### Summer 2003 Vol. L No. 3

Welcome to the third quarterly newsletter of the Jericho High School class of 1972.

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correspondents and to	
Webmacher Freda Salatino.	
We hope you will contribut	
news about you and yours	
future issues. Best wishes	
all members of the JHS cla	SS
of 1972.	

# "Lies! Lies! All of It, Lies!" JHS Class of 1972 Quarterly On-Line Newsletter

Official Propaganda Tool of Jericho High School's Class of '72

# **Invitations to Go Out Soon for Communal 50th Birthday Party and Beach Blast on July 17, 2004**

Invitations to next July's communal 50th birthday party and beach blast at Steve's Pier 1 in Bayville, Long Island, will be mailed out sometime in early October. Until then, here are a few salient details:

### The Cost

The cost for those who RSVP super early – by October 31, 2003 - is \$110 (same as last time), a 12% discount. **RSVP-ing between No**vember 1 and December 31, 2003, nets you a \$5 discount per person, or \$120. From January 1 on, the full \$125 price will be charged. The price for each child under 13 is \$60. Cancel anytime through July 4, 2004, for a full refund.

Every effort has been made to keep costs down. Please bear in mind, though, this *is* Long Island. For the record, the class of '73's 30-year recent reunion in September also cost \$125. Monies go toward Steve's Pier 1, DJ/ karaoke setup, two professional photographers, invitations, postage, photo I.D. badges, decorations, etc.

### <u>The Menu</u>

12-2 P.M. – on outdoor deck, full open bar/raw bar: fried calamari • sirloin on garlic toast • mini lamb chops • coconut shrimp • large shrimp cocktail • cherrystone clams • littleneck clams • oysters on the half shell • cheese and crackers • fresh fruit 2-5 P.M. — in Queen Elizabeth Room (!), full buffet: two pasta stations • two carving stations • vegetables and fusion rice or potato • salad station • for kids, chicken fingers and french fries in addition to adult fare • birthday cake • coffee, tea, soda, and full open bar. •

If you don't think the reunion committee has your current mailing address, please e-mail it ASAP to philipbashe@ earthlink.net, so that we can send you the invitation!

. . . . . . . . . .

# *New Interactive Feature* "Funny You Should Ask!" TELL US YOUR POINT OF VIEW ON ...

See page 14.

## BOLDFACE **Nooz About Yooz**

### Wedding Bells, Junior Set

Jared Gottesman, son of Caren Kushner Gottesman and her husband, Allan, got engaged to his girlfriend, Vivian Wong, on July 3. According to Caren, who lives in Cooper City, Florida, the couple met at college.

Jared, twenty-four, has degrees in psychogoly and chemistry and is studying to become a phycisist. "Vivian is a software engineer," says Caren, "and she will have her master's in math in the spring. She's a wonderful person, and we're thrilled!"

The couple, who live in Orlando, Florida, are looking at an August 2004 wedding date. Congratulations and best wishes!

### In the News(day): Laurie Farber

Newsday recently ran a feature article about Laurie Farber's Starflower Experiences, a creative not-forprofit educational organization based in West Hills County Park, in Huntington. Starflower conducts a number of camplike programs. such as Earthkeepers, which en-



### They Once Were Lost, But Now They're Found!

Since our 30-year reunion, we've located or relocated more of your fellow classmates, while others have written to keep us apprised of new addresses. Here are the latest updates in contact information. Remember that you can locate more than 300 class members through the class directory on our Web site, at http://www.jhs1972.org.

#### FOUND

<ul> <li>Harvey Fialkov</li> <li>Michael Genna</li> <li>Harvey Meslin</li> <li>Sara Nerken</li> <li>Dino Patelis</li> <li>Joan Regan</li> </ul>	7324 S.W. 9 Court, Plantation, FL 33317, Harve7@aol.com 108 Bentley Drive, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054-4501, (856) 273-1231 Lives in Colorado; can be contacted via classmates.com 1000 Remington Road, Wynnewood, PA 19096 Can be contacted via classmates.com 101 Briny Avenue, Pompano Beach Club North, Pompano Beach, FL 33062
NEW ADDRESS	
George Ploskas	40 West Carolyn Road, Carmel, NY 10512, (845) 531-2860, gploska@rcn.com
• Rael Reif	505 Reynolds Road, Saltspring Island, British Columbia, Canada, V8K1Y3
<ul> <li>Patty Ryon Spiers/</li> </ul>	3606 Kings Road, #103, Palm Harbor, FL 34685,
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Michael Leshin	rmleshin@comcast.net
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Flip Maguire	majesticflip@aol.com
Susan Pfriender Bebry	
<ul> <li>Mark Silverberg</li> </ul>	markbs7@aol.com

wanderhome@qwest.net

Mark Silverberg

Marc Wander

ables school-age children to experience nature firsthand by taking them on woodland hikes. The kids learn basic concepts of the food chain as well as develop an abiding respect for Mother Earth. Laurie, who lives in Jericho, has been running Starflower Experiences for twelve years. If you'd like to learn more about it, visit the organization's Web site at http://members.aol.com/ starflexp.

