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Alma Matters Number I

Touro College School of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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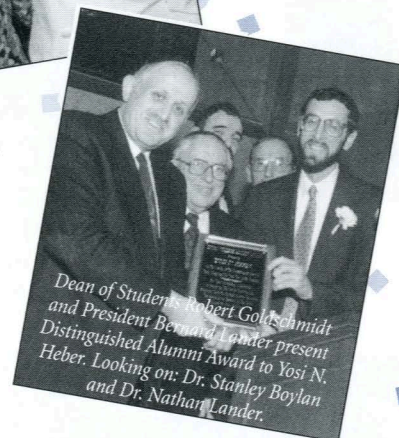
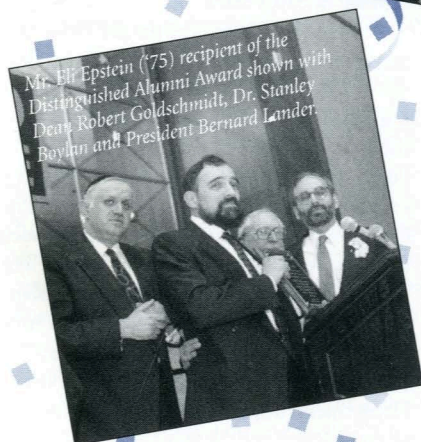
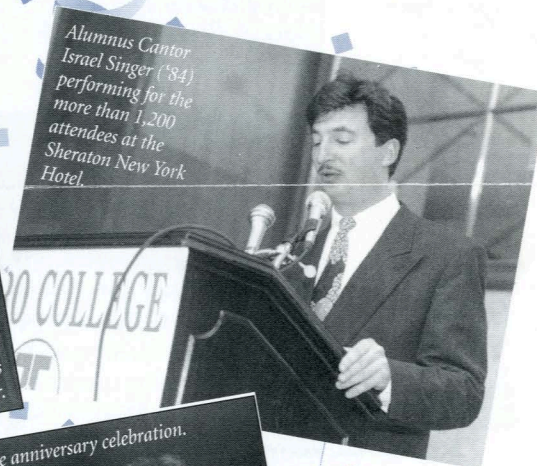
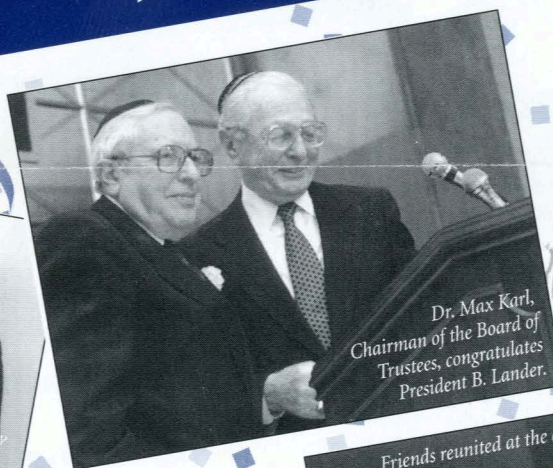
ALMA MATTERS



NUMBER I / JANUARY 1994

Touro at Twentysomething!

AN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



'Each College a Jewel in its Own Right...'



Dr. Bernard Lander
Founder/President

I recently had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Lander at his Empire State Building Office to discuss Touro College--its past, present and future. Touro College was founded by Dr. Lander in 1970 and chartered in 1971, the year the college was opened. In 1974, the Women's Division opened; in 1977 the Flatbush Programs began. In the twenty-two years since its modest beginning, Touro has grown by leaps and bounds. Touro has blossomed into many schools and divisions in various locations serving a multitude of populations. They include the School of General Studies, the Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, the Barry Z. Levine School of Health Sciences, the Graduate School of Jewish Studies, the New Americans Division, the International School of Business and Management, the School for Lifelong Education, the School of Professional Programs, the Moscow branch campus and the Israel Center. This growth, in a short span of time, is an enormous accomplishment.

This year, Touro moved its Women's Division campus to a completely refurbished landmark building on Lexington Avenue at 30th Street in Manhattan. A few months later, the Men's Division relocated to 23rd Street off Fifth

Avenue into space that was completely rebuilt to Touro's specifications.

I asked Dr. Lander if these were the permanent homes of Touro. He responded by saying that he is continuing his search for a campus for the Men's Division, "so that we can develop a very outstanding Men's College," and he is "actively looking for a dormitory for the Women's College in Manhattan."

Dr. Lander expressed his belief that the present location for the Women's Division will be adequate until an anticipated doubling or tripling of enrollments in the Women's Division comes to fruition. At such a time, new quarters for the Women's Division will be obtained. He promised, "we certainly will not be in rented quarters anymore." Both the men's and women's buildings are very spacious; they boast beautiful classrooms, science and computer laboratories, faculty and administrative offices, lounges, etc.

The original goal Dr. Lander set for Touro College was to build it into a multi-national university with epicenters in America and Israel. Although his dream has not yet been fully realized, he is pleased with Touro College as it

stands today. Dr. Lander's future plans for Touro include the development of a four-year undergraduate college in Israel for both men and women. Schools of health sciences are planned for several different cities in other parts of the United States and a business school is being planned for mainland China.

The college is also developing doctoral programs in Judaic studies and physical therapy and the opening of a graduate school of education is set for 1994.

Lastly, I spoke to Dr. Lander about Touro's alumni. He said, "In every institution of higher learning, the alumni of the college are its most loyal and dedicated supporters." He hopes the same will be true of Touro alumni. Touro has come a long way in its twenty-two years. It has proven itself as a viable option for both Liberal Arts and career studies as well as Jewish studies. Touro's future seems bright.

Dr. Lander's closing words sum up his feelings about Touro and its alumni. He promised, "We will do our best to make each of our colleges a jewel in its own right so that all members of the Alumni Association can be suitably proud of their alma mater."

Touro Connects with Global INTERNET Network

By SUSAN E. STERN

Touro College is connected to Internet! In conjunction with Global Enterprise Services, with Princeton University, Touro submitted a proposal to the National Science Foundation for funding a connection to the NSFNet, a high speed network, which will provide Touro with a connection to Internet. The grant proposal was written by the Academic Computing Department of Touro and submitted in April of last year along with proposals from twenty-two other institutions. The National Science Foundation approved Touro's grant in October.

What is Internet? Internet is a large, global internetwork, connecting computer networks of businesses, colleges and government agencies from all over the world. This vast interconnection of computers provides tremendous potential for information sharing. Using the Internet, computer users can connect to a variety of computers across the country or on other continents as quickly and easily as if they were in the next room, allowing easy access to vast resources from the desktop with little or no expense to the user.

How will this benefit Touro College? The benefits to the college include access to up-to-the-minute news updates, research facilities, the ability to locate and retrieve any article printed in the last ten years, biblio-

graphic databases, electronic mail and access to mainframe computer systems. With the TELNET program, Touro can login to remote computers. With such access, instructors can locate a wide variety of materials with which to create classroom presentations, and researchers have almost unlimited resources at their fingertips. One of the more popular uses of remote login is to access Online Public Access Catalogs (OPACS). One can use the information stored in these remote OPAC's as a compliment to the local library. In addition to book and serial holdings, many online library catalogs contain locally developed commercial databases. These databases range from major periodical and newspaper indexes to encyclopedias and dictionaries. In addition to more than 200 online library catalogs, the Internet also provides access to a growing number of campus-wide information systems. Information that may be available includes; campus news and information, activities and events calendars, directories of services, organizations, and descriptions of the campus, academic programs and policies.

