

# The Kustanowitz Kronikle

Vol. XXIX No. 1

Special Purim Spoof Edition

March 5, 2015

## **NETANYAHU TO RUN FOR U.S. PRESIDENCY; BUSH, WALKER, CRUZ, PAUL TO RUN FOR KNESSET**

*Bibi Unanimously Chosen by House and Senate Republicans;  
Herzog, Livni to Compete with Clinton in Democratic Primary;*

Special to The Kustanowitz Kronikle



**FAIR LAWN,** March 5 – In a stunning overnight development in the run-up to the upcoming elections in Israel this month and in the U.S. in November 2016, the

major contenders announced that they will swap roles and run in each other's country's elections. Amid the controversy surrounding Israel's prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speech to the U.S. Congress, nobody suspected that the real purpose of the visit and the speech was to announce that he was withdrawing from the Israeli election and accepting the Republican nomination as the candidate with the best chance of defeating likely Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton.

The announcement caught Americans and Israelis by surprise and created a constitutional crisis. Republicans swiftly agreed to cancel all primaries and debates and start campaigning with Netanyahu immediately. The other major Republican contenders rushed to sign up for an Ulpan to quickly master the Hebrew language so they could start campaigning for seats in the Knesset.

Serious questions have been raised about Netanyahu's eligibility to run for the office since he is not a native-born American citizen. These have been muted in the face of challenges to President Barack Obama's citizenship and his issuance of executive orders that some say override sections of the Constitution.

Hillary Clinton's campaign team was taken aback by the announcement and the sudden entry of Herzog and Livni as new competitors for the Democratic nomination.

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### **How to Welcome Synagogue Visitors Without Losing Your Seat**

**FAIR LAWN,** March 5 – Archaeologists in Israel have just translated a companion to the *Shulchan Aruch* - the Code of Jewish Law – which contains laws of synagogue behavior which somehow didn't get included in the editions studied today.

Called the *Shulchan Hafuch*, and written centuries ago, the volume is just as relevant today. The laws deal with proper and improper ways to greet strangers who visit our houses of worship and how to balance the courtesy due visitors with the territorial nature of shul attendance.

This possessive attitude toward seats is heightened if our regular Shabbat seat is a particularly desirable one, such as Tevye's "seat by the eastern wall," a prized aisle seat, or a sometimes more prized seat at the end of the last row in the back of the shul.

*(Continued on page 2)*

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



**THE KUSTANOWITZ KIDS' PICKS  
FOR THE 2014  
SILVER GRAGGER MOVIE AWARDS**

**Complete coverage on page 2**

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*EDITOR'S NOTE: The Golden Globes and the Oscars were a good warm-up act. Now, the Kronikle presents its own Silver Gragger Awards for the outstanding film achievements of 2014.*



**AMERICAN SNIPPER:** The controversial, harrowing, and heroic story of the most successful *mohel* in U. S. History.

**GONE GIRL:** A Conservative family reacts in horror when their daughter returns from a year in Yeshiva insisting on being called by her Hebrew name.

**50 SHADES OF BLACK:** A Chasidic fashion designer discovers a secret desire to explore

the gradations of his community's chosen color.

**UNBROKEN:** Following *Neilah*, an overconfident faster transitions right back into *Kol Nidre* to go for it all over again.

**BIGEYES:** At his son's wedding, a man is crushed under the piled-high plate of smorgasbord food as he tries to carry it back to his table.

**QUEENSMAN: Mordechai's Secret Service:** After the Purim story ends, Mordechai becomes a secret service recruiter, traveling the 127 provinces in search of an elite fighting squad.

**THE IMITATION GAME:** A vegetarian/kosher restaurant creates community-wide panic when it starts serving fake shrimp, pork, and bacon that tastes too good to be true.

**THE FAULT IN OUR STARS:** A scheming teenager convinces his parents that he sees three stars in the sky at noon, thus ending Shabbat early and allowing him to start using his iPhone.

