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# JEWISH TRIBUNE

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## Ontario Human Rights Code changes need input: B'nai Brith

In its submission last Wednesday to the Ontario Standing Committee on Justice Policy, the League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith voiced its opposition to Bill 107 – An Act to amend the Ontario Human Rights Code, characterizing it as seriously weakening human rights protections in Ontario.

Recommending that Bill 107 be shelved and broader public consultations be undertaken, Toni Silberman, immediate past chair of the league, Ontario region, said: "There is no question that the commission's complaints process is in need of review, revision, refinement and resources to operate more efficiently. And who better to inform that review than those who require and use the system – not just lawyers, but the clients."

As the league pointed out, replacing the commission with a "direct access system" whose track record has been unsuccessful elsewhere in Canada "fails to take into account such key issues as the public interest" and could undermine the protection of human rights in Ontario.

"The announcement by Attorney General Michael Bryant of new amendments to the bill, even before the public hearings are complete," said Silberman, "raises concerns about whether the Ontario government is really committed to the public consultation process, and fails to allay our concerns about the flaws in the Bill."

For full submission, see <http://www.bnaiBrith.ca/pdf/JusticePolicySubmissionNov06.pdf>.

## CN CEO receives Award of Merit



CN's E. Hunter Harrison receives prestigious Award of Merit by B'nai Brith Canada's National President Gerry Weinstein at a gala dinner held in Montreal last week.

By Mike Cohen

Tribune Correspondent

MONTREAL – Before a packed room of more than 800 at Montreal's Windsor Station, B'nai Brith Canada's Quebec Region paid tribute last week to E. Hunter Harrison, president and CEO of CN.

Guests at the elaborate affair were each given star treatment as they entered Windsor Station on a red carpet, immediately being swept up in the festivities.

The B'nai Brith Award of Merit Gala drew an eclectic crowd spanning the corporate, political, social and cultural communities of Canada, who participated in a night of magic and history as the old train station was transformed into a spectacular venue.

B'nai Brith National President Gerry Weinstein and Executive Vice President Frank Dimant presented Harrison with the organization's Award of Merit, the Canadian Jewish community's most prestigious honour. The award is reserved for individuals who have contributed to the fabric of Canadian society, through

their efforts to enhance the social, cultural, corporate or political life of Canada.

"Hunter Harrison's visionary leadership cuts across the corporate and community sectors, and spans the North American continent," said Weinstein. "His strong corporate citizenship and profound commitment to helping those in need are reflected in his ongoing philanthropic initiatives, many focusing on children and creating a safer environment for them."

Harrison joined an eminent group of past Quebec Award of Merit recipients, including this year's Tribute Committee Co-Chairmen, Michael J. Sabia, chief executive officer of Bell Canada Enterprises, and former CN chief Paul Tellier. As tributes to Harrison poured in from across the country, many of Canada's leading business executives, politicians and community leaders attended the event, including former Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard.

Noted broadcaster Robert Scully served as the mas-

See **AWARD**, page 8.



## Plan aids taxpayers, charities

A new and creative tax plan, resulting in major benefits for Canadian taxpayers – while also greatly assisting Canadian charities is now available. The plan, developed by Park Lane, is available across the country to all taxpayers. Above, Stephen Freedman (left), vice president of Park Lane, presents the first in a series of major donations to B'nai Brith's Pearl Gladman and Leonard Golberg. To personally benefit from this tax plan, call Freedman toll-free at 1-866-852-4244.

## Noisy anti-Israel protest met with JDL counter-protest

During the hour before the University of Haifa tribute dinner to Tony and Elizabeth Comper, about 50 pro-Palestinians cause staged a noisy anti-Israel demonstration at the parking entrance to the Royal York Hotel, protesting the event inside.

About 30 members of the Jewish Defense League and other supporters of Israel staged counter-protests.

While there were some heated verbal exchanges between the two sides, a heavy police presence discouraged any physical escalation.

A woman CUPE member who took part in the counter-protest, waving an Israeli flag, told the *Jewish Tribune* that Ontario CUPE played an "unofficial" role

in helping to organize the rally. When asked who she was, she declined, fearing that giving her name to the press would in her words, "jeopardize my job."

