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JEWISH TRIBUNE

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TORONTONIANS RALLY IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL'S MIAs

By Rick Kardon
 Tribune Correspondent

Torontonians braved the cold to rally in front of the Israeli Consulate last Wednesday, in a call for the safe release of eight Israeli soldiers who have been captured and taken prisoner by Arab forces, in some cases more than 20 years ago, and are listed as Missing in Action (MIA).

The rally was organized by B'nai B'rith Canada and Mothers for MIAs. Supporting organizations were the Beth Tikvah Congregation, Beth Tzedek Congregation, Chabad at Flamingo, GJPAC, International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, Hillel of Greater Toronto, National Council of Synagogue Youth (NCSY), Thornhill Community Shul (Aish),

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, Ulpanot Orot High School, and Yeshivat Or Chaim. Friends of Eli Cohen, the Israeli convicted of spying who was captured and executed in Damascus in the mid-1960s, also co-sponsored this event. This group is calling for the return of his remains, a request that has been steadfastly refused by the Syrian government over the last four decades.

Rochelle Wilner, past president of B'nai B'rith Canada and International Vice President of BBI, was emcee of the event.

Of the three most recent captives, Gilad Shalit was captured by Hamas terrorists in the Gaza Strip, while Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Reggev were kidnapped by Hezbollah terrorists. Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz, captured in

the 1982 Battle of Sultan Yaquob, are presumed to be held under Syrian control. It is thought that Ron Arad is currently being held by Iran, while Guy Hever's whereabouts are unknown.

Israeli Consul-General Ya'acov Brosh said. "The Israeli government is doing everything to bring them home. Our enemies demand that in exchange for their release, Israel must release terrorists who in the past came into Israel, trying to destroy Israel. Israel will never release these terrorists. We don't know what happened to the others (besides Shalit, Goldwasser and Reggev). I hope and we pray that they will come home."

Rabbi Moshe Steiner of Uptown Chabad-Lubavitch led a silent prayer for the release of the MIAs, while Ulpanot Orot students, in a very moving cer-

emony, linked the name of each MIA to every one of the eight Chanukah candles. Many young Jewish students include the names of these soldiers in their daily prayers.

Rabbi Moshe Stern of Shaarei Tefillah in Toronto urged the Israeli government to do more to secure the release of the MIAs: "The war has ended but their captivity still continues. We will not forget them."

In the most emotional speech of the rally, Rabbi Mendel Kaplan of Chabad-Flamingo of Thornhill, relating the Biblical story of Joseph when he meets his brothers after many years of separation and is moved that his younger brother has never forgotten

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NEWS

Act in face of Holocaust denial, Dershowitz urges

By Atara Beck
Tribune Correspondent

Thousands of members of the Jewish community, as well as representatives from the community-at-large, packed Beth Tzedec Synagogue last Thursday evening for the Rally for Truth, Light & Freedom: Iran Exposed.

Professor Alan Dershowitz, author and Harvard law professor, delivered the keynote address – a passionate appeal to recognize the crisis facing the Jewish world today and to do whatever it takes to defend our freedom.

The event was co-ordinated and sponsored by UJA Federation; Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario Region and the Holocaust Centre of Toronto. It was co-sponsored by more than 100 organizations, including B'nai Brith Canada.

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl,

Beth Tzedec Congregation's senior rabbi, welcomed the audience, followed by the singing of *O Canada*, led by Cantor Simon Spiro. Opening remarks were delivered by Master of Ceremonies Linda Frum Sokolowski, *National Post* columnist, who's "especially proud that Prime Minister Harper has expressed his revulsion" at Iran. Although "a roster of weirdos and losers" attended the Holocaust Denial Conference in Iran, "we should take it seriously," she warned.

Chanukah candles were lit by Holocaust survivors Judy Cohen, Gerda Frieberg, Joe Leinburd and Nate Leipziger, and by March of the Living alumni Jennifer Green, Mira Pinkas and Dayna Simon.

Before Dershowitz's passionate address, a number of dignitaries expressed their determination to protect liberty and tolerance.

"Holocaust denial affects all of

'We must all pledge tonight that we will never allow Iran to be armed with nuclear weapons,' says Harvard law professor

humanity," stated Father Raymond de Souza, Roman Catholic priest and newspaper columnist. "Those who want to erase faith in God ultimately want to destroy His followers...A denial of history is a denial of God."

Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Peter Van Loan extended greetings from the government of Canada. What surprises Van Loan is the anti-Jewish sentiments that no one would have dared express 30-40 years ago. It's "a stunning turn of events that I would never have

dreamed of as a child."

Attorney General Michael Bryant spoke on behalf of the Ontario government.

"Last week's so-called confer-

ence was not an academic exercise.... It was an exercise of hate," he said. "We cannot be complacent.... I'm honoured to be here in the presence of Holocaust survivors whose stories are very real."

Testimonials were presented by Captain Martin Maxwell (Ret.), Glider Pilot Regiment, British army; Max Eisen, Holocaust survivor; and Sgt. William McBurney (Ret.), 761st Tank Battalion, US army.

"Just as we fought the tyrants

and hatemongers then, unfortunately we must do it again," said Maxwell.

"Never would I have thought that 62 years later we'd have to speak of a threat again," Eisen said.

"Holocaust denial is an issue that should concern us all," said McBurney, who was among the American liberators of concentration camp inmates. "I was a witness to this unspeakable evil. These images will remain forever in my mind. In fact, I don't want to forget."

Canadian Rabbinic Caucus seeks common ground on political front

By Atara Beck
Tribune Correspondent

The new Canadian Rabbinic Caucus (CRC), which includes 19 rabbis representing all Jewish denominations from across the country, hopes to create an ongoing dialogue with the political sector on issues with which they can all agree.

The CRC co-chairs, all orthodox, are Rabbi Reuben Poupko, spiritual leader of Montreal's Beth Israel Beth Aaron Congregation; Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz of Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem in Montreal; and Rabbi Reuven Bulka, Congregation Machzikei Hadas, Ottawa.

The *Jewish Tribune* asked a number of rabbis how it would be possible to present a united perspective, given the diversity of the rabbis. What about issues like stem-cell research, gay marriages and communities in Judea and Samaria? The rabbis were also asked how the selection of rabbis was decided upon.

Rabbi Poupko replied: "Rabbi Steinmetz and I took the initiative and, in consultation with colleagues, the invitations were issued. However, we



Rabbi Reuven Bulka presents a plaque with a prayer for Canada to Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Ottawa recently.

are open to other rabbis who wish to join. At least in the beginning, we will stick to issues like Iran, on which there is a broad consensus."

"This group will not get into the issues you mentioned," said Rabbi Bulka. "Its platform is to achieve 'civil discourse' in the relationship between the faith communities, an atmosphere of respectful dialogue."

"We're choosing issues on which we can agree," said Rabbi Debra Landsberg of Temple Emanu-El in Toronto. "The point

is to begin to have a Jewish voice and presence from the Jewish religious leadership. Iran, for instance, is a concern for us as Jews, for us as citizens and residents of Canada."

"We're a united front on issues related to terrorism, Iran, etc.," said Toronto Shaarei Shomayim Rabbi Moshe Shulman.

Recently, the CRC went to Ottawa for the day to meet with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and government representatives.

'Battle for Jewish survival continues'

RALLY cont. from page 1.

him, said that no one is doing enough, neither the Israeli government, nor the governments of the world who claim to support humanitarian causes. But he went further, blaming Jewish communities and individuals the world over. He said: "We are our brothers' keeper. Why

has the world not cared more about the captured soldiers? Why is there no hue and cry over them? Because we are not screaming!"

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl of Beth Tzedec Congregation of Toronto emphasized the obligation every Jew has to redeem those held captive: "In Genesis, when Lot was captured,

Abraham came to his rescue," he reminded the crowd. Noting the significance of holding this Freedom Rally on Chanukah, he concluded, "Today, Iran, Hezbollah, Hamas and Al Qaeda call for our destruction. In the tradition of the fight of the Hashmonaim (Maccabees), the battle for Jewish survival continues."

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NEWS

Will media warriors win any battles?

By Judy Lash Balint
Special to the Tribune

HERZLIYA – A diverse group of academics, think-tank directors, government and IDF spokespeople, media advocacy types and bloggers gathered last week for a two-day conference here entitled Media as a Theatre of War, the Blogosphere, and the Global Battle for Civil Society.

The meeting was held under the auspices of the prestigious Herzliya Conference, an annual event presented by the Inter-Disciplinary Centre in Herzliya that has become the venue for major Israeli policy announcements.

The goal of conference organizer Richard Landes, professor of medieval history at Boston University and seasoned pro-Israel media activist, was to transcend the traditional right/left deadlock of those who support Israel, and “get us to start to think strategically.”

“We have to get people across the board talking about media – there has to be more cooperation between Israeli hasbara efforts and the blogosphere,” Landes asserted.

But a panel analyzing the Kfar Qana incident, where an Israeli air

strike during last summer's war caused civilian deaths and resulted in an avalanche of negative news coverage, did more to highlight the gaps in perception between official Israeli PR policy and bloggers.

Raanan Gissin, media advisor to former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, told the audience that before Qana “we started the war with the best international support ever – we were the victims. In one week we lost the prize, and after Qana, Israel was no longer the victim.”

A flurry of blogs from those attending the conference objected to a strategy of “Israel being constantly portrayed as the innocent victim...”

Former Vancouver resident Lisa Goldman who blogs from Tel Aviv and counts bloggers from several Arab countries among her friends, said she felt it was “counterproductive to attack the opposite side.”

“Do you correct people by putting them on the defensive?” Goldman asked.

Allison Kaplan Sommer, Middle East editor for *Pajamas Media*, noted in a blog posting following the conference: “One thing I did observe was a huge disconnect – a major gulf – between the academ-

ics, government officials, and the long-time Israel advocacy community and the bloggers. It was generational, technological, and it felt as if they (we) were living on different planets.”

At the end of the first day of the conference, the bloggers from Australia, the US and Israel kept to themselves in a corner.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mark Regev told the audience that the worst day of the war for hasbara was when an Israeli missile accidentally killed four UN personnel, including one Canadian the week before the Qana incident.

Several sessions were devoted to the failings of western media in its coverage of the Middle East. Hudson Institute fellow Lee Smith, who has spent the past six months in Lebanon, explained how certain journalists in Lebanon pay \$250 for a fixer to use his Syrian security connections to obtain a visa. “Does their paper know that the reporter is now being controlled by Syrian intelligence?” Smith asked. He told of journalists who had become friendly with Hezbollah operatives and purchased Hezbollah paraphernalia.

“There's a tendency amongst some in the media to become entranced with people of action,” Smith explained.

Professor Gerald Steinberg of the Jerusalem-based *NGO Monitor* charged that “journalists are lazy” and take material verbatim from the many reports issued by non-governmental organizations in the Middle East. “They're obsessed with demonizing Israel,” Steinberg asserted, singling out Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International as the best-funded culprits.

“NGOs provide facts to the media,” Steinberg continued, “and there's a halo effect.... No one bothers to check data if it comes from a human rights group.”

Steinberg says the budgets of the NGOs make them a “superpower” with millions spent on documenting the Middle East.

The conference didn't ignore the European media scene. American-born novelist and journalist Nidra Poller who has lived in Paris since the 1970s reported a “pornographic hatred of Jews is boiling and churning in France,” egged on by an unsympathetic media. “We've made no headway in France,” she said.

Several other speakers noted the lack of progress on the media front despite repeated reports and conferences on the subject.

“I've seen five reports in the past five years that recommend establishing a central coordinating public diplomacy office,” said former IDF spokesman Nachman Shai, now head of the UJC Israel office. “It's definitely not a matter of money.”

A report on the media conference will be presented at the main Herzliya Conference in January and Landes hopes to form a working group to formulate strategy to improve Israel's chances of winning the media battle in the theatre of war.

York police candle lighting celebrates diversity

The fourth annual Chanukiah Lighting Ceremony at York Regional Police headquarters, in partnership with Chabad Flamingo.

“Chanukah reminds all of us of the power of faith in God,” declared York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge.

“Notwithstanding our differences, we all share a festival of lights this time of year,” said David Barrow, mayor of Richmond Hill.



Police Chaplain Rabbi Mendel Kaplan (left) prepares to light the Chanukiah with York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge. See more Chanukah celebrations, pages 8 and 9.

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Dalhousie cancels controversial debate

By Tribune Staff

Dalhousie University decided to cancel a debate – Racial Diversity: North America's Strength or Weakness – scheduled for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Jan. 15, 2007, after being alerted about concerns about one of the speakers. The debate was to be between the chair of the Canadian university's Black Canadian Studies program Professor David Divine and American Jared Taylor. Taylor is president of an organization that the Anti-Defamation League describes as a “self-styled think tank that publishes a monthly journal and a web site” through which “it promotes pseudoscientific and questionably researched and argued studies to validate the superiority of whites.”

