



Off the Shelf

Never feeling at home

RABBI RACHEL ESSERMAN

“Longing to belong”: That’s how Angella M. Nazarian describes her feelings after moving from Tehran to Beverly Hills, CA, at the age of 11. The shah had recently been deposed, making it dangerous for Jews to remain in Iran. However, within the American Jewish community, Nazarian felt out of place due to her Iranian heritage. In her beautifully-produced work “Life As A Visitor” (Assouline Publishing), Nazarian uses prose, poems and phonographs to describe her family’s escape from Iran and her adjustment to life in the U.S. She is correct to call her book impressionistic and nonlinear; unlike most memoirs, it fleetingly reports events and feelings across decades, rather than systematically discussing the changes that occurred.

The family’s escape from Iran takes place in stages. Nazarian’s two older brothers were already studying in the U.S. when the family decided to emigrate. Nazarian, her mother, her pregnant sister and her 5-year-old niece left first, pretending their trip was a two-week vacation to visit Nazarian’s brothers. After two months, her mother, worried about her husband and other family members, returned to Iran. Little did she know that it would be almost six years before the family would be reunited. Leaving Iran a second time was far more difficult and dangerous.

As Nazarian notes, Iranians were not the “preferred immigrants of the day” in the 1980s. She quickly learned to qualify her answer to the question “are you Iranian?” by adding that she was Jewish. Later, she modified her response, calling herself Persian in order to recall “the days of our glorious empire, known for its civil rights, poetry and sophistication,” rather than focusing on the revolutionary aspect of Iran featured in the media at the time. Nazarian adopted American habits – joining the basketball team, wearing jeans rather than skirts and mimicking the way her new friends spoke. Unwilling to cause trouble for her brothers and sister, she becomes a straight-A student. Even so, she discovers that, to many of her fellow students, she will always be “that Arab girl.” Even compliments are back-handed, as when someone tells her she is “not like the rest of the Iranians.”

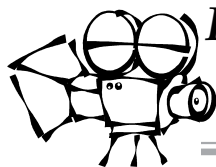
Nazarian does a good job showing how difficult it is to move from one culture to another, particularly for refugees who can bring little of their former homes with them. For example, she writes about the objects that people hid in suitcases and under their clothing. She notes that “if you never had to leave your homeland forever, the importance of [the objects that were brought] might be harder to understand. Many people have family treasures collected over a lifetime of patterned tranquility spent in the same town or the same neighborhood. These are items that offer validation of what their keepers have experienced, cared to remember or loved in the world. They offer their keepers a sense of identity and

continuity.” The jewelry, books or family keepsakes invoke a history others can’t understand.

One short paragraph comparing growing up as a Jew in Iran during her father’s early life and her own makes for fascinating reading, if only for those familiar with the larger picture of Jewish history. She notes that only after the shah came to power were Jews allowed to leave their ghettos and join the economic mainstream. What the author does not explore is the social and historical implications of the shah’s support of Iran’s Jewish population and the state of Israel. Over the centuries, throughout Europe and the Middle East, Jews have depended on strong leaders to protect their position in society. This type of protection, though, is precarious. Often Jews are expelled from a country when they no longer serve the ruler’s needs or, as in the case of Iran, after becoming identified with an oppressive regime. The Iranian revolutionaries

held the Jewish supporters of the shah (and all the Jews of the country) partly responsible for the oppression and torture that occurred during his reign.

“Life As A Visitor” resembles a coffee-table book. Filled with photos of Iran, Nazarian’s family and countries Nazarian visited as an adult, the text takes less space than that of other recent memoirs. The prose was more convincing than the poetry, although particular poems capture her feelings of distress about the difficulties of leaving Iran. The book left me wanting to know more, though, about her family’s life in the U.S., particularly the adjustment her parents made and the family’s current feelings about Iran. However, Nazarian makes no pretense that she is telling the complete story. Instead, the purpose of her work is to show how she refuses to be defined by any particular group or homeland. The girl who was “longing to belong” now belongs to the world.



Film Review

A touching tale of unlikely friendship

MICHAEL NASSBERG

An appreciation for the same cartoon and a dearth of real friendship are the only things shared by the protagonists of an unusual new film that has been appearing at Jewish film festivals throughout the country. “Mary and Max,” a claymation feature written and directed by Adam Elliot, is a highly-stylized comic drama about loneliness, personal growth and friendship. It is a rare example of a picture so thoroughly perfected that each element of its execution stands out in contributing to the success of the whole.

The plot centers on two unlikely pen pals whose lives are affected by their years of correspondence in the ‘70s and ‘80s. Mary Daisy Dinkle (Toni Collette and Bethany Whitmore) is a young Australian girl whose unfortunate birth (accidental, as she learns) lands her with a kleptomaniac mother perpetually drunk on cooking sherry, a father deadened to life by his dead-end factory job and a very ugly birthmark right on her forehead. Max Jerry Horowitz (Philip Seymour Hoffman) is a neurotic, obese Jewish New Yorker who continues to wear his yarmulka even after losing certitude in God. He will eventually be diagnosed with Asperger’s Syndrome when the condition becomes more widely understood by the medical community.

The closest either can call a friend is an elderly neighbor, in Mary’s case an agoraphobic veteran for whom she brings in the mail and for Max a practically blind woman who finds her way around, more or less effectively, using an olfactory equivalent of echolocation. They both find relief in watching

“The Noblets,” satisfaction in collecting figurines from the show and comfort from consuming their favorite sweets.

