

GASTRONOMICAL WILDERNESS

Daniella Bove-LaMonica

Growing up in Los Angeles as the daughter of transplanted Italian-American New Yorkers was an interesting experience. My parents, who fell in love with the climate around the same time as they fell in love with each other, swore they would never live, or love, in snow again. But while the weather nourished their souls, the cuisine broke their hearts. Now, Los Angeles has come a long way in my lifetime, but during my childhood it was akin to culinary exile for my parents. So much so that relatives coming to visit would bring two suitcases, one with clothes and one with food. The New York bounty would then be rationed out and used sparingly because once it was gone, all that remained was the left coast's version of our native cuisine.

Good hearty ciabatta could not be found in any store, all "pizza" came with a 30-minute guarantee, the sausages were abysmal and the deli selection only slightly better. To add insult to injury, going out to eat for "Italian" was never an option because the food always tasted like something out of a can. Luckily for my family, my mother is a phenomenal cook, and I grew up with the smells and tastes of a New York Italian kitchen, despite being a five-minute walk from the beach. Through my family, I learned at an early age, possibly in the womb, that a good meal could cure the ills of the world or make a great celebration become a magical one. Anyhow, my childhood taught me to respect and cherish food, and it is something that I have carried with me into adulthood.

In my journey toward an Orthodox Jewish life, it is remarkable how many things have come down to food. The many fabulous cured Italian meats, never a daily staple but eaten with relish on special occasions, are out of the question. Other impossibilities are my mother's wonderful recipes for meatballs or meat lasagna because they combine cheese with meat. And so on and so forth. I must admit that there have been several, albeit spiritually petty, moments where Italian cuisine almost kept me from Judaism. Then I realized that the life I was planning for myself and my future children and the peace of mind that came from knowing one is on the right path -- these things all meant more to me than Parma ham ever would.

I told myself to embrace my choices and learn to live a kosher life. Easier said than done. To begin with, the many wonderful meals I have shared with friends in the Jewish community have been based on fare that is extremely Eastern European: kugel, brisket, chulent, borscht and one too many kinds of smoked fish. These meals have been wonderful but the food is not really...how can I put this...well...me. I dream of olives, garlic, basil, beautiful tomatoes, homemade gnocchi and fish or chicken drenched in lemon and olive oil. In an effort to bring Judaism into a familiar context, I started researching Italian Jews and kosher Italian cookbooks. I found a wonderful woman, out of Tuscany, who has written a book that features many dishes of my childhood but also traditional Italian meal plans for all of the Jewish holidays. With that discovery, my new life took on a wonderfully familiar context. Shopping for ingredients,



however, turned out to be more difficult than expected.

Not to be dismayed, I took to traveling to every gourmet store on the Upper West Side in an effort to stock my newly koshered kitchen with familiar items. It turned out that I merely found a new source for my rage: the rabbinic authorities. My significant other, an extremely patient man, has unfortunately received one too many of these phone calls...*Ring.*

"WHY, WHY, WHY would this fresh pasta NOT be kosher? It has eggs, flour and salt. Eggs are pareve. They don't even count!!!"

"I don't know, Angel. It is possible that they make the pasta in a place where they make other things that are not kosher."

"NO! This is a test from G-d! He is testing me to see if I am serious about kashrut! Well... I will just keep looking... there has to be a kosher fresh pasta somewhere...this is New York!"

"Why don't we just make it ourselves?"

"That is entirely beside the point." *Click.*

Well, I have almost stopped storming about the store wondering why one brand of bread has a *hashgacha* (rabbinic supervision) and another, seemingly identical brand, does not. And I almost never pick up my cell phone anymore to rage about the injustice of a world not wanting to certify burrata or Reggiano* cheeses. But I still do a little dance in the aisle when I find out that yet another one of my comfort foods, a certain brand of fresh mozzarella for example, meets the standard and can come home with me.

