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A Monthly Publication For Toronto's Jewish Community

February/March 2008 | Issue 33
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BRINGING OUR COMMUNITY CLOSER | 3



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

It's been quite a winter. The snow-banks have appeared, disappeared and re-appeared again. Quite frankly it seems like the winter season will never end. Well, it will and we will soon forget the ice, the shoveling and blustery days, just as we have long forgotten the sweltering heat of mid summer. We do seem to have short memories. Some times this is very good, other times, not so good. I am sure you can recall a time, or two that forgetting was....well lets just say "not the wisest of things". Gentlemen....an anniversary perhaps, and lady's....oh, how silly of me, we all know that women don't forget.

Gentlemen, if you have or haven't forgotten that certain special day, may I suggest a visit to either Fine Jewelry by Colette on Eglinton or Debra Raphael Fine Jewelry located in Thornhill, across from Israeli Source. Couple this with a visit to Leah Goldshmidt (registered massage therapist) for a soothing massage, and the road to recovery is clearly paved. Note to reader...the jewelry and massage is for your wife!!

With Purim being just around the corner, JTO Monthly, is here to remind you of a number of great stores to purchase those holiday items. Balloon Bash, Chocolate Charm, Ely's Fine Foods, Israeli Source and Kitchen Art have all geared up for the onslaught of calls for Shalach Manos. If you are sending to Eretz Yisroel or the U.S, Incredible Edibles Plus can deliver. Also, since it's a custom to drink on Purim until we no longer know the difference between Cursed-is-Haman, and 'Blessed-is-Mordechai, a visit to Simcha Wine located on the north west corner of Bathurst and Steeles will help. While your there, drop in across the plaza to Bagel Haven for some excellent food, or head a little further north to D'Lite's, they're sure to delight. So eat drink and be merry.

I'm also pleased to announce that JTO Monthly is now mailed to well over 5000 homes a month through Canada Post, and read by thousands more. Thank you for reading and for supporting all the tremendous businesses in our community. Have a wonderful Freilich Purim. ☆

This Issue

Candle Lighting.....	4
Dear Esther - by E. Friedman	6
Torah Talk	8
Money Matters - by D. Gray.....	10
Community Events - by Chai Lifeline.....	12
Living in Style - by S. Gottlieb	14
Life Coach - by C. Cooper.....	18
Fashion Sense - by A. Gold	20
Fun N Games	24
Travel Talk - by N. Sherman.....	26
Masterpiece of the Month	34
Purim Guide	34
Secret Ingredient.....	36
JTO Business Directory	38



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**Advertising Submission Deadline for next issue:
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Candle Lighting Times				
		Torah Portion	Light Candles	Shabbos Ends
Feb 22	Adar I - 16	Ki Sisa	5:38 pm	6:40 pm
Feb 29	Adar I - 23	Vayakhel	5:47 pm	6:49 pm
March 7	Adar I - 30	Pekudei	5:56 pm	6:58 pm
March 14	Adar II - 7	Vayikrah	7:05 pm	8:06 pm
March 21	Adar II - 14	Tzav	7:13 pm	8:15 pm

PURIM



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BRINGING OUR COMMUNITY CLOSER | 5



DEAR ESTHER

by Esther Freidman

keeping the balance in the family

Imagine a vehicle with two operators that are not acting in coordination with each other? Would you consider a ride on such a vehicle? A bus with one driver turning left, while the other is in reverse? Yet we often meet families in which a child gets two different answers to a request from his parents. Children frequently observe parents openly disagreeing with each other right in front of them.

Much has been said and written about the difficulties in human relationships. A great deal of effort and care must be invested in enabling two to get along in an acceptable level of harmony. It is easy to appreciate the level of complexity when children join the couple and the parents now have an additional challenge. Not only must they tend to their relationship as a couple, but they must also join forces in parenting their children in unison. It is easy to see that two people that grew up in separate households with different parents, they now need to unite in their newly created family. This elusive parental unity is of huge importance in family life.

Children who grow up with no parental unity tend to become confused as to their role in the family. Children are inclined to recognize the weakness in the "leadership" and learn how they can effectively challenge parental authority. They may become manipulative and create alliances with one of the parents against the other. They may try to dictate which parent they prefer to consult with or to be cared by. These difficulties can definitely erode family relationships between parents and their children. It can also have detrimental influence on a couple's relationship. As a child grows up these unhealthy ways of dealing with

authority figures may develop into difficult relationships with other authority figures such as teachers, employers and others.