As seen in Newday, Laurie Farber points out a colorful fungus to a 10-year-old participant.

### **Douglas Hoffman Appointed NYC Judge**

Doug Hoffman, a New York City Housing Court Judge since 1996, was appointed to the city's criminal court by Mayor Michael Bloomberg earlier this year. Prior to becoming a judge, he had been Director of Housing, Family and Civil Litigation at the Legal Aid Society. Doug, who received his JD from NYU, will be assigned to serve as an Acting Family Court Judge. He lives in the Bronx with his wife, Bernadette, and three kids, Emma, 9, Matthew, 8, and Nicholas, 6.

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# History of Jericho, Part I of XVICCIIII

### Your Home Town Existed for a Long Time Before You Showed Up, Bub ...

By local historian Silo Pegbottom

Jericho was discovered in 1684 by Sir Jerome Jürgen P. Ickles, the famed Danish explorer who suffered both from passagiaphobia – a paralyzing fear of long-distance travel, particularly by sea – and, strangely, recurring nightmares involving earwigs on his breakfast toast.

One sweltering summer evening in 1681, Sir Ickles told his wife and mistress Brünhilde he was running out to the Azore Islands for some cigarettes. He never returned. According to his captain's log, after sailing aimlessly around the Atlantic Ocean for three years, he and his crew of seventy "finally dropped trou upon sighting land." Historians initially believed that Sir Ickles, delirious with exhaustion and wracked by dysentery, had meant to write "finally dropped anchor." But no, "trou" it was, much to the amusement of the locals.

Now, some cranky historians (really now, are there any other kind?) point out a glaring discrepancy in Ickles's account: Since Jericho was landlocked and remains so to this day, he couldn't possibly have landed there. But history is full of such errors and out-and-out fabrications, especially when it is made into a film by Oliver Stone.

Jericho has been through countless changes over the years, beginning with its name. Originally it was called Jerickles (1684), in honor of the Great Dane who discovered it; then Jerryankles (1731); then Jerry Acres (1867); and, mysteriously, for one weekend in 1904, Las Vegas.



Artist's rendering of explorer Jerome Ickles's storied landing at Jericho, New World, circa 1684, aboard the <u>Edsel</u> and the <u>Yago Sangria</u>. A third ship, the <u>Pinto</u>, exploded at sea when a wayward codfish brushed against its rudder.

Similarly, Jericho was initially declared a hamlet. Then an omelet. *Then* – after much debate and latenight barn torchings – it became an omelet with a side of hamlet.



Jericho's floundering father, Jerome Jürgen P. Ickles. "Vot haff I <u>done?</u>" the worldly adventurer anguished in his private journal, currently available on E-bay for \$10. "I could haff landed in Buffalo, Des Moines — anyvhere but dizz Godvorzaken plaze!"

Early settlers there forged a reputation for their prowess at farming, as well as for making bugeyed moppet wax figurines and for the frequent sight of oxen carts up on cinder blocks in front of local dwellings. Two businesses thrived in particular. One was a local store named after its founder, Floyd "Sturgeon" Bennett, known around town as "Pink Floyd" because of his brilliantly ruddy complexion after a few tankards of ale.

The other, Ye New Colony Card Shoppe, was famous for its notoriously grumpy proprietor. Local lads who tarried too long while flipping through the latest issue of Benjamin Franklin's first stab at publishing, *Maxim*, drew deadly accurate musket fire. You probably were familiar with his great-great-greatgreat grandson, who tended the family enterprise in the 1960s and 1970s.

Next issue: Part II, "Fifteen Years of HeII — War Is Declared Against Syosset and Plainview."

### First Person Singular Linda Appelbaum: Out in the Open

irst things first: You're probably wondering about the name change. <u>Linda?</u> Wasn't her name Roslyn? Yes it was. But I changed it not long after I left Jericho for the University of Hartford. Here's why.

Remember calling home collect from college? Well, every single time that I would make a collect call to my mother. the operator would say, "Collect call from Robin ..." "Collect call from Roseanne .... " "... from Roxanne." They never could get it right! So I asked my mother if it would be okay to go by my middle name, Linda. And that was the end of my Roslyn days.

I'd actually wanted to go to the University of Miami, but my mother didn't want me to go any farther away than two hundred miles from home. We made a deal that if I did well at the University of Hartford, I could transfer to Miami for my junior year. That was my incentive, because, to be honest, I was never really into my academics. So, after two years, it was on to Miami, which was a super social school. I had a great time there, majoring in marketing and minoring in art. Hartford was so boring by comparison.