While Taylor focuses more on racial superiority of whites over blacks, and does not seem particularly concerned about Jews, it was a coalition of Jewish groups including B'nai Brith Canada and the Atlantic Jewish Council working together, which raised the alarm.

Taylor describes himself as a “race realist,” which brings to mind a statement by Holocaust denier Ernst Zundel, who in his testimony during his security certificate court hearings denied being antisemitic – insisting he was rather “race conscious.”

Nonetheless, Taylor is a favourite amongst white supremacists. Posters to a Canadian white supremacist web-based forum were delighted about the upcoming debate and most likely will now be quite disappointed by its cancellation.

The university in its Dec. 21, 2006 statement indicated that its chair “was approached by an external organization to take part in a debate on racial diversity in North America.... Subsequently, the university has learned more about the background and standpoint of the others involved in the proposed debate and has concluded a debate with people who held such views would not be a useful way to explore the topic.” As the university believes the issue is “still worth examining,” Professor Divine intends to deliver a public lecture on the same topic at the scheduled time.

Taylor, disappointed by the cancelled invitation to say the least, has said, “I have heard that Canada tends to be skittish about free speech.”

Somewhat predictably, the change in events has also been criticized as stepping on the toes of “academic freedom,” according to the Canadian Association of University Teachers – the same principle that has been cited in support of Professor Shiraz Dossa of Nova Scotia's St. Francis Xavier University who was the sole Canadian in Iran at its recent Holocaust denial hatefest.

Anita Bromberg, director of legal services of B'nai Brith Canada, applauded Dalhousie University for “refusing to allow Taylor, a ‘racialist’ [sic] dressed up in the clothes of respectability, a platform at such a credible institution.”



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COMMENTARY/LETTERS

ADL backgrounder on Neturei Karta sect

The black-garbed Jews who appear in support of anti-Israel and even antisemitic events are known as Neturei Karta. This miniscule group on the farthest fringes of Judaism advocates the "dismantling" of the state of Israel until their messiah comes. Members of Neturei Karta have a long record of extremist statements and support for antisemites and Islamic extremists, including President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran, who has called for the destruction of Israel. The following Q&A was put together by the Anti-Defamation League.

Q. What does Neturei Karta mean?

A. Neturei Karta (pronounced ne-TOO-ray KAHR-tuh) is Aramaic and means Guardians of the City. The phrase in its original context refers to the holy men and scholars in whose merit it was believed that God protected Jewish enclaves. The contemporary Neturei Karta movement adopted the name in order to stress its belief that only spiritual growth, prayer, Torah study and acts of kindness are permissible means of advancing Jewish interests.

Q. What are Neturei Karta beliefs?

A. Neturei Karta is founded on the idea that Zionism is a demonic force responsible for many of the world's evils. Their spokesmen routinely call for the dismantling of the state of Israel and the empowerment of the Palestinians who would then decide whether to allow any Jews to remain in their new state. Neturei Karta adherents believe that a promised messianic age cannot begin until Zionism is eliminated from the Middle East.

Q. What is the Neturei Karta's internal structure, and how many Neturei Karta are there?

A. On one level, Neturei Karta is an ideological movement at the farthest fringes of Orthodox Judaism; it is not a formal organization. A number of Neturei Karta activists, however, have joined together to form an organization called Neturei Karta International, which runs two web sites. There are probably fewer than 100 actual Neturei Karta activists (the ones carrying placards and speaking at anti-Israel rallies), but the total number of people who would identify themselves as Neturei Karta in New York, England and Israel could be as many as a few thousand. Neturei Karta members often claim that tens or even hundreds of thousands of ultra-Orthodox Jews and Hassidim share their beliefs, but this is patently false.

Although there are segments of the ultra-Orthodox Jewish community and some Chasidic Jews who do not embrace Zionism (which they view as a secularist and godless movement) and in the early 1900s opposed on theological grounds the creation of a Jewish state, these movements are sufficiently pragmatic to permit their members who live in Israel to pay taxes, use social services, vote and even form their own political parties. By contrast, Neturei Karta adherents who live in Israel do not vote, do not accept any government assistance, and reportedly even refuse to use Israeli passports. Some ultra-Orthodox, who may not be conversant with these distinctions, might support Neturei Karta just because they appear to be pious men expressing opposition to Zionism.

Q. How are Neturei Karta activists funded?

A. It has been assumed that Neturei Karta obtains funding from Arab groups and possibly even Arab governments (in the past they have had cordial relations with Yemen and Iran). The Israeli newspaper *Ma'ariv* reported that the Israel Defence Forces had obtained documents indicating that former Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat

supplied Neturei Karta with more than \$50,000 in late 2002.

Q. What characteristics does the Neturei Karta share with other extremist groups and ideologies?

A. Neturei Karta activists are quick to endorse anyone who opposes Zionism, and have publicly embraced such groups and movements as Al-Awda, a grass-roots organization that advocates on behalf of the Palestinian cause, the anti-war protest group ANSWER, the virulently antisemitic Nation of Islam, Willis Carto and his Holocaust-denying Barnes Review Conference. In turn, these groups showcase Neturei Karta's approval as a way of justifying or disguising their own antisemitism.

Neturei Karta has developed several conspiracy theories to explain the success of Zionism and its own lack of influence; these theories often echo the slanders emanating from radical Islamic groups and New World Order conspiracies. The movement is also very conservative on social issues, and quick to blame Zionists for the moral decline it perceives in modern society. It claims that:

- Zionists control the United States and other Western countries.

- Zionists control the media.
- Zionists are intent on flooding Western society with immorality, pornography, greed, and abortion, and on stripping all vestiges of godliness from public life.

- Zionists have purposely cultivated antisemitism throughout the world by issuing statements that non-Jews would find inflammatory and by staging fake acts of antisemitic violence as a means of inducing Jews to immigrate to Israel. The most extreme example of this is the claim that Zionists were complicit in the Holocaust in order to force Jews to flee from Europe to Palestine. Neturei Karta propaganda alleges that Zionists intentionally infuriated the German people and fanned the flames of Nazi hatred, and they helped the Nazis, with trickery and deceit, to take whole Jewish communities off to the concentration camps.

- The Holocaust was justified as a divine punishment for the sin of Zionism.

- Zionists have used the Holocaust to milk European governments of millions in reparations, and have used the Holocaust to humiliate non-Jews.

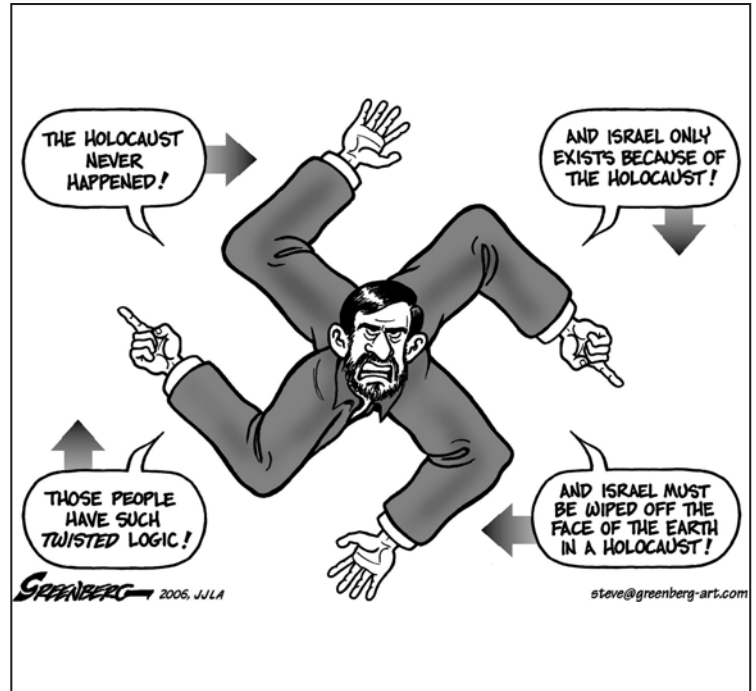
- Zionists are the cause of the instability in the Middle East. Neturei Karta claims that Jews and Arabs coexisted peacefully in Palestine before Zionism; it characterizes the 1929 Hebron massacre (in which 67 Jews were killed and the remainder fled the city) as an understandable Arab reaction to Zionist provocation.

- Zionists have strategically and consciously sought to destroy the Palestinian people since before the state of Israel was created, have sadistically inflicted humiliation, torture and death on the Palestinian population, and continue to engage in ethnic cleansing of Israeli and occupied lands.

Letter writers

If you would like to send a letter to the editor of the *Jewish Tribune*, send it to editor@jewishtribune.ca. Please include your name, address and telephone number.

If you wish to remain anonymous we will consider the request only if a name, address and telephone number is included, so we are able to confirm that you sent the letter.



Xavier grad won't wear ring till professor is gone

I just wanted to say how sorry I am that my alma mater (St. Francis Xavier University) has allowed an instructor to attend the Iranian (Holocaust denier) conference. I want you to know that I will not wear my school ring until that professor is gone from the university. Please find attached a copy of my email to the university:

Dear Mr. Gates, Xavier needs to do more than just talk. In the past, many people talked but did not act. The results were Gulags and Concentration Camps. By his attendance, the professor in question has lent credibility, and support to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

The views of the Iranian president are widely known. The atrocious human rights record of Iran is widely known. I would suggest, he is not fit for employment at Xavier.

As it stands, I will not wear my X-ring or in anyway support the university, as long as Professor (Shiraz) Dossa is in anyway connected to the school.

Respectfully,
Paul J. Bradley
Accountant

Warm memory but missed friendship

I have just read the article (*Jewish Tribune*, Dec. 14, p. 25) written by Fredele Soban.

I was very moved by these events and then disappointed to learn that while Ms Soban thinks of this hairdresser each year, and was pleased with the results of her new hairdo, she has not returned to the salon.

What an opportunity missed! The friendship that could have developed, and the very help that Ms Soban now wonders if she should have provided, could have become a core aspect of their ongoing relationship.

Indeed, a mitzvah missed. A lovely memory instead of a warm and rich friendship.

Perhaps the greatest lesson of the article is that we can learn

Thanks for ad, reader says

Thank you (B'nai Brith Canada) for putting the ad - Not In Our Name - in the *National Post* (Dec. 21). I was confused by the news reports, and didn't quite believe that the correct facts were mentioned.

I am sorry that the Jewish people are targets for inhuman hate; those who so vehemently deny the Holocaust, poison the world.

Thank you for printing the ad and making things clearer for me.

Larissa Stefirak, Toronto, ON

to recognize great opportunities for what they are.

Sandi Hofbauer
Toronto, ON

Thanks for OSSTF warning: retired teacher

Thank you so much for the heads-up on the CUPE issue. When I received the communique (email sent via *Jewish Tribune*), I was outraged.

I wrote to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who forwarded my remarks on to Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay; and I emailed the Premier and Mr. Joliffe of OSSTF.

The motion has been dropped! It should never surface again!

Thank you B'nai Brith for all of your fabulous work!

Eileen Shapero
Retired teacher
Toronto, ON

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COMMENTARY

Where criticism is a finely honed art

It has been said that the Jews were the world's first lawyers and literary critics — at least among those who participated in that glorious enterprise known as the Talmud. In that text the rabbinical cadres perfected the interpretation of words and concepts with that slow and penetrating reading of Torah and the legal lore flowing from it. It is not surprising that in the medieval period the rabbis were often referred to as "doctors of the Law."

In their deconstruction of Holy Writ the Talmudic sages produced logical indices and intuited different resonance from words and ideas that are startlingly modern in that they anticipated abstract concepts in which the mental state and the intention of the individual were seen to influence his understanding of specific texts.

Viewed from this perspective, the presence of Jews among so many of the best literary critics in the 20th and 21st centuries seems not to be surprising. Many of the DNA strands of their critical thinking can be traced back to their rabbinic forbears. One thinks immediately of Alan Bloom, the Yale University savant, and George Steiner, England's pre-eminent literary critic.

A recent sojourn in Israel has persuaded me that while literary criticism and legal opinion are very much alive in the Jewish state, most of the country's



Arnold Ages

intellectual elite has transformed the Jewish double helix into a far more incendiary exercise in criticism writ large. Social, religious and political criticism has become the major currency of the state and it is in an inflationary stage.

During a November stay in the country I monitored the Israeli press (two English and three Hebrew dailies) and television (four Hebrew channels) for a sustained period and came to the conclusion that the decibel level of the nation's critical mass is at an all time high. The Iranians may be busy with their centrifuges but the Israelis also have their critical centrifuges operating at full power.

This is understandable, in part, because of the bitter residue of the July-August encounter with Hezbollah and the resultant death of 130 Israeli soldiers and citizens during the combat. The wounds flowing from the abduction and unknown fate of three Israeli soldiers before the fighting have not yet started to heal and this has produced massive critical opinions of the Olmert

government.

