

Between Us - בינינו

DR. SHULY RUBIN SCHWARTZ, DEAN

"What a great class. I learned so much last semester."

Those are words I long to hear List College students say; and I'm even more gratified when the students who took my class say that. But at the end of this fall semester, I was the one who uttered those words, for I felt especially lucky to have had a unique educational opportunity last semester.

In addition to my work as dean, I teach one course each semester in the area of modern Jewish history or Jewish women's studies. In these classes, students come together from all five JTS schools, and it is particularly rewarding to teach these students who bring their diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and goals into the classroom. Such a rich classroom environment deeply enhances the educational experience for all.

Last semester brought yet another dimension to the learning experience, for I had the privilege of co-teaching my class on the History of American Jewish Education with Dr. Carol K. Ingall, the Dr. Bernard Heller Professor of Jewish Education (and an alumna of the Seminary College — the precursor of List College). Dr. Ingall not only brought to the class her wide-ranging knowledge of and experience with the full spectrum of American Jewish educa-

tional institutions. She is also a master teacher. What a privilege to work with her to enrich our students' understanding of American Jewish education. As we prepared for class, she challenged me to find the most effective way to convey the historical background and context while also illuminating the hidden curriculum of religious schools, summer camps, and family education. Though I have been teaching for many years, I learned so much from the constant back-and-forth of working out educational and scholarly challenges with such a talented and engaged colleague. From the end-of-semester evaluations, it appears that students also benefited greatly from hearing the differing outlooks of two faculty members and from watching us interact as we struggled with the material.

The varied perspectives of our students also enriched the class. All but one had received a Jewish education in the United States (one student had grown up in Israel), and they all had strong feelings about their experiences. Further, most students were actively involved in Jewish educational work as congregational school teachers, tutors, camp counselors, and rabbinic interns. Deeply engaged with the subject at hand from a personal perspective, the students were eager to share what they were learning with their students, campers, and congregants.

For a final project, one student developed a beautifully designed, informative guidebook to help new parents choose the right form of Jewish education for their children. Another student produced a curriculum for Hebrew high school students on the history of American Jewish education to help them bet-



Mazal Tov to Dean Schwartz
on winning the
National Jewish Book Award
for her book
*The Rabbi's Wife: The Rebbetzin
in American Jewish Life!*

ter contextualize their own experiences as American Jewish students. I was especially proud of the extent to which our undergraduate students excelled in this challenging, graduate-level class. One undergraduate created an outstanding graphic comic book that portrayed the history of Jewish camping in the United States — I hope this book will become a staple at Jewish summer camps in the near future.

This course is just one example of the special benefits of studying and teaching at JTS. When undergraduates take upper-level classes with students in the four graduate-level schools, when faculty deepen their own learning through collaboration with each other, and when all are committed both to the academic enterprise and to contemporary Jewish life, the results are much, much greater than the sum of the parts.

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Ezra Androphy (JP '00) and Gail Silverman were married in October 2006. Ezra recently became the Assistant Director of Etgar 36, a Jewish educational company that runs school-year and summer trips for high school students.

Danny Ambalu (JP '03) recently became engaged to Sara Wolf. They plan to marry in March 2007 in Great Neck NY. Danny is the Sales VP of Somerset Manufacturers, a family jewelry company specializing in engagement rings and fine jewelry.

Lauren Appelbaum (JP '05) received an M.S. in Broadcast Journalism from Syracuse University in August 2006. She is currently working in the Political Unit of NBC in Washington, DC.

David Arroyo (JP '00) and Shiri Bieder (JP '00) announced the birth of their son, Yitzhak (Izzy) Arroyo on August 16, 2006. Shiri is working toward a master's degree in Occupational Therapy at NYU, and David is an appeals attorney for the New York City Housing Authority.

Rena (Kaufman) Aplebaum (JP '05, Davidson '06) became the Director of USY on Wheels after graduating from Davidson last spring.

Adam Baldachin (JP '06) and Maital Friedman were married in August 2006 in Israel. They live in Princeton where Maital is finishing her bachelor's degree at Princeton University. Adam is teaching Talmud at the Solomon Schechter Day School. Adam is deferring JTS Rabbinical School to volunteer through Kulanu with the Abayudaya Jewish community in Uganda.