One thing I can say about the past thirty or so years is that I've had a truly fun life. When I was growing up in Jericho, I pretty much kept to myself and played with the kids on my block, like Marci Glickman, Lynn Torre, Sharon Sussman, and Linda Caputo. (And Janice Jupiter! Anyone remember her? Great name. In seventh grade or so, her family moved to New Jersey.) But as an adult I became very, very social.

One thing I did was to become a ski tour guide. Now, I'd gone on a highschool ski trip once, and hated it. But when I came back to New York after college, I started to enjoy the sport and became a major ski buff. The real reason I did this, though, wasn't so much because I wanted to ski, it was to become a better public speaker. I always could talk to people one on one, but if I had to give a speech in front of a crowd, like in college, I'd fake having laryngitis so I wouldn't have to. I always got away with it, too.

Anyway, the company was called Active Ski Tours. Every Friday afternoon during the winter we'd pick up a busload of forty-five people and take them skiing for the week-



Linda Appelbaum and daughter Jess.

end. I figured that if I could be in charge of forty-five people, it would get me over my fear of talking in front of people.

It was through skiing that I eventually discovered Colorado, which is where I've been living since 1993.

I made a lot of friends on the ski tours. One winter in 1983 a group of us – all working singles – decided to take a twoweek skiing vacation in Beckenridge, Colorado. One couple who'd met on the tour got married. They liked it out there so much that they decided to move there. As the years progressed, we would do this group thing every year, at a different ski resort. One year it was Vail, one year it was another one, and *Continued on page 5* 

# **The Six Degrees of Separation, JHS Division**

**Premise:** a recurring feature in which class members tell us about running unexpectedly into fellow JHS '72 grads – hopefully not with their car. This issue: three such encounters.

Last issue we told you about worldrenowed operatic baritoneSandy Sylvan's starring role in the film Death of Klinghoffer. In November he will play the "speaker" in the New York City Opera's performances of Mozart's The Magic Flute. One of the three spirits is elevenyear-old Henry Dinhofer, son of Michael Dinhofer, who, sadly, died of leukemia in 1995, and the class of 1973's Jacalyn Stanger Dinhofer. Interestingly, Jackie and Michael didn't know each other as teenagers. They met more than a decade later in NYC and soon married.

Henry previously starred in a movie, playing Meryl Streep's youngest son in 1999's Music of the Heart. If you haven't seen this charming film, based on a true story about an inspirational New York City violin teacher, be sure to rent it. Henry's terrific in it, and that Myrtle Strep, or whatever her name is, shows some genuine promise as an actress. Henry's older sister, Rebecca, now 14, also appears onscreen. Henry's movie mom was originally supposed to have been played by Madonna. But she bowed out before production began, citing "creative differences" with director Wes Craven. Music of the Heart also stars Aidan Quinn, Angela Bassett, Gloria Estafan, and Cloris Leachman,

In between teaching and writing children's books — and getting mar-



Henry Dinhofer and Meryl Streep in a scene from <u>Music of the</u> <u>Heart.</u> "Now, aren't you glad that <u>I'm</u> your on-screen mommy instead of that <u>awful</u> Madonna lady?"

ried to **Stephen Spiers** – **Patty Ryon Spiers** finds time to tutor. The other week, she was tutoring a boy near her Palm Harbor, Florida, home. "While I was there, **Jane Altvater Duda**'s daughter was there too, babysitting. Small world!" That would be **Lindsay Duda**, who lives with her parents in Tarpon Springs, about five miles north. *For more about Lindsay, see this issue's "Kids Do the Darndest Things."* 

Susan Pfriender Bebry, who lives in Jericho, informs us that her two children both take piano lessons from Gloria Zimmerman, Ilise Zimmerman's mom, who also still calls West Birchwood home.

\*\*\*\*

### Linda Appelbaum

Continued from page 4

so on. Then when I started working for America West (more about that in a minute), I got freebies to Colorado, so I could go any old time. I liked it out there and kept it in the back of my head as a possible place to live.

I've had lots of different adventures and different jobs. After college, I moved back to New York and lived in Forest Hills, Queens, for nine years. I worked in Great Neck for an investment advisor. Then in 1985 I moved to Merrick and drove a taxi cab for two years. There are a lot of bars out there, so I made a lot of money, especially on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights! I did a lot of traveling back then, including trips to Italy and Israel.

Next I went to work at John F. Kennedy International Airport for America West, which I really loved. We were trained to work in every single area. One time, while I was manning the ticket counter, Henny Youngmann was next in line. He says to me, "Want a diamond pin?" Sure. Why not?

