

UNDER THE CHUPPA

FROM SHIDDUCHIM TO SHALOM BAYIS

Summer 2017

www.UnderTheChuppa.net

FREE
Take a copy

New Story By:
*Nachman
Seltzer*

*Shidduch
Profiles*

*The
Wedding
Dresser*

TEN TIPS
*For Newly
Engaged Couples*

Moving to...
LAKEWOOD
(What it's all about)

**LOSING
WEIGHT**
for the big day?

Marriage Humor • Clueless in the Kitchen - How to Meal Prep

Herzog Wine Cellars' eight generations of winemaking has instilled a deep appreciation for our growing regions and the characteristics they bring to our wine.

For Herzog Special Reserves, we harness the influences of California microclimates, from soil to sunlight, to produce award-winning varieties, like the new 2014

Lake County Cabernet Sauvignon.

This Cabernet Sauvignon was grown at an elevation of more than 1,500 feet.

The soil, a rich, volcanic red, is well-drained, allowing for precise irrigation at the most important stages of ripening. Its taste is a testament to the region and the craftsmanship of the winemaker.

HERZOG
Wine Cellars

SPECIAL RESERVE



ב"ג
MC MILANO COLLECTION Premium WIGS

 *The best wigs go UNNOTICED*

FREE

\$200
Kallah Kit

VISIT MCwigs.com/KALLAH FOR DETAILS



 Schedule an appointment with a Kallah specialist.

Available in N.Y. or L.A. Showroom.

Visit MCwigs.com/KALLAH for details

1-888-MILANO-3

24" GISELE WITH
CUSTOM COLOR

ADORNA

inside
Band

THE ORIGINAL
WiGrip
COMFORT BAND

Contents



12 A Shidduch Story



18 Makeup that makes you prettier... Really!



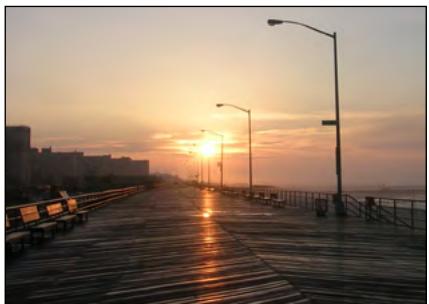
26 The Wedding Dresser



46 Keeping the Bride and Groom in the Frame: How to Get Incredible Chosson and Kallah Shots



58 Moving to... Lakewood, New Jersey



52 Dating locations



76 Clueless in the kitchen

08 Ten Tips For Newly Engaged Couples

21 The Secret To Love That Lasts

32 The Shidduch Crisis: with a Twist!

35 An Open Letter From A Frustrated Matchmaker

36 The GPS for a Successful Marriage

40 When G-d Decided To Marry Us

43 Losing weight for the big day? We are here to help!

54 Great Wines For A Cheerful Wedding

67 Marriage Humor

68 Wedding Day Hair

71 Spotlight on the Bandstand with Rhythm 5

74 Chassidic Tales

80 The Perfect Shidduch!

84 Let There Be Light!

87 A Good Wife

91 Shidduch Profiles

UNDER THE CHUPPA

www.UnderTheChuppa.net

SUMMER 2017

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES

718.781.6405

Next Edition September 2017

PROOFREADER

Chaya Rumbak

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Sarah Shidler

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Sandy Eller

Rabbi Nachman Seltzer

Daniel Schonbuch

Rabbi Manis Friedman

Daniella Max

Sylvia Fallas

Batya Reyz /Hess

Leah Loksen

Lieba Abecassis

Rabbi Dov Greenberg

Rabbi YY Rubinstein

Reb Gutman Locks

Rabbi Yisroel Bernath

Gabriel Geller

COVER PHOTOGRAPHY

CJ Studios Photography

DESIGN

Nebojsa Dolovacki

CONTACT US:

mail@utc.life or 347.559.0011

© 2017 Under The Chuppa. All Rights Reserved. This magazine or any portion thereof may not be reproduced or used in any manner whatsoever without the express written permission of the publisher.

Editor's note

This week is Shavuos... When Hashem chose to marry us and when the Jewish nation became locked into an eternal marriage to him.

Since publishing has been a long-time dream of mine, I could not think of a better or more fitting time to release the very first edition of this magazine, focusing exclusively on shidduchim, weddings, marriage and beyond.

I had a difficult time going through shidduchim and often went to sleep crying out of emotional pain. As the head of the successful photography company, CJ Studios, I can't tell you how sad it is to get emails from people saying they're no longer together.

Today's world is in such need of chizzuk... While many books and internet articles have been written on shidduchim & marriage, they have never been grouped together with articles about various wedding preparations. Thus, creating a publication offering great advice from leading shadchanim, marriage advice from the masters, and wedding tips from the pros, was a great ambition of mine.

Although we started working on this project only a few months ago, it has really kicked off. Right after Pesach, I made a trip to Ukraine and davened at the Kevaram of many Tzadikim. These Tzadikim included Reb Levi Yitzchak of Barditchev, the Baal Shem Tov, the Maggid of Mezritch, and several Chabad Rebbeim. Since I got back, every piece of creating this magazine has fallen into place... a true blessing from above.

We initially imagined having a seventy or eighty page magazine. In the end, we were given the opportunity to increase in size due to the overwhelming influx of advertisements and article ideas. I am extremely thankful to the initial supporters of this magazine who pushed me and believed in me.

According to Chassidus, Shavuos is unlike every other holiday as there aren't many specific mitzvahs connected to it. Shavuos is the one yom tov that only requires showing up to shul and hearing the ten commandments... A simple act! Likewise, besides for all the fanfare connected to it, the act of getting married is rather simple as well, as the ceremony itself consists of small actions.

Giving or accepting a ring with a sentence attached to it is in essence forming a permanent relationship, but is not a complicated act. If this holds true with our spouses, it must hold true with our connection to the one above.

A simple act of connecting to Hashem can go so far. By simply giving that ring or by performing a mitzvah, we bring Hashem closer to us. Once

we are connected, it's a two-way street and we are united as one.

As I put out this publication, may it be a zechus for klal yisrael and for all of those who need a shidduch for they should find their beshert immediately.

As we are Hashem's bashert, may he find us and take us out of this dark, long golus and bring us back to Tzion, establishing his name upon the earth once again with Mashiach Tzidkanu!

To my wonderful parents, Michael and Ann, may you live, be well, and be blessed until 120 with amazing and wonderful success, health, wealth, and nachas... Thank you for giving me this idea.

To my dear wife and partner in crime, Sarah, thank you for supporting me in yet another crazy endeavour. At first, you thought I was absolutely crazy to take this on but your belief in me and your ability to give me the time and space to pull through is the key that really made this happen. Happy 5th Anniversary!

To all of our writers, shadchanim, and editors who gave us your time... Thank you!

Thank you to the AMAZING Nebojsa Dolovacki for the absolutely amazing and off the hook design, work, and continuous late nights in order to make this all happen!

I would like to give a tremendous hakars hatov to the Lubavitcher Rebbe whose vision never stops inspiring us to reach higher and stronger heights in spreading the wellsprings of Judaism.

Most importantly, thank you to the Rebono Shel Olam for giving me my every waking breath and for allowing this to come to fruition.

This magazine is the pilot edition... We intend to start producing a new publication quarterly and will progress towards bi-monthly printing. All of the feedback from this edition will help carry us further and further. If you have a story or something to share, please email us at mail@utc.life

As a wedding photographer, we have a huge collection of incredible photos. Out of respect for our communities' modesty standards, we are refraining from publicizing clear photos of ladies. You will find photos and shots of gowns, dresses, and unidentifiable brides in order to respect all of our readers and to keep inline with such standards, that have been put in place in order to uphold the amazing tznius standards of klal yisrael.

Yosef Shidler
Editor In Chief
3 Sivan 5777

make any meal

Legendary



shiloh

You're not in business if you don't get the money.

Bevel helps you turn
your customer's money
into **your money** with the
most comprehensive array
of payment solutions
in the business.

Flexible
and Powerful
POS Systems



Toll Free: **888-650-6444**
Web: www.bevelpayment.com
Email: sales@bevelpayment.com



 **BEVEL**
PAYMENT SOLUTIONS

Ten Tips For Newly Engaged Couples

DON'T TELL EVERYONE RIGHT AWAY.

In the age of social media, engaged couples tend to tell the world right away. It's so important to have a moment to take in all the excitement. Once you tell the world, you'll be become focused on conversations with friends and family. Take a day or two to "share the news" with one another. Cherish this incredible, life-altering decision; reconnect and remember why you said "yes" in the first place.

IT'S THE TWO OF YOU AGAINST THE WORLD.

Find a mutual voice and don't let anyone convince you otherwise. It's the two of you against the world. Anyone who tries to come in between you — cut them out. It doesn't matter if it's a friend, relative or anyone. If they speak negatively about you or any of your mutual decisions, or if they meddle in your relationship, they are poisoning your relationship — with the exception of your parents (more on that below).

DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.

When we're dating, we usually have our guard up. We make sure to look our best, and are careful with what we say and do. Once engaged, many

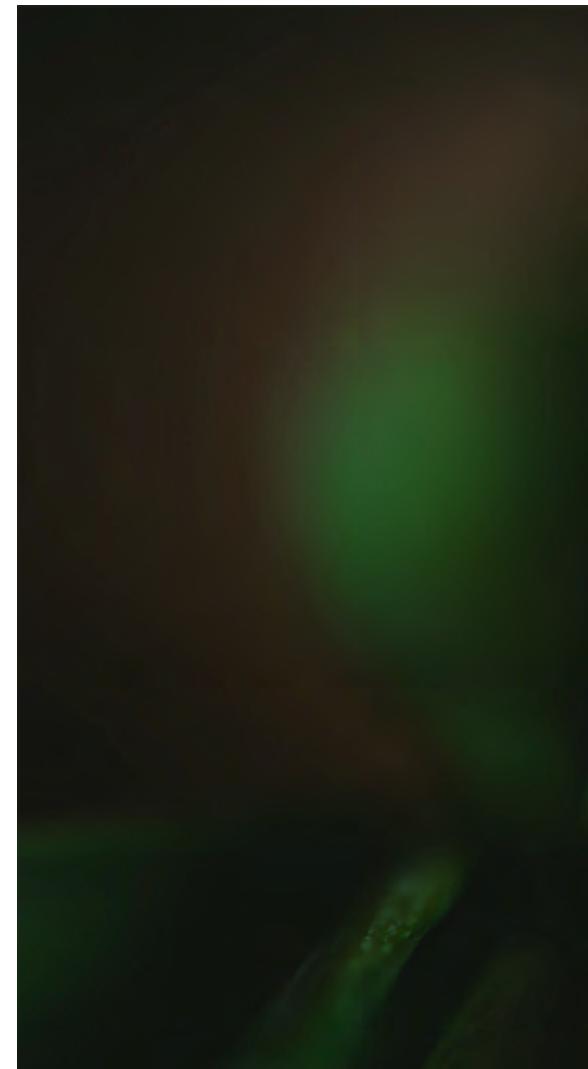
couples will let their guard down. That's it, we're engaged, "it's over!" It's not over — it's actually just getting started. It's even more important to look and act your best; now it really matters.

DON'T GET INTO IN-LAW FIGHTS — IT'S NOT WORTH IT.

There are always lots of emotions surrounding engagements, especially when it comes to parents. Some parents have difficulty separating from their child. Their reaction can be greatly eased if there is a "weaning" process. Both spouses should allow for a gradual separation. If a parent calls ten times a day, it shouldn't be considered meddling. Gradually, the frequency of contact should be decreased without it being traumatic. Your parents can actually give you good advice, and most importantly, never speak negatively about your in-laws.

DON'T CONFIDE IN YOUR FRIENDS. IT'S DETRIMENTAL TO YOUR FUTURE.

Many singles have BFFs; their friends are their closest confidantes. The most important element of a successful marriage is trust. Real trust will take years. But you have to start now. You need to move your confiding



to your spouse and away from your friends. This may be tough at first. It's so much easier to talk to your friends, especially because things come up when you're engaged. Don't do it! Get used to talking to your spouse. (If there are issues with your future spouse, go with a trusted professional first and foremost).

YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOUR PARTNERS PAST DATES.

Even though it's an "important" part of your past, it's not healthy for a budding relationship. It simply wasn't meant to be, so leave it at that. Certainly do not praise a past date at length. The less said, the better. Talking about your previous dates will

Being open and honest is critical. If you're lying now, it's bound to fire back in your face and cause issues later.



often make your partner feel jealous or like they're in some sort of contest. Your fiancé should never feel like you are comparing them to someone else.

BE OPEN AND HONEST.

If you are engaged, you should not feel for a moment that you need to lie to your fiance. You need to start your relationship on a strong foundation. Being open and honest is critical. If you are lying now, it's bound to backfire on you and cause issues later.

GO FOR PREMARITAL COUNSELING.

Your "love" may be good for the honeymoon, but it's not the main ingredient for a long-lasting and healthy relationship. Every couple

needs a box of tools, whether it's active listening and communication, finances, having kids or reconciling different styles of argument. A good premarital therapist or program should be able to teach you these tools and much more. You have no

problem going for 10 dress fittings for a one-day event, right? I highly recommend going for 10 premarital sessions, which will help for a lifetime.

YOU NEED A THERAPIST OR CLERGY MEMBER YOU CAN BE TOTALLY OPEN WITH.

The first 18 months of marriage are the hardest. Most divorces happen during that time. Most couples will say that it was small issues that turned into big issues. Once issues arise after marriage, many couples find it strange or a bruise to their compatibility to start going to therapy. By having a therapist or clergy-member ready before you get married — someone who knows you well and who you can be open with — you'll have the confidence to actually go to someone and take care of the small issues before they become big ones. I would recommend a therapist or clergy member who is married and really believes in marriage. You know they are doing their job if they help bring you together in a way that you couldn't do it yourself, and if you leave each session feeling re-energized.

FIGHTING DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE NOT MEANT FOR EACH OTHER.

Wedding preparations certainly bring out the best in people (not!) I've heard engaged couples say they're calling off the wedding over a fight — about the wedding! Couples fight and that's okay. Use the above tips to figure it out. ♦

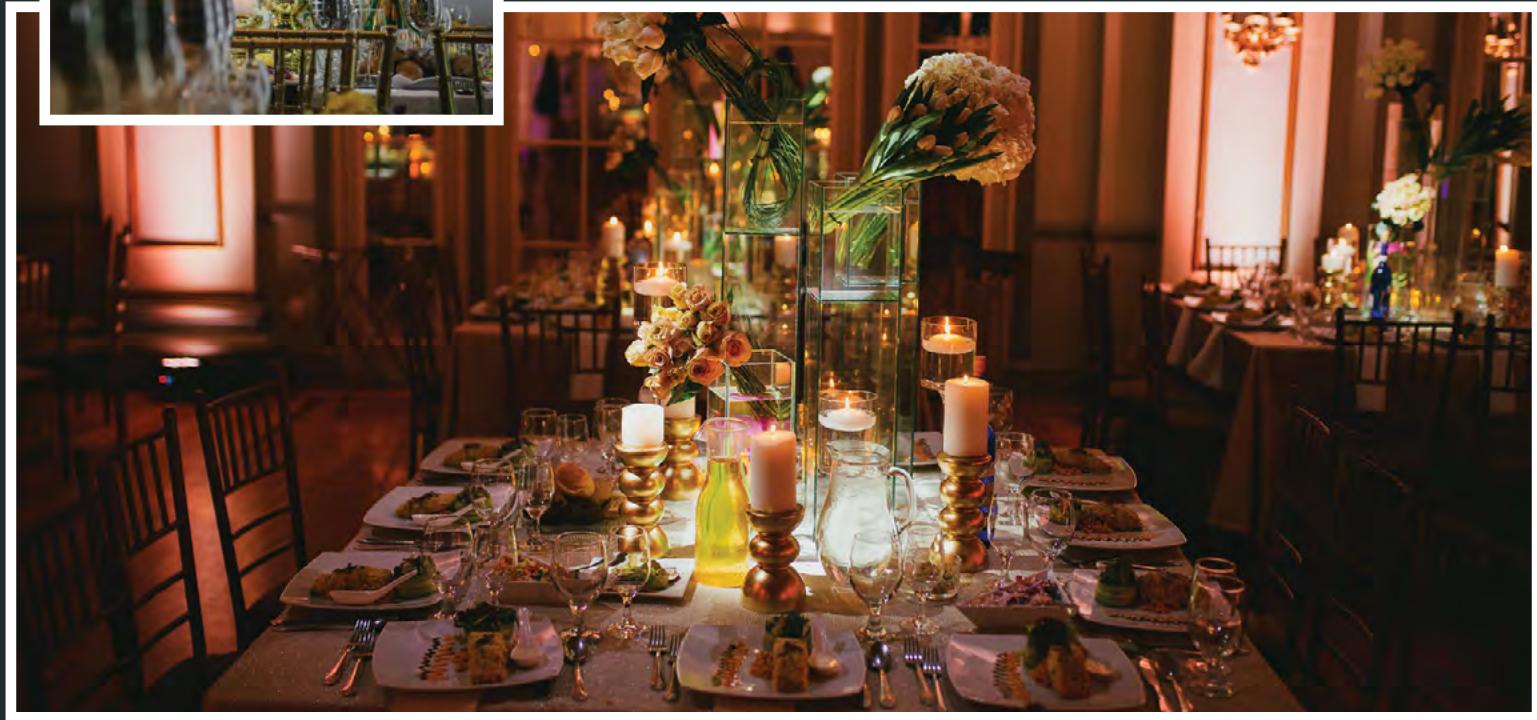
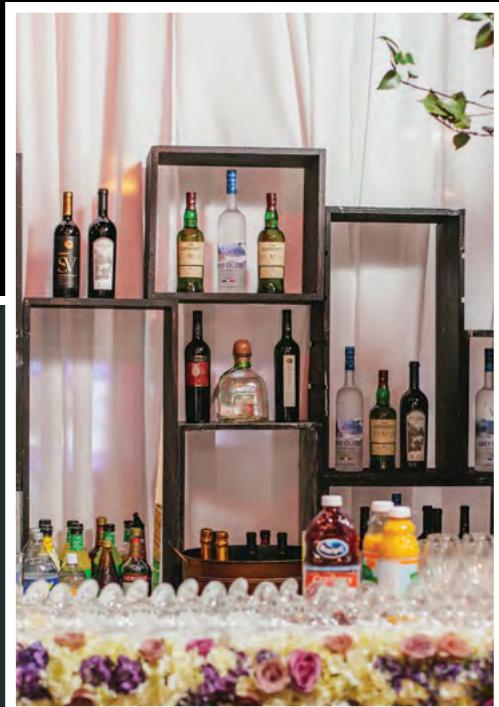


Rabbi Yisroel Bernath is spiritual director of Rohr Chabad NDG and the Associate Chaplain at Concordia University. He has made over 50 successful matches and is the founder of JMatchmaking International. He recently starred in the Award Winning CBC Documentary "Kosher Love". He lives in Montreal with his wife Sara and their four children.

rabbi@jewishmonkland.com

Events By

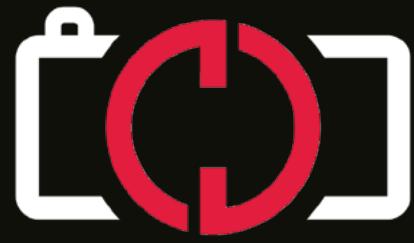
Chani Greenbaum



www.chanigreenbaum.com
347.362.3154



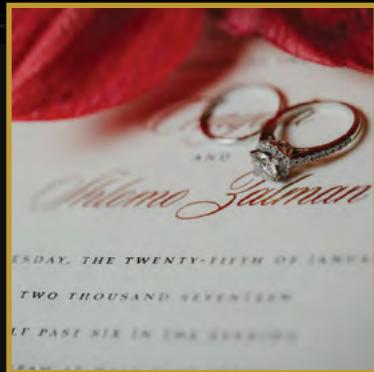
chanigreenbaumevents



CJ STUDIOS

FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY & CINEMA

CAPTURING THE MAGIC OF YOUR EVERY WEDDING MOMENT



347.201.0613 | www.CJStudios.info | @CJStudiosphotos

A Shidduch Story

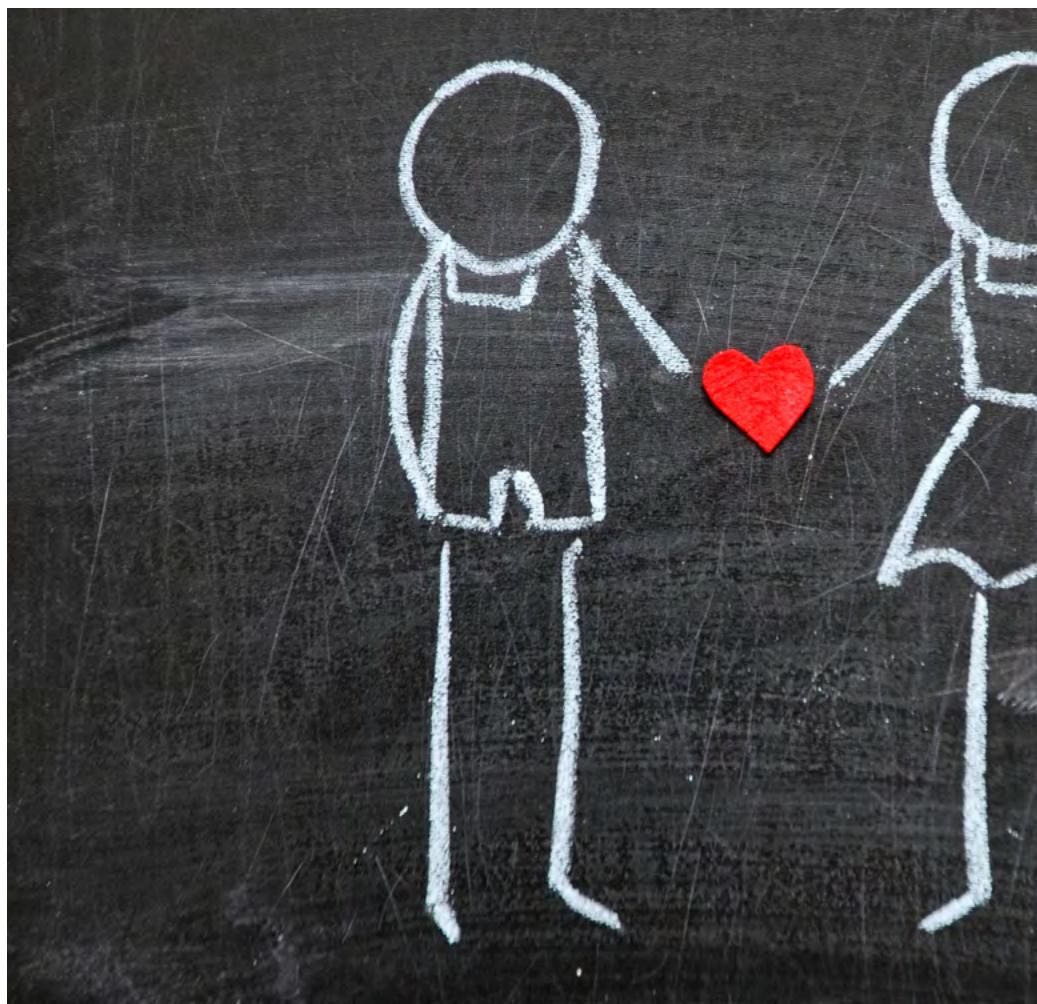
By Rabbi NACHMAN SELTZER

Brand
New
Story

When a person is in shiduchim, you meet many people who throw their ideas at you. Sometimes you take the person seriously and have the feeling that they understand what you are looking for and what you need and are going to follow through with their idea.

I was in shiduchim for about four years. During that time I must have gone out with about twenty five girls and though I had entered the process filled with positive energy, after doing the same thing for a couple of years and having my hopes dashed time and again, I was finding it very difficult to muster the energy and enthusiasm necessary to carry on. At a certain point, I began phasing myself out, turning down offers and just pressing the brakes down on that part of my life.