Dalit Ballen (JP '05) and Daniel Horn (CC '05) became engaged in June 2006 and plan to marry this summer in NY. Dalit extended her fellowship at Columbia/Barnard Hillel where she serves as the Community Relations Fellow.

Sarah (Skaroff) Berman (JP '99) started The Berman Group, Inc. (www.bermangrp.com), a full-service marketing and public relations firm in

January 2006. Sarah and her husband welcomed the birth of their daughter, Elisabeth Naomi on September 19, 2005.

Erin Beser (JP '06) became engaged to Amit Nadiv.

Kim Blumenthal (JP '00) is the new full-time rabbi and Education Director of Congregation B'nai Israel in Vernon, CT.

Ely Cohen (JP '06) is working as a Peace Corps volunteer with youth in Morocco, where she will be for the next two years.

Rachel Einhorn (JP '05) and Ari Saks (JP '06) were married August 20, 2006. They are living in NYC while Rachel completes the NYC Teaching Fellows Program and Ari works as a Legal Assistant at Kronish and Leib. Ari will begin Rabbinical School at JTS next fall.

Sam Feinstein (JP '99) recently became engaged to Devorah Lipkind. Sam received *smicha* from Yeshivat Chovevei Torah and is currently teaching at the Heschel School in NYC.

Dayna Fidler (JP '06) recently became engaged to Raphael Wald. They plan to marry in July 2007, following Dayna's graduation from the Davidson School.

Jason Fruithandler (JP '05, RS '11) married Jessie Horwitz (BC '06) on June 25, 2006. After completing a year as a Segev Fellow, Jason began Rabbinical School at JTS.

Rachel Gildiner (JP '05) and Adam Small (CC '04) became engaged in June 2006. Rachel is the Individual Giving and Stewardship Coordinator for the Columbia University Business School. They plan to marry in August 2007 in Cherry Hill, NJ.

Scott Gilman (JP '96) recently married Iliana Cavazos in Playa del Carmen, Mexico. Scott is the Director of Online Communications for the National Center for Learning Disabilities.

Bernie Goldstein (JP '02) and his wife Susannah welcomed the birth of their daughter, Eliana Yona Goldstein

on January 8, 2007.

Sonia Gordon-Walinsky (JP '04) and Mordechai Schram (CS '06) were married in August 2006. Sonia is the Admissions and Placement Coordinator for AJWS's young adult service-learning programs.

Etan Greenbaum (JP '06) and Erin Kade (JP '03) were married in June 2006. After graduation, Etan took an internship with AXA Equitable and is now working there full time as an IT Business Analyst.

Debi Horowitz (JP '05) recently became engaged to Moshe Leib Rosenberg from Atlanta, GA. Debi is working toward her PhD in Clinical Psychology with a specialization in health at Yeshiva University. The couple plan to marry this March in Los Angeles, CA.

Eli Kaiser-Blueth (JP '06) is the Events Planning Coordinator for Mocer Management in Atlanta, GA.

Rachel Devora Kahn-Troster (DD '01) is a 4th year rabbinical student at JTS, where she also just finished an MA in Midrash. Rachel is the rabbinic intern at Congregation Beth Simchat Torah in New York.

Doron Kenter (JP '05) is a second year law student and an Associate Editor at the University of Pennsylvania's *Journal of Constitutional Law*.

Orly Klein (DD '05) completed the 10K Peachtree Road Race in just 67 minutes, raising more than \$11,000 for the American Cancer Society in memory of her father, Michael Klein, z"l.

Meryl Kramer (DD '06) is an Admissions Counselor at Barnard College. She is simultaneously completing a post-baccalaureate pre-dental curriculum.

Michael Knopf (JP '05) began rabbinical school at the University of Judaism in fall 2006.

Dana Lande (DD '99) and her husband Avi Meyerstein welcomed the birth of their children Ellie Lande Meyerstein and Noa Lande Meyerstein on September 18, 2006.

Suzanna Levin (JP '75) edited a new *bentscher* entitled *Shaarei Simcha*, published this fall by Ktav Publishing Co. It has a feminist and multicultural orientation, many *z'mirot*, and useful additions such as *eruv tavshilin*.

Noah Liben (JP '05) started Fordham University law school in August 2006.

Flo Low (DD '03) began the Public Policy and Administration Honors program at Hebrew University in the fall. Before returning to graduate school, Flo was released from active duty in the IDF in June 2006.