But it is not only the recent fighting that preoccupies the media. Newspaper and television commentators reflect a wide range of views on other topics as well. On the top of the list is corruption among public officials, a syndrome apparently so widespread that it occupies a disproportionate amount of space in newspaper headlines across the political spectrum. Discretion and respect for Canadian libel laws dictate the need for prudence in naming names.

Second on the critical priority list is the Israeli banking system, which has drawn vitriolic comment about the allegedly immoral fees charged by those institutions for all kinds of transactions. Many of the charges against the banking sector come from *The Marker*, an Israeli newspaper with a business focus. Even Stanley Fischer, the "Nasi," — the "superintendent" of banks in Israel — has come down hard on the bureaucrats in the system and has summarily fired some of the highest placed executives in the industry. Fisher, in turn, has been targeted by others for the high-handed way he has operated in personnel matters.

Some of the most acerbic criticism in Israel comes from columnists in *Ha'aretz*, which is published both in Hebrew and English. Amir Hass, one of the paper's most strident writers, had a column recently deplor-

ing Israel's position on the release of the kidnapped Israeli soldiers. Hass argued that it is ridiculous to criticize Hezbollah or Hamas for its treatment of the latter while Israel's jails are full of Palestinians who have been in Israeli jails for decades without legal redress or humane treatment. (Hass did not distinguish between Israeli soldiers defending their country and Palestinian terrorists who wantonly murder Israelis.)

The most surprising criticism which has surfaced in recent years however, pivots on the career of one of Israel's icons, Anatoly Sharansky. He recently retired from political life and is considered to be a serious candidate for the country's presidency. This did not prevent a recent columnist from attacking Sharansky for his hypocrisy in not focusing his energies on human rights issues in Israel despite his prominence on this front elsewhere.

A political science colleague once remarked to me that criticism is useless unless it is vehement. In Israel understatement will get you nowhere. The exuberant chaos of Israel's democracy presents challenges to the faint hearted.

The critical establishment in Israel understands this; so also did the prophets of Israel.

Arnold Ages is Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of Waterloo, Ontario, and Scholar-in-Residence at the Beth Tzedec Congregation, Toronto.

Kfar Blum: Tanglewood on Jordan

By Nechemia Meyers

The music never stops at Kfar Blum, a veteran kibbutz on the banks of the Jordan. Most weekends Kfar Blum provides the venue for a series of concerts and during the summer it has a whole week of concerts and master classes interrupted this year, for the first time in over a decade, by Hezbollah rockets. But since only the kibbutz cow shed was hit, the concerts resumed almost immediately after the rockets stopped falling. Each musical weekend has a theme. One, for example, was devoted to serenades and ballads with presentations by the Tel Aviv Soloists, a group of talented and enthusiastic young people who played, among other things, pieces by Mozart and Tchaikovsky. Also appearing was the Evergreen Quintet, which presented tunes from the Emerald Island.

Almost all members of Kfar Blum are themselves music lovers, but that is not the only reason the kibbutz hosts these musical events. It is also because they attract thousands of Tel Avivians to the settlement's Pastoral Hotel. As hotel manager Dubi Benari puts it: "We have an unbeatable combination — lovely music, comfortable rooms,

extensive greenery and five-star cuisine. There are 6,000 people on our mailing list, and the moment we announce a new event, we are immediately flooded with room reservations."

The economic success of the hotel is vitally important to the kibbutz, which, like many settlements, has had trouble making ends meet. Earnings from agriculture are no longer large enough to keep the communal budget balanced and industry isn't very profitable either. Music, the kibbutzniks have discovered, is much more profitable.

With their standard of living on the rise, Israelis have found themselves with enough spare cash for relatively expensive vacations, and a musical weekend at Kfar Blum is not cheap; a weekend at a Greek island would be cheaper, though less culturally enriching.

The kibbutz also caters to ordinary vacationers, renting out rubber rafts to those who prefer bouncing down the Jordan to communing with Beethoven and Berlioz.

Tourist-related enterprises are not only important economically, but, hardly less important, they provide job opportunities for the children and



Music on the Jordan

grandchildren of the founders who had gone elsewhere but who are considering the possibility of coming back. With few exceptions, however, they don't want to be kibbutz members; they prefer to be residents who live in the community without belonging to the collective. And to accommodate them and others, a piece of kibbutz land has been set aside for what is essentially private housing. The families living there will make use of settlement facilities like the school and swimming pool, but won't participate in decision-making bodies.

As Benari sees it, the collective will disappear anyway within a few years as privatization expands. Does this bother the old-timers, fervent socialists when they established Kfar Blum many decades ago? Generally speaking, it doesn't.

For example Saadia Gelb, an extraordinarily hale and hearty 93-year-old originally from Minneapolis, says that whatever changes the youngsters want should be implemented. "After all," he declares, "we had our revolution and now they should have theirs."

Freedom to oppose government reflects generational rift in OU

By Ben Harris

JERUSALEM (JTA) — As Israeli forces mobilized in the summer of 2005 to remove 8,000 settlers from the Gaza Strip, anger mounted among American Orthodox Jews.

Not only was Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government relinquishing territory some viewed as Jewish land by birthright, but many felt the withdrawal was a concession to terrorist intimidation that would invite further bloodshed.

But the Orthodox Union (OU), the largest Orthodox umbrella group in the United States, remained silent, following a longstanding policy of not taking public positions opposed to the security policies of Israel's government.

That policy was reversed recently when the Orthodox Union adopted a resolution at its biennial national convention in Jerusalem empowering its leaders to publicly oppose Israeli government positions, if they deem it necessary.

At the end of a four-part resolution on Israel — which expressed, among other things, the union's "historic obligation" to preserve the rights of Jews to live freely throughout the land of Israel and its skepticism about trading land for peace — the OU moved to allow itself to publicly oppose the government in "exceptional circumstances," as determined by the organization's board of directors or executive committee.

The resolution's practical impact may be only to

change the focus of debate from whether to dissent publicly to what qualifies as exceptional circumstances.

But its adoption, and the intensity with which delegates argued over seemingly minor distinctions in language and emphasis, reflects a larger generational shift within the union.

"This organization is becoming a lonely place for those who believe in old-fashioned modern Orthodoxy," said David Luchins, a longtime OU board member who opposed the change. "The older generation was influenced by teachers who taught us not to get involved in Israeli issues. The grassroots is not satisfied anymore with that approach."

Proponents of a more robust public posture counter that Orthodox Jews have a religious duty to make their voices heard on issues of consequence for the future of Israel and the Jewish people.

"If you're going to be perceived as the organization that represents Orthodox Judaism in North America, you have an obligation," said Aron Raskas, a Baltimore attorney who chaired the commission that drafted the resolution.

Raskas acknowledged that opposition is sometimes best expressed privately, but said there are moments that call for a more public position.

"Silence is often construed as tacit approval of the policy," he said.

Diaspora Jewry's role in Israeli decision-making

long has been contentious, with many arguing that since Israelis alone bear the consequences of their government's actions, American Jewish organizations have no right to influence them.

But Israel's withdrawal from Gaza, with the spectacle of Jews removing other Jews from their homes, sparked a groundswell of protest in the Orthodox community that severely challenged that view. Raskas called it a "lightning-rod issue" for the Orthodox Union.

At the convention, debate over the union's proper role in Israeli decisions essentially pitted the moralists against the pragmatists — those who believe American Jewry has an obligation to speak out against those who worry that the costs may outweigh the benefits.

Hillel Halkin, a noted author and translator who participated in a panel discussion on the subject, reminded the group that if it speaks out, other organizations will too. The cumulative effect will be a diminution of American Jewish influence on matters pertaining to Israel, he said.

Americans are just as divided on Israel-related issues as are Israelis, Halkin argued, and a split in the American Jewish community "could nullify its utility as an Israel lobby."

During the question period that followed, it appeared Halkin's urging had fallen on deaf ears. Virtually every questioner asserted not only a right but a moral imperative to oppose policies they believe put Jewish lives at risk, with many drawing

analogies to the period leading up to World War II, when American Jewry was silent in the face of Hitler's rise to power.

"We have to worry what history is going to say about us," said Rabbi Emanuel Feldman, who sat on the panel along with Halkin and OU Chairman Harvey Blitz.

Feldman suggested that some issues are so morally compelling they demand a public response even when the practical effects are nil, or even negative.

The resolution was adopted after debate on several proposed amendments, which differed primarily in the amount of leeway they allowed in determining when to take an opposing position in public.

One amendment, which dropped the "exceptional circumstances" language in favour of a broad mandate to publicly communicate "the views reflected in this resolution," fell three votes short of the required two-thirds majority.

OU President Stephen Savitsky lobbied for passage of the more sweeping amendment, arguing that the "exceptional" clause would mire the board in debate over what qualifies as exceptional.

But the original language prevailed, reflecting a compromise between a widely perceived need for the union to take a public stand and the organization's longstanding policy.

"I think the process worked," Luchins said. "I think the centre held."

NEWS

Release Pollard from prison, former US ambassador says

By Rick Kardonne
Tribune Correspondent

Jonathan Pollard should be released from prison, said *FOX News* foreign affairs analyst and former US Ambassador Dennis Ross, who for more than 12 years played the leading role in shaping US involvement in the Middle East peace process, under the administrations of George Bush and Bill Clinton.

Ross made this statement at a media news conference that preceded the closing celebration of the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto Israel Emergency Campaign 2007, which raised \$81 million, \$20 million of which was earmarked for the reconstruction of northern Israel on which Hezbollah rockets rained down death and destruction during the July-August 2006 war.

He was the keynote speaker of this event, which took place last week in the George Weston Hall at the Toronto Centre of the Arts.

Pollard was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1989 without parole for supplying US military secrets to Israel without US permission, when he worked for Navy Intelligence. Ross told the *Jewish Tribune* that while what Pollard did was wrong according to US law, that his sentence was excessive. Pollard still sits in a maximum security prison.

Ross said that he told both Bushes, father and son, as well as Clinton that Pollard should be released.

Ross told the *Jewish Tribune* that the present Bush administration shows no interest in releasing Jonathan Pollard.

"The National Security Council and the CIA strongly opposed Pollard's release," Ross said. "They maintain that Pollard knew facts that would jeopardize national security. But Pollard has been in jail for so long that whatever facts he might know would have little if any effect on national security today."

Ross strongly denied that when former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met Clinton and Wye in 1996, that Clinton said he was willing to release Pollard and that then, according to Netanyahu, Clinton reneged on a release deal.

"Clinton never made such a promise to release Pollard, even though Netanyahu said that Clinton did," claimed Ross.

In his keynote address, Ross, who had just returned from Israel and Ramallah earlier that same day, evoked the most positive audience response when he initially discussed Iran and the Baker-Hamilton Iraq Study Group. But Ross provoked some skeptical reaction when he dealt with the so-called "moderation" of PA president Mahmoud Abbas

and his Fatah faction, which is currently involved in a civil war against Hamas.

"Iran is a challenge everywhere. When Iran president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad not only denies the Holocaust, vows to wipe Israel off the map, and says that Israel will disappear soon, this is a major existential threat to Israel. If Iran goes nuclear, then the whole Mideast will go nuclear. We don't want Iran to go nuclear."

Ross skilfully debunked the notion that meaningful sanctions against Iran are being considered by the UN or even the US. "On Aug. 31, Iran was supposed to face a UN sanctions motion for failing to suspend its nuclear enrichment program. One of the proposed sanctions was that there would be no trade with Iran, but Russia would be exempt from this sanction. Another sanction was that Iranian students would not be allowed to study nuclear physics overseas." In other words, the proposed sanctions have to them an element of farce.

To demonstrate that the possibility of a nuclear Iran is not only a threat to Israel in the region, Ross stated that "on Dec. 14, Saudi Arabia announced that it will create a nuclear energy program to be a counterpoint against Iran." Once this happens, Ross feels that Egypt and other Arab states will follow suit. Ross also mentioned that Saudi Arabia "knows that Hamas and Hezbollah are arms of Iran. Saudi Arabia is afraid of Iran. And Saudi Arabia is so afraid of Iran-backed insurgents that it is building a security fence along its entire border with Iraq."

Ross said that while the Baker-Hamilton Iraq study group might have some sound recommendations regarding Iraq,

such as that Iraqis should shoulder the brunt of the current internal fighting; its attempt to link Iraq to the Israel-Palestinian Arab conflict makes no sense. "Iraq's problems are internal. The solution to the Iraq civil war lies within Iraq." He had harsh words for Baker's insistence that Israel must make major concessions for the Iraq war to be settled, and especially condemned Baker's advice that Iran and Syria be brought in to moderate the Iraq war; a recommendation that President George W. Bush has rejected.

Ross drew his most evident audience approval when he declared that "unilateralism (on the part of Israel when it withdrew from south Lebanon in 2000 and Gaza in 2005) doesn't work. However, his belief that Israel should "support moderate Palestinians," meaning Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah faction, against Hamas, did not get the same ringing endorsement.

