

Bob's Flag

From a Funeral Home, to Flags Across The Nation and to a Mortuary Affairs Military Unit in Iraq

By Eileen A. Schwartz,
Founder/President, Flags Across
The Nation

Bob's Flag has brought a light of caring and the mitzvah of giving and receiving to three Jewish strangers bound together by an American Flag.

This is a story of three Temple Beth El members linked together by Bob's Flag, actually an American Flag. Rabbi Judy helped by giving Eileen Schwartz the initial introduction to the deployed SPC Ronald J. Boyd and then the path of the mitzvah really began.

The mitzvah path all started in November, when a story about Eileen Schwartz's visit to the White House appeared in the *Charlotte Observer*. Elly Miller read the story and had a thought, "Bob's Flag."

Bob Miller passed away a few years ago and the funeral home gave Elly Bob's Flag. Bob had served in the Army as a PFC, deployed to Japan. When Bob passed away, he did not have a military burial, however the funeral home had a flag for Bob. So, Elly took it.

Elly didn't know what to do



Bob's flag.

with the flag, so it stayed packed away in her home, still respectfully folded in a triangle. Elly gave the flag to Eileen to mail to SPC Boyd.

Now the story takes on a little twist ... Boyd works in Mortuary Affairs. Bob's Flag was sent to Iraq and now the flag is displayed there with great honor and enormous feeling for his entire unit at Mortuary Affairs.

When SPC Boyd comes home from his deployment the flag will follow. It will be put on display at Temple Beth El and rest there awhile until we locate another deployed soldier who would honor us all with taking the flag.

This story is not complete without some words from Elly Miller and SPC Boyd.

"Please tell Mrs. Miller thank

you for the flag. It is an honor to display it here. It was a somber moment when we placed the flag into the mortuary, just the fact of where it came from and what it represents here. Many of the soldiers that will come into its presence will not be able to see it, however, their memory and the memory of Bob will always be with all of us," says Boyd.

Elly Miller said, "I received the flag in honor of Bob's status as a veteran. I wanted to find an appropriate way to use it and when I read about the Flags Across the Nation Program I knew I had found the answer. I also knew Bob would have been pleased to have his flag used this way."

We're all sure Bob is smiling.

A thought from Rabbi Judy, "Mystics teach that every Mitzvah we do brings light into the world. What a great Mitzvah to share among three strangers."

Contact Eileen Schwartz if you have a flag that you would like to send over to the troops, 704-654-8529 or www.flagsacrossthenation.org. ☆

Jeffrey Rosenfeld, Ph.D., M.D., Named CMC Neurology Chair

Jeffrey Rosenfeld, Ph.D., M.D. has been appointed Chairman of the Department of Neurology at Carolinas Medical Center (CMC).

Dr. Rosenfeld will maintain his title as the Medical Director of the Department of Neurology within the Neuroscience Institute as he takes on Chairmanship of the Department of Neurology. Dr. Rosenfeld has served as director of the Carolinas Neuromuscular Program since 1998. In addition to his practice of neurology, he has more than 18 years of experience in neurological research.

Dr. Rosenfeld began his medical career at the University of Connecticut, where he completed graduate work in neuromorphology/neuroanatomy. He then served as an instructor and research associate at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine prior to attending medical school at the University of Maryland. After completing his residency at the Hospital of the University of



Jeff Rosenfeld

Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Dr. Rosenfeld joined the staff at Emory University. He was co-director of its neuromuscular pathology lab and served as attending neurologist at the Emory Clinic from 1994 to 1998 when he joined the Carolinas Neuromuscular/ALS Clinic. ☆

Jeff Katz Selected Best Media Personality for 2006

City Political Magazine, the monthly publication of North Carolina politics, has released their **Best of Charlotte 2006** selections and WBT afternoon host Jeff Katz was named Best Media Personality of the Year.

City Political editors describe Jeff as "tough, but fair" with a knack for knowing "what's best for the city." They also advise local politicians to have all of their "ducks in a row, because he (Jeff) does not miss anything." ☆



SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

Joel Lurie Grishaver, Scholar-in-Residence

February 9-11

In honor of Jewish teachers, Temple Israel is proud to sponsor scholar-in-residence Joel Lurie Grishaver to speak at our Education Shabbat. Mr. Grishaver is a master teacher, serves on the Consortium for Jewish Family Education, and was awarded the Covenant Award for outstanding contributions to Jewish Education. He is the publisher and co-owner of Torah Aura Productions and Alef Design Group, which publishes numerous texts: including all the Hebrew texts used by Temple Israel Religious School. Grishaver is a prolific author and has written more than one hundred books including *Shema is for Real* and *Forty Things You Can Do to Save the Jewish People*. Mr. Grishaver is a dynamic and inspiring speaker and teacher.

Joel Lurie Grishaver will be speaking on: "The Mechanics of Jewish Values" (Saturday Shabbat Service).

Joel Grishaver has degrees from Boston University and the

University of Chicago. He has pursued graduate studies at the Hebrew Union College and the University of Southern California. His real education comes from working with Jewish day camps, summer camps, children's museums and youth groups; and from teaching in Hebrew schools, day schools, Hebrew high schools, and graduate schools. He is a founding board member of the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education, a consultant to the Whizin Institute for Jewish Family Life, and a faculty member of the Department of Continuing Education of the University of Judaism. More than twenty weekends a year, Joel teaches Jewish learners of all ages as a Scholar-in-Residence in communities all over North America and Europe.

In addition, Mr. Grishaver will also lead two Family Workshops. Using Bar and Bat Mitzvah to Change Family Dynamics will be the topic for our Vav Family Education session. *You Be the Judge* will be the topic for our

Etgar (7th grade) students and their parents.

Be a Shabbat Star: How to Lead a Shabbat Morning Service

Temple Israel needs more people who know how to lead a Shabbat morning service. There are opportunities on Men's Club Shabbat, Sisterhood Shabbat, and especially during the summer, or when the Cantor is out of town. Whether or not you attend services regularly, you can master this skill if you are a proficient Hebrew reader and have a reasonably pleasant voice. You will find it very gratifying to lead people in prayer.

Room-In-The-Inn

Room In The Inn will be on February 24. We need volunteers for drivers, kitchen prep, and especially overnights. Donations are welcomed. We still need donations of books. Please contact Jeanne Stein at Jeanne.Hopkins@cms.k12.nc.us, JKDSUM@aol.com or 704-651-4908.

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