So he hands me a dime – and a pin. Isn't that sweet? (He did not say "Take my wife, please!")

### Along Comes Jess

I had my daughter, Jess, in 1992, after having fallen in love with a man I'd met in Las Vegas. We moved in together in Westchester, New York. He was great as a partner; that's what made me fall in love with him. But once Jessie came into the picture, he wanted nothing to do with her. Maybe it was because he was older; I was thirty-eight; he was fifty. Or maybe it *Continued on page 13* 

# Here's <u>One</u> Thing That Hasn't Changed Much Since You Were a Kid: School Slop

Ever wonder what they serve for lunch nowadays at JHS? No? *Never*?

Well, *pardon us* for obviously not having as rich and rewarding an existence as *your* whirlwind 24-hours-a-day Mardi Gras of a life. But if you *have* ever wondered, here's the JHS menu for May 2003. Wonder if the mashed potatoes still are served with an ice-cream scoop, making 'em look like Baskin-Robbins's mystery flavor of the month? ("Make that a Potato Royale cone

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 Pastrami on Rye Cole Slaw Pickles Peach Cup	2 Pizza Green Bean Salad Chilled Blueberries
5 Grilled Cheese Golden Corn Veggie Sticks Campbell's Mega Noodle Soup Apple	6 Rotini Pasta w/ Homemade Marinara Sauce Meatballs French Bread Tossed Salad/ Dressing Dried Fruit Cup	7 Choice of Hamburger or Veggie Burger on a Bun Lettuce, Tomato, Pickle Fresh Fruit	8 Breaded Chicken Mashed Potatoes Whole Wheat Dinner Roll Pineapple Chunks	9 Mozzarella Sticks w/ Homemade Marinara Sauce French Bread Veggie Cup Chilled Peaches
12 Deli Style Hero Special Dressing/ Topping Shredded Lettuce, Tomato, Pickle Potato Salad Chilled Blueberries	13 Roast Turkey Mashed Potatoes/ Gravy Stove Top Stuffing Choc./ Vanilla Dixie Cup Chilled Peaches	14 Pasta A'La Jericho w/Homemade Meat or Marinara Sauce Homemade Garlic Bread Chilled Applesauce	15 BBQ Chicken Homernade Pasta Salad Golden Corn Homernade Cookie Orange Juice Apple	16 New York Style Pizza Garden Salad Dressing Chilled Pears
19 Popcorn Chicken Fluffy Rice W/ Mixed Vegetables Whole Wheat Bread Chilled Pears	20 Meatball Hero Tossed Salad Choice of Dressing Applesauce	21 Sloppy Joe Bakery Roll Golden Corn Garden Salad Chocolate Pudding Dried Fruit Cup	22 Homemade Baked Ziti French Bread Veggie Cup Orange Slices	23 Beef Fiestada (Beef Taco Pizza Style) Tossed Salad/ Dressing Chilled Fruit
26 No School	27 Crispy or Spicy Breaded Chicken On a Bun Lettuce, Tomato, Pickle Raisins Orange Juice	28 Grilled Cheese Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup Lettuce, Tomato, Pickle Apple	29 Choice of Hamburger or Veggie Burger on a Bun Lettuce, Tomato, Pickle Fresh Fruit	30 Pizza Cole Slaw Jello Chilled Fruit

with sprinkles!") And we notice a reference to a "freshly made" chef salad. What's a salad? And somehow, we don't recall ever associating the word *fresh* with anything that was ever served in the cafeteria. Time to don your hairnets ...

### Daily Sandwich Choices in All Schools

Choice of bread, roll, or bagel. Sliced turkey, tuna salad, bologna, American cheese, peanut butter and jelly. A sandwich is a substitute for the main item of the Lunch Menu Second entrée available for lunch at additional charge. 2 oz. portion French Fries available with lunch at student request. Freshly made Chef Salad available daily. With Lunch a student may select Low- Fat Chocolate, Whole White, 1% White, Skim Milk. Also available with Lunch - 8 oz. Fruit Punch. SUGGESTIONS WELCOME!

Lunch Prices H. S./ M. S. \$1.65 All Milk .35 Prepaid Lunches – Feb.- June Middle School \$128.00

# • GALLERY •

A place for displaying your creativity and adding a little culture (or "*kul*-chah," as they say on Long Island) to this here rag

Selected Cartoons by Dan Clurman



"I have been a coach and educator for the last 20 years, delivering training and classes in non-profits, universities, and corporations. I assist professionals, business people, couples, and students to more skillfully navigate life transitions, as well as improve their communication and presentations. I also have a small practice as a Feldenkrais<sup>®</sup> practitioner, a movement based form of education.