Title insurance can protect you and your family

There has been much publicity in the media about title fraud and title insurance. Although title insurance became available more than five years ago, the public still doesn't know much about the necessity of title insurance to protect against title fraud or mortgage fraud.

First, title insurance protects you against Identity Fraud. If someone commits identity fraud, they may be able to steal the title of your property. Title insurance protects you against this risk by restoring title back into your name.

Second, title insurance protects you against mortgage fraud. If someone puts a fraudulent mortgage on your property, not only may you be liable for the mortgage, but financial institutions have successfully argued that they are the innocent victim and are entitled to enforce the debt against the property. With title insurance, the fraudulent mortgage is paid out, removed from the property, and your liability is erased.

To avoid the horrors that accompany title and mortgage fraud, the best option is to purchase title insurance.

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Advertorial

Navigating through employment contracts



Lior Samfiru

Employment Law

One thing I see frequently in my practice is the failure by employees to give contracts of employment the proper attention. I suppose this is understandable. An employee who is offered a new job is excited and optimistic about the future and as long as salary is properly outlined in the offer, the employee would be inclined to pay little attention to anything else. This is a big mistake. Contracts of employment are drafted for a reason, and that is to outline the terms governing the relationship between employer and employee during the course of the employment, and after the employment relationship ends.

A common element in employment contracts are provisions that allow employers to unilaterally change an employee's work duties, as well as compensation. While an employer normally does not have a right to make such changes, they can obtain this ability through a properly drafted employment agreement. For obvious reasons, this is something an employee must seriously consider as it can have significant consequences.

Other things to consider in contracts of employment include restrictive covenants. These are often obligations imposed on employees that will take effect after the employment relationship comes to an end. For example, employees may be required not to engage in any business that competes with that of their former employer. Further, the employees may be required to not approach any customers of their former employer. Such provisions can have a significant impact on an employee's ability to find new employment. While these provisions are not always enforceable, it would be unwise for an employee to sign an agreement on the assumption that the employer would not seek to rely on these provisions in the event the employment relationship ever came to an end. The far better approach is to assume the provisions are enforceable, understand their scope, and if so required, attempt to renegotiate a more favourable clause.

Perhaps the most significant overlooked contractual term is the provision dealing with the employee's termination entitlements. On many occasions, employment agreements significantly limit entitlements on termination. It is not uncommon for an employee who would expect to get a package equivalent to 10 months pay, to find out that their entitlement is for a small fraction of the amount under the employee contract. The problem with these provisions is that they rarely are easy to understand by a layperson. It is always a good idea to seek legal advice, if there is any question about what a termination clause provides.

Employees often assume that they have no ability to negotiate an employment agreement. This is not always the case. Once an employer commits to hiring an employee and advises other candidates of its decision, the employer may be willing to make some concessions in favour of their chosen employee. So long as demands are not unreasonable, it is fairly common for employees to successfully negotiate favourable provisions in their employment agreements.

For Jewish employees, especially the ones who actively practise their religion, contracts of employment can afford valuable protections and rights. A Jewish employee may wish to include in an employment contract a clause that will allow them to take time off during Jewish holidays. Also, if the employee requires other assistance from the employer in practising his or her religion, all such requirements should be included in the contract of employment. I always proceed on the assumption that if it is not included in the contract of employment, it does not exist. Putting all requirements in the contract will help reduce any future conflict that can arise in the workplace, once the employer finds out that the employee requires special arrangements of which the employer was not previously made aware.

The best time to negotiate provisions with regard to religious accommodation is once an offer of employment has already been made and the employer has committed to hiring the individual. The employee should approach the employer, express gratitude for the offer of employment, but indicate that some minor changes need to be made to the employment agreement, which should allow them to properly practise their religion. A reasonable employer should have no difficulties with such an approach.

This only outlines a small number of many elements that go into a contract of employment. The best way to know what your contract provides is to speak with a lawyer who practises in the area of employment law. Doing this can save the employee both money and aggravation and is well worth the cost.

Lior Samfiru is a lawyer with the Mississauga law firm of Keyser Mason Ball LLP, specializing in Labour & Employment Law. He may be reached at 905-276-0401 or at lsamfiru@kmbllaw.com.

Court springs Irving

VIENNA (JTA) – Holocaust denier David Irving won an appeal against his imprisonment in Austria. A Vienna court last Wednesday found in favour of an appeal filed by the British Holocaust denier, who was arrested during a November 2005 visit to Austria and sentenced to three years in prison for denying that Nazi Germany had carried out an organized genocide against European Jewry. The court agreed to reduce Irving's sentence and admonished him to leave Austria at the earliest opportunity. Holocaust denial is a crime in Austria, Hitler's birthplace, and prosecutors had wanted Irving's prison term extended. The Simon Wiesenthal Center deplored the ruling, saying it would only encourage Irving and his ilk. The judge who freed Irving reportedly has close ties to a far-right Austrian party.

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NEWS

CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR YAD VASHEM

Survivors bond with young adults at 'Dinner of Miracles'

By Shlomo Kapustin
Tribune Correspondent

In the dark shadow of the recent Holocaust-denial conference in Tehran, a gathering of a different sort transpired this past week in Toronto. More than 350 people of diverse ages attended a dinner, at the Beth Emeth Bais Yehudah synagogue, sponsored by the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, specifically its New Leadership division.

The event, called a "Dinner of Miracles" (so called both for the "many miracles that survivors experienced" and for the current holiday of Chanukah), aimed to create an opportunity for dialogue between young adults (in their 20s and 30s) and Holocaust survivors. To that end, each table boasted a mix of those two groups and a moderator, and over a four-course meal such traditional Jewish soul food as matzo ball soup, roast chicken and potato latkes, the groups discussed Holocaust-related issues — chiefly, the survivors' first-hand experiences.

"It's very cliché," said Sherri Rotstein, co-chair of the event, "but it's very serious, this responsibility that we have (to remember the Holocaust).... You can only get so intimate at a lecture. Here, it's much more informal.... You can even see people leaning in," as she motioned to a nearby table.

Shawna Spiegelman, the other dinner co-chair, agreed. "Time is racing in regard to the survivors and their ability to pass on their legacy."

The two women, who chaired the event as volunteers, first

approached Yad Vashem in 2004 with the idea for a more informal Holocaust education vehicle. That year, they organized the first dinner, attended by about 250 people. Last year, the event was not held, but they would like it to be an annual event in the future.

For Kari Oziel, 20, the decision to attend this year's dinner was an easy one.

"My grandmother told me stories when I was young," she said. "In high school, the Holocaust was cut out of the curriculum in my school, so my grandmother came in to my school to talk about it. Ever since then, I felt that it was being ignored."

According to one moderator, Dr. Michael Blankstein, 29, many of the attendees lacked such a background.

"I may be wrong," he said, "but I think many people haven't had the opportunity to talk with survivors about their experiences."

Spiegelman was pleased with the turnout.

"It started to snowball.... A couple of advertisements, a couple of e-mails, and word of mouth. People wanted to be educated and inspired."

Eli Rubenstein, national director of the March of the Living, delivered a story-laden keynote address. While many of the stories touched on the misery of the Holocaust, his dominant theme (and perhaps also that of the entire evening) wasn't helplessness, but hope. Quoting a survivor, he referred to it as "our most cherished possession."

"There are still good people in

the world," said Rubenstein, again quoting from a survivor. "If all we talk about is the terri-

ble stories, we will give children a wrong perspective of the world."



Eli Rubenstein (left), national director, March of the Living, and keynote speaker, holds gift of appreciation, with dinner chairs Sherri Rotstein (centre) and Shawna Spiegelman



Dinner Co-Chair Shawna Spiegelman with her grandfather, Mendel Strykowski, a survivor of Auschwitz.



BBI President Moishe Smith with Prime Minister Stephen Harper at B'nai Brith Canada's Award of Merit Dinner in October.

Canadian ambassador to Israel opens door to B'nai B'rith International president

JERUSALEM — B'nai B'rith International President Moishe Smith, in Israel for his first visit since being elected on Dec. 3, was honoured at a reception held by Canadian Ambassador Jon Allen. Smith, a resident of Ottawa, and the first non-American president in the organization's 163-year history, arrived in Israel a day after meeting with Pope Benedict XVI in Rome.

At the first reception held by the newly appointed Canadian ambassador at his official residence, Allen touted Smith's 30 years of leadership with B'nai B'rith and the Canadian Jewish community.

Smith praised Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper for the Canadian government's policy to support Israel at a time when being a friend of Israel is not as popular as it once was. "He's not afraid to stand up for what's right and understands what Israel means for the Jewish people," Smith said.

Attendees at the reception included Retirement Affairs Minister Rafael (Rafi) Eitan; B'nai B'rith International Executive Vice President Daniel S. Mariaschin; B'nai B'rith Israel President Zipora Peer; B'nai B'rith World Center Chairman Dr. Haim V. Katz; Iscar founder Stef Wertheimer; BBI Board of Governors member William Bram; Yitzhak Meir and Avigdor Warsha, members of the Israel-Canada Chamber of Commerce; and other community leaders.

The reception ended with the traditional Chanukah candle lighting.

Following the reception, Smith met with Major General Yoram (Ya Ya) Yair, head of the principal committee of inquiry into the course of this summer's war in Lebanon, for an in-depth discussion on the problems encountered by the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) and the possible need for improvements before any future fighting.

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CHANUKAH CANDLE LIGHTING

Canada's biggest Chanukiah lights up Niagara sky

By Marshall Shapiro
Tribune Correspondent

NIAGARA FALLS, ON – Chanukah music and a huge crowd of celebrants drowned out the roar of Niagara Falls as Rabbi Zalman Zaltzman and Mayor Ted Salci lit the first of three candles on what is reputedly Canada's, and possible North America's, largest Chanukiah, which measures 20 feet by 20 feet.

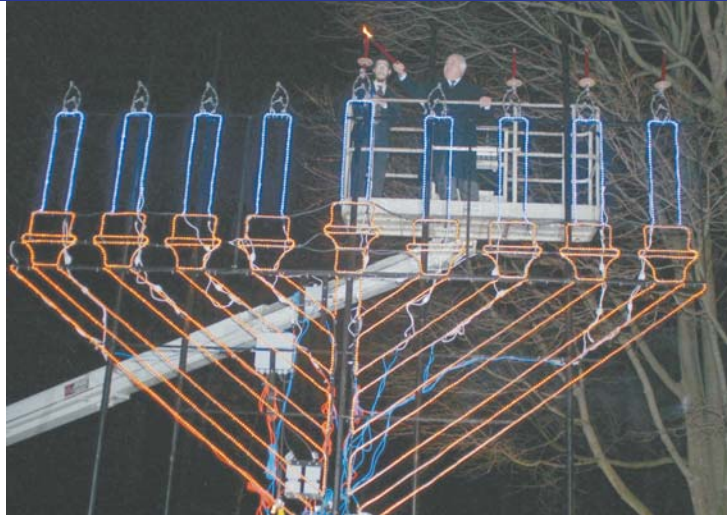
It is across the road from the Maid of the Mist station, at the entrance to the Falls park.

As well as the mayor of Niagara Falls, other dignitaries included area MPP Tim Hudak, Tim Berndt, Niagara Parks police chief, Rabbi Courant of St. Catharine's

B'nai Israel Synagogue and Dino Fazio from the Winter Festival of Lights, who proclaimed the Chanukiah a permanent part of the Park's holiday events.

Soaring to the top of the Chanukiah in a Select Total Services Cherry Picker nicknamed the Zoom Boom, the mayor and Rabbi Zaltzman triggered the festivities as the candles burst into flame.

The music, lights, traditional jelly donuts and potato pancakes attracted a large crowd of tourists as well as Chasidim and members of the Jewish community from Toronto, the Niagara region and Western New York. Rabbi Zaltzman, the 23-year-old Chabad representative in Niagara, spoke of the cooperation



Rabbi Zalman Zaltzman (top left) and Niagara Falls Mayor Ted Salci light what is purported to be the largest Chanukiah in Canada and maybe even North America.

He received from the city in negotiating with the Niagara Parks Commission. He asked that everyone light one more

light, do one more good deed, to drive away the darkness in the world.

The singing and dancing con-

tinued into the evening – an unexpected attraction for the tourists who had their first taste of Chanukah.

Greetings from Harper, Bush

Prime Minister lights chanukiah

OTTAWA – Prime Minister Stephen Harper participated in a Chanukiah lighting ceremony on Parliament Hill last week to mark the Jewish celebration of Chanukah.

"It is my distinct pleasure to participate, for my first time as Prime Minister of Canada, in this great tradition," Harper said. "As I prepare to light the Chanukah menorah in our nation's capital, I am joined by Jewish Canadians across our country, lighting their menorahs in their own homes, surrounded by their family and loved ones."

