

It's George! (...or is it?)



Ilan Hoffman CAS'06 and actor Jason Alexander

"I'm disturbed, I'm depressed, I'm inadequate - I've got it all!" - George Costanza

For nine years, actor Jason Alexander delighted audiences of NBC's hit sitcom, *Seinfeld*, with his portrayal of George Costanza. As students discovered at BU Hillel in November, Alexander could in fact not be any more *unlike* Costanza who was characterized by low self-esteem, habitual lying and narcissism.

Alexander, who was visiting BU's College of Fine Arts, accepted an invitation from Rabbi Polak for an informal meeting with a small group of students at the Hillel House. However, when word of this initiative got out, the crowd quickly swelled to over 500, 300 of whom packed Hillel's fourth floor auditorium.

The actor spoke of how deeply his Jewish upbringing had shaped both his career and the way he raises his children, and even his work to create dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians.

When asked how he would most like to be remembered, Alexander responded: "By the few people whose lives I have touched, and as a good father by my children. I'd love it to say on my tombstone, 'We loved our dad.' "

Tulane students take refuge from Katrina at BU Hillel

As New Orleans and surrounding areas were evacuated in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Tulane University was temporarily closed and its students dispersed to campuses across the country. Boston University hosted several hundred exiled students, and the Florence & Chafetz Hillel House at BU soon became a surrogate "home away from home" to many Tulane Hillel regulars.

Shabbat dinner at BU Hillel "turned out to be a really cool event, in more ways than one," according to Tulane Hillel Jewish Student Life Coordinator, Jody Portnoff. "In spite of (Boston's) nippy temperatures, everyone there got into the N'awlins spirit, donning Mardi Gras beads and comparing hurricane evacuation stories."



Tulane students enjoy Shabbat dinner at BU Hillel

Run Hillel, run!



Lindsay Rabinowitz COM'07 and David Askenazi CAS'08

Boston University Hillel and Harvard Hillel marked the end of summer together with a 5km fun run and walk which raised \$1,100 to benefit two local homeless shelters: the Pine Street Inn in Boston and the Harvard Square Shelter in Cambridge.

Following the Charles River between Harvard Hillel and BU Hillel, 89 students participated in the "Red Dog Run," which was named in tribute to the two colleges' mascots, the (BU) Terriers and the (Harvard) Crimson.

The program was made possible by grants from the Merle and Marshall Goldman Foundation, and from Hillel Council of New England's Jewish Student Projects fund.

In the interests of cooperation, look for next year's T-shirt to be a brighter shade of red!

International photojournalist inspires audiences



'Balancing', Yemen, 1992

Photojournalist and Boston University parent, Zion Ozeri, is the first artist to be featured in the Rubin-Frankel Gallery in the new Hillel House. His exhibition, 'A Nation's Diversity: A Jewish Family Album' is a selection of images of Jewish life throughout the world.

According to Ozeri, "As one travels throughout the world and observes the nuances of each Jewish community, it is remarkable to see the common thread running through them all. Be it in Israel, Russia, North Africa, Central Asia, Cuba or the USA: when one steps into a synagogue, it is the same *kaddish* and the same *sh'ma* - only the melody varies."

Ozeri brought his messages of Jewish diversity, similarity and kinship home to Hillel in a series of gallery talks in October, which drew large attendances. Shortly afterwards, a student wrote to the artist: "I am writing to tell you how wonderful your work is and how it has inspired me. Having not done photography since high school, you reminded me how much I love it! I hope that in my future I'll have the chance to capture the lives of the people in many countries, just as you have. Thank you for that special reminder."

If you're interested in supporting projects such as this, please contact Michael Silbert, BU Hillel Development Consultant, at (617)353-7200 or msilbert@bu.edu

Community Service day becomes annual event

The second annual Roffman Mitzvah Day was held on Sunday, October 30, 2005. BU Hillel students participated in community service programs including: volunteering at Boston's Family Table (a community response to Jewish families and individuals who are unable to afford the basic necessities of life); preparing meals at the New England Shelter for the Homeless; volunteering at the Hadassah Thrift Store; helping the elderly at Hebrew SeniorLife; and cleaning the Boston Esplanade.

The Mitzvah Day was generously sponsored by an endowment fund created by Nancy and Joel CAS'72, MED'75 Roffman, of Dallas, in memory of their son, George. The Roffmans have inspired similar Mitzvah projects at their synagogue and at their late son's Jewish Day School, and also at his alma mater, Washington University, in St. Louis.