A few months before I reached this point, I had met with a woman named Rivka Bernath who runs a shiduchim type course where she tells people about all kinds of sigulos and offers a large variety of spiritual advice on how to find your zivug. Her main theme was that marriage is a spiritual journey above all else and people need to prepare themselves in the best, most effective way possible. She would say things like “stop focusing on getting



so many names - try working more on preparing yourself spiritually for marriage.... and the names will come to you by themselves."

One point she made really spoke to me. She stressed how important it was for a person in the parsha to try their best to help others with their weddings and simchos. It made sense to me and I began keeping my eyes open for opportunities to follow her advice.

.....

It was around this time that I heard about a family of six boys that I knew in a different state who had been thrown into a terrible situation. The father of a family had left home – abandoning his wife and children and leaving them in abject poverty. The oldest boy was about to celebrate his bar-mitzva, but now that his father had run away, there was no money at all to make him a simcha. What made it all worse, was the fact that this was a child who had grown up in the lap of luxury whose his

entire life had undergone a complete metamorphosis, leaving him at the very lowest rung of society. I had stayed at this family's homes in better days and it was difficult to believe that kids who had lived in such an unbelievably beautiful mansion, were now reduced to living in a penniless state!

The mother told me her plans for her son's bar-mitzva and I listened until I couldn't hold it in any more.

"It's not right," I told her. "Dovy deserves a bar-mitzva celebration that is just as special as that of his friends!"

I was very serious about this and part of me felt like it was my mission to turn this kid's big day into what he had always imagined it would be. I immediately began a serious fundraising campaign to try and get together as much cash as I could. I contacted everyone I knew and sent out messages in as many directions as possible. It took me about a week to put together about eight thousand dollars – which was enough money to make this kid a really top notch bar-mitzva that he would never forget for the rest of his life.

I flew out there for his big day, arranged with one of the local yeshivos to have their bochurim take care of putting together a band, rented a local hall and ordered the best catering company in town. Bottom line, the room was magnificent, the food was fantastic, and the bar-mitzva bochur and his family walked into their simcha looking like a million dollars. It was a tremendous kidush Hashem all around and I was filled with the incredible satisfaction of having been involved in helping to make this happen.

.....

In the set of recurring dreams I saw myself being struck with a terrible illness, being taken to the hospital and dying. I can't explain how frightening it was to see this happening to me – even if it was only in a dream. I began to panic and would awaken with my heart racing, feeling as if a vise was closing itself off around my throat. The feeling was absolutely horrible.

.....

Needing guidance, I ran to see my Rebbe and told him the entire story.

I don't know what I was expecting him to say, but he heard me out and suggested that I check my Tefillin. Taking his advice, I literally ran to the sofer and begged him to check my Tefillin – which turned out to be non-Kosher. I immediately purchased a brand new pair of Tefillin and felt much better about the situation, especially when the dreams ceased happening.

.....

There was another very important thing that occurred right around the same time of the bar-mitzva and the recurring dreams. I decided to make a serious commitment to get myself on track in an area of life where I had been having a difficult time getting my act together. I decided that from then on I would go to shul first thing in the morning. For a long time, I'd been staying up late and getting up late and even when I finally got up, I didn't necessarily run to daven with a minyan. I finally decided that things had gone on long enough and it was high time that I took myself in hand and got control of the situation. From then on it would be shul first, no matter what other "important" things had to be taken care of.

.....

All these events occurred within a thirty day period, and somehow all of them (at least in my mind) seemed to fall into the category of what I had learned about preparing myself for the spiritual journey of marriage.



Around the same time as all of this I began experiencing a series of really crazy dreams. The same set of dreams repeated themselves many times every night for a few nights in a row!



Within a month, I had gone out of my comfort zone to raise the money for a wonderful kid's bar-mitzva, purchased a brand new pair of beautiful Tefillin and began to rise early in the morning and daven with a minyan. The journey had begun and I was loving every second of it!

There was one additional point.

The previous Simchas Torah I had been in a shul and taken part in the auction for Chosson Torah. The bidding kept on spiraling higher, but I felt really strongly about purchasing Chosson Torah and I asked the rav of the shul if I could pay it off over the course of the coming year. He agreed, I purchased the honor and I finished paying it off right around this time as well.

One of my best friends, (we had met at summer camp years before and really hit it off,) had been nudging me to look into an idea that he'd had for a while. His sister had become really good friends with a girl whom she'd

met during her year in Israel and since we were both baalei teshuva and both into photography and had a lot in common, he felt that we might be right for one another.

When a person is in shiduchim, you meet many people who throw their ideas at you. Sometimes you take the person seriously and have the feeling that they understand what you are looking for and what you need and are going to follow through with their idea. Other times, you just smile at the person talking and gently fob them off, since you "know" on some level that nothing is going to come of their suggestion.

Now the truth is, although this was one of my best friends (we are even business partners today) I didn't really take him seriously, since I couldn't imagine that the kid I'd met in camp ten years before would end up making my shiduch. But he never gave up and kept on bombarding me with his suggestion every time we saw each other.

.....

Around the end of that thirty day period I found myself gradually coming to the tail-end of yet another dating experience. I had gone out with this particular girl a number of times and instead of things clearing up and feeling like it was the right thing, I was feeling more and more indecisive and unsure of myself. I was on an emotional merry-go-round and I couldn't handle it anymore. I discussed the situation with my rebbeim and mentors and in the end, everyone involved advised me to tell the shadchan that it wasn't for me. After I said no, I was really not in the mood for any more dating, but before I took a really, really long break from the whole scene, some part of me decided to take my friend's advice and give his long shot idea a try. I wasn't expecting anything to happen, but he had been going on about this for so long, that I really wanted to just get it off the table already and then go on dating hiatus.

My friend told me to call his sister, who was now in school with this girl

Sometimes you just have to work on the spiritual side of things and develop that angle of your personality and life, and things will begin happening by themselves (maybe even from the most random of places.)

in Brooklyn and ask her for the details. I hadn't known this at the time, by my friend's sister had also been pushing this shiduch to her friend for a really long time, just as her brother had been doing to me. I was in my mid-twenties at the time, while the girl they had in mind for me was only nineteen and after we got engaged, I remembered how one time I had been sitting with my Rebbe, complaining to him that it was taking me so long to find the right girl and he said, "maybe she's just very young and you have to wait until she's old enough to get married," which turned out to be exactly the case.

Smart Rebbe no?

.....

Convincing my wife to go out with me wasn't the easiest thing in the world since she'd seen me at a few different venues where I hadn't been dressed my best (to put it mildly) and when I'd been pointed out to her, she basically said that she would never go out with a guy who dressed the way I did.

My friend's sister however felt that this shiduch was a very good idea and was determined to convince her friend to give it a shot. I don't know how our story would have ended, had it not been for something that happened to my wife a short while before we went out for the first time.

Later on she would tell me that she too had had a dream two weeks before we met. In the dream she was with a famous Rebbetzin and the two of them were companionably walking down a road together.

Suddenly the Rebbetzin turned to my wife and said, "I want you to know that you are going to meet your chosson in a very short amount of time. Don't think too much into it, don't think too hard about it, it's the right one and everything's going to be smooth and easy."

.....

We began dating shortly after the thirty day period in which my entire life flipped around in a really positive way. Our first

date took place on a Tuesday night and it was fantastic. We went out again that Thursday night and again the following Sunday night. And although we were both baalei teshuva who shared the mentality that we would never date for a short time and get engaged, at some point during that third date, it was clear to both of us that we wanted to marry the other. There were no questions or doubts and we still feel exactly the same way. We have been married for five years now (our wedding was in 2012) and live in Lakewood New Jersey and the spiritual journey is just getting better all the time.

Whenever I remember my story I can't help but reflect on the wise words that I heard that set me on the correct path.

"Sometimes you just have to work on the spiritual side of things and develop that angle of your personality and life, and things will begin happening by themselves (maybe even from the most random of places.)

You have to take care of the ruchnious and Hashem will take care of His part and give you that happy end to your story – in your own perfectly unique set of circumstances." ♦

**If you have a shiduch story including ups, downs, or twists, please send a voice recording or email to mail@utc.life*

Rabbi Nachman Seltzer is the author of 26 books. He can be reached at nachmans@netvision.net.il

Looking For A Therapist Who Cares And Has A Proven Track-Record?



Rabbi Daniel Schonbuch, LMFT

Licensed Marriage and Individual Therapist

Offices in Brooklyn and Monsey.

For more info and appointments visit
www.ItWillBeGood.com or call 646-428-4723

FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY AND CINEMATOGRAPHY

with cutting edge style and unmatched customer service



info@ulrichstudiosphotography.com | 201-490-8807 | ulrichstudios.com
FREE 10x10 Italian Leather Album with Photography Package Purchase!



pro headshots
New Jersey's Premiere Headshot Studio

LOOK YOUR BEST • GET NOTICED
LAND THE JOB

Headshot packages 50% OFF
through June 30th

proheadshotsnyc.com | Info@proheadshotsnyc.com





MENDY J



The reason his clients and fans absolutely love Mendy J performing at their wedding is not just because of his beautiful voice. It is because he stands alone as a singer who truly performs with the people, not just in front of the people. Every single performance, Mendy J literally becomes a part of your Simcha. His clients know it, the Chosson and Kallah know it and the guests know it. With his flamboyant sense of style, A1 vocal sound and Heimeshe feel, Mendy J's popularity continues to rise by the day.

For booking and all inquiries please call or text 347-645-8087 | Cmb@newsoundmg.com | www.newsoundmg.com

Makeup that makes you prettier... Really!

We all know that real beauty comes from within. However, some of us would like some help accentuating our best physical features.

Gone are the days where cosmetics serve as a temporary fixes, harming us in the long-run. Today, so many products are both functional and fabulous. Such products are perfect for the summer as our skin tends to absorb its makeup much quicker than in the coolers months.

Here are five products that will help you look and feel your best from the inside out:



1

Supergoop! Defense Refresh Setting Mist Broad Spectrum SPF 50

The secret to good makeup is good skin! During warmer months, we all need a little freshening up to get us (and our makeup) through the day. This refreshing mist contains rosemary and mint, revamping your skin, refreshing your makeup, controlling shine, and defending against UV rays.

2

Ulta Juice Infused Lip Oil

This lip oil is the absolute best little handbag product! Pomegranate and cranberry extracts nourish the lips while smelling amazing. The vitamin E & alaria esculenta extract protect against lines and wrinkles, plumping up your pucker. With six gorgeous summer shade options, there's something for everyone.





3

This Works Perfect Look Skin Miracle

I've been using this product for years and it never disappoints. On days where you don't feel like caking up your skin with globbs of foundation and concealer, which, let's be real, is just about every day in the Summer, this is a 10 second miracle fix. It is a complexion enhancer which transforms dull and lackluster skin to healthy bronze skin, smooths out imperfections, and hydrates all day long. It's truly a perfect-look skin miracle, containing vitamins C and E, fighting free radicals and boosting skin elasticity!



5

Rimmel London Lash Accelerator Mascara

Mascara is my favorite makeup item. There's literally nothing I love more than mascara... Except mascara that actually boosts your lash growth while wearing it! This mascara extends and fortifies your lashes, as it is clinically tested to boost their length and thickness over time. You can coat and re-coat your lashes guilt-free, knowing that you're actually strengthening and invigorating them in the process!

Bliss-In-A-Blush

Okay, full disclosure... This blush is one of the most truly radiant makeup products. Tapping a pea-sized amount onto the apples of your cheeks every morning will wake up your skin and give you that dewy, lit-from-within glow. Its smooth texture absorbs straight into the skin, completely transforming its texture. Soapnut and grapeseed extracts bring out the skin's natural youth and dramatically reduce its fine lines over time. These are now available in three shades at Ulta for under \$30!



Makeup by Batya is your local Brooklyn beauty guru! As a bridal makeup artist and beauty blogger, she's constantly testing out and reviewing every new beauty launch and giving product recommendations.

Follow her on Instagram @makeupbatya1. For inquiries, email batyareyz@gmail.com or call 718-427-5949. ♦



Isaac Chalouh ENTERTAINMENT



DJ and Lighting Services



VISIT OUR SHOWROOMS *By Appointment Only*

BROOKLYN
2084 East 8th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11223
347-702-5154

LONG ISLAND
88 Washington Ave
Cedarhurst, NY 11516
516-792-6144

NEW JERSEY
370 QueenAnn Rd.
Teaneck, NJ 07666
201-357-8730

www.djisaacchalouh.com

The Secret To Love That Lasts

By Dov **GREENBERG**

This idea of Tzimtzum finds expression in a beautiful Jewish wedding ceremony, known as the “bedeken,” or the veiling. Before the chuppa ceremony, the groom is escorted to the room where his bride is waiting and he covers her face with a veil.

Socrates, the great Greek philosopher, once said to a disciple, "My advice to you is to get married. If you find a good wife, you'll be happy; if not, you'll become a philosopher."

Indeed, today, we have many philosophers. In our time, there has been an unprecedented rise in broken relationships. In the United States, it is estimated that one out of two marriages end in divorce. Single-parent families have doubled in the past 20 years. Only one child in two will have parents who were married when he or she was born and who will have stayed together till the child grows up (1). A lecturer told me that for years she had gone into schools to teach children about religious faith, and about "G-d our Father." Now she can't do so any more because many of the children do not understand the word. Not the word "G-d" but the word "father."

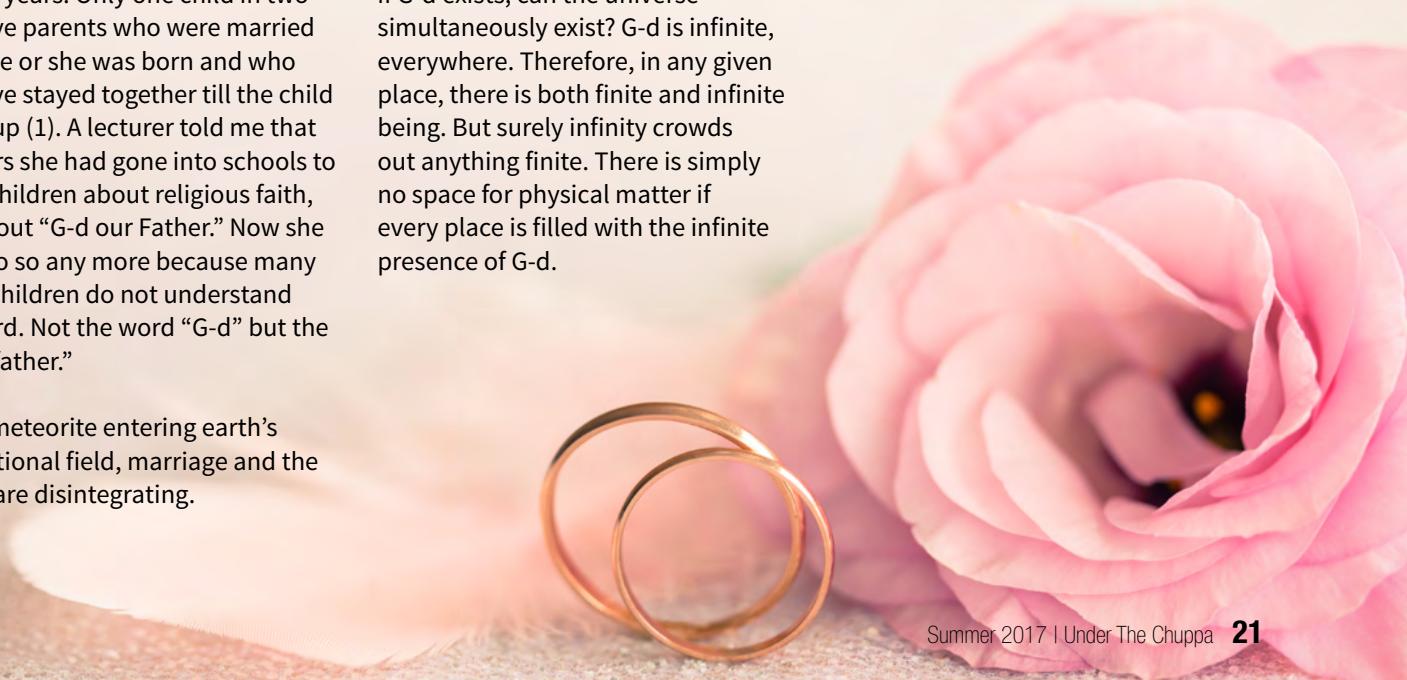
Like a meteorite entering earth's gravitational field, marriage and the family are disintegrating.

The worst thing we could do now would be to get into a debate about who is to blame: the individual or society, affluence or secularization. What we need is imagination, not recrimination; optimism, not pessimism. It is here that the Jewish mystical tradition has something beautiful and vital to say.

In the very opening chapter of the Hebrew Bible, where the story of Creation unfolds, the mystics pose a fascinating question: How, if G-d exists, can the universe simultaneously exist? G-d is infinite, everywhere. Therefore, in any given place, there is both finite and infinite being. But surely infinity crowds out anything finite. There is simply no space for physical matter if every place is filled with the infinite presence of G-d.

How, then is there a universe?

The mystics' answer is compelling. In order to make space for the universe, G-d, as it were, initiated a process called "tzimtzum," self-contraction or withdrawal creating a spherical vacuum - the space needed for the world to exist. By withdrawing His endless light, an autonomous, independent world, distinct from G-d, can emerge (2).



The conclusion?

The universe is the space the author of being creates for mankind through an act of withdrawal. No single act more profoundly indicates the love and generosity implicit in Creation (2*).

In a dazzling parallel, the same applies in human relationships (3). In the beginning of life, there is no otherness. A newborn infant does not distinguish between itself and the rest of the universe. It knows and cares only about its own needs. When it cries it is saying:

"I want Mommy, I want to be fed, I want to be held, I want to be played with, and if you don't do everything I want, immediately, I will ruin your life."

There is no room for an other. As children develop and mature, they begin to find the other as a separate entity. They begin to have relationships; they begin to care for the other. That process is essential to healthy development.

As adults we know that in order to truly love, you need to withdraw yourself from your "center" (ego) and create room for another person in your life. A relationship is not about control. When one partner dominates the other, demanding of him or her to suppress his/her personality.

Genuine love not only respects the individuality of the other but actually seeks to cultivate it. Love, like the act of creation, is the courageous act of

creating space for the presence of the other. When man moves away from himself, reaching into the heart of another human being, he emulates G-d, who chooses to suspend Himself in order to give room to the other. Stephen Hawking was wrong in his book, *A Brief History of Time*. It is not through theoretical physics that we will approach an understanding of the "mind of G-d". It is through making room for another person within oneself.

A young man and woman went on a date. For two solid hours, he spoke about himself, his accomplishments, successes and ideas. And then he turned to her and said: "Enough of me talking about myself, what do you think of me?"

There are two simple English words which illustrate this mystical notion of *tzimtzum*, contraction. The words "soil" and "soul". They differ by just one letter. Yet they represent two polar opposites: the material and the spiritual. The word "soil" represents the material. The word "soul" represents the spiritual. The difference in spelling is the "I" vs. the "U." When a person thinks only about "I," he is self-centered, and can't make sufficient space to nurture another. But when he thinks about "U," by moving himself out of the way, he makes room for another person in his life. He is ready to live deeper and love deeper.

This idea of *Tzimtzum* finds expression in a beautiful Jewish wedding ceremony, known as the "bedeken,"

or the veiling. Before the *chuppa* ceremony, the groom is escorted to the room where his bride is waiting and he covers her face with a veil.

This custom traditionally commemorates the Biblical event that occurred during Jacob's wedding ceremony. The Torah relates that Jacob traveled to the house of Laban. Upon arriving, he meets Laban's younger daughter Rachel and falls in love with her. Laban proposes a deal: work for me for seven years and I will give her to you in marriage.

Jacob does so, but on the wedding night Laban substitutes Leah for Rachel. Since the bride was veiled, he did not realize that he was marrying the wrong woman. Jacob discovered the deception only after it was too late. Ultimately, Jacob accepted his fate and remained with Leah. But he later also married Rachel, the bride of his choice (4).

The questions that arises is, if the veiling reminds us of Jacob and Leah, shouldn't the custom be that the groom uncovers his bride's face to make sure that he is marrying the bride of his choice?

The answer is moving and profound. Leah and Rachel are not merely two sisters living in Mesopotamia at the early phase of the Bronze Age. They also symbolize two dimensions of every human personality. Each of us possesses an inner "Rachel" as well as an inner "Leah" (5).

Rachel, the beautiful woman, symbolizes the attractive, charming and beautiful characteristics existing in our spouses and in ourselves. The name Rachel in Hebrew means 'ewe', known for its bright white color and its serene and lovable nature (6).

Leah, a name that literally means weariness or exhaustion (7), represents those elements in us

As children develop and mature, they begin to find the other as a separate entity. They begin to have relationships; they begin to care for the other. That process is essential to healthy development.

As adults we know that in order to truly love, you need to withdraw yourself from your “center” (ego) and create room for another person in your life.

and in our spouses that are more challenging. Leah, the “weak-eyed” sister was easily moved to tears (8). She was emotionally vulnerable. Leah, weakened from tears and anxiety, represents our struggle with insecurities and psychological and spiritual tension.

Few people can be defined as “Rachel” or “Leah” exclusively. Most of us possess both components. We are a mix of serenity and tension. We have compassionate instincts but we must struggle against selfish ones as well. We have light but we also must deal with shadow. Both are genuine parts of our multi-dimensional personalities. Rachel is the light; Leah is the struggle against the dark.

Hence, the drama that occurred at the wedding of Jacob, the patriarch of the Jewish nation, occurs at every wedding. Before you get married, you think that you are marrying Rachel – the beautiful, smart, kind, sensitive, and fun-loving spouse of your dreams. In reality, you are bound to discover

that you ended up with Leah, a person also struggling with unresolved tension.

Naturally, you love Rachel, and you reject Leah. Yet as life progresses you will come to discover that it is precisely the Leah dimension of your spouse that challenges you to transcend your ego and become the person you are capable of becoming. Because it is the very shortcomings

and imperfections of your spouse that allow you to grow into something larger than yourself.

This, then is the secret behind the veiling of the bride. When the groom veils his bride, he is saying, “I will love, cherish and respect not only the “you,” which is revealed to me, but also those elements of your personality that are hidden from me. As I am bound with you in marriage, I am committed to creating a *tzimtzum*, a space within me for the totality of your being - for all of you, for all time.”

That, if only we lived it, is the meaning of *Tzimtzum* and it has the power to bathe today’s broken world in the loving light of the divine presence. ♦

Rabbi Dov Greenberg is the executive director of Chabad House at Stanford University and lectures regularly throughout the United States. He can be contacted at info@chabadstanford.org

FOOTNOTES:

1) The figures are taken from Kathleen Kiernan and Malcolm Wicks, “Family Change and Future Policy.”

2) Beginning of Eitz Chaim (Heichal Adam Kadmon, 1:2; Shaar HaHakdamot) and Mevo Shaarim, kabbalistic works of Rabbi Isaac Luria (known as the Arizal), transcribed by his prime student Rabbi Chaim Vital. Cf. Likkutei Torah by Rabbi Schnuer Zalman of Liadi, addendum to Vayikra, 51b-54d. 2*) Tanya chapter 49.

3) See Tanya ibid, quoting a Talmudic statement (Bava Metziah 84a) concerning marriage: “Love contracts the flesh.” This is how R’ Schnuer Zalman states the idea:

כלים חינה לפיכך בקחש המכ' לדגה ורוא תא לשם רד זידאי אב וויסחו זונא תילת יתלה לבשבל לכחו מינש סמוץ נימ' ומלעלן, זונחתה סדאה תבהא רשבה תא תקחו הבאה יכ' יהל'

4) Genesis chapter 29:16:31).

5) See also Endless Light (by Rabbi David Aaron), pp. 37-38.