Organizations which openly endorsed the rally included campus-based socialist groups, which have taken part in similar rallies for the past 35 years, plus a group called Not in Our Name, which describe themselves as "a group of Toronto-based Jewish dissidents, holding an information picket outside of the Royal York Hotel."

When the woman leader of the group was asked to identify herself, she declined.

Not only did the rally carry lots

See **HAIFA U**, page 3.

## Harper advocates human rights at APEC, response to Jewish, Muslim communities

B'nai Brith Canada and the Canadian Uyghur Association asked the Harper government to take the opportunity presented by the APEC summit to highlight the case of Huseyin Celil, an Uyghur Muslim who holds Canadian citizenship and is being imprisoned in China and denied consular access.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper said he did just that in his press

briefing after the summit ended. However, Harper did not elaborate on what the discussion might yield.

"We stand together with the Uyghur Muslim community on this issue," said Frank Dimant, B'nai Brith Canada's executive vice president. "As the Jewish community knows too well, it is necessary for all groups to speak out when an individual's human rights are

threatened. Mr. Celil, as a Canadian citizen, has the right to consular access by Canadian officials. We hope the government's consistent foreign policy emphasizing human rights and democracy, whether at the UN or other international fora such as APEC, will lead to bridge-building between all communities in Canada."


Mohamed Tohti, president of the

Uyghur Canadian Association, echoed these sentiments and had called on the Canadian government to continue its efforts on the Celil file. He said, "We deeply appreciate the commitment of Prime Minister Stephen Harper to advance the case of Mr. Celil as a high priority issue at the APEC Conference. Mr. Celil has done nothing wrong except forming a


political party in China in 1994. His political detention and imprisonment are merely an extension of the ongoing harsh crackdown campaign by China against the Uyghur community. It is of paramount importance to our community that Mr. Celil have his human rights respected, and to see him speedily returned to his family here in Canada."

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## NEWS

## New UN Human Rights Council up to same old tricks

Conservatives' response praised

B'nai Brith Canada has characterized as a "sham" the latest attempt by the newly inaugurated United Nations Human Rights Council to condemn Israel. The body met last Wednesday in an emergency session and passed a motion to denounce "the Israeli targeting and killing of Palestinian civilians in Beit Hanoun while asleep."

"The new UN Human Rights Council would do well to devote its time and energy to distinguishing itself from its defunct predecessor, the UN Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR), which was also obsessed with unfounded condemnations of Israel," said Frank Dimant, B'nai Brith Canada's executive vice president.

This "session marks the fourth time in the council's five-month history that the body convened an emergency session solely for the purpose of condemning Israel. At the same time, the council completely ignores the targeting of Israeli civilians by Hamas and Hezbollah, and the way these terrorist groups use Palestinian civilians as human shields in order to expedite their attacks on Israel.

The passing of this resolution brings the total number of country-specific resolutions passed by the council since its inception to four, all anti-Israel, and none of them targeting the world's human rights abusers.

"Was this the huge reform of the UN human rights system that was meant to follow the demise of the UNCHR?" Dimant asked.

However, there was at least one silver lining.

B'nai Brith Canada has applauded the principled stand of the Canadian government, which opposed the inherently anti-Israel resolution.

"We applaud the government's decision to vote against a resolution that vilifies Israel for 'willful killing' of civilians in Gaza, while at the same time turning a blind eye to ongoing Palestinian rocket attacks against Israeli civilians such as the one last Wednesday, which killed 57-year-old Fatima Slutzker, a resident of Sderot," said Dimant. "Canada's vote follows the principled course charted for this country by Prime Minister Stephen Harper at the Francophone conference earlier this year.

"The international community should follow Canada's footsteps by rejecting out of hand highly politicized resolutions of this nature that do nothing to advance the cause of peace in the Middle

East. In fact, they deflect the attention of the council from pressing human rights catastrophes worldwide and allow the many human rights abusers in the UN system virtual immunity."

In a related development, the Liberal Parliamentarians for Israel, co-chaired by MP Anita Neville and Sen. David Smith, are urging the Conservative government to withdraw from the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) calling it "a flawed body...proving to be nothing other than a vehicle for Israel denouncers."

## Saudis building fence to keep out 'terrorists': Prince

Saudi Arabia is planning to build a massive security fence along its borders with Iraq to prevent infiltration of 'terrorists,' the interior minister said in an interview published last Tuesday.