The Internet program known as file transfer protocol (FTP) is used to move files (whether they consist of software, pictures, text, graphics, sound or other information) between computers. Touro College may now obtain di-

rectories, catalogs, bibliographies and other resources via FTP, as well as acquiring full-text of electronic journals and copies of software.

The electronic mail or "e-mail", allows correspondents from different regions to compose, send and receive messages via the computer, regardless of time zones or office hours. Exchanging information with colleagues around the world, sending and receiving manuscripts for collaboration, editing or review are just a few of the uses of "e-mail". One of the most beneficial uses for Touro College is the ability to transfer information to our various international campuses in Israel and Moscow. This reduces the need for and expense of costly faxes.

The Internet provides the ability for faculty to communicate with colleagues around the world and to access information, regardless of its location, for use in creating classroom presentations or for research. The power of the Internet as a tool to enhance research and instruction is enormous. Touro College is "on-line" and ready to make strides in the Internet System! If you would like more information on the Internet System and how it can benefit the Alumni of Touro, please feel free to contact either the Alumni Affairs Office or the Academic Computing Department, Mr. Issac Herskowitz, Director, at ext. 231.



DID YOU KNOW?

This column features interesting facts about your Alma Mater. Each issue will enlighten, inform and sometimes amuse you and hopefully make you more knowledgeable about Touro College. If there is any aspect of Touro you would like to know more about please contact us at 212-463-0400, ext. 313-316.

What's in a Name?

When Dr. Bernard Lander, Founder and President of Touro College, was challenged with establishing a name for his new endeavor, many possibilities entered his mind. After much deliberation, the name Touro College was chosen. Dr. Lander chose to name this new college after Judah Touro, a U.S. merchant and one of America's greatest Jewish philanthropists.

Judah Touro was born in 1775 in Newport, Rhode Island, to Isaac Touro, the Chazzan of the Yeshuat Israel Synagogue, and his wife Reyna, sister of the merchant Moses Michael Hays. Trained in his uncle's mercantile business, Touro undertook a number of voyages in his uncle's interest.

In 1801, Touro left Boston for New Orleans which was to serve as the center of his commercial operations. Touro served as a civilian volunteer in the American Army at the Battle of New Orleans in 1815 and was severely wounded. Because of his wound, he no longer participated in social relations with any but a few close friends. His business activities continued unabated, however, and his holdings increased. He was a commission merchant who invested in steamships and other vessels. He accumulated his fortune through prudent investments in real estate and through his modest standard of living.

Later in life, Touro took an interest in Jewish matters. Two close friends of his arrived in New Orleans in 1839 or 1840 and ultimately succeeded in arousing Touro's feelings of Jewish loyalty. These two gentlemen, Gershom Kursheedt and Rezin Shepard (who had previously saved Touro's life during the Battle in which he was wounded) persuaded Touro to build a synagogue for Kursheedt's new congregation, Nefutzoth Yehudah. Kursheedt was also responsible for Touro's bequests, in his famous will (upon his death in 1854), to a host of Jewish institutions. Among these were \$108,000 to congregations and societies in New Orleans and to the Jewish Hospital, which Touro had founded and which has ever since carried his name; \$10,000 for the upkeep of the synagogue and cemetery in Newport, his old home;

A Message to Touro Alumnae from Dean Sara E. Freifeld

It gives me great pleasure to greet you as the new Dean of the Women's Division of Touro College and to share with you my enthusiasm for the school and its future. Under the visionary leadership of President Bernard Lander, Touro College has proclaimed a unique mission of service to mankind in general and to the Jewish people in particular. I do not cease to be amazed at the scope of the school's commitments to diverse populations. We have branches in the Greater Metropolitan area, Monsey, Moscow, Israel, China and other future sites, each serving a specific population in an individualized way.

In explaining the school's philosophy to me, Dr. Lander summarized it in the following way: "People need dignity. I want to be able to produce graduates, from all walks of life, who have a sense of purpose in their lives and a sense of their own dignity. We can change society by changing the self-perception of each individual. We must build people through their own accomplishments, always giving them and treating them with dignity."

This is exactly what I have seen at work in each school and program run by Touro College. Men and women are taught to value their creative potential and to make of their lives a testament to mankind's ability to learn, to build and to create a better future. As Touro graduates, I hope that you have left this institution with this sense of purpose and commitment.

The Judaic Studies program and the secular disciplines that you studied were aimed at creating Jews who are filled with pride in their ancient Jewish heritage and a capacity to function as competent and effective human beings. There is no better ballast in a human life than Torah and the sense of dignity that the Touro education has tried to instill in you. I hope we can

continue to impart this to our future graduates in an ever more meaningful and effective way. Our Sages taught us that learning serves four purposes:

1. To study in order to be able to transmit
2. To study in order to be able to preserve
3. To study in order to be able to fulfill
4. To study in order to be able to do

These goals should be carried with us when we leave Touro as emissaries of our Torah way of life. I would like to form a partnership by which we can work together. I have had the privilege of meeting a few of you and would like nothing better than to greet each of you personally to learn how best to serve you and the girls

currently enrolled in the college.

The new building on Lexington Avenue and 30th Street is a small gem. We have beautiful quarters from which to forge a distinctive sense of collegiality and oneness. It would give me great joy to have you visit us.

It is a rare privilege to be a member of the Touro family and I hope you will want to keep these ties alive. Our Alumni Association can function in that capacity and I urge you to join us. Few things are as important to a growing institution as the loyalty of its Alumnae. I ask for your support and blessing.

May I count on your active participation in the shaping of a future based on Torah values and excellence for the Women students at Touro College? Your high expectations and involvement in Touro are crucial for its continued tradition of personal attention to each student, its commitment to great teaching and its distinguished service to the Jewish community.

I thank you for your anticipated friendship and steadfast loyalty to your Alma Mater for many years to come. With my every good wish for your continued success in all matters, I look forward to meeting you soon.



\$60,000 for the relief of the poor in Eretz Israel to be used at the discretion of Sir Moses Montefiore; a total of \$143,000 to congregations, schools and other Jewish institutions in seventeen cities throughout the land. Gifts to non-Jewish institutions in New Orleans, Boston and Newport totaled \$153,000. No American Jew had ever given so much to so many agencies and causes; nor had any non-Jew done

so much in such varied ways.

Because of Judah Touro's outstanding dedication and devotion to his fellow Americans and Jews, Dr. Lander hoped that his name would be a symbol of the ideals and standards that we at Touro College should emulate and live up to. Touro, a Baal Teshuva whose care and commitment surpassed many others. A legacy.

S.S.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION IS A FEATURE OF OUR NEWSLETTER DEVOTED TO NEWSWORTHY OR SCHOLARLY WRITINGS BY OR FOR OUR ALUMNI. YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME.

ASK THE ACCOUNTANT— ARE EDUCATION COSTS TAX DEDUCTIBLE?