6) See Likkutei Torah by Rabbi Schnuer Zalman of Liadi (1745-1812) Parshas Emor p. 38d. see also Yonas Alem by Rabbi Menachem Azaryah of Fano (1548-1620) Chapter 5; explained in Likkutei Sichos vol. 30 p. 286.

7) Mei Hashluach Parshas Vayeitzie. Also see Maamarei Admur HaZakan 5565 vol. 1 and 2.

8) Babylonian Talmud, Baba Basra 23a; Midrash Rabah Genesis 70:16; Rashi Genesis 29:17.

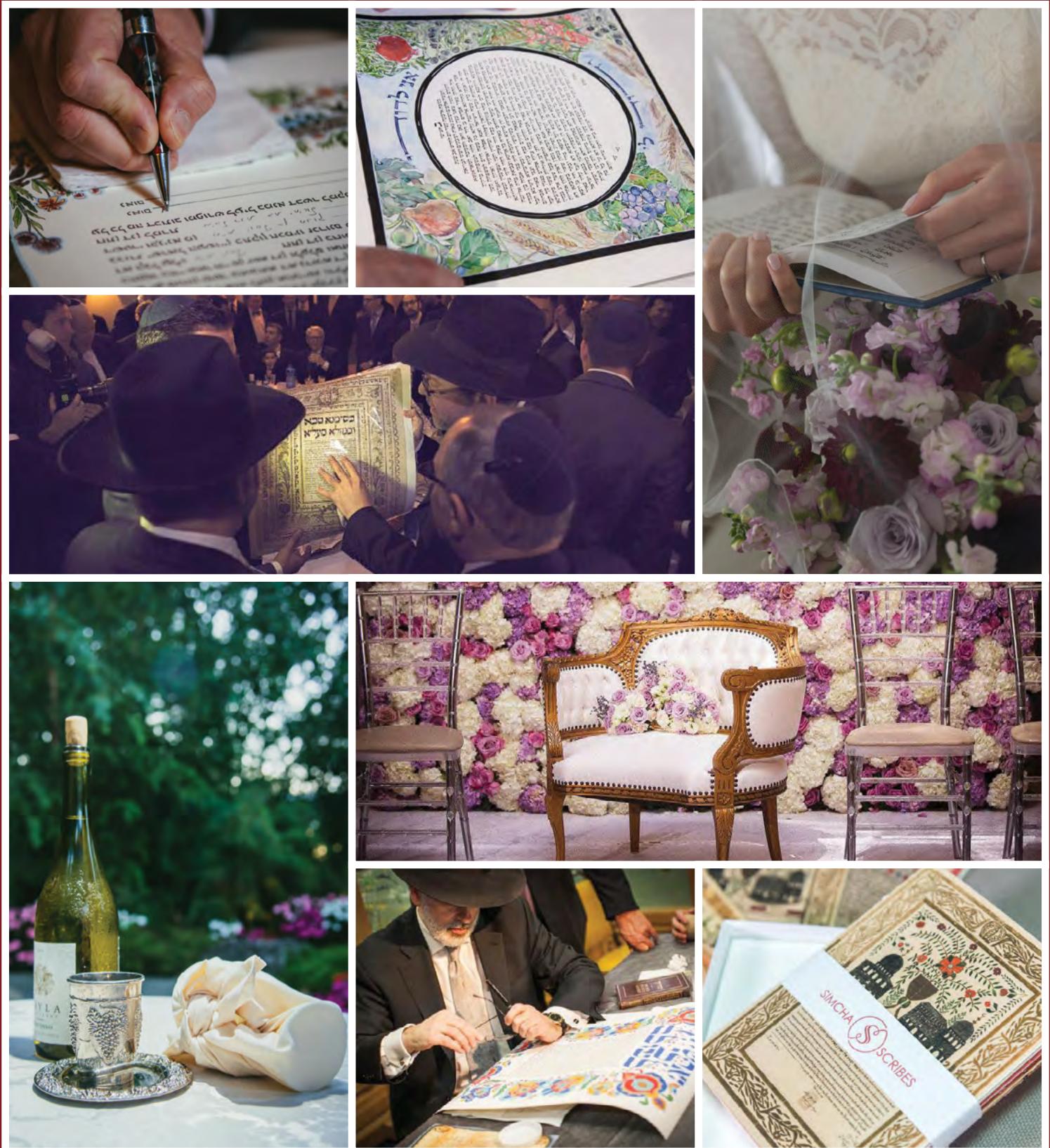


CAPTURING THE MAGIC OF YOUR EVERY WEDDING MOMENT

347.201.0613 | www.CJStudios.info |  @CJStudiosphotos

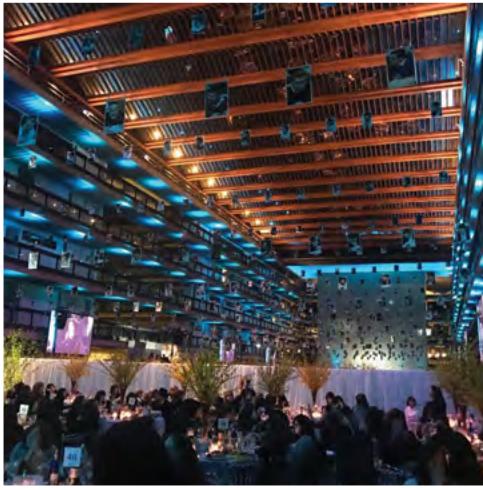
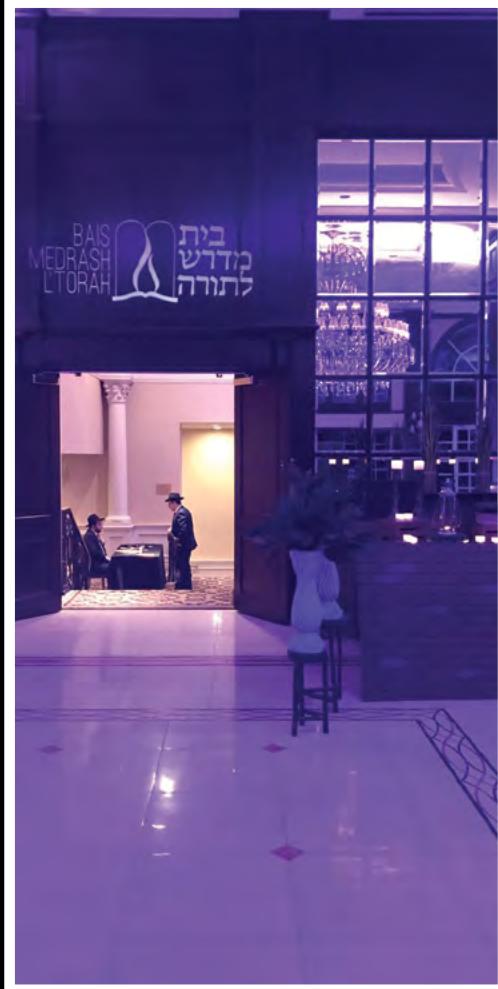
SIMCHA SCRIBES

FINE ART KESUBOS WITH A HALACHIC TEXT THAT YOU AND YOUR RAV CAN TRUST



Call toll free: (800) 978-2464 • simchascibes.com • customerservice@simchascibes.com





STEINER EVENT LIGHTING AND DESIGN.

OFFERING THE HIGHEST QUALITY IN INTELLIGENT LIGHTING AND EVENT DESIGN.
TRANSFORM ANY SPACE WITH UPLIGHTING, DOWNLIGHTING, PIN SPOTTING,
MOVING HEADS, AND LED WALLS.



CONTACT STEINER EVENT PRODUCTIONS FOR MORE INFO 732-455-9073
OR CHECK US OUT ON INSTAGRAM @STEINEREVENTS

The Wedding Dresser

By Danielle MAX

Photography By CJ Studios Wedding Photography

If you are going to hop around and do a lot of dancing, get a dress that will allow you to do that

WOMEN

Each *kallah* is considered to be a queen on her wedding day, and there is nothing more queen-like than having a personal dresser in attendance. While it might sound like the stuff of fantasies, and even a throwback to a different age, the concept of the wedding dresser is becoming increasingly popular as *kallot* strive to ensure they look their absolute best throughout their wedding day.

For renowned wedding dresser Caroline Shaw, working with *kallot* on their wedding day is the culmination of years in the wedding industry. Born in Dublin, Ireland, Shaw, a long-time Chicago resident, has gone from designing dresses to providing a wedding dressing service for brides throughout the city.

She began offering dressing as a gift for the brides she outfitted, and it took off from there. "I have experience in dressing people; I have an eye that is fairly refined when it comes to dressing," explains Shaw, who trained at The Grafton Academy of Dress Design and completed her





apprenticeship in a small couture atelier in Dublin.

But not everyone understands what her role is. "People call up and say, 'Mrs. So-and-So says I must have you, so put me down and call me in about six months because I don't really know what you do, but I'm told I can't do without you!'"

What she does, is take care of all of the little details in making sure the *chatan*, *kallah*, parents, grandparents and bridal party look their absolute best. "I add peace of mind on the day."

Her relationship with a *kallah* usually begins when she attends a dress fitting, which she uses as an opportunity to meet her clients for the first time. Shaw stresses she is not there to change anything the *kallah* has chosen – she prides herself on her excellent relationship with the bridal salons with which she works. Rather, she is there to check the fit and detail and to offer her experienced eye.

She also learns to button the dress, and how difficult the dress is to get on and, as she says, "to learn the lay

of the land," to discuss expectations and talk about any requests for the wedding day."

On the wedding day, Shaw typically arrives at the home or hotel about an hour to an hour-and-a-half before the *kallah* begins to get dressed. She sets up a special area a little bit away from everyone with everything the *kallah* needs, from her jewelry, shoes and any special things so that nothing is forgotten and the stress levels are kept to a minimum. "Dressing is when the emotions start coming through," says Shaw.

Once the wedding party is ready, Shaw's job is to keep everyone looking immaculate. "I like my bride and groom to look as though they just got dressed, which is not easy because you have three or four hours of activity beforehand and often you have ambitious photographers wanting to plonk them in a tree to take fabulous photos."

If she is not with the *kallah* during the pre-ceremony photoshoot, Shaw says she gives strict instructions – and a warning – to the photographers to keep the dress pristine. "I was hired by

BE YOUR OWN WEDDING DRESSER

If the budget doesn't run to a wedding dresser, or if you're traveling abroad to get married, Caroline Shaw has plenty of tips to make sure everyone looks as good as possible on the big day.

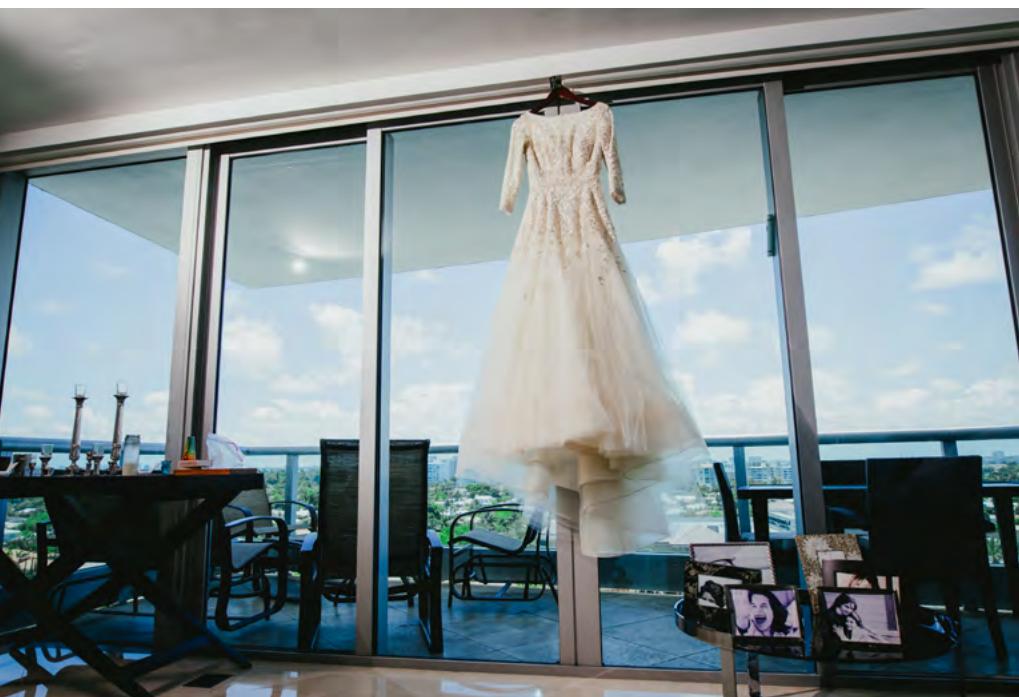
- All major hotels offer a shoe shining service and a pressing service for any touch ups (although she recommends the men pack a shoeshine kit).
- If you don't trust the hotel, call a local bridal salon and ask who they would recommend for pressing.
- If you are traveling with your dress, make sure the bridal salon has stuffed it well, and wrapped it in several bags and garment bags so if the bag rips, the dress will not be damaged.
- Once you arrive at your destination, take it out of the bag straight away and leave it to hang. Usually the creases will fall out without needing to be pressed.
- Don't forget to break in your shoes before the day of the wedding.
- You can never have enough shoes! For extra comfort during the photographs, wear a pair you already own that are about the same height as your wedding shoes (but make sure they can't be seen under the dress).
- Bring a "first aid kit" of band aids, baby wipes (great for removing deodorant marks) talcum powder (good for underarms, cools the skin, absorbs moisture and won't stain the dress) moleskin (in case shoes rub) bobby pins, hairspray and a can of static guard.
- Have a repair kit with a lint roller, needle, thread, a couple of buttons, hooks and eyes and a small pair of scissors close to hand to fix any unexpected emergencies.
- Don't make any changes to your morning routine. The wedding day is not the time to try out new toiletries, products or to do anything that might irritate your skin.
- If you are fasting, consider what you need to have when the fast ends and how you will feel.

the mother and if anything happens to the dress, it's on me."

Often, however, she is present during the photoshoot and keeps a close eye to make sure everything – and everyone – is looking good. "I look at the wedding party all the time and check what is missing that the photographer might not see. The photographer is looking at space and faces; I am looking just at the clothing. At the end of the day, it makes for better photos."

She helps the *kallah* get set up for the *bedeken*, all the time making sure that everything is in place. Once the *bedeken* is over, Shaw remains with the bride to make sure the dress still looks perfect. "During a wedding the other day, she says, "the bride was busy praying and I was standing behind her steaming the back of her dress!"

After the ceremony, Shaw will wait outside the *yichud* room and check the *chatan* and *kallah* before they make their entrance into dinner or before they go to take more photos. "I'll help take the veil off, bring a change of shoes and just bustle the dress." She'll also pack away the *chatan's* *kittel*, hand his *tallit* over to the wedding planner, or put it in a safe place. She'll also put the *kallah's* purse and any-

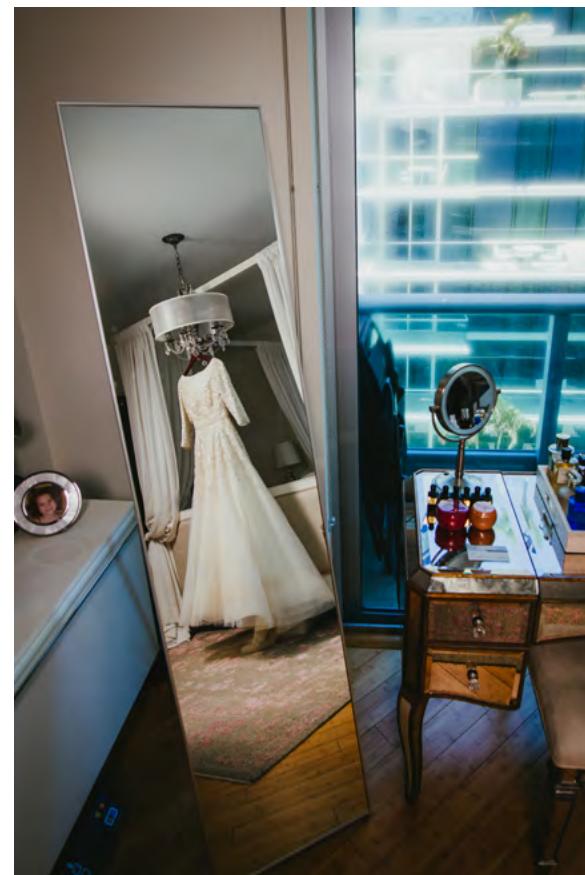


thing she needs, including more spare shoes, at her seat.

With her years of experience as a dress designer and dresser, Shaw has plenty of advice for *kallot* choosing their dresses. Before doing anything, she stresses they should not make the mistake of thinking that their wedding day will be a day of rest in a pretty day. "You have to go to work on your wedding day. It's not the day to be wearing something too tight, too heavy or just too cumbersome. If you are going to hop around and do a lot of dancing, get a dress that will allow you to do that," she advises.

When it comes to buying a dress, the first thing Shaw recommends doing is setting a minimum and maximum budget and only looking at dresses that fall within those criteria. "Do a lit-

You have to be really open to trying on dresses, though. Sometimes dresses have no hanger appeal



tle homework on where you are going to shop. Make sure they carry what you like and the designers you like. This is especially important for orthodox brides.”

There are a lot of women who have fantasized about their wedding dress for years and are very clear about their style and what they want, but says, Shaw, there are many who do not know what they look good in.

“When you go shopping, tell your consultant what you want and then ask her what she would put you in. They have a good eye for that and they are able to show you what you can do with your figure. That is often where you have the most fun because they are opening up the door to you with dresses you wouldn’t have thought have putting on. You have to be really open to trying on dresses, though. Sometimes dresses have no hanger appeal.”

When it comes to finding modest dresses, Shaw recommends being up-front with the consultant from the moment a *kallah* calls to book a fitting ap-

pointment. "You have to be very sure that you are going to right location and the right salon. You need to say, "I am a modest bride, what designers can you recommend who would offer that for me, ask in advance to only look at designers who can do that. If they stock that designer, they'll have something that has a modest neckline so you can see what it looks like, but you should know some designers won't do structural alterations because they are pattern changes."

With changing bridal fashions over the past few years, especially given the "Kate Middleton Effect," there has been a shift in trends. "There has been a huge uptick in dresses that have sleeves. The strapless look lasted years longer than it should have. We are seeing a big movement towards modesty."

She predicts the change in fashion will be around for a long time. "Now there's less work in having to choose a dress. You just need the sleeves to be a little longer, or the neck a little higher, but you are now looking at a gown that is closer to [orthodox] criteria."

The increased availability of dresses that can be bought straight from the salon without alterations or that require relatively little alteration also gives *kallot* options at a better price point.

"There is less custom work, making it less of a nice and giving their options at salons all over the country. Previously, a lot of my orthodox brides have had to go to New York to find a dress," says Shaw, "but now they can stay in Chicago and not incur huge expenses in customizing a dress. It's a very exciting time for orthodox brides." ♦



DON'T FORGET THE MEN

While she naturally focuses on the *kallah*, Shaw, who has a line of custom men's clothes, is careful not to let the *chatan* and his entourage be forgotten.

"I would like to see my orthodox grooms have more connection with the bride. Often, at these gorgeous, colorful weddings, you could take the men out and put them in anyone else's wedding. The women talk and they are all in the same color, so why aren't the men talking and being more coordinated?"

There's always a lot of color involved in orthodox weddings. The groom should pick up the color of her dress or the color of the wedding in a tie or bowtie or pocket square rather than just wearing black and white. I've seen amazing custom yarmulkes, and that's certainly one thing they can do.

Men in the wedding get a little lost. They tend to go towards rental sooner than they need to. There's always a need for a great suit and there's always a need for a tuxedo. Even if he rents a suit or a tuxedo, everything else should be his. He should invest in good shoes, good neckwear and a good shirt."



Danielle Max is a freelance writer and editor. Originally from Liverpool, England, she now lives in Jerusalem with her husband and son. daniellemax@gmail.com



MENDYFISCH
MUSIC



Class. Elegance. Excellence.

917.757.3950

www.mendyfisch.com



@ MendyFischMusic

The Shidduch Crisis: with a Twist!

It is crucial to give shidduchim enough time to develop and I have seen too many break up at the very early stages for all the wrong reasons.

Thoughts from a Shadchan

If you have opened up any major Jewish newspaper or magazine over the past several years, you have likely read about the “shidduch crisis” that plagues the Jewish community. Experts have cited data showing that, because of the rising birth rate of Jewish community each year, there are more girls entering the shidduch scene than boys at any given time, since girls typically date at a younger age than boys. Because of those statistics, the experts explain, there will be a certain number of girls every year who cannot possibly find their mates because there just aren’t enough eligible young men out there. The result has left parents terrified and girls praying not to be one of the unfortunates, who like in a real life game of musical chairs, find themselves coming up empty when the music stops, since there simply aren’t enough boys left to go around.

Having spent many years involved in shidduchim, I feel very confident telling you that the so-called “shidduch crisis” is nothing more than a human error. That doesn’t mean that there aren’t people out there who are having trouble finding “the right one” - it simply means that this crisis theory is just plain wrong. From the beginning of time Hashem has always created exactly the right number of boys and girls, so perhaps the reason that some people

are still trying to find their bashert is that they are looking in the wrong places. Each of us gets caught up looking for certain attributes, such as a boy who is a long term learner or a girl who is taller than average. But so often our pre-conceived notions are wrong and we need to widen our focus and think outside the boxes we have created for ourselves. We have already seen a trend of boys who are marrying girls older than they are; perhaps it is time to for singles to start looking outside

their comfort zone and be more open minded about who they are willing to date instead of arbitrarily rejecting entire categories of eligible singles.

SPECIFIC DEMOGRAPHIC

There are issues that can come up before a couple even gets to go out on a first date. Many singles have a sense of obligation and feel that they should strive for a particular type of person to marry. These “types” range from being from a certain sect to coming from a well-known family. Singles often focus on the wrong parts of a potential mate’s life rather than accepting a solid prospect who has been sent by Hashem.

INFORMATION AGE

Although the availability of one’s personal information is out in the open, it can actually negatively affect a potential shidduch. Many people say “no” to a suggestion based off of a single piece of information that they came across without allowing the other side to provide any type of explanation. For instance, one could decide that a certain medical condition of one’s sibling is genetic and then reject the shidduch when in reality, such a condition could have nothing to do with one’s genetics.

REFERENCES

References are yet another reason why so many shidduchim never get off



the ground. There are instances when references give information about a person they hadn't been in contact with for years. These references gave information about the wrong sibling in a family, talked about things that they thought happened but actually never did, and mentioned things that hadn't been relevant for years. Oftentimes, people frame information based off of their own points of reference. Thus, a reference who is short might describe someone taller than himself as "tall" when in fact the person is of average height.

Well-meaning parents can also create problems when checking out potential prospects. By seeing their own child through rose-colored glass and by and imposing their own preferences onto their child, a potential shidduch could very quickly disappear. A parent who has always wanted their child to grow in their yiddishkeit might suggest a candidate who is far more to the right in hopes of pushing his or her child in that direction.

TIME

One of the biggest problems is not giving a shidduch enough time. Boys and girls approach dating very differently as they think differently and their needs are different. 80% of boys are able to tell fairly quickly whether or not a girl is interesting to them. In fact, many come to this realization

Yes, it's important to be careful and to be responsible but such paranoia can become excessive and harmful.

on the first date, sometimes just minutes after meeting. On the other hand, girls often approach a date with an entire laundry list of questions that they need to answer before they can decide if a relationship has potential. Due to these dissimilar perspectives, shidduchim can often take turns for the worst. A boy who doesn't feel as though the interest is mutual might decide to stop dating in order to avoid getting rejected or hurt.

GENDERS APPROACH SHIDDUCHIM WITH DIFFERENT NEEDS

A girl who is subconsciously caught up in trying to determine if a boy has the many qualities she needs can be so deep in thought that she can forget to enjoy herself. While wondering if she can trust him with her intellect, safety, and emotions, she can conclude that she isn't feeling the "chemistry" and call it quits. Having a good shadchan involved in the process can often help things move along. By providing advice and explaining the differences between what goes on in each gender's

head, the matchmaker can be a good source of feedback after each date.