Construction of the double-track barbed fence, which will be fitted with remote sensors and thermal cameras, will begin next year, Prince Nayef bin Abdul Aziz told *Al Anbaa Kuwaiti* newspaper.

"Authorities in Saudi Arabia have begun the executive meas-

## Olmert must go, 53 per cent dissatisfied Israelis tell poll

JERUSALEM (Arutz-7) - A poll released last Tuesday night showed that the Israeli public is thoroughly dissatisfied with the current government leadership. The majority of respondents think that the IDF Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Dan Halutz and Defence Minister Amir Peretz should resign their posts, according to a Geocartography poll.

Most Israelis also think that Prime Minister Ehud Olmert should either step down or call new elections, according to the poll, which was reported on the television program *Politics*.



OLMERT: TIME TO GO?

Only 17 per cent of Israelis believe that Halutz should continue to head the Israel Defence Forces. Support for Peretz was not much better: a bare 15 per cent of those surveyed thought he should remain as Defence Minister.

Similarly, more than half of the respondents - 53 per cent - said Olmert should resign his post or call new elections.

Former National Security Council head Maj.-Gen. (ret.) Giora Eiland said it "will be difficult" for Halutz to remain in office, given the numbers. Speaking on *Channel 1 TV*, Eiland said the rank-and-file soldiers have lost respect for Halutz, leaving him in a position of power without respect.

Eiland served as a close advisor to former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

## Israeli ambassador courts France

Israel's ambassador to France praised French-Israeli relations in his first news conference in Paris.

Danny Shek acknowledged media characterizations that relations were in a chilly period, but argued Monday that dialogue between France and Israel in fact is "better than ever before" and that Israel "does not regret the European and French role in the post-war period in southern Lebanon."

Shek said, however, that while "the French people know every detail about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, they still know little about the make-up of Israel itself."

Shek also expressed regret for the comments of Israel's UN ambassador, Dan Gillerman, who accused France of "offering flowers to terrorists" by supporting a recent UN General Assembly resolution critical of Israeli military actions in Gaza.



Prince Nayef bin Abdul Aziz says Saudi Arabia plans fence.

ures to build the largest security fence that extends along the 900-km (562-miles) border with Iraq," he said.

The fence is a part of a comprehensive security plan to fortify the borders with Iraq that also involves setting up military bases and other high-tech devices.

"The plan will cost \$12 billion, including \$500 million to build the fence, which will be com-

pleted after five to six years," Prince Nayef said.

The minister declined to reveal the name or nationality of the company involved in erecting the fence.

The fence will have 135 gates, all monitored with ultraviolet technology to "prevent the infiltration of terrorists...and also to halt smuggling of arms, drugs and persons into the kingdom," Prince Nayef said.

Saudi Arabia, which already has tight measures in place to prevent cross-border infiltration by Islamist extremists, has often cited threats to its security posed by militants leaving the country to fight in Iraq.

A number of Saudi fighters have been involved in bloody attacks against Iraqi and coalition forces in the violence-plagued country.

According to the US army, Saudis comprise nearly 12 per cent of the estimated 3,000 foreign combatants fighting on the side of the insurgency in Iraq.

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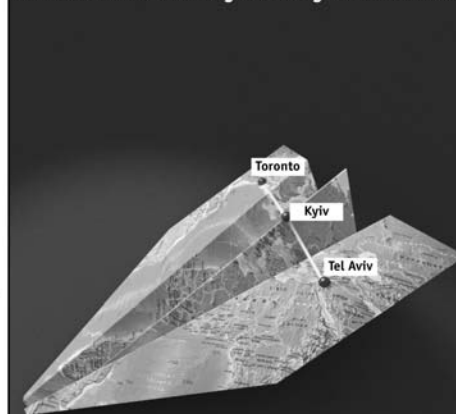
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## NEWS

# Tension rises on campuses as rhetoric rises

By Tribune Staff

While York Federation of Students handed out buttons for their 'Stop the Hate' campaign, steps away a hatefest was taking place in Varsity Hall at York University in Toronto.

A group calling itself the Coalition against Israel Apartheid (CAIA) announced the rally against Israel but — as York Security confirmed — no one group took responsibility for the gathering. Despite the fact that the rally had not been authorized by university administration, as policy required, York officials had apparently decided to allow the event to continue to avoid possible escalation of tensions.