If you're interested in supporting projects such as this, please contact Victor Nussbaum, BU Hillel Development Director, at (617)353-7664 or nussbaum@bu.edu



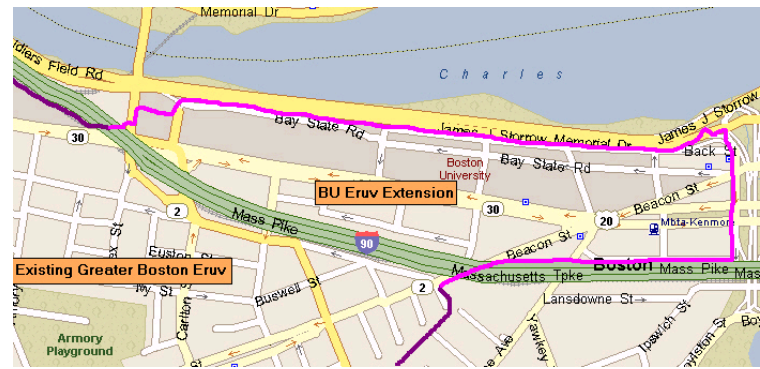
BU Hillel students on-site at a community service project

Boston *eruv* expanded to include parts of BU campus

Boston's *eruv* - a physically delineated area within which observant Jews may carry objects on Shabbat - has been expanded to include parts of Boston University, making Shabbat life more convenient for Jewish students.

Previously, students who did not wish to carry items on Shabbat had to make arrangements with their dormitories to be allowed access into the building without a key or identity card. Observant students, for example, can now carry their *talitot* to synagogue on Shabbat without making earlier arrangements.

The Greater Boston Eruv Corporation has been working on the project with Hillel for the past six years. It also has involved Boston University, the state Turnpike Authority, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, NStar, the City of Boston Public Works Department and Strom Electric Inc. The project cost between \$15,000 - \$20,000, with initial funding donated through BU Hillel from Marilyn Sopher and her daughter, Lisa, in memory of their husband and father, Morris Sopher.



New Hillel House is a popular venue for private events



A corporate event (above) and wedding (below) in the third floor dining room



In the short time since its May 2005 opening, the new Florence & Chafetz Hillel House at Boston University has already become a popular Boston venue for Bar/Bat Mitzvahs and weddings, as well as for select corporate meetings and events.

The spacious and well appointed lounges, gallery area, dining room and auditorium are comfortable facilities that can be used for a range of private events at "low-student-traffic" times, while the proceeds actually help fund student programs, Jewish life and other related Hillel expenses. Reservations are already in place for 2007.

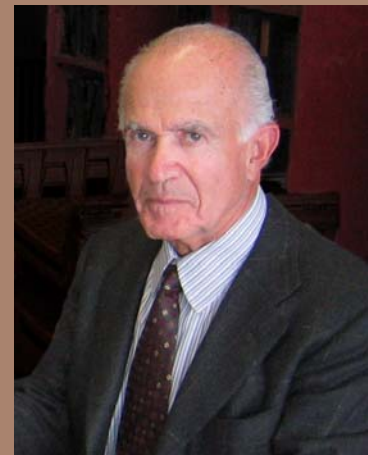
For more information, please contact Lilka Elbaum, Director of Meetings and Events, at (617) 353-7634 or lelbaum@bu.edu

Save the Date: Spring '06 Awards Dinner

The Florence & Chafetz Hillel House at Boston University is pleased to announce that its Leadership Awards dinner will be held on the evening of Tuesday, May 23, 2006. The honoree will be Oscar Wasserman, the immediate past-president of Boston University Hillel.

Mr. Wasserman has enjoyed a distinguished and accomplished relationship with Hillel and with Boston University in general. After graduating from the School of Management in 1956, he earned a degree from the Law School in 1959. Following that, he pursued a Master's Degree in Law, which was conferred upon him in 1962. In recent years, Wasserman has served as president of Boston University's Law School Alumni Association.

As president of Boston University Hillel from 1998 until 2005, Oscar Wasserman presided over the Board of Director's decision to construct a new building. He managed this project until its completion with the opening of the Florence & Chafetz Hillel House, in May 2005.



Oscar Wasserman LAW'62

Mazal Tov to...

Nora Abrahamer, Associate Director of Boston University Hillel, on the Bar Mitzvah of her son, Jeremy, in November 2005

Adina Rubin Berzofsky COM'00 and **Eric Berzofsky ENG'97** on the birth of their son in June 2005

Jerusha Coltof SED'93 and Douglas Hirshon on the birth of their daughter, Michaelah, in October 2005

Greg Duftler CAS'96 on his engagement to Faye Klahonicksky

Adam Farber CAS'01 on his marriage to Jordana Rothschild in August 2005

Morton Hoffman, CAS Professor of Chemistry and Member of BU Hillel's Board of Directors, who has been named the 2005 recipient of the James Flack Norris Award for the teaching of Chemistry, by the American Chemical Society

Micah Jacobs ENG'99 on his engagement to Beth Barson

Jack ENG'97 and Pnina **Kustanowitz** on the birth of their son, Gil Aviad, in June 2005

Reizel Polak SSW'99 and **Rabbi Joseph Polak HON'95**, director of Boston University Hillel, on the birth of their granddaughter, Chana Gitel, in August 2005

Alexandre LAW'93 and Sabrina **Speaker** on the birth of twin boys in July 2005

Our Deepest Sympathies to...

The family of **Dr. Ernie Blaustein GRS'52**, former member of Boston University Hillel's Board of Directors and BU faculty member, who passed away in June 2005

Special Thanks to our 2004 - 2005 Benefactors Society

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