



Outreach

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NEWSLETTER

A Tribute To NJOP's Special Woman

By: Ephraim Z. Buchwald

The Hebrew word *shalom* means both hello and good-bye. While we wish Beryl Levenson, NJOP's extraordinary Associate Director, a loving farewell, she is not really leaving us entirely.



Photograph by Doris Levin

After 17 years of devoting her heart and soul to our organization and to the Jewish community in general,

Beryl and her beloved husband, Sam, have fulfilled their lifelong dream and have moved to Israel. Fortunately for NJOP, she will be in constant communication with us from her new home in Jerusalem and will visit us frequently in the United States. We even expect to have the pleasure of Beryl's company in the office from time to time.

I first met Beryl in 1976, when I served as a part-time teacher of Jewish Philosophy at Ulpana Ohr Torah, Rabbi Shlomo Riskin's high school for girls that was then located in Riverdale. The Ulpana was an exciting school. Dr. Rivka Blau was the outstanding principal, pedagogue and role model, and her faithful and very competent assistant was Beryl Levenson. Although I only taught for two or three hours on Friday mornings, I thoroughly enjoyed my years at the Ulpana and still have relationships with quite a few of the students, including one who is now my next door neighbor. Dr. Blau and Beryl created a very special spirit in the school. It was not only a place where

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Eleventh Dazzling Dinner!

It was back in October of 1987 that the National Jewish Outreach Program burst onto the Jewish outreach scene, but not until seven years later did the organization make its "Dinner debut." From that very first Dinner, held at the Hotel Pierre in 1993, NJOP established a reputation for hosting extraordinary events: elegant, breathtakingly beautiful, and effectively fulfilling its *raison d'être*, raising critically needed funding to create and perpetuate educationaly outstanding and spiritually uplifting Jewish programming. This year's dinner, held at the Waldorf=Astoria on February 1, 2005, was no exception.

The Eleventh Annual NJOP Dinner was a dazzling and dramatic affair. Dinner Co-chairs Karen Lehmann-Eisner and David Eisner, Sylvia and Carl Freyer, and Tracy and Sander Gerber, and NJOP's newly appointed Events Coordinator Rachael Erlichman successfully transformed the Waldorf=Astoria's Grand Ballroom into a magical and sparkling setting, best described as a

scene out of Shakespeare's *A Mid-Summer Night's Dream*.

The theme of this year's Dinner, *Hitchadshut--Renewal*, resounded effectively throughout the evening. As Tracy Gerber pointedly announced in her welcoming remarks, "NJOP's mission is the renewal of Jewish life for thousands of disengaged Jews."

Karen Lehmann-Eisner also emphasized the theme in her remarks, noting that, "Thank G-d, every year continues to be a year of renewal for NJOP, and each year, with more and more individuals involved in NJOP programs, is a year of renewal for the Jewish people."

How does one Hebrew class, one Shabbat experience or one Beginners Service help renew the Jewish people?

The process, which most often takes place over several years, was portrayed on the stage of

the Waldorf in "Return," a short play created by Eddie Jacobs, directed by Alan Leicht, and starring Eddie and Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald. "Return" recounted Eddie's "real life story," from



Rabbi Buchwald presents award to Guest of Honor Zenek Podolsky and family



Rabbi Buchwald, Rabbi Shlomo Riskin and Leslie Nelkin Service Awardees Batya and Eddie Jacobs

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

A Word From Beryl...

"I never thought I'd be writing these words, but after seventeen amazing, uplifting, sometimes exhausting but always exhilarating years at the National Jewish Outreach Program office, my husband, Sam, and I are making Aliyah. My NJOP work will be continuing, although obviously curtailed, from Israel.

Thank you Effie. Thank you everyone at the NJOP office. Thank you all the loyal and wonderfully generous supporters of NJOP programs.

Having been there "at the beginning," and having had the incredible pleasure of watching and helping NJOP grow to the point where it is today -- 850,000 Jews re-found! 3,620 synagogues and other Jewish organizations involved in offering NJOP programs and courses! SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA/CANADA, READ HEBREW AMERICA/CANADA and PASSOVER ACROSS AMERICA having become bywords in the American Jewish community! I feel truly blessed.

