company in Bombay.)

It is tantalizing to learn that the military team was initially told that a seventh-century Babylonian Talmud was in the cache; it was never found, but important items were looted.

The salvation of the rest was as unpredictable as its presence in that basement. The extraordinary efforts required (supported by Donald H. Rumsfeld, then defense secretary) may have salved the consciences of those in the United States administration who failed to stop the torching of the great Central Library in Baghdad a few weeks earlier.

As for the Jewish population's decline, perhaps the collection will eventually shed light on the massacres, hangings, expulsions and degradations that befell its members beginning in the 1930s. But the exhibition's text provides a broad portrait. Nazis and their Islamic allies began making inroads, culminating in the Farhud pogrom in 1941; the exhibition says 180 Jews were killed and hundreds more injured; other estimates are higher. Later that decade, Iraq's entry in the war against Israel led to edicts removing Jews from public life and imposing restrictions on their commerce and travel. Mass migrations followed, requiring forfeiture of property.

Some sense of the delicate maneuvering required by the remaining Jews in Iraq is clear here in a 1949 Hebrew primer. Two pages with a poem declaring loyalty to King Faisal II were ripped out after he was killed in a military coup in July 1958. It is as if mixed feelings of loyalty and vulnerability first required including the pledge and then required destroying it.

Difficulties mounted again with the 1963 rise of the Baath Party. And Islamist attacks in recent years have not inspired confidence about returning this collection. What evidence is there that Iraq will now treasure artifacts of Jews and other cultures? How would this archive be freely studied? Since these documents were forcefully taken from the Jews of Iraq, was the 2003 State Department agreement even valid? But if they belonged to that population, who are its rightful heirs? Iraqi Jews now living in other countries?

The one thing that is clear is that this textual trace of a community's life is not a backwater chronicle. The exhibition reminds us that while the West's influence on Judaism has been profound, it is by the waters of Babylon that many texts and practices of exilic Judaism were codified, beginning a long evolutionary journey — even if this strand came to a grievous end in the muck of Iraq's Mukhabarat.

“Discovery and Recovery: Preserving Iraqi Jewish Heritage” exhibit runs through Jan. 5 2014 at the National Archives, Constitution Avenue at Ninth Street NW, Washington; archives.gov.



An installation view of the "Discovery and Recovery" exhibit.

Highlights of the exhibit include:

- A Hebrew Bible with Commentaries from 1568
- A Babylonian Talmud from 1793
- A Torah scroll fragment from Genesis
- A Zohar (book of mysticism) from 1815
- A Passover Haggadah from 1902 handwritten and decorated by an Iraqi Jewish youth.
- An official 1918 letter to the chief rabbi regarding the allotment of sheep for Rosh Hashanah.
- Materials from Baghdad Jewish schools, including exam grades and a letter to the College Entrance Exam Board in Princeton regarding SAT scores; and
- A lunar calendar in Hebrew and Arabic from 1972-73, one of the last examples of Hebrew items produced in Baghdad.



Discovery and Recovery: Preserving Iraqi Jewish Heritage A Torah case from Baghdad, at the National Archives



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZmP0uwzEII>

Some of the thousands of Jewish items recovered by US troops from a flooded Baghdad basement have been painstakingly restored for public display



A 1959 photograph of the Shohet family on the Tigris River, included in "Discovery and Recovery."



A 1930 Viennese haggadah recovered from Baghdad BEFORE preservation. (photo credit: The National Archives)

AWAFI...



Moroccan Chanukah Donuts

Recipe By Galit Parness

Ingredients:

2.2 pounds of flour

4 tablespoons yeast

1/2 cups sugar

2 teaspoons salt

3 1/4 cups water

1 pot with a lot of oil to deep fry



Mix flour, sugar, yeast, and salt then add water. Dough must be fluffy and soft.

Let dough rise. Knead the dough slightly and let it rise again. Repeat this process a total of 3 times. Break apart a piece of dough and poke a hole (pull apart in the middle slightly) and put it in the hot oil.

Fry until golden brown.

Top with powdered sugar, caramelized honey or coconut.

Your children will see what you're all about by what you live rather than what you say.

~ Wayne Dyer



Rishikain.com

Great Attitude



Once a bird asked a Bee, after a continuous hard-work, you prepare the honey. But a man steals the honey. Do you not feel sad?

Then the Bee replied: Never... Because a man can only steal my honey not the art of making honey...!!!