The prime minister noted that the lighting of the menorah for Chanukah symbolizes the victory of the light and the Torah over the darkness of forced assimilation. It celebrates freedom of religion and the victory of freedom over tyranny.

"The Jewish people have had to overcome many challenges throughout their history," said Harper. "They did so by finding strength in their faith and culture. Canada has greatly benefited by their tremendous contributions to our country."

Harper attended the ceremony at the invitation of Rabbi Chaim Mendelsohn of Chabad of Centrepointe in Ottawa.

Bush appropriates Chanukah moral in depicting current threat from Iran

WASHINGTON (JTA) – When it comes to policy, it's beginning to sound a lot like Chanukah.

US President George W. Bush and his cabinet have seized upon the Maccabean message of refusing to give in to tyranny to reinforce Bush's refusal to deal with Iran as a means of resolving Iraq's burgeoning crisis. In at least one closed meeting, Bush made the connection explicitly.

The message is consistent with Bush's resistance to recommendations earlier this month by the congressionally mandated Iraq Study Group that the United States engage with Iran. Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice have rejected the study group's calls to bring Iran and Syria into regional talks on Iraq as long as those nations continue to back terrorism and Iran does not comply with international demands to stop a program that could culminate in nuclear weapons.

The tone was set with Bush's annual Chanukah message, released hours before the holiday began. "After Jerusalem was conquered by an oppressive king and the Jews lost their right to worship in freedom, Judah Maccabee and his followers courageously set out to reclaim Jerusalem from foreign rule," Bush said. "Though their numbers were small, the Maccabees' dedication to their faith was strong, and they emerged victorious."



Torah Tots give to Chai Lifeline

Torah Tots children presented hundreds of Chanukah gifts to Chai Lifeline, an organization that helps children with terminal illnesses. Torah Tots is a division of Chabad Markham.



Polish President Lech Kaczynski (left) lights a menorah with the help of Polish Chief Rabbi Michael Schudrich at the first Chanukah lighting to ever take place at Poland's presidential palace, Dec. 18, 2006.



Candle lighting dedicated to MIAs

Benny Regev (photo: left above), brother of kidnapped Israeli soldier Eldad Regev, stands near pictures of his brother and abducted Israeli soldiers Ehud Goldwasser and Gilad Shalit, during a candle-lighting ceremony for Chanukah at the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem last week. Hezbollah guerrillas captured Israeli soldiers Goldwasser and Regev in a July 12 cross-border raid. Shalit was abducted in a cross border raid by Palestinian gunmen on June 25. In an emotionally moving ceremony, families of Eldad Regev, Ehud Goldwasser and Gilad Shalit dedicate third candle of Hanukkah to their three sons.

Blair, Olmert cooperate in candle lighting

British Prime Minister Tony Blair visited Israel last week for talks with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert. Here they take a break to light the Chanukah.



Chanukah alive and kicking in Newfoundland

St John's Jewish Community Havura's Chanukah Party was held Dec. 17. About 60 people devoured 300 latkes and listened to the new MUN Klezmer group and 16-year-old Charlotte Malischewski, who has studied the past three summers at KlezKanada.

NEWS

B'nai B'rith seniors at 4300 Bathurst St. celebrate

More than 100 individuals participated in the annual Chanukah dinner celebration. Executive Vice President Dr. Frank Dimant addressed the guests in Yiddish, briefing them on the current situation in Israel.



Pearl Gladman, Nat'l Dir. Centre for Community Action



Dr. Frank Dimant addressed the room filled guests



I-R Avrum Kivenson and Jacob Spodak light the chanukiah



Affordable Housing Co-Chair Judy Foldes serves the latkes



I-R Shmuel Hect and Chaim Rosenstein from Lubavitch entertain the residents

Photographer resurrects 'Jerusalem of Lithuania'

By Rick Kardonne
Tribune Correspondent

RICHMOND HILL – Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, better known to Jews as Vilna, was known as 'The Jerusalem of Lithuania' before the Holocaust.

Elijah, the Vilna Gaon, in the 17th century originated a rationalistic Orthodox scholastic theology against which the mysticism-oriented Chassidim revolted. But the teachings of the Vilna Gaon remained an essential part of Orthodox Jewish thought until today. A vigorous Jewish intellectual and cultural scene thrived in Vilna until 1941, when it was extinguished by Nazi Germany.

What was Jewish Vilna, just south of downtown, remains a prime example of old European baroque residential architecture, with quaint steep-roofed oversized houses lining narrow hilly streets and archways.

Gregory Talas, one of Canada's most skilful painters and photographers, has taken an extensive series of black-and-white photos of the streets and houses of Vilna, which are currently on display at his Kodiak Gallery on Yonge Street in the heart of downtown Richmond Hill.

Talas grew up in Vilna after the war. His mother-in-law, Shulamit Jabinsky, who was present at the opening of Gregory's exhibition on Dec. 3, grew up in Vilna before the war and survived the Holocaust. Her autobiography, *A Fragment of My Life*, details her experiences before and during the war in Vilna. She recounted some of the highlights of her life for the *Jewish Tribune*: "Before the German invasion, we had a completely Jewish life in Vilna. There were 70,000 Jews out of a total population in Vilna of 250,000. The Jewish area of Vilna was not a slum. There



Gregory Talas's black and white photos of Vilna grace the walls of the Kodiak Gallery at the opening of his show.

were many Jewish schools. During the Soviet occupation of 1939-41, the Hebrew schools were shut down, but the Yiddish schools were allowed to function, and Jewish life continued as normal.

"Everything changed when the Germans came into Vilna in the summer of 1941. The Germans caught us when we tried to flee to the Soviet Union, and we were put back into the Vilna ghetto. Our family were all sent to Nazi concentration camps. I was the only one who survived." After the war, she returned to Vilna. Her daughter Valentina married Talas, whose father, in the Red Army, helped liberate Vilna from Nazi Germany. During the war Talas's family lived in the USSR. Afterwards they returned to Vilna.

Talas grew up in Vilna, where he became active in klezmer and jazz bands as a bass player, as well as studying art, photography and design and in 1970 became head of the photo department at the Design Centre of Lithuania, taking part in the design and production of international trade and art shows in Britain, Russia, Finland, Czechoslovakia, Germany and Lithuania. His advertising shots were widely used by the largest advertising agency in the former Soviet Union.

He emigrated to Canada in 1990.

While he is also an excellent painter, influenced by the natural baroque flamboyance of old Vilna architecture in his paintings and photos of, for example, University of Toronto courtyards; he is in greatest demand for his photos of old Jewish Vilna, many of which he took while on a recent visit there.

His exhibit is entitled *If the walls could speak*. There are no people on the empty streets in his photos, as there are only about 2,000 Jews left in Vilna, who are scattered throughout the modernized city. However, the old Jewish area south of a modern downtown, known as Castle Hill because at the peaks of the hills are grand medieval castles; remains pretty much intact. The streets convey a distinct quaint Chagall-like whimsical almost fairytale charm. Every house, in this general mode, is different from its neighbour.

Both Talas and Jabinsky said that the present Lithuanian government is very friendly both to Israel and to the remnants of Jewish life within Lithuania, especially in the cultural realm. And so, to see Talas's remarkable photo exhibit is not only to say Kaddish for a vast Jewish world that is no more, but to affirm a rebirth of the Jewish spirit in a place that was particularly hard hit by the Holocaust.

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NEWS

Quebec lauded for denouncing Holocaust hate fest in Iran

MONTREAL – B'nai Brith Canada Quebec Region has applauded the motion unanimously adopted last week by the Quebec National Assembly, which unequivocally denounced the Holocaust denial hate fest held last week in Tehran.

"We commend all National Assembly members who came together from across the political spectrum to expose the sham conference on Holocaust denial sponsored by the Iranian government, which brought together a veritable who's who of hate mongers, white supremacists and Islamist extremists intent on delegitimizing the Jewish people," said Gerry Weinstein, B'nai



Leah Berger, coordinator of government and community affairs for B'nai Brith Quebec region; Lise Thériault, minister of immigration and cultural communities; and Aaron Remer, national chair of the Institute of International Affairs, met to discuss areas of interest to Jewish Community.

Brith Canada's national president.

"Quebec MNAs have rightly recognized the real and present danger posed by Iran to Israel and to the world. These leaders stood shoulder to shoulder with

the Jewish community by sending a strong message that democratic societies value tolerance and respect and shun the human-rights-abusing practices of treacherous regimes like today's Iran."



Short campaign yields big results

In an effort to support the work of Hatzolah Israel, a volunteer, emergency medical service in Israel, the students of Eitz Chaim Schools from all three branches collected \$25,500 (two students hold cheque proudly). These funds were collected in a short, three-week campaign and are earmarked for the purchase of Burn Shields to replenish supplies depleted during the war in northern Israel this past summer



Hail to new chief from Canadian contingent

The Canadian delegation, including a number of B'nai Brith Canada National Past presidents, attended the recent B'nai Brith International Policy Conference in New Orleans. The delegation included: (standing left to right) Karla Morrison, Randy Morris, new B'nai Brith International President Moishe Smith, Leiba Kratzberg, Evita and Lyle Smordin, and Dr. Harriet Morris; (seated left to right) Bill Morris, Pearl Gladman, Dr. Frank Dimant, Hershie and Marilyn Frankel.

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Advertorial



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Gerry Weinstein
President

Frank Dimant
Executive Vice President

TELEVISION

Trading Spaces' Amy Wynn Pastor: Jewish girls can build!

By Suzanne Kurtz

As one of the first women carpenters on television, Amy Wynn Pastor, the practical, level-headed carpenter on TLC's popular home-repairs reality television show, *Trading Spaces*, has no fear of power tools.

But after seven years of travelling across the country with the show, she's exhausted.

Having just wrapped taping *Trading Spaces* sixth season, Pastor, 30, recently returned to her cozy, single-family house on a tree-lined street in suburban Philadelphia.

"I want to nest, work on my own house," she says wistfully. "I've had this house for three years and I haven't even been able to take the wallpaper off."

Yet as she proudly gives me a house tour, I can't help but notice casual reminders of Pastor's Conservative Jewish upbringing; a map of Israel here, a Challah plate there.

"I grew up being very involved in USY and going to my synagogue's junior congregation every Saturday," she explains. "I always had a tzedakah (charity) box and marched on Washington for Soviet Jewry as a little kid. And once a month our junior congregation would walk to an old age home and sing."

One of her happiest memories was the week she spent with her youth group at Camp Ramah in Pennsylvania's Pocono Moun-

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Defying all of the stereotypes, Amy Wynn Pastor has no fear of power tools on TLC's *Trading Spaces* television show.

book last year, appropriately titled, "Yes, You Can! Home Repairs Made Easy." On the cover, a smiling Pastor confidently shoulders a tool bag, complete with hammer and carpenter's square.

Her own carpentry confidence developed during college as an undergraduate in the theatre department at Penn State University.

A performance major, Pastor initially thought she would be an actor. But after taking a mandatory basic carpentry class, she learned to build sets and props — and was hooked.

"I wanted to work in theatre and it didn't matter to me in what area so much. I discovered that I really liked being behind the scenes," she says.

After graduating from Penn State in 1999, Pastor spent a year travelling with the Broadway touring company of *Victor/Victoria* as a prop manager. In 2000, she successfully auditioned and joined *Trading Spaces* ensemble crew of carpenters and designers.

Based on a British television show, Pastor and the designers help two sets of neighbours redecorate one room in each other's home. Each two-person team has two days and a \$1,000 budget to get the job done.

"The constant travel is my least

and most favourite part of the job," she says. "I think the only states I haven't been to are North Dakota and either Alabama or Arkansas. You really see how diverse the country is."

Moreover, her being Jewish has also brought diverse reactions.

Once, to the surprise of one couple, she commented on the ketubah hanging in their home. "I said something to them about how beautiful it was and they said 'You know what a ketubah is? We didn't know you were Jewish!'"

"But I've also had letters stuffed under my windshield wipers telling me I need to convert (to Christianity) and accept Jesus as my saviour or I'll go to hell," she says. "I try to see it in a positive light though; at least they don't want me to go to hell!"

For anyone with an astute eye, however, Pastor's Jewish identity is even evident on her book cover.

On the hand grasping the aforementioned tool bag, she wears a simple gold band engraved with Hebrew letters.

"My sister bought the ring for me when she was studying abroad in Israel," Pastor says as we examine the cover. "I don't think I even realized I was wearing it."

The tiny Hebrew letters spell out "Hannah," her Hebrew name. For Amy Wynn Pastor, who may also be the first Jewish woman carpenter on television, it might as well spell out: "Yes, You Can!"

Suzanne Kurtz is editor of *Hillel Campus Report*, which can be obtained at www.hillel.org.



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tains.

"We held (Shabbat) services overlooking this lake. I remember being so connected to nature and being surrounded by friends. We were a community," she recalls. "It was pure good."