CONTRIBUTED BY—
SAMUEL LOWENTHAL,
(‘89) A SENIOR ASSOCIATE
AT DELOITTE & TOUCHE
AND ADJUNCT PROFESSOR
AT TOURO COLLEGE

Often, people raise the question of whether expenses relating to their education can be taken as a tax deduction on their tax return. The following is a brief discussion of the rules pertaining to this issue.

Generally, expenses relating to courses that lead to one's bachelor degree are **not** deductible. On the other hand, expenses relating to graduate courses, "refresher" courses, vocational courses, etc. may be deductible.

The Basic rules are as follows:

1. Education expenses of an employee or self-employed individual are deductible if the education (a) maintains or improves skills required of the individual in his or her business or (b) is imposed by an employer or by law as a condition to retaining a position and/or salary.
2. However, notwithstanding the above, education costs will **not** be deductible if the education (a) is needed to meet the minimum education requirements for qualifications in the individual's employment or business [as is the case with most bachelor's degrees] or (b) qualifies an individual for a new trade or business.

A change of duties within the same general line of work does not constitute a "new trade or business". For example, if a teacher is required to take additional courses in order to move from an elementary school teaching position to a high school teaching position, expenditures from such courses **are** deductible. Similarly, a practicing lawyer may deduct the expenses of further legal education, even if training qualifies him/her to practice as a specialist (e.g. an LL.M. for tax lawyers). In contrast, a practicing accountant, who attends law school in the evening, could not deduct related expenses since the legal education qualifies him/her for a "new trade or business".

It is also important to remember the following points:

1. Education expenses are deductible only if the individual is **currently** engaged in a business, either as an employee or self-employed.
2. When education costs are deemed deductible, all basic costs relating to the education such as tuition, books and lab fees would qualify as deductions.
3. To the extent education expenses are deductible, they are only deductible as an itemized deduction. Further, only the amount that **exceeds** 2% of one's adjusted gross income is deductible.

Anyone with questions regarding this issue, should consult with his/her accountant or tax advisor.



TOURO GRAD CHAIRS 'FRIENDS OF TOURO COLLEGE'

Louis B. Chapman, a 1977 graduate of The LAS School, is serving as Chairman of Friends of Touro College, an Honor Society of financial supporters which was organized this year.

It was established to "help" Touro continue to provide education of the highest quality in its wide spectrum of schools in the Jewish community and in the larger American community as well as Touro branches in Israel and Moscow.

Members of Friends of Touro College recognize their obligation to contribute \$1,000 to support Touro in meeting new educational needs. Touro College is a 501 (C)(3) corporation.

A prominent northern New Jersey attorney, Lou Chapman is currently Treasurer of the Jewish Federation of Greater Clifton - Passaic, is a past President of Congregation Tifereth Israel, and is a member of the board of trustees of the Hillel Academy, both in Passaic.

He is the sole principal of the law firm of Feinman and Chapman, which maintains offices in Wayne, Passaic and Newark. He is a Commissioner of the Passaic Valley Water Commission and a member of the Board of Governors of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America's New Jersey affiliate.

Born in Houston, Texas, he majored in management and finance at Touro. He attended the South Texas College of Law in Houston and received his law degree in 1984. He and his wife, Elaine (Braunstein), live in Passaic. They have four children: Joseph, 9; Brooke, 7; Michael, 3; and Nathan, 1.

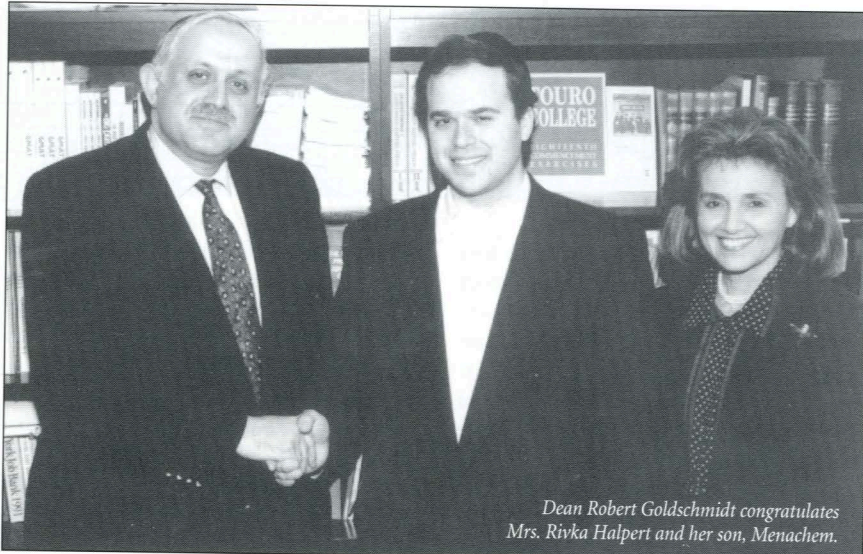
LIVING WILLS—ANYONE?

Mark A. Bloomberg, Esq., a Touro College and Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center Graduate recently submitted an in depth and informative article on the topic of Advanced Medical Directives. Mr. Bloomberg, in an easy to understand fashion, has outlined various issues and problems, which may arise when a person takes ill, becomes incapacitated, or is otherwise close to death.

Discussed are Living Wills, Healthcare proxies and the state of law in New York regarding these options. One need not be a lawyer to benefit from the information in this article and we strongly recommend that anyone interested in obtaining a copy of Mr. Bloomberg's six-page review, contact our office at 212-463-0400, exts. 313-316.



Mark Bloomberg, Student Government President, (center) surrounded by his board (left to right) Andy Wahl, Avi Szenberg, Danny Gewirtz and Mike Lavine. Men's Student Government Board 1986.



Dean Robert Goldschmidt congratulates Mrs. Rivka Halpert and her son, Menachem.

Mother and Son Share Honors in 1993 Graduating Class

Mrs. Rivka Halpert and her son, Menachem Halpert, were both singled out for academic honors in the 1993 Touro College graduating class. Mrs. Halpert, who has taught American History and Business Law for more than two decades at the Bais Yaakov High School of Boro Park, received the Departmental Award in History and the Women's Branch of the Orthodox Union Award.

Mrs. Halpert remarked that, "even though I was older than most of the students I wasn't made to feel uncomfortable or out of place. It was a tremendous experience to be able to acquire a secular education in a religious environment."

Menachem, an accounting, CPA major, graduated Summa Cum Laude in recognition of his *near-perfect grade point average*. The father of two children, Menachem learns in a kollel for half a day and works as a sales representative for a textile firm. He plans to take the CPA exam in November.

Menachem especially enjoyed the special environment at Touro Flatbush. "It was

great to be able to catch a minyan for Maariv after class", he remarked. He expressed his gratitude to Touro College for "giving me the chance to obtain a quality college education and to all my professors whose advice has and will continue to have a profound effect on my future. Of course my biggest thanks goes to my mother who, as a current student, advised me to go to Touro in the first place."

Both mother and son attended the Flatbush Evening Program so they could continue with their jobs while at the same time continue with their education. Mrs. Halpert commented, "I was very happy at Touro. The professors were excellent and I learned a lot. It was a unique experience to be able to do it at the same time as my son." Mrs. Halpert hopes that others will view her accomplishment as an incentive to finish a college degree and that it is "never too late." Both graduates asked that special mention be made to Dean Robert Goldschmidt and Ms. Hannah Lander for their help and support.