NJOP will always be a major part of my life, and I hope to be a part of NJOP for many, many years to come."

Beryl Levenson



A TRIBUTE TO NJOP'S SPECIAL WOMAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

learning was taken seriously, but also a place where one could gain a love for Torah and learning, and have fun at the same time. Such institutions are rare indeed.

So, when I decided to start NJOP in the summer of 1987, I knew that I needed someone special to help me make it work. It was Rabbi Nochum Stilerman who mentioned to me that Beryl might be available, and to this very day I am deeply indebted to him for that information. Beryl and I had to start literally from scratch. Rabbi Jay Marcus of the Genesis Foundation and Joseph (Yogi) Loshinsky of the Western Wall Foundation were kind enough to let us share their small offices in 475 Fifth Avenue. Within eight months we had grown so rapidly that there was no room for the original occupants.

In early 1988, just a few months after we started, Rabbi Mordechai Reich joined our staff as the first Program Director. We launched our first Hebrew Reading campaign, and 5,000 people responded! We were blown away!

However, would these same participants respond to something more Jewish, like Basic Judaism? 3,000 of the original Hebrew Reading students enrolled! We knew immediately that we were on to something big. Beryl was there setting up our new offices at 485 Fifth Avenue and hiring additional staff, and additional staff, and additional staff.

I guess the rest is history.

So while I get the honor, it is Beryl who deserves the credit, and Sam as well, who used to come in to help us with our bookkeeping and accounting whenever necessary. As Beryl is today, she has been throughout the past 17 years, a devoted servant of Al-mighty G-d and His people. For Beryl there is

no time clock, she is ready to serve 24/7. And even today, in her semi-retirement, she is still on top of everything, albeit from a distance, but no less effectively than before.

When G-d looked down from heaven and saw the needs of His people, He knew that someone special was needed to help bring them back. So He sent His extraordinary emissary, Beryl Levenson, to help create our very special organization.

Beryl, may it be G-d's will that the Divine Presence continues to dwell in the works of your hands and in every one of your endeavors.

Shalom, Beryl!
May you be blessed. ★

WANT TO HEAR MORE FROM RABBI BUCHWALD AND NJOP? The following lectures are available on audio tape:

- The Role of American Jews in the Destiny of Israel. . . . \$10
- Reflections on the Jewish New Year. \$10
- Living as a Hellenist and Loving It. \$10
- Crash Course in Basic Judaism (5 tapes). \$35
- Women and the Future of American Jewry \$10

Orders may be placed by check or credit card. Credit card orders, including card number, expiration date and full name as it appears on card, can be sent via fax (646-871-0100) or email (info@njop.org). Orders may also be placed online at www.njop.org. Checks can be sent to 989 Sixth Ave, 10th Floor, NY, NY 10018. Please include shipping address. There is a \$3 shipping and handling fee on all orders in the continental U.S. (Canadian orders by credit card only)

PASSOVER ACROSS AMERICA

This year, in an effort to help North American Jewry celebrate the Passover holiday in a more meaningful way, the National Jewish Outreach Program introduced a "PASSOVER ACROSS AMERICA" initiative. Nineteen synagogues in sixteen cities offered PASSOVER ACROSS AMERICA Seders as part of a pilot program. Additionally, in the days and weeks before the holiday, synagogues and Jewish centers across North America offered either a Model Seder or NJOP's new Pre-Passover Workshop or both, as a way to prepare for Passover.

"Since its inception, NJOP's goal has been to work with synagogues to enable them to reach out more effectively to the less affiliated Jews in their communities to give them a taste of Jewish tradition," said Rabbi Ephraim Z. Buchwald, founder and director of NJOP. "By creating easy-to-implement, appealing programs, we help synagogues forge these connections. As the numbers show, PASSOVER ACROSS AMERICA, which was conceived and sponsored by our dear and generous friend, Mr. Sam Domb, was a phenomenal success in this regard."

The nineteen rabbis who hosted the pilot program and who benefitted from NJOP's programming materials and subsidized local advertising, found, on the whole, that they succeeded in drawing a wide range of non-members who were looking for a place to celebrate Passover.