Most telling, Pastor attributes the positive influence of those summer days for her continued involvement in tzedek (social justice) projects.

Recently, she spoke at a

fundraiser for a local Habitat for Humanity chapter and lent some hands-on carpentry support during an all-women's house build in Bucks County, PA.

"By being a woman in carpentry, I want to inspire other women to take care of their own places. It's not a strength thing," she says. "It's a knowledge thing."

And it was this "knowledge thing" that led her to write a

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A Message from David Zimmer MPP Willowdale



DAVID ZIMMER'S MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON THE HOLOCAUST

Wed Dec 13, 2006

HOLOCAUST

Mr. David Zimmer (Willowdale): Sadly, I rise today to speak about the Holocaust. It's in the news today: The notion of the Holocaust is under attack, as we sit here today. It is described as a myth in some quarters. This is false, absurd and beyond comprehension. Jews, blacks, gypsies, homosexuals and other minorities were the target of concentration camps, the target of the Holocaust. Mothers, daughters, sons and fathers were lost forever, lost to hatred.

On behalf of the lost family members, on behalf of all survivors, on behalf of all Canadians who fought against this regime in the Second World War, we in Ontario will remember this. I stand here to say to those today who are continuing to spread hate, to spread intolerance, that your lies will not be tolerated. We will remember. We will all remember. The idea that the Holocaust is a myth is truly sinful.

Office of David Zimmer

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FEATURES

For these women, it's a W.I.N., win situation

By Doris Strub Epstein
Tribune Correspondent

Sigal Almog arrived in Toronto from Israel two years ago with her three children, a computer engineer husband and a dream: her own bookstore.

"My mother has a bookstore in Haifa and I love books," she said.

She joined a Hebrew book club and scoured the city for books. "I saw there was little in Judaic stores and I thought there was a need."

But how to go about it? A new country, a new culture and three kids she didn't want to leave. Then she joined the group. Within one year, she was operating a book store business from her house with 2,000 books, a monthly newsletter, and a list of clients.

Hagit Amar, had been a flourishing aesthetician in Yavno, specializing in an Israeli approach to facials using natural products and aromatic oils. She became known for doing non-surgical facelifts.

But in Canada, "I felt lost. I didn't know anybody. I had to start from the beginning." But since joining the group – where she got "a lot of business advice, they pushed me to do things" – she has built a clientele for her services.



The Women's Israeli Network is off to a running start, if this group is any indication: Top row (from the left) Hagit Amar, Sigal Almog, Hagy Cohen, Dorit Shelef, Ayala Raiter, Ilana Stein-Attali. Bottom row (from the left) Adi Amsterdam, Orit Ben Or, Korin Badani, Tali Dubrovsky.

Korin Badani has learned new ways to promote her business of providing limousine services to companies and individuals.

Orit Ben Or in only six months in Toronto, is on her way to fulfilling her dream business – bedding from cribs to teen bedrooms with textile accessories, with the support and help of the group.

Tentatively called The Women's Israeli Network (W.I.N.) the group consists of 12 Israeli women in their 30s and 40s, all with young children, who meet

monthly to help each other develop and thrive in their businesses. They are clearly not just a support group, but brainstorm new ideas, give critical feedback and set concrete goals for themselves.

The group met in the cheerful, sunny Thornhill kitchen of the newest member, talented ceramicist, Dorit Shelef, who joined "because I saw the group, the relationships, how they help each other."

The room was charged with the energy of their enthusiasm

and determination.

Ayala Raiter creates one-of-

a-kind art jewelry. Many of the gemstones have healing qualities, she says. She came from Haifa four and a half years ago and founded the group just last September.

"I heard about a group like this in Israel and so I started with three friends. We had all just had babies. I said, 'let's try it. It could be good for everybody. If you have a dream you can make it come true.'"

Each member of the group does something different, "because each one of us is an expert in a different field," explained commercial graphic designer Tali Dubrovsky, "We have a lot of combined knowledge. The group has inspired me to reach out and grow using new creative ideas."

Hagy Cohen creates personalized stationary using unique, whimsical characters. From

the beginning there were benefits for her. "We got the confidence to promote our businesses. It fuels ambition."

"When I came from Israel one of my hardest issues was feeling alone," said Ilana Stein-Attali.

She had been a clinical dietician in Israel with a Masters degree in molecular biology. She is also a Chinese medical nutritionist and combines both in her practice. "Here there is a sense of belonging."

Interior Designer Adi Amsterdam says it best for everybody: "The group makes you blossom. It gives us the power to take ourselves seriously and grow. When you help others you help yourself."

In March, the 12 women are planning an exhibit to showcase their unique talents and products.

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Yevgeny Shapovalov, Vladislav Goray, and Felix Livshitz are the Three Tenors from Israel.

By Rick Kardonne
Tribune Correspondent

A capacity audience packed the large Beth Tzedec sanctuary to see a long concert by the *Three Tenors from the Holy Land*, a trio of operatic tenors from Ukraine who now live in Israel.

There was much audience perplexity regarding their title. Why the Holy Land? Why not Israel? In the past, the term 'Holy Land' has been a genteel terminology, the purpose of which is to de-emphasize the Jewish presence in Israel. The general consensus was that the concert should have been titled: *The Three Tenors from Israel*.

The choice of material was also controversial. Less than one third of the musical selections contained Jewish content, either Hebrew-Israeli or Yiddish. The concert did conclude with *Yerushalayim Shel Zabav* (*Jerusalem of Gold*) and *Hatikvah*. And to his credit, tenor Yevgeny Shapovalov proclaimed in Hebrew, to cheers, "Down with Hezbollah! Down with Nasrallah (the leader of Hezbollah)." But roughly half of the songs in the concert were Italian opera chestnuts and folk songs

such as Santa Lucia and Funiculi Funicula. The other songs were in French, Spanish and Russian. One can excuse the Russian songs, because after all, the three tenors were raised in the former Soviet Union, which during their formative years dominated Ukraine. But the preponderance of Italian songs was out of place for this occasion, which was co-sponsored by, among other organizations, UJA Federation, the Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies, and Beit Halochem-Aid for Disabled Veterans for Israel.

However, the performances by tenors Shapovalov (who previously performed at a Beit Halochem gala concert in Toronto several years ago), Vladislav Goray, and Felix Livshitz were truly magnificent. Shapovalov's voice has the most rich full texture. Goray is the purest tenor voice, and can reach, effortlessly, the highest tenor notes possible. And Livshitz's voice is perhaps the most folksy-dramatically expressive, as displayed in his very skillful rendition of two Yiddish classics: *Mamale* and especially *Chirubim*, which evoked the most enthusiastic clap-along

audience response of the entire evening.

Generally speaking, the Jewish-content songs, whether in Hebrew or English, evoked the most favourable audience reaction. In the first half, which was particularly short on Jewish content, beginning with *Granada, Sorrento*, and a well-performed (by Goray) but musically forgettable Tchaikovsky aria from his opera *Eugene Onegin*, Shapovalov's rousing rendition of *Geshem* was the first song which aroused any audience reaction. Shapovalov's tender, moving performance of *Eli Eli* in the second half had the audience naturally singing along with him.

Perhaps the most effective ensemble piece of the evening, in which all three tenors sang together in beautiful harmony, was Tzvi Bums' composition set to *Adon Olam*, during which the enthusiastic audience both sang and clapped along.

It was hoped that the next time the Three Tenors from Israel perform, their repertoire will consist of at least 80 per cent – if not more – Jewish content.

FEATURES

Sixtieth anniversary Bar Mitzvah reunion a tribute to special rabbi

By Mike Cohen
Tribune Correspondent

MONTREAL — Rabbi Wilfred Shuchat is a remarkable man.

It has been 13 years since he retired as spiritual leader of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim in the Montreal suburb of Westmount after 47 years at the pulpit, yet most days he can still be found in his office talking to members and providing much sought advice. His eyesight is failing due to macular degeneration and he walks with difficulty, but the charismatic 86 year old remains at the top of his game.

"When people ask me about my health I have a simple answer," he quips. "I tell them that I am not 21 years old anymore."

Last month Rabbi Shuchat officiated at what may be an unprecedented event anywhere, a reunion of six members of his 1947 Bar Mitzvah class from the Shaar: Raphael Fleming, Mark Bercuwitz, Norman Cohen, Eliezer Gelber, Harold Pascal and Michael Lands, who all received aliyahs at a Shabbat service.

"A 60-year reunion like that is certainly something," Rabbi Shuchat told the *Jewish Tribune* in an interview. "I thought it was something 10 years ago when Raphael Fleming organized a 50th anniversary reunion of the Bar Mitzvah class. Now he's talking to me about a 65th anniversary affair. This whole thing is a sign of mazel."

Noted singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen was also part of the '47 class. He was unable to attend the reunion.

Reached at his winter home in Miami, Fleming said he was inspired by the fact the Shaar is celebrating its 160th anniversary, making it the second oldest synagogue in Montreal next to the Spanish and Portuguese. "The ceremony was very emotional," said Fleming. "Many women at the service were in tears. How many people out there can say that they reunited with the rabbi who taught them their bar mitzvah 60 years later?"

Fleming says he would like to encourage others to follow this formula. "But how many rabbis are still at the same synagogue six decades after giving bar mitzvah lessons?" he asks. "That is hard to match. Rabbi Shuchat is a very special human being. And he still speaks so beautifully."

Rabbi Shuchat was born and raised in Montreal. He graduated from McGill University with honours in psychology and from the Rabbinical School of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in 1945 with the degree of Master of Hebrew Letters and Rabbinical Ordination, "With Distinction." He taught Midrash on a congregational level



RABBI WILFRED SHUCHAT

throughout his career. When he first retired, he worked on a book called *The Gate of Heaven*, which told the story of Shaar Hashomayim on the occasion of its 150th anniversary. Since then he has written two books on the Midrash and is now working on a third. "That is turning out to be the climax of my life," he said.

The Gate of Heaven is the story of the evolution of Shaar Hashomayim, from the beginnings of Jewish settlement in Canada to present-day activities. Rabbi Shuchat shows how the achievement of political rights for Jews in Canada galvanized immigration, leading the English/German/Polish congregation of the Shaar to create the second oldest congregation in Canada, the oldest in the Ashkenazic tradition.

Rabbi Shuchat tells of the emergence of Shaar Hashomayim as a congregation separate from the Spanish and Portuguese fold, the generation-long tension between the two congregations, and the rebellion that produced the Temple Emanuel. He describes the role of the Canadian government in the ups and downs of Jewish immigration and details the effects of worldwide antisemitism on the local community, as well as the struggle for Jewish educational rights that ultimately produced a real public school system in the province of Quebec.

Weaving together individual stories and the history of the Shaar, Rabbi Shuchat demonstrates how the turbulence of the 19th century produced a 20th-century Shaar and Montreal Jewish community that are second to none in tolerance and creativity.

The rabbi's other activities include founding the Board of Jewish Ministers of Greater Montreal, which was made up of a cross-

section of rabbis from the different streams of Judaism in Montreal. He was also the creator and program chairman of the Pavilion of Judaism at Expo '67, which attracted three million visitors — the most popular exhibition of its kind. For many years he was the chairman of the Religious Welfare Committee of the Canadian Jewish Congress and of its commission on Marriage and the Family.

Shaar Hashomayim is a giant complex which recently underwent a major building project — underneath the building! — to create a new youth centre and new rabbinical offices, among other things. The building complex occupies a chunk of land bordered by Kensington, Metcalfe and Côte St. Antoine Road. The oldest section, on Kensington was built in 1921-22. It's an impressive structure without being the least bit showy or glitzy. The sanctuary can hold 1,700 people (plus another 300 in the balcony), arranged in the traditional way, with two areas for women on the sides and seating for men in the centre. At the front, over the ark is the choir loft, where Shaar Hashomayim's Men's Choir regularly performs. This group of 18 people, the pride and joy of the Shaar, is renowned all over Montréal — and beyond. It's the creation of Stephen Glass, the Shaar's musical director since 1991, and a young choirmaster with a worldwide reputation.

As rabbi emeritus, Shuchat says he lets the present-day spiritual leader do his job. There have been three people in his place since he retired; Rabbi Adam Scheier, who now holds the post, is not even 30 years of age.

"I only get up and speak to the congregation once a year," says the rabbi. "And that is on Yom Kippur. Occasionally I will officiate at a funeral, but that is very rare. I am very much retired, but I enjoy having a presence within the building."

Rabbi Shuchat was fêted on his 60th anniversary with the Shaar at a tribute dinner last April. "It was very emotional for me," he said. "The tributes were very exaggerated. People were too generous in their words."

"The Shaar has attracted those families in Montreal that are socially prominent," Shuchat notes, alluding to the Bronfmans, Reitmans, and the late Senator Lazarus Phillips. "The synagogue has an orthodox charter, but has traditionally adhered to the more reform-minded conservative movement. The name of the game is continuity. Women and men do sit separately during services. That's due to the fact that it was that way in Temple times. But a woman gives the benediction after every service."

