

The Jewish Week (08/25/2006)

Meeting Challenges

Tim Boxer

Because of her son, Jane Schiff, a biology teacher at Rambam Mesifita in Lawrence, N.Y., came to the Israel Cancer Research Fund luncheon at the Rainbow Room recently.

Gabriel, the youngest of her three sons, was diagnosed in 1992 with brain and spinal cord cancer in his first month of high school. The doctor was gloomy, giving the 14-year-old boy a 15 percent chance of surviving.

Gabriel did not give up. He's a fighter and met the challenge with experimental treatment at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. He's been disease-free since 1993.

The doctor predicted an 80 percent chance of having learning problems. Gabriel overcame that too. He graduated from the Wharton School of Business and is now vice president for finance at Roseland Property in Short Hills, N.J. In April he married Ranit Saposh, a recent law school graduate.

That's why Schiff joined 380 other women to support ICRF, which raises funds for cancer research in Israel.

Graziano de Boni, president and chief executive of Valentino, presented an award to Melissa Cohen, owner of Manhattan Mortgage, the premier residential mortgage company in the country. Susan Isaacs and **Dr. Lisa Young** also got awards.

Author of 10 books, Isaacs was beaming as she announced the engagement of her daughter, Elizabeth.

Dr. Young, author of "The Portion Teller: Smartsize Your Way to Permanent Weight Loss," said that eating healthy isn't about cutting out food, but cutting down portions. "If I'm asked what sandwich is healthy, I say half a sandwich."

Nourishing Brain Power

Kathleen Turner was on hand to emcee the recent Israel Sephardic Education Foundation's 29th anniversary gala at the Pierre Hotel, which raised \$800,000. The organization provides college scholarships for young Israelis in need.

Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Daniel Ayalon said that the only thing Israel can produce and export is know-how. "The only resource we have is Jewish brains."