By chance, the two begin conversing when Mary writes to an American, chosen out of a phonebook, to ask where babies come from in America. Max writes back, “I asked my mother when I was 4 and she said they came from eggs laid by rabbis. If you aren’t Jewish, they’re laid by Catholic nuns. If See “Tale” on page 5



Max (Philip Seymour Hoffman) exists in a bleak landscape, both within his mind and without. (Photo © Melodrama Pictures)

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Formation of Binghamton, LLC

Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/28/2010. Office location: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 527 Ackerson Boulevard, Brightwaters, NY 11718. Purpose: any lawful activities.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY UNDER NEW YORK LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW (“LLCL”)

1. The name of the limited liability company (“LLC”) is De Gennaro Properties, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is June 2, 2010.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: PO Box 506, Endicott, NY 13760.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

Notice of formation of Bowles Transportation, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed w/NY Secy. of State 5/25/10. LLC Office in Broome Co. NY Secy. of State designated agent for process service vs. LLC, which shall be mailed to 50 Holland St., Binghamton, NY 13905. Purpose: any lawful activities

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF DANGEROUS DOG LLC

Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/09/2007. Office location: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Tamara E. Pizur, 105 Clark Street, Vestal, NY 13850. Purpose: any lawful activities.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY UNDER NEW YORK LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW (“LLCL”)

1. The name of the limited liability company (“LLC”) is A GREAT CHOICE HOLDINGS, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State is June 8, 2010.
3. The County within the State of New York in which the principal office of the LLC is located is Broome.
4. The Secretary of State of the State of New York is hereby designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: PO Box 453, Vestal, NY 13851.
5. The character or purpose of the business of the LLC is any purpose allowed by law.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY UNDER THE NEW YORK LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW

Whole in the Wall, Binghamton, LLC (the “Company”)

Dated: June 22, 2010

Pursuant to LLCL §206(c), notice is hereby given of the formation of the Company for the transaction of business in the State of New York and elsewhere.

1. The name of the limited liability company is Whole in the Wall, Binghamton, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was June 8, 2010.
3. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County.
4. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to the Company at 43 South Washington Street, Binghamton, New York 13903.
5. The character or purposes of the business of the Company is for any lawful business purpose except one for which a statute requires some other business entity or natural person to be formed or used.

Notice of Formation of The Galley, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 4/23/10. Office location: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 409 Hooper Rd., Endwell, NY 12760. Purpose: any lawful activities.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY UNDER THE NEW YORK LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW

Woodshed Wine & Spirits, LLC (the

“Company”)

Dated: June 29, 2010

Pursuant to LLCL §206(c), notice is hereby given of the formation of the Company for the transaction of business in the State of New York and elsewhere.

1. The name of the limited liability company is Woodshed Wine & Spirits, LLC.
2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization of the Company with the Secretary of State was June 23, 2010.
3. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County.
4. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to the Company c/o Frederick A. Griffen at 80 Exchange Street, P.O. Box 5250, Binghamton, New York 13902.
5. The character or purposes of the business of the Company is for any lawful business purpose except one for which a statute requires some other business entity or natural person to be formed or used.

1-800-BunkBed, LLC NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (“LLC”)

Articles of Organization of 1-800-BunkBed, LLC filed with the NYS Secretary of State (NYSS) on 06/22/2010. Office of LLC is in Tioga County. NYSS designated as agent for service of process against it. NYSS shall mail process to 164 McLean Road, Owego, New York

13827. Business purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of Qualification of West Covina Royale, L.P. Authority filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/29/10. Office location: Broome County. LP formed in California (CA) on 12/14/93. SSNY designated as agent of LP upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Warren L. Breslow, 5150 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA 90230, also the address of the principal office. Name/address of genl. ptr. available from SSNY. Cert. of LP filed with CA Secy. of State, PO Box 944230, Sacramento, CA 94244-2300. Purpose: any lawful activities.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY UNDER THE NEW YORK LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW

SOUTHERN TIER COUNSELING SOLUTIONS LCSW, PLLC (the “Company”)

Dated: July 6, 2010

Pursuant to LLCL §206(c), notice is hereby given of the formation of the Company for the transaction of business in the State of New York and elsewhere.

1. The name of the limited liability company is SOUTHERN TIER COUNSELING SOLUTIONS LCSW, PLLC.
2. The Articles of Organization of the Company were filed with the Secretary of State on June 29, 2010.
3. The county in which the principal place of business of the Company shall be located is Broome County.
4. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process

against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the Company, to HINMAN, HOWARD & KATTELL, LLP, Attn: Ryan M. Mead, Esq., 700 Security Mutual Building, 80 Exchange Street, P.o. Box 5250, Binghamton, New York 13902-5250.

5. The character or purpose of the business of the Company is for any lawful business purpose except one for which a statute requires some other business entity or natural person to be formed or used.

Notice of Formation of SKJ Builders, LLC

Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/02/2010. Office location: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 21 Bridge Street, Windsor, NY 13865. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of Finale Associates, LLC

Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/01/2010. Office location: Broome Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, P.O. Box 2405, Binghamton, NY 13902. Purpose: any lawful activities.



To place a legal notice, call Bonnie Rozen at 724-2360, ext. 244.

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