It is crucial for the shadchan to help the girl identify the positive qualities that she sees in her date. This feedback has been the single most powerful tool used in dating as it's been proven to help singles. For instance, approximately 80% of the boys in shidduchim can tell if they will be interested in meeting in the future after the first date. In contrast, about 80% of the girls in shidduchim need more time to figure things out.

This contrast is the center of the communication breakdown in dating.

He thinks she not interested because they are not on the same interest level.

She goes along with the break up because she hadn't determined if she was interested or not.

He doesn't know about the mind of a girl.

She doesn't realize she has this unspoken list of securities, trustworthy qualities, and signs of respect.

DIVORCE

In order to safeguard themselves from the possibility of divorce, many singles have fallen into a pattern of over-analyzing each shidduch and each date. Yes, it's important to be careful and to be responsible but such paranoia can become excessive and harmful.

Reading books and listening to CD's on shalom bayis in an effort to better understand how marriage works can lessen the fear of a potential divorce. I don't have all of the answers to every shidduch related problem, but having been directly involved in hundreds of shidduchim, I have had the opportunity to observe many couples during the dating process. ♦



Mazal Tov!



Weddings • Concerts
Bar-Bas Mitzvas • DJ's
Dinners • Corporate Events
Shabbos Accapella Singers
Event Planning
Music for all occasions!



SHLOIME
Dachs
ORCHESTRA & SINGERS

P. (718) 377-8375 • C. (917) 295-3607 • ShloimeDachs.com

An Open Letter From A Frustrated Matchmaker:

IT'S SO HARD TO PLEASE ANYONE THESE DAYS!!!

Here is a partial list of my clients I couldn't even get them one date, and that is why I am finally quitting and going into the pickle business.

Avraham Avinu: How can you recommend him to my daughter? Wasn't he involved in a family feud with his father over some idols? Then he left home without a GPS or a viable business plan!

Yitzchak Avinu: His brother is an Arab terrorist!!!

Rivka Imeinu: Sorry, she seems nice but did you hear about her family??? Her father's a murderer and her brother's a ponzi scam artist... .

Yaakov Avinu: Okay, he sits and learns all day... but his brother is a no-goodnik. And anyway, we heard he has a limp..... .

Leah Imeinu: Her father's a con artist, and she has ophthalmological problems. Maybe it's genetic?

Moshe Rabbeinu: Are you kidding? His parents are divorced! And worse.. they remarried! And we hear he's in speech therapy....

King David: How dare you suggest him to our Jewish family? Our neighbor Yenti told us that his great-grandmother was a convert!!!

Chava: Do you know anything about her family? We never heard of them. No one knows where she came from and she can't come up with any referrals!

Really, Hashem makes shidduchim. Don't feel insecure or inadequate, we each have different colors and stripes- personalities, family backgrounds and unique experiences that make us who and what we are. Don't even for one second think u "have issues" or are not a "good catch". Hashem has created u to be exactly the way u are, and there is a match out there who needs every part of u to be in place in order to "click".

Maybe that's why the avos and imahos visit each wedding...they can relate and empower each of us-no matter who and no matter what!



GPS

The GPS for a Successful Marriage

By Daniel **SCHONBUCH, LMFT**

In today's turbulent times, the entire notion of relationships is at risk, and the current tidal wave of divorce is causing a significant amount of anxiety.

Are you looking for a GPS for your marriage? If you are, you're not alone.

Today, engaged couples, newlyweds and couples who have been married for years, are feeling insecure about their relationships and looking for advice on how to make their marriages work better or simply to heal their relationship wounds.

It's no surprise that people are feeling unsure about the state of marriage in America. Take the latest studies on divorce. A 1999 study called *The Effects of Divorce In America* showed a significant increase in divorce over the last seven decades. The report found that:

"In 1935, there were 16 divorces for each 100 marriages. By 1998, the number had risen to 51 divorces per 100 marriages." In addition, "over a twenty year period the number of divorced Americans rose from 4.3 million in 1970 to 18.3 million in 1996."

The statistics speak for themselves: relationships in America are in trouble and, as a society, we are experiencing more divorce and dysfunction than ever before.

The good news is that I believe that most marriages can work. Often, all they need is a little guidance and direction, and when necessary, a bit of first aid.

Although it is true that the Orthodox community does not share these same statistics; our marriages tend to last longer and the viability of Jewish marriage is one of the great examples of the power and the wisdom of the Torah. However, over the last few years, we are beginning to see a new trend. Not a month will pass by when we don't hear about a young couple getting divorced. The fact is, thirty years ago, "divorce" was an almost unspoken word in the Orthodox community. Today, divorce is becoming more common and we may be viewing the beginning of a new and dangerous trend. As a case in point, a colleague of mine recently mentioned to me that he stopped

giving engagement gifts and preferred to wait until the couple took the final steps to the chupah! These are signs that relationships are becoming harder to solidify and more difficult to maintain.

In today's turbulent times, the entire notion of relationships is at risk, and the current tidal wave of divorce is causing a significant amount of anxiety. Worse, as skepticism about relationships grows, couples are becoming wary of promises that, "things will just work out," and "love will conquer all." Many are willing to try just about anything to know for certain whether their marriage will succeed. In fact, some are so desperate for ironclad assurances about their relationships, that they are willing to spend hours searching online for articles on marriage, participating in forums, and even taking illusive five minutes quizzes that promise to see if they have found their "true love."

Here's an ad I saw for one such dubious website: "Doubting if the person you are with is a right one for you? These **tests and quizzes** will help you to disclose his or her true essence."

And that was just one site. There are so many others online that promise answers about romantic compatibility, how to know if you have found your soul mates, how much you have in common, and whether your love will last forever. It's easy to get sucked into the appealing veneer of these quick and easy answers that aren't based on fact or sound judgment.

Take Yossi, 25, and Deborah, 22, a young couple that came to talk with me about their fears of marriage and their inability to build a meaningful relationship. When they first walked into my office I was struck by how well they appeared – at least on the outside. They were in the prime of their lives, well dressed, soft spoken and well educated. Yossi

The more that a couple works on deepening both the quality and quantity of their relationship, the greater likelihood they have for success.

was a systems analyst for a software company, and Deborah was a graduate student who had just started her first year in a master's degree program in psychology.

Yossi, it turned out, was having difficulty deciding to get married. Deborah was scared that Yossi couldn't make up his mind and that he was unable to commit to a stable relationship.

Yossi had other concerns about marrying Deborah. He was uneasy about the negative vibes he was receiving from what he described as Deborah's "well-to-do" family. He was sensing that they would be unwilling to support them while Deborah was still in graduate school, and he was worried that he couldn't carry the financial burden alone.

Yossi and Deborah were unsure of their future and didn't know if this was going to be a successful marriage. Like other young couples, they wanted to know if there was some kind of "crystal ball" that I could gaze into to tell them if their marriage would work. I told them that I wasn't a magician, but I could offer them some sound advice about relationships. I explained that the key to marriage was something that has been known from time immemorial. In fact, it is so simple and profound that most couples (barring serious

emotional illness or domestic abuse) could utilize to greatly enhance their chances of staying happily married.

No doubt, Yossi and Deborah would be challenged by financial concerns, work stress, child rearing, and difficult in-law relationships. Amidst the ups and downs of everything waiting for them – happy or disappointing moments, quality times enjoyed together or stressful late nights at work, watching their children take their first steps or struggling at school – the "secret," that could hold their marriage together and bring them the most happiness and stability in their lives, would be to focus on the primal importance of their relationship.

I call this simple yet revolutionary idea *Relationship Theory*, which states that for a marriage to work, both husband and wife need to make their relationship the main goal of their lives.

Another way of stating this is:

H=QR

Where, Happiness (H) is directly proportional to the Quality of Relationship (QR) one develops with their spouse. The more that a couple works on deepening both the quality and quantity of their relationship, the greater likelihood they have for success.

That's why when couples like Yossi and Deborah come to speak with me about their fears of marriage, I begin by asking them if they are willing to make their relationship a priority in their lives. If they don't make it the number one priority, then it's going to be very difficult, if not impossible, for them to succeed. ♦

Daniel Schonbuch, LMFT is an individual and marriage therapist based in Brooklyn. He is also the author of a new book called "Think Good And It Will Be Good: Spiritually-Based Therapy Inspired by Viktor Frankl and Jewish Wisdom." More info at www.ItWillBeGood.com or call 646-428-2723.



CAPTURING THE MAGIC OF YOUR EVERY WEDDING MOMENT



347.201.0613 | www.CJStudios.info | @CJStudiosphotos



—THAT HAT—

HATS & ACCESSORIES

130 1st street Lakewood, NJ 08701

732.667.3444

When G-d Decided To Marry Us



By Rabbi MANNIS **FRIEDMAN**

If you ask someone coming out of church on a Sunday, "Do you believe in G-d?" the worshipper is shocked. "What type of question is that? Of course I do!" If you then ask him, "Do you consider yourself religious?" what will the answer be? "Certainly. That's why I'm here!"

If you go to a mosque on Friday and you ask the average person there, "Do you believe in G-d?" what will the answer be? "Definitely." "Do you consider yourself religious?" "Well, obviously."

This is normal. These conversations make sense.

We are a miracle. All we need to do is tap into it. We are the cure. Not only for ourselves, but also for the whole world.

Now go to a synagogue on Yom Kippur. Ask the Jew sitting in the synagogue on Yom Kippur, fasting, "Do you believe in G-d?"

You cannot get a straight answer. "Umm, it depends on what you mean by 'G-d'." That's if they're the philosophical type. Otherwise they'll simply say, "What am I? A rabbi? I don't know."

So then ask them, "Do you consider yourself religious?" Have you ever asked an American Jew if they're religious? They crack up laughing. And they assure you that they're the furthest things from religious. "Are

you kidding? Do you know what I eat for breakfast?"

Then every one of them will say, "I had a grandfather, on my mother's side, oh, that was a religious man. But me . . . ?"

So you ask what appears to be a logical question. "Then why are you here?"

For some reason, this average Jew, who doesn't believe in G-d and is very not religious, will look at you like you're crazy and say, "What do you mean? It's Yom Kippur!"

This is not normal.

Let's analyze this for a moment. What is this Jew actually saying?

You asked him if he believes in G-d, and he said "No." Or "When I was younger, I used to." Or "When I get older, I'll start to."

"So you don't believe in G-d?"
"No. I don't."

"Are you religious?"
"Furthest thing from it."

"So why are you here?"
"Because it's Yom Kippur!"

What he's saying is this: "Why am I here? Because G-d wants a Jew to be in the synagogue on Yom Kippur. So where else should I be?"

So you say: "But you don't believe in G-d."

He says, "So what?" and he doesn't understand your problem.

He is saying: "Today is Yom Kippur even if I don't have a calendar. This is a synagogue even if I don't like it. I am a Jew even if I'm not religious, and G-d is G-d even when I don't believe in Him. So what's your problem?"

Now that can be dismissed, and unfortunately many of us do dismiss it, as sheer hypocrisy. We say, "You don't believe in G-d and you're not religious—don't come to the synagogue. Don't come here just to show how Jewish you are."

The Lubavitcher Rebbe has a different approach. This insanity is what makes us Jewish. This is what shows how special we are in our relationship with G-d.

That's called truth. It's not about me. I don't want to be religious. I don't want to believe in G-d; I don't want to hear about this. But He wants me here, so here I am.

The same thing happens on Passover. Every Jew sits by a Seder. Ask the average Jew at a Seder, do you believe in G-d? Leave me alone. Are you

religious? He chokes on the matzah laughing. So you're celebrating the Exodus from Egypt 3300 years ago? History is not my subject. Then why are you here? Where should I be? It's Passover! That's what's so magnificent about the Jew.

Now, let's put it all in context. Three thousand, three hundred and twenty-nine years ago, G-d asked us if we would marry Him. We had an extraordinary wedding ceremony, with great special effects—we were wowed. After the wedding He said, "I have a few things I'd like you to take care of for Me, so, please . . . I'll be right back." He hasn't been heard from since. For more than three thousand, three hundred years. He has sent messengers, messages, postcards—you know, writing on the walls . . . but we haven't heard a word from Him in all this time.

Imagine, a couple gets married, and the man says to his new wife, "Would you make me something to eat, please? I'll be right back." She begins preparing. The guy comes back 3300 years later, walks into the house, up to the table, straight to his favorite chair, sits down and tastes the soup that is on the table. The soup is cold.

What will his reaction be? If he's a wise man, he won't complain. Rather, he'll think it's a miracle that the house is still there, that his table and favorite chair are still there. He'll be delighted to see a bowl of soup at his place. The soup is cold? Well, yes, over 3300 years, soup can get cold.

Now we are expecting Moshiach. The Rebbe introduced this radical notion that Moshiach is going to come now. What makes that so radical? It means he's going to come without a two-week notice. We always thought there was going to be some warning, so that we could get our act together before he comes. Moshiach, coming now? But now I'm not ready. I don't want to be judged the way I am. I need a little bit of a notice.

If Moshiach comes now, and wants to judge, what's he going to find? Cold soup?

If Moshiach comes now, the Rebbe tells us, he will find an incredibly healthy Jewish people. After 3300 years we are concerned about being Jewish, which means we are concerned about our relationship with G-d.

Yes, if Moshiach comes today, he'll find that our soup is cold. We suffer from separation anxiety. We suffer from a loss of connection to our ancestors. We suffer a loss of connection even to our immediate family. The soup is cold. The soup is very cold. But whose fault is that? And who gets the credit for the fact that there is soup altogether?

We are a miracle. All we need to do is tap into it. We are the cure. Not only for ourselves, but also for the whole world. Through us the healing is holistic, it's natural, it's organic. Our relationship with G-d is organic. It's not a religion that we practice—it's us, it's who we are, it's what we are.

So the Rebbe tells us that the way to go is straight to G-d. Skip all the steps, skip the Kabbalah, go straight to G-d and be in touch with your purpose. The purpose is not Kabbalistic. The purpose is personal. G-d needs you to do a mitzvah. He sent you into this world to be who you are, because only you can do this particular kind of mitzvah. True, the mitzvot are the same for all of us. But when you do it, it's different, because it's holistic. It's with your emotions, with your past problems, with your family background, with your knowledge and with your ignorance. All that comes together and makes your mitzvah holistically unique.

So, let Moshiach come now and catch us here with our cold soup, because we have nothing to be ashamed of. We are truly incredible. **When G-d decided to marry us, He knew He was getting a really good deal.** ♦

PLAYING AN INSTRUMENTAL



PART IN YOUR SIMCHA...



All of our customers receive our undivided attention and unparalleled professionalism, benefiting from our creativity and years of experience.

Contact us to help you plan an affair you will never forget.

AARON TEITELBAUM
ORCHESTRA & PRODUCTIONS

718.256.7200   
aaronteitelbaumproductions.com

Losing weight for the big day? We are here to help!

I know planning a wedding can be very stressful. Dealing with flowers, venues, food, family, and photos can really take a toll on your body. The list is endless!

If you want to feel and look great, here are a few tips we know will help you achieve your weight goal for the big day.

1 Drink at least 8 cups (64 oz or 2 liters) of water a day. Water does wonders for your body and skin. Now that summer is almost here, I love adding orange and lemon slices to my water! And in the winter, I love making tea, especially green!



2 Eat 5-6 meals a day (3 meals with 2-3 snacks or 5-6 mini meals) to keep up your metabolism, control your hunger, and to maintain muscle. Who wants to lose muscle? Definitely not me!



3 Get moving! The American College of Sports Medicine recommends 150 minutes a week of moderate intensity exercise for weight maintenance. You can break it into 30 minutes segments five times per week filled with activities such as jogging or brisk walking. But for weight loss, however, more than 150-200 minutes per week is recommended. Choose an activity you enjoy! These activities can include jogging, brisk walking, dancing, or even swimming. The possibilities are endless! By seeing the results from exercising, you'll look and feel better, thus resulting in a happy and comfortable wedding day. Remember to always consult with your physician before starting any exercise program.



4 Try to eat all of your meals at home if possible. I know this one can be very hard... But keep reading! When eating in a restaurant, it's near impossible to figure out how a particular dish has been prepared. "Healthy" salads might seem wholesome but can often be drenched in fatty or sugary dressings. Plus, you cannot control your portions and you can end up eating a lot more calories than needed. Thus, asking for salads with dressings on the side and avoid the bread basket. In regards to entrées, go with lean meats, chicken, and fish. Be sure to eat lots of vegetables but always ask the waiter if they have been cooked in butter and/or margarine as such food additives come with unnecessary calories. For dessert, fruits are best but if you must order a dessert, remember to share it! SHARING IS CARING!



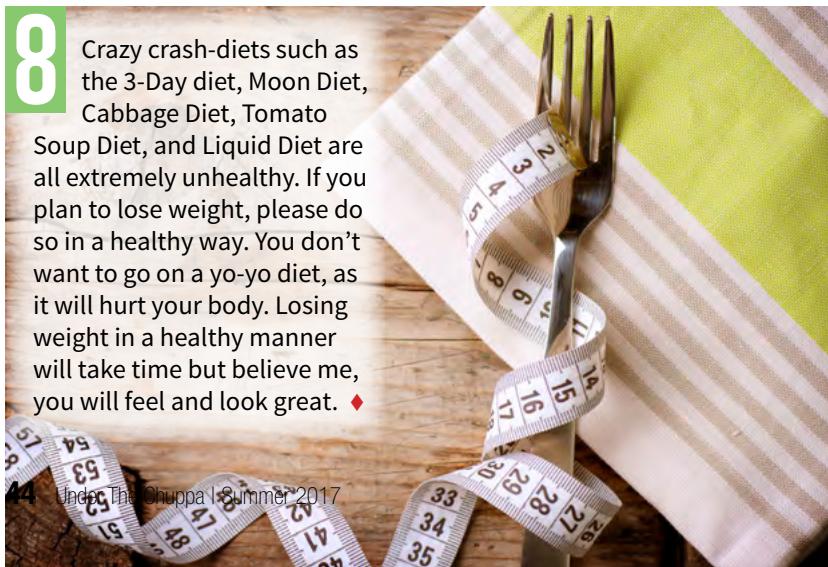


5 Increase your fiber intake! Fill half of your lunch and dinner plate with vegetables. This food group is full of fiber, which helps you stay fuller for longer... Yay! Enjoy them cooked or raw but be sure to choose dressings wisely. Having a salad does not mean you have a free pass to eat that high-calorie Caesar dressing. Instead, use olive oil, lemons, limes, or vinegar!

6 Getting a good night's sleep. A recent article by Times Magazine showed that there is a strong correlation between sleeping and slimming. The article mentioned that getting a good night's sleep may reduce your cravings for not-so healthy foods. Additionally, you will be more likely to exercise and to actually commit to your diet.



7 Put your phone down! Sorry, my bad... Put down your flip-phone, iPhone, smartphone, smartwatch, iPad, tablet, computer, kindle, TV, and laptop. Am I missing something? Okay... you get the picture. I know you can multitask, but just please do not do it with food. If you pay attention to these devices, you won't pay attention to what you are actually eating. You may end up over-eating, without even realizing. That text message can wait! Now, please grab your fork and enjoy!



8 Crazy crash-diets such as the 3-Day diet, Moon Diet, Cabbage Diet, Tomato Soup Diet, and Liquid Diet are all extremely unhealthy. If you plan to lose weight, please do so in a healthy way. You don't want to go on a yo-yo diet, as it will hurt your body. Losing weight in a healthy manner will take time but believe me, you will feel and look great. ♦

Sally Dorfzaun, MS, RD, CDN, LD/N, a registered dietitian with a Masters Degree in Nutrition from Columbia University. She specializes in weight loss, chronic diseases, diabetes, celiac disease, healthy eating, metabolic syndrome, and altered lipid profiles. She combines her background as a Jewish woman and experience as a nutritionist to help others. Have questions? Email me at nutribalance18@gmail.com or visit my website: eatgreat4life.com.

THE STUFF OF

wedding dreams



Visit our **newly
revamped** bridal
showroom!

Master Showroom:

BORO PARK

5719 New Utrecht Ave.

718.871.3535

S-Th 10-6 | T 10-8 | F 10-2

FLATBUSH

1910 Ave. M

718.972.3535

S-Th 10:30-6:30 | F 10-2

LAKEWOOD

6776 Rt. 9 S. Howell

732.905.9444

S-Th 10-6 | F 10-2



elegant linen by *ben Barber*®

877.5.LINENS
ELEGANTLINEN.COM 

Keeping the Bride and Groom in the Frame: HOW TO GET INCREDIBLE CHOSSON AND KALLAH SHOTS

By YOSEF SHIDLER CEO of CJ Studios

Remember, once the big day comes along, the most important thing to do is to relax, have fun and enjoy your wedding – and every day that follows.

You always dreamed of having magnificent wedding photos and with the big day passing in such a blur, you'll be glad to have fabulous photos to remember your wedding.

All too often, though, the photos, especially those of the chosson and kallah, are taken in a rush. No matter how talented your photographer, it's very hard to be creative when working against the clock. While they can shoot at hyper speed, it takes time to get the right shot, to adjust the lighting and to get everyone set up in the optimal position.

But don't worry. With careful planning, realistic expectations and some out-the-box thinking, you can maximize your time and have incredible photos of the two of you that perfectly reflect your tastes and wishes.

1. FANTASIZE, BUT BE REALISTIC

There's nothing like planning special shots in advance (we all love those Instagram pictures of people jumping in their finery), but make sure your expectations are realistic. You've hired a photographer, not a magician.

You may have seen some stunning shots they pulled off at a beach wedding shoot in Florida and you want the same. We get it. But if your



wedding is taking place in Monsey, not Miami, there will be limitations.

Photographers can create a lot of illusions with lighting and clever angles and a skilled photographer

will be able to do a lot with a simple venue. However, you have to accept that if white walls and folding chairs are what you have to work with, the photographer is going will be more limited than if he had a beach or countryside setting to inspire him.

That doesn't mean you will not get special and unique photographs. No matter the venue, with the right photographer, one who listens to you and is able to capture the meaningful moments, you will get pictures that truly represent your special day.

So, make sure you take inspiration from the right sources. While you



might dream of getting married in a luxurious tropical resort, if it's taking place a little closer to home, check out the venue's page on Instagram and see what other photographers have done in the same space. Trawl through Pinterest or Facebook for other ideas and see what's practical. You might be surprised by what some planning and even fun props can do to cheer up a modest event hall.

2. MINIMIZE YOUR ALONE TIME

If your custom or tradition means a pre-*chuppah* shoot is out, don't worry. There are still plenty of opportunities to get the perfect shot. Just keep an eye on the time. Better still, assign someone to be chief clock watcher to ensure everything flows correctly – and to keep the chosson and kallah on track.

We've all been to weddings where it seems the couple are planning on setting up home in the *yichud* room. It's understandable. After weeks or months are strenuous and stressful planning, it's their first chance to be together. For many couples, it's the first chance they have to be a little more romantic. And, they know it's probably the only chance they are going to get all night to sit down, breath and just be with each other.

Don't forget. While you are busy getting to know each other, there's hundreds of guests waiting to fulfill the mitzvah of dancing and celebrating with the chosson and kallah.

In the first heady moments of marriage it may not feel like it, but you will have the rest of your lives to be with each other and to spend time alone. The hundreds of guests who have *shelepped* from near and far will not be forgiving if they don't get the chance to tell you how beautiful you look, how much you've grown and to take every opportunity to cover you in slobbery kisses.

It's not just friends and family waiting for the couple to join in the festivities. The catering hall manager is also keeping a close eye on the time. While



your wedding is a magical day, for the hall or venue, it's just another job, and they've got a timetable to follow.

Since they are paying the waiters by the hour, they want to get the food out fast, and to keep it coming. They also want to make sure the food is served when it's cooked to perfection and will not hold back just because the chosson and kallah are still having some one-on-one time.