This story takes me to my last and final point. Like my parents before me, professional reasons are taking me out of New York. Like my parents, I am concerned about culinary exile, only for different reasons. New York, specifically the Upper West Side, is a culinary haven for the kosher kitchen: there are kosher markets and Jewish butchers and kosher sections in most grocery stores. Washington, DC, however, while home to a beautiful Orthodox community, has not yet reached the same standards for kosher shopping. Sure there are one or two places, but they are few and far between and are certainly without Zabar's extensive kosher cheese selection or Fairway's kosher fish counter. I would have missed New York under any circumstances but, considering my religious choices, it is going to be an extremely distressing move for my stomach. I am therefore counting on visits from friends with two suitcases, the miracle of internet shopping and a hope that I have inherited my mother's ingenuity in the kitchen. If all else fails, with my spiritual self finally in the right place, a ride on Amtrak carrying a cooler is not such a large price to pay for culinary peace of mind.

**For those who were wondering about Reggiano, the best parmesan in the whole world, a kosher version certified by the Beit Din of Milan is sold on igourmet.com, which makes me believe there is hope for kosher fresh pasta in the future.*

Daniella Bove-LaMonica, who considers herself a New Yorker at heart, grew up in Los Angeles. She is a graduate of the Fordham University Honors Program and Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs. She currently lives in gastronomic exile in Washington D.C.

CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV

ENGAGEMENTS

Alla Smorodinsky and Mark Ellman



MARRIAGES

Sara Gerstein and Eliyahu Simcha Lane

Mazal Tov to parents Miriam and Akiva Lane

BIRTHS

Bruchi and Michael Barnett, on the birth of a boy, Shabsi

Debbie Weinstein and Serge Fein, on the birth of a boy, Eytan Yitzchak (10/22/06)

Jackie and Justin Garrod, on the birth of a boy,

Andrew Jacob

Mazal Tov to grandparents Marta and Joseph Braun

Dr. Leora and Richard Linhart, on the birth of a boy, Jacob Zacharia

Lorena and Dr. Samuel Moche, on the birth of a boy,

Jonah Victor

Patty Diker and David Stark, on the birth of a girl, Mia (8/22/07)

Mazal Tov to grandparents Valerie and Charles Diker

Tamara King and Michael Stark, on the birth of a boy,

David Shephard

Mazal Tov to grandparents Joan and Arnold Stark

BAR/BAT MITZVAH

Yehonatan Bousbib

Mazal Tov to parents Helene and Ari Bousbib

Talia Elias

Mazal Tov to parents Sheryl and Ernest Elias

Rachel Hannah Goldberg

Mazal Tov to parents JoAnn and Alan Goldberg

Gabriel Metzger

Mazal Tov to parents Emily and Leon Metzger

SPEEDY RECOVERY/REFUAH SH'LAIMA

Irene Hecht (Yehudit Leah bat Bella)

Peter Howard (Chuna ben Chana Sarah)

CONDOLENCES

Germaine Chabbot, on the loss of her brother, Hyman Chabbot

Jonathan Lamstein, on the loss of his father,

Benjamin Lamstein

Helen Rosenfeld, on the loss of her mother, Dorothy Rosenfeld

Andrew Siegel, on the loss of his mother, Mary Siegel

Jill Wildes, on the loss of her father, Irwin Brandfon

CONGRATULATIONS

Isadore Century upon the publication of his poetry book, *From the Coffeehouse of Jewish Dreamers*, published by Ben Yehuda Press

Avraham (Carlos) Mora who was honored by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for his work with drug rehabilitation by the Human Resources Development Foundation.

Jeanette & Dr. Ross Pinsky on their 25th wedding anniversary

THANK YOU

The Adler and Lipkis families for sponsoring the post Yom Kippur break-fast

Roberto Novig for his friendly ushering at the High Holiday Services

Elaine Wittly and Larry Komito, Lori and Robert Schecter for sponsoring the Rosh Hashana Kiddushes

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sat December 8, 2007 - 28th of Kislev
Miketz CHANUKAH
 Daf Yomi 6:55 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services .. 7:40, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 3:15 PM
 Mincha 4:00 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 5:10 PM
 Chanukah Candles after 5:10 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:15 PM

Sun December 9, 2007 - 29th of Kislev
CHANUKAH
 Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 AM
 Chanukah Candles after 4:59 PM

Mon December 10, 2007 - 1st of Tevet
ROSH CHODESH CHANUKAH
 Morning Services 7:00 & 7:40 AM
 Chanukah Candles after 4:59 PM

Tue December 11, 2007 - 2nd of Tevet
CHANUKAH
 Morning Services 7:00 & 7:40 AM
 Chanukah Candles after 4:59 PM