In an Ideal family (does anybody know one?), effective parents lead the family as a seamless unit. This is, of course, an ideal situation. Although it is hard to achieve, it sets a clear goal for parents to work towards. Parental unity requires both partners to develop an agreed upon parental philosophy and plan. This requires a great deal of care and effort, as we all come from different backgrounds and were brought up with differing parental philosophies.

Parents should pay attention to everyday interactions in striving to create parental unity in the family. The following are basic guidelines designed to keep balance in the family:



- When answering to a child's request that does not require an immediate response, parents should make an effort to consult with each other.
- When responding to a child's request, parents should reply with the royal 'we', rather than 'I'.
- When one parent is not in agreement with the other it is important to make an effort to support each other and have a discussion later.
- Parents should not diminish the position of the other parent, as it will cause great damage to the child. This is especially crucial in cases of separation or divorce.
- When a couple has great difficulties in co-parenting, professional help may prove to be very helpful.
- No matter how wrong the other parent is in their parenting, discrediting them may cause greater harm to the child.

Although parenting is not an easy quest, the challenging task of parenting must focus on the child's well being beyond personal considerations of either partner. ✨

Esther Freidman M.S.W., R.S.W., Cert. Ed. Esther can be reached at 416-223-6440

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BRINGING OUR COMMUNITY CLOSER | 7



rejoicing despite oppression

World War I was into its second year and the Jews of Poland were suffering tremendous deprivation. It was almost Purim and the town of Radin was plunged into darkness and despair. The rabbi of the little town was Rabbi Yisroel Meir Hacoheh, the saintly Chofetz Chaim, a great leader of world Jewry in the early years of the century.

During this black year, conditions in Radin steadily worsened. Food was scarce, taxes were high, and worst of all, most of the young men had been drafted into the military, never to be seen again.

At the approach of Purim, one Jew came to the Chofetz Chaim and asked, "Rebbe, our lives are so miserable this year. Our sons are off at the front. How can we be expected to celebrate Purim in this joyless, suffering world?"

The Chofetz Chaim knew that the man was speaking from his own pain and his fear for the life of his own young son who was one of the draftees.

"Don't worry, my friend," the Chofetz Chaim said. "Even in these terrible and troubled times, we must not lose our faith in G-d's salvation. Even now, we must rejoice in the thought of the great miracles which He did for our people on Purim.

"Once many years ago when I was a young man in Vilna, it was Purim time and the Tzar had issued a bitter decree. He ordered that the Jews must provide double the usual number of young men for the military draft. As you know these draftees, the Cantonists, were little more than children, and were pressed into military service for twenty years. After that long period of time, they often remembered nothing of their Jewishness and were totally lost to their families forever. That year, the draft fell out on Purim and the Jews of Vilna were in virtual mourning.

"However, in spite of their sorrow, the Jews of Vilna performed the mitzvot of Purim - they distributed Shalach Manos - gifts of food to their friends, and tzedaka - charity to the poor. Their

only consolation was in reading the Megilas Esther, recounting the miracle of Purim, when G-d brought a sudden and wondrous salvation to His people.

"It wasn't long, though, until things became even worse. The Tzar issued yet another decree against the Jews, ordering them to provide still more young men for the Russian army. All the greatest rabbis and Jewish leaders of the time petitioned the Tzar to rescind this terrible decree, but all their pleas were to no avail. The young men were chosen and ordered to report for military service the following Av, the month in the Jewish year when both Temples were destroyed, the month especially marked for tragedy.

"The orders were drawn up and ready for the Tzar's signature which would finalize the fate of the young men. It took only a second for the Tzar to affix his name to the document, but as he reached out to blot the wet ink, his hand accidentally knocked over the ink bottle, and it spilled over the paper, obliterating his name.

"The Tzar was shocked at his mistake. In his mind it seemed an omen from Above, and so he stubbornly refused to have the document redrawn. And so, these young men were freed from the terrible fate which had awaited them.

"The month of Av (which coincides roughly with August) had already begun when word of the sudden miraculous reprieve reached the Jews of Vilna. The young men, who had already prepared to leave Vilna quickly unpacked. Their families breathed a joyful sigh of relief, realizing how close they had come to losing their precious sons and brothers. That year the month of Av turned from mourning to rejoicing for the Jews of Vilna.

"How can we tell whether it was the rejoicing of the Jews in Vilna on that dark Purim when the evil decree was issued that had in it the spark of their redemption the following Av? Perhaps our joyous celebration of Purim now will be the seed of a great redemption which will follow in the same unexpected way, as G-d redeems His people once again." ☆





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BRINGING OUR COMMUNITY CLOSER | 9



MONEY MATTERS

us citizen Canadian Passport Holder

by Daniel Gray, Jon Ricci & Alison Corless of
the law offices of Juroviesky & Ricci LLP

Most everyone is aware of the new travel requirements implemented on January 23, 2007 requiring a passport to travel by air* between the US and Canada. Thus, when bearing a valid Canadian passport, a Canadian citizen should be granted entry to the US.