A Jew's wish.....

Contributed by: Isaac Amnon

A Jew having no children, no money, no home and a blind mother, prays sincerely to G-d for improving his status in life.

G-d is very pleased with his prayer, and..... grants him one wish..... just one !!!!!!!!!!!!!

The Jew says OK G-d, thanks!

My one and only wish is- 'I want my Mom to see my wife putting a twenty million dollar diamond necklace around my child's neck, in my Mercedes Benz 600 parked near the swimming pool of our new 5 acre bungalow in Beverly Hills.'

G-D: I still have a lot to learn from these Jews.



Escape From Baghdad - Moshe Kahtan's story

An interesting story of an escape from Baghdad.



approx 35 min long:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ckSDy45kUc>



The forgotten refugees: הפליטים היהודים בימינו

A MUST SEE on Your Tube:

Please share this informative and educational part of our Iraqi history with your children, friends and relatives.....

This clip is about the forgotten refugees (From Iran and Arab countries) and is approx 50 min long:

הפליטים היהודים בימינו

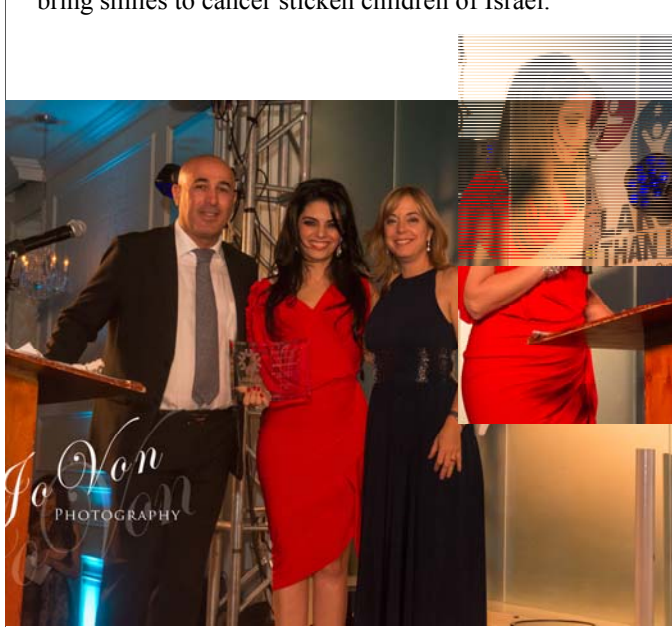
חשוב לראות ולהפיץ את הסרטון.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLcEAgYr1IQ>

“If the rich could hire the poor to die for them, the poor would make a very nice living!”

Larger Than Life Gala was a huge success.

The Gala held on Oct. 22, 2013 at Temple Israel was a great success. We thank all the many members of The BJC who supported and attended this special event and helped bring smiles to cancer stricken children of Israel.



This article in Farsi was featured in "Payam" Weekly Magazine issued on Nov. 8, 2013

پیام

شادی کودکان نیازمند و قلب های پر محبت

گزارش از بهناز دیلمانی

بمنظور پشتیبانی معنوی و حمایت از کودکان مبتلا به سرطان سازمان غیر انتفاعی Larger Than Life ضیافت باشکوهی در تاریخ سه شنبه شب ۲۲ اکتبر در تپل ایسرائل گریست نک برگزار نمود. بیش از ۴۵۰ نفر از خیرخواهان جوامع ایرانی، اسرائیلی، آمریکائی و عراقی در این برنامه شرکت کردند.

در این شب از دو تن از نیکوکاران جامعه خاتم آنا حکاکیان و آقای پویا خانی بخاطر فعالیت ها و خدماتشان به این سازمان بزرگداشت بعمل آمد.

Larger Than Life سازمان در سال ۲۰۰۰ با هدف بهبود کیفیت زندگی و رفاه کودکان و جوانان مبتلا به سرطان و خانواده های آنان بوسیله والدین کودکان مبتلا به سرطان در اسرائیل

تأسیس شد. این سازمان بدون در نظر گرفتن مذهب و نژاد این کودکان به آنان یاری میرساند.

گروهی از والدین کودکان مبتلا به سرطان که با مشکلات کودکان مبتلا به سرطان آشنائی داشتند برای تأمین نیازهای این اطفال سازمان Larger Than Life را تأسیس نمودند.

