

## THE JEWISH PEOPLE: A VEHICLE FOR GREATNESS

Steve Eisenberg

Dedicated to Rebbetzin Esther Jungreis, z"l, my teacher, mentor and second mom...

At the inception of my career, I was employed by the iconic New York-based brokerage firm, Bear Stearns. Truth be told, it was a firm that defined itself by its financial prowess. While most firms endured monetary vicissitudes on occasion, Bear Stearns never had a losing year. A nagging question, however, always loomed in the back of my mind. Why does this firm, as opposed to others, have such a stellar track record? What is the ultimate secret to their astonishing success?

I was soon to learn that Bear Stearns had an iron-clad requirement that all of its employees donate money to charity. I was excited to have the opportunity to discuss this unique concept with the late "Ace" Greenberg, the Chairman of the Executive Committee of Bear Stearns. I told him that I thought this was amazing because the Torah says the more you give, the more you earn. Ace replied that he did not know about the Torah's mandate about giving charity, but he did say that the more he gave to the UJA, the more he received in earnings, so it is certainly true.

I recall one instance in which a partners meeting was scheduled on Shavuot. I immediately told the partner who had arranged it that I would be unable to attend due to my observance of Orthodox Jewish law. Genuinely surprised, the partner looked at me and asked, "What's that?" I told him that for the Jewish people, this day that falls out on the 6th day in the month of Sivan represented the spiritual July 4th for our people.

What makes Shavuot unique is that unlike other Jewish holidays, it does not include any physical rituals or reminders. On Sukkot, we dwell in a sukkah, on Purim we read the Megillah, on Passover we eat matzah, but on Shavuot, we do not create a manifestation from Sinai.

We were enjoined by Hashem as we accepted his Torah to constantly strive to change this world for the better; to respect the Divine sanctity of life.

Let's take a look at the remarkable accomplishments of the Jew.

**Retail Outlets:** Sears • ShopRite • Stop N Go • Waldbaum's • Costco • Banana Republic • Saks Fifth Avenue • Bloomingdale's • Macy's • Levi Strauss • Haagen Dazs • Ben & Jerry's

## CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV

### ENGAGEMENTS

Naydalis Peralta and Shlomi Helali  
Dr. Steven Brodsky and Leah Weinstein

### BIRTHS

Michal and Dr. Marc Arkovitz, on the birth of a daughter, Libby Orah  
Yulia Grygoriak, on the birth of a daughter, Aya  
Aliza (Erin Rent) and David Wasserman, on the birth of a son, Neil (Nachum Betzalel)



### CONDOLENCES

Dr. Janice Bennett, on the loss of her husband, Dr. Richard Bennett  
Pamela Goodman, on the loss of her mother, Leila Goodman  
To the family of Doug Leblang  
Dr. Ed Weinstein, on the loss of his mother, Judith Weinstein  
Dr. Avi Yohananoff, on the loss of his mother, Bella Yohananoff

### SPEEDY RECOVERY

Rabbi Dr. Mordechai Reich, Mordechai Menashe ben Henia Ruchama

### TODAH RABBAH

Rachel and Coby Zekry, for donating a new Challah cover and Kiddush cup to the Lincoln Square Synagogue Beginners Service

**Hollywood Movie Studios:** Warner Bros • MGM • Paramount Pictures • 20th Century Fox • Columbia Pictures

**Media Companies:** The New York Times • The Washington Post • CBS • NBC • Time Warner • Bloomberg, Inc • Simon & Schuster

**Broadway Theatres:** Shubert Theatre • Gershwin Theatre • Minskoff Theatre • Broadhurst Theatre • Neil Simon Theatre • Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre • Stephen Sondheim Theatre • Bernard B. Jacobs Theatre

**Cosmetic & Clothing Manufacturers and Designers:** Helena Rubinstein • Estee Lauder • Max Factor • Donna Karan • Calvin Klein • Ralph Lauren • Marc Ecko • Isaac Mizrahi • Kenneth Cole • Michael Kors

**Social Media & Technology:** Craigslist • Yahoo • Facebook • Google • WhatsApp • WAZE

**Feminist leaders:** Betty Friedan • Bella Abzug •

Gloria Steinem

**Medicine & Science:** Doctors Without Borders • Albert Sabin • Henry Heimlich • Magnus Hirschfeld • Sigmund Freud • Albert Einstein • Carl Jung • Abraham Maslow

and on and on ...

Where did all of this brilliance come from? After all, the Jewish people comprise only 1/4 of one percent of the world's population. It all began 3,300 years ago on Mount Sinai when we Jews were charged to change the world through our holy Torah. Good Yom Tov!!

*Steve Eisenberg is a risk arbitrage specialist who juggles a demanding Wall Street career with a passionate commitment to Jewish outreach programming. In addition to delivering JICNY's flagship weekly Torah class on Monday evenings in Manhattan, he also manages JICNY's Job Assistance website and coordinates the organization's networking events. A gifted speaker and a celebrated educator, Steve is frequently invited to speak at events around the world and develops programs for outreach organizations across the United States.*

### DR. RICHARD BENNETT

Dr. Richard Bennett, PhD, was an accomplished psychotherapist who was highly regarded in his field. Richard was also among the most accomplished "graduates" of the LSS Beginners Service. He took his commitment to Judaism very seriously and enjoyed much *nachas* from the accomplishments of his wife, Dr. Janice, and his children, who are all committed to a lifestyle of observance and Torah learning. He was a true exemplar of the consummate Baal Teshuva. He will be deeply missed.

### DOUG LEBLANG

Doug Leblang was a big man, both physically and spiritually. His charming "teddy bear" personality endeared him to all. An accomplished graphic artist and musician, Doug devoted the last decade of his life volunteering for the elderly and the infirm: singing, performing on the keyboard and telling jokes in nursing homes and hospitals throughout the Metropolitan New York area.

Doug also delivered impressive Divrei Torah and presented memorable performances at the Beginners Purim and Chanukah parties. The untimely passing of this sweet man leaves a big hole in our hearts.