Dual nationality exists where a US citizen holds both US citizenship and Canadian citizenship simultaneously. While the US government permits US citizens to hold other nationalities, it does not provide any special provisions for dual nationals. The US considers dual national citizens (i.e., where US citizenship is one of the two) to be US citizens only. Every US citizen without exception is bound by the laws and regulations stipulated by the US government.

Thus, a dual US/CDN citizen resident of Canada should ensure to present himself to US airport border agents at Pearson Airport as a US citizen. One should take care to not create a situation whereby one may be considered as intentionally withholding US citizenship information and improperly (or even falsely) declaring citizenship by, for example, disclosing only Canadian citizenship info when questioned by US border agents in what country one holds citizenship.

The question arises whether it is sufficient for a dual US/CDN citizen resident of Canada to present a Canadian passport in lieu of a US passport. Technically, the answer is that all US citizens, which by definition includes US/CDN dual nationals, must present a US passport to enter the US. In practice, border agents in

Pearson have allowed dual US/CDN citizens to enter the US using Canadian passports but it is uncertain if by law such clearance can be automatically expected or guaranteed. If using a Canadian passport, a US citizen should also bring proof of US citizenship such as a birth certificate or consular report of birth abroad.

*At a later date the rules generally requiring US citizens entering the US at sea or land ports of entry to present a passport will be implemented. ☆



LAW SOURCES:

Section 215 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1185) mandates that US citizens are required to show a valid U.S. passport when arriving in or departing from the US, unless specifically exempted under Title 22 of the Code of Federal Regulations ("CFR") covered in Section 53.2.

CFR § 53.2 provides certain limited exemptions for US citizens travelling with the Western Hemisphere. These exemptions include (a) entry by land or sea and (b) allowing Homeland Security, at its discretion, to permit a US citizen to provide another document, or combination of documents to be evidence of identity and citizenship in lieu of a passport, as determined under § 7209(b) of Pub. L. 108-458 (8 U.S.C. 1185 note).

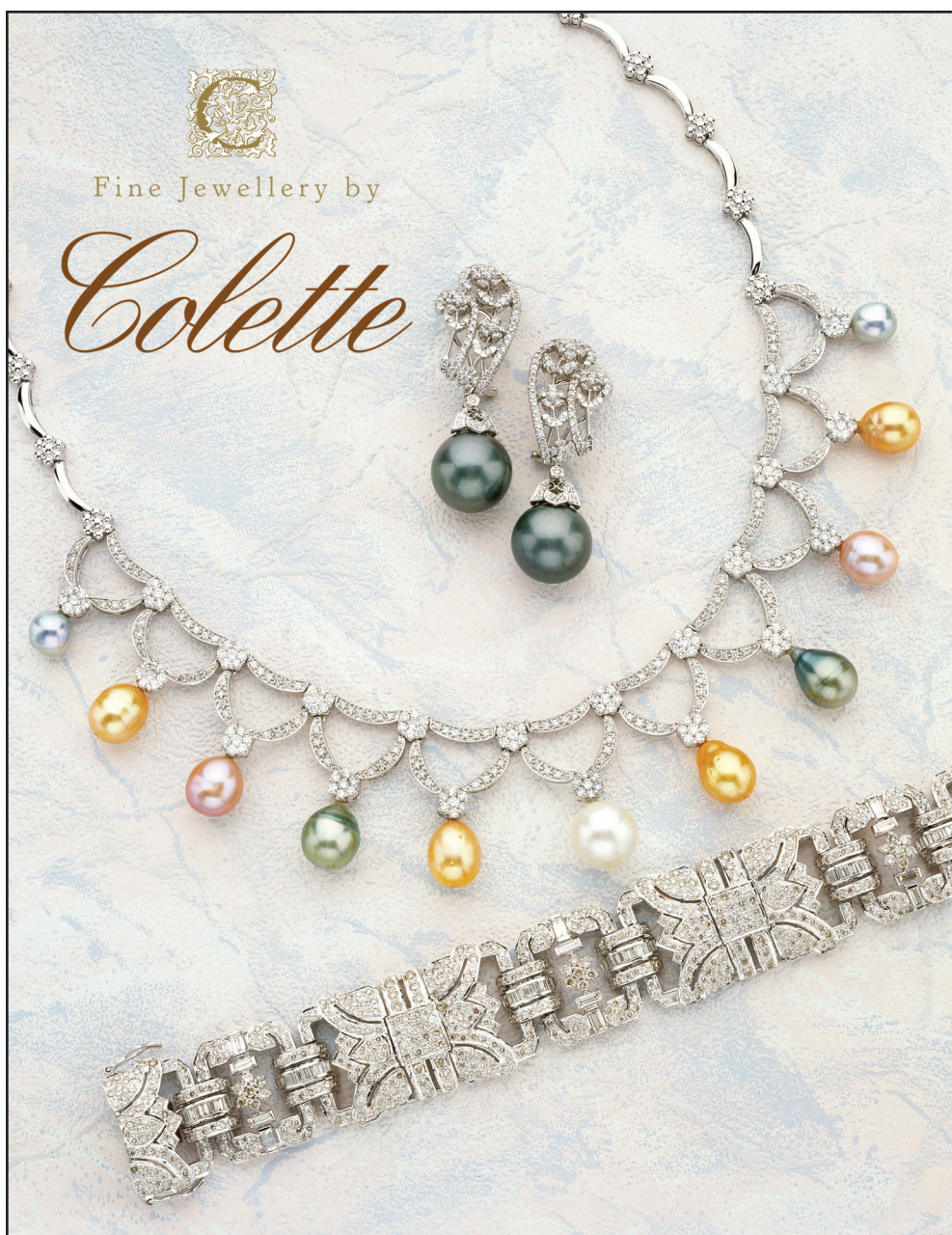
http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1753.html - "Most US citizens, including dual nationals, must use a US passport to enter and leave the US."