شعبه این سازمان در نیویورک از فعالیت های Larger Than Life اسرائیل پشتیبانی مینماید. هر ساله کودکانی برای درمان پزشکی به ایالات متحده می آیند و تیمی از افراد داوطلب، کمک های پرارزشی در اختیار آنان و خانواده هایشان قرار میدهند که شامل همراهی به بیمارستان، مهمان نوازی در تعطیلات آخر هفته، ترجمه، ترتیب سفرهای تفریحی و کمکهای دیگر میباشد.

خاتم آنا حکاکیان - عروس جناب ریای سیون حکاکیان - که از طرف سازمان Larger Than Life مورد تقدیر قرار گرفت یک زن ایرانی-عراقی میباشد که در ایران متولد شده است. او در سن ۱۳ سالگی به آمریکا مهاجرت نمود. تحصیلات خود را در دانشگاه NYU پایان رساند. تخصص او در رشته گرافیک در امور ارتباطات است. پس از پایان تحصیل آنا در رشته تبلیغاتی و نشریات و بطور کلی رسانه های گروهی شروع بکار نمود. وی کار خود را در تبلیغات اینترنتی و مدیریت امور مالی ادامه داد. آنا با همسر خود بهرام حکاکیان و سه فرزندشان در گریست نک



زندگی میکنند. آنا عضو فعال Babylonian Jewish Center میباشد و یک طنزنامه ماهانه به زبان انگلیسی بپرا آن منتشر میکند.

طی چند سال گذشته آنا فعالیت خود را در سازمان Larger Than Life آغاز نمود و با همکاری سایر داوطلبان سعی دارد به کودکان مبتلا به سرطان و خانواده های آنها کمک نموده و تا حد ممکن آسودگی خیال و شادی برای آنان به ارمغان بیاورد.

آنا ضمن سخنانی برای سپاسگزاری از گردندگان برنامه و حضار اظهار داشت، «بزرگترین سعادت انسان اینست که باعث شادی فردی دیگر شود. هیچ چیز زیباتر از دیدن یک لبخند بر روی چهره یک کودک نیست. شما با یک عمل کوچک قدرت آنرا دارید که یک کودک معصوم را شاد کنید.» آنا ضمن صحبت هایش از خانمها «دینا دلال خانی» و «میرا زرا» برای تهیه این برنامه تشکر نمود.

پدر آنا زنده نام دکتر آلبرت خیزازا دو سال قبل از بیماری سرطان درگذشت. آنا میگوید دوست دارد پدر محبتی که والدینش در وجود او کاشته اند به فرزندان خود منتقل کند و همواره در کارهای خیر پیشگام باشند و در این راه موفق بوده است. اسمال دختر وی «طورا» که به سن بت میثیصا رسیده است، با درست کردن تعدادی دستبند و فروش آن مبلغ قابل توجهی پول جمع آوری نمود و ۱۰ عدد «مینی آی پاد» به این موسسه و کودکانی که برای معالجه به آمریکا آمده بودند هدیه نمود.

پویا خانی یکی دیگر از محبوب ترین و خیرترین جوانانی است که در این شب از او بزرگداشت بعمل آمد. وی در دامان خانواده ای نیکوکار و فعال اجتماعی خانی-کیمیابخش پرورش یافته است. پویا تحصیلات دانشگاهی اش را در روانشناسی و فوق لیسانس در رشته مدیریت بازرگانی از دانشگاه "Dowlrig College" به اتمام رساند. وی اکنون مدیر ارشد سازمان تکنولوژی Global HR Operations at CA Technologies در نیویورک است. پویا عضو فعال هیئت مدیره سازمان مرکزی - کنیسیا بت هداسا میباشد.