Be sure to read 'Class Notes' on pages 9-11

Alumni Bestow Awards to Recent Graduates

In May 1992, in honor of Touro's twentieth anniversary, the first Alumni Awards were bestowed on graduating seniors at the Commencement Exercises. The two Awards, Alumni Achievement Award and Alumni Recognition Award, were established at the 1992 Commencement Exercises to be presented annually at future graduations.

Mr. Leibel Wolfe, C.G.A. ('75), a graduate of the first graduating class and his wife, Gayle Nahornick ('77) a graduate of the first

Women's Division graduating class had the honor of presenting the first awards to Mr. Yaakov David Lach (Summa Cum Laude) and Mrs. Debbie (Simon) Fremerman. The 1993 recipients were Ms. Shoshana Greenebaum (Summa Cum Laude) and Mr. Meir Greenwald. Leibel Wolfe and his wife currently live in Montreal, Quebec, Canada where he is the Controller of Montfort Ltd. and she is a Fashion Designer at her own company, L & G Services. They are both active in the National

Conference of Synagogue Youth Adult Leadership Committee and are the proud parents of Simcha Dov and Zemira Zahava.

Both awards are given to seniors who show an uncommon dedication and devotion to Touro College and who embody and promote Touro's spirit wherever they go. We, the Alumni Association, welcome these distinguished recent alumni with open arms and look forward to the awardees' continued support for their Alma Mater.



Alumni Join To Support 'Project Odessa'

The Men's and Women's Division Student Government of Touro College in New York along with the Alumni in Baltimore, Maryland mounted a Pre-Pesach humanitarian campaign to collect food and medical supplies for impoverished Jews living in Odessa, Ukraine (formerly part of the U.S.S.R.). Well over 2,000 pounds of food and supplies were collected by Touro and sent with the lift from Baltimore. The food was distributed to the elderly and destitute Jews living in Odessa.

The food drive was coordinated with the Baltimore Jewish Council. Several Alumni from the Baltimore/Washington area met the students in Baltimore and helped load the boxes onto the lift. Both students and Alumni also presented a large check to the Baltimore Jewish Council to help defray the cost of the shipping. The money was collected by the students, faculty and administration at Touro.

Touro College representatives (left to right) Debbie (Costa) Roffman ('92), Missy Greenspon, ('93), Debbie (Simon) Fremerman, ('92), David Seiger, ('87) and Hillel Gres, ('92) present the check to Ms. Fran Kanterman, Co-chair of the Odessa Task Force of the Baltimore Jewish Council and Mr. William Engleman, President of the Baltimore Jewish Council.





20th Anniversary Dinner Three Charter Faculty

On June 1, 1992 at the Sheraton New York Hotel, Touro College held a celebratory dinner in honor of the College's Twentieth Anniversary. More than 1200 participants including alumni, friends and Touro supporters from all over the U.S. and abroad and from all segments of the Jewish Community were on hand to honor President and Founder, Dr. Bernard Lander, three faculty honorees and three distinguished alumni.

Following a heart warming rendition of Hatikva and the Star Spangled Banner, performed by Alumnus Cantor Israel Singer ('84), who later treated the guests to other beautiful selections, Dr. Max Karl (Milwaukee, WI), the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, presented a Scroll of Honor to Dr. Lander. Dr. Karl praised Dr. Lander as a master-builder and visionary leader "who transformed the landscape of Jewish higher education in America". The Aishes Chayil Award was presented to Mrs. Sarah Lander for her vital role in support of her husband's monumental work.

In a pride-filled ceremony, Louis Chapman ('77), formerly of Houston, Texas and now residing in Passaic, NJ and Hillel Gres (Los Angeles, CA), a graduating senior, inducted the members of the Chai Graduating Class ('92) into the Alumni Association.

The three charter faculty honorees were: Dr. Emil Kon, Rabbi Daniel J. Weiss and Dr. Michael Popkin. Dr. Kon is a Professor of Chemistry and has served as mentor and guide to several generations of chemistry and pre-medical students. His wife, Edith ('89) and daughters Helen, ('78) and Shuli, ('81) are all Touro alumnae. Helen works for the New York City Board of Education and Shuli is a pediatrician in private practice.

Rabbi Weiss is a Professor of Talmud who has not only inspired generations of stu-

dents with his brilliant lectures, but has had an impact on his students in a much broader sense. He has been meeting with an adult study group in Queens and Long Island continuously for over 21 years. Many of his students continue to learn with him in the advanced class in Talmud for young men that he organized in Brooklyn in 1976 and which now meets in Manhattan. He is frequently consulted by Talmud scholars on difficult halachic issues.

Dr. Popkin, Director of Humanities, has taught all of the required humanities courses and has lectured in most of the College's programs, including Israel. As a member of the Department of Language and Literature since 1974, he has taught not only both required composition courses and both Advanced Topics courses required of English majors, but also twelve different electives. Professor Popkin has contributed scholarly papers, articles and reviews to numerous publications such as Shakespeare Bulletin, The New York Times, The Village Voice and Literature/Film Quarterly. He has also edited a series of reference books and has contributed articles to the Encyclopedia of World Literature in the Twentieth Century.

The three Alumni Honorees at the Twentieth Anniversary Dinner included an alumnus of Touro's first graduating class, an alumna of the first graduating class from the Women's Division and an alumnus of the Flatbush Men's Division ('82). All three honorees; Mr. Eli Epstein, Mrs. Debra Seidel Chames, Esq. and Mr. Yosi Heber all have achieved much success in their respective fields, dedication to Jewish traditions and are true reflections of the Touro spirit and values of the College.

Mr. Eli Epstein ('75) was an active student leader at Touro during its early years.



Honors Three Alumni, and Dr. Bernard Lander

After Touro, he joined the Israeli Army and served as a medic in the Artillery Brigade from 1975 to 1977. After returning from Israel, he received his MBA from Columbia University and went to work at Philipp Brothers as a commodities trader. When he left in 1985, he helped start an office for some former colleagues who were based in Europe, trading the same commodities they knew from previous years. In representing British Petroleum in the trade of a petroleum by-product, he decided to try to acquire British Petroleum's production facilities, following the pattern of bold initiatives he had learned and seen at Touro a decade earlier.

Despite their small size, in January 1990, they managed to complete the acquisition while developing a long-term joint venture with CONOCO, the oil subsidiary of DuPont. Mr. Epstein is currently President and CEO of Calco, the owner of the acquired plant, and he is also responsible for marketing the joint ventures' output. While living in Los Angeles and working for Philipp Brothers, he and his wife of twelve years, Laurie, helped found the Young Israel of Santa Monica. They have four children; Etan, Dannie, Micah and Joshua.

Ms. Debra S. Chames ('77) is an outstanding member of the Florida Bar. After her graduation from Touro's first Women's Division class, she attended the University of Miami Law School, graduating with the Juris Doctor degree in 1980. In 1985, she became a partner in a law firm and in 1989 she formed Heller & Chames, a law firm specializing in commercial litigation and family law.

Ms. Chames' dedication to family values is evident in her appointment as "Guardian-ad-litem" for children in the midst of custody disputes. She is a strong supporter of chinuch, having served as co-chair of the Parents Organization of the Torah Emes Acad-

emy of Miami since 1989 and as chair of its building committee.