Daniel Gray, Jon Ricci & Alison Corless can be reached by contacting 416-481-0718 x 321. Gray J & R is a Cross Border Tax Services Joint Venture between US Tax Services (www.ustaxservices.ca) and the law firm of Juroviesky & Ricci LLP (www.jruslaw.com). Our Yonge and Sheppard office hosts a daily minyan (1:00p.m. winter and 2:00p.m. summer)



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BRINGING OUR COMMUNITY CLOSER **11**



Chai Lifeline

Fighting Illness With Love

Chai Lifeline Canada Helps Families Cope with Pediatric Illness

Only two years after opening its doors, Chai Lifeline Canada is changing the experience of pediatric illness for sick children and their families across the country.

Chai Lifeline Canada is guided by the belief that every family member is affected by a child's illness. As a result, the organization has created and implemented programs that bring smiles to children's faces and comfort to their parents' hearts. The organization's diverse programs and services, always free of charge, ease the burden of illness by offering needed emotional, social, and financial support.

Chai Lifeline Canada sent this message of inclusive care home during the Chanukah season with a blowout Chanukah party, a colossal toy drive, and an array of special recreational activities. The Chanukah Carnival Extravaganza brought the joy of Chanukah into the hearts of over 100 ill children, their siblings, and their parents. Held at the Pavilion Gym, rock climbing, sportswall, magic show, and, of course, delectable Chanukah treats made the afternoon one to remember. Handpicked gifts, collected by Chai Lifeline Canada's successful, volunteer-run toy drive, left participants full of Chanukah cheer.

Rabbi Mordechai Rothman, director of Chai Lifeline Canada, remarked, "The grins on children's faces as they left the carnival said it all. The party gave them a chance to just be kids, to let loose and have fun in a carefree environment. Just as important, it gave their parents the chance to network with others coping with pediatric illness, and it gave entire families a rare afternoon together."



The unrelenting demands of pediatric illness can leave sick children and their siblings in need of extra love and attention. To ensure that Simcha remained in the lives of Chai Lifeline's children after the party was over, over thirty Chai Lifeline Canada kids and sibs were assigned Big Brothers and Sisters. Big Siblings are special friends who help fill the void created by illness and shower love and attention upon their "little siblings." They spend one-on-one time with their young charges, taking them out for pizza, to ballgames, or just hanging out with them in their living rooms. This winter, big and little sibling pairs were sent to events like hockey and basketball games, where they created special memories and special friendships.

Three Chai Lifeline Canada children received a very exciting Chanukah present this year: a V.I.P. trip to Disney World. They joined Chai Lifeline's Disney Trip, sponsored by the Ohr Meir Foundation, for four days of fun and friendship in "the happiest place on earth" this December. Participants returned to Canada with smiles on their faces and memories that will last them a lifetime.

"Chai Lifeline Canada is here for the community, ready to help its families facing pediatric illness in any way that we can," remarked Rabbi Rothman. "We always hope for an end to illness, but until that day comes, Chai Lifeline Canada will be here, working hard to help our community tackle the obstacles of pediatric illness."

If you or someone you know could benefit from Chai Lifeline Canada's assistance, or if you would like to help, please call Rabbi Mordechai Rothman at 647 430-5933 or email Canada@chailifeline.org.