NJOP STAFF

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 Yitzchak Rosenbaum, *Program Director*
 Florence Wiener, *Hebrew Language Coordinator*
 Adina Bloomberg, *Administrator*
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Editor, Sarah Rochel Hewitt

On April 23rd and 24th, Jews everywhere will lift up the four cups of wine and commemorate their transformation from slaves into a free nation. Join the National Jewish Outreach Program and celebrate...

PASSOVER ACROSS AMERICA

Calabasas, CA
 Oakland, CA
 San Diego, CA
 Stamford, CT
 Washington, DC
 Aventura, FL
 Boca Raton, FL
 Overland Park, KS
 Charlotte, NC
 Las Vegas, NV
 Mount Kisco, NY
 New York, NY
 Philadelphia, PA
 Houston, TX
 San Antonio, TX
 Milwaukee, WI

additional locations to follow

This Passover it's all about matzah, wine and a meaningful experience! Come join the National Jewish Outreach Program and Jews around the world as we celebrate Passover as never before. Everyone is invited to our unique explanatory Seder... singles, couples, families -- all ages. So bring your neighbors, your friends, your co-workers -- and let's celebrate, together!

For more information:
 1-800-44-TORAH  WWW.NJOP.ORG

Conceived and sponsored by Mr. Sam Domb

National Jewish Outreach Program
 989 Sixth Ave., 10th Fl. New York, NY 10018
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At the renowned Ohev Shalom Talmud Torah Congregation in Washington, D.C., also known as "The National Synagogue," nearly 300 people--90% of whom had never been to the synagogue before--joined Rabbi Shmuel Herzfeld for the first seder. "It was a remarkable evening of everybody joining together," the rabbi said. "At our PASSOVER ACROSS AMERICA Seder, we had people from all walks of life and socio-economic strata...People came in as strangers and left as a community. People loved the experience so much, that some expressed interest in joining our shul, while others wanted to learn about more of our programs and services."

Similarly, Rabbi Shaanon Gelman, of the Community Kollel in Boca Raton, Florida, reported that of the 50 people who attended the PASSOVER ACROSS AMERICA Seder, 90% were new faces.

Each synagogue that hosted a PASSOVER ACROSS AMERICA Seder received copies of the newly published NJOP Haggadah, which includes text in Hebrew, English and transliterated Hebrew, as well as a step-by-step leader's guide filled with explanations, stories and unique seder insights. In addition, each synagogue received a training video and financial support to assist their marketing and advertising efforts.

"I've run many communal seders," said Rabbi Elie Weinstock of Congregation

Kehilath Jeshurun in Manhattan, "but the PASSOVER ACROSS AMERICA component and the NJOP materials made the experience even better, and brought in different people. We had more than 150 people at our seder, ranging from newborn babies to senior citizens, and everyone involved enjoyed a compelling, meaningful, and moving experience."

"The best thing for me was the Haggadah," said Rabbi Yaacov Vann of the Calabasas Shul in Calabasas, California. "It is very user-friendly and is geared toward the needs of people who may not have participated in a traditional seder before."

"The NJOP leader's guide was very useful," said Rabbi Barry Gelman of United Orthodox Synagogues in Houston, where 140 people attended a seder on the second night of Passover. "It provided me with innovative ideas for explaining concepts and offered thoughts that really resonated with people."

Other synagogues were equally successful in their efforts to implement NJOP's Model Seder and Pre-Passover Workshop programs. The Model Seder program, a step-by-step tour through the Passover seder, complete with explanations, stories and songs, is based on Rabbi Buchwald's renowned Lincoln Square Synagogue Model Seder and has been a popular program for many years.

The Pre-Passover Workshop, which is new to the NJOP curriculum, was designed to enable the uninitiated to explore the larger motifs of Passover prior to attending a seder. Included in the Workshop are discussions concerning the meaning of "Passover," the Haggadah, matzah and why the seder is relevant to Jews of every age. NJOP's Pre-Passover Workshop reflects a realization that in the 21st century, most Jews have more than four questions for which they seek answers.