The bottom line is, the more time you spend in the *yichud* room, the less time you have for photos.

3. DO SOME DIGITAL MAGIC

Once you've rejoined the festivities, it's time to take the many (many) family photos. With parents, without parents, with bubbies, with nieces, with nephews, with siblings and spouses. Who did we leave out? The combinations are endless and can seem never-ending. We recommend you assign someone to check off your list of must-include family, that way, no one gets forgotten.

The problem with all these photos, is the chosson and kallah – the main attractions – have to be there. Except, with some clever digital trickery, they can actually be in two places at once.

Talk to your photographer to see if they can provide a digital insert service (not all photographers have the capability to do this extra). If they can, the big family groups can be photographed – with a space left where the chosson and kallah would be standing. With a great deal of skill and Photoshopping, they can be seamlessly inserted into the photograph.

Of course, digital magic comes at a cost. It takes at least a couple of hours for an expert to properly Photoshop the couple in, so expect an extra fee. Given the time constraints, it could well be worth the extra expense rather than dealing with the stress of trying to round up everyone for a large family photo. Oh, and make sure the photographer doesn't forget to take a suitable couples photo to blend into the large family picture!

4. DARE TO DO THINGS A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY

Taking a break from tradition is a way of buying more time for great photographs.

If you discuss it in advance, many venues are happy to serve the whole meal while the chosson and kallah

and family are being photographed rather than splitting up the courses with dancing.

Keeping to this schedule means everyone gets to eat and the chosson and kallah (who aren't going to eat at their own wedding anyway) have time to take hundreds of pictures, without worrying about their guests getting bored or hungry.

While this might be great for you, you do have to take your guests into consideration. Not everyone wants to dance right after a large and heavy meal. It also means you have less chance to visit with your friends and family during the meal and mingle with all those out-of-towners who have come so far to be part of your *simchah*.

5. HAVE A PRE-CHUPPAH PHOTO SHOOT

It may sound a little controversial, but consider having a pre-*chuppah* shoot. We know many couples choose not to see their beloved in the week leading up to the wedding, but this is a *minhag* and plenty of people, including many *Sefardim*, don't hold by this tradition.

If you feel strongly about seeing each other before the *bedeken*, you might want to discuss it with your rav to

While you might want a million shots to choose from, work with the photographer to get a smaller number of great shots rather a hundred mediocre pictures.

educate yourselves and decide if it would be a suitable option for you.

If you go ahead, bring a brother, sister or best friend each (the kallah needs someone to make sure her hair doesn't get too windblown or her dress dirty) and get some gorgeous daytime photos taken without the pressure of being photographed in front of a big group of people.

Assuming you won't be touching before the wedding, this pre-wedding session will help you feel more comfortable if you choose to do more romantic shots after the Chuppa.

6. HAVE AN AFTER-SHOOT

If you can find some extra money in the budget, think about splurging on an after-shoot. When the guests have all gone and you are both happy, relaxed and a little tired, it's the perfect time to get more candid or artistic shots.

If you plan it properly, you can get the traditional poses, what photographers call the "bread and butter" shots out of the way beforehand. This will leave you with nothing but time to kick off your shoes (maybe, literally), loosen your tie and just have fun with each other.

You might only have an hour or so (remember, the photographer's clock is always ticking so arrange it in advance), but you can do a lot with an extra 60 minutes that will give you Instagram-worthy pictures rather than looking like cardboard cutouts.

If you are going down this route, make sure to explain what is going on to friends and family since getting out of the hall can be challenging. They will want to be there with you right until the end, giving and receiving blessings, adding their good wishes and just reveling in the beautiful occasion with you. Once again, keep an eye on the clock. Keep your goodbyes under the 15-minute mark and then vamoose!

7. GO OFFSITE

Once the wedding is over, there's nothing stopping you from leaving the venue behind and taking advantage of the city or local area. Have the photographer follow you and take some shots once you arrive at your hotel. Or pick out a cool location in advance that you know will make the perfect backdrop for an outdoor photo session.

It's easy to get caught up in the romance of it all, but don't forget to be (a little bit) practical. A kallah shivering in a mid-January night does not make a good photograph, but an alfresco shoot could be perfect in July or August.



Also, if you're headed into the city (who doesn't want Manhattan as a backdrop?) remember you have to pay for the pricey parking fees for the limo and the photographer.

We're not saying don't do it, we're just saying, think it through beforehand so you can get the best out of your time – and come properly prepared (right down to the kallah's coat).

8. THINK BEYOND THE WEDDING

Perhaps you didn't like the photographer your family hired for the wedding, or maybe you have a photographer you like who just wasn't a great fit for the wedding, but you would love the chance to work with them. Remember, the wedding isn't the only opportunity you have to get gorgeous photos of the two of you.

Consider hiring a photographer to cover one of the *sheva brachot* meals or even to do a shoot the day after the wedding, if you feel up to it. Of course,

if you want to do more intimate shots, this might not be the best time, so you can always plan a special shoot for some time during the first month.

No matter when you plan to do it, having an extra shoot (some people do an engagement shoot before the wedding), allows you to have a say in how and where you want to be photographed.

Above all, the key to getting great shots is to communicate well with the photographer. They are with you the whole of the wedding day, often from the time you start getting ready until the last guest has gone home. Being able to talk to them directly means you will get the photographs you want.

They want to make you happy and the more information they have, the better able they are to do it. They also want to make sure you are 100-percent comfortable throughout the day. If you pick a non-Jewish or non-religious

photographer, they might not be familiar with certain religious concepts and won't understand why you aren't touching. Be straight and upfront with them, especially in the case of a *chuppas niddah* or if you aren't going to be comfortable touching straightaway or at all.

While you might want a million shots to choose from, work with the photographer to get a smaller number of great shots rather a hundred mediocre pictures. Not only will you be overwhelmed with trying to narrow down your favorites, there's only so many photographs that can go in the wedding album and only so much wall space to hang your favorite pictures. Pretty soon, those wedding photos will be joined (and then even replaced) by baby photos. So, opt for quality above quantity.

Remember, once the big day comes along, the most important thing to do is to relax, have fun and enjoy your wedding – and every day that follows. ♦



THE FURNITURE SHADCHAN

Call The Furniture Shadchan for high end, good quality preowned furniture. Why buy new when you can buy preowned for a fraction of the price! Dining room sets, bedroom sets, appliances, living rooms and much more available!

FURNISH YOUR ENTIRE HOME WITH THE FURNITURE SHADCHAN!

 @furnitureshadchan
 Phone **917-501-5515**

SERVING LAKWOOD MONSEY AND BROOKLYN

#GetIntoRhythm!



347-893-2019

ContactRhythm5@gmail.com



Family

heirlooms are forever.

Yours

Create
today.

Gorgeous • Handcrafted • Excellence

*Offering exquisite wedding
albums for payments of just*



Photography & Video
443-613-3176 • Creative1080.com

Dating locations

I am frequently asked for enjoyable places to date that are different from hotel lobbies.

LOOKING FOR A QUIET, RELAXING AND CASUAL PLACE TO DATE, ENGAGE, CONVERSE AND HAVE AN OPTIONAL DRINK?

Let me share two that come to mind in the New York area:



The Uncommons - MANHATTAN'S ONLY BOARD GAME CAFE

The Uncommons combines the novelty of a game store and a cafe. They can easily seat sixty-five people with plenty of room for privacy, offering a plethora of tabletop board games. These range from classics such as Monopoly, Checkers, Backgammon, and Risk, to games you've never heard of but have always wanted to try. They collect the latest and greatest new games, find independent designers, and make them all available for play. It's only \$5 per person during the week and \$10 on weekends and holidays to play as many games as you want for as long as you want.

Their contact information is:

The Uncommons, 230 Thompson Street NY, NY 10012

t: (646) 543-9215 e: us@uncommonsnyc.com

HOURS

Monday - Thursday 8:30am - Midnight

Fri-Sat 8:30am - 1am | Sunday 8:30am - 11pm



Far Rockaway Boardwalk - Love the outdoors?

With summer approaching, a walk along the waterfront always creates the perfect ambiance for a shidduch date. There are plenty of places to walk, talk, sit, and sip as it's been upgraded with 6 miles of boardwalk, replacing the original boardwalk destroyed by Hurricane Sandy. One can ride their bikes, skateboard, or skate with roller skates. Some call it "paradise on real ocean" and it's minutes from Manhattan. There is also a new ferry service... A must to check out.

Rockaway Beach is truly an escape haven in New York City. Relatively obscure among its more famous peers-- Brighton Beach in Brooklyn and Jones Beach in Long Island-- Rockaway Beach is quickly becoming a destination for the young and the hip. As phoenix arose from the ashes, the new Boardwalk is back and better than ever, greatly improved after Hurricane Sandy's destruction. Made of smooth concrete and fortified by newly constructed dunes, it offers pedestrian and bicycle lanes as well as broad entry points at each street block. Be sure to check out the beer houses, gardens, and the container-living communities around the old marina at 57th Street.

For more information:

Rockaway Beach

9014 Rockaway Beach Blvd,

Far Rockaway, NY 11693-1577

Website: <https://www.nycgovparks.org/parks/rockaway-beach-and-boardwalk> ♦

Rabbi Moishe Raitman is a much sought after Shadchan, Coach/Mentor, Speaker and Lecturer. Through comprehensive conversation and interviews he has counseled and mentored 100's of single, young adults, divorcees, middle age adults and parents throughout the shidduch process. Rabbi Raitman can be contacted at www.shadchancoach.com, tel # 847-840-8633 and email moishe@shadchancoach.com.



ELI MARCUS

HIGH ENERGY,
AUTHENTIC SOUND.



@emarcmusic



@elimarcusmusic



@elimarcusmusic

www.elimarcusmusic.com
contact: INFO@ELIMARCUSMUSIC.COM



Great Wines

For A Cheerful Wedding

By Gabriel GELLER

There is indeed no joy without wine, according to the Talmud. To make a wedding perfect, therefore, beautiful wines that satisfy the discerning palates of both guests and the happy couple are sacrosanct.

Filled with nervous excitement? Faced with butterflies every time you think about the table arrangements or ever-burgeoning guest list? It's no surprise: planning a wedding is both uniquely exciting and unimaginably stressful. You want everything to be perfect. The bride's dress, groom's suit, flowers, cutlery, music, food, table arrangements, transport and venue: the list of considerations seems endless.

And after putting in so much time and effort, preparing for and plan-

ning your big day, you understandably expect everything to be perfect. But things can't be perfect without one essential, unalterable Jewish preoccupation: wine.

There is indeed no joy without wine, according to the Talmud. To make a wedding perfect, therefore, beautiful wines that satisfy the discerning palates of both guests and the happy couple are sacrosanct. They are a mandatory requirement ordained by holy scripture itself.

So how do we even begin to embark upon this most important of endeavours? How do we go about choosing

the right wines for the right moments? Daunting, eh?

Well, perhaps not. Not as daunting as you think anyway. First, we need to consider how a wedding is celebrated. There may be some variations according to familial custom, but most ceremonies begin with a reception that includes platters of petits-fours and pastries.

This is the perfect time to indulge in a little – or perhaps, if you feel so inclined, a lot of – bubbly, preferably Drappier Carte Blanche or an effervescent Spanish Cava like Freixenet Excelencia. The bubbles, along with the freshly baked brioche aromas and exquisite, fruity flavours will add that heady mix of vivacious sophistication necessary to kick off the day's celebrations in style.

After the reception, it's time for the Chuppah, or religious ceremony. Wine is of course an essential feature. Here, to avoid unwanted accidents, it is best to

use either white wine or, if you'd prefer, more of the bubbly consumed earlier. Highly recommended for its refreshing and easy-to-drink qualities, Weinstock Cellar Select Chardonnay, with its gentle twist of acidity and subtle hint of green apples and toasted almonds, is perfect for the occasion.

And then comes the time to eat, chat to old friends and, perhaps later, throw some embarrassing shapes on the dancefloor. For the wedding breakfast, it's best to offer a selection of at least three different wines. Baron Herzog Chenin Blanc – an off-dry, pleasant white wine replete with flavors of quince jam, peaches and pineapple – is ideal for those with a slightly sweet tooth. Those guests who like dry white with their lox, however, will surely be pleased with the Goose Bay Sauvignon Blanc. With hints of gooseberries, freshly cut grass and lemon pith, its eclectic combination of flavors will satiate those looking to complement the excellent food on offer.

And for the plat de résistance, Château Les Riganes, a nice Bordeaux with a well-balanced, refined yet approachable structure, will be quite adequate. Sometimes a heavier, fuller-bodied wine is appreciated with the filet mignon or the lamb chops. Les Lauriers de Rothschild Montagne Saint-Emilion, for instance, featuring notes of raspberries, freshly turned earth, coffee, complex aromas and a silky-mouth feel, will fulfil the role and satisfy the pickiest of guests.

Finally, it comes to the best part of the evening: dessert! It is hard to resist the temptation to drink more than a glass of the Herzog Late Harvest White Riesling, with its tantalizing notes of caramelized apples, apricot jam and honeysuckle. It will pair wonderfully with profiteroles, or, alternatively, a delicious bread pudding.

Choose your wines carefully and make your day perfect!

L'chaim and Mazel Tov! ♦



CROWN HEIGHTS GOWN RENTAL

347.201.3006

@HANGERNYC

HNGRNYC@GMAIL.COM

HANGER



Kookies4You



Kookies4You

Text **248-904-3127** or
email: kookieforyou@gmail.com



@kookiesforyou

LUXÉ

STUDIO NYC

WHERE EXPERIENCE AND ARTISTRY COME TOGETHER,
BRINGING YOU IMAGES THAT WILL BE CHERISHED FOR GENERATIONS.



EXQUISITE PHOTOGRAPHY FOR ALL BUDGETS.

LUXESTUDIO.NYC (347) 913-6123

Moving to... *Lakewood, New Jersey*

By Danielle MAX

Choosing where to live after marriage is not easy. Jobs, finances, and family all play a part in deciding where to settle down. With property prices soaring in the New York area, couples and young families are taking the plunge by venturing further afield in their hunt for a comfortable life for their growing families.

SHIFTING PERCEPTIONS

Although it's normal for one to have preconceived ideas about what living in a particular place might be like, setting those ideas aside can open up a plethora of opportunities. Luckily, many of those opportunities reside in Lakewood, New Jersey. While it has the reputation for being "yeshivish" and extremely conservative, it's one of the fastest-growing Orthodox Jewish communities in the United States, at-

tracting newcomers from all walks of observant life.

Raymond Coles, the Lakewood mayor and fellow resident of 29 years, has strongly encouraged Jewish couples to move to his town for it "offers its couples a full range of amenities. These include stores, shops, and restaurants." Although Cole is not Jewish, he openly understands the needs of his constituency. "You can live a frum lifestyle, if

that's what you are looking for," says Coles.

Although Lakewood might not strike one as the hottest vacation spot, it has a long history of hosting America's wealthiest tourists. In the 1890s, Lakewood was a popular vacation spot for the elite. The pine forests and proximity to New York drew illustrious families such as the Astors, Rockefellers, and Vanderbilts. Thus, they holidayed at its many hotels and resorts.



For more than 70 years, Lakewood continued to attract holidaymakers who wanted a winter getaway close to the New York City area. "It was easy to get to and the weather and hotels were nice," remembers Millie Kashuk, a former tourist who spent time in Lakewood in the 1940s. "The hotels catered to Jewish people and they had Jewish singing at night. There weren't too many other places to go that were Jewish."

While hearing about Kashuk's fond memories, it's important to remember that most resort destinations were not entirely welcoming to Jews. However, multiple Rabbis recalled feeling accepted such as the Previous Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak Schneerson. In 1940, Rabbi Schneerson spent his first pesach in

America in this warm town, hosted by lithuanian born Rabbi Nissan Waxman, Lakewood's at-the-time stand alone Rov. An influential figure at the time, Waxman later helped arrange for the visas which would end up bringing over the Rebbe's daughter and son in law, the late Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson.

Rabbi Nissan Waxman, ordained in America in 1926, spent his early years in Lithuania at the yeshiva in Slutzk. This yeshiva held classes taught by Rabbi Aaron Kotler who taught there under his esteemed father-in-law, Rabbi Isser Zalman Meltzer. When Kotler arrived in the US, he periodically met with his former acquaintance, Rabbi Nissan Waxman, who asked him to move to Lakewood and establish a new yeshiva. Lakewood being a resort town was an attractive place to begin this project.

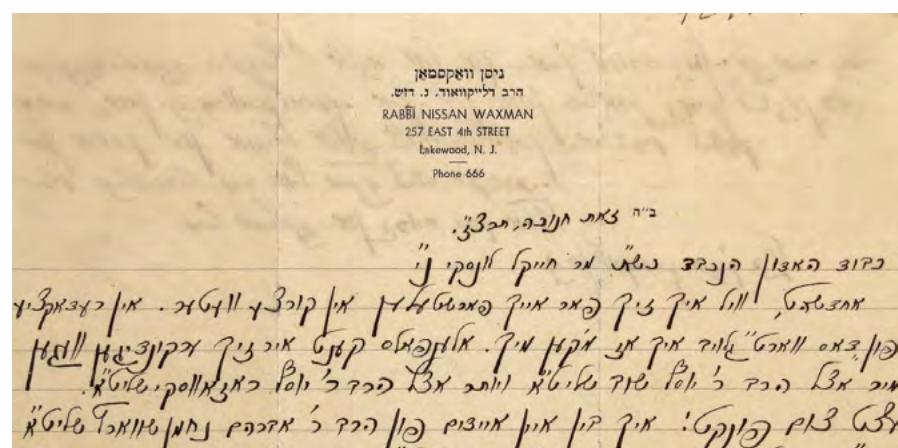
Beth Medrash Govoha was originally established as a kollel in White Plains, New York by Rabbis Nosson Meir Wachtfogel, Shmuel Schechter, and Hershel Genauer, alumni of the Kelm Talmud Torah in Lithuania. Established in the Spring of 1942, it was the first kollel in the United States and consisted of 20 members. When Rabbi Aharon Kotler came to New York from war-torn Europe in 1943, the kollel members asked him to lead the institute. Under pressure from his close friend, Rabbi Nissan Waxman, Kotler agreed to the role on the condition that it be moved

to Lakewood and expanded with a yeshiva gedola. As a result, the yeshiva opened with an initial enrollment of 14 students.

Unfortunately, Lakewood couldn't maintain its popularity and during the 1960s, the town began to decline to such an extent that slum areas cropped up. Ironically, against the backdrop, Beth Medrash Govoha (BMG), was growing. Due to the strength and pride of this yeshiva, many people became inspired and its enrollment flourished. As the yeshiva grew, so did its surrounding community.

Today, BMG has more than 6,500 students, consisting of both married and bochurim, and is the second-largest yeshiva in the world. This not only slowly encouraged Lakewood's residents to stay, but also motivated outsiders to move in. Ironically, it is no longer the only focal point of Lakewood, as many residents unaffiliated with BMG call the town home.

With the shifting demographics, including Modern Orthodox, Sephardim and other Chassidic groups (including Lubavitch, Belz and Satmar), there is also a shift in tolerance levels, affecting the businesses and social life of Lakewood. There are more and more restaurants and other establishments opening up that would have been frowned upon in the past. Of course, there are still plenty of very conservative and religiously ultra-strict groups in town.



Original letter by Nissan Waxman to Rabbis in Vilna



While they are not marketed to a specific group or sect, many of the new developments being built around town are inhabited almost entirely by members of the same group. For example, Harmony Park in the southern side of the town is populated by Belz chassidim. Westgate, which marks the western edge of the town, was once very yeshivish but is becoming more modern and diverse. Although there are also more integrated neighborhoods, the lack of an eruv for the town as a whole encourages people to live close to their shuls.

The growth of different communities has also had an affect on the kosher amenities in the town. There is now an abundance of kosher restaurants, ranging from high-end gourmet to gas station sushi. Likewise, different types of family dynamics emerged. Although once men mainly learnt, there are plenty of families where both the husband and the wife work regular 9-5 jobs, shifting a once prevailing trend.

THE GOOD NEWS - CHEAPER PROPERTY PRICES

Overall, one of the larger reasons why different types of communities have

According to a recent study, Lakewood's population is around the 125,000, with the Jewish community making up 60 percent.

flocked to Lakewood is the affordable cost of living. For instance, buying or renting a house is significantly cheaper than in other Jewish communities. Hence, the developers have the frum community in mind. Many new homes include properties with double sinks, double dishwashers, and enough bedrooms to fit larger families.

According to Lakewood Real Estate agent Efraim Feder, renting a five-bedroom townhouse averages at \$1,700-\$1,800 a month. At the same time, a duplex can cost \$2,100-\$2,200. Additionally, two-bedroom basement apartments and four-bedroom duplex basement flats are an extremely affordable option in Lakewood as they cost between \$700 and \$1,100. The average price for a townhouse ranges from \$470,00-\$510,000 with the higher-end pricing averaging at \$560,000-\$600,000. Additionally, the majority of Lakewood's homes only require 10% of the sold price as down payments

from young couples. Thus, many Lakewood residents take full advantage of their built-in basements and rent them out in hopes of further contributing to their monthly mortgages.

Infamous Route 9 Traffic



Unfortunately, basement-included homes come with their own risks. As the demand for property is high, many unscrupulous agents and landlords are renting out basement apartments that are not up to code. Luckily, the mayor has recognized the issue and has warned his residents. "We try to make sure if people want to do this, they know exactly what they have to do and what the requirements are. You can have a legal basement apartment if you follow the rules," explains Coles. Such rules include windows large enough to escape out of in case of emergency, safety fire ratings, sprinklers, and more.

At times, safety and the standard of the buildings going up in Lakewood is a concern as the speed at which the developments are being built could indicate compromised safety. Luckily, Feder denies that any corners are being cut and maintains that all the new builds adhere to strict safety rules. Likewise, Feder stresses that although there are some concerns regarding Lakewood's cheaper construction, Lakewood's homes should continue to look good should their tenants and/or owners take care of their properties. Should they not, however, tend to their homes' issues, the homes could fall into despair despite their construction.

LAKWOOD'S BABY BOOM

Even with as many as 1,000 homes being built at one time, supply is struggling to catch up with demand. According to a recent study, Lakewood's population is around the 125,000, with the Jewish community making up well over 60 percent. Its growth is so relentless it is estimated it will be the same size as Newark or Jersey City (close to a quarter of a million inhabitants) by 2030.



LAKWOOD QUICK FACTS

Location: Ocean County, New Jersey

Proximity to New York: 70 miles – 1 Hour 20 Minutes – but traffic can be bad, so hit the road in the off-times or be prepared to spend up to three hours in the car

Proximity to the Ocean: 20-minute drive

Closest Airport: Newark is about a 50-minute drive. Philadelphia is about 90 minutes away

Size of Population: 125,000

Size of Jewish Population: 60,000+, and growing (second in size only to Brooklyn)

Average House Price April 2017: \$304,500 (zillow.com)

Number of Shuls: Around the 120 mark (and, like everything else here, growing). Minyanim run throughout the day at some shuls, so you can daven Shacharit up to mid-morning (Belz and Satmar having minyanim past 11am) and catch you can Maariv at the end of a long day

Number of Jewish Schools: Approximately 35 boys and 25 girls K-8 schools. Countless high schools and other higher learning institutes

Education Costs: Tuition costs a reasonable \$5,000 a year on average. There are very limited bursaries since cost is already low. Day care for younger kids averages \$200-\$300 a month.

Kosher Restaurants: Everything from fine dining to fine pizza (with prices below Brooklyn at \$10 a pie). Trust us; you won't go hungry here! (You can even get kosher food – including sushi – at the 7-11 in the middle of the night).

Kosher Stores: Five plus kosher megastores (think Walmart-size)

Eruv: There is no eruv for the whole town, they are constructed on a community-by-community basis, so be aware before making Shabbos plans

Healthcare: Lakewood boasts the Center for Health Education, Medicine & Dentistry (CHEMED), which provides primary health care, health education and a host of other services – including an OB/GYN Department – to Lakewood residents. It offers services to patients on Medicaid and Medicare plans, as well as private insurance. CHEMED also operates a sliding fee scale for uninsured patients.