Chai Lifeline Canada is the Canadian affiliate of Chai Lifeline, the international children's health support organization. Chai Lifeline's two-dozen year-round programs include case management, counseling, ChaiLine telephone support groups, recreational and social programs for patients, siblings and parents, and a number of tutoring options. Every year, Chai Lifeline Canada sends children to Camp Simcha, named in memory of Dr. Samuel Abraham, and Camp Simcha Special, named in memory of Zvi Dovid Obstfeld, Chai Lifeline's pioneering overnight camps for children with life-threatening or lifelong illnesses. All programs and services are offered free of charge to participants.



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LIVING IN STYLE

by Shaila Gottlieb

you fill up my senses

When John Denver wrote the romantic ballad, "You fill up my senses", he might just as well have been referring to creating and packaging products or designing successful interior spaces.

Lately, I've noticed subtle changes in the packaging of certain products. The shape and feel of the containers seem somewhat softer, more alluring, and they mould into my hand as I pick them up. My initial reaction was "don't these guys have anything better to do than obsess about new packaging?!" But after giving it some thought, I came to realize that savvy corporations spend millions of dollars annually, tapping in to our psyche, examining our social and emotional responses in order to set trends and increase their bottom line.

The current trend in marketing products from I-pods and soft drinks to fabric and furniture takes in to consideration the response of all of our senses. For the first time, the tactile experience is at the top of the list. According to social anthropologist, Ashley Montagu, skin is the oldest and most sensitive of our organs, our first medium of communication. As a result, touch may well be the most emotional of all of our senses. Enter the merchandisers.

What separates "nice" spaces from outstanding surroundings, is the artful blending of shapes, colours, scents, sounds and textures resulting in a multi-sensory occurrence.

Capitalizing on this information, industrial and interior designers are creating new products and re-introducing others that subliminally awaken our passionate and responsive sense of touch. The resurgence of shag carpeting, flocked wallpaper, and the increased popularity of aged leather, all speak to the tactile response. If you own a glass-topped table, or have mirrored walls, you know that they are virtual magnets

for fingers. Old or young. Clean or sticky. The slick, cool surface (and underside) are just too difficult to resist! What other products beckon our inquisitive digits? Stainless steel appliances, leather, suede, chenille, down-filled cushions, fur...you know them all, and like yours truly, you probably can't resist the urge to touch them in passing. But the pleasure of each sensation is NOT universal. Not everyone loves to cuddle up on a chenille or velvet sofa. The scent of leather doesn't necessarily evoke a warm clubby feeling. Yes, for many it's a huge turn-off. Past experiences and emotional associations- positive and negative hugely influence our preferences.



Beware of marketing trends. Don't purchase anything major just because you see it in every magazine and beautifully merchandised in every store. Remember, today's latte and aqua colour palette will be rendered obsolete by tomorrow's charcoal and amber. If you find yourself responding to the bombardment of "must haves" in "today's colours

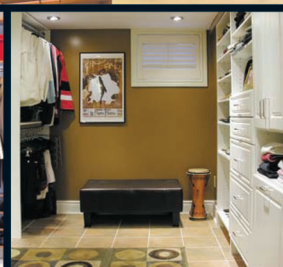
and textures, slow down and do the following exercise.

Browse through a couple of new and vintage decorating magazines. Seek out rooms that appeal to you on a visceral level. Don't get caught up in the details of the space...go with your emotions. What feelings do they evoke? What mood do they create? Now examine them more thoroughly. In the photographs you selected what colours and textures were used? Don't be surprised if you select certain parts of one space and different aspects of another one. Finally, educate yourself as to what's out there. Knowing your options will allow you to make choices that will surpass the "flavour of the week" mentality and give you years of comfort and enjoyment. ✨

Shaila Gottlieb has been designing homes and offices since 1975, she is a member of ARIDO (The Association of Registered Interior Designer's of Ontario). Shaila can be reached at Montdor Interiors @ 905-771-7031



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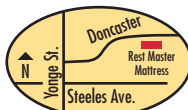
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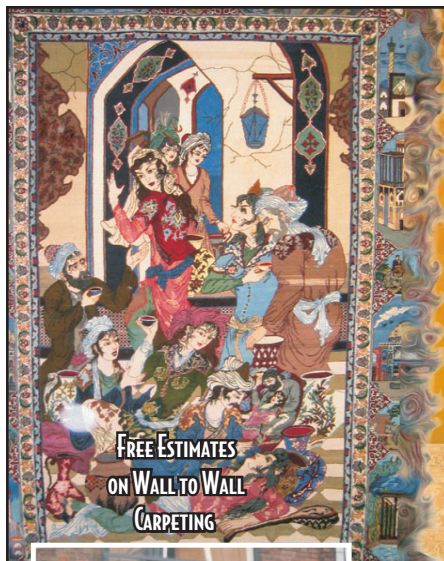
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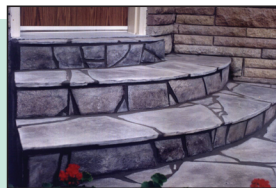
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BRINGING OUR COMMUNITY CLOSER | 17