"It's clear that participating synagogues communicated the very important message that their doors are open and that everyone is welcome to participate in PASSOVER ACROSS AMERICA," said Rabbi Buchwald. "The way individuals, generations and communities connected through this beautiful program really underscores the themes of community and freedom that are so powerful during Passover. Hopefully, the connections that were made between Jews and their heritage and between rabbis and community members will produce spiritual benefits for many years to come."

Blessing the Children, Blessing Ourselves:

SAA/C 2005 introduces the Birkat HaBanim Discussion Guide

May the L-rd protect and defend you. May He always shield you from shame. May you come to be in Israel a shining name.
(“Sabbath Prayer,” *Fiddler on the Roof*)

Perhaps you recognize these words from Tevya and Golde’s “Sabbath Prayer” for their five daughters in the musical *Fiddler on the Roof*. More than just a lovely song, however, the “Sabbath Prayer” is Broadway’s attempt to portray *Birkat HaBanim*, the weekly Shabbat custom when Jewish parents bless their children on Friday night.

One of the most important benefits of Sabbath observance is the opportunity to celebrate “family time.” Liberated from the constant interruptions of the telephone or the lure of the television, Jews around the world spend Shabbat “quality time” together. Whether with relatives or friends, or even among strangers in a new community, the Shabbat table fosters a warm family atmosphere.

As the poet/philosopher Achad Ha’ahm noted: “More than the Jews have kept Shabbat,

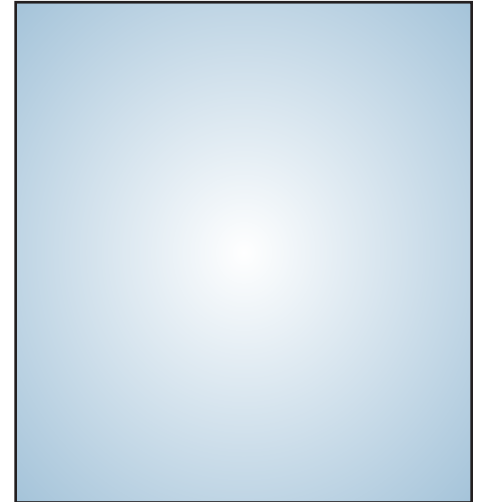
Shabbat has kept the Jews.” But what about Shabbat has kept the Jews? Perhaps it is the love for Jewish life that is transmitted from one generation to the next through *Birkat HaBanim*, the Blessing of the Children, every Friday night.

While it is customary for parents to bless their children every week at Shabbat dinner, the *Birkat HaBanim Discussion Guide*, NJOP’s newest SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA/CANADA supplemental program, focuses on the power of giving a blessing to another person. In this way, all members of every congregation, those with children and those without, are included in the theme of the program.

The *Birkat HaBanim Discussion Guide*, written and designed by NJOP’s Sarah Rochel Hewitt, highlights four Biblical or Talmudic sources pertaining to the general theme of blessings: ‘G-d’s blessings to humankind,’ ‘People blessing people,’ ‘Who has the ability to bless,’ and ‘Blessings, not miracles.’ Through the detailed discussion guide, moderators and participants at this year’s SAA/C explored what it means to give a blessing to another person, as well as why the Jews use the specific text of the weekly blessing of the children.

The *Birkat HaBanim Discussion Guide* joins

a growing oeuvre of educational materials designed to provide synagogues with specific, pre-designed, Shabbat-centered programs for SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA/CANADA. These programs, including the *Shalom Aleichem Discussion Guide* and the *Aishet Chayil Study Guide*, as well as the *Birkat HaBanim Discussion Guide*, are available for individual purchase through NJOP.



Shabbat Across America/Canada 2005

The Ninth Annual SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA/CANADA, which was held on March 4, 2005, was a brilliant success. Over 650 synagogues and Jewish centers ran the program this year, and many reported a significant increase in the number of participants. There were 47 new locations this year, including participants in Montana. But don't take our word for the program's popularity--here's what the coordinators had to say!