آنا و بهرام حکاکیان



بهرام حکاکیان و فرزندانش



پویا خانی، برادرش دیویه و فرزندانش



پویا خانی صحبت هایش را با سیاستگری از ریای های محترمی که در جلسه حضور داشتند و میهمانان و گردندگان برنامه آغاز نمود. وی گفت، «برای من افتخار بزرگی است که همراه با خاتم آنا حکاکیان از طرف سازمان غیرانتفاعی Larger Than Life مورد شناسائی و تقدیر قرار گرفته ام. من فکر میکنم که تاکنون به اندازه کافی خدمت نکرده ام و بسپار کارهای دیگر در پیش است.» سپس افزود، «من بوسیله خاتم "Netta" و مادرم زیلا خانی که همه او را می شناسند و به خدماتش آشنائی دارند با این سازمان آشنا شدم. ما اینکه تاکنون خیلی از مادرم آموخته ام ولی در مقابل خدماتی که او برای اجتماع انجام میدهد، سایه ای بیش نیستم. سه سال قبل برای ضیافت شامی که به افتخار زنده نام شاجین خلیلی برگزار میشد با این سازمان خبریه بزرگ آشنا شدم. هفته ها برای تهیه برنامه کار میکردیم و بعضی شبها تا صبح پای تلن بودیم.» پویا اضافه کرد، «من بعنوان کوچکترین پسر خانواده آموخته ام که بهتر است انسان دست دهنده داشته باشد تا بگیرنده. کمک کردن بهتر از کمک گرفتن است. بعنوان یک عضو جوان داوطلب سازمان Larger Than Life و بطور کلی جامعه، منتخرم که وقت و انرژی و تمرکز خود را برای کمک به کودکان و خانواده هایی صرف کنم که باید با بیماری دستنک سرطان دست و پنجه نرم کنند.»

پویا در پایان سخنانش با تشکر از پدر و مادرش خاتم زیلا و دکتر سلیمان خانی و همچنین اعضای بورد کنیسیا بت هداسا و همه دوستانش و گردندگان برنامه گفت، «اگر زندگی یک نفر را نجات دهید. مانند این است که دنیا را نجات داده اید.» و از شرکت کنندگان درخواست نمود که به سخاوتمندی به این هدف مقدس کمک نمایند و بیاد داشته باشند که با کمک آنان این کودکان دیگر از کودکی خود لذت می برند.

فعالیت های خیرخواهانه آنا حکاکیان و پویا خانی-ستودنی است.

در این شب گروه Voca People که در برادروی نیز بر روی صحنه رفته اند با هنرمندی خود جلوه خاصی به برنامه دادند. پدربرای شب از طرف کترینگ گلات کاشتر لدرمن بعمل آمد و گلپای زیمیا توسط گل فروشی «مترو» با مدیریت «آدرین» اهدا شده بود که به زیبایی مجلس افزوده بود. عکاسی Jovon Photography و فیلمبرداری «تور» به مدیریت «شان رفیسی» داوطلبانه وظیفه عکسبرداری و فیلمبرداری را بعد از آنکه در مورد سیاسی همگان قرار گرفتند.

میهمانان تا پاسی از شب در فضای پر از مهر و محبت و انسدادستی، اوقات خوشی را گذراندند. به خاتم آنا حکاکیان و آقای پویا خانی و خانواده های محترمشان تبریک میگویم و برای آنان سلامتی، سعادت، موفقیت های بیشتر و ادامه خدمات انسانی آرزو داریم.

Larger Than Life Gala article translation...

Translated by Rita Khabbaza (certified translator)

“Payam” Weekly Magazine Volume 21 - Issue No. 940 - Nov. 8, 2013

The joy of needy children and hearts filled with kindness

By Behnaz Dilmanian (Managing Editor of “Payam”)

In support of children afflicted with cancer, the Larger than Life organization held a magnificent banquet on Tuesday, October 22nd, at Temple Israel of Great Neck. Over 450 people from different communities such as the Iranian, Israeli, American, and Iraqi communities attended this program. Two generous and kindhearted people, Mrs. Anna Hakakian, and Mr. Pouya Khani were honored on this night for their extensive charitable services to this organization.

The Larger than Life organization was founded in the year 2000 in Israel by parents of children who were suffering from cancer, in order to improve the quality of life of these children as well as their families. This organization assists all children without regard to their race or religion.

A group of parents whose children had been diagnosed with cancer and who are familiar with the problems facing these children, founded the Larger than Life organization in order to address the needs and problems of these children.

The New York branch of this organization supports its activities in Israel. Every year, many children come to the US for medical treatment, and a team of volunteers provide invaluable assistance to these children and their families, such as accompanying them to the hospital, inviting them on weekends, transportation services, organizing fun trips for them, and other forms of assistance.

Mrs. Anna Hakakian, (the daughter-in-law of Rabbi Sion Hakakian), who was honored by the Larger than Life organization, is an Iranian-Iraqi woman who was born in Iran. She immigrated to the US at the age of 13 and completed her studies at NYU in Communications and Graphic Design. After finishing her studies, Anna started working in Advertising, Publishing, and Mass Media. She then continued her work in Internet Advertising and Inventory Management. Anna lives with her husband Bahram Hakakian and their 3 children in Great Neck. Anna is an active member of the Babylonian Jewish Center, and publishes a monthly satirical newsletter in English for that center.