Rebecca (Cole) Lurie (DD '01) moved to Brookline, MA during the summer. She is currently working for Staples corporate headquarters as a Human Resources Consultant and taking classes at Babson College to complete the MBA she started at New York University.

Devorah (Young) Lowenstein (DD '99) married Bradley Lowenstein on June 11, 2006. Together they live in Atlanta, GA, where Devorah is involved with starting a new Modern Orthodox Day School.

Paul Margulies (JP '04) and **Avi Olitzky (JP '03, RS '08)** recently launched *Kosher-NY.com*, an online resource for comprehensive kosher restaurant information for the kosher consumers of New York.

Naomi (Sobel) Marks (JP '93) and her husband Jonathan welcomed the birth of their daughter, Sydney Gabriella Marks, in August 2006.

Robbie Millstein (JP '01) married Peter Cohen in August 2004 in the Berkshires. Robbie is working toward a PhD in Clinical Psychology at the New School for Social Research, specializing in college counseling. Robbie continues to run his own real estate company, The Millstein Group LLC, specializing in UWS sales since 2001.

Neely (Harburger) Snyder (DD '00, Davidson '01) and **Josh Snyder (JP '01)** welcomed the birth of their daughter, Shalva Raya, on February 16, 2007.

Elissa Newsome (JP '00) married Yonatan Freedman in July 2006. They are living in Beer Sheva, Israel where Elissa is studying to become a doctor at the Columbia-affiliated Medical School for International Health at Ben Gurion University of the Negev. They just returned after living in NYC while she completed her clinical electives at Columbia's Hospitals.

Jesse Olitzky (JP '06, RS '11) became engaged to Andrea Hanssen (BC '05). They plan to marry in Boston in August 2007. Jesse is currently studying at the JTS Rabbinical School.

Sara (Fischer) Pollack (JP '03) was promoted in May 2005 to Associate Director of Development at the Campaigna Center, a nonprofit that helps families in need in Alexandria, Virginia.

Odette Rajwan (JP '05) recently began working as a legal analyst for Blackrock.

Richard Reaven (JP '03) recently became engaged to Laura Babkes. They are both completing their 4th year of medical school as fellows at the Northwestern School of Medicine and plan to marry in September 2007.

Jonathan Robins (JP '04) recently married Leah Kaplan. They live in NYC, where Jonathan works in Legal Document Production for Village Copier.

Mindy Schactman (JP '02) assumed the position of Director of Institutional Advancement for Yeshiva University's High Schools in September 2006.

Evan Schaffer (JP '05) was promoted to Mortgage Officer for the Finance Department of JPMorgan Chase.

Shira Schwartz (JP '04) finished her fellowship with Teach for America and is now the Director of Operations for Citywide Initiatives' NY regional team.

Suzie Schwartz (JP '05) recently became the Marketing Associate for Columbia University's Center for Career Education.

Michal (Raucher) Shear (JP '05) married Yoni Shear in July 2007 after completing an MA in Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania. They are currently living in Chicago as Michal works toward a PhD in Religion with a focus on Bioethics from Northwestern University.

Aura Shoval (DD '06) married Avi Shinnar last summer. They live in Boston.

Rebecca (Weiss) Sigman (JP '97) and her husband, along with big brother Jacob, welcomed the birth of twins, Isabel and Nathaniel, on January 14, 2006.

Jessica Sokol (JP '99) received an LLM in taxation from Boston University in December 2006.

Neely (Harburger) Snyder (DD '00, DS '02) and **Josh Snyder (JP '01)** announced the birth of their daughter on February 16, 2007.

Todd Surden (JP '01) recently moved to Smyrna, GA – just outside Atlanta – and is working as an attorney for Fields Howell.

Aviva Tropp (JP '01) completed the Honolulu Marathon in 5 hours, 16 minutes. She ran as one of 500 TNT participants and raised nearly \$7,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Yael Weinstock (JP '05) is pursuing an MA in European History at Hebrew University.

Ellen Wolintz-Fields (DD '94) became the first new spiritual leader of Congregation B'nai Israel in Toms River, NJ in more than 30 years. She and her husband Jonathan have two children, Coby Dov and Cameron Elizabeth.

Seth Wolkofsky (JP '06) began working as a paralegal for Buchman Law Firm, LLP, specializing in liquor licensing law.