It has been extremely cold and snowy here in New England. This program was just what the doctor ordered to relieve the winter blues... Even though our group was small, it was heart-warming to know that we were a part of the big picture celebrating the Sabbath nationwide with thousands and thousands of fellow Jews.
Temple Beth Shalom
Hull, MA

We generally have two Shabbat dinners each month. SAA drew an entirely different cross section of the community...I think our greatest success was in the diversity of those who were attracted to dinner and conversation before services.
Temple Jeremiah
Northfield, IL

Entering the social hall with Shabbat candles on each table in candleholders made by our students, as well as Challah covers made by our children...set the stage for a warm and welcoming, spiritually fulfilling Shabbat shared by all--200 of us!
Temple Beth El
Oakhurst, NJ

One family who participated in the program "happened" to have been in town for a medical conference. On Friday afternoon, they were strolling the boardwalk and came to pass the "Shul on the Beach" while SAA/C was being set up. They were very happy about the opportunity to join us for Shabbat dinner.
Pacific Jewish Center
Venice, CA



We had a "surprise" participant, a young woman, a college student, who saw our ad and "dropped in" just before the meal. She told me that her mother was Jewish but did not raise her with any religion. She came to "see if she could join the meal and learn about her faith." We welcomed her, she ate and blessed with us, stayed for services and came back in the morning. On Wednesday she came to our adult education class!
Beth El -
The Beaches Synagogue
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

Makom Ohr Shalom's SAA program took the theme of Jewish humor. For all who attended, it was a very spirited and successful evening. The rabbi, cantor and select congregants all contributed humor, and there was much laughter in the congregation. As part of the Oneg, we had a game to tell and hear Jewish jokes, which generated a lot of laughter and play.
Makom Ohr Shalom
West Hills, CA

One new young girl who came with her family and had a great time said before leaving: "Mom, can we come to this shul from now on!"
The Richmond Hill Country Shul
Richmond Hill, ONT

We had an excellent attendance with over 100 people. Our Hebrew school students and their families came. In addition, our members contributed extra funds and we were able to subsidize several Russian families. Monday morning, the phone calls started coming in to thank us for a wonderful event.
Bay Ridge Jewish Center
Brooklyn, NY

*The Tenth Annual Shabbat Across America/Canada
March 3, 2006*



successful actor, featured in Broadway's *Barnum*, to becoming a yeshiva student in Israel, to staunch NJOP supporter. This year, Eddie and his wife, Batya, were the recipients of the Leslie Nelkin Special Service Award, in acknowledgment of their efforts to enhance Jewish life through their acclaimed Jewish art and architecture that has appeared around the world over the past 20 years.

It all began at Rabbi Buchwald's Lincoln Square Synagogue Beginners Service, which has served as the prototype for the hundreds of services subsequently created around the world by the National Jewish Outreach Program. In a dramatic recreation, Eddie and Rabbi Buchwald explored how a simple introduction to basic Jewish concepts, accompanied by a warm and caring Jewish community, inspired one unaffiliated Jew to become a vital part of the Jewish people.

In a fitting tribute, the Leslie Nelkin Special Service Award was stirringly presented to Batya and Eddie by Batya's father, Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, the Chief Rabbi of Efrat and Founding Rabbi of Lincoln Square Synagogue. Having witnessed the profound effects of Rabbi Buchwald's outreach efforts not only on the Lincoln Square Synagogue community, but on his own family as well, Rabbi Riskin commented: "NJOP is about angels. Any human being who helps bring about G-d's destiny in the world is *ipso facto* an angel. Rabbi Buchwald is an active angel who brings people into heaven even when they are still walking on earth."

Aside from the outreach "angels" that NJOP sends throughout the world, NJOP is also the beneficiary of the generosity of many angels who support the creation of new programs accompanied by innovative educational material and creative advertising--which are disseminated free of charge to hundreds of participating synagogues and Jewish centers. The annual Dinner is the perfect

venue for NJOP to recognize and pay tribute to these extraordinary donors and their commitment to NJOP's vital work.

No organization could wish for a more generous "angel" than Mr. Sam Domb. NJOP has been truly blessed to have been the recipient of his extraordinary insight, generosity and love. In a surprise tribute to Mr. Domb, Rabbi Buchwald described a scene that portrayed Mr. Domb's true nature:

"I was invited to a parlor meeting that Sam Domb held in his townhouse

for the benefit of the Yeshiva Ketana of Manhattan,

one of the day schools on the Upper West Side. That

evening, Mr. Domb announced his donation of \$100,000 to Yeshiva

Ketana--quite a generous sum,

you must admit. But

Sam Domb has his own way of giving charity.

