

THE READERS SPEAK

More comments on the 100th magazine

Editor:
Congratulations to all on the 100th anniversary!

TAMI ELLISON
The Yizkor Project

Editor:
I would like to thank you immensely for publishing the piece about Abe Rothberg (my mother's father) in your 100th anniversary edition. I cannot tell you how gratified I was to see it there. You should be very proud of the edition itself, which not only reflects so well on the history of the IJN but also animates the last 100 years of Denver Jewry.

RICHARD E. STIEFLER, MD
Grand Junction, Colo.

Editor:
Congratulations on the tremendous endeavor that produced the 100th anniversary edition. It will be treasured by everyone who receives it.



Cantor Abraham Mendelsberg

I am saddened, however, that my late brother-in-law, Cantor Abraham Mendels-

berg, was not listed in the cantors' section.

He was born in Denver, and was the much-loved cantor at Beth Joseph for several years, serving with Rabbi Goldberger. He is pictured in your edition of Sept. 7, 2007, on your year of losses page.

There are many he prepared for Bar Mitzvah, and they still remind me of that when I see them.

EVELYN MENDELSBERG
Denver

Editor:
Congratulations on an incredible feat of putting together such a comprehensive overview of an entire century of local Jewry. I was fascinated to learn so much about our community and how you and your staff were able to include so much information about so many people is remarkable.

Also, for me to be included with one of my many letters to the editor is quite an ego boost.

DICK WISOTT

Editor:
Congratulations to you and the entire staff for an amazing 100th anniversary edition!

GARY SKY
Denver

Editor:
I received and read your 100th anniversary issue and I was very much surprised at the omission of Dr. Emanuel Friedman.

Dr. Friedman, my wife's grand-

father, was one of the first, if not the first, pediatrician in Denver.

He treated the majority of the Jewish people in their youth on the old West Side. He was in a video presentation of the history of Jewish Denver a few years ago in a program created by Dr. Jeanne Abrams.



Dr. Emanuel Friedman

Dr. Abrams also wrote a book about Jewish Denver, 1859-1940, in which Dr. Friedman was written up.

LAWRENCE LITVAK
Denver

Editor:
What a treat it was to receive the IJN 100th anniversary supplement. And what memories it conjured up of people I know and, sadly, people I used to know.

It was good and important to be reminded of the many people that helped shape our community, and made it what it is today. Generous people, who gave their time and money when the times called for action. The adage that one picture is worth a thousand words is so true. I enjoyed so much looking at all of them.

Your staff did a wonderful job of compiling, editing and executing that

magazine. It was done with much thought, dignity and respect to those who are with us and those who have passed on, may their memories indeed be a blessing.

I know I will pick this edition up many times, browse through it and reminisce once again. Thank you, so much!

RUTH EPSTEIN
Denver

100th — and 100,000

Editor:
Thank you for including me in the 100th anniversary magazine section, "Colorful Personalities," for my recent kidney donation. It was a touching surprise.

I am proud to be part of a people that comprises a highly disproportionate percentage of altruistic kidney donors nationwide.

As Jews, we deeply care for each other's welfare. "Acheinu kol beis Yisroel": We are one big family. When I met my recipient for the first time in the hospital shortly before going under the knife, we hugged amidst tears. This man was no stranger; he was my brother, and we were soon to be connected for life.



Adam Leventhal

Ultimately, this story is not about me, or my recipient, but it's something bigger than all of us: living organ transplantation is a medical miracle from Above, a modern testament to G-d's grace and the power of giving.

In the week before the transplant I was fortunate to privately meet with several sages, including the Grand Rabbis of Satmar, Munkatch, Chernovitz and Hornosteipel, and hear wondrous things from their lips.

The Chernovitzer Rebbe of Williamsburg told me that the day of the transplant I would be "kekatan shenolad, like a newborn child." In my groggy moments awakening from surgery, I thought of the Rebbe's words. They were real. It felt like the moments after *ne'ilah* on Yom Kippur, only higher. A personal cleansing had taken place, while a man nearby in the same recovery room now had a second chance at life, please G-d.

I urge others to look into kidney donation. Nearly 100,000 people are waiting for a kidney transplant, in the meantime suffering a compromised quality of life attached to dial-

ysis machines several days a week.

There is a serious shortage of organs. Thirteen people die each day waiting for a kidney, but we can do something! A kidney from a living donor lasts twice as long as one from a cadaver, and *virtually anyone in overall good health can donate a kidney*, with minimal to zero long-term disadvantages to one's own health.