Ms. Chames is a member of the Dade County Bar Association and the Florida Association of Women Lawyers. She is active in numerous Jewish organizations, including Amit Women, Young Israel of Hollywood Sisterhood and the Professional Women of Greater Miami Jewish Federation. She is also an active member of the Touro College Women's Division Board of Trustees. She and her husband, Dr. Abraham Chames, have three children: Melissa, Jonathan and Jacob.

Mr. Yosi Heber was raised in St. Louis and received his Bachelor's Degree from Touro in 1982, Semicha from Yeshiva Torah V'daath in 1983 and his MBA from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business in 1985. Presently he is the Director of Marketing for the Dannon Company.

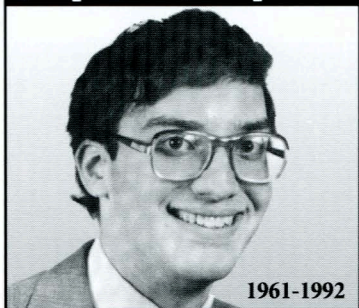
Mr. Heber spent five years at Kraft General Foods in numerous marketing positions for Jell-O, Frozen Novelties and Post Cereals. While at General Foods, he introduced Fruit 'N Fibre cereal and Marshmallow Alpha Bits across the United States. Significantly, he promoted kashruth by creating the Brachos for Breakfast Kosher Promotion. At Dannon, he has led the company's efforts on both established and new products, including making Dannon Light the number one yogurt in the United States and introducing Dannon Sprinkl'Ins, America's first yogurt for kids, into 30 percent of the country.

Mr. Heber has published articles on a variety of subjects and has spoken at numerous academic, professional and governmental conferences. Even in the midst of his hectic schedule, Mr. Heber is an exemplar of Touro's mission, having created the Daf Yomi Mesechta Review, a taped series on the daily daf.



We Mourn Our Loss

Joseph (Yossi) Lampert ז"ל



1961-1992

May the Omnipresent console you among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

Touro College and the Touro College Alumni Association express heartfelt condolences on the still recent and untimely loss of Joseph (Yossi) Lampert, Esq., Validictorian, class of 1981.

We are now soliciting and accepting written submissions of interest regarding Yossi and his many faceted accomplishments at Touro as well as professionally and socially. We urge his family members and friends to respond as we are planning a more in-depth feature in a future issue.

Dr. Solomon Simonson ז"ל

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

*"Dr. Solomon S. Simonson: Seminal thinker, magnificent mentor, charismatic teacher, erudite author and poignant poet, eloquent and electrifying orator, compassionate colleague and magnanimous friend. He was an Aristotelian scholar with a Talmudic heart and a Biblical soul."**

As Vice President for Academic Affairs and Distinguished Professor of Communication and the Arts at Touro College since 1981, Dr. Simonson, working in close collaboration with President Lander and Senior Deans Boylan and Goldschmidt, forged a paradigmatic community for scholars and students.

A specialist in rhetorical analysis, applied ethics and mass media research, he was the author of *Crisis in TV* and *Reflections at Sunset*, a book of poetry, as well as more than seventy articles in professional, scholarly and theological journals. His JPUA radio series on the "The World of Jewish Prayer" has been acclaimed nationally.

Prior to his tenure at Touro College, he was Dean of the Borough of Manhattan Com-

munity College, Director of the Graduate Division of Language, Literature and Communication at Yeshiva University, and founder of the Communications Center at the State University of New York-Fredonia.

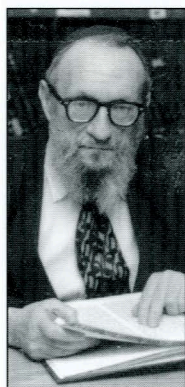
Dr. Simonson earned the B.A. and M.A. degrees from Brooklyn College, the J.D. from St. Lawrence University School of Law, and the Ph.D. from Northwestern University. He received Semicha (rabbinical ordination) from the Hebrew Theological College in Skokie, Illinois.

*"His unyielding commitment to Torah values and academic excellence will inspire us forever."**

**From an obituary notice in The New York Times, October 18, 1991.*



Rabbi Abraham Dworsetz ז"ל



Rabbi Abraham Dworsetz, ז"ל, a beloved rebbe in Touro's Beis Medrash for close to twenty years, passed away on June 1, 1993 in Israel. A distinguished scholar and dedicated teacher, Rabbi Dworsetz taught Talmud and Intensive Talmud, with a great deal of love for Torah and for his students, to a generation of students in Touro's Men's Division.

Rabbi Dworsetz was associated with the College since 1973 as both a *mechanech* par excellence and a scholar in the College's *kollel*. Ordained by the great Gaon Rav Isser Zalman Meltzer, ז"ל, Dean of Yeshiva Etz Chaim of Jerusalem, Rav Dworsetz also studied at Yeshiva of Kaminitz from 1935-39, ultimately receiving Semicha from Hagaon Rav Boruch Ber Leibowitz in 1939. Before coming to Touro, Rav Dworsetz taught in a variety of distinguished yeshivas in America including the Rabbinical Seminary of Beth Joseph, Mesifita Chofetz Chaim and Yeshiva Rabbi Chaim Berlin.

In describing his contribution to the College, Dean Stanley Boylan commented, "Students of the Men's Division knew Rabbi Dworsetz as a saintly individual with a soft-spoken manner, untiring patience and consummate dedication to his students and the teaching of Torah. He spent his last days studying Torah in Israel. His presence will be sorely missed at Touro and by all who knew him. *Yehi Zichro Boruch.*"

Rav Dworsetz embodied a love for Torah learning and a love for life. These two attributes contributed to his followers of all

ages. He is missed by his *Talmidim* of several years ago as well as those he taught at the College as recently as 1992. Several of those *Talmidim* who are currently in Israel have contributed some of the following reminiscences which are composited here.

Rav Dworsetz felt that "A living person had nothing to complain about." He recognized the transitory nature of life. He saw clearly that G-d gives life and takes life away and felt that "The fact that Hashem gives a person life is enough."

Since every moment of life was so dear and precious for Rav Dworsetz, he felt that there should be no "losing time from learning. Every moment of a person's life belongs to G-d and therefore, it should be used to worship G-d." He used to explain to his students that *Shlomo Hamelech* was able to learn while he was sleeping. He said that the great *Tzaddikim* had such a great desire to be close to Hashem they could use their unconscious mind for learning. He was quoted as saying on several occasions, "If a person really desires to be close to Hashem then nothing stops him."

Up until the moment Rav Dworsetz passed away, he was engrossed in *Limudei Kodesh*. He felt that even if he were to experience "one more day of pain it would mean one more day of learning Hashem's Torah." Any opportunity should be taken to be engrossed in Torah and *Mitzvot* as he used to say quite often. This was evident in a particular episode two days before *Shavout*. Rav Dworsetz was

having difficulties breathing and was up all night. In the morning he was wheezing and lacking sufficient strength to eat. A few of his *Talmidim* called his home and asked his daughter if they could come over. His daughter was caught in mixed emotions. On the one hand, to answer "no" without asking her father would be wrong, yet on the other, her father was so weak, having difficulty breathing, and certainly wouldn't be able to talk. She felt obligated to ask her father, "Some of your *Talmidim* are on the phone - they want to know if they can come over. It's a question concerning Torah Study." Before she could finish, Rav Dworsetz answered, "Of course. Tell them to come immediately." When his students arrived, his daughter was shocked! Not only was he able to breathe better but he spoke clearly. Though he was weak with pneumonia, his mind was clear and sharp with Torah. It was of the utmost importance that he fight his physical weakness to strengthen his Torah study.