When he announced the \$100,000 donation for Yeshiva Ketana, he

said to those in attendance: 'There's another day school in our neighborhood that also needs our support. I therefore pledge an additional \$100,000 to the Manhattan Day School.' When I called the leaders of the Manhattan Day School to tell them of Sam's benevolence, they were in shock. After all, they had not expected nor solicited his money. Then Sam said, 'And Rabbi Buchwald is helping to save Jews, so I'm giving him \$100,000 as well.' It was the charitable equivalent of a hat trick, something that we rarely see. That evening, Sam Domb raised about \$450,000 for Yeshiva Ketana of Manhattan, and with those pledges in hand, the yeshiva has gone on to raise much more money on its own."

Mr. Domb's generosity is very real and very substantial. The pain he feels, not only for the catastrophes in Jewish history, but also for the current state of the Jewish people, is matched only by his boundless love for his Jewish brethren. By way of introducing this year's Guests of Honor, the Podolsky family, Mr. Domb said, "The greatest treasure that G-d gave the Jewish people is the Torah, but not every one is a



Young Leadership Awardees
Vladimir and Eliana Gutin

scholar of the Torah. I am not...But I am a defender of the Torah, and so are the Podolskys..."

That the Podolsky family exists today to share in the work of NJOP is, in itself, a story of survival. From the ashes of Europe, Zenek and Fanny Podolsky came to Brooklyn, rebuilt their lives and created a beautiful family with seven children. Indeed, so profound is their story of regeneration and dedication to their community, as well as their personal success, that, at the end of the evening, New York Democratic

Congressman Anthony Weiner presented them with a special Congressional Proclamation.

"History taught us a lesson," Mr. Domb declared, "that Jewish survival can only be guaranteed by us, not by anyone else. And tonight I want to tell you that Jewish survival is guaranteed by a family by the name of Podolsky.

We cannot change our yesterdays, but we sure can change our tomorrows. [With] people like the Podolsky family, there will be better tomorrows."

Better tomorrows obviously begin with the quality young leadership within the Jewish community. This year, NJOP's Young Leadership Award was presented to Eliana and Vladimir Gutin, who have a unique, almost fairytale, story. Eliana, a beautiful model from Gorky in the former Soviet Union, came to the United States and began modeling for a designer of clothing for Orthodox Jewish women. Fascinated by Jewish life, she began attending Rabbi Buchwald's Beginners Service and eventually converted to Judaism. Eliana met handsome, dashing Vlad, who was then starting his career at Goldman-Sachs, and told him in no uncertain terms that she would not marry him until he became more observant. She brought him to the Beginners Service, where he relearned the Hebrew he had forgotten since his Bar Mitzvah. Now married and blessed with two beautiful children, they are living a full and fulfilling Jewish life.



*Guests of Honor
Sholom and Janet Spitz with
Ruth and Henry Wertheimer*

"It wasn't an easy path, for either of us. I remember reading [NJOP's] little blue Hebrew Primer late at night, practicing *Adon Olam* and slowly drifting off to a good night's sleep. But week after week, Rabbi Buchwald brought the service to life and, as I began to better understand the structure of the service, going to synagogue became a lot more meaningful and fun....As a movie buff, I would say that going to services without being able to read Hebrew is like watching a foreign film without subtitles and sound," remarked

Vladimir, in a beautiful tribute to NJOP for the role it played in their lives.

While the Gutins represent the exciting support that comes from NJOP alumnae, Honorees Janet and

Sholom Spitz are sterling examples of NJOP supporters who, from the very beginning, have watched the

transformation of the organization from a one-man show into a nation-wide and worldwide phenomenon.