"I've cowritten a few books, *Money Disagreements: How to Talk About Them* and *Conversations With Critical Thinkers*, as well as a book of poems and drawings, *Floating Upstream*. The book these toons are part of will be published in a few months."



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# "We're a Happy Family"

• A Photographic Celebration of the Diverse Makeup of JHS Alumni Families •



Above: Amy Lubow Downs, husband Dan, and sons lan and Keith at lan's Bar Mitzvah, April 5, 2003.

Below: Michael and Roz Leshin at daughter Miriam's Bat Mitzvah in October 2001. Son Jonah is at right; their youngest, Rachel, stands next to Dad.



Below: Penny Schaefer Stabenfeldt with son Jack, age 9, in October 2001.



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Left: Cathy Kibel Shriger and her fiveyear-old daughter, Danielle.





Above: Debbie Gelman Krefsky with Joe Castro and, in the middle, "Boogie"



Above: Don't you just love this picture? Rael Reif and daughter Khahlela, now 10 1/2, two summers ago

Right: David Giber last year with two of his three children, Ben, now 7, and Lia, 8. His oldest, Sam, is 13.





Above: Robert Banner, wife Colleen, and daughter Catherine, age 4 (now 5)



Below: Philip Bashe with son Justin, 11, and wife Patty at her May graduation from C.W. Post's autism-education program

Below: Kathy Milner Hartwig, husband Richard, son Justin, 17, and daughter Jocelynn, 8, in 2002





Have a photo of you and your family you'd care to share for a future issue? Either e-mail to philipbashe@ earthlink.net or mail to 974 Stanton Avenue, Baldwin, NY 11510-2444. If you need the photo returned, please enclose an SASE.

## **HELP US FIND THE STILL-MISSING 35**

Of the approximately 350 of us, thus far 35 or so have eluded the teams of mercenaries we currently have combing the globe. If you're in contact with any of the folks listed below — or know the whereabouts of brothers, sisters, and/or other family members -- please notify us or have them get in touch directly. Even tidbits of information might prove helpful, such as: "The last time I saw good ol' So-and-So, he was on the TV

Carr, Robert Centola, Donna Clark, Dennis Clay, Jonathan Cole, Grainger ~ Lives in Sherman Oaks, CA; can't find address or phone # Cucco, Juliet Edelheit, Andrea Esposito, Joseph Faber, Alan Haas, Randy ~ Believe he lives in California Fisher, Scott Forest, Glenn Forst, Robert Geisser, Stuart Greer, Norman Gross, Steven Hamer, Alan Harrah, Robert Hartley, Billy ~ Might be in Oregon Horowitz, Zena Kraus, Ken Landis, Debra Lubitz, Judy Mari, Bea McEwen, Alan Meadow, David Nuszer, Bela Rorer, James Rosenberg, Monica Siegel, Laurie ~ Pretty sure she lives on L.I. and is married to a caterer Silverstein, Janet Simpson, Barbara Snow, Emma Tropin, Mitchell Turetsky, Sam Weinstein, Ellen Weiss, Lee

Wright, Philip

We have mailing addresses for the following folks, or we can contact them via classmates.com. But we'd love to be able to send them occasional e-mail announcements. If you know the e-mail address for any of these alumni, please e-mail philipbashe@earthlink.net.

Asrelsky, Barry Barry Kay, Joyce Bercu, Scott Berg, Lorrie Bernstein, Steven Brodbeck Rosenberg, Maryellen Brown, Robert Carmel Sichel, Caren Cashton, Kamholtz, Robyn Chazotte, John Cohen, Allan Cohen, Debbie Cohen, Peter Crane Rothstein, Cyd I Danenbaum Martens, Sue Davis Bromberg, Maryellen Dominy, Kevin Douglas, Mitchell Eisenberg, Paul 1 Fairfield, Olivia Т Fialkow, Carolyn Fiedler, Howard Friedman, Jeff Galgano, Pat Genna, Michael Gilbert, Michael Goldenbach Cherry, Mindy Goldstein, Larry Gordon Yuruckso, Melissa Gould, Peggy Greene, Jan Grill, Ellen Gurien Dubin, Sherry Hamlin, Gary Handler, Scott

Heilig, John Held, Marsha Kashan, Robert Katz, Elaine Kaufman, Ross Kaufman Nadam, Debbie Kinberg, Mass, Dorene Koffler, Jeff Koss Astor, Pam Krasner, Howard Kula, Meryl Lagona London, Carole Lehrer, Steven MacDougall, Bruce Mansberger, Anne Maurer, Michael McCoy Munson, Linda McDonald Carter, Michelle McGrath, James Mellman, Steven Meslin, Harve Mourquides, Emily Nelson Schuster, Lori Nerken, Sara Neubert, Suzanne Patelis, Dino Paull, Jeffrey Pellicoro Rienzo, Claudia Peralta, Brian Perlman, Steven Regan, Joan Resnikoff, Brad Romanoff, Andrew Rosen, Cliff

