

# The Kustanowitz Kronikle

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Special Purim Edition

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## RABBIS TO REQUIRE SHECHITA FOR MANY FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

*New Laws Based On Talmud Yerakot Fragments Found in Gaza Geniza; Employment Opportunity Seen for Former Agriprocessors Mashgichim*

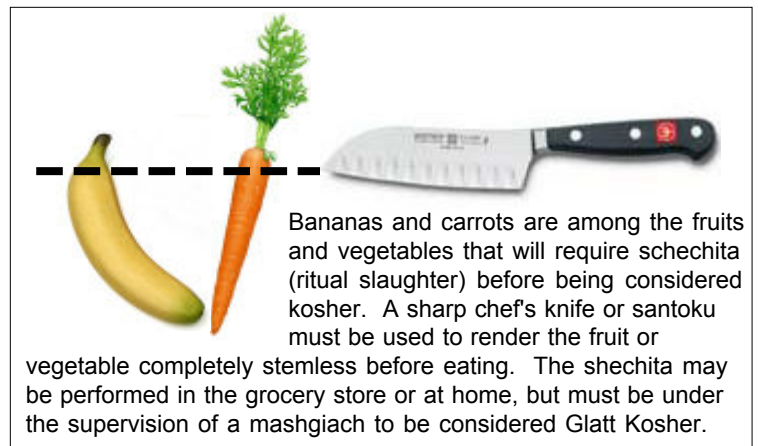
Special to the Kustanowitz Kronikle

FAIR LAWN, March 9 — During the bombardment of Hamas smuggling tunnels during Operation Cast Lead (Israel's Gaza incursion), high-resolution satellite photos revealed the presence of fragments of a long-lost book of the Talmud—Masechet Yerakot (Tractate Vegetables). These fragments have now been enlarged with very sophisticated computer image processing software.

The most shocking revelation in these fragments is the disclosure that the laws of shechita (ritual slaughter) are not limited to animals, but must also be applied to all edible vegetation with visible stems. The text contains many discussions of the proper ways to slaughter fruits and vegetables and make them kosher. The collection of fragments has been named the GAZA GENIZAH.

Archaeologists and Torah scholars have long known of a Jewish presence in Gaza, from the time of Samson and Delilah to the present. Evidence of Jewish life during the Talmudic period in Gaza is provided also by reliefs of a menorah, a shofar, a lulav, and an etrog, which appear on a pillar of the Great Mosque of Gaza with various Hebrew and Greek inscriptions.

After reviewing the Talmud excerpts this week, the Council of Rabbinic Overseers of New York (CRONY) issued a ruling that from now on, all fruits and vegetables that have visible stems must be rendered completely stemless before eating. Not removing the stems according



to halacha (Jewish law) will constitute a violation of kashrut.

Enforcement of these new regulations seemed to be a problem for CRONY because not everyone can be trusted to secure a proper sharp knife with which to perform the ritual and to make the cut in one swift motion as decreed in the Talmud. However, they soon realized that the loss of employment of so many mashgichim as a result of the Agriprocessors plant closing presented a solution to the kashrut enforcement and unemployment problems at the same time.

### "Squishing Ceremony" For Children Who Won't Eat Veggies

Analysis of the Yerakot fragments also revealed the existence of an ancient ceremony performed by mothers whose children refused to eat their vegetables. This ceremony is patterned after the Chalitzah ceremony used in levirate marriages as described in Deuteronomy (25:5-10) and elaborated in the Talmudic tractate Yevamot, which was codified at the same time as Yerakot. This ceremony is described on page 2.

## \$50 Billion Stimulus Gift to Fund Major Jewish Organizations

**AWARD CONDITIONED ON NEW ETHICAL STANDARDS; LOBBYISTS AND PACS BANNED FROM TAKING PART**

Special to the Kustanowitz Kronikle

FAIR LAWN, March 9 — The Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations (COPOMCOPOMJO) has announced a massive \$50 billion stimulus package to solve the crisis Jewish organizations faced when they lost billions in investments gone bad. The money was delivered to COPOMCOPOMJO headquarters with a short note signed "Bernie."

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### It's Movie Awards Time! The Kronikle Presents:



**THE KUSTANOWITZ KIDS' PICKS FOR THE 2008 SILVER GRAGGER MOVIE AWARDS**

**Complete Coverage on page 2**

## It's Movie Awards Time! The Kronikle Presents:

### THE KUSTANOWITZ KIDS' PICKS FOR THE 2008 SILVER GRAGGERS

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The Golden Globes and the Oscars were a good warm-up act. Now, the moment you have been waiting for: the Kronikle presents its own Silver Gragger awards for the outstanding film achievements of 2008.*



**27 DRESSES:** After agreeing to marry the chassidic love of her life, a young Jewish woman discovers she'll need to have all 27 of his sisters in her bridal party.

**88 MINUTES:** A baal korei with Irritable Bowel Syndrome breaks a world record by completing Yom Kippur services in an hour and a half.

**BRIDE WARS:** When two best friends both schedule their weddings for the one available weekend during the Omer when

happiness is permitted, chaos ensues. Call the SWAT Team, because these kallahs have gone wild!

**BOTTLE SHOCK:** A riot erupts at a kiddush when the gabbai discovers that the wine is non-mevushal and was opened by a non-Orthodox Jew.

**DEFIANCE:** A group of suburban housewives mobilizes against the increasingly restrictive Passover cleaning rules, and decides that microwaves are allowed on the holiday.

**FROZEN RIVER:** An early frost sends Alaskan rabbis searching for alternatives to flowing rivers as sites for saying the Tashlich prayer on Rosh Hashana.

**BURN AFTER READING:** A Satmar chassid is faced with a difficult decision when he moves into a home containing a library with the complete works of Buber, Heschel, Kaplan, and Herzl.

