



# Scene Around

By Gloria Yousha — Call 407-657-9405 or 407-834-8787

## As I write this...

Out of respect and with admiration...  
The Pope has died. I just heard the news and am heart-sick.  
I know for a Jewish lady it is improbable for me to have such strong feelings about Pope John Paul II, the head of the Catholic church, but I do.  
He has definitely touched me deeply.  
I feel a connection and I pray that he is at peace now.  
About 20 years ago I had the privilege of learning his poems, written from his heart when he was a young priest in Poland. It tells much about him and his sensitivities...  
He was known then as Karol Wojtyla.  
Here is the first paragraph of his poem, *The Mystery of Man*:

"We come from a distant past that we've forgotten, and now we look and aspire to the stars. We are the mystery not even we can decipher... the mystery of man."  
And from his poem, *The Children*:  
"All at once, it seems they grow up. They find out what love is and then they're adults. Hand in hand they wander, unaware of crowds that flow around them, silhouetted profiles in the sunset."

Professing his love of Africans, here is a paragraph from his poem, *The Black*:

"In you, O my brother beloved, is a continent vast and unending, where you see great rivers run dry in their beds, and the sun consumes all that it touches, just like a crucible melting down iron. In you, I sense my own thoughts, like echoes. They may be different, but in essence, they use the same scale in weighing and dividing verity from falsity."

There are a few free-flowing poems to choose from and I can't print them all here... but I chose some of the excerpts that touched me.

Perhaps my very favorite is this one printed in its entirety, titled, *The Actor*:

"So many people inside me, living their lives, seeing all that I see, speaking always through me.

I'm like the channel of a river, and there's always running through me all the passions and illusions of man.

But I also have my own life that I feel that those others within me may in some way be changing.

Sometimes I feel I will melt into all men, with their yearnings and their follies so like my own.

All of their voices I hear, so demanding.  
They're all around me."

Pope John Paul II was a champion in his fight to eliminate Communism and especially anti-Semitism.

I am happy to share some of his words with you.  
They have been set to beautiful music and have been recorded both in Europe and in the United States.

I have the CD recorded by one of my idols, Sarah Vaughan, before her death.

It is titled Sarah Vaughan, *The Mystery of Man* and can be found on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com); and if you go to [www.towerrecords.com](http://www.towerrecords.com) you can find the same thing under the title, Sarah Vaughan sings *The Poetry of Pope John Paul II*.

If you are not on the internet, you can write to Kokopelli Records, P.O. Box 8200, Santa Fe, NM 87504 for the CD, or you can phone toll free, 800-289-4853.

It is truly one of my treasures.  
When Pope Pius XII was being discussed for canonization, I cringed.

(It is my opinion that he never stood up to Hitler and his henchmen as much as he should have.)

But this wonderful Pope... Pope John Paul II deserves such an honor.

Godspeed.

## A beautiful affair...

A beautiful affair attended by beautiful women who benefit a beautiful cause.

Of course I refer to the Jewish Federation's Lions of Judah. The Lion of Judah event brought together fifty women who pledged \$5,000 or more to the 2005 Combined Jewish Appeal Campaign.

These philanthropic women raise the majority of the funds contributed by the Women's Division of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando.



**Lion's luncheon Co-chairmen, DIANE GINSBURG (l) and MARCI KATZEN (center); and Lion's Division co-chairman, PAT BORNSTEIN. (Pat's co-chairman, Charlotte Rotenberg is not shown.)**

This year, the Women's Campaign will raise close to a million dollars.

The 82 Lions in Orlando contribute \$629,935. The funds are used to build a vibrant Jewish community here in Orlando and sustain a high quality of Jewish life around the world.

I had the pleasure of singing for these magnificent women at a Lion's luncheon held on March 14 at the lovely home of NORMA KAPLAN.

Together with pianist, MICHAEL KRAMER and his son, bassist, BEN KRAMER, we provided a little cabaret entertainment as we have in New York City.

It was indeed a pleasure and a privilege to entertain these women... the backbone of our Jewish community.

## It's about time...

And it took someone as wonderful and caring as EDDIE TITEN to do something about it!

"It" is promotion of a charity that would stop sports figures from using performance enhancing drugs.

(Ahem! Do the names of prominent sports figures come to mind? I bet they do!)

Actually, by drawing the line against such drugs, many youngsters who are just embarking into junior high school and high school sports will be saved from these possibly mood altering, growth stunting, dangerous substances.

The *Heritage Jewish News* received the following:

"I would very much appreciate your help in spreading the word about a very important website that was created by Eddie Titen. It is [www.755hits.org](http://www.755hits.org).

Eddie's goal is to establish 755 as the recognized symbol for ZERO tolerance against All athletic performance enhancing substances.

This is NOT just a baseball issue (although those are the headlines in current newspapers). Rather, it is an issue for all women's and men's sports at every age level.

About one and a half years ago, before it became the now daily headline, Eddie felt compelled to do something to stop the substance abuse by young children in sports. So he created a non-profit organization to facilitate his endeavors.

Eddie created a website, [www.755hits.org](http://www.755hits.org), to promote his ideas which he believes are shared by many others.

Eddie created the site because he was sick and tired of having our children pressured into using substances that destroy their minds and bodies just so they can compete with people who cheat the system.

He knows this is a popular issue currently, 'but trust me,' Eddie says, 'other people WILL NOT resolve the problem in our children's best interest. It is up to us as parents and responsible adults to keep the pressure on the Congress, Senate, schools and athletic associations every day of the year,' he said.

Eddie's hope is that if they see enough people displaying and supporting the 755 symbol, we will be able to resolve this matter.

Eddie receives no personal financial remuneration nor do any members of his family."

As I said in the beginning Eddie Titen is wonderful and caring. He is the husband of LISA TITEN, and the father of three, who now make their home in Tampa.

Eddie is also the son of HARVEY and GLORIA TITEN of Maitland.

Again I will repeat the wonderful website that Eddie created: [www.755hits.org](http://www.755hits.org) and sincerely hope that you visit it.

I will explain where the number 755 comes from and what "hits" stands for.

The great HANK AARON hit 755 home runs. And the word "hit" stand for Honesty, Integrity, Truth in sports!

YES!

## Rio is in the news lately...

But I'm not talking about Rio de Janeiro, the murder capital of the world... and also a city where my heart resides.

I'm talking about HECTOR RIOS, a terrific young man who works at Albertson's in Winter Park.

If you want to find anything... anything at all in the store, Hector is the one to go to.

He is probably the only one... (with the exception of LEE FOX who is another terrific employee who is extremely helpful) to go to when you can't find the sale item, or any item.

Thanks to Hector (and Lee), my shopping experiences are pleasant ones.

## And one for the road...

Ordinarily I wouldn't tell this joke... but I heard that it was a favorite of the late Pope John Paul II, so I will:

"A little Jewish immigrant to the US from the Ukraine was riding on a New York subway train one morning when he spotted a priest for the very first time.

The little immigrant said, "Excuse me, sir, but you are dressed something terrible! You are all in black... which shows no fashion sense... and worst of all, you are wearing your collar on backwards!"

The priest, very understanding and kind, answered, "You don't understand, sir. I am a Father."

To that the little immigrant answered, "So what? I am also a father and a grandfather... but I am wearing tan and brown and my collar is pointed and neat."

Keeping his patience, the priest said, "But sir, you don't understand. I am Father to hundreds!"

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