Rubin, Amy Ruestow, John Ruzek, Barry Sardo, Ron Sarris, Stacy Saunders, Mark Scarpinato, Vinnie Schatzberg, Meschkow, Carol Schwab, Leslie Shalat, Elyse Silverstone, Lee Sixt McNulty, Jane Stein, Richard Steinmeyer, Dean Sugarman, Michael Sugarman Gold, Susan Sussman Kusek, Sharon Sylvan, Sanford Tabakin Cain, Bonnie Torre, Lynn Towne, Kenneth Visentin, Steven Weisenfeld, Laura Weisman, Alexis Wilson, Kenneth Wiskosky, Walt Witteck, Frank Yetman Kesner, Maureen Zlattner, Richard



In which we feign interest while you brag about your children. Actually, we'd love to hear all about 'em! E-mail us stories and photos. <u>But absolutely no home movies!!!!!</u> Sorry, but we've got to draw the line somewhere.

### Is Nike Endorsement Just Around the Corner for Pitcher Jack Stabenfeldt?

Jack Stabenfeldt, son of Penny Schaefer Stabenfeldt and husband Jack, turned in a clutch performance to wrap up the district crown in the California District 3 Little



Jane Altvater Duda with daughter Lindsay and husband Dan.

League Minors tournament for the Twin Cities team. Jack, age 10, hurled a complete game 5-2 victory over Ross Valley, striking out five and yielding just seven hits. He and his folks live in Larkspur

### Lindsay Duda Named Outstanding Student

*Sixteen*-year-old Lindsay Duda, daughter of Jane Altvater Duda and her husband, Dan, was named outstanding student at her school in Tarpon Springs, Florida. "That's out of seven hundred students," says Jane, adding, "Lindsay was always very bright. One night, when she was four, I was putting her to bed. She asked me, 'Mommy, you have to answer one question for me before I go to sleep. I've just *got* to know this: *What is the meaning of life*? I need to know why I'm here!'

"I knew right then that I was in deep trouble! "

### Fifth Grade Grad Justin Bashe Wins Award

Justin Bashe, who graduated from Meadow Elementary School in Baldwin, New York, won the school's annual Pat Goodman award, given to the student who has overcome the most challenges. Justin, age 11, has Asperger's syndrome, a form of autistic spectrum disorder, as well as profound dyslexia and other learning disabilities. His parents are **Philip and Patty** Bashe.

The Meadow School is unique among public schools in that about one-sixth of the school consists of physically or developmentally challenged boys and girls. The Pat Goodman award is named for a teacher who showed great courage in continuing to teach despite a terminal illness.

Next year Justin begins a special-ed program for sixth-graders in nearby Lawrence.



Justin Bashe and his proud dad on graduation day. You've never seen a kid change out of his jacket and tie more quickly.

### Linda Appelbaum

Continued from page 5

was because he had twin boys from a previous marriage. I don't know. But he just did not seem to recognize the fact that we'd had a baby!

I saw that things were going in a negative direction in terms of our relationship and between him and Jess. And I just sensed that things were not going to be right enough to get married. When my daughter was five months old, I said to him, "You know what? You're not going to end up staying. We're going to end up getting divorced anyway, so let's just not even go through the trouble of getting married." I knew that my focus had to be on my child. Maybe because I'd waited so long before having a baby it made me that much more maternal and gave me the strength to leave him, even though I wasn't working at the time and didn't know how I would be able to support the two of us. Still, I knew it was the right decision.

By the time Jessie was three, I'd realized that I couldn't afford single parenting in New York. I considered moving to Florida, but then I found myself being drawn more toward Colorado. So off we went. My mother wasn't happy about it. I'd been living in Manhattan, and she held on to my apartment for seven years! Finally, in 2000, I guess she finally realized that I wasn't coming back, and she sold it.

Jess is now eleven. We live with our dog, Cricket (a Labrador/ whippet mix), in Aurora, which is an up-and-coming area on the outskirts of Denver. Very suburban, like Jericho. But different, of course. As much as I like it, it will never be home. I'm still an East Coast girl. I mean, nobody out here knows who the Kennedys are! No clue. They've never heard of the frizzies.

One thing that I really miss a lot are the seasonal colors. We have two colors in Colorado: brown and green. We're lucky we have any green at all, because we've been having a lot of rain this year. Last year, with all the dryness, we had nothing but brown. We rarely see flowers, except for a few splashes of pink and yellow mountain flora. But one thing I do like about Colorado is that it's a much more natural place, more self-accepting. Peo-



### "There was a lot about me and my family that no one in Jericho ever knew."

ple our age let their hair go gray; in fact, they can't *wait* to be natural and let it all hang out. Also, I've learned patience out here. You have to slow down, because the people just don't move at the pace of New Yorkers.