Emergency Services: Hatzolah and Chaverim both operate in Lakewood and have hundreds of volunteers. The town's police department regularly calls on Chaverim for assistance.



One of the reasons behind Lakewood's large population would be its very high birth rate. With over 4,000 babies born each year, the town seems to be getting younger as the years go on. The latest census data put the percentage of residents under five years old at 17.4 percent, with almost half of all residents aged 18 or younger.

As of right now, the mayor estimates that at the next census, the population will hit 150,000. 75 percent of the population at that point will be from the orthodox community and the vast majority under 18. Eventually, these newborns will filter through into Lakewood's K-8 schools. "[We say] we add a classroom every week just in new births," says Coles. And it's a young town, which is hardly surprising giving the many large families among the Orthodox Jewish community.

A unique fact about Lakewood's education system is that more students

are in private schools (approximately 30,000) rather than in public schools (6,000 respectively). Rest assured, both public and private education are taken very seriously. Over the past five years, the only land the council has released has been to build new schools rather than to allow any retail or residential development.

"One of the things the committee has made a priority over the last several years is to make sure schools are developed; that they are being built properly," says Coles, remembering a time when schools were made up of five or 10 students gathering in a private home. "[The] large buildings going up today, look like the public schools I grew up with several hundred kids... The community is maturing into the fact the schools needs to have all the amenities..."

Even with new schools popping up, parents are still concerned about

their children finding spots in school. As of right now, many girls are being denied spots and are forced to look elsewhere. The issue is not one of just space, however, but of communal politics and standards.

In 2016, this issue came to the fore when philanthropist Shlomo Yehuda Rechnitz spoke publicly in New York about children being rejected or ejected from schools in response to questions, concerns about their behavior or observance, or in response to other students' parents' unease.

During his powerful speech, he boasted "L'tzaareynu harav, we have a machala in Lakewood. No other out of town community would ever allow a child to be left without a school. In Los Angeles, if a child wouldn't have a school, the first day the whole community would be all over it. The same thing would happen in Baltimore, Chicago, Toronto, or anywhere else. This



is basically a Lakewood machala. Yes, there a few kids in Monsey... More than a few kids in Brooklyn... But nowhere else and at no other time in history was this problem close to the magnitude it is in Lakewood."

While he praised Lakewood for having so many Torah institutions and for the "incredible chessed that takes place on a daily basis," he also slammed the community for turning a blind eye when it came to students being kept out of school as such a situation is nothing but "hypocritical."

Fortunately, placing each and every child into an appropriate school is becoming more of a priority. For instance, the Lakewood Vaad distribut-

ed a flyer urging parents of elementary school students who had yet to receive a place at a school for the 2017-18 academic year to be in touch. The Vaad promised to work with the relevant authorities to ensure all students a place. While there cannot be a guarantee that parents will be able to get their children into their first choice school, there is a movement to make sure the system is fair and equitable.

INFRASTRUCTURE FAILING TO KEEP UP WITH GROWTH

At this point, Lakewood residents are concerned about the lagging infrastructure. The roads cannot keep up with the rapid pace of development and residents suffer traffic congestion all day, especially on Friday afternoons.

Ironically, there are no plans to halt or even slow down development. There are, however, plans to change the way that new projects are approved and developed. "We're looking to make [development] smarter," says Coles. "We're looking to make sure the new developments don't recreate some of the mistakes of the past."

The town is also striving to make the existing road system cope with current and growing demands. Lakewood inhabitants are especially concerned about Route 9, the main street in the town, along which traffic is often at a virtual standstill.

"The township has been fighting with the state to improve Route 9 for many, many years; a lot longer than the 15 years I've been on the committee," explains Coles. "The State has acknowledged it's too narrow and that it needs to be widened. Fifteen years ago when I first went on the committee, we in-

roduced a series of ordinances that prohibited any development along Route 9 within the right of way that the proposed expansion would go to make sure that when the road was finally expanded, the State wouldn't have to spend money condemning houses built in the meantime."

According to Coles, the governor has promised a large sum of money to do some interim improvements, such as putting in traffic signs, traffic lights and so on. "Ultimately," though, he says, "the only thing that will solve the Route 9 problem is for the State to make it a point to widen it. It's not just Lakewood looking for that; the towns south of us are as well. In the meantime, we are looking very hard at ways to bring north/south arteries to town."

One of those arteries is Vine Avenue, providing another pathway from Route 70 to Route 88. "We are pushing very hard to get the approval for Vine, it's in the State's hands right now," says the mayor. "We are working with one of the top attorney's in the state to get the approval. We are pretty confident we will have approval in the next year or so, and construction can take place soon after that."

In the meantime, residents have learned to be savvy with side roads and back ways which assist in avoiding the busy Lakewood streets and the Brooklyn-style traffic as much as possible.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE NEIGHBORS - BOTH POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE

Many Jewish residents are concerned about tension with Lakewood's non-Jewish residents, as well as within their neighboring communities, such as Jackson and Toms River.

According to a report in Bloomberg News, Thomas Kelaher, mayor of Toms River Township, courted controversy when he said the influx of Orthodox

The town is also striving to make the existing road system cope with current and growing demands.



Jews looking to buy property in the area was “like an invasion.”

Kelaher stridently denied that his statement was anti-Semitic as he claims he was referring to how local residents felt at the time. Since many real estate brokers were going door-to-door in hopes of buying homes for Orthodox Jews, many homeowners felt as though their privacy was violated.

When it comes to Lakewood itself, Mayor Coles maintains that such friction no longer exists and that despite tension when newcomers arrive, most of Lakewood’s community gets along quite well, “Years ago there was some tension when the town began to change, but that’s the same in any town when two different groups come together and there’s a culture clash.” He attributes this more positive feeling to increased interaction, learning, and understanding. “Once people get to know each other, and what their priorities and needs are, [that tension] dissipates.”

Coles estimates his neighborhood is 70 percent orthodox but still feels as though it’s the nicest it’s been in almost 30 years. “I look at my neighborhood now... There are a lot of little kids around. Sometimes it takes me 10 minutes to walk into the house be-

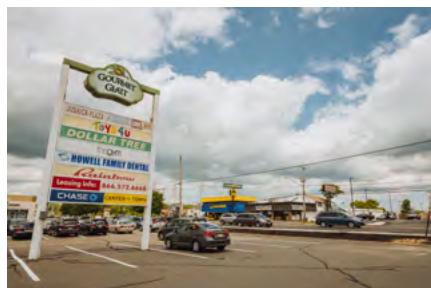


cause kids are coming over to say hello or wanting to play with the dogs. It’s just a nice neighborhood.”

Despite his assertion, some Jewish residents say they feel an underlying feeling of tension. Longtime resident Yosef F., however, says that some of these feelings are due to the behavior of a few of the Jewish residents. “People get comfortable, and they start breaking the rules. They park on the wrong side of the street, or they double park. The Jews are tolerant of it; [others] are not... People have to be more conscious of their neighbors. We are beginning to wear out our welcome.”

On the flip side, many long-time residents, Coles included, see that the changing population helped turn Lakewood’s destiny around. “We were on a downward track; there were a lot of issues in town. There were a lot of areas where people didn’t want to go. Today you’ll see young mothers pushing baby carriages in those areas. There are very few areas in town that people wouldn’t feel safe going even late at night. From that standpoint, Lakewood has been a tremendous success story.”

While there are still some growing pains, the growth of the Jewish com-



NEXT STEPS

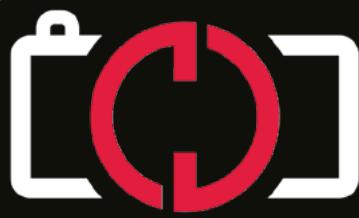
Before choosing a community, it’s important to take the time to do research. While pondering whether or not Lakewood is the right place to settle, make a list of the pros and cons. Unlike previous years, Lakewood is made up of multiple communities and neighborhoods. Some are geared strictly towards a particular group or sect, while others are more diverse and open. By simply taking a tour of the neighborhood or even by spending a Shabbos or two in town, Lakewood stands a fighting chance at convincing any young couple or growing family to move into it.

You also need to consider employment, and be realistic. Some people commute to their jobs in the city, while others find work in Lakewood itself. Local resident Yosef F., who has been living in Lakewood and working in Brooklyn for years says unless a job pays more than \$60,000, take a good look at whether it makes sense to commute. According to his estimates, commuting costs are probably around \$10,000 a year.

Lakewood rentals are updated on a weekly basis on the Masa U’Matan website <http://masaumatan.com>

munity in Lakewood is something impossible to have predicted ten or twenty years ago. When BMG was established, no one could have imagined that this corner of New Jersey would see a vibrant and growing Jewish community, offering all the benefits of the city but with a slower, friendlier, and higher quality of life. It’s no surprise so many people are making the move. ♦

Danielle Max is a freelance writer and editor. Originally from Liverpool, England, she now lives in Jerusalem with her husband and son. daniellemax@gmail.com



CJ STUDIOS

FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY & CINEMA

CAPTURING THE MAGIC OF YOUR EVERY WEDDING MOMENT

347.201.0613 | www.CJStudios.info |  @CJStudiosphotos



World's Most Beautiful Kesubos / Ketubahs



212-695-6888 • 800-5-JEWISH

levinejudaica.com



Manhattan
5 West 30th Street
New York, N.Y. 10001
Between 5th Ave. & Broadway

E-mail: sales@levinejudaica.com

Follow Levinejudaica  

Marriage Humor

Wife goes to an astrologer to learn more about her husband. The astrologer asks her, "Do you want to know about your husband's future?" Without hesitation, the wife responds, "I will decide his future, you just tell me about his past."

An Israeli mayor in a small town is walking past a construction site with his wife. One of the construction workers stops and calls out to the woman.

"What's new, Sara?"

"Why, it's nice to see you again Avi," the woman replies. She turns to introduce her husband to the construction worker, and they speak for several minutes.

After the mayor and his wife continue on, he turns to his wife to ask how she knows him.

"Oh," she said. "We went together in high school. I even thought about marrying him."

The husband began to laugh. "You don't realize how lucky you are. If I hadn't come along, today you would be the wife of a construction worker!"

The wife replied without hesitation, "Not really. If I had married him, he'd now be a mayor!"

Marriage is love. Love is blind. Therefore marriage is an institution for the blind.

Marriage is an institution in which a man loses his Bachelor's Degree and the woman gets her masters.

When a man opens the door of his car for his wife, you can be sure of one thing - either the car is new or the wife is.

It seems Yankel was pushing 25 and he'd never been out on a date. His Rosh Yeshiva calls him into the office one day and says, "Yankel! 18 to the Chuppah! What's going to be already?" Yankel blushes and explains to his Rebbe that he grew up in a house full of brothers, and he's never even spoken to a girl anywhere near his age. He doesn't know what to say to girls. Besides, it would interrupt his learning. The Rosh Yeshiva puts a fatherly arm around him and tells him "Don't worry about your learning, this is a Chiyuv with a capital ches. And as for what to say, you can talk about her family, you can talk about what she likes, and if all else fails you can talk philosophy."

Yankel leaves the Rosh Yeshiva repeating under his breath,



"Family, likes, philosophy. Family, likes, philosophy. Family, likes, philosophy." Finally, the day arrives and he goes out on his first shidduch.

The young people sit down in the hotel lobby and look at one another uncomfortably. Yankel realizes that he's going to have to say something, and the first thing on the Rosh Yeshiva's list is family, so he blurts out, "Do you have any brothers?" "No." replies the girl, and silence reigns. Yankel thinks hard, and then comes up with, "Do you like baseball?" "No." is the immediate reply. Now Yankel is really at a loss. Ah yes! Philosophy! So Yankel leans forward, and very intently, in his best talmudic tones, asks "If you had a brother, would he like baseball?"



Married life is full of excitement and frustration: In the first year of marriage, the man speaks and the woman listens. In the second year, the woman speaks and the man listens. In the third year, they both speak and the NEIGHBOR listens.

Before marriage, a man yearns for the woman he loves. After the marriage the "Y" becomes silent. ♦

Wedding Day Hair

By Leah Loksen, Salon Leah

Everyone wants to look their best at their wedding, but since it's not every day you walk around with a gown and veil, it's hard to get right. I always tell my clients, it's not just about the hair, there are so many other factors that can make the hair good and from good to great.

There are three main points to factor when deciding what to do with your hair on your wedding day: your aesthetic, a flattering style and cohesiveness with the rest of your look.

So, starting with aesthetic: When choosing a hair stylist, always ask to

see a portfolio of sorts that will show the general aesthetic of the stylist making sure that it matches your vision for you and your big day.

It seems quite obvious to choose a flattering style, but how do you decipher what's flattering? Look in the mirror with your veil and move your

part around, take pictures and look back to see which looks best. Whether one decides to put their hair up or down. Side part, middle part, semi-part or no part; neat and clean or soft and textured; height to elongate or width for a longer face. High bun, or low bun, big bun or small bun. All these things need to be taken into

consideration when deciding what makes your face look best.

Cohesiveness: I always have all my brides come for a consultation once they have their dress to discuss what we should do with their hair. We discuss the above two points and more. The hair, dress, veil, makeup and wedding need to make sense together. Does the bride have a sheath dress or a princess dress? Is the wedding on the beach or at a grand hotel? A regal updo with a crown would make sense for a princess dress as soft beach waves with flowers would be more suitable at a backyard wedding. The look needs to make sense together. This should be taken into consideration when choosing every aspect of the bride's look, including, of course, the hair.

When choosing a veil and hairpiece, here are a few more points to consider: Will you be taking it off or wearing it throughout the night? Do you want to switch veils? Can the hair piece and veil be made secure? And again, are they both flattering? Metal combs are easier to secure, plastic is easier to take on and off without ruining the hair. When a bride wants a long veil for only part of the wedding, the easiest thing to do is to velcro the longer one to the bottom of the shorter one so that it can just be taken off seamlessly without ruining the hair. I like to attach wig clips to mantilla style veils to get it the most secure while also having it as flat on the head as possible. There are so many different style veils; mantilla, waterfalls, circle veils, double layer, triple layered, trimmed, jeweled... But in any veil or headpiece, you again want to consider



© Luis Sardinez

the above three points: is it your aesthetic, flattering to your face and body, and lastly, cohesive with the rest of your look? People don't realize that a veil needs to hit at the appropriate place for the gown. Where is that place? Depends on your dress. A veil can be worn very high or very low and come in many different lengths, but always consider where it hits your dress and if it's flattering. You may want it to hit by your thin waist, right above the point where your gown pops out, or you may want to have a soft cathedral to flow with your dress and make it look like one airy piece. Once you decide where on your head you'll be wearing your veil, you can see if the hitting point is accurate, and whether or not you need a longer or shorter one. If you want to wear fresh flowers, ask the florist for blooms that fit your color scheme that won't easily wilt. If you're wearing a wreath, the florist should have it prepared for you. If you'll be using sporadic buds, bring a few stems of several different but similar flowers, and include some wire separately, in case it's needed to help secure them.

It is always great to come with pictures for reference to show the hairstylist the look you are going for, to avoid confusion of using the wrong terminology and ending up with something that you aren't happy with. For example, there are many different types of waves: retro waves, waterfall waves, beach waves, big glamorous waves, etc. Same goes for braids: French, Dutch, fishtail, waterfall, rope, twist, and combinations of them as well! So even if you do not intend to copy a picture exactly, pictures are worth a thousand words. ;)





Celebrating 20 Years of Excellence



For an event as special as your wedding, the catering must also present a perfect combination of elegant culinary creations and amazing service. We will gladly accommodate your every need, whether it be for an outdoor barbecue, a beachfront celebration, or a home wedding. When the important day arrives, our waitstaff will deliver a flawless service to keep your focus on the festivities at hand.

TURK CATERERS INC.

790 East 91st Street Brooklyn NY 11236 • PH. 718-778-8787 - Fax. 718-778-6884

turkcaterers.com • info@turkcaterers.com

Rhythm of the Night

SPOTLIGHT ON THE BANDSTAND WITH RHYTHM 5

By: Sandy ELLER



At first glance, it all looks so seamless when you watch a band performing at a simcha, but next time you go to a wedding, take the time to notice the many different ways the band is used to set the tone for the event.

From the earliest moments of the kabalas panim to the final notes of the mitzvah tantz, music is arguably the most powerful element of a wedding. Poignantly emotional during the chupah while electrifying the room during the dance sets, music is the narrative of every wedding, but while the band typically makes things look effortless as they segue from song to song, nothing could be farther from the truth. There are many different components involved in the musical production of a wedding, and much

like the caterer carefully plans the menu to create a harmonious spread that looks amazing and tastes even better, the band leader devotes many hours to arranging a veritable rainbow of music that will set the tone for this milestone event.

The first step in the musical journey of a wedding is obviously hiring a band. Whether a couple decides to go with a band based on reputation, their own experiences, or price, there are plenty of choices, each one bringing something different to the table.

Tzvi Fishoff, bandleader of Rhythm 5, a relatively new entry to the Jewish music business that has been taking the wedding scene by storm, is a big believer in the magic that youthful energy can add to a simcha. Fishoff composes his own music, writes his own arrangements, and does his own musical production, bringing plenty of vim and vigor to the bandstand along with a highly talented, hand-picked, core group of young musicians.

"Because we are young and passionate, we bring a certain power when we get on the bandstand," said Fishoff.

Rhythm 5 prides itself on being the youngest member of the Jewish wedding scene and the enthusiasm and exuberance that they channel into their music is evident at every simcha they play. Fishoff shares an unbridled passion for music together with drummer Duvy Koppel and guitarist Shea Goldring, and the chemistry between the three, who are also close friends, translates into an energy that defies description.





Even once the band has been finalized, there are still plenty more decisions to be made. Do you go with the average five or six piece band or round things out with a few more musicians or an even larger orchestra? Is it worth the investment of hiring a choir to get create a fuller vocal experience? Do you go with a big-name singer whose presence alone adds prestige to your simcha, or is one who is lesser known but a highly talented vocalist a better choice in order to keep the spotlight where it belongs, on the choson and kallah?

While all of those decisions are typically made by the baalei simcha, it is the bandleader who generally makes the decision about which musicians to hire and again, there are multiple factors to consider. It goes without saying that you want exceptionally gifted musicians, but being able to transpose music into different keys on the spot and deal with surprises can make or break the music.

Unexpected developments are just one of the many reasons why it is important to make sure that there is a good band leader running the show.

"Reality is, not everything will go perfectly," explained Fishoff. You need to be prepared for anything and everything."

Song selection is one of the most personal choices of a wedding and in addition to choosing the chupah music, the choson and kallah can also have input into the types of music being played including traditional wedding tunes, songs with an Israeli, yeshivish, or Chasidic flavor and, in some cases, secular music, typically known as the "American" dance set. Armed with those requests, the band leader will compile a playlist which will include dozens of songs for the kabalas panim, badekin, chupah, dancing and dinner sets, and the mezinka or mitzvah tantz, if they will be taking place.

Arranging the music is somewhat akin to accessorizing an outfit, adding the right touches and finishes so that the end product dazzles and Fishoff often customizes the music for each simcha, an effort that can take anywhere from hours to weeks. The goal is to use each instrument, including the singer, to make the most of every song throughout the simcha. At some points in time during a set, certain musicians on the bandstand might not be playing at all, while at other times they could be doing a dramatic solo that could set the room on fire. Once the arrangements are finalized in the right key for the singer, they are given to every member of the band so that everyone knows exactly what to be doing at any given time throughout the set.

One of the biggest points of contention when it comes to simcha music is volume, with many in the younger generation asking the band to raise the decibel level, while others either place their request for lower volume or simply walk out during the dancing. The best way to make sure that the sound is spread properly throughout the room without being excessively loud is to make sure that the band has a proper sound system and an engineer who knows who to use that equipment very, very well.

"Sound is priority number one and there is no such thing as a wedding that doesn't need professional



Tzvi Fishoff



sound," explained Fishoff. "You can have a great band with the best musicians in the world but if the sound isn't good the whole thing is worthless, which is why sound has to be taken seriously."

While the band leader and sound engineer often arrive at a simcha several hours before the event's start time, the rest of the band will typically show up an hour before the invited guests. Once the action starts during the kabalas panim, the band is pretty much hard at work throughout the night, using small in-ear headphones and hand signals to get instructions from the bandleader. While musicians get a few quick breaks during transition times to stretch their legs or

grab a bite, sometimes the action just doesn't stop at all.

What's it like to be up there on the bandstand?

"Incredible... Once those lights are on and the adrenaline kicks in, food doesn't even exist to me. I can get into the car after a wedding and realize that I am absolutely starving," said Fishoff.

With the exception of the drummer, who needs to stay seated, the rest of Rhythm 5 is typically jumping and dancing all night long on the bandstand. By the time the second dance rolls around, the band has shrugged off their suit jackets, keeping the simcha vibe going in their white

shirts and ties, fueled by the energy of the crowd. Many times when the baalei simcha have hired a DJ for the last dance, the band members remain on the bandstand even once their job is completed, sharing in the simcha and keeping the energy going until it is time to start Shir Hamaalos.

At first glance, it all looks so seamless when you watch a band performing at a simcha, but next time you go to a wedding, take the time to notice the many different ways the band is used to set the tone for the event. It involves hours of work and coordination but in the end, when you see people humming along during the chupah, or on their feet dancing up a storm, you realize that music is the heartbeat of every wedding, making all of that time and effort a very worthwhile investment. ♦

Sandy Eller is a freelance writer who writes for numerous websites, newspapers, magazines and many private clients. She can be contacted at sandyeller1@gmail.com.



Let us transform the room for you and help you get that rich high end look you were looking for.

PACKAGES AVAILABLE AS LOW AS \$500.



DON'T GET INTIMIDATED BY THE SIZE OF EVENTS: EVERY EVENT IS BIG ENOUGH FOR US...

OFFICE:(212)401-6926 TOLL FREE:844-4-MLP-LITE (844-465-7548)

Chassdic Tales

Photography By **CJ Studios Mezibush, Ukraine**

The new bride and groom continued their wanderings through the mighty forest, trying to find their own path. They happened upon a young child, a little boy with deep brown eyes and curly brown hair, who was all alone and too young to talk.

Like many great stories about the holy Baal Shem Tov, this one begins with his talmidim, a horse and wagon, and a little bit of spontaneity.

On this particular day, the Baal Shem Tov told ten of his students to pack up as they would all be attending a wedding. They became excited and wanted more details about the spur-of-the-moment adventure they were about to embark on.

“We will be bringing along all of the finest foods and wines, the chupah canopy, and whatever else is needed to marry off a bride and groom,” the Besht announced. Without further ado, the students packed up and headed on their way.

The Chassidim hummed along to the sounds of the horses gliding swiftly through the thick brush, weaving through swarms of cedar and pine trees until the path narrowed. With no room to go further, the driver signaled

to stop. Once the wagon finally stilled, the Baal Shem Tov and his crew stepped out and continued by foot, moving forth into the boundless woods.

They trudged on with the crunching and crackling of leaves and branches beneath their feet, breaking the stillness of the crisp forest air. The group walked on for hours until they stumbled upon a young couple.

“Who might the two of you be? What brings you to this forest?” the Rebbe asked.

“Our names are Moshe and Leah,” they explained, “and we have been servants for our whole lives. We’ve been roaming the forest since we’ve been granted our freedom one year ago and we hope to soon be married,” the young couple noted, gazing lovingly into each other’s starry eyes.

“We will have your wedding right here and right now!” exclaimed the Besht.

Birds chirped in excitement as the Besht officiated the wedding ceremony and all in attendance shouted “Mazal tov!” at the sound of the shattered glass.

The talmidim set up a beautiful feast for the chosson and kallah with enough food to feed an army. They ate soft and tender roast, creamy borscht, and the finest of kugels. They had red and white wines, both dry and sweet! The best tasting cakes and custard fruit pies were served for dessert and the guests sang, danced, and presented the newlyweds with gifts.