Wed December 12, 2007 - 3rd of Tevet
CHANUKAH
 Morning Services 7:00 & 7:40 AM

Fri December 14, 2007 - 5th of Tevet
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 4:11 PM
 Mincha 4:15 PM

Sat December 15, 2007 - 6th of Tevet
Vayigash
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services .. 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 3:15 PM
 Mincha 4:00 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 5:11 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:20 PM

Wed December 19, 2007 - 10th of Tevet
ASARA B'TEVET
 Fast Begins 6:03 AM
 Morning Services 6:50 & 7:30 AM
 Mincha 4:00 PM
 Fast Ends 5:02 PM

Fri December 21, 2007 - 12th of Tevet
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 4:13 PM
 Mincha 4:20 PM

Sat December 22, 2007 - 13th of Tevet
Vayechi
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services .. 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 3:20 PM
 Mincha 4:05 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 5:13 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:20 PM

Tue December 25, 2007 - 16th of Tevet
LEGAL HOLIDAY
 Morning Services 7:10 & 8:30 AM

Fri December 28, 2007 - 19th of Tevet
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 4:18 PM
 Mincha 4:25 PM

Sat December 29, 2007 - 20th of Tevet
Shemot
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services .. 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 3:25 PM
 Mincha 4:10 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 5:18 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:25 PM

Tue January 1, 2008 - 23rd of Tevet
NEW YEARS DAY
 Morning Services 7:10 & 8:30 AM

Fri January 4, 2008 - 26th of Tevet
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 4:24 PM
 Mincha 4:30 PM

Sat January 5, 2008 - 27th of Tevet
Vaera
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services .. 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 3:30 PM
 Mincha 4:15 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 5:24 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:30 PM

Tue January 8, 2008 - 1st of Sh'vat
ROSH CHODESH
 Morning Services 7:00 & 7:40 AM

Fri January 11, 2008 - 4th of Sh'vat
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 4:31 PM
 Mincha 4:35 PM

Sat January 12, 2008 - 5th of Sh'vat
Bo
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services .. 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 3:35 PM
 Mincha 4:20 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 5:31 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:40 PM

Fri January 18, 2008 - 11th of Sh'vat
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 4:38 PM
 Mincha 4:45 PM

Sat January 19, 2008 - 12th of Sh'vat
Beshalach
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services .. 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 3:45 PM
 Mincha 4:30 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 5:38 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:45 PM

Mon January 21, 2008 - 14th of Sh'vat
MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
 Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 AM

Tue January 22, 2008 - 15th of Sh'vat
B'SHVAT
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM

Fri January 25, 2008 - 18th of Sh'vat
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 4:47 PM
 Mincha 4:50 PM

Sat January 26, 2008 - 19th of Sh'vat
Yitro
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services .. 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 3:50 PM
 Mincha 4:35 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 5:47 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:55 PM

Fri February 1, 2008 - 25th of Sh'vat
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 4:55 PM
 Mincha 5:00 PM

Sat February 2, 2008 - 26th of Sh'vat
Mishpatim
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services .. 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 4:00 PM
 Mincha 4:45 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 5:55 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 5:05 PM

Wed February 6, 2008 - 30th of Sh'vat
ROSH CHODESH
 Morning Services 7:00 & 7:40 AM

Thu February 7, 2008 - 1st of Adar I
ROSH CHODESH
 Morning Services 7:00 & 7:40 AM

Fri February 8, 2008 - 2nd of Adar I
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 5:04 PM
 Mincha 5:10 PM

Sat February 9, 2008 - 3rd of Adar I
Terumah
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services .. 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 4:10 PM
 Mincha 4:55 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 6:04 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 5:10 PM

Fri February 15, 2008 - 9th of Adar I
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 5:13 PM
 Mincha 5:20 PM

Sat February 16, 2008 - 10th of Adar I
Tetzaveh
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services .. 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 4:20 PM
 Mincha 5:05 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 6:13 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 5:20 PM

Mon February 18, 2008 - 12th of Adar I
PRESIDENTS DAY
 Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 AM

Wed February 20, 2008 - 14th of Adar I
PURIM KATAN
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM

Thu February 21, 2008 - 15th of Adar I
SHUSHAN PURIM KATAN
 Morning Services 7:00 & 7:50 AM