The Spitzes relationship with NJOP stems both from their commitment to the Jewish people and familial bonds--they are the brother-in-law and sister-in-law of Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald. While it might have been this family tie that brought NJOP to the Spitzes' attention, it was the incredible energy and the success of Rabbi Buchwald and his organization that made them such enthusiastic supporters. "We all began to realize," commented Sholom, "that [Rabbi Buchwald] had a unique capacity to reach people on a level that allowed them to experience Judaism and connect to their souls as never before." That realization is the foundation of the Spitzes' support of the National Jewish Outreach Program, and, as noted by Janet and Uri Kaufthal during the Spitzes' tribute video, it is support that they give with constant positive energy and enjoyment.

In addition to their ongoing support, the Spitzes have been the sponsors of Rabbi Buchwald's weekly Torah mes-



Ulo and Eva Barad



*Joshua Eisner, Karen
Lehmann-Eisner and
Elliot Schwartz*



Michelle and Eli Salig



*Harry and Rachel Skydell,
Sam Domb and Orlee Gal*



Harvey and Gloria Kaylie



Dr. Bob and Ruth Riemer



Rabbi Buchwald and Dr. Charles Feldman



Congressman Anthony Weiner and Sam Domb present the Podolskys with a Congressional Proclamation

DINNER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

sage since the founding of NJOP in 1987, in memory of Naftali Tzvi Spitz, z"l, the father of Sholom Spitz and Aidel Buchwald.

As the Dinner drew to its conclusion, Rabbi Buchwald announced one final tribute. "While I am given credit for the success of NJOP," Rabbi Buchwald stated, "Beryl Levenson [Associate Director of NJOP] was there from the very start. Beryl is the true heart and soul of the National Jewish Outreach Program. Over the past 17 years...Beryl took our organization from its infancy and guided it to become one of the largest and most successful outreach organizations in the world. Time has no meaning for Beryl, she is on for the Jewish people 24/7." Rabbi Buchwald also noted that Beryl's husband Sam, an accountant, has also given of his talents to help NJOP whenever asked. After 17 years of dedication, Beryl and Sam have moved forward with their plans for Aliyah. While Beryl found people to take over some of her work, the organization is blessed to know that she will be continuing to work for NJOP from afar.

Dedication such as that demonstrated by NJOP's honorees and employees attests to just how important NJOP's work is, and the success of the Eleventh Annual Dinner is a testament to how deeply and effectively that work touches the Jewish people. ★



Gail and Michael Weisbrod



Richard Linhart, Rabbi Jonathan Rosenblatt and Toby Schapiro



Samantha and Jena Podolsky



Mr. Sam Domb

Singles Dinner Number 5!

There are many ways to reach out to the Jewish people, and NJOP is committed to utilizing the ones that show the most promise. Convinced of the positive impact of the warmth of a Shabbat meal, along with the opportunity to hear inspiring words of Torah, and perhaps meet the right person, NJOP has, for the last 5 years, been reaching out to singles on Manhattan's Upper West Side with sumptuous Friday night dinners. On April 8, 2005, NJOP, once again, hosted a special Shabbat dinner, sponsored by our loyal and dear friend Mr. Sam Domb, at the West Side Institutional Synagogue.

Over 200 singles from across the tri-state area attended the spirited evening. Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald kicked off the night with opening remarks, followed by Gary Tolchinsky's insightful Dvar Torah. Guest Speaker David Fishof, agent to high profile sports figures and music stars, kept the audience at the edge of their seats with his exciting and amusing speech describing his efforts to serve his clients effectively, while at the same time observing his faith correctly.

Thank you to our loyal Honorary Chairs, dedicated committee and table hosts for their hard work and for helping to make this dinner a true success. Honorary Chairs: Carole and Jack Forgash and Michelle and Eli Salig. Committee: Karen and Andrew Duell, Joe Fraiman, Ron Goldofsky, Marjorie Lipkin, Ruth and Benjamin Lubick, Rabbi Mayer Offman, Joel Pelofsky, Adena Samowitz. ★



National Jewish Outreach Program

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NJOP Founder and Director

Ephraim Z. Buchwald

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HIGH ON HIGH HOLIDAY CARDS

Believe it or not, Rosh Hashanah is just around the corner! So, it's not too early to start thinking about purchasing beautiful High Holiday cards to send to your friends and relatives--and NJOP has just the cards you've been looking for!