During the past few years, Anna started her volunteer work with the Larger than Life organization, and along with other volunteers, she is trying to help children who are stricken by cancer and their families, in order to bring as much joy and happiness into their lives as possible.

In her speech, Anna thanked the organizers and attendees, and she stated: "The greatest happiness on earth lies in making others happy, and there's nothing more beautiful than a child's smile. ...with one small gesture you can bring happiness to an innocent child's life." In her speech, Anna also thanked Ms. Dina Dallal Khani and Mirra Zara for chairing this event.

Anna's father, the late Dr. Albert Khabbaza passed away 2 years ago after his battle with cancer. Anna says she wants to continue passing on the seeds of kindness that her parents have instilled in her onto her own children so that they would always be role models in charity work, and she has been successful in achieving that: Anna's daughter Laura, who has just reached her Bat Mitzvah age, made many bracelets and sold them all for a considerable amount of money, which she used to buy ten mini i-pads to donate to this organization and to the children who have come to the US for medical treatments.

Pouya Khani is also one of the kindhearted people who was also honored on this night. He grew up in a family known for their kind deeds and social activities: The family of Khani-Kimiabakhsh. Pouya received his Bachelor's degree in psychology and his Master's degree in Business Management from Dowling College. He is currently a senior manager at the Global HR Operations at CA Technologies in New York. Pouya is an active Board Member of the Beth Hadassah Synagogue Central Organization.

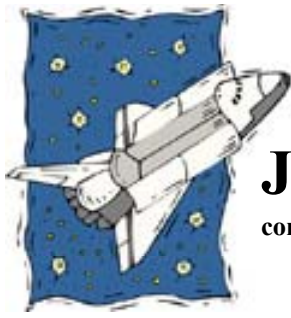
Pouya Khani started his speech by thanking all the honorable Rabbis who were present at the ceremony, as well as the guests and all the organizers. He stated: "It is a great honor for me to be honored and appreciated alongside Mrs. Anna Hakakian by the Larger than Life Non-profit organization. I don't think I have done enough to deserve this, and there's a lot more work to be done." He further added: "I came to know this organization through Ms. Netta and my mother Jilla Khani, whom you all know and are familiar with her acts of kindness. Although I have learned a lot from my mother, compared to the services that she has provided to our society, I'm but a shadow. I had attended a dinner ceremony in honor of the late Mr. Shahin Khalili 3 years ago, when I was introduced to this large charity organization. We worked weeks on end to organize programs, and there were nights that we would spend the whole night on the phone until the next morning." Pouya added that: "As the youngest son in my family, I have learned that it is best to give rather than to receive; giving help is better than receiving help. As a young volunteer member at the Larger than Life organization, and generally speaking in society, I am proud to focus my time and energy on helping children and families who have to fight the terrible disease of cancer." At the end of his speech, Pouya thanked his parents, Mrs. Jilla and Dr. Soleiman Khani, as well as Beth Hadassah's Board Members, all his friends, and the organizers of the program. Pouya said: "If you save one life, it's like saving the whole world." He then asked all participants to help in this holy mission by their generosity, and to remember that with their help, these children will be able to receive the treatments they need, return to school, and enjoy their lives just like other children do.

Anna Hakakian and Pouya Khani's charitable efforts are truly commendable.

The group Voca People who have also performed on Broadway gave a wonderful performance which enhanced the joy of this beautiful night. Catering was provided by Lederman Caterers, and the beautiful flower centerpieces were donated by Metro Florists under the management of Adrian. Jovon Photography and Shawn Ruff from Noor Video volunteered their photography and video services, which was greatly appreciated by everyone. The guests enjoyed a night filled with kindness and love.

We would like to congratulate Mrs. Anna Hakakian and Mr. Pouya Khani, as well as their respective families, and to wish them lots of health, happiness, and continued success in all their charitable services.





JEWISH ASTRONAUTS

contributed by Edna Shoheit

Judy Resnick



Judy Resnick, was the first American Jewish astronaut to go into space. She served as mission specialist on the maiden voyage of the Space Shuttle Discovery in 1984 and also on the Challenger.

She died tragically when the Challenger broke apart shortly after liftoff for its 10th mission.