Fri February 22, 2008 - 16th of Adar I
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 5:21 PM
 Mincha 5:25 PM

Sat February 23, 2008 - 17th of Adar I
Ki Tisa
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services .. 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 4:25 PM
 Mincha 5:10 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 6:21 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 5:30 PM

Fri February 29, 2008 - 23rd of Adar I
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 5:29 PM
 Mincha 5:35 PM

Sat March 1, 2008 - 24th of Adar I
Vayakhel
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services .. 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 4:35 PM
 Mincha 5:20 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 6:29 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 5:35 PM

Fri March 7, 2008 - 30th of Adar I
ROSH CHODESH
 Morning Services 7:00 & 7:40 AM
 Candle Lighting 5:36 PM
 Mincha 5:40 PM

Sat March 8, 2008 - 1st of Adar II
Pekudei
ROSH CHODESH SHEKALIM
 Daf Yomi 6:55 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services .. 7:40, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 4:40 PM
 Mincha 5:25 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 6:36 PM
 REMEMBER to set your clocks forward
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 6:45 PM DST

Fri March 14, 2008 - 7th of Adar II
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 6:43 PM
 Mincha 6:50 PM

Sat March 15, 2008 - 8th of Adar II
Vayikra
ZACHOR
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services .. 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Additional reading of Parshat Zachor
 after Main Minyan
 Talmud & Bible Class 5:35 PM
 Mincha 6:35 PM
 Additional reading of Parshat Zachor
 after Mincha
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 7:43 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 6:50 PM

Thu March 20, 2008 - 13th of Adar II
TA'ANIT ESTHER
 Fast Begins 5:48 AM
 Morning Services 6:50 & 7:30 AM
 Mincha 6:35 PM
 Maariv & Megila Reading 7:39 PM
 Fast Ends 7:39 PM
 Maariv & Late Megila Reading
 9:15 PM

Fri March 21, 2008 - 14th of Adar II
PURIM
 Morning Services 6:25 & 7:30 AM
 Extra Megila Reading 9:00 AM
 Candle Lighting 6:51 PM
 Mincha 6:55 PM

Sat March 22, 2008 - 15th of Adar II
Tzav
SHUSHAN PURIM
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services .. 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 5:40 PM
 Mincha 6:40 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 7:51 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 7:00 PM

Fri March 28, 2008 - 21st of Adar II
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 6:58 PM
 Mincha 7:05 PM

Sat March 29, 2008 - 22nd of Adar II
Shmini
PARAH
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services .. 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 5:50 PM
 Mincha 6:50 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 7:58 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 7:05 PM

Fri April 4, 2008 - 28th of Adar II
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 7:06 PM
 Mincha 7:10 PM

Sat April 5, 2008 - 29th of Adar II
Tazria
HACHODESH
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services .. 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 5:55 PM
 Mincha 6:55 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 8:06 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 7:15 PM

Sun April 6, 2008 - 1st of Nisan
ROSH CHODESH
 Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 AM

Fri April 11, 2008 - 6th of Nisan
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Earliest Candle Lighting 6:06 PM
 Candle Lighting 7:13 PM
 Mincha 6:45 & 7:20 PM

Sat April 12, 2008 - 7th of Nisan
Metzora
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services .. 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Mincha 6:45 PM
 Shabbat Hagadol Drasha 7:10 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 8:13 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 7:20 PM

Thu April 17, 2008 - 12th of Nisan
TA'ANIT BECHOROT
MUKDAM
 Morning Services 6:30 & 7:30 AM

Fri April 18, 2008 - 13th of Nisan
EREV PESACH
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Latest time to burn Chametz 11:21 AM
 Candle Lighting 7:20 PM
 Mincha 7:25 PM

Sat April 19, 2008 - 14th of Nisan
Achrei Mot
EREV PESACH
 Morning Services 7:00 & 9:00 AM
 Latest time to eat Chametz. 10:04 AM
 Daf Yomi 6:40 PM
 Candle Lighting 7:21 PM
 Mincha 7:25 PM
 Begin seder after 8:10 PM

SAVE THE DATE

Beginners Chanukah Party

\$20 in advance, \$25 at the door

Mon, Dec 10, 7:00 PM

SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA/CANADA

Fri, March 7

Purim Party

\$20 in advance, \$25 at the door

Thurs, March 20, 8:35 PM