Rebecca Zimmerman (DD '97) started graduate school in September 2006. She is studying toward a master's degree in Arts Administration at the School of the Art Institute of Chi-

Professor Profile:
David Roskies
Josh Schwartz, JP '08

Professor David Roskies was selected as the recipient of the 2006 List College Teacher of the Year. Josh Schwartz recently asked him the following questions:

-Why is the study of modern Jewish literature important for contemporary Jews? What is its religious significance?

-What was your own Jewish education like? Are there any teachers who especially influenced your pedagogical methods?

-Why is it that you have chosen to teach here, at JTS?

-What is your favorite memory or experience of teaching at JTS?

I joined the Department of Hebrew Literature 32 years ago, in the midst of an unprecedented growth spurt. The new JTS chancellor, Gerson D. Cohen, dreamed of creating an institution of higher learning that would embrace the totality of Jewish civilization—including the heretofore taboo subject of Yiddish literature and language. That is why I was hired, fresh out of graduate school. To signal that JTS was embarking upon a new cultural project, the name of the department was changed to the Department of *Jewish Literature*—the first of its kind.

Why do I teach Jewish Literature? Because I am a champion of Jewish modernity. I believe that the revolutions in Jewish consciousness that began in Germany at the end of the 18th century, spreading ever-eastward, are both permanent and precious. The heady embrace of Western forms of self-expression—everything from lyric, satiric, and epic poetry to the short story, reportage, and the novel; from autobiography and memoir to pulp and science fiction—has released a worldwide explosion of Jewish creativity. More striking still, this creativity recognizes no linguistic barriers. One may read, write and publish either from right to left or from left to right. I love to teach at JTS, where we celebrate reading from right to left, even while we ac-

knowledge those, alas, who can read only in the opposite direction.

The ideal of bringing Hebrew and Yiddish culture together under a single roof, even while mastering the cultures at large, is something I learned in the multicultural environment of Montreal. In all ways but one, I am a product of the integrated Hebrew-Yiddish-English-and-French education I received at the Jewish People's School, a utopian experiment that worked. We were taught from kindergarten on "to breathe from both nostrils," that is to say, to function freely in both Yiddish and Hebrew. And in all ways but one, I am a disciple of Shimshen Dunsky, the school's vice-principal, a scholar of Midrash, our home room teacher in 7th grade, our teacher of *geshikhte* (Jewish history), *literatur* (Yiddish literature), Tanakh, and Aggadah. Thanks to my father's initiative, Lerer Dunsky ("Lerer, teacher," is an honorific used in the Yiddish secular schools) tutored me privately in Talmud for five years.

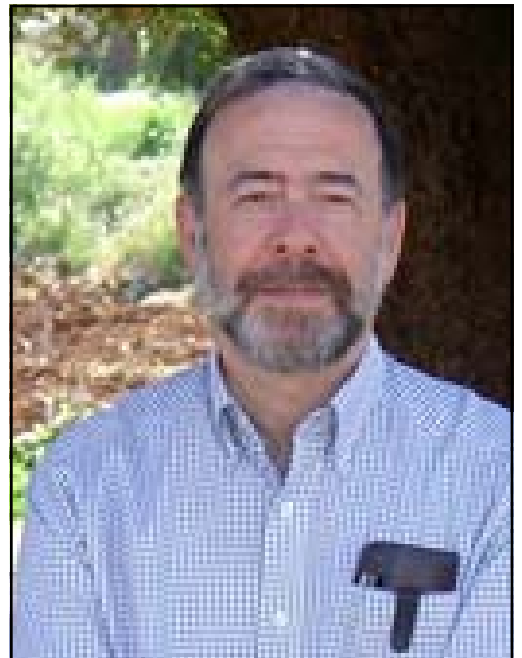
I parted ways from my Montreal Jewish upbringing when I joined Haverat Shalom Community Seminary in 1969 and began a lifelong spiritual quest. A viable Jewish culture, I became convinced, was sustainable only within a religiously committed community. When I joined the JTS faculty and began teaching in the Rabbinical School, introducing such courses as "Jewish Responses to Catastrophe" (in 1977) and "Critical Methodologies in Jewish Literature" (sometime in the 80s), I came to the realization that modern Jewish culture as a whole cannot be understood without recourse to the religious tradition. The two remain mutually dependent. One would dry up without the other.

