



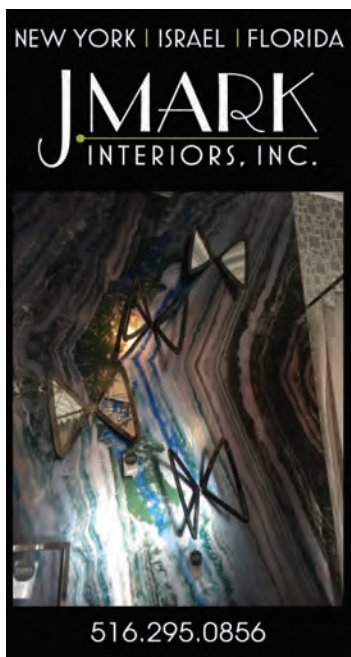
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## Tails Of Redemption



Rav Simcha HaKohen Kook, chief rabbi of Rechovot and the Churva Shul in the Old City, presiding over a Petter Chamor ceremony in Ramat Bet Shemesh last week. See Page 67

## FROM THE EDITOR

BY LARRY GORDON

## Buying Jerusalem

After attending the Ateret Cohanim dinner last Monday here in New York, we feel we have had a full briefing about the Old City of Jerusalem, its modern history, the struggle to maintain sovereignty for the Jewish people,

Continued on Page 6

## Preserving America's Heritage Abroad

### Congress Honors Memory Of Rabbi Zvi Kestenbaum

A strong sense of community permeated the Kennedy Caucus Room of the U.S. Senate on June 18, as members of Congress joined civic, religious, and communal leaders to mark the 30th anniversary

Continued on Page 24



Democratic whip Steny Hoyer presenting award to Louis Kestenbaum

## HEARD IN THE BAGEL STORE

BY LARRY GORDON

## The Beards Of Summer

Sleepaway camp in the summertime was both enjoyable and dreadful for a 12-to-16-year-old like me just a few decades ago. Now as we approach the time of year when kids leave to camp for a break from and to give a break to parents, it's as

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## HONORED BY THE MAYOR



Joseph B. Stamm, CEO of MedReview, and his wife, Anne, joined NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio at a reception at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in honor of the recent Jewish Heritage Week and KulturfestNYC. The mayor congratulated Mr. Stamm for MedReview's 40 years of providing quality healthcare assessment services.

## POINTS TO PONDER

### From The Other Side Of The Bench

BY DAVID J. SEIDEMANN, ESQ.

Word has it that the two escapees from the Clinton correctional facility in upstate New York had some of the tools needed for the break-out smuggled into the prison. Hacksaw blades, chisels, and

Continued on Page 22

## KIDNEY DONATIONS AND HALACHAH

### Halachic Musings

BY RABBI YAIR HOFFMAN

The issue of kidney transplants has undergone a transformation in the halachic literature since the procedure was first done. The first kidney transplant took place on June 17, 1950. Ruth Tucker, the

Continued on Page 16

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## OTHER SIDE OF THE BENCH

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ticipate in this conversation involving me, two other lawyers, and the judge's law clerk.

"Dave, you sound so relaxed. Where are you?" asked one of the lawyers. "And what's that music in the background?"

"You wouldn't believe me if I told you," I responded. Now came the hard part. The law clerk asked me to check my notes about a prior conference that we had. Now even if I had my notes with me, I couldn't move to get them. I relied on memory.

"Dave, where are you, what's with the music in the background, and how come it sounds like you are falling asleep?" my adversary asked again.

I could no longer hide my whereabouts or my activity and revealed to all that I was lying on an acupuncturist's table with needles in my head, ears, arms, shoulders, and wrists.

We all had a good laugh, but realized something very profound. Not one of us raised our voices, interrupted another, lost our cool, or became agitated. I was the only one in the midst of a relaxation exercise, but the effects spilled over to everyone else in the conversation. Coincidence? I don't think so. Good cheer and bad cheer are contagious, and when we act in a certain manner we affect the behavior of those around us. Moods are contagious. A powerful lesson whether you believe in acupuncture or not.

...

I am experiencing a particular mood these days as my youngest

daughter graduated from the Shulamith elementary school. For the last 15 or so years, since the day Shulamith opened its doors here on Long Island, all four of our daughters have walked its halls, absorbing a wonderful education from wonderful educators. The graduation of our youngest daughter, Rena, marks the end of an epoch in our lives.

But Rena's graduation also marks the end of something else that was very special. Since last September, every morning that school was in session, except for maybe four or five mornings when I was out of town, Rena and I visited our favorite bagel shop and had breakfast together. The workers would see us walk in and, before we even arrived at the front counter, our sesame stick was in the toaster and my coffee was being poured. Those 15 minutes were the best part of my day. The \$3.37? The best money I spent all day. No hacksaw blades. No chisels. No screwdriver bits. No surprises. But it was still an escape—a beautiful escape from the pressures of the day I was about to experience and a reminder that when my day would finally conclude, I would come home to Rena and my other daughters, marvel at their accomplishments, and try to become infused with the spirit of their youthful moods. Because moods are contagious. ❖

*David Seidemann is a partner with the law firm of Seidemann and Mermelstein and serves as a professor of business law at Touro College. He can be reached at 718-692-1013 or ds@lawofficesm.com.*

## HERITAGE PRESERVATION

Continued from Front Cover

of the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad. The mandate of the Commission, whose current chair is Lesley Weiss, is to preserve and protect monuments, cemeteries, synagogues, and churches in Central and Eastern Europe.