YOUR LIFE COACH

by Carly Cooper

listen to yourself you know what's best for you

As a Life Coach, I often hear people complain that they aren't happy with the way their lives are. Some feel stuck in a job they have no passion for and dread going to, day after day. Others feel alone and bored even when they're in relationships and constantly surrounded by people. After asking many questions to get to the heart of the matter, I've noticed a common theme. They let other people's opinions, lifestyles and judgments play a huge factor in their decision-making. Sound Familiar? We've all done it at some point in our lives. We want to fit in and please others.

I want you to take a moment and think about a time when you did something for someone else because you thought it would make them happy. Have you taken a high paying job in a field you hated so you could keep up with your friends and impress them? Or have you ever worn a trendy outfit just to fit in, but knew it wasn't your style? Whatever your scenario is, think about how it made you feel. Were you happy? Did you feel confident? Were you proud of your decisions? Or did you feel lonely, depressed and full of dread?

Push those feelings aside for a moment and clear your mind. Give yourself permission to really let

go and dream. Don't censor, judge or bring your thoughts back to "reality".



Allow yourself to fully imagine what life would be like on your terms. No guilt or outside pressures. Money is no object here, so really go for it. Think about your ideal job. Really get a clear picture and write it down. What are you doing? Where are you? How much money do you make? Now

picture your ideal partner. The person who makes you laugh, supports and loves you unconditionally and encourages you to be the best you possibly can. Think about you. How do you look? How do you present yourself? Who are the people you're surrounded with? Spend some time on this. Write your vision down in great detail. How do you feel now? Is your heart pumping a little faster? Are you re-energized? How do your feelings compare from the ones you experienced in the first exercise?

It's hard to go against the grain and make different choices from your friends and family. You run the risk of alienating yourself from the group. Don't let fear stand in your way. By daring to be different, you open yourself up to a world of incredible and exciting possibilities. Listen to yourself, after all, you know what's best for you. ✨

Carly Cooper is a CTA Certified Life Coach, also known as the Guilt-Free Mom Coach. She specializes in working with Mom's who want to get rid of the guilt for good so they can be positive role models for their children. For more information about Carly and what coaching can do for you, visit her website at www.listenincoaching.com or you can contact her at carly@listenincoaching.com.

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FASHION SENSE

by Adrienne Gold

warm weather woes!

Am I the only woman who shivers at the thought of the beach? Since I became observant, fall and winter have become my favorite seasons. No shvitzing under my sheitle, everyone looking so lovely and tznius in their hats and scarves, long coats buttoned up to their necks! While I have come close to mastery when it comes to keeping cool in the summer, I still haven't found the trick to resort wear. Or public pools... or beaches... or the cottage. Last summer I spent countless hours searching for the perfect long t-shirt. If it was long enough to come to my knees, it was equally wide. As Tznius as I try to be, Omar the Tentmaker is not my couture role model. A sarong and t-shirt works, but only till it gets wet. Caftans harkens back to Beatrice Arthur as Maude...and if you are old enough to know of whom I speak, you will understand my hesitation. Frum does not mean Frump. Except, it seems, on the beach.

Until now! Some fabulous frum woman has invented a bathing dress...all lycra and long and lovely with a built in swimsuit underneath it. With cups for extra support...and quick dry fabric...and sun-protection...and they fit...and they flatter... AND I'M BOOKING MY VACATION!!!!

If you are going south this year, or just would like to go to a water park with your kids without roasting in the corner or letting your husband have all the fun with the kids...then this one's for you. Here are my packing tips for a trip south, looking fabulous, frum and fahrenheit appropriate.



1. THE BATHING DRESS (solid color if you are looking for a slimmer silhouette).

2. Espadrilles (flat or wedge, depending on your preference).

3. Scarves for your head...with hair or without... tie it bandana style for a chic and casual look.

4. Prada is showing mid-calf ballerina style full skirts with three quarter sleeve, narrow cardigans. No brainer for us!

5. Black and white remains very strong. It looks fresher to wear a full long white skirt with a black t-shirt, or vice versa, rather than head to toe black or white. If you do, break it up with a belt in the opposite color. Contrast is the key.