I am a very lucky man! The Jewish people pays me to teach and to research the writers whom I love the most: such storytellers as Sholem Aleichem and I. B. Singer, such novelists as David Bergelson and Yaakov Shabtai, such poets as Itzik Manger and Moyshe-Leyb Halpern, such autobiographers as Solomon Maimon and Pinhas Sadeh. I am also lucky that JTS is affiliated with the Russian State Humanities University in Moscow, where I had the privilege to teach Yiddish literature on three separate occasions, and that our JTS campus combines five different schools. As the Rabbinical

School curriculum turns away from the texts of Jewish modernity—a passing phase, I am convinced—our undergraduates have both feet firmly planted in the world they live in.

Glory to our undergraduates, who take no crap from anyone! They keep me on my toes, seeking new ways of bridging the gap—nay, the abyss—between the shtetl and suburbia. My greatest thrill as a teacher is the "aha moment" that comes towards the end of almost every course, when my students suddenly realize how contemporary, how subversive, how in many ways prophetic, these Yiddish writers were. Writers whose names were totally unknown to them begin to live in the present. Increasingly in my teaching, I devise offbeat assignments—debates, storytelling rounds—designed to stimulate a feeling of ownership on the part of the students, even if they know no more than five (unprintable) words of Yiddish and have never written a story before. If they behave, I reward them with a Yiddish song.

When Lerer Dunsky was my home-room teacher, we began each morning singing either "Hatikva" or (the Labor-Zionist hymn) "Tehezakna." In my favorite course, "Crossing Delancey: Yiddish Writing in America," my students begin each class singing the chorus to "Levine and His Flying Machine." Lerer Dunsky would not have approved, but to my mind, this is a fitting 21st-century way of rekindling the flame of Yiddish.



Abroad “Down Unda” Danielle Klein, JP '08

“To study abroad or not?” Although the pros for spending a semester abroad tend to outweigh the cons, for those of us at List College, this decision is not always so easy. However, despite worrying about not graduating on time and obsessing over whether enough credits would transfer, I decided to spend my fall semester in Australia.

Before my trip, the “land down unda” was a mystery to me, yet for that very reason it had much appeal. My journey there was a grueling 22-hour expedition, but eventually I arrived in Brisbane, Australia (and with the 16-hour time difference, also in the future). I didn’t know what to expect, and the first morning there, I was thrilled to find kangaroos waiting for me at the front door!

Though it was early July, it was winter for the Aussies. I spent the first few days in Queensland and eased myself into the different weather and the drastically different time zone. After a few days in the north, I took a plane from an airport in a town called Proserpine (Australia is chock full of interesting place-names) to Sydney, where I would be spending the next five months.



The University of Sydney is a school with a lot of history and a beautiful campus. I lived in Wesley College, one of the seven residential colleges within the University. The building was a beautiful, castle-type structure reminiscent of Harry Potter (reinforcing this association were the academic gowns that we were required to wear to formal dinners every Monday and Wednesday). I was among very few non-Australian residents, and although I am a junior in college, since it was my first year of residence in Wesley, I was considered a “fresher.” My college-mates took it upon themselves to introduce me to the “true blue” Australian culture.

Although I did take classes while I was abroad, the highlight of my experience was the knowledge I gained about Aussie culture outside the classroom, and the travel opportunities that living in Sydney afforded me. I spent a weekend rock climbing and hiking in the Blue Mountains just west of Sydney. I went sand-boarding in Port Stephens, spent a weekend in Melbourne, visited the famed city of Newcastle, went surfing in Noosa, sky-dived, hiked a glacier in New Zealand, and took a sailing trip around the Whit-

sunday Islands in Tropical North Queensland.

My time abroad was invaluable, and though I thought it would quench my thirst for world travel, it has proven only to add fuel to the fire. This will surely be one of the richest experiences of my entire educational career!

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Double Degree Delight! Laura Liss, DD '07

This past semester over 30 Barnard/JTS students attended the Double Degree reception. The reception, traditionally held once each semester at JTS and Barnard respectively, took place in the beautiful 10th floor Kripke tower meeting room.

As List College Student Council’s Member-at-Large and senior Double Degree student, I had the privilege to help organize the reception. This year, Dean Schwartz suggested that a guided discussion take place at the reception, and that small suggestion ultimately gave rise to a fascinating conversation about Bat Mitzvah as it has developed over time, and how it has shaped the Jewish identities of so many Jewish women, and espe-

cially us Double Degree women!