However, the tension between the two groups of students was palpable. Under the watchful eye of York Security officers, pro-Palestinian students were kept to the right where a platform was set up against a backdrop of banners denouncing Israel as an apartheid state and calling for a boycott of the state. One banner denounced Canada for its support of the Israeli state. Handouts showing all of the former British protectorate as the Palestin-



Anti-Israel group demonstrates, without permission, as York Federation of Students hand out 'Stop the Hate' buttons.

ian state were distributed. Men wearing CUPE baseball caps were seen in the crowd, speaking to security and speaking with students.

Meanwhile, pro-Israel students were out in full force ready with Israeli flags whom York Security guided to the left in a largely useless attempt to keep the two groups apart.

A small initial group of pro-Palestinian students hugging the platform swelled in numbers as speaker after speaker took the mike but little could be heard as the pro-Israel students shouted at the top of their lungs overpowering the speakers with shouts of "shame" and the belting out of songs such as *Hatikvah*. When Dan Freeman-Maloy — a student, Jewish by birth, who has been making a name for himself in the campaign against Israel on campus — appeared, the pro-Palestinian crowd hailed him like some conquering hero while Jewish students shouted out cries of "self-hater." Clashes in this heated atmosphere were undoubtedly inevitable. This was certainly not an opportunity for rational debate on important topics involving the Middle East. Pushing and punching matches, as well as loud arguments, broke out as York security moved in quickly to try to maintain control. Yet, Jewish students reporting harassment and punches to security officials were asked for their identification without any intervention. Jewish students also reported chants of "Death to the Jews" and "Hezbollah" coming from pro-Palestinian members of the crowd.

The anti-Israel rally was part of a number of events that were organized this week in Toronto. A similar rally with about 50 participants snaked its way through sites at the University of Toronto the same day. A handout, apparently from CAIA demanding that U of T cut ties with "Israeli apartheid," was handed out. It noted that Nov. 16 was a "day of action on campuses in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle and in coordination with the International Week of Action Against the Apartheid Wall." It demanded that university ties with Israel and Israeli companies such as Teva-Novopharm and to Israeli universities including Hebrew U and Technion be severed. A rally outside the University of Haifa fundraiser dinner was also held this past Sunday by the same group (see story, page 1). Jewish students on York campus reported that this type of anti-Israel event was becoming a regular occurrence on campus, and they were sick of it.

Elevators in the Student Centre a week earlier had been covered in stickers calling for "Boycott Israeli Apartheid." The York University newspaper *Excalibur* reporting on the incident in its Nov. 8 issue, referred to such incidents as "anti-semitic acts, a growing concern on York." While most of the stickers had been removed, they could still be spotted on campus on the day of the rally — including the garage elevators.

This type of propaganda has also

overshadowed the 'Stop the Hate' campaign initiated by the York student body, where for instance, during an earlier event, a representative of an Arab group referred to

Hillel as the "devil" having arrived on campus.

If this latest rally is any indication, tensions can only continue to mount at York.

## 'Israel has no right to exist'

HAIFA U cont. from page 1.

of red, white, green and black Palestinian Authority flags and anti-Israel signs; they shouted. "Tear Down the Apartheid Wall"; "Allah Akbar"; "Intifada! Intifada!"

When asked why they were targeting the University of Haifa, which has more Arab students than any other Israeli university, one of the organizers, who also refused to be identified, replied: "The University of Haifa is still a Zionist institution, serving the Zionist apartheid state."

Many of the protesters declared that Israel has no right to exist. They wanted Israel to become "a secular Palestinian state."

One Jewish Defense League organizer told the *Jewish Tribune* that "he was very happy to have gotten at least 30 JDL supporters out to protest."

Tony and Elizabeth Comper were being honoured for establishing Fighting Anti-Semitism Together (FAST), and three years later, starting the Elizabeth and Tony Comper Interdisciplinary Institute for the Study of Anti-Semitism and Racism at Israel's most pluralistic institute of higher learning, the University of Haifa.

Tony Comper was a B'nai Brith Award of Merit recipient, which resulted in the formation at FAST.

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## COMMENTARY/LETTERS

# The four stages of the Arab propaganda war against Israel



**Arnold Ages**

Since 1947 the architects of the Arab propaganda war against Israel have turned von Clausewitz's dictum – "war is diplomacy carried on by other means" – into its opposite: diplomacy is war carried on by other means.