Israeli organization mends broken hearts



Seth, Koby and Sherri Mandell at Koby's Bar Mitzvah in Israel.

By Doris Strub Epstein
Tribune Correspondent

On May 8, 2001, 13-year-old Koby Mandell and his friend Yosef Ish Ran went on a hike, just near their home, Tekoah, a mixed community of secular and religious on the outskirts of Jerusalem. The two Grade 8 boys were stoned to death in a cave by Arab terrorists.

From the first Intifada to the recent Israeli-Hezbollah war, throughout the past several years in Israel, thousands of people have been killed and wounded, many of them severely. Today, there is barely an extended family that has not had the anguish of losing a loved one in this shocking, brutal way, suffering the long-term effects of past traumatic trauma.

The Mandells, who made Aliyah from the US chose Tekoah, because, said Sherri Mandell, "we liked the community — the combination of religious and non-religious and because it was just after Oslo and we thought we would live in peace."

Koby's parents, Rabbi Seth Mandell, a former Hillel director at the University of Maryland and Penn State University, and Sherri, a journalist and author, chose to honour their son's life by creating programs: children's camps, retreats for parents, support groups — all to help the survivors of terror and their families.

"Trauma is a vicious cycle," said Sherri, who was in Toronto recently, on a fundraising tour for the Koby Mandell Foundation and speaking to students at Jewish day schools, "because its transmitted to the next generation. You can be broken from it or you can develop as a result of it, but you can never be the same after."

In her book, *The Blessing of a Broken Heart*, she explains how the foundation got started.

"Seth and I knew that we have to do something to keep Koby's spirit alive. We decided to do something that Koby would enjoy; we decided to make a summer camp for the children in Israel whose mothers and fathers and sisters and brothers have been killed by terror. We see that our own kids aren't understood. (They have three other children — 17, 15 and 11). They go right back to school and people think they're okay because they play and they seem happy. But inside we know they suffer, they're in pain.

Daniel tells us he can't concentrate because he's thinking of Koby. Eliana tells me that she's stressed because 'I miss my brother.'"

Machane Koby VYosef, is conducted for two-week periods, four times during the summer and during holidays. Each year the camp admits about 500 children, ages 8 to 18. They do the usual fun camp things — art, music, swimming, sports, hiking. The big difference is that all the kids have been affected directly by terrorist murders. There they feel understood and are free to express their pain, nightmares and fears — and do.

Said one camper, "My friends at home, they try to understand me, but they never will. The kids here at Camp Koby they know; they feel the same."

For Eden Glaser, 17, from Toronto, who worked at the camp this past summer. It was "a life-changing experience. And it doesn't stop because I'm in constant touch with the kids still." Despite special orientation training before, she was apprehensive. "We were nervous before — not knowing what to expect, still feeling not fully prepared." But "it was amazing how many kids I was able to touch and who touched me.

"I had dance parties every night. Two minutes before they could have been crying on my shoulder. Some of the counselors were victims too so it was amazing speaking to them; some had even been campers."

In Israel, through Shabbatons, home visits, email, phone, the counselors maintain the close relationships with the children, said Sherri. "The kids too are very connected to each other."

After the war this summer, she visited the support groups that formed after the retreats, in Haifa and surrounding areas.

"Every katusha that fell was like my son dying again," one woman told her. The women told her they were strong during the war, they didn't want to create more fear for their children, but fell apart after.

"Everybody was so happy when the war ended, but not me — because it never ends," said one woman.

"For some, it was a tipping point," Sherri said. "They are overwhelmed — they've gone through too much."

What makes the Koby Foundation different from other organizations that help victims of terror, is the fact that the Mandells have experienced the tragedy of terrorist murder. They are them. This changes the whole approach. They understand beyond words and know viscerally what can work and what doesn't.

"We are the driving force — we're the role models," she said. "We know you're not ever really healed — that's impossible. You learn how to live with the pain and rise from it, to live even more fully. That's the process of healing."

Torah takes trip to space

Professor Henry Fenichel (right) displays a Torah that travelled to space on the shuttle Atlantis, after receiving it from Canadian astronaut Steve MacLean, who looks on at left. Rona Ramon, the widow of Ilan Ramon, the first Israeli astronaut, and MacLean helped mark the homecoming of a small Torah scroll from space. As a tribute to Ilan Ramon, MacLean brought a Torah aboard the Atlantis space shuttle. It was returned last Tuesday to Fenichel at a ceremony at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. Fenichel is a professor of physics in Cincinnati and a child survivor of the Holocaust. A small



PHOTO: RON BAKER PHOTOGRAPHY

Torah belonging to Professor Joachim Joseph of the University of Tel Aviv, a Holocaust survivor who brought it out of the Bergen Belsen concentration camp, was brought aboard the

2003 flight of the Columbia space shuttle by Ramon, who was the son of an Auschwitz survivor. The Columbia shuttle crashed, killing its crew. To honour the memory of her husband

and the crew of the Columbia, Rona Ramon appealed to a friend, MacLean, to bring another small Torah from Fenichel, a survivor of Bergen Belsen, aboard the 2006 flight of the Atlantis.

ENTERTAINMENT

Jewish cast members play key roles in *Degrassi: The Next Generation*



JAKE EPSTEIN as Craig

By Mike Cohen
Tribune Correspondent

Canada's most-watched drama series *Degrassi: The Next Generation* also happens to have a significant number of Jewish cast members. No less than six of the featured performers are Jewish.

"The most ironic part of it is that only Jake Goldsbie as Toby is actually Jewish in the show and he is the nerdy guy," laughs Jake Epstein, who portrays bad boy Craig Manning.

Degrassi: The Next Generation, the phenomenal spinoff of the original *Degrassi* series which first hit the small screen 26 years ago, is now in its sixth season with drag racing, drug abuse, exotic dancing, prison and — for the first time in the series' history — the murder of a major character — making up some of the provocative storylines. As officials of CTV readily admit, "this ain't the *Degrassi* you grew up with." Now an international hit, this year the series is airing double-feature style with back-to-back episodes on Tuesdays at 8 and 8.30 p.m.

Epstein, a 19-year-old Toronto native, is currently in his second of a three-year program at the Montreal-based National Theatre School. There are only 12 students enrolled and they must attend class six days a week, 12 hours a day. "I knew last year that I could not stay on as a regular given my commitment to school," Epstein told me last week. "So they found a way to move my character on the road touring as a musician, but keep in the cast. I'll be in two back-to-back episodes soon."

Epstein's Craig will be seen on Jan. 2 (8 p.m.) when he returns home for a music festival. Craig's embracing the rock star lifestyle, complete with a cocaine addiction. Though everyone thinks he's amazing, his girlfriend Manny (Cassie Steele) has to decide if this new and dangerous Craig is the same person that she loves.

"Craig is a troubled person," Epstein explains. "He was abused by his dad, who eventually committed suicide. He got his girlfriend pregnant. He's bipolar and does drugs."

Besides Epstein and Goldsbie, the other Jewish cast members are Aubrey Graham as Jimmy,



STACEY FARBBER as Ellie

Shane Kippel as Spinner; Lauren Collins as Paige and Stacey Farber as Ellie.

"This season of *Degrassi* is particularly interesting because it follows the older characters to their respective universities," Farber told the *Jewish Tribune* from New York City, where she is studying creative writing. "The change of setting has allowed for many new, entertaining story lines that deal with an array of mature topics including sex, the joys and consequences of living on your own and away from home, problematic roommates, college workloads, drugs, and the stress that generally comes with post-secondary education."

Kippel's Gavin (Spinner) Mason has been in all six seasons of *Degrassi*. His character, which also has a checkered past, managed to get back into *Degrassi* despite his involvement with a school shooting a few years ago. Ironically, through his girlfriend Darcy (Shenae Grimes) he finds solace by joining the Christian-based 'Friendship Club.'

"When I first told my parents about this storyline we all had a good laugh," Kippel told the *Jewish Tribune*. "It's all a little weird given the fact I am Jewish."

Kippel, 19, began his acting career on the stage where he performed in a number of improvisational shows, having trained with Second City and The Drama Workshop. Recently, he made an appearance in the series *Life with Derek* and had a lead role in the indie feature *Todd* and the *Book of Pure Evil* and he has performed at the Tim Sim's Playhouse. He was a 2003 and 2004 nominee and the 2002 winner of a Young Artist Award for Best Ensemble Actor in a TV Series for *Degrassi*.

Currently in his fourth season on *Degrassi*, Epstein has appeared as a guest star on *Radio Free Roscoe* and *Girls vs. Boys*. Before joining *Degrassi*, he spent two years co-starring as Cam Dunleavy in the TV series *The Zack Files*. He debuted on television in an episode of *Real Kids Real Adventures* and then went on to play supporting roles in the Disney movies *Quints* and *Mom's Got a Date with a Vampire*. Epstein made his professional theatrical debut at the Royal Alex Theatre in Soulpepper's production of *Our Town*



SHANE KIPPEL as Spinner

as *Si/Jo* Crowell. The following year he landed the coveted role of The Artful Dodger in Cameron MacIntosh's production of *Oliver*. He was a 2004 nominee and a 2003 winner of a Gemini Award for Best Performance in a Children's or Youth Program series and was nominated for a Young Artist Award for a Leading Young Actor in a TV Series category for *Degrassi* in 2004 and a Young Artist Award for Best Ensemble Actor in a TV Series in 2003 and 2004.

"It is really great being part of this show," says Kippel. "Viewers have literally seen us grow up. And we have all of our teen years documented on television. How cool is that? When we started, we had these cute girls as cast members. We all had a feeling they'd grow up to be very attractive. And that they have."

Can the show go to a seventh season with most of the cast graduating from high school? The producers seem to have already put a plan in place. Farber's character Ellie, for instance, has now entered university and taken up a romance with an older student editor at the campus newspaper. "Your guess is as good as mine how they will keep this show going," says Kippel. "But they always find a way. We have a great team of writers. They are really on the ball. *Degrassi* is a school that encounters every problem you may have heard about that graced a classroom."

"It has now become shock TV," adds Epstein.

The show is now seen in 150 countries around the world. In all 19 episodes his season, *CTV* is surrounding season six with a comprehensive broadband strategy. The *CTV Broadband Network* (at CTV.ca) offers all of the episodes online. Producers have also delivered exclusive online content with 19 scripted webisodes (aka 'Degrassi Minis'); 19 behind-the-scenes documentaries (aka 'Degrassi: On the Set'); and two animated shorts (aka 'Degrassi Mangasodes'). In addition to the multi-platform campaign in support of the series, *CTV* has released *Degrassi: Extra Credit*, a multiple-volume series of graphic novels that expand on *Degrassi* plotlines.

Log on to www.degrassi.tv for more.

Radio's Humble Howard pens book on bad first dates and amusing guy behaviour

By Mike Cohen
Tribune Correspondent

MONTREAL — There was this fellow who told his girlfriend to get dressed up "really nice" for Valentine's Day because he was taking her to a "really special" place for dinner. He bought a \$9.99 Valentine's Day special bouquet of one dozen roses, gave half to his mother and the other half to his girlfriend when he picked her up for dinner. She had bought a new dress and shoes to wear out for the special dinner that night and was quite excited about being taken to a fancy restaurant, only to discover that his "special dinner" was a meal at the local Legion along with a bunch of war veterans.

Then there is the story of the woman who was asked out on a date by a man she thought could be "the one." He picked her up at her house for dinner and a movie, drove recklessly and when they arrived at the theatre waited for her to pay for both tickets before heading for dinner. On their way to eat he stopped at a gas station for a slushy, which he proceeded to slurp obnoxiously. When they got to the restaurant she ordered a side salad and a drink. He ordered the biggest and most expensive meal on the menu and asked for crayons while they waited for the food. The bill came and she was stuck with it again. Back to the theatre they went at which time big spender tries to get frisky. As the credits roll he shouts, "That sucked!" He drove her home, attempted to get romantic at which point she bid adieu — forever.

These are just two of the true stories that will have you laughing uproariously in noted Toronto radio personality Humble Howard Glassman's new book appropriately called *The Slime That Men Do*. With the help of hundreds of listeners of Toronto's *Mix 99.9 FM* radio station, where he served as the morning show host until last summer, Humble Howard has put together an amusing book containing stories of bad first dates, lonely and bizarre Valentine's Day celebrations and generally amusing slimy guy behaviour to raise money for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

Slime started on Humble Howard's morning show when listeners were asked to submit their sad, funny, or strange stories of dates gone wrong and marriages gone bad to be read on air. The response was overwhelming and *Slime* became one of the most popular segments of the program. Upon leaving the morning show, he decided that these stories could help other women; he collected the strangest, the funniest and sometimes saddest stories and created *The Slime That Men Do*.