It was particularly interesting to hear Dean Schwartz, Rebecca Grabiner, Dean Link, and Dean Denburg share their personal reflections on this topic. As usual, Double Degree students made astute, bright comments, and all were deeply engaged in the discussion. In keeping with Double Degree reception tradition, part of the



event was dedicated to a forum in which seasoned Double Degree students shared advice and tips on how to successfully navigate both schools. Double Degree students also enjoyed each other’s company at the Double Degree Potluck Shabbat Lunch in November. During this event, 20 DD students sampled each other’s favorite Shabbat dishes in Barnard’s North Sulzberger Tower. A good time was had by all, as the conversation evolved from recipes to course loads to career challenges! Double Degree students can look forward to another reception and potluck Shabbat meal this semester. Additionally, a social program for senior DD students is in the works. Any Double Degree alumna who is in town for these events is invited to join!

List College Alumni... Changing The World!!

Masorti Olami Honors LC Alumni Shira Schwartz JP '04

Last November LC Alumni Benjamin Alpert (JP '00), Jeremy Gerber (JP '03), David Goldman (JP '05), Jordan Litt (JP '02), Shira Schwartz (JP '04), and Tamar Zaken (JP '01), were honored by Masorti Olami with the Simon Schwartz Memorial Youth Leadership Award in appreciation of the year they each spent volunteering for the Masorti movement in England.

Please enjoy this excerpt from Shira Schwartz's Speech:

I was raised in an observant household; I attended Jewish day school for elementary, middle and high school; I was in USY; and I received a BA from JTS. My parents did everything right. Even with all these strong Jewish experiences, it was my work with the Masorti movement that truly cemented my Jewish identity. Working for the UK Masorti movement was the first time where I was truly challenged to defend my observance, forcing me to truly understand and engage with the information I had accumulated throughout my life. I was challenged in this regard not only by the students I was meeting on campus, but also by my peers and mentors in the movement. The rabbis, the Noam youth

Movement workers, and the AMS leadership all pushed me to look further into the sources and texts, as well as the current society in which we live, to define myself and my Judaism.

The passion that I found in the community in England inspires me, for it is one that is rarely found in the US. In England, we have to constantly defend our ideology. In order to do this con-

Corps members, I realize I am now in the position to help others find the deepest meaning they can in the issues that arise, thanks to my work as a Student Fieldworker.

During my time in the UK, I was lucky to have colleagues and constituents who were as excited about Masorti and new programming as I was. As the Student Fieldworker, I was able to initiate a Noam Women's Forum, develop a Masorti Manifesto, work on student and young adult trips to Spain, Israel and Germany, and plan a Zionism and Masorti seminar for university students and sixth formers. This was in addition to traveling to university campuses all over the country and working closely with Noam and Marom throughout the year.

I continually look back at the experience I had working for the Masorti movement, gaining strength from the friendships I made, applying knowledge from the students I encountered, and contributing to the Jewish community in numerous ways, both in the US and abroad. Masorti Olami has huge potential to make an impact, not only on the individuals they send to work with communities, but on the communities themselves. I encourage you all to be as generous as Mr. Harvey Miller and others have been, for Masorti, in my mind, is the key to the future of Judaism.

Some of the honorees (L to R): David Goldman, Shira Schwartz, Jordan Litt, Janet Tobin, Rabbi Joel Meyers



vincingly, one must be truly engaged with the texts and sources and believe in what they stand for. This is why I love the Masorti movement – because time and time again I found this conviction and passion, never being disappointed by those associated with the movement. To me, Masorti stands for true intellectual honesty, a message that I have taken with me and apply to all areas of my life. During my return to the UK for this summer's Noam camps, and in my professional work at Teach For America with New York City

Heartfelt Condolences:

Rachel Ain (DD '09) on the death of her grandmother.

Alisha Deluty (JP '10) on the death of her grandmother.

Pamela Faber (JP '10) and **Rebecca Faber (DD '08)** on the death of their uncle.

Ilan Glazer (JP '03) on the death of his mother Donna Glazer.

The Gocool Family on the death of **Motilal Gocool**. "Gocool" was a beloved member of the JTS community and security guard for 15 years.

Andrew Green (JP '07) on the death of his grandmother.