L-R: House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer, Louis Kestenbaum, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce, and U.S. Commission Chair Lesley Weiss

Rabbi Zvi Kestenbaum, a'h, was the catalyst whose efforts ultimately led to the Commission's establishment, in legislation promoted in 1985 by Congressman Steve Solarz and Senator Ted Kennedy.

At last week's anniversary commemoration, Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat opened the ceremonies with the message that identity is something we must hold on to and value. Otherwise, it will be left behind. The theme echoed throughout the program was Rabbi Zvi Kestenbaum's tenacity and his ability to communicate so effectively with powerful officials and ultimately establish a U.S. agency.

Members of Congress who participated included Senate Foreign Relations Committee ranking member Ben Cardin; Senator Kirsten Gillibrand; House Foreign

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## HERITAGE PRESERVATION

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Affairs chairman Ed Royce and ranking member Eliot Engel; House Democratic whip Steny Hoyer; Democratic National Committee Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz; Rep. Grace Meng; and Rep. Kay Granger, who chairs the Foreign Operations Appropriations subcommittee.

Rep. Hoyer noted that efforts to destroy cultural sites are not only attempts to destroy objects, they are attempts to destroy the faiths the sites symbolize. He mentioned that Rabbi Zvi Kestenbaum, a Holocaust survivor, was greatly pained by the destruction



Members of the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad



At the 30th anniversary tribute of the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad (L-R): Lesley Weiss, Warren Miller, Rep. Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, Michael Lewan, Louis Kestenbaum, Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat, and Ezra Friedlander

of cemeteries throughout the post-Holocaust era. He was single-handedly responsible for the reconstruction of cemeteries, yet he felt there should be an official U.S. entity to preserve the heritage sites of millions of Americans

Solarz) were honored alongside its current chair, Lesley Weiss.

Ezra Friedlander, CEO of the Friedlander Group, coordinated the planning of the event in conjunction with Project Legacy. He recounted the roles that

## Efforts to destroy cultural sites are attempts to destroy the faiths the sites symbolize.

in Eastern Europe, as this heritage was in danger of being further neglected and ultimately destroyed.

Former chairmen Warren Miller and Michael Lewan (who was also chief of staff to the late Congressman Steve

Michael Lewan and Rabbi Zvi Kestenbaum played in preserving the cemetery in Liska, Hungary, a site of great reverence for Hungarian Jewry.

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# Celebrating Learning At YOSS

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On June 14, Yeshiva of South Shore held its commencement ceremony for eighth-graders. Along with proud family members, elected officials were also present to offer words of congratulations and encouragement. Pictured above, Assemblyman Todd Kaminsky presents an award to Joshua Farkas and Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder presents an award to Chaim Krengel.

## HERITAGE PRESERVATION

Continued from Page 26

Mr. Lewan shared anecdotal details of how Rabbi Kestenbaum convinced Senator Ted Kennedy to support the creation of the Commission. "I remember . . . Rep. Solarz with Rabbi Kestenbaum and I walking over from the House side to this very building to meet with Senator Kennedy to convince him. I guess I could say that Kennedy was interested but not convinced," said Lewan. "Rabbi Kestenbaum had then addressed Senator Kennedy directly: 'Just yesterday I visited Arlington cemetery and saw the magnificent graves of your brothers who are great American heroes and deserve the honor. Don't all G-d's children deserve the same honor?' Those words moved Kennedy. He ultimately agreed to sponsor the bill, which President Reagan signed into law, and later appointed Rabbi Kestenbaum as deputy chairman of the Commission."

Rabbi Kestenbaum's son Louis Kestenbaum, chairman of Fortis Property Group, was the 30th Anniversary Tribute chairman. At the event, he announced the restoration and preservation of the Jewish cemetery in Slubice, Czech Republic, as well as the restoration of over 200 graves in Ostroh, Ukraine. The initiative was warmly praised by Ambassador Gandolovic of the Czech Republic and Yaroslav Brisiuck, chargé d'affaires of the Ukrainian embassy.

Louis Kestenbaum shared with the audience his father's determination, declaring, "My father did not understand the meaning of the word *no*. He

convinced local officials to cooperate. He built relationships with police to make sure that the graves would be watched." He also remembered his father's time in the Holocaust, recalling how his father knew that "G-d kept him alive to fulfill a purpose, and that has become very apparent to all of us."

In his closing remarks, Mr. Kestenbaum said, "There was nothing he could do to bring back the millions of lives that had been lost during the war, but their legacy, the cemeteries and holy places that had been destroyed—this could be recovered, restored, and preserved. He felt that it was his moral duty as a Jew to see that this was done. I thank Chair Weiss and the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad for its efforts to continue my father's legacy." ❖

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