

Chairman's Message



By Gerald M. Schreck

“No part of the human personality should be excluded from Jewish expression”
(Rabbi Avraham Yitzchok

HaKohen Kook’s introduction to Song of Songs). Indeed, while *halachah* sets clear boundaries regarding permissible and impermissible art, there is no question that art, music, aesthetics and creativity play a pivotal role in Jewish life. We need look no further than the *parshiyot* describing the construction of the *mishkan* to see the importance of art and aesthetic beauty in *avodat Hashem*. True, over the centuries of *galut* (exile), religious Jews did not emphasize the creative arts. But one cannot help but notice that within the past few years there has evolved a burgeoning movement of Orthodox creativity. In the following pages, we present but a few of the growing number of religious Jews—including *rosh yeshivah* and novelist Rabbi Haim Sabato and screenwriter/actor Shuli Rand—who are dedicating their innate talents to deepening and enriching their *avodat Hashem*.

In this issue, we also invited three prestigious scientists, some of whom are known to *Jewish Action* readers—Drs. Nathan Aviezer, Gerald Schroeder and Arnold Slyper—to debate the controversial topic of intelligent design. Specifically, we asked them: Should religious

people believe in intelligent design? Should it be taught in public schools? What about *yeshivot*?

This issue also features a stirring account of one Jewish soldier’s experiences in Iraq. Severely wounded while on a mission, Adam Campbell temporarily lost the use of his legs and spent over a year in the hospital. Nevertheless, his belief in God and his commitment to Judaism never wavered. We at the Orthodox Union take special pride in this young soldier’s story of faith and courage because we have known Adam since he was in sixth grade—Adam is an NCSY (National Conference of Synagogue Youth) alumnus who continues to maintain a strong connection to his NCSY friends and mentors.

Aside from these major features, we offer our usual array of stimulating articles on Israel travel, *kashrut* information, *halachah* and so much more.

I would like to express a special thank you to all the letter writers who responded to the last issue and especially to the provocative article by Yaakov Eisen on his conflicted feelings about the Jewish State in the aftermath of the disengagement. We received many letters both condemning and supporting Eisen’s views, a sample of which we hope to publish in the next issue, God willing. We always appreciate feedback from our loyal readers, and we look forward to hearing from you. **JA**

**The Halachic Organ Donor Society
The New York Organ Donor Network
The Schlesinger Institute for Jewish Medical Ethics**

**are proud to invite Rabbis and Physicians
to a 2-day Seminar on Organ Donations
at the Einstein Medical School of Yeshiva University**

**Rabbinic Members
of the HOD Society**

Rabbi Yosef Adler
Rabbi Marc Angel
Rabbi Shlomo Aviner
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Rabbi Joseph Radinsky
Rabbi Shlomo Riskin
Rabbi Daniel Sperber
Rabbi Moshe Tendler
Rabbi Binyamin Walfish
Rabbi Yaacov Warhaftig

November 15: The Body, How it Works, and Organ Transplantation

9:00 – 10:15 Overview of the Transplant Network in America
10:15 – 11:30 Anatomy & Physiology: Heart, Lungs, Pancreas, Liver, Kidneys, & Skin
11:45 – 12:45 Process of Cadaveric Donation: Matching, Recovery, Preservation, Transportation and Transplantation
12:45 – 1:30 Lunch
1:30 – 2:30 Live Donation: Reality, Risks, Ethical Dilemma in Directed Donation, NOTA
2:30 – 3:30 Anatomy and Physiology: Brain and Brain-Stem
4:00 – 5:00 Brain-Stem Death and Diagnosis: Description, Diagnostic Testing, Determination, Legal Ramifications
5:00 – 6:00 Non Heart-Beating Donations and Halachic Issues
6:00 – 6:45 Dinner
6:45 – 7:30 Psychological Aspects of Donating and Receiving Organs

November 16: Halachic Theory & Application

9:00 – 10:00 Overview of Rabbinic, Organizational, and Government Positions in Israel
10:00 – 11:30 Why Brain-Stem Death is Not Halachic Death
11:45 – 1:00 Why Brain-Stem Death is Halachic Death
12:45 – 1:30 Lunch
1:30 – 2:00 Sheep Experiment Video
2:00 – 3:00 Development of Rav Moshe Feinstein's Position
3:00 – 4:00 Direct Observation and Hands-On Use of Medical Equipment: Transcranial Doppler, Ventilator, EEG & Video of Apnea Test
4:15 – 6:00 Donating to Gentiles: The Nexus of Ethics and Halacha
6:00 – 6:45 Dinner
6:45 – 7:30 Summary

Among the many distinguished lecturers scheduled to speak are Rabbi Shabtai Rappaport, Rabbi Dr. Mordechai Halperin, Rabbi Yoel Bin-Nun, Rabbi Dr. Eddie Reichman and Elaine Berg (CEO of the NY Organ Donor Network). The medical lectures will be presented so that they are readily understood by the non-medical attendees of the conference, and the Halachic lectures will be presented so that they are readily understood by the non-rabbinic attendees.

Cost: \$180 (Scholarships available).
Einstein Medical School of Yeshiva University
Date: November 15th & 16th, 2006

Register now by calling 212-213-5087, or email admin@hods.org. Space is limited!

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The HOD Society is a 501c3. Ph: 212-212-5087, www.hods.org, Email: admin@hods.org*