I did many hours of research before I decided to donate, continuing to learn more right up until the day of the surgery. I spoke to my cousin, a nephrologist, and to as many past kidney donors as I could. I would encourage everyone at least to do their own research.

Donating a kidney was perhaps the greatest experience of my life. My only regret is that I cannot do it again. Numerous kidney donors feel the same way.

The phenomenal Jewish organization that facilitated my transplant was Renewal. To learn more about kidney donation, Renewal can be contacted at information@renewal.org 718-431-9831, or visit www.Renewal.org

Other great resources include Mrs. Chaya Lipschutz's www.KidneyMitzvah.org and Denver's own American Transplant Foundation, founded by Steve Farber, a kidney transplant recipient from his son.

ADAM LEVENTHAL
Denver

Boutique Judaica

Editor:
It was with sadness a few weeks ago that we learned that Boutique Judaica closed its doors for good this spring.

This wonderful store selling all things Judaic was more than a store. It provided us as a community with a gathering place to find Bar and Bat Mitzvah gifts, wedding gifts, supplies for all the holidays, text books, novels, children's books, CD's of Jewish music, *ketubot*, Jewish art, and ways to supply and re-supply our own homes with all our Judaica needs — and doing all this in a very comfortable, *heimishe* environment.

There are many of us in this community who can remember standing in line right before one of the holidays with our purchases, seeing friends, schmoozing and grabbing one more piece of candy out of the ever-present bowl of goodies as we moved ahead in line.

The co-owners, Roz Weiss and Carolyn Auerbach, served our community this way for at least 30 years (or more). We miss them, we thank them, and we wish them well.

PETER AND JEAN GUTHERY
Denver

LIVELY OPINION

MANDELA from Page 4

As a recipient of both the Soviet Order of Lenin and the American Presidential Medal of Freedom, it might be said that Mandela embodied this contradiction.

Still, Mandela was no orthodox leftist. In his autobiography, he discusses how he was strongly influenced by the Atlantic Charter of 1941, a mission statement shaped by the visions of Churchill and FDR for a post-war order in which freedom would reign, fear and want would be banished, and self-government would emerge as a core principle.

Elsewhere in the book, he takes care to distinguish the African nationalism he subscribed to from the communist beliefs that prevailed among those he worked with. His understanding of nationalism bears a close resemblance to the national movements that surfaced in Europe at the end of the nineteenth century, including Zionism.

This latter point is important because there is a widespread perception that Mandela was an opponent of Zionism and Israel.

In part, that's because a mischievous letter linking Israel with apartheid, purportedly written by Mandela, went viral on the Internet (in fact, the real author was a Palestinian activist named Arjan el Fassed, who later claimed that his fabrication nevertheless reflected Mandela's true feelings.)

Yet, it is also true that, in the Cold War conditions of the time, the ANC's main allies alongside the Soviets were Arab and third-world dictators

like Ahmed Ben Bella in Algeria and Gamal Abdel Nasser in Egypt.

The confusion is further stirred by the enthusiasm of some of Mandela's comrades, like Archbishop Desmond Tutu, to share the South African franchise on the word "apartheid" with the Palestinians.

But those activists who want to make the Palestinian cause the 21st-century equivalent of the movement that opposed South African apartheid in the 20th century will — assuming they conform to basic standards of honesty — find it very difficult to invoke Mandela for sup-

port. The ultimate smoking gun — the equation of Israel's democracy with apartheid — doesn't exist.

Mandela once wrote that Jews, in his experience, were far more sensitive about race because of their own history. Now, it is absolutely true that there are parallels between the oppression suffered by South African blacks under racist white rulers, and Jews living under hostile non-Jewish rulers. The notorious Group Areas Act, which restricted black residency rights, brings to mind the enforced separation of Jews into the "Pale of Settlement" by the Russian Empress Catherine in 1791.

Many of the other apartheid regulations, like the ban on sexual relationships between whites and blacks, echoed the Nazi Nuremberg Laws of 1935.

Mandela's diagnosis was that Africans should be the sovereigns of their own destiny. Similarly, the founders of Zionism wanted nothing less



Frederik de Klerk and Nelson Mandela shake hands at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, in January, 1992. World Economic Forum

for the Jews. Sadly, none of that will stop today's advocates of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement from falsely claiming Nelson Mandela as one of their own.

But the truth is subtler than that. Mandela's complicated legacy doesn't really belong to any political stream — and that is one more reason to admire him.

Ben Cohen is the Shillman Analyst for JNS.org

Dry Bones

VIETNAM II