6. Mix colors liberally. Beige looks beautiful when paired for example with pale blue and coral.

7. Big sunglasses do double duty. They shield your eyes from harmful rays, and up the style quotient of any outfit.

8. Jean skirts continue to be fashionable, especially in the lighter wash for this year. Worn with a white T and colorful headscarf, large sunglasses and lipstick, you look instantly pulled together.

9. Dresses are fantastic, providing you don't turn them into jumpers. In other words, scout out ladylike little cardigans, perhaps a bit smaller than you would ordinarily wear, and slip it on over the dress. Use a shell only to fill in the neckline.

10. Speaking of necklines...would someone please invent a 'dickie' like we wore in the seventies to fill in necks, so we don't have to roast in layers? Please? ☆

Adrienne Gold is a former television personality, hosted/appeared on scores of fashion/beauty programs. Adrienne is a popular teacher of Judaism for Aish Hatorah Village Shul. She can be reached at agold@aish.com.

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sudoku

		2				9		8
1	7		6	9				
							3	
					1			2
2			8	7	3			9
5			9					
	3							
				3	4		6	5
6		8				7		

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how to play:

The object is to insert the numbers in the boxes to satisfy only one condition: each row, column and 3x3 box must contain the digits 1 through 9 exactly once.

solution from last JTO issue

4	3	2	9	6	1	5	7	8
6	8	5	7	4	3	1	9	2
9	7	1	5	8	2	4	6	3
2	1	4	3	9	8	6	5	7
3	5	6	4	2	7	8	1	9
8	9	7	6	1	5	3	2	4
1	4	3	2	7	6	9	8	5
5	2	8	1	3	9	7	4	6
7	6	9	8	5	4	2	3	1

brain teasers

1

The capital and a former capital of a certain country are anagrams of one another. What is the country?

2

There is one number less than 1000 that gives a remainder of 1 when it is divided by 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8. What is that number?

3

What do the words below have in common?
CASE, GUIDE, HAND, LOG, SCRAP

4

Can you think of a common word that contains double C, double S and double L? Can you think of a second one?

answers on page 38

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TRAVEL TALK

by Neilia Sherman

family escape to stratford

Stratford, Ontario provides a beautiful and peaceful respite from the everyday trials of life in Toronto. This scenic town is often compared with the bustling Niagara-on-the-Lake because both offer a re-nowned summer theatre series. But as a first time overnight visitor to Stratford, I found her to be the unpretentious cousin of the more commercial Niagara tourist town.

Stratford is a very pretty city with many charming shops and cafes. In fact in 1997, the city was voted the prettiest city in the world and received the Nations in Bloom Award which was presented in Spain.

While looking through the shops, we visited one that sold china and kitchenware. The staff was very friendly and helpful. They wrapped all of my purchase's as gifts, even those that were under five dollars. If you have kids along, there is a huge toy store call "Family and Company" which is one of the best I have ever seen. The staff actually encourages little ones to try out all their neat toys and no one is told "not too touch". There are story areas and a puppet theatre to be enjoyed by all.

It was pure tranquility to enjoy a picnic lunch along the banks of the Avon River – the namesake of the famous one in Britain, of course. While we feasted on sandwiches, fruit and lemonade we watched a free concert on a barge a few yards away. Tourists, young and old, were entranced by the aristocratic looking swans that swim up and won the river. It is easy to spend an afternoon watching the wildlife and enjoying the cool shade of the overhead trees. The swans first came to this park system in 1913, when a Michigan CNN employee gave two swans as a gift to Stratford. Now the city releases 24 white swans and two black ones each year.

In fact, on April 1st they have a charming ceremony known as the "Parade of the Swans". The Swans are marched from their winter home to the Avon River accompanied by bag pipe players and many of the city's residents.

We decided that we wanted to get to know our new favourite city even better, so we took a Stratford City Tour aboard an authentic double decker bus. The 90 minute tour includes historical sites, parkland, residential areas and theatres. Stops at the Shakespearean Gardens

and Confederation Park complete the tour. We learned some interesting facts about Stratford. It became so named when a portrait of Shakespeare was given to the proprietor of the Shakespeare hotel by Thomas Mercer Jones of the Canada Company. He

had come over from Britain to help colonize Upper Canada. Jones decided to call the village Stratford because of the Shakespeare connection and renamed the

river which was originally called the "Little Thames", The Avon.

The Shakespearean Festival Theatre really saved Stratford as it was founded around the time that the Canadian National Railway announced it's closure. It was the vision of Stratford journalist, Tom Patterson, whose dream was to revitalize the beautiful town with a theatre devoted to the works of Shakespeare. Now there are four theatres and Stratford attracts thousands of tourist with its high quality plays.

