

Here's a piece of Jewish trivia for you: do you remember Yenta the matchmaker from Fiddler on the Roof? Do you know who played Yenta on Broadway with Zero Mostel as Tevya? Maude—remember Maude? Played by Bea Arthur. Bea Arthur was Yenta the Matchmaker.

Sometimes I wish I was a better Yenta the Matchmaker. Lots of people let rabbis know if their son or daughter or grandchild is looking to meet a nice Jewish partner. I guess they figure that rabbis come into contact with lots of Jews, so maybe the rabbi will know an eligible someone. It's not bad thinking, really, but I don't think I have been responsible for putting two people together that ended up getting married. I'm not much of a matchmaker.

But that's OK. Rabbis and synagogues are always willing to try to help, but matchmaking is not our primary mission. I saw something last night that reminded me very clearly what business it is we are in.

Last night, the Bar and Bat Mitzvah class presented Sid and Linda Dunn with a rock to go at the bottom of our Etz Chaim in the lobby. The students made the presentation to them. I don't know whose idea the presentation was. If it came from the class themselves, *kol hakavod*. If it came from the parents, that's still good. Either way, the students ended up showing deep *mentchlichkeit*.

That's our business, my friends. We are not primarily in the business of making matches, we are in the business of making mentsches. That's what shuls do. So if we don't have a long record of success as matchmakers, that's OK. Better we should have success as mentschmakers. If last night was any indication, Shaarey Tefilla is doing just fine at mentschmaking.

You should only know how hard I tried to come up with a parody of Matchmaker, Matchmaker that did not sound corny or lame. When, after much time and great effort, the best I had was *Mentschmaker, mentschmaker, make me a mentsch. We'll say hamotzi and later we'll bentsch,*" I knew I had better give it up and conclude this talk with a simple Shabbat Shalom!