Eitan Kensky (JP '06) and **Rabbi Allan Kensky (former Dean of the JTS Rabbinical School)** on the death of Eitan's mother and Rabbi Kensky's wife, Dr. Tikva Frymer-Kensky.

Eitan Konigsburg (JP '06) and **Hillel Konigsburg (JP '11)** on the death of their grandfather.

Save the date:

Annual Links to Leadership Retreat



April 20-21, 2007

at the beautiful
Hudson Valley Resort
www.hudsonvalleyresort.com

Greetings From Bombay

Erin Beser, JP '06

Shalom, chevre! Greetings from Bombay: the sunny, steamy, crazy city on the Western coast of India. I am spending a year here working with the Jewish community through the Joint Distribution Committee's Jewish Service Corps. There are approximately 5,000 Jews in India, the majority of them in the Bombay metropolitan area.

Quick history lesson (I was a Jewish history major after all): the Bene Israel, the indigenous Jewish population in India, trace their origins to a shipwreck off the Konkan Coast around the time of the destruction of the Second Temple. They make up about 92% of Indian Jewry. The other 8% are the remnants of much larger groups – the "Baghdadis" who came as traders from the Middle East in the 19th century, the "Cochinis," some of whom trace their roots in India back to the time of King Solomon, and the descendants of Jews who escaped the Spanish and Portuguese Inquisition. Many members of the community have migrated in recent years to Israel, America, Australia and England, but those who stay dedicate

themselves to the renewal and survival of this small and diverse Jewish community.

Under the auspices of the Evelyn Peters Jewish Community Center, I interact on a daily basis with community members of all ages. My work includes running bi-monthly Sunday school classes, leading Rosh Chodesh sessions, and choreographing Israeli dances for the Chanukah arts festival. I ran the Jewish day camp for children during the Indian New Year Diwali, and I give talks on Jewish history.

The Indian Jewish community has incredible infrastructure. The JCC does not have a workout facility or an Olympic-sized pool, but it does have a computer lab that everyone is proud of and that attracts the youth every Sunday like no youth group lounge I have ever seen in the US. The JCC runs conversational Hebrew and Torah classes, and they are always full, no matter how many times the class is offered. Unfortunately, there is enormous poverty in India, some of which touches the Jewish community. Thankfully, there is a Jewish home for the elderly destitute and an emergency medical fund used when someone in the community needs

a life-saving operation.

My time in India thus far has been the most amazing experience of my life and by the far the most precious gift I have ever received. This community hosts JDC volunteers every year. The members welcomed Batya Rotter, my co-volunteer, and me as if we were the first visitors to ever grace the halls of the Bombay JCC.

Last week, as I attended the wedding of one of my new friends here, I realized how very much at home I am among these people. Even though we were eating masala dosas and dai puri, listening to Bollywood music and bhangra, wearing saris and Punjabi dresses, I looked around me, and I saw my family. My brothers, my sisters, my aunties and uncles—my community.



A Day In the Life of a Peace Corps Volunteer in Morocco

Elishva Cohen, JP '05

I wake up around 8 and eat breakfast (bread and jam and coffee cooked with rosemary) with my host family. I don my typically Moroccan clothing, either a skirt and long shirt or my *jellaba* (Middle Eastern Cloak) before heading off to the *Neddi Niswi*, the women's center. As I walk through the unpaved alleyways of Tarmikt, I greet the women hanging their laundry and gossiping outside with a polite "salaamu aleikum." The neighborhood kids playing outside call out to me "Shefia [my Arabic name], la bas? How are you?" and walk with me towards the Neddi.

Some days at the Neddi I teach English, while other days I just hang out with the women and girls who are using the various sewing machines. I hope to run leadership and empowerment activities in the future for the many girls who have dropped out of school and come to the Neddi both to



learn to sew and to socialize and get out of the house. I like going into the kindergarten and playing with the children there who have already taught me many Moroccan songs and games. I return home for lunch with my host family—*tagine* (vegetables and meat cooked slowly in a clay pot) of quince and chicken is my favorite. As I try to

scoop up my food with bread without making too much of a mess (no silverware) the family does not hesitate to say "Kuli, kuli!" [Eat, eat!]

After lunch and some time with the family, I head out to the Dar Chebab. My primary project there is teaching theme-based English classes to all levels and all ages. Because Tarmikt relies heavily on tourism and many of its residents work in the nearby city of Ouarzazate, the "Hollywood of Morocco" where movies including *Gladiator* were filmed, there is a high demand for English classes. I try to incorporate important ideas into my English classes including environmental education, health education, leadership, volunteerism, and youth

empowerment, while also having fun.