Like a lot of cities, Aurora is full of transplants from other parts of

the country. It's not as neighborly as I remember Jericho being. Everybody thinks they're just on their own out here and don't need anybody's help. And it's not true. *Everybody* needs everybody else's help. I've made some great, great friends, though -- mostly from the private school that Jessie attends -and if I need somebody's help, they're there. You just have to open your mouth and ask for it.

Probably the hardest part of being a single parent is to not have a partner -- or even an ex-partner -to discuss parenting decisions with. A couple of times, I've written to Michael Osit for advice about certain kid issues. Not only is he a psychologist, he has three children himself, and each time he hit the nail right on the head.

One of the issues had to do with sleepovers. My daughter is at an age where girls usually love sleepovers. But she didn't want to go to any. Michael pointed out that she had a certain amount of insecurity about being away from me. Jess and I are extremely close, and we talk a lot. For example, I've been seeing this guy. I asked Jessie, "Suppose I were to get married; what would you think about that?" And she replied, "Well, I love to have you all to myself, Mom. I really don't want to share you with anybody."

I think it's healthy that she feels comfortable admitting that to me. Parenting is such an easy thing, I find. It's time consuming, yes, but great! I'm lucky in that I have a job with the Oppenheimer Fund that gives me lots of flexibility. It's enjoyable and not overly stressful. I'm able to take care of things in my personal life during the day; for example, if an emergency came up and I had to pick up Jess from *Continued on page 14* 

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school in the middle of the afternoon, I could. I can't have two highintensity jobs, I can only have one, and my number-one job is my daughter.

When we're talking, I really try to *listen* rather than *lecture*, which a lot of parents think they're supposed to do. And things don't have to be so *serious* all the time. Like, Jessie is at an age where she's becoming extremely self-conscious about her body. She thinks she's too heavy, which she's not. One day I said to her, "We're all made to be different. Wouldn't it be boring if we all looked like little Barbie dolls with perfect hair?"

She thought for a moment and replied, "Well, I'll keep my own head – but I'll take Barbie's body!"

### Looking Back Without Anger

They say that having a child tends to make people reflect on their own childhoods. I know that's certainly true for me. There was a lot about me and my family that no one in Jericho ever knew.

My mother came from Eastern Europe and had a very sad beginning to her life. Her family were victims of the Holocaust. By the time she was five, she had lost her father in Poland. Her mother kept stashing her and her brother with different families so that the Nazis wouldn't find them and send them to a concentration camp.

My mother was just a child, though, and didn't understand why her mother had sent her to live apart from her *and* in a different home than her brother. What child would understand? She was very confused and very bitter about it.

The man that most people assumed was my father was actually my stepfather. I also have a brother three years younger than me. When I was about six, my mother and my biological father got divorced. He was a Hasssidic Jew. The "court" in the religious community worked out an arrangement whereby he would take my brother and live in Borough Park, Brooklyn. I was to go with my mother. Here's the bizarre part: We were to have no contact ever again. And we didn't, for a long, long time. All may mother and I had were memories of them.

About a year or two later, my mother married my stepfather. He had two adorable older children, a boy and a girl, from a previous marriage. I met them and instantly fell in love with them. We were all going to live together in Jericho as one big family, but my mother decided that *Continued on page 15* 

# *New Interactive Feature* "Funny You Should Ask!"

What does the JHS class of 1972 think about ...?

Each issue we'll pose a question on any of a number of topics, then publish your responses in the following issue. Write as much or as little as you wish.

This issue's question: <u>How do today's teenag</u>ers compare to your generation? What are some of the differences and similarities? Your opinion can be based on your observations as a parent, uncle or aunt, teacher, and so forth. Email your thoughts to philipbashe@earthlink.net.



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having his children live with us would prevent us from "starting fresh" in this new place. He went along it, and it just broke my heart. But of course I didn't have any say in their decision.

Then my mother told me, "You can't tell anybody that we're a family of divorce and that we come from two separate families." Which is a lot of pressure to place on a kid! I had to put on this big happy face and play along with this false existence. As far as anybody knew, I was an only child. No brother, no step siblings, no father living in Brooklyn. I certainly didn't understand it.

I think that one reason I waited so long to have a child was that I knew I wasn't ready, partly because I'd been so restricted as a child. Practically every decision would be made for me. I had no control over anything – not even the truth about my own family! My mother used to orchestrate what I would do. One time, when I was thirteen, she came into my room and said, "It's a beautiful day out, go somewhere. Call your friend and go into Manhattan." Idonna Resnick was the only one who also had permission to go into the city at thirteen.