“I shall give you both your very own village!” one of the talmidim blurted out. “...with a big house, luscious greenery, and flowers surrounding you!” cried out another. Moshe and Leah beamed with joy, their love and happiness permeating the air around them.

After Sheva Brachot, the students packed away the left-over food. The

Baal Shem Tov blessed the couple with a lifetime of success, shalom bayit, and mazal. They thanked him for the most wonderful wedding and then said their final goodbyes.

Moshe and Leah continued their wanderings through the mighty forest, trying to find their own path. They stumbled upon a young child, a little boy with deep brown eyes and curly brown hair, all alone and too young to talk. They gave him some of their leftover food and water, and with new determination, set out to find the lost child's family.

They finally reached a small town where they asked its occupants if they knew to whom this child belonged. "We've never seen him before," they noted, "maybe someone in the next town over can help you." From town to town, they searched for the lost child's mother and father. As days turned into months, and months turned into years, Moshe and Leah failed to find the child's parents and embraced him as their own.

One day, the family staggered into a new village, looking tired and disheveled. A kind stranger by the name of Oleg took them in, providing them with some food and lodging. "How did you stumble upon our village?" he asked.

As the couple relayed their life story, Oleg's eyes opened with interest as he began to tell a story of his own. "The Lord and Lady who own this very village, Sir Alexei and Lady Tatiana, lost their son when he was just two years old while on a hunting trip in a forest far from here. Could it be that you've found their long lost child?"

Moshe and Leah's eyes lit up with hope. Maybe they have found their son's long lost parents!

"How did they lose their child?" the couple probed. "Well," began Oleg, "the Lord and Lady took their son, Mikhail, and an entourage of men through a very big forest on a hunting expedition. When the duke caught the trail of a great stag, the excited group followed

Alexei and his swift target. He succeeded at capturing the stag and the excitement had distracted the hunters long enough for the child to wander off on his own. The amazement of the Lord's escort turned into shouts of panic when they realized that Mikhail was lost, never to be seen again."

Once Oleg finished his story, he ran to the Lord's and Lady's estate, eager to tell them about his finding.

"Can this really be? Our long lost son is alive and here in our village?"

Alexei and Tatiana couldn't wait any longer. They asked that the child be brought to them at once.

When the boy entered his parents' mansion, the wealthy couple had no doubt that the child in front of them was their son. The resemblance between the Lord and Mikhail was uncanny... His deep brown eyes and his curly brown hair were dead giveaways.

"We've found you, our sweet Mikhail! You've come home to us at last!" The couple fell onto the child's neck, soaking in the moment they've dreamed of for years. The child, obviously uncomfortable, withdrew

and latched himself to Moshe, the only man he knew as his father.

"I have a suggestion," Moshe chimed in, "we can stay here in your home as the child gets to know you. Once he feels comfortable, my wife and I will be on our way."

Alexei and Tatiana graciously accepted and soon enough, it was time for Moshe and Leah to leave. However, the Lord and Lady wanted to properly reward the Jewish couple.

"We will give you your very own village," Alexei stated, "with a beautiful estate filled with roses, lilies, daisies, and the greenest of grass," he added with a smile.

Moshe and Leah were beyond overjoyed by the Lord's generosity. In their brand new home, the couple built a beautiful Jewish family with the liveliest of children and merited a peaceful and happy life together for many years to come.

With gratitude to the Almighty for the beautiful blessings received upon their marriage, Moshe and Leah wandered no more, having reached their final destination

As seen in Sefer Khal Chasidim ♦



Clueless in the kitchen

Merging two lives into one is complicated for a whole host of reasons. There's different schedules, different habits, and of course different food likes and dislikes.

The gifts are unwrapped, the dishes are unpacked, and the supermarket bags are sitting in the kitchen. Sounds like the party is over and real married life has begun. The question begs to be answered: what's for dinner? (And to be frank, what's for breakfast and lunch and snack...?)

Merging two lives into one is complicated for a whole host of reasons. There's different schedules, different habits, and of course different food likes and dislikes.

When I first got married, I routinely served my husband anything and everything made with ground turkey. He ate it with gusto, until one day he broke the news. He hates anything made with ground turkey! How was I supposed to know?! We had "the conversation" and slowly started working on meal planning together.

Ten years later, I'm prepping and cooking three meals a day. It's gotten to be second nature, but the daily grind never ends. (Hello, I buy k-cups in bulk for a reason!)

I figured out a list of tips and

tricks for the Shana Rishona (first year) crowd and beyond. Some may apply, some may not, but I recommend filing away all the tips and tricks for later. Because you never know when Mr Ground Turkey becomes Mr Never Ground Turkey

LIFE HACK #1: TALK IT OUT

Remember that first date where he said he'll never eat salmon? Discuss it now. Talk about your likes and dislikes for meals. Maybe you don't

eat carbs for supper, maybe lunch isn't complete without a sandwich. Allergies, must haves, food aversions, meal requirements - hash it out and write it down. Tape it to the fridge along with a master shopping list. Whenever you're close to out of a favorite item, write it down. No one likes to wake up to no milk for their coffee.

LIFE HACK #2: DO THE SPLIT

Family packs of beef, chicken, fish, and sometimes vegetables are cheaper than a single piece. But two people don't need four pounds of ground beef. Shop smart, split smart, and both of you (and your wallet) will be happy. The freezer and strong zip top bags are your friends here. Portion exactly what you need for each meal into a bag and label it with the contents and the date. Use a straw to suck out the air. Ground beef/turkey/chicken is easy to work with- prep your meals and freeze them so they're ready to go. Make Korean Beef Bowls tonight, prep





some meatballs, burgers, and kabobs for the freezer. When the dinner bell is an hour away, the meal is prepped and ready in your freezer. No last minute “omg, I forgot to defrost the hunk of meat!”

LIFE HACK #3: STAY OUT OF THE WAREHOUSE

Who doesn't need 25 pounds of rice, 10 boxes of pasta, and a lifetime supply of toilet paper? Oh wait, you don't. When shopping for two, keep in mind you're only two! If it looks like enough to last a family of eight for six months, you don't need it. Variation is key and so is storage space. A small home doesn't have space for enormous quantities of food and no one wants to sit down to the same thing over and over. (Unless you're like that, and feel free to laugh and skip this section!)

When making your shopping list, keep in mind staples that typically go on sale in regular supermarkets. Pasta, grains, canned goods, eggs, dairy, cereal, and paper products go on sale often.

If you live in an area where kosher meat is hard to come by, stock up smartly. Buy the meats and poultry you eat the most, not what's on special. If you don't like it, don't buy it, because you won't cook it. (Hello, large warehouse size box of chicken nuggets gathering freezer burn.)



The internet is your friend. Amazon, Walmart, and Target all have user-friendly websites to order your staples. There's no need to be home, since there's no perishables being delivered.

LIFE HACK #4: MEAL PREP THE RIGHT WAY

You get home at 7, drop your keys on the table and grumble about cooking. One who plans smart, eats smart. Make Sunday your game day. Buy your perishables and prep them. Separate your proteins and freeze what's not needed right away. Wash your lettuce for the week and wrap in paper towels. They key to meal planning: using what you have in the most timely matter. Make a list of your “meal hopefuls” and compile them in the order of most to least perishable. So shop Sunday, cook the fish on Monday, beef on Tuesday, chicken on Wednesday, and use pantry items or frozen protein on Thursday. Follow the same logic with fruits and vegetables. Use the most perishable first, saving the heartier stock for later in the week.

When shopping and prepping, keep in mind what you're both eating for lunches. Takeout or restaurants are quick for lunch, but not so much on the wallet or waistline. Prep and chop greens for salads, cook grains for bowls, grill or bake some extra proteins. Like mom always said, pack your lunch from the night before!

LIFE HACK #5: OUTSOURCE IT!

Love zoodles, don't love the spiralized mess? Let the store do it for you. Crying non stop from chopping onions? Buy them pre chopped and frozen. Terrified of hacking up a mango? Pre cut is your friend. Touching raw meat creeps you out? Sliders and burgers come pre-formed for convenience.

Make a list of the foods and ingredients you want to eat but are nervous to prep. Start small and buy them, and slowly work up to prepping them yourself.

And keep it a secret between us- I won't tell anyone if you buy frozen garlic and basil cubes!

If you have a crockpot, let it do some of the work. It's great for full meals, soups, and stews, but no one wants to eat something resembling chulent every night. Use it to cook components of your meal- like beets!

LIFE HACK #6: KISS! (KEEP IT SIMPLE, SILLY!)

The recipes on the next page are simple, quick and easily adaptable. Scale up or down depending on how hungry you are and what you need for lunch and future meals. ♦

Sylvia Fallas is a Brooklyn-based cooking instructor & recipe developer.

Her focus is real, healthy, and simple food. Many home cooks are flustered when it comes to meal prep and shopping. Sylvia's goal is to teach inventive and simple recipes while having a great time!

Contact: Sylvia.fallas@gmail.com

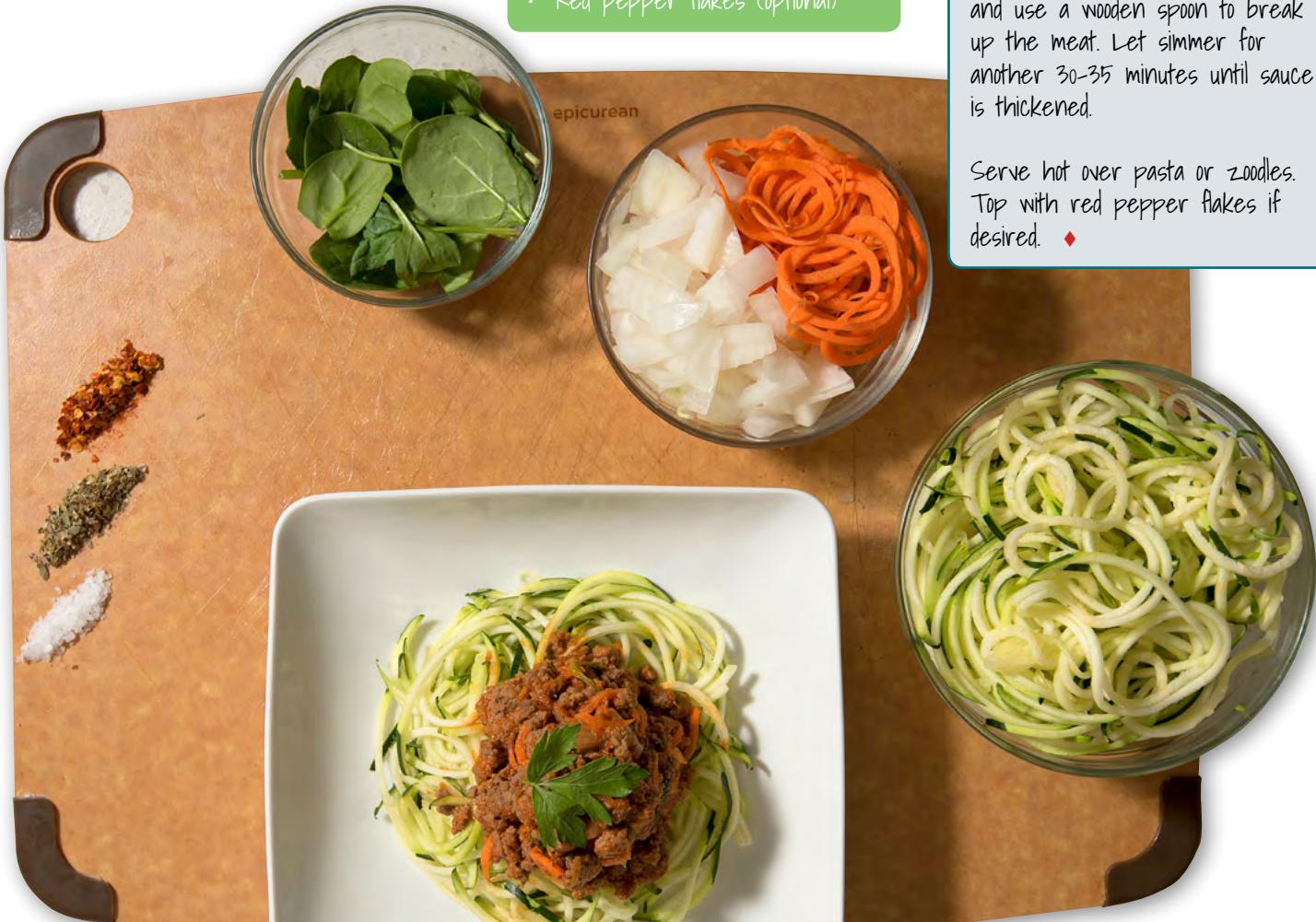
Portfolio: [@sylviafallas
Cookingformypeople.com](http://sylviafallasCookingformypeople.com)



Zoodles & Turkey Bolognese

This is super adaptable - use chicken, turkey, or ground beef. Add mushrooms if you like them, subtract carrots if you don't. For the veggie averse, use a food processor to purée the vegetables before cooking. Plus, no stirring means downtime for the chef! Leftover sauce can be frozen for another meal. (Just remember to label the container, no one wants mystery sauce)

- 1 lb ground poultry or beef
- 2 carrots
- 2 celery stalks
- 1 onion
- 4 cloves garlic
- Pinch of salt and pepper
- Red pepper flakes to taste
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 1 tsp dried thyme
- 1 tsp dried basil
- 15oz can crushed tomatoes
- 8oz water
- 2 TB tomato paste
- Red pepper flakes (optional)



Zoodles (zucchini noodles) or cooked pasta for serving.

In a pot, stir together the tomato paste, crushed tomatoes, water, salt, pepper, oregano, thyme, and basil.

Peel carrots, celery, and onion. Finely dice into 1/4" pieces. Peel garlic and mince. Alternatively, process in a food processor until desired texture. Add to pot with tomato mixture and stir to combine.

Add in poultry or beef to the pot in one large piece. Don't break it up or it'll dry out! Turn flame to medium and bring to a simmer. Let the sauce simmer covered for about 30 minutes. Uncover the pot and use a wooden spoon to break up the meat. Let simmer for another 30-35 minutes until sauce is thickened.

Serve hot over pasta or zoodles. Top with red pepper flakes if desired. ♦

N'EEMAS HACHAIM HALL

THE STATE-OF-THE-ART CATERING HALL FEATURING THE WORLD CLASS CUISINE OF



Book Your Event Today!

- ❖ PERSONALIZED MENU OPTIONS
- ❖ SEPARATE SPACIOUS CHUPA ROOM
- ❖ OVER-SIZED DANCE FLOOR
- ❖ EXPANSIVE PARKING LOT
- ❖ STATE OF THE ART A/V & LIGHTING SYSTEM
- ❖ CAPACITY: WEDDING - 750 DINNER - 1,000

To reserve your event call:

732-719-5600 *or email:* cbmslakewood@gmail.com

Visit our website at cateringbymichaelschick.com. LOCATED LAKEWOOD, NJ AT BAIS TOVA

The Perfect Shidduch!

By Rabbi YY RUBINSTEIN

If a couple enters into a relationship committed to make it work, it almost always will. If they are committed to each other, they will seek solutions and help if problems arise that threaten to overwhelm them.

One of my Roshei Yeshiva once told me, "If you are not nervous before you speak, you shouldn't be speaking! You should realize that something you may say might make a difference to the lives of the people listening to you. If that doesn't make you nervous, don't speak." Personally I have never had the slightest problem doing what my Rosh yeshiva advised.

My wife and I were recently in a certain American city where I was the Scholar in residence at a Shul. The first talk was scheduled for Friday night after an enjoyable meal that was catered in the Synagogue hall.

My wife long ago learned to spot the signs when, as she puts it, I am "In the zone". People ask me questions and tell me stories but until I get up, deliver my speech and return to where my untouched meal has now gone stone-cold or been whisked away by a zealous waiter, I don't really hear what they are saying.

We were sitting at a table with several families but I made a poor companion. As usual I was getting increasingly nervous. I had neither appetite for food nor conversation. I was too busy going over in my mind what I was about to say, changing and adding bits or toying with the idea of scrapping the entire talk and starting afresh.

"We are looking for a Shidduch for our daughter!" A lady who was visiting from New York had leant across to confide in

my wife and I. "You travel around a lot and meet lots of people Rabbi. Perhaps you could keep an eye open?"



We believe that couples...that is, ALL couples, grow together, as does their affection and love. They overcome difficulties and challenges and that very process is in part what strengthens their bond.

The Mom nodded towards her daughter who seemed very sweet and was busy helping a younger brother's struggle to cut a piece of steak. My wife knew my mind was elsewhere and explained to the Mom that if she e-mailed us her daughter's Shidduch resume we would try to help.

The resume arrived an hour after Shabbos.

Although replete with details about schools she had attended and her academic achievements, it failed to say

what she was looking for in a young man. As I was no longer "In the zone", I was able to give this my full attention. I decided to call the mother to get the missing and crucial information.

Now for those reading this who have ever been involved in trying to make a Shidduch, you will be aware that I had just made a enormous mistake. I should of course spoken to the young lady herself to ask, not her Mother. Maybe I was still more "In the Zone" than I thought.

Basically the mother is looking for a boy who is ...

Intelligent, because she is VERY intelligent.

Handsome, as she is v-e-r-y pretty.

Wants to learn for the first two years BUT must NOT be narrow and uninterested in the world at large.

The boy must want a career and a good paying job (Banker, Surgeon, Warren Buffet successor, Inventor of the cure for Cancer etc.)

He must have a sense of humor because she is soooo funny.

Must learn Torah in the mornings while working in the afternoons and then learn again in the evenings.

I became aware that my eyes had gone very round.

Then I asked, "Ok...now tell me, where would she like to settle?"

Mrs Cohen came straight back at me... "Oh! I don't think she minds where it is. She'll be happy to move anywhere... but... not outside New York." (Please note the mindset of the average New Yorker. "Anywhere" defines a place inside New York. "Nowhere" defines any place outside New York.)

Mrs Cohen is looking for the perfect Choson for her daughter. As they say in New York, "Good luck with that!"

My favorite commentator, the Alshich HaKodesh, notes that when HaShem is angry with the Jewish people He recalls when we were the Kallah and He the Choson... (Yerimiyahu 2:2) "Zocharti Loch Chesed Nuoriaich... Ahavas Kallahosaiyich."

He says. "It is the way of a "new love" an "Ahavah Chadashah" that wherever the Chosson is going, the Kallah is going too!"

I saw this many times when I taught in seminary in Manchester. A girl becomes a Kallah and returns from London. Her friends have been preparing. The Seminary is covered with balloons and banners. The Taxi arrives and the girls stream out and dance the girl into the building. The dancing continues until everyone is exhausted. Then the questions begin.

Q: "Where is the Chosson from"?

A: "London"!

Then,

Q: "Where is he learning"?

A: "Ponovezh!"

This answer causes every head to nod in approval.

Q: "And after the Chassunah"?

A: "Kollel!"

More nods of approval.

Q: "Which Kollel?"

The Kallah beams her brightest smile...

A: "Moscow!"

Q: "Moscow???"

The girls look at each other in horror and disbelief but the Kallah is totally oblivious. If her Choson is going to learn in Moscow, she's going too!

The Alshich continues. "After a few years of marriage, the Kallah is not quite as compliant and starry-eyed.

"You have a job offer where? Baltimore? Balt... Baltimore!! Have you any idea how far away that is from Flatbush?"

My oldest daughter was in Seminary in Yerushalayim when the first Shidduch was suggested. The boy was from Gateshead and was at the time learning in the Mir. I suspected that he would probably not have a career as a Banker, Surgeon, or Warren Buffet's successor.

I made inquiries and discovered the boy's father and I had been Chavrosos together in Gateshead.

They met and after the third meeting called me to say they were getting engaged. It had gone quite a bit quicker than I had imagined. I was a little in shock. I should not have been.

Both came from very similar backgrounds. Both fathers were Rabbonim, both were in Chinnuch, both had not much money. Our children equally wanted a Torah life. With so much in common before they met, all that remained was them to be attracted to each other and be compatible.

My second daughter promised me she would not subject me to another

shock like that one and get engaged after only three meetings. She met her Chosson six times over three days, then got engaged. Another Gateshead boy, his father and I used to teach together in Gateshead. I imagine my second son in law too will probably not achieve fame in the world of international finance or discover the cure for cancer.

But it is only in the world of non-Jewish fairy tales that the Prince sees the Princess, "falls in love" (whatever that means) and lives happily ever after.

We believe that couples...that is, ALL couples, grow together, as does their affection and love. They overcome difficulties and challenges and that very process is in part what strengthens their bond.

There is one word that is essential for this to take place; commitment.

If a couple enters into a relationship committed to make it work, it almost always will. If they are committed to

each other, they will seek solutions and help if problems arise that threaten to overwhelm them. If they are committed to their marriage, they will understand that the perfect Choson or Kallah is not something you find but something you create together.

I recall another Gateshead Jew and one of my dearest friends when he was dealing with his first child's Shidduch. He told me one of the questions he and his wife asked the Shaddchan about the girl's parents was, "Are they still idealistic?"

I thought that question was both intriguing and wise. He wanted to know if the potential Mechutonim recalled and remained attached to the perspective they had when they possessed an "Ahavah Chadashah". They wanted to know if the other parents remembered or had forgotten that the perfect Choson or Kallah is not something you find... but something you create together. ♦

Music By

Yossi
GREENZWEIG



Yossi Greenzweig | 732-580-1018 | yossigreenzweig@gmail.com

Not every **ARTIST** uses paper & paint.



Chana Ruchy Rosenberg
Certified Makeup Artist

Email: makeupbycrose@gmail.com | IG: [@makeupbycrose](https://www.instagram.com/makeupbycrose)

Let There Be Light!

By Sandy **ELLER**

You can totally change the vibe of the room just by changing the light. Flowers and decor make a room look good, but lighting gives it that special feel.

You've been waiting to host this simcha for years and now that the big day is almost here, you run through that mental checklist in your head, making sure that every detail of your event is taken care of so that it will look truly and totally amazing.

Flowers? Check.
Tablecloths? Check.
Chair covers? Check.
Lighting?
Lighting??

Believe it or not, having the right kind of lighting can make all the difference in the world when it comes to giving your event a truly elegant look. Lighting today isn't just about how dim or bright the lights are during different parts of your simcha. It is about using color and design to totally transform the dynamic of the room, to make the music come alive and to take your simcha to the next level, turning your party into an event with a capital "e."

"Lighting changes the mood of the room," explained Mendy Boaron of Master Lighting Productions. "You can totally change the vibe of the room just by changing the light. Flowers and de-

cor make a room look good, but lighting gives it that special feel."

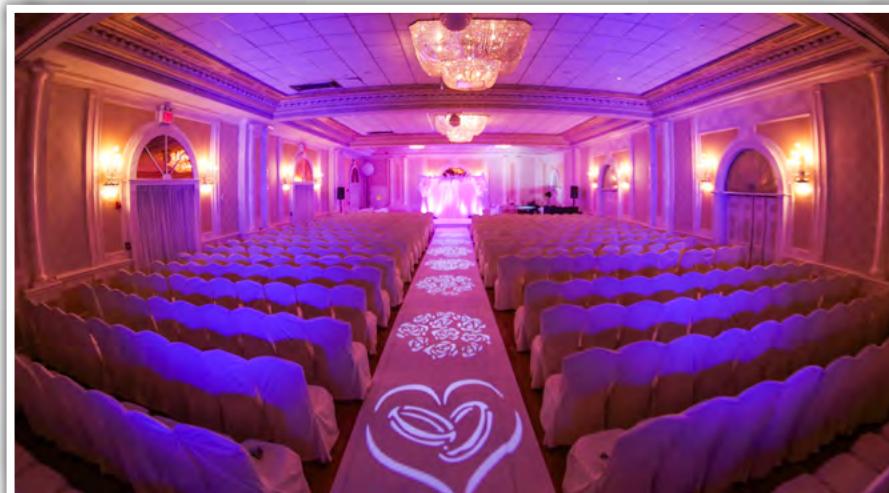
Boaron has been working in the lighting industry for the past eight years and is one of the few Jewish lighting designers in the business. He has done lightings for weddings and bar mitzvahs all over the world, as well as at massive concerts starring Yaakov Shwekey, Gad Elbaz and Avraham Fried, and counts well known personalities like billionaire Sheldon Adelson and Ivanka Trump among his clients.