In the Rav's later years he underwent major surgery. He suffered terrible pain day and night. When he was able, he would pace the floor while learning *Gemmorah* to help cope with the pain. The doctors recommended pain killers but he wouldn't hear of it. His concern was that he would become drowsy and wouldn't be able to concentrate and delve deeply into the *Gemmorah*.

A true lover of Torah, Life and Humanity, Rav Dworsetz, will be remembered as a venerable scholar and teacher.



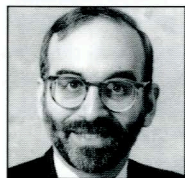
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH TOURO LAS ALUMNI

The Alumni Association of Touro LAS would like to congratulate:

CLASS OF '75

Martin Lockshin - Recipient of Toronto Jewish Congress Award for best Canadian book published in Bible/Rabbinics.

Tzvi (Howard) Sherizen - Agent of the year from Mass Mutual.



Eli Epstein - A member of Touro's first graduating class, was one of 118 DuPont Corporation honorees representing 10 nations who were recognized recently by the world-wide company for the exceptional achievements in marketing. Epstein received a crystal trophy and a medallion pendant bearing the bust of Eluthere Irene du Pont, founder of the company in the early 19th century, at a formal dinner in Wilmington, Delaware. The presentations were made by DuPont Chairman Edgar S. Woolard, Jr. Epstein, the Chief Executive Officer of Calco, developed a long-term joint venture with CONOCO, the DuPont oil subsidiary, and is responsible for marketing the joint venture's output. Now a resident of New Rochelle, New York, Epstein joined the Israeli Army after his graduation from Touro College and served as a medic in the Artillery Brigade from 1975 to 1977. He received his M.B.A. from Columbia University in 1979. As a Touro student, Epstein was instrumental in establishing a student government and Touro's student newspaper, The Independent.

CLASS OF '76
Isaac Dayan - Awarded First Chesed Award at Holliswood Jewish Center.
Ben Z. Katz, M.D. - Published in many medical books and journals. Recently elected to the Society for Pediatric Research and the Infectious Disease Society of America.
Edward Schwelky - Recipient of Excellence Award from the Sephardic Community Center.

CLASS OF '77

Louis Chapman, Esq. - Recipient of Kesser Shem Tov Award from Yeshiva Gedolah of Passaic, Father of the Year from Congregation Tifereth Israel and honored by Etz Chaim Region NCSY and Passaic Chapter of NCSY,

Chairman of "Friends of Touro College".

CLASS OF '79

Hindi T. (Mermelstein) Lunzer - Linda Pollin Foundation Fellow.

CLASS OF '80

Ora J. Baer - Recipient of Volunteer Service Award from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, recipient of fellowship to study Neurology at the University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins University and the National Institutes of Health in national competition sponsored by the Knight Center for Specialized Journalism.

Leah (Neufeld) Cohen - practicing CPA with Roth and Company.

Murray Davidovits - a lawyer in private practice in Brooklyn. He earned his J.D. at New York Law School.

Mordecai Cohen - Recipient of the Service Award from Agudath Israel Torah Center of Bayswatch.

Rivy (Poupko) Kletenik - Recipient of the Hillel Academy Alumni Award.

Elie Goldberg - a systems analyst at Goldman, Sachs, and Company. After graduating from Touro he earned an MBA at Baruch.

David Goldstein - an appeals officer with the IRS Tax court in New York City.

CLASS OF '81

Mordechai Cohen - CPA, at Goldman & Krinitz.

David J. Seidemann, Esq. - a graduate of both Touro College LAS and the Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center on the opening of a Law Office in Brooklyn, NY. Seidemann & Mermelstein, Esqs. located at 974 East 27 Street, 718-692-1013, specializes in personal injury, medical malpractice and criminal and matrimonial law.

CLASS OF '82

Stanley Cogan - an accountant at the New York City Department of Finance.

Nathan Ehrenreich - an accountant with the New York State Insurance Fund.

Moishe Kofman, Esq. - head of closing department at GFC Mortgage Bankers

Ascher Schechter - Honoree at Young Israel of Oceanside Melave Malka.

Steven Chaim Weidman - Director of Tax of Israel A. Englander & Company, an investment firm on the American Stock Exchange.

CLASS OF '83

Betty (Weingarten) Goldberg - on the birth

of Moriel Chanoch, brother of Talia and Yoel. The family currently reside in Boca Raton, Florida.

CLASS OF '84

Fortuna S. Habib - Associate Attorney specializing in Real Estate Law in Syracuse.

Beth (Gesang) Tenenbaum - Bikur Cholim Honoree at a Melave Malka in Baltimore.

Aaron Tyk - Passed the Bar Exam and completed analysis of Talmudic and American Law for a Comparative Law approach, due this Fall from West Publishing.

CLASS OF '85

Glenn Bond - on his marriage to **Lisa Price ('90)** and the birth of their children.

Miriam Lazar Eisenberg - a programmer analyst at L&S Computer Service in Lakewood, New Jersey.

Harold Friedman CPA, - a senior associate at Leshkowitz and Company, a certified public accounting and law firm on Madison Avenue.

Tova (Schwab) Plotkin - Recipient of Service Award from the Jewish Educational Program.

CLASS OF '86

Michelle (Infield) Bardash - and husband Jody on the birth of their sons.

Mark A. Bloomberg, Esq. - in addition to his Staten Island office the opening of his Brooklyn and Cedarhurst Offices.

Sara (Unger) Dembitzer - and her husband Yekusiel on the birth of their son, Nesanel Simcha.

Seth Chaim Goldstein - (Valedictorian) was editor of The Law Review at Columbia University. He is an associate at Roberts & Holand, a tax firm with a national reputation.

Samuel Taub - received his J.D. at Hofstra University Law School in 1988. He was an assistant district Attorney in Brooklyn and is now in private practice.

Barry Wacholder - on his marriage to **Kate Lamb ('88)**.

CLASS OF '87

Aaron Borenstein - Pilot with Mid Island Air, and his recent marriage to Rachel Wolf.

Yisroel (Edward) Chesir - Recipient of the Jewish Educational Program Leadership Award.

Debbie (Reich) Cohen - and husband **Andy ('89)** on the birth of their second son.

Pam Dear - On her marriage to Steve Birbach.



Seth Chaim Goldstein



Danny Gewirtz - and wife Adina on the birth of twins.

David Gross - On his marriage to Rita Krinitz, and our condolences to David on the loss of his father.

Joshua Hirsch, M.D. - Alpha Omega Alpha Medicine Honor Society, University of Pennsylvania.

Rivka Zissel Lax - a CPA practicing in Los Angeles, CA.

Nechie (Bodner) Nebenzahl - program analyst at AT&T. She and her husband live in Lakewood, New Jersey.

Steven L. Petlak - Honored (with wife) at banquet saluting 100 exceptional students, teachers, and lay leaders, of AISH HATORAH Jerusalem, Los Angeles, CA Division.

Arona (Hackel) Okin - and husband Stuart on the birth of a baby boy.

