

Israel's Story in Maps

Free Preview >>



Get paid to write.

www.jewishcontent.com

JEWSWEEK

COVER|BOOKS|SOCIETY|A&E|ISRAEL|SPIRITUALITY|OPINIONS|COLUMNS

June 22, 2006

OPINIONS

How to find a wife in six minutes

After getting divorced I decided to check out the latest phenom for Jewish seniors -- speed dating.

by Marvin Glassman



Circumcision Required.

 [subscribe](#)
Sign up for our weekly newsletter

Do you remember growing up in the 50's and knowing everyone in your neighborhood? It seems that, looking back, dating was simple when you were in your teens or twenties. All you had to do was ask one of your friends who was available, find out what you had in common with your date, and take the initiative from there.

Now in the 21st century, thanks to a more impersonal world, rising crime, stalking (even among Jews), a high divorce rate, young children to mother and father for one parent, dating is no longer the afterthought it once was. Many of our friends are now married (some divorced -- more than once) and the optimism that I once had so many years ago seems to be gone.

Now in my fifties, I feel alienated when I go to the single dances, like the high school kid who was afraid to open up his mouth because I don't want to offend a woman I don't know. So, instead of talking a lot in these functions, I am bombarded with loud music, lots of alcoholic drinks, and an inclination to stare and watch, as opposed to interacting.

So, when I had the opportunity in the past few weeks to experience the phenomenon called speed dating, I jumped at the opportunity. Speed dating started in Los Angeles by a rabbi who wanted to stem the rise in intermarriage. It's set in a casual setting such as a restaurant where, for \$22, an equal number of men and women meet in a casual setting to actually talk with each other (one at a time for six minutes or so, until a bell rings and you move on to another person).

The wonderful thing for me is that, being a writer, I articulate easily and have perfected my listening skills over the years, so to talk and listen to a woman who I had a lot in common with was easy, natural. It was great for my confidence.

At the end of the session, the participants write, "Yes I want a date" or "No, I do not want a date" and give the answers to the coordinator of the event. This is how most of the companies across the country have these sessions, but there are strong distinctions.

I gravitated to three organizations that offered speed dating for Jewish singles and found some subtle differences in the way the sessions were conducted. The speed dating offered by Aish Hatorah and Hurry Date had the bell ringing and a comfortable atmosphere. However, the only part of the program I did not care for was the option of

▶ RELATED SITES

[Speeddating](#)

[Hurry Date](#)

[Pre-Dating](#)

▶ the latest

[Austrian museum to return Schiele picture looted during Nazi era to owner](#)

[Activists protest building demolition in Budapest's old Jewish quarter](#)

[Torino Olympics saved by Israeli snow-making technology](#)

['Dancing' genes discovered by Israeli researcher](#)

[Young Israeli celebrities juggle stardom with army service](#)

▶ column

🔍 archive

Cover Stories

SEARCH



▶ recent articles

only selecting whether you made a match or not.

By contrast, the Pre-Dating organization gives more options: you can choose either a match, a friend, or a business networking match in your choices. This may sound ridiculous to you, since I went to find romance, but I like having many choices.

I guess my insecurities are laid out before you, but no matter how well the six minute meeting goes, do I really know if I met the love of my life? After experiencing puppy love, romantic love, marriage, divorce, bittersweet feelings, how can I come to a decision after only six minutes? At my age, I am no longer blinded to snap judgments based on looks and temperaments.

I met three women from the Pre-Dating sessions I went to and one of them is turning out (after four months of dating) to be a romantic match. My cautious brain tells me to go slow, so I won't say the word "success" yet.

The wonderful thing for me and others is to see so many singles interacting and having a wonderful time. Pre-dating is my favorite, especially because if you suffer the humiliating result (and it happened to me once) of not having any matches in a session, Pre-Dating offers you another opportunity at no cost.

The speed dating concept is so superior to other ways to meet singles (better than bars, single dances, and dating at work) that I feel that the 1950's has come back again.



Marvin Glassman has written on Jews in sports for the past 20 years and writes on tennis for the *Canadian Jewish News*. He was at the Nasdaq-100 Open for Jewswweek Magazine.



Talk Back! Respond to this article



Back to top



Write us



Send to a friend



Printer Friendly version

TALKBACK

[Reggae vibe rocks the Holy Land](#)

[America's first female rabbi retires after three decades](#)

[Rabbis meet in Warsaw to seek ways to revive communities devastated by Holocaust](#)

[Against the odds, devotees fight to save Yiddish](#)


recent opinions

[From Survive to Thrive: Creating Super Jews](#)

[The Forgotten Liberators](#)

[Dreaming on Yom HaZikaron](#)

[Days of Remembrance, Independence and Fear](#)

Click on the red headline to read a Talkback comment and respond to it. Click on the  icon to send a private email to the talkback writer. The icon appears only if the writer has decided to be contacted.

[About us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Advertising](#) | © Blue Star Media