She consulted a rabbi about lighting Shabbat candles aboard the Space Shuttle. Of course, an open flame was not permitted, so she was advised to use electric lights at the proper hour corresponding to the onset of Shabbat at their home base, in Houston .



Jeffrey Hoffman



Jeffrey Hoffman was the first Jewish man in space and the first person to ever bring a Torah into space. He did this during his 1996 mission on the Space Shuttle Columbia.



Another Jewish astronaut, David Wolf, was in orbit during Hanukkah and, though he couldn't light his menorah due to the hazards of fire in an oxygen-rich atmosphere, he did take advantage of zero gravity when spinning his dreidels.



David Wolf
David Wolf



"I probably have the record dreidel spin," he later said, "it went for about an hour and a half until I lost it. It showed up a few weeks later in an air filter. I figure it went about 25,000 miles."



Boris Volynov was the first Jew in space. He was the commander of Soyuz 5 in January 1969.

JEWISH ASTRONAUTS

continued...

Gregory Chamitoff



Then, of course, there's Gregory Chamitoff, in 2008. He took mezuzot shaped like rockets on to the International Space Station and placed them on the door post near his bunk bed.

Ilan Ramon



Ilan Ramon was the first Israeli astronaut.

The first Jewish astronaut to live on the International Space Station, and who brought a memento from Ilan Ramon's widow with him.

Gary Reisman



He left right before Passover and asked if he could bring matzah with him, but, alas, mission control thought the crumbs would be uncontainable.

(Reisman is a self-proclaimed member of the Colbert Nation and had a cameo appearance on the series finale of Battlestar Galactica).

He was the payload specialist on the Space Shuttle Columbia and, sadly, he died along with his crew mates when the Columbia disintegrated during re-entry over Southern Texas . But during his career as an astronaut Judaism was a prominent part of his life in space. He was the first astronaut to request kosher food in space and also the first one to consult a rabbi about how to observe Shabbat while in orbit.



In addition to a Torah scroll and microfiche copy of the bible, he also carried a picture of Earth as seen from the moon that was drawn by a Jewish boy in a concentration camp during World War II.

Yuri Gagarin was the first Jewish man in space. He flew into orbit aboard the Soviet spacecraft Vostok I on 12 April 1961. He never told anyone he was Jewish.

Why a Jew gets ahead...

Contributed by: Isaac Amnon

Bill Gates (about as Goyish as anybody can be)

Advertised for a new chairman of Microsoft Europe.

5000 candidates show up at the job screening. They

Are assembled in a large room. Among them is

Maurice Cohen, a French Jew, a small, bearded,

Speckled man.

Bill Gates thanks the candidates for coming but asks

All those who are not familiar with the JAVA

Programming language to leave; 2000 people rise

And leave the room. Maurice Cohen says to himself,

"I do not know this language but what have I got to

Lose if I stay? I'll give it a try".

Bill Gates then asks all those who have no experience

Of managing teams of more than 100 people to leave.

Another 2000 people go. Maurice Cohen says to himself,

"I have never managed anybody but myself but what

Have I got to lose if I stay? What can happen to me?"

Then Bill Gates asks all candidates who do not have

Outstanding academic qualifications to rise and leave;

500 people remove themselves. Maurice Cohen says to

Himself, "I left school at 15 but what have I got to lose if

I stay? So he stays in the room.

Lastly, Bill Gates asks all of the candidates who do not

Speak the Serbo-Croat language to rise and leave; 498

People rise and leave the room. Maurice Cohen says

Himself, "I do not speak Serbo-Croat but what the hell!

Have I got anything to lose?"

He finds himself alone with one other candidate.

Everyone else has gone. Bill Gates joins them and says:

"Apparently you are the only two candidates who know

JAVA, have managed large teams of employees, have

Advanced PhD degrees, and who can speak Serbo-

Croatian. I'd like to hear you converse with one another in

Serbo-Croatian."

Calmly Maurice turns to the other candidate and says to

Him: "Baruch ata Adonai."

The other candidate answers: "Eloh_וnu melech ha'olam"

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516-776-0202**



**One hand
helping
another!**

Deadline is Friday Nov. 22

FAMILY SHABBAT DATES:

DEC. 14, 2013 APRIL 5, 2014
JAN. 25, 2014 MAY 10, 2014
MAR. 1, 2014 JUNE 14, 2014

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