Lorie (Beaudry) Raileanu - on the birth of Phoebe Danielle, sister of Gabriella.

Naomi (Seidemann) Rothke - and her husband Ben on the birth of a baby girl, Yael Shira.

Wendy (Weiner) Runge - and her husband Peter on the birth of a son, Jonathan Albert Edward Otto Runge, brother of Talia Gabriella.

Mark Schaffel - Ben Zakkai Honor Society Chairman of the National Conference of Synagogue Youth.

Chani (Zeff) Schneider - and her husband Jerry ('87) on the birth of a boy and a girl.

Daphna Shalomoff - on her recent marriage.

David Shepetofsky - on his marriage to Zehava Winter.

Brian Sprei - on his marriage to Chani Costello.

Aaron Strum - On his marriage to **Lidia Marzouk** ('90).

CLASS OF '88

Sarah Beth Edelman - On her marriage to **Ari Solomont**.

Martin Friedlander - and his wife on the birth of a baby girl, and for passing the Bar Exam. He has been Academic Advisor at Touro in Flatbush for the past two (2) years.

Jonathan Glaubach - on his recent engagement.

Helene Larit - On her marriage to Steve Ezratty.

Leah (Braunstein) Levy - and husband **Eric**, ('90) on the birth of a daughter and their move to Israel.

Ilana (Isaacs) Schild - and husband Gary on the birth of a baby boy.

Shlome (Steven) Schwartz - Recipient of NYSSCPA Medal of Honor.

Heidi (Levin) Sokol - on making Aliyah.

Anna (Kent) Slomowitz - and husband Noah on the birth of a baby boy and their move to Israel.

Aliza Steinhorn - on her marriage to Avi Laver.

Avi Szenberg - on finishing his second year at the University of Pennsylvania Law School and being named associate editor of the Law Review. He is currently holding the position

of clerk with Judge Max Resenn, United States Court of Appeals, Third Circuit.

Vicki (Meyerhoff) Reches - and her husband Rabbi Michael Reches on the birth of their two sons, Yisroel and Mordechai.

Robert (Oppenheimer) Waldman - and husband Leon on the birth of a baby boy.

Jonathan Wellish - and his wife Susan on the birth of a baby boy.

Joy Feuerstein - on her marriage to Greg Goldberg.

Cara (Krashin) Wolf - and husband Ben on the birth of a baby boy.

CLASS OF '89

Jacob Beniawski, CPA - a senior accountant at Loeb & Tropper.

Rebecca (Coren) Dear - on her marriage to Shmuel and the birth of a baby girl.

Naftali Tzvi Dembitzer - on graduating from Law School with honors and passing the Bar Exam. Nafatali has been selected to clerk for United States District Court Judge I. Leo Glasser (Eastern District).

Desiree (Weisz) Epstein - for passing the Bar Exam and to her and her husband, Michael, on the birth of their son, Jeremy.

Jeffery Finkiel - and wife Shaindel on the birth of their second daughter.

Karen (Dersovitz) Fromowitz - on the birth of a son.

Gittie Fontek - Recipient of the B.J.E./Gruss Award for excellence in teaching Hebrew.

Iris Golliger - On her recent marriage.

Mike Lavine - on his marriage to **Andrea Ziv** on the birth of a baby girl.

Efraim Mufson - and his wife **Michelle (Bluestein, '93)** on the birth of their son Joey.

Dayna (Rothenberg) Schlesinger - and husband Yaakov on the birth of a second daughter.

Efram Schneider - and his wife Amy on the birth of a baby boy, Gavi.

Raizel Sharfstein - on her recent marriage.

Beth Silber - on her marriage to Jeff Koesterich.



Ari Solomont - Received special Ner Tamid Award for dedication to Jewish Youth—Ari a '89 graduate of Touro's Men's Division was

recently honored by the New England Region of the National Conference of Synagogue Youth at its first Annual Ner Tamid Awards Banquet. The event took place on June 6, 1993 at the Westin Hotel in Boston. Ari received a beautiful plaque and Menorah symbolizing his "branching out and reaching out" to others as well as the Ner, "light" that he spreads to all he comes into contact with. The presentations were made by the National Director of NCSY, Rabbi Raphael Butler, the Director of National Programs, Rabbi Moshe Krupka and New England Regional Director, Rebbetzin Peggy Weiss. While attending Touro College in New York City, Ari served as Re-

gional Coordinator, responsible for planning and implementing many of New England's regional events, including all of its Shabbaton weekend conventions and organized a hugely popular NCSY band. More recently, as a leader in Lowell, Massachusetts' Jewish community, Ari has continued to remain involved both at the chapter and regional levels. Ari and his wife **Sarah Beth Edelman** ('88), are currently residing in Lowell where Ari serves as a licensed Nursing Home Administrator and Sarah Beth is pursuing her Master's Degree in Expressive Therapies/Psychology. Ari is also the Director and Religious Service Coordinator at Montefiore Synagogue; a member of the Education Committee and Board of Directors of the Merrimack Valley Hebrew Academy; Vice-Chairman of the Jewish Burial Society of Merrimack Valley and guest speaker at local colleges and universities on the topic of "Religion in Western Culture". They are the proud parents of Dov Baer, Malka Bracha and Nechama Elkeh Drazeh.

Amy Slutsky - on her marriage to **Nussi Sklar** ('90) and for her success at NYU School for Occupational Therapy. Congratulations to them both on the birth of a baby girl.

Joshua Pruzansky - Executive Director of Yeshiva Telshe/Riverdale.

CLASS OF '90

Ben Zion Blank - holds an accounting position with Loeb & Tropper.

Lori Goodman - On her recent marriage to Eli Vingot and their upcoming Aliyah.

Julie (Wiener) Greene - Working for the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Minnesota, Inc. and on the birth of a son.

Esther Katzenstein - on completion of her M.S. in Speech Pathology at Brooklyn College.

David Koegel - an executive at Republic National Bank.

Debbie Koenig - On her acceptance to and success in medical school.

Avrohom Kovitz - administrator of Yeshiva Ohr Torah in Queens and is married to the former Dvora Flaum.

Adam Leibowitz - on his marriage to **Heather Engel** ('93).

Estera Parness - on her marriage to Brad Singer.

Jordan Rothenberg - on his recent marriage.

Debbie (Dombeck) Rubin - and husband on the birth of two girls.

Marjorie Spindel - on her marriage to Jordan Hirsch.

Mindi Toporovsky - On her recent marriage.

Florence Vasquez - on her marriage to Lenny Goldberg.

Sharon Wolf - on her marriage to Yoav Naftali.

Esther Zebede - on the birth of her two children.

CLASS OF '91

Yaakov Bohensky - completed his second year at Cardozo Law School.

Mindy Feinman - on her marriage to Eddie Goldberg.

Shimon (Seth) Fishman - on his recent engagement.

Renee Gershman - on her recent promotion at Abraham & Strauss.

Behn Goldis - on his marriage to Susie Senderowitz.

Amy Greenblatt - on her recent marriage.

Boruch Gross - enrolled in the MBA Program at New York University; his wife Rechie is also a student at Touro.

Elise Hamburger - on her marriage to Randy Zakroff and on the birth of a baby girl, Chana Chaviva.

Steven Leiber - on his marriage to Rina Tarnor and the birth of a baby boy.