In recent years, Boaron has seen lighting become a crucial part of weddings and other parties, with uplights, small colored lights placed around the edges of the floor to wash the room in a particular hue, one of the simplest ways

of adding an upscale touch to a party. With beams of light ranging from soft glows to dramatic splashes of vivid tones, color can transform a space and bring it to life.

"Uplights change the entire ambient color of the room, turning the room to whatever color or feel you want," explained Boaron.

There is no one particular color that is a customer favorite, observed Boaron, though he acknowledged that he gets many requests for both blue and amber lighting, with peach starting to creep its way into the mix as well. While it is well known that colors have different psychological properties, Boaron has found that most of his customers choose uplighting to complement their decor, such as centerpieces or tablecloths.





"Amber goes well with gold, pink goes with pinkier flowers and peach goes well with white or the lighter reds," explained Boaron.

And blue? Boaron finds it to be a popular choice that matches with just about everything.

Differences between warmer and cooler colors can transform a space in entirely different ways, but no matter what color you choose, uplighting is a great way to create impact. Of course, when choosing to fill your room with a particular hue, you need to be careful about how you use that light.

"You may want to have blue lighting but if you deliberately choose all white flowers, you don't want them to look blue because of the lights," explained Boaron. "And you certainly don't want the light making your chicken and your other food look blue."

The answer to that problem is a simple one: using pin spots, small lighting units attached to the ceiling, whose narrow beams of light can highlight specific items such as the aforementioned flowers or chicken, to make sure that they stay their natural color. Pin spots are also a great way to draw attention to particular item in the room, such as a decorative display or a wedding cake.

More than just a way to change the ambient hue of a room, lighting can also be used to add eye catching design elements to a room. A gobo, which is an acronym for "Goes Before Optics," is a stencil that can be slid over a light source to create a design, and can be used to project stunning decorations on floors, walls, chuppah runners or even a mechitzah, creating breathtaking, personalized designs. Used for

monograms, wording and interesting patterns or shapes, gobos have become extremely popular, adding a custom touch to a room that will be long remembered.

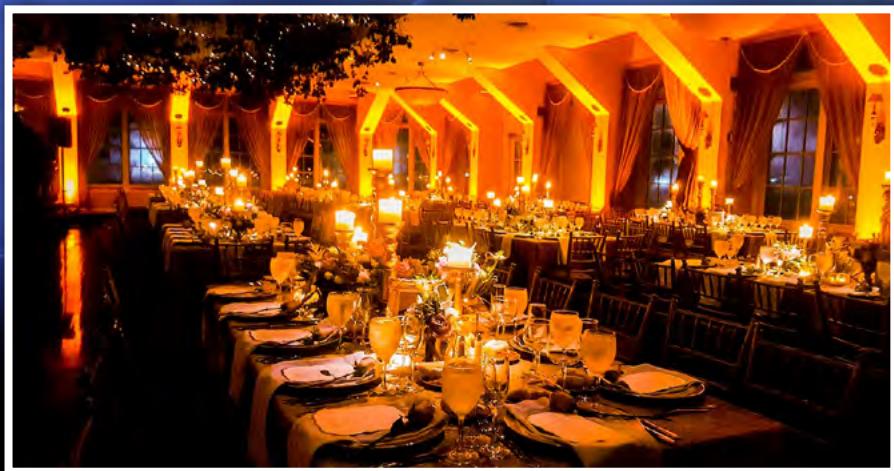
While lighting can be used to create a feel of elegance and serenity, it can also be used to pump up the simcha vibe in a very big way. By having an on-site lighting technician, lighting can be synchronized to the beat of the music, giving guests the opportunity to both feel and see the music in addition to just hearing it. Enhancing the music with lighting creates a magical effect, observed Boaron, getting guests out of their seats and onto the dance floor, giving their all as they celebrate with their hosts, not because of a social obligation, but because they are experiencing the music deep inside their souls.

Other creative ways to use lighting to enhance a simcha include creating a large video wall behind the bandstand, which can display a full array of custom

content, including song lyrics, pictures, video montages and just about anything else you can think of. Video dance floors, which can flash similar content beneath guests' feet, are also making their way onto the Jewish simcha scene and are yet another way to boost the excitement level and add tremendous energy to the room.

Because there are so many different options available in lighting, it is difficult to give a general estimate on how much it costs to add lighting to your simcha without knowing the particulars, including lighting choices and the size and location of the venue. Boaron said that uplights and pin spots typically cost approximately \$600 to \$1500, while custom work including gobos, moving lights, video walls and dance floors can start at about \$2,500. Lighting designers often offer package deals that can bring the price down, and it goes without saying that as with any other vendor, you want to choose someone based on the quality of their work and not just the price they are offering.

Slowly but surely, lighting has become a unique way to transform a simcha, setting the stage for the many emotions that are part of a milestone event. With results that can range from breathtaking to electric to spectacular in a matter of moments, adding lighting to your simcha is a truly bright idea that is finally getting its well deserved moment in the spotlight. ♦



Sandy Eller is a freelance writer who writes for numerous websites, newspapers, magazines and many private clients. She can be contacted at sandyeller1@gmail.com.

Steven Kazan Present Preimier Catering



- ♦ BAR & BAT MITZVAHS
- ♦ BRISIM
- ♦ WEDDINGS
- ♦ ENGAGMENT PARTIES

- ♦ HOUSE PARTIES
- ♦ HOTEL FUNCTIONS
- ♦ SCHOOL EVENT

Steven Kazan
President

646.423.1169 email: kingofdeli@gmail.com

GLATT KOSHER / CHALAV YISRAEL

A Good Wife

Gutman **LOCKS**

Marriage in Judaism is an act of holiness. Hashem desires for us to build families, homes, and generations. Not only is it His dream for us to create them, but He wants us to maintain and encourage a holy life as well.

A good wife who can find?

[i] King Solomon, the wisest man in the world, wrote these words in hopes of finding the perfect wife..[ii] Although he had 1,000 wives, he was yet to find one that met his standards. This shows just how precious a good wife is, and quite often, how difficult it can be to find her.

There are many factors that affect how you should go about looking for someone to share your life with. A lot depends on your background and where you are holding in terms of Torah observance.. For instance, if you are a young man raised in a Charedi family then all you have to do is to listen to your mother. She will tell you what is best for you.

A while back, a young Charedi boy came up to me at the Kotel and said, "Mazal Tov."

Before I could reply, he told me that he had just gotten engaged..

"How long were you with her," I asked him.

"Quite a while... Around 45 minutes."

"Let me ask you a question... If you've never seen this girl before... If you've only gotten to know her for only 45 minutes.... And if you won't see or talk to her again until the wedding.... How



Here are a few tips on where or how to search:

- 1) Do not make up your mind after just one date. While someone raised in a Charedi family can rely on his family deciding which girl he should marry, those of us who live in the more modern world should meet with the girl a number of times to see if she is someone we want to spend our lives with. Although some have the custom of only dating once or twice, most people need time to decide.
- 2) Do not expect sparks and lightning. Love is built by doing kind deeds for each other. The lust that we experience that comes instantly can also fade instantly.
- 3) Do not put pressure on your date by asking complex and multi-faceted questions. The general rule, at least in conversations is,

do you know she's the right girl for you?"

He looked at me with total amazement. "What's the question? My mother introduced us. No one loves me more than my mother."

This is great for the Charedi young man... But not all of us can be as fortunate... What can we do?

I asked an older Charedi man what the groom and bride do right in the yichud room, as they are alone for the first time.

"First he asks Hashem to bless her, and then she asks Hashem to bless him," he said.

What a beautiful way to begin a life together. If you marry someone who prays for you, he or she will be on your side for life.

The Talmud tells us if you need something and you see that others need it too, pray for them as Hashem will give you what you need faster.

it is better to be kind than to be right. The vast majority of arguments come because of things that are not even important.

- 4) See if you share the same goals in life. Would you be happy with the lifestyle that he or she envisions?
- 5) Are you of the same religious level? For instance, are your standards compatible?
- 6) Do not expect a Torah-learning partner. A partner's job is to be kind and loving as well as to be a good friend.
- 7) Would your families get along?
- 8) Do not be discouraged.
- 9) Live a joyful and productive life and you will become radiant which will increase your chances of making a family.
- 10) Actively seek potential dates. Go to matchmakers. Introduce

yourself to the rabbis' wives and let them see the better side of you. Visit different communities for Shabbos.

- 11) If you meet someone on a date and you feel that he or she is not for you, do not despair. See if that person might be good for a friend of yours and introduce them. Your kindness will certainly be repaid as Hashem gives to each of us according to our deeds.
- 12) Each day put a coin in a charity box and ask Hashem to send you your match with haste and with clarity.
- 13) When a Jewish woman lights Shabbos candle(s), it is a time of favor. After the blessing, ask Hashem to bless your intended spouse with a good Shabbos and to have him come to you as soon as you are ready.



A Jewish marriage is an act of holiness as it is Hashem's wish for us to and build our families. His wish is not only to create those families, though, but to maintain a holy life. Thus, we are obligated to elevate all of our acts to fulfill their spiritual purposes. Therefore, it is our custom for the groom to promise his bride, "You are betrothed unto me." Just as Hebrew word "betrothed"

means sanctified, the bride and groom come together in purity and holiness under the chuppah in order to make a Jewish family.

May Hashem bless you to fulfill his wishes. ♦

[i] Proverbs 31:10

[ii] I Kings 11:3



RAZAG

BALLROOM





L . L A I N E

J E W E L E R S



LEVI LAINE

415 KINGSTON AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK
WWW.LLAINEJEWELERS.COM
LEVI@LLAINEJEWELERS.COM
C 718.483.9427
F 718.483.9428

Shidduch Profiles



Psych-Jew

Shadchan Name/Number: **Bashi Levilev**
347-417-1835

Age of Person Seeking Shidduch: **33**

Current Religious Level: **Chabad**

Status: **Divorced**

Current Location: **Brooklyn**

Will They Relocate: **Maybe**

I'm an outgoing, good-natured, sociable, productive & responsible Chassidish guy. I'm health conscious in my eating habits and activities. I like to learn, and I like exercising, especially outdoors. I have a good sense of humor.



Mrs.

Shadchan Name/Number: **Adele Adjmi**
(917) 208-9995

Age of Person Seeking Shidduch: **22-32**

Current Religious Level: **Modern**

Status: **Never Married**

Current Location: **Brooklyn**

Will They Relocate: **Yes**

Very adventurous, outspoken, leader, open minded, supportive, loving, caring. I want to start a family.



136

Shadchan Name/Number:
furst568@gmail.com

Age of Person Seeking Shidduch: **23**

Current Religious Level: **Chabad**

Status: **Never Married**

Current Location: **Toronto**

Will They Relocate: **Maybe**

FFB Lubavitch girl, went to seminary and college, has dry humor and is very practical. ISO educated and sociable bochur (22-29) who is solidly grounded but committed to yiddishkeit (OK with books, but davens with a minyan, etc).



Soochy

Shadchan Name/Number:
Yankeesrule07@gmail.com

Age of Person Seeking Shidduch: **27**

Current Religious Level: **Chabad, Modern chabad**

Status: **Never Married**

Current Location: **Crown heights**

Will They Relocate: **Willing to relocate**

Modern charade girl with strong family values. Good sense of humor and fun, yet serious minded. Love writing, running, and cooking.



Na

Shadchan Name/Number:
Jrm7@case.edu

Age of Person Seeking Shidduch: **39**

Current Religious Level: **Chassidish**

Status: **Never Married**

Current Location: **Brooklyn**

Will They Relocate:

Software architect



Chassidishe Meidel

Shadchan Name/Number: **Rabbi Yonah Avtzon 1 (917) 868-6509**
yonahavtzon@gmail.com

Age of Person Seeking Shidduch: **29**

Current Religious Level: **Chabad**

Status: **Never Married**

Current Location: **Bal Harbour, FL**

Will They Relocate: **Yes**

Kallah Meidel, 29, 5'8", FFB/FFB. A warm, kind, caring, thoughtful, intelligent, refined young lady who is mekushar to the Rebbe, chassidishe, and tzniyusdik. She is a tall, slim, beautiful, capable, hard-working, and ambitious girl with a deep personality and always besimcha from a very nice family. She is interested in going on Shlichus. No TV, movies, secular books, or music.

Looking for a bochur who is interested in going on Shlichus, from an FFB family, 24-34 year old, mekushar to the Rebbe, chassidishe, and an excellent learner. She would like someone who is good-hearted, intelligent, tall/slim, put-together, as well as clean, organized, refined, a leader, capable, hard-working, ambitious, and family-minded. No TV, movies, secular books, or music.



Rimonim

Shadchan Name/Number: **Ginette Sultan Dekelbaum/ ginettesul@aol.com**

Age of Person Seeking Shidduch: **53**

Current Religious Level: **Traditional, sephardic**

Status: **Never Married**

Current Location: **Bal Harbor, FL**

Will They Relocate: **Maybe**

53 years old young Jewish woman, never married who lived in Miami Beach since 1988. She developed professionally for many years and became a photographer, teacher, computer operator and artist. She is originally from Panama from a sephardic family.



Estie123

Shadchan Name/Number: **Elana Bergovoy**
773-984-7299

Age of Person Seeking Shidduch: **57**

Current Religious Level: **Modern Chabad**

Status: **Spouse passed away**

Current Location: **Oak Park, Michigan**

Will They Relocate: **Maybe**

High energy - a doer, extremely full life. I have been told I have two speeds-high and higher. I am a hybrid Jewish woman - comfortable with Young Israel and Chabad. I volunteer at hospitals, the jail, and enjoy, healthy food, cooking/eating, and healthy living, i.e, regular exercise and hobbies.

I am currently working on my PhD in the College of Education and a Professor of English and Communication. I am not a brainiac or brilliant intellectual as I began my college learning at age 44 and really enjoy social science research. My first career was 30 years as the "yellow pages" sales lady. I retired at age 50 in 2010.



Pop

Shadchan Name/Number: **Chaya/chaya@manymajors.com**

Age of Person Seeking Shidduch: **20**

Current Religious Level: **Yeshivish**

Status: **Never Married**

Current Location: **Brooklyn**

Will They Relocate: **Will relocate in two years**

I am currently in graduate school in OT. In my free time I enjoy hiking, playing games and laughing with my friends. I would like to marry a boy who would like to learn as long as possible.



Rivkie Kievman

Shadchan Name/Number: **Chani Vogel**
(347) 733-8383

Age of Person Seeking Shidduch: **40**
Current Religious Level: **Chabad**
Status: **Divorced with Children**
Current Location: **Crown Heights NY**
Will They Relocate: **No relocation**

I am a sensitive, loving individual, who values trust, friendship and honesty. I believe in kindness, generosity, helping and respecting others. I'm neat and hardworking yet can have a good time. I have a great sense of humor, style and wit.



choirmommy

Shadchan Name/Number:
janda@gmail.com
Age of Person Seeking Shidduch: **late 40's - early 50's**
Current Religious Level: **Modern, Yeshivish**
Status: **Divorced with Children**
Current Location: **Queens, NY**
Will They Relocate: **No relocating**

Outgoing mother of 4 (oldest is married). 27-son; 21 - son; 19 - daughter; 17-son. Grew up only child in a European Heimische/Young Israel household on the North Shore of Long Island. Love going out with friends. I have a very close connection to Hshem & believes He loves me very much & only gives me what I can handle. I dress tznius & still wear a sheitl because I want to. Looking for someone who is serious about their frumkeit but not fanatical, davens 3x in shul, learns daily, has a Rav in his life. Must love to have shabbos guests & always have music in the house. All my kids are musical & sing. Will lovingly welcome his children & grandchildren into my life and will treat them as my own.



Shlomo

Shadchan Name/Number:
doubeer@gmail.com
Age of Person Seeking Shidduch: **26**
Current Religious Level: **Chabad**
Status: **Never Married**
Current Location: **Paris**
Will They Relocate: **Possible to relocate**

I am a BT for more than 5 years, I live actually in Paris. I studied economics and financial markets for more than 5 years after my Bac (A-Level) after what I spent 8 months in Yeshiva Loubavitch Brunoy. I actually work in wealth management and I

am involved simultaneously in mivtsaim. I give chassidus course.

People used to describe me as funny person, spiritual and easygoing.



Snap

Shadchan Name/Number: **Chaya/chaya@manymajors.com**

Age of Person Seeking Shidduch: **20**
Current Religious Level: **Yeshivish out of town**

Status: **Never Married**

Current Location:

Will They Relocate: **Will Relocate**

I am a family oriented person. I enjoy photography, graphics and the outdoors. I am seeking a man who would like to learn for two years (+ -) and then go to work.



Mi Yodeah

Shadchan Name/Number: **Mati Labkowski / 7862299547, matilab53@yahoo.com**

Age of Person Seeking Shidduch: **39**
Current Religious Level: **Traditional, Ashkenazi & Sefardic**

Status: **Divorced**

Current Location: **Miami, FL**

Will They Relocate: **Absolutely**

Born in France moved here 15 years ago, I speak French, English, Hebrew, and Spanish. Artist, woman of science, creative thinker with McGyver abilities who loves to joke and analyze everything; my modesty doesn't fare well with this description :)



Crackle

Shadchan Name/Number: **Chaya/chaya@manymajors.com**

Age of Person Seeking Shidduch: **20**
Current Religious Level: **Yeshivish out of town**

Status: **Never Married**

Current Location:

Will They Relocate: **Will Relocate**

I love to laugh. I love children. I enjoy reading and cooking. I am seeking a man who is currently working or has a plan. He also should have an enormous sense of humor.



Brachot

Shadchan Name/Number: **Chaya Sara Gurewiecz (773) 682-2756**

Age of Person Seeking Shidduch: **52**
Current Religious Level: **Traditional**

Status: **Divorced with Children**

Current Location: **Chicago**

Will They Relocate: **Depends**

52 and very young looking and acting with 3 teenage boys. In software sales and also teaches yoga to Jewish women and couples. Regularly learn Torah and Tanya. Enjoy hiking in the woods, camping, watching movies, and being active.



CAPTURING THE MAGIC OF YOUR EVERY WEDDING MOMENT



347.201.0613

www.CJStudios.info

@CJStudiosphotos

Make your Bar Mitzvah, Sheva Brachos, Kumzits, camp, event...
UNFORGETTABLE!

THE WEINREB BROTHERS BAND

TheWeinrebBrothers@gmail.com

347 309 2567

Mention this ad and receive \$400 off

Now Available
for Weddings

STUDIOS

www.HershRosner.com

718 - 438 - 1668/7171

1030-46 st Brooklyn, NY 11219

Photography • Video • Projection



CAPTURING THE MAGIC OF YOUR EVERY WEDDING MOMENT



LEASE

BUY

TRUST

PRICES AT LEASING DIRECT ARE EXACTLY AS THEY APPEAR

We quote you the real cost of your
lease from the get-go.

WHAT
YOU SEE IS
WHAT YOU
PAY.

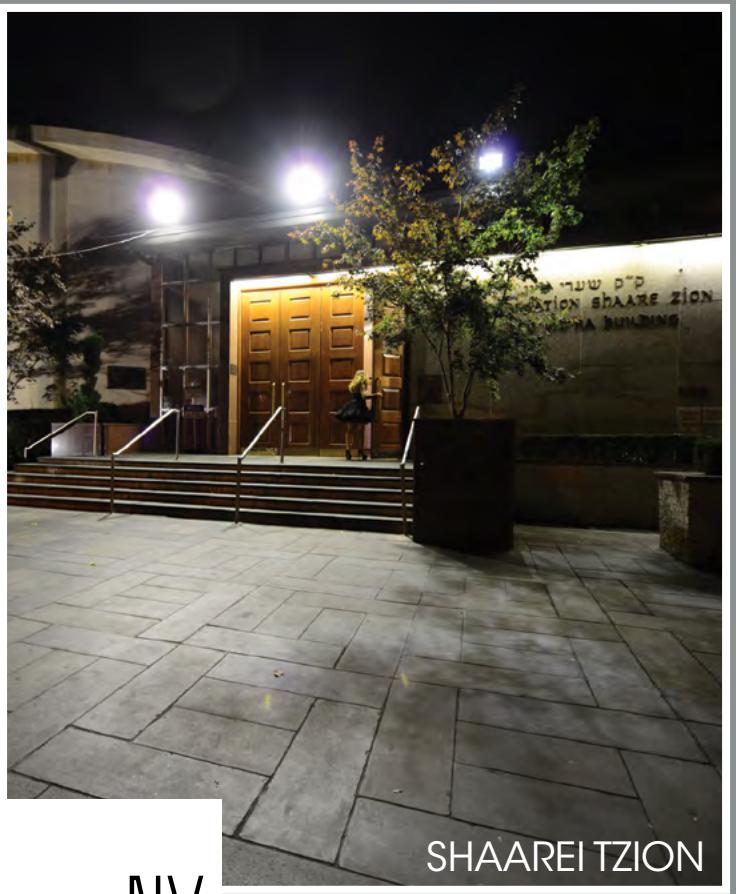


No hidden fees. No return penalties.
No nonsense.

MOST COMPETITIVE RATES	NO-PRESSURE SALES TEAM
WIDE SELECTION OF CARS	FREE DELIVERY IN METRO NY



BETH TORAH

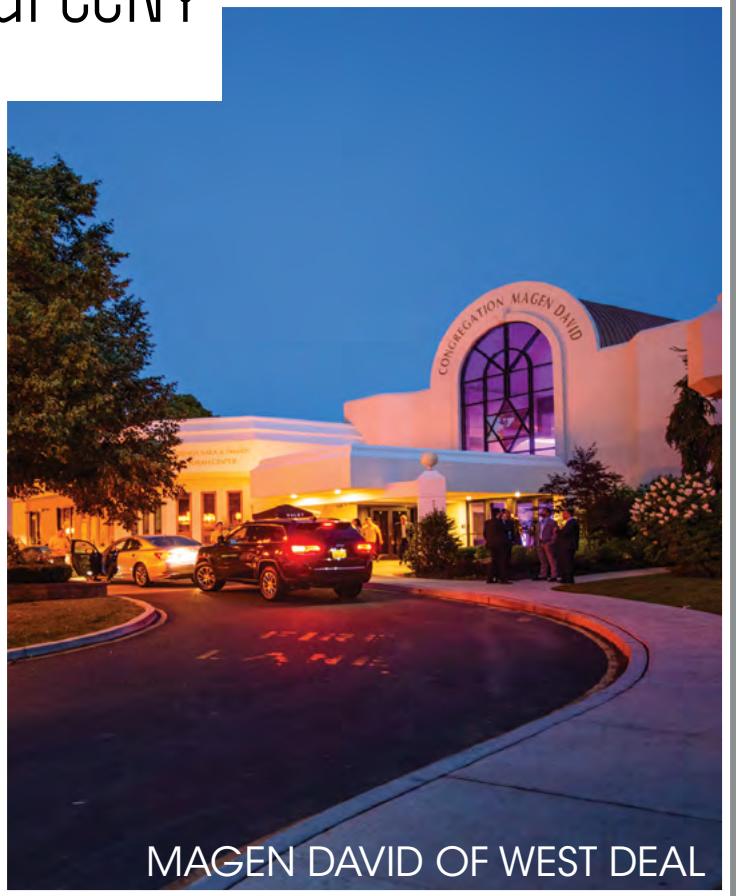


SHAAREI TZION

EventSourceNY



MANHATTAN BEACH JEWISH CENTER



MAGEN DAVID OF WEST DEAL

WHERE ELEGANCE AND STYLE MEET **718.975.4880**