

# NUGGETZ

## A Sense of Expression

The blind and deaf actors of Israeli theatre troupe Na Laga'at stand on the stage, dressed in black. Some keep their eyes closed and some stare at a faraway spot, but all are unable to see the audience in front of them. One actor steps forward and, with the help of an aide, swings his arms back as if holding a fishing pole. He then lunges forward for his cast-off.

This fantasy of fishing, as well as colorful dreams and memories, are performed through a painstaking process by these talented actors.



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Despite living in a world of silence and darkness, the actors and actresses of Na Laga'at, Hebrew for "please touch," are determined to show they can perform just like anyone else.

Adina Tal, the group's director, recognizes the troupe's

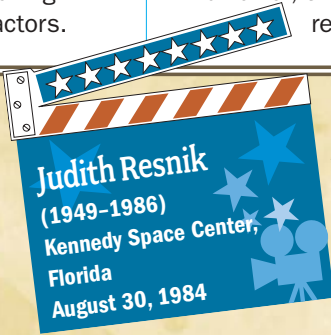
inspirational effect on audiences from Zurich, Switzerland, to New York. She finds that the actors' ability to overcome the challenge of communication causes the viewer to ask, "if they can, why can't I as well?"

"The actors take you into their rich inner world," says Jill Levenfeld, a peace educator who saw Na Laga'at's play, *Light is Heard in Zig Zag*. "But this is an evening of dreams because despite everything they have to go through, these actors never stop dreaming for a better life."

## AS "SCENE" IN TIME



NASA



moment, she thinks, pushing aside her fear. And yet, as confident and jubilant as she is, the surgeon in the Flight Control Room notices that her heart rate

quickens in anticipation of "riding the stack."

"10...9...8...7...6...ignite main engines..."

Judy holds her breath. Discovery comes alive, shaking and vibrating. *No malfunctions this time!*

"3...2...1...liftoff!" A burst of flame brighter than the sun explodes from the solid rocket boosters. Discovery leaps off the launch pad, and within eight minutes, Judy is streaking toward her dream at 17,000 miles per hour.

*Judith Resnik, Ph.D., the first Jewish astronaut, logged 96 orbits of Earth during the Discovery mission. She died tragically during her second voyage, when the space shuttle Challenger exploded only seconds after launch. Resnik is remembered for her courage and pioneering spirit. "I think something is only dangerous if you are not prepared for it," she said.*

**R**ookie astronaut Judy Resnik squirms uncomfortably in her bulky spacesuit, which adds 85 pounds to her petite, athletic frame. "T minus three minutes and counting," crackles the voice of the capsule communicator (CAPCOM) at Mission Control. *Will we get off the ground today*, she wonders, nervously tugging the shoulder harness that tightly straps her into her seat on the flight deck. The maiden voyage of space shuttle Discovery had been scrubbed three times before today, including once, when an emergency command shut down the orbiter's main engines, four seconds before liftoff.

"T minus two minutes and counting," barks CAPCOM. "Discovery, close visors." Resnik locks the visor on her helmet and feels the cool flow of oxygen swirl around her face. *I've trained for six years for this*

this month on babaganewz.com



## Purim Party

Even nasty old Haman would have liked Purim Central, so click on over for some Purim shenanigans!

Our latest slideshow captures the festivities of Purim Israeli-style.

Show off your *hag* smarts playing the new Holiday Edition of Jewparty!

## Personality Quizzes

What makes you tick? Take the personality quizzes in Baba's Vault and find your true nature!

THIS PURIM, NO ONE WILL GUESS I'M A MOUSE IN A CAT COSTUME!

## Games-A-Go-Go

Play Jew(ish) Truths and a Lie to separate fact from fiction.

In the spirit of Queen Esther saving the Jewish people, try Nano Bob's Rescue Adventure today!



Money lost, nothing lost.  
 Courage lost, everything  
 lost.

—Yiddish Proverb

**A Joint Rescue Mission**

The volunteer rescue team leapt over the steep cliffs, each rescuer attached to a rope. Motivated by agonizing screams from an injured climber—lying like a rag doll at the base of the mountain—they bounded fearlessly down the peak's rocky face.



Within minutes, the rescue team reached the victim. Luckily, this was only a training exercise involving Israel's Negev Highlands Rescue Team and the American Rocky Mountain Rescue Group and Alpine Rescue Team.

Each group learned new tactics and rescue techniques, thanks to the shared training in Israel and Colorado. "[The Israelis] are very good at man-tracking skills," said Steve Chappell, the assistant group leader for the Rocky Mountain Rescue Group. The Negev team rescues between 40 and 50 people a year, which inspired Chappell to send some members of the American rescue team to man-tracking training classes.

"We do a pretty good job of sharing ideas around the country, but not so much internationally," said Charley Shimanski of the Alpine Rescue Team. "This gives us a great opportunity to see rescues we've never used."



**SINAI TEMPLE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

**LOCATION:** Springfield, Massachusetts

**SPOTLIGHT ON:** Mrs. Katz's fifth-grade class

**NUMBER OF STUDENTS:** 15

**FAVORITE HAMANTASCHEN FLAVOR:** Chocolate chip

**MOST POPULAR PURIM COSTUME:** Queen Esther

**MOST UNUSUAL PURIM COSTUME:** Cow

**FAVORITE COURAGEOUS BIBLICAL PERSONALITY:** Moshe, Deborah, Elijah

**FAVORITE JEWISH SONGS:** "Hatikvah," "Mi Khamokha," and "Am Yisrael Hai"



**FAVORITE JEWISH BOOKS:** *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry, *All-of-a-Kind Family* by Sydney Taylor, *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank

**WHEN YOU'RE IN THE AREA:** Visit the Hatikvah Holocaust Education Center, which is right down the street from our school. The center documents the history of five Jewish families in Roth, Germany, during World War II, recounting the horrors of the Holocaust and the heroism and courage of the victims.

Turn to page 5 to see the class's writings on the Torah Page.

**YOU DON'T SAY?**

Give the two boys something funny to say and think.



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Send us your entries online at [babaganewz.com/youdontsay](http://babaganewz.com/youdontsay). Be sure to include your first name, last initial, and state. We will print our favorites in a future issue. **Deadline: March 13, 2006.**