Before coming to Morocco, I worried about what life would be like here. How would people treat me, an American woman living alone in an Arab country? Would I face harassment? Would people be receptive to me and my work here despite my blonde hair and American accent?

The warmth and openness of the Moroccan people amazes me. I never lack invitations for tea or a meal. People are so sincerely interested in getting to know me and making sure I feel comfortable and at home in their country. I often spend my evenings visiting with friends and colleagues, chatting as best I can in Moroccan Arabic and drinking lots and lots of tea. As night falls I return home to my host family who, like everyone else here, has so warmly welcomed me and taken me in as part of their family. Not a day goes by when they don't remind me that this is now my home, whatever I need just ask, I am their daughter, sister, and friend. "Marhaba bik," they tell me, "you are welcome." And I truly do feel welcomed.

**Editor's Corner:
Town Hall with
Chancellor-Elect Eisen**
Lisa Kravitz, JP '08

On November 15th, List College was lucky to have the opportunity to meet Chancellor-Elect Arnold Eisen in a personal and warm setting. During a special List College Student Council Town Hall meeting, Dr. Eisen addressed JTS's undergraduate student body and discussed his new position, his plans for List College, and his hopes for the future of American Jewry. Dr. Eisen's sincere answers to the questions posed to him by List College students displayed his commitment to his new role as Chancellor and his goal to enhance JTS as both an academic institution and the spiritual center for Conservative Judaism.

After greeting the crowd with a warm smile, Dr. Eisen quickly acknowledged List College's special role within JTS as the largest and youngest student body. Though some List College students may ultimately join the students of Davidson, the Rabbinical School, or the Cantorial School



and become "professional Jews" after graduation, List College's mission is to educate students who remain part of the laity and take on volunteer leadership roles within the Jewish community. We all know from personal experience that community leaders are essential for the continued growth of not only Conservative Jewry but all of American Jewry.

In his concluding remarks, Dr.

Eisen expressed his desire to hold events similar to the Town Hall in the future and guest-teach certain classes in order to maintain a strong connection with the List College student body. This is part of his lasting effort to strengthen the academic and religious community at JTS. List College would like to once again thank him for taking the time to speak to us. We look forward to his next address!

**Restoring
The City**
Sarah Sher, JP '08

Sitting in my Introduction to Architecture class at Columbia, I stared at the former Pennsylvania Station (McKim, Mead and White, 1910) on the projector screen for the first time. In awe of the 150 foot high ceilings;

lines of elegant, granite columns; and light flooding in from every corner – I simply could not fathom how anyone could destroy such an architectural gem.

Distressed by this wreckage of a cherished building, I sought out a way to help prevent things like this from happening. After some research, I found Landmark West!, an Upper West Side historic preservation advocacy group. I immediately contacted them to learn about internship opportunities.

Six months later, I am still an intern



at this wonderful organization. I spent the first few weeks of my internship learning about New York City's complex landmarking process and exactly what it means to be a landmark. Soon after this, I got to experience the work of the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) firsthand. I have attended numerous public hearings and meetings on whether to grant landmark status or permit

renovations on already designated landmarks.

Besides the regular administrative tasks that are an integral part of most internships, such as answering phones and

data entry, I have also been able to act as a real team member of Landmark West!. I set up and update Landmark West!'s blog, where we keep the public updated and informed about relevant preservation news; I created interactive map features for the website so that the public can

learn more about Upper West Side landmarks; I photograph and document building violations; I have spoken on behalf of Landmark West! in front of the LPC for Certificate of Appropriateness public hearings; and on December 11, for the first time, I submitted personal testimony to landmark a former Horn & Hardart Automat located at 104th Street and Broadway

The primary mission of Landmark West! is to organize the community. It is impossible to demonstrate to the Landmarks Preservation Commission just how important and integral a piece of architecture is to the city with only two full-time employees and a handful of interns. If we were the only ones to show up to a public hearing, the only ones to send in letters, the only ones to sign petitions, our community treasures would be slated for demolition. Being part of this organization has allowed me to meet so many community members who care deeply and realize that the future of the city is dependent on preserving its valuable architectural treasures.