

PROFILE ♦ POINT OF VIEW

NEW YORK

# Proud day school grad occupies senior post with *Reuters* in NY

**Mike Cohen**  
QUEBEC BUREAU CHIEF

Liana Baker says that she can trace her decision to pursue a career in journalism back to Grade 8 when she was attending Bialik High School in the Montreal island suburb of Côte Saint-Luc.

Baker is now 26 and occupies a senior position with the *Reuters* news agency, covering cable and media, as well as sports business. *Reuters*, the news and media division of Thomson Reuters, is the world's largest international multimedia news provider reaching more than 1 billion people every day. *Reuters* provides trusted business, financial, national and international news to professionals via Thomson Reuters desktops, the world's media organizations and directly to consumers at Reuters.com.

After graduating from Bialik, Baker studied liberal arts at Dawson College. She then enrolled at Northwestern Uni-



Liana Baker on Broadway (Photo: Mike Cohen)

versity in Evanston, near Chicago.

"My uncle was the campus rabbi," she shared with the *Jewish Tribune* last week in New York, "so I had family

there. Plus Northwestern has one of the best journalism programs anywhere."

Over the course of her four years at Northwestern, Baker scored some internships. One

of those was with *Reuters* and after her eight-week gig was up, she was offered a full-time job in the New York bureau of 300 people. She has been at

that post for three and a half years now and gets to cover the nation's most compelling media stories, from the recent blockbuster purchase of Time Warner Cable by Comcast to regular breaking news related to Sirius XM Satellite radio.

"I am sent to cover major conventions like the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, the Cable Show in Los Angeles and the Allen and Company Media Finance Show in Sun Valley, Idaho," she said.

Living right near Times Square is a pretty exciting opportunity. Baker tends to work long hours and will be called in at whatever time, day or night, when something significant occurs related to her beat. Recently she has even scored some camera time, interviewed in the *Reuters* office about the Time Warner deal. A video feed is provided to *Reuters* clients.

As a life-long sports fan, covering sports business is a thrill.

That means going to ESPN headquarters in Bristol, Conn., and following stories like *DirectTV's* Sunday Ticket \$1 billion a year package with the NFL. She was only a teenager when the Expos left Montreal and she still misses them. That is why she is coming back to Montreal to attend the two Blue Jays-Mets exhibition games with her dad at Olympic Stadium at the end of March. She will also find time to help out with the 10-year reunion of her Bialik High School graduating class.

In New York, Baker has a good social network. This includes a very close friend from Montreal. She remains connected to the Jewish community via a Chabad Club for Young Professionals.

"It is a very good social Jewish scene here for young adults," she said. "I went to a bowling party that attracted 500 people."

You can follow her on Twitter @lianabaker.

## Modern miracles

Benjamin's smiling mug circled the table. A dozen voices said, "Hi Benjamin."

"Hi," responded the face on the computer.

There were 12 of us at the Passover Seder table last year: those of my family who were not in Australia, where my older son and his family live, or in North Carolina, where my younger son and his family live. Global village? We live it. Fortunately my daughter and her bunch are in the Toronto area. My sister-in-law and those of her children and grandchildren who live in Toronto completed the gathering.

We were retelling the ancient story of the Exodus from Egypt.

We had been through the *Ma Nishtana*, the Four Questions, where the youngest asks, "Why is this night different from all other nights of the year?" We had read the answer in English, each of us in turn, going round the table. We were slaves in Egypt....

We were approaching the singing of *Dayenu*, the traditional recitation of the events and miracles associated with the Exodus. Traditionally, my grandson Benjamin and my daughter Brenda would take turns singing the verses in Hebrew. There are 15 of these verses, and each is followed by the chorus, *Dayenu*, which means "it would have been enough." Everyone joins in



Irene Davis

singing the chorus. *Day-day-enu, day-day-enu....*

But this year was different.

This year Benjamin was at McMaster University in Hamilton, writing his year-end exams and could not be there. This year Benjamin was missing and we missed him.

As we approached the part of the Seder service where *Dayenu* was to be sung, I noticed my granddaughter Leah fiddling with a laptop computer. I wondered vaguely why she was doing this in the middle of the Seder, but I wasn't really paying attention. But suddenly there was Benjamin, face filling the computer screen, smiling at us. She had Skyped him in!

The pleasure and excitement we all felt was almost tangible. The computer was passed around the table and greetings exchanged.

Then he and Brenda did their thing.  
*Ilu hotzi hotzi anu, hotzi anu mi mitzraim....*  
*If He had brought us out from Egypt, and had not carried out judgments against them, Dayenu....*

*If He had carried out judgments against them, and not against their idols, Dayenu....*

*If He had given us their wealth, and had not split the sea for us, Dayenu....*

*If He had split the sea for us, and had not taken us through it on dry land, Dayenu....*

*Therefore, how much more so do we owe abundant thanks....*

*Dayenu* finished, Benjamin said goodbye, the computer went black and he returned to his studies.

And I felt as if we had just witnessed another miracle.



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