We packed our bags and took the Long Island Railroad into the city. On the ride home, we were so tired that we slept past the Hicksville station and wound up at the end of the line, in Port Jefferson! By this time, it was eleven o'clock at night, and who knew when the next westbound train was scheduled to leave. My poor stepfather had to drive all the way out and pick us up in the middle of the night -- which was kind of funny, because he has a bad sense of direction. I mean, he used to get lost driving me to Dorene Kinberg's house, and Dorene lived just a few streets away!

My stepparents divorced; now both of them live in Manhattan, as does my stepsister Lori, who came along when I was nine. My birth father is still in Borough Park. We speak a couple of times during the year, but there's no major involvement. Sad, isn't it?

Having Jess has helped me to forgive my mother for a lot. As a kid, I was not forgiving; I was very angry. And anger is not fun. I understand now that a lot of what my mother did had to do with her past and her need to bury it. In college I took a course called, "Psychology and the Family." One assignment was to pick a member of your family and write about them, using them as a source. My mother had led such an interesting life, I asked if I could write about her.

She fabricated her entire past. "I came from England," she said. No mention was made of the Holocaust. She basically made up her story out of thin air. For all kinds of reasons, she just couldn't face what had happened to her, which I know now is not uncommon for Holocaust survivors. One thing this has taught me is that you can't shut life down and you can't hide from your past, because otherwise you will never be a whole person.

#### Newfound Strength

As soon as turned eighteen, my freedom was mine, and I seized it. I've made it on my own all this time, and no one is going to take that freedom away from me. That's probably what gave me the strength to walk away from an unhealthy relationship and decide to raise my daughter myself.



# **Your Back Pages**

"I was so much older then, I'm younger than that now." — Bob Dylan You wish!

# The World Around You • Junior Year, 1970-71

• A gallon of regular gasoline costs 36¢; the cost of mailing a letter increases to 8¢.

• The National Football League absorbs the American Football League, yielding a National Football Conference and an American Football Conference.

• On December 30, 1970, the King met the President at the White House (right). Richard M. Nixon, strung out on the antianxiety medication dilantin, met with Elvis Presley, addicted to every sort of pill imaginable, to wring their hands while discussing Amer-

ica's growing drug problem. Elvis's solution: to be named an honorary narc. Bingo, King! Problem solved!

- The FDA undertakes a massive recall of canned tuna due to possible mercury poisoning.
- Recent additions to the current lingo include preppie, hassle, fast-food, rip-off, the blahs, women's lib, and put-down.
- Bill Graham closes the Fillmore East in June.
- Vassar College admits male students for the first time.
- Bob Dylan turns (gasp!) 30.
- Intel markets the first microprocessor, and IBM invents the computer floppy disc. Like this computer stuff might ever catch on!
- Congress lowers the voting age from 21 to 18.

finest to help you contend with the enormous pressures of the Oval Office. Hey, don't go squeezin' mah hand too hard, or you'll crush some of them li'l black beauties! Now where's mah honorary narc badge, like y'all promised?"

"Yes indeedy there,

Mister President, sir; some of ol' Dr. Nick's



"So, um, Elvis, did you, um, bring the pills? Um, <u>vitamin</u> pills, of course ..." Page 16

# Your Back Pages The World Around You • Junior Year, 1970-71

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ON THE RADIO: Cat Stevens, "Wild World" • George Harrison, "My Sweet Lord" • Derek and the Dominos, "Layla" • Jackson 5, "I'll Be There" • Three Dog Night, "Joy to the World" • Carole King, "It's Too Late" • Rolling Stones, "Brown Sugar" • James Taylor, "You've Got a Friend"

**ON THE BIG SCREEN:** Love Story • Klute • Little Murders • Patton • The French Connection

**ON THE TUBE:** "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" • "All in the Family" • "Hawaii

Five-O" • "The Partridge Family"

## In Sports:

- Brooks Robinson paces the Baltimore Orioles over the Cincinnati Red in the five-game 1970 World Series.
- With five seconds left in the fourth quarter, rookie Jim O'Brien's 32-yard tie-breaking field goal caps a sloppy Super Bowl V, as the Baltimore Colts outlast the Dallas Cowboys, 16–13.
- Basketball's Milwaukee Bucks sweep the Baltimore Bullets in the NBA finals, led by MVP Lew Alcindor. In the ABA, the Utah Stars edge out the Kentucky Colonels in seven games.
- In hockey, the Montreal Canadiens steamroll Bobby Hull's Chicago Blackhawks in four to claim the Stanley Cup.
- On March 8, 1971, heavyweight champ Joe Frazier derails Muhammad Ali's comeback with a unanimous fifteen-round decision at Madison Square Garden. Ali is knocked down for only the third time in his career.