When leaving, my seven year old, who get's very attached to some of the places we visit, was almost in tears. We promised to come back to this beautiful spot the following summer. ✨



Neilia Sherman, MSW is a widely published freelance writer whose work has appeared in numerous magazines and newspapers. Please contact her for your writing needs. neiliasherman@rogers.com

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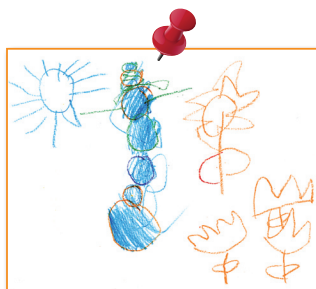


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Mikayla Daniel, Age 4



Daniella Spiro, Age 5

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- 1 cup sugar
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 cup orange juice
- 1/8 tsp salt
- 4 cups flour

Combine the ingredients in the order given, using enough flour to make a soft dough that is not sticky. Let stand for 15 minutes. Divide dough into 4 parts. Roll to 1/4 inch thickness on a floured board. Cut in 4 inch circles. Place a tsp of desired filling in the center of each circle. Form triangles by folding the sides in towards the middle. Brush with beaten egg. Bake on a lightly greased baking sheet at 350° degrees for 30 minutes, until golden brown.



fillings

prune filling:

- 1 lb prunes, stewed for 10 minutes, pitted and chopped
- 1 cup raisins, chopped
- 1/2 lemon, juice and rind
- 1 cup bread crumbs
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tbsp honey

Combine all ingredients and mix thoroughly.

poppy seed filling:

- 1/2 lb poppy seeds
- 4 tbsp honey
- 2 tbsp sugar
- Juice of 1/2 lemon

Soak poppy seeds in boiled water overnight. Drain, dry and grind in food chopper, using finest blade. Add remaining ingredients and mix well.

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Cherry, apple or lemon pie-filling
 Desired flavour of jam
 Chocolate chips on their own or combined with a drizzle of Hershey's Parve chocolate sauce.
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BUSINESS DIRECTORY

ACCOUNTANT'S

CFZB Accounting p.30
Fluss Group p. 2

AIRLINES

El Al p.18

CATERING & RESTAURANTS

Bagel Haven p.31
Coo-Koos p.25
D-Lites p.19
Ely's Fine Foods p.3
King Solomon's p.23

CARPET'S

Kensington Carpet p.16

CHILDREN'S CLOTHING

Reiner's p.35

CHIROPRACTOR

Carrville Chiropractic p.28

CLOSET ORGANIZER'S

Kwik Closet p.15

CONFECTIONARY

Balloon Bash p.37
Chocolate Charm p.9
Incredible Edibles Plus p.19

DISC JOCKEY

Jewish Music Disc Jockey .. p.27

DRY CLEANERS

High Class Cleaners p.31

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

Crown Eagle Electric p.33

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Controller's On Call p.22

ESTHETICS

LCI Hair Removal p.29

FURNITURE & MATTRESS'S

Rest Master Mattress p.16

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Hypnosis Design p.33

GIFTWARE & KITCHEN SUPPLIES

Doron Exclusif p.7
Israeli Source p.40
Kitchen Art p.5
Houswares 'N More p.13

HEAD COVERINGS

Beautiful Bandana's p. 37

JEWELLERS

Fine Jewellery by Colette .. p.11
Debra Raphael
Fine Jewelry p.23

KOSHER GROCERS

Kosher Club p.1 & 39

MASSAGE THERAPIST

A Natural Path to Health ... p.29

MORTGAGE CONSULTANT'S

Blue Chip Mortgage's p.39

NOVELTIES

Dynamite p.37

PESACH HOTELS

Upscale Getaways p.21

PHARMACY

Allan's Pharmacy p.28

PHOTOGRAPHY

Melnick Studios p.27

RADIO SHOW

The Zelda Show p.37

RETIREMENT HOMES

Lincoln Place p.22
Terrace Gardens p.25

RENOVATIONS

Home Additions p.17
Stone Facing p.17
Sommerstone p.32
Stonemountain Fence p.33

SECURITY SYSTEMS

Dependable Security p.32
Pre-Lock p.30

WIGS

Malka's Sheitel Salon p.35

WINES

Simcha Wine p.9

Answers to Brain Teasers found on page 24:

1. JAPAN (TOKYO and KYOTO)

2. 841

3. Each may be followed by BOOK to form a word

4. SUCCESSFULLY, UNSUCCESSFULLY



CONTEST WINNERS!

'find the hidden dreidel' contest

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