**BIG HERO 6:** A daring American rabbi decrees that the seventh day of Passover is unnecessary, and his community rejoices.

**BIRDMAN:** A *Kapparat* expert takes the ceremony too far when he tries swinging six chickens over his head at the same time.

**GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY:** At a wedding, the bride's mother fights with two young friends assigned to guard the Yichud room.

**EDGE OF TOMORROW:** A new convert struggles to understand how days in the Hebrew calendar could possibly begin the night before.

**THIS IS WHERE I LEAVE YOU:** At the end of Visiting Day at summer camp, a frustrated mother does everything in her power to separate from her homesick daughter.

**A MOST VIOLENT YEAR:** A Mafia hitman struggles to cram in all his atoning on Yom Kippur.

**WILD:** A Chabad rebbetzin and mother of eight young boys struggles to keep her home in order on a snow day.

**TAKEN 3:** After one congregant takes two more *Mishloach Manot* packages than he should have, the rabbi swears to track him down and extract revenge.

## HOW TO WELCOME SYNAGOGUE VISITORS WITHOUT LOSING YOUR SEAT

*(Continued from page 1)*

For congregants who attend synagogues regularly, seating is a primary concern. After all, it's a base from which to carry on conversations with close friends, give and get financial advice, review the baseball scores, criticize the Rabbi's speech, and occasionally utter a prayer or two.

The newly discovered laws relate to the situation when you wake up late and get to synagogue well into the service. You go to your seat and find a complete stranger sitting there. What to do? How to claim your seat without insulting the stranger and telling him that he is trespassing and occupying your seat?

When our patriarch Abraham saw three strangers approaching from afar, he rushed out to welcome them and offer them refreshment. He didn't say, "This is MY tent!" or imply that they were trespassing on his property.

This mitzvah of *Hachnasat Orchim* – welcoming guests – is so important that it is one of the ten precepts for which one is rewarded in this world and also in the world to come. This is expressed in the paragraph, *Ailu Devarim*, at the start of the daily *Shacharit* service.

The Shulchan Hafuch enumerates creative ways for congregants to reclaim their prized seats.

### THE "ME'OD ME'OD CHEVRUTI (UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL)" APPROACH:

You walk into shul and find a stranger sitting in your seat? No problem! Just sit right next to him, very very close. Spread your legs as far as you can and stretch your shoulders until they make contact with his. Odds are that you will shortly have your seat back.

### THE ALIYAH SWITCHEROO:

As a stranger, he is very likely to be spotted by the Gabbai and offered an aliyah. As soon as he gets up for the aliyah, move back to your seat and remove all traces of his existence, such as a tallit bag, siddur, chumash, placing them further down the row or in another row. This works best if you place your own tallit bag, siddur and chumash on the two seats next to yours.

### THE CONVERSATIONAL APPROACH:

Take the seat next to him. If he appears to want to daven quietly and sincerely, keep starting new conversations, preferably about sports, business, and the world of entertainment.

### THE SUPER SHUCKLE:

Take the seat next to him. Cover your head with your tallit and shuckle (shake) back and forth and side to side with ever increasing fervor. (NOTE: This tactic may not be effective if the visitor is also behaving in this manner.)

### THE ABRAHAMIC APPROACH:

Offer the visitor a handshake. Say "*Shabbat Shalom*," "*Gut Shabbos*," "*Chag Sameach*," or "*Gut Yom Tov*," depending on the occasion and the color, style, and texture of his yarmulke or hat. Introduce yourself. Ask if he is the guest of any member. If not, offer to introduce him to other members at the Kiddush, and invite him to your home for a Shabbat or holiday meal. Then take a seat near him, skipping the one immediately next to him. It's very likely that he will ask if he has taken your seat and offer to move. *Mazel Tov!* You have just performed the mitzvah of *Hachnasat Orchim*, made a visitor happy, and regained your seat in the process.