Your support of the National Jewish Outreach Program through the purchase of your choice of these beautiful and meaningful New Year cards will enable NJOP to continue to expand its free educational programs, reaching ever wider audiences. At the same time, you will have a meaningful way of expressing your best wishes to those you care about. Friends, neighbors, co-workers, family--let everyone in your life know that you are thinking about them during the holiday season.

For centuries, Jews have survived because they have been educationally informed and spiritually inspired. Please share in the important mitzvah of helping others by purchasing NJOP's beautiful, full color New Year cards, which will help NJOP sponsor more classes, create additional programs and help bring our fellow Jews home!

Order forms will be arriving at your home shortly. All orders will be processed and mailed within two days of receipt. Early orders will be shipped free of charge (an \$8 saving!). If you do not receive your High Holiday order form soon, please email beryl@njop.org, call Esther Bochner at 646-871-4444 ext. 51, or visit www.njop.org ★

All good wishes to you and your family for a very sweet and happy New Year.

FROM THE MAIL ROOM...

Responses to Read

Hebrew America/Canada

I'm grateful that the program exists. I tried to review Hebrew on my own last year--that was not successful. I didn't know where to turn at a reasonable cost. I like my teacher and the materials. I rarely take the time to fill out surveys because I am so pressed for time, but I felt I owe you at least this for a program that is very important to me.

S. A.
Conshohocken, PA

I've had real difficulty when I tried previously. This course made it easier. I was thrilled from the first lesson when I actually understood a sentence. From that point onward, I was "hooked on Hebrew!"

Elizabeth Bedwell
Mississauga, ON

The most informative and excellent learning program I have ever had.

F. F.
Brooklyn, NY

This course is a wonderful introduction to reading Hebrew. It is very exciting for me to read some Hebrew and many of the prayers.

S. K.
Hewlett, NY

It was a very positive experience and opened up a new world to me.

K. K.
Smithtown, NY

A definite learning experience as well as a link to a basic life-long thread/culture that never goes away--and that's a good thing.

Susan Rotter
East Meadow, NY

The techniques the Rabbi used to teach us the alphabet and reading were so good. I never could learn how to read Hebrew as a child -I didn't grasp it- but I learned the whole alphabet in only a few hours!

Karen Silverman
Dresher, PA

I really enjoyed the program. I can read simple Hebrew texts now. I feel more connected to my Judaism as a result.

Alison Spitzer
Allentown, PA

I enjoyed the informal atmosphere of the class and the gracious manner of the instructor in explaining points and answering questions.

Anonymous
Brevard, NC

Thank You...

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FOURTH ANNUAL FOOD & WINE TASTING EXTRAVAGANZA!

September 13, 2005!

The National Jewish Outreach Program's Fourth Annual Food and Wine Tasting Extravaganza and Chinese Auction will be held on September 13, 2005, at The Roosevelt Hotel located at Madison Avenue at 45th Street.

The Food and Wine Tasting Extravaganza, which has been highly praised as NJOP's stellar Young Leaders' event, is expected to once again be a sell-out affair.

Critical to the evening's success is the silent auction/raffle, which raises vital funds for NJOP programs. NJOP seeks your assistance in making this year's prizes as exciting as ever. Anyone who may be in a position to donate or sponsor a gift for the auction, or to make a reservation for the event, please contact Rachael Erlichman at 646-871-0111 or rachaele@njop.org.

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NJOP records with sorrow the following losses

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beloved husband of Miriam Bader, devoted father of Karen Ickovics and William Bader

Meilech Berkowitz

beloved husband of Laura Berkowitz and devoted father of Rivki Adler and Dr. Dov Berkowitz

Dr. Samuel Berson

beloved husband of Lolabee Berson, devoted father of Rhetta Felton and Bonnie Stern

Adam Dunitz and David (Dudyck) Dunitz
beloved brothers of Eva Barad

Herman Goffin

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devoted father of Toby Schneier

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beloved brother of David S. Gottesman

Lea Gross

devoted mother of Susan Degan, Pamela HB Gross and William Gross

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devoted mother of Linda Laulich, Murray Kushner, Charles Kushner and Esther Schulder

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Irene Stern

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