Mitchell Lisker - married and lives in Passaic NJ. He is a staff accountant at Hirsch & Oelbaum, CPAs, a Wall Street firm.

Miriam Esther Luchins - Recipient of the NCSY Advisor Award, New England Region.

Stephanie Rabinowitz - On her marriage to Mark Brown and the birth of their daughter.

Marjorie (Malka) Singer - on her marriage to Dovid Cohen and to both of them on the birth of a son, Eli Yaakov.

Darlene (Devorah) (Goldstein) Stark - on her marriage and the birth of a baby boy.

CLASS OF '92

Leah Cartine - on her marriage to Ira Medjuck.

Scott Feltman - Director of Junior NCSY of Long Island and Honoree at a Melave Malkah on Long Island.

Ariella (Flint) Finkiel - and husband Yitzie on the birth of a baby boy.

Nissan Flint - on his marriage to Judy Tovey.

Hillel Gres - On his marriage to Adina Abrams.

Brian Goldberg - on his marriage to Susie Jarecki.

Shani Mann Jungreis - on being admitted to the master's degree program in speech pathology at Brooklyn College.

Felice (Greenblatt) Kutner - and husband Ephraim on the birth of a baby girl.

Zehava Lalouche - on her recent marriage to Seth Weinberger.

Varda Laufer - on being admitted to the graduate program in speech pathology at New York University.

Moshe Shucht - on his marriage to Tzippy Fetman.

Debbie Simon - on her marriage to Don Fremmerman.

Ron Simon - on his marriage to Chana Shuck.

Rachel Weiss - on her marriage to **Ephraim Rudman ('92)** and the birth of their daughter.

CLASS OF '93

Debbie Costa - on her marriage to Ariel Roffman.

Cheryl Goldberg - on her recent engagement to Joel Kaplan.

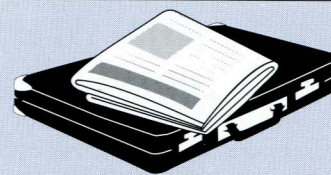
Julianna Gottleib - on her engagement to Mike Friedman.

Missy Haun - on her engagement to Charles Shulman.

David Karfunkle - on his recent marriage.

Tamara Tocker - on her marriage to Bentzi Spitz.

Mike Wolff - on his marriage to Debra Fried.



Touro Creates New Job Bank

One of the worst problems facing college alumni across the country today is unemployment. With an unsteady economy, many employers are facing the hard task of letting employees go and they are just not able to hire new employees at this time. Unfortunately, many job applicants are finding more and more often that they are perceived as overqualified for potential jobs. Touro Alumni are no different. There are a large number of qualified workers in various fields with nowhere to go.

Your Alumni Association is here to help! While we cannot promise you a job, we do have programs and career counselors that can help you. The Placement Office, under the direction of Mr. Timothy Coyne, consists of qualified personnel that are ready to help you revise your resumé and help you with your job search.

The placement office is in the process of forming a JOB BANK which will draw heavily from our Alumni. The Alumni Association is currently working side by side with the Placement Office to provide them with the names, addresses, and phone numbers of Alumni who are currently seeking employment. *We are also asking Alumni who are seeking employees* to please contact our office so we may submit these job openings to the JOB BANK as well. Please don't let a job opportunity pass by.

For the past two (2) years, the Touro Business and Accounting Society has hosted a Job Fair. Several firms were represented and resumé's were circulated. This year the Business and Accounting society hope to expand the Job Fair to include more fields of employment and more of our Alumni, as both potential employees and employers.

If you would like to make an appointment to meet with any of the Placement Counselors, please call either the Alumni Affairs Office at 212-463-0400 exts. 313-316 or the Job Placement Office, Mr. Tim Coyne, ext. 230.



See Class of '93

Mrs. Debbie (Costa) Roffman ('93) surrounded by her "Touro Family" at her recent wedding reception.

Couldn't find your name? Don't be left out of our next issue; call us or send us your update. Please send any contributions to **CLASS NOTES** to the attention of the Alumni Affairs Office at 27-33 West 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010, or call 212-463-0400, exts. 313-316.

NEED A MINYAN?

The Manhattan Men's Division welcomes all Alumni and their guests to join our daily Minyan. All Minyanim will be held at 27-33 West 23rd Street in the third floor Bais Medrash. Please call 212-463-0400 ext. 419/420 to find out the times.

Touro Heroine Rescues Torahs

In what could have been a total disaster on Tuesday, October 20th, 1992, Susan Stern ('86), our own Coordinator of Alumni Affairs, was returning to her parents' home in Baltimore, Maryland. Visiting home for the final days of the Sukkot Holiday, she then became involved in this most unusual and truly heroic rescue.

As Susan was approaching her parents' home, she smelled smoke and at about the same time heard the roar of fire engines. She entered her house and told her waiting mother that "there must be a fire in the neighborhood and I sure hope it isn't the shul". The shul Susan was referring to was the Moses Montifiore Woodmoor Hebrew Congregation.

Undaunted by the shrieking engines and the smell of heavy smoke, Susan rushed down the street to the shul and saw that the chapel area was ablaze. She quickly approached the

Fire Department Battalion Chief and explained to him that two Torahs were located in the ark in the Congregation's chapel and had to be rescued. Unfortunately, with other things on his mind, the Battalion Chief shrugged her off.

Susan Stern still determined, approached one of the firemen, Carl Gentile, and explained that two Torahs were in the burning building and how important it was that they be saved. In appealing to the fireman she used words like "precious, invaluable, holy" and other adjectives that came to mind.

Susan explained what the Torahs looked like, where they were located and how to reach the Chapel. Gentile rescued one Torah and, at Susan's urging and pleading, returned to save the second one. Soon after this rescue, the Chapel was totally engulfed in flames and destroyed. Thank God, the Torahs had been saved.

When he handed the first of the rescued Torahs to Susan, Firefighter Gentile suggested that she place it on the ground. Susan knew better and clutched it in her arms and when he returned with the second one, she lovingly held both Torahs.

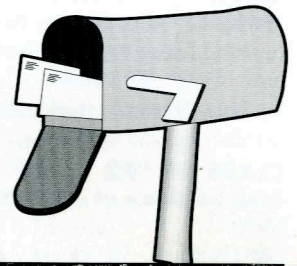
This saga came to a positive ending as Rabbi Everett Ackerman, spiritual leader of the Congregation, arrived at that precise moment, took the Torahs from Susan and placed them in the trunk of his car.

Susan was officially recognized the following Shabbat at the Woodmoor Congregation by Rabbi Ackerman. Coincidentally, Rabbi Ackerman's son became a Bar Mitzvah on that Shabbat. Fortunately, the main sanctuary was not touched by flames, although the smell of smoke permeated through the building. Thanks to Susan, it was a happy and joyous day for everyone.



Be on the lookout for...

Touro College Alumni rolodex cards!!
These cards contain all the important phone numbers
and addresses of your Alma Mater.
Check your mailboxes soon!



TOURO COLLEGE
Office of Alumni Affairs
27-33 West 23rd Street
New York, NY 10010-4202

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In our next issue:

Our Alumni *Olim*

How to Retire a Millionaire

Dr. Rachel & her Interns

Spotlight on Flatbush

Reminiscing with
Dr. George Cohen