The book which is available at all major book retailers across Canada, is intended for good, as a portion of all sales will go to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

Many of the contributors have prefaced their stories with a note to other women wishing them luck

and hoped that their slime stories could help other woman out of their own slimy situation.

For the last 30 years Humble Howard has been a host on radio and TV across the country. He is a veteran stand up comic and has hosted various charitable functions in the Greater Toronto Area. A four-time winner of Best Morning Show in Canada, he was surprised when officials at Standard Broadcasting relieved him, along with 14-year on-air partner Fred Patterson, of his duties. At the age of 46 they were apparently looking for a younger voice.

"We parted on excellent terms," he said. "In fact, I remain in frequent touch with Standard boss Gary Slaight. We've met three times since it happened. I know it was not personal and I am not closing the door to returning to the Standard family."

Glassman says he began working on the book more than a year ago. He's grateful for the project since it has kept him exceptionally busy since his dismissal.



HUMBLE HOWARD GLASSMAN

"Had this book project not been here I don't know what I'd be doing with my time," he admits. "I am speaking at bridal shows. There are invitations for me to go to ski hills and women's shows. I'm doing signings and lots of interviews."

Born and raised in Moose Jaw, Sask., Glassman spent his first 19 years there.

"It was a very very small Jewish community," he said. "But we did have a synagogue where I had my bar mitzvah."

The nickname 'Humble' came from his first radio job in Moose Jaw. "I was 17 years old and nervous," he admits. "So they started calling me 'Humble' around the office. It stuck."

Glassman's career moved to Vancouver, Calgary, Los Angeles, Montreal and then Toronto. It was in Montreal where he met his wife Rande Rosenthal, who was interning at *CJFM Mix 96* radio.

"I literally got off the plane and my on air partner Jeff Lumby picked me up and brought me to the station," he says. "That was May 18, 1988. I got off the elevator and there was this cute girl who Jeff introduced me too. Her name was Rande and she told me it was her birthday. We got married Nov. 18, 1989. Hey, pretty good that a Jewish boy from Moose Jaw ended up marrying a Jewish girl from Montreal."

The book is selling well and Glassman is already talking about a series of sequels: *The Slime That Men Do 2*, *The Slime That Women Do*, *The Slime That Bosses Do*.

"The topics are endless," he laughs. "I have even had feelers from people who see this being the basis of a television sitcom. Who knows?"

Says his wife and mother of his two daughters: "I tell everyone that this is a great book for all the women in your life. They will laugh. For all the men in your life they should buy it too, but first make sure they're not in it and second to find out what not to do."

For more details, log on to www.humble-howard.com.

SPORTS



Archives unearth B'nai Brith Sports legends photograph

Appearing in the photo from B'nai Brith's 1960 Legends of Sports Dinner in Montreal are (from the left) Jack Dempsey (boxing), Ty Cobb (baseball), Red Grange (football), Jesse Owens (track), Maurice (Rocket) Richard (hockey), Don Budge (tennis) and Bobby Jones (golf, seated). The picture was found in a book about Rocket Richard.

Mixing up martial arts good for Rory

By Jack Borenstein
Tribune Correspondent

You come across an unfamiliar sport on television. Two men with 4-6 ounce gloves in boxing stances and not wearing shoes or socks, yet at times in grapple and punch clinches on the canvas. The sport of mixed martial arts (MMA) has grown by leaps and bounds in fan popularity the past several years.

Rory Singer, all 6-foot-2 and 185 pounds of him, competes in the middleweight division of the Ultimate Fighter Championship (UFC), a natural continuation given his various MMA and boxing participation over the years.

The 30-year-old was born in Brooklyn, NY, with the family moving to Marlboro, NJ, when he was seven.

"I participated in wrestling and boxing in high school and followed my brother Adam to Georgia, and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Georgia." Singer won Georgia Novice Golden Gloves and Novice

Georgia State titles in 1999, and in 2001 won the IKF Georgia State Super Heavyweight Muay Thai title.

The brothers created The Hardcore Gym facility in Athens, GA, where both were introduced to MMA. "Matt Thornton was our primary Brazilian jiu jitsu instructor, for many years. Donald (Doc) Kepner taught boxing, while former UFC heavyweight and light-heavyweight champ Randy Couture, taught Greco-Roman clinch and takedowns."

Singer's first MMA pro bout in November 2001 resulted in a second round defeat of Ludwig Stryham, using his trademark "Triangle Choke" or sankuku jime.

Singer competed in several MMA matches over the next few years in the US, Japan and South Africa, while continuing to work at The Hardcore Gym and attend university. His training partner, Forrest Griffin, participated in the first season of The Ultimate Fighter (TUF) reality show in 2005, on the *Spike TV* cable network. The brothers worked Griffin's corner during his TUF finale and Rory was so

intrigued with what was happening at ringside, he expressed a strong desire to join to UFC organizers.

Singer appeared on TUF 3, at the beginning of 2006. "There were 16 fighters in one house, and we were filmed 24 hours a day. We did intense workout training and sparring two times a day and competed in matches that were shown weekly on *Spike TV* for 12 weeks, starting in April 2006." He defeated Ross Poynton with a Triangle Choke in the first round of TUF 3 finale, in late June. Brad Diamond, Senior VP Sports and Specials for *Spike TV*, said Singer's recruitment on TUF 3 was due to his "incredible athleticism, tenacity, intelligence, and a strong personality. Plus it didn't hurt he was a little meshuganah."

UFC involves mixed MMA competition between fighters who use jiu jitsu, karate, boxing, kickboxing, wrestling and other disciplines. Matches are held in 'The Octagon' - an eight-sided fenced enclosure 30 feet across, 38 feet in diameter and four feet high. Bouts are three 5-minute rounds; championship matches are five rounds. Victories occur by knockout, technical knockout, submission, judges decision, forfeit, disqualification or no contest.

Singer participates in weight and cardio training sessions, each lasting 30-90 minutes, twice a day or more, six days a week. Sessions involve boxing, muay thai, kickboxing, wrestling and Brazilian jiu jitsu along with practising takedowns on his back, working back to stand ups. "I'm not the strongest or fastest, but have a good guard game. I view videos to determine an opponent's strengths

and weaknesses."

His toughest match came in October defeating Josh Haynes in a unanimous three-round decision. "It was grinding, punishing and arduous from start to finish. We split the first two rounds, and the third had tremendous action with the decision hanging in the balance."

Singer will take his 11-6-0 record against 18-3-0 Yushin Okami in UFC from the MGM Grand in Las Vegas on Dec. 30 (available on Pay-Per-View).

Singer is proud of his Jewish heritage, and had the opportunity to discuss it at a National Conference of Synagogue Youth (NCSY) convention held last Memorial Day weekend in Atlanta. Rabbi Chaim Neiditch, Southern Regional Director of NCSY, knew about MMA and UFC and asked Singer to speak to the Jewish teenagers.

"They were MMA fans, saw me on TUF 3 and related to me because of a shared Jewish background. I spoke to 70 kids in their Sabbath attire about my educational, martial arts and fight backgrounds. I took questions and answers with some kids wanting 'near-naked' choke holds, which I faked displaying."

Singer's ongoing training occurs with his full-time coach and brother Adam, head coach Pat Miletich's gym in Davenport, Iowa, and with Mark DellaGrotte at Sityodong in Boston. He has no timetable on how long he'll be in UFC, given he has a leave of absence from the School of Nursing in Athens where he intends to complete a Nurse Anesthesia degree.

Jack Borenstein can be emailed at j_borenstein@hotmail.com.

School credits and fun too in new NCSY, Torah High program

A new hybrid program mixing summer fun and education, is being offered by NCSY and Torah High for high-school students, giving them an opportunity to earn high-school and pre-university level credits while touring Israel.

This program gives students an irresistible reason to visit and support Israel. Students will have plenty of fun, see the world's most meaningful sites, and earn credits at the same time. And with the following four courses, the majority of which runs for four weeks starting in July, there's truly something for everyone:

- *Shakespeare in Jerusalem*, a co-ed course, explores the works of Canadian poets and emphasizes critical thinking and communication skills towards an Eng 3U or 4U credit;

- *The Jerusalem Journey*, also co-ed, provides students looking to re-connect with their roots a chance to study about the interaction of religion and culture and also assists them in identifying the religious and moral principles in their lives;

- *Michelet* is an intensive course for girls looking to form a greater understanding of Torah and the moral principles behind Chesed (charity); and

- *Kollel*, an intensive course for boys, which consists of Torah study and an in-depth analysis of the foundations of philosophy.

Scholarships are available. For more information, visit NCSY's web site, www.ncsy.ca, or reach Rabbi Dani Zwick at 905-761-6279 ext. 36 or zwick@ncsy.ca.

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NETUREI KARTA PARTICIPATION AT IRAN'S HOLOCAUST DENIAL FEST

NOT IN OUR NAME

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

"[The West] has invented a myth that Jews were massacred and place this above God, religions and the prophets."

"...Israel must be wiped off the map... And God willing, with the force of God behind it, we shall soon experience a world without the United States and Zionism."



Much has been made in recent days of the participation of so-called Orthodox Jews at the Iranian-government sponsored conference on Holocaust denial. Front-page news stories across the globe have shown images of individuals dressed in religious garb, looking very much the part of the ultra-Orthodox Jew, implying that the hate fest in Tehran has the stamp of legitimacy of Orthodox Jewry.

Let the record show that these individuals do not speak in our name. They identify themselves as part of the tiny Neturei Karta sect, representing neither Jewish values nor ideals. Their extremist viewpoints are not representative in any way of mainstream Orthodox Jewry.

The Iranian Holocaust denial conference was a deliberate attempt to distort history in order to portray the Jewish people as illegitimate and to cover up the Iranian president's genocidal threats against Israel and the Jewish people and his aggressive pursuit of nuclear weapons.

The event attracted a veritable who's who of Holocaust deniers, hate mongers, white supremacists, Islamist extremists, and enemies of Israel. However much these individuals are conveniently branded by Iran as 'Jews', their legacy will forever be their treacherous alliance with Iran – a human-rights abusing regime – and with other enemies of the Jewish State and the Jewish people worldwide.

We, Orthodox Rabbis from across Canada, speak out today to expose the duplicity of the emissaries of hate and to emphasize **they do not speak in our name.**

Rabbi Avrohom Altein
Lubavitch Centre of Winnipeg,
Winnipeg

Rabbi Mendel Bernstein
Chabad of Richmond Hill

Rabbi Glen Black
National Conference of Synagogue
Youth, Toronto

Rabbi Reuven P. Bulka
Congregation Machzikei Hadas
Ottawa

Rabbi Daniel Elkin
Beth Israel Congregation, Kingston

Rabbi Howard Finkelstein
Congregation Beth Shalom West
Nepean

Rabbi Zev Friedman
Congregation House of Jacob-
Mikveh Israel, Calgary

Rabbi Yechiel Goldreich
Congregation B'nai Torah
Toronto

Rabbi Z.A. Grossbaum
Chabad Lubavitch, Thornhill

Rabbi Yehoshya Grunstein
Beth Israel Synagogue, Halifax

Rabbi Eliezer Gurkow
Congregation Beth Tefilah
London

Rabbi Chaim Hildeshaim
Jewish Russian Community Centre
Thornhill

Rabbi Ahron Hoch
The Village Shul, Toronto

Rabbi Moshe Jablon
Beth Ora Synagogue
Ville-St. Laurent

Rabbi Avrohom Jacks
Congregation Zichron Kedoshim
Montreal

Rabbi Asher Jacobson
Congregation Chevra Kadisha B'nai
Jacob Beth Hazichoron, Montreal

Rabbi Levi Jacobson
Jewish Russian Community Centre
Thornhill

Rabbi Mendel Kaplan
Chabad of Flamingo,
Thornhill

Rabbi Elie Karfunkel
The Temmy Latner Forest Hill
Jewish Centre, Toronto

Rabbi Yisroel Karpilovsky
Jewish Russian Community Centre
Toronto

Rabbi Uri Kaufman
Agudath Israel Anshei Keltz
Toronto

Rabbi Gary D. Kessler
Congregation Beth Shalom
Ottawa

Rabbi Moshe Lowy
Agudath Israel of Toronto
Toronto

Rabbi Mendel Marasow
Beth Rivkah Academy,
Montreal

Rabbi Tzvi Muller
Herzlia - Adas Yeshurun
Congregation, Winnipeg

Rabbi Reuben J. Poupko
Beth Israel Beth Aaron Congregation
Cote St. Luc

Rabbi Avram Rothman
Thornhill Community Shul
Thornhill

Rabbi Yonah Rosner
Congregation Shomrim Laboker
Montreal

Rabbi Dovid Schochet
Chabad Lubavitch, Thornhill

Rabbi Moshe Shulman
Shaarei Shomayim Congregation
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Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz
Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem
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Rabbi Moshe Stern
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Adath Israel Poale Zedek Anshei
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Rabbi Mendel Zaltzman
Jewish Russian Community Centre
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