**MAMMA M.I.A.!** After pushing out her 11<sup>th</sup> child on the eve of Passover, an ultra-orthodox woman takes an unannounced vacation in the Bahamas.

**MILK:** Panic paralyzes diners when a dairy sponge is used to clean a sink full of meat dishes, and everyone suspects someone else.

**RELIGIOUS:** A prospective convert can't believe her eyes when she encounters the rules of levirate marriage. (See sidebar.)

**ROCHEL GETTING MARRIED:** A modern matchmaking musical, as a pair of parents scheme with a matchmaker to get their daughter hitched before she turns the tragic age of 25.

**SECTS AND THE CITY:** The story behind a fictitious reality show in which a group of Jews, Christians, Buddhists and Muslims gather in New York City with one mission in mind: Convince everyone else that you are right.

**THE ACCIDENTAL HUSBAND:** A rabbi performing a wedding ceremony finds himself in trouble when, while prompting the groom to say the "Harei At" formula, recites it in full himself and becomes legally wed to the bride.

**THE DARK NIGHT:** An entire community is left in the dark on Friday night when the local Shabbos guy unexpectedly moves out of the neighborhood.

**THE FINAL INCH:** A mohel insists that he's really almost finished.

**THE READER:** Following a steroids scandal, a local synagogue's go-to hagbah guy must reinvent himself as a baal korei.

**THE UNINVITED:** When the Goldberg family opens the door for Elijah during the seder, the famous prophet enters. He has brought a designated driver who tests the patience of the multi-clan family and challenges them to find the true meaning of Passover.

**TAKEN:** An animated tale of what happens to that tiny piece of dough, once it's removed from a batch of challah.

**TWILIGHT:** A con artist with Saturday afternoon baseball tickets successfully tricks his entire community into believing that a passing rainstorm has caused the sun to set early, thus ending Shabbat at noon.

**WALL-E:** The animated adventures of two printed email messages that are both trying to make the long trip to the Western Wall without being torn up, thrown out, or read by somebody not named God.

## \$50B STIMULUS PACKAGE

(continued from page 1)

The "Bernie" letter said the existing organizations weren't doing a good job and deserved to lose their portfolios. But it was all part of a scheme to redistribute the wealth from old, redundant organizations to a centralized one (COPOMCOPOMJO) that would be responsible to direct funds to better the Jewish community.

In the new spirit of higher ethical standards, COPOMCOPOMJO issued a directive that leadership positions will go only to applicants who are not working for any lobbyists. They provided a list of the lobbying organizations – Political Action Committees (PACs), Social Action Committees (SACs), and Joint Action Committees (JACs), whose employees will be disqualified from applying for these positions. For the benefit of readers who may not be familiar with these committees and their causes, here is a brief list of these lobbying organizations:

PAC or SAC	SPECIAL INTEREST OR ADVOCACY
BACKPAC	"Wearing" muktza items to avoid carrying them on Shabbat
KNAPSAC	Working with BACKPAC for carrying very large items
BRICABRACPAC	Securing funds for Sisterhood Thrift Shops
NICKNACKPAC	Working with BRICABRACPAC for funding Sisterhood Thrift Shops
PADDYWHACPAC	Advocacy for punishing unruly Junior Congregation attendees
SMACKPAC	Affiliate of PADDYWHACPAC advocating harsher punishment
BLACKPAC	Acceptance of Hasidic clothing as standard for all Jews
FLAPJAC	Upgrading Sunday morning minyan breakfasts to include pancakes
JACKPAC	Badgering congressmen on Capitol Hill for special favors
JILLPAC	Working with JACKPAC up on the Hill to fetch water rights
LACKPAC	Advocacy for losers without any special interests
MACPAC	Kosher supervision for fast food restaurants
BIGMACPAC	Kosher supervision for really big fast food restaurant chains
PACPAC	Marketing programs to present a good image for lobbying organizations
PLAQUEPAC	Enlarge synagogue lobbies to accommodate bigger donor tributes
QUACKPAC	Adding roast duck to entrée choices at annual Shul Dinner
SHACKPAC	Providing funds to upgrade shtetels and shuls in poor neighborhoods
SLACKPAC	Wider acceptance of women's modern dress in Orthodox circles
YACKPAC	Acceptance of nonstop talking during synagogue services
AFLACPAC	Encouraging synagogues to upgrade their liability insurance
SPORTSAC	Rights of women to carry lightweight pocketbooks on Shabbat

### "Squishing Ceremony" Revived from Ancient Fragments of Tractate Yerakot

Yerakot was a twin tractate to Yevamot, unknown until now, but put into writing around the year 500 C.E. Yevamot deals with levirate marriage. A key subject is the chalitzah ceremony, where a brother of a deceased husband who refuses to marry the widow is subjected to humiliation by the woman removing his shoe, throwing it at him, spitting in front of him and saying "Thus shall be done to he who refuses to raise a house in Israel." This ceremony appears in the Torah, in the book of Deuteronomy (25:5-10). The rabbis who analyzed the Gaza Geniza concluded that the squishing ceremony which is detailed in the Tractate Yerakot, while not of Torah origin, was nevertheless part of the oral Torah that Moses received on Mount Sinai.

Here are the details of the ceremony for the benefit of any mothers who wish to perform it.

*The child's mother mashes the vegetables. She then removes the child's head covering (kippah, hat) and fills it with the mashed vegetables. She squishes it on the child's head, spits on the ground in front of him, and then says in the presence of the assembled elders: "So shall it be done unto the child that doth not eat his vegetables. And his name shall be called in Israel 'the house of him that hath his cap squished'." She repeats the last phrase three times, the assembly reciting it three times after her.*