The 'other means' in this context is the 58-year-old propaganda assault on the state of Israel exhibited in virtually every agency of the United Nations, on Arab radio stations, within Arab embassies worldwide and in the newspaper and publishing world in the Middle East.

Never in the annals of human history has so much negative energy, for so long a time, been channelled into the promotion of insensate hatred for a people and a state. In recent years the admixture of extremist Islamic rhetoric against Jews and Israel has raised the decibel level of the fulminations. The Nazis had only 12 years to promote their genocidal campaign against Jews. Some Arab groups have been at the same exercise for more than 50 years.

While the music may vary, the libretto is depressingly similar in the six-decade long propaganda war against Israel. It may be compressed into four main attack modes with a number of poisonous ancillary barbs. The verbal attacks on Israel in the UN and elsewhere are inevitably characterized by the exaggerations prompted by the Arabic language's love of hyperbole.

This can be seen in the inventory of 'crimes' that are attached to the flight of Arab refugees in 1947-48, the occupation resulting from Israel's stunning victory in the June 1967 war, the 'massacre' of Arab civilians in Jenin in 2001 (and latterly in Gaza in November 2006) and finally, the designation of Israel as an 'Apartheid' regime.

By endlessly repeating this four-category indictment of Israel, Arab propagandists are realizing some relative success. They salute Voltaire's famous remark: "Calomniez, calomniez; il en reste toujours quelque chose" ("Keep the lies coming; something will eventually stick"). That 'something' has apparently stuck to a number of British, French and American academics who have signed on to Arab-inspired boycotts of Israel.

The flight of the Palestinian refugees was caused by a war visited upon the nascent Jewish state in 1948 through the invasion of Arab armies from the surrounding countries. Had there been no invasion, there would have been no refugees. The 750,000 refugees who fled Israel have now grown to a few million.

The representatives of the Palestinian Authority and Hamas insist there will be no peace with Israel until the refugees, en masse, are permitted to return to their homes. That eventuality would mean for Israel the 'peace' of the grave – given the demographic catastrophe that would occur if Israel ever was unwise enough to accept such a plan.

Israel's 'occupation' of East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza in 1967 and southern Lebanon in 1982 came about as the result of wars forced upon Israel by the PLO, Egypt, Syria and Jordan. The Arab propaganda machine insisted that ending the 'occupation' was the way to a peaceful solution. Israel ended the 'occupation' of Lebanon four years ago and

that of Gaza in 2005. The result? Kassemis, Katyushas and long-range missiles fired against Israel.

When Israel responds militarily by sending troops or jets or by firing artillery shells to implement the first principle of democratic governments – defending its citizenry – there is a hew and cry from some Palestinians that massacres have occurred. This was the charge flung originally at Israel by Saab Erakat, the PA's spokesman, over the fighting in Jenin in 2000 (he later withdrew the word) and in Lebanon this past summer.

To Israel's credit, it has admitted on occasion, that civilians may have been accidentally killed through technical errors. Such is the nature of war. Compare Israel's apologies for the wayward shell, which tragically killed civilians, to the silence or weasel words of Palestinian leaders ('we regret all civilian deaths') over the murder of more than 1,000 Israelis in the last five years by 'suicides.'

Finally Arab propagandists have trotted out one of their most successful canards, the accusation that Israel is an Apartheid state. This is an absurd libel, hurled at Israel despite the fact that Arab members serve in the Knesset (two of whom, Ahmed Tibi and Ibrahim Sasoua, denounced Israel during a meeting with Hamas in Gaza on Nov. 9), that Arabs in Israel have the vote, that Israeli-Arab diplomats have received government appointments as ambassadors and that at least one Arab has served on the Supreme Court. It should also be noted that one of the *Jerusalem Post's* best feature columnists is also an Israeli Arab.

The success of these four propaganda ploys, particularly in the West, bespeaks ignorance of the real situation in the Middle East and the readiness of journalists, some of whom can even be found in Canada, to place the most negative construction on Israel's legitimate desire to invoke the first right among nations – to protect its citizens.

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

## A black mark for draft-dodgers

Singer Jacko Eisenberg's head is spinning. Only a few days after he was the toast of the town following his victory in a TV talent contest based on *American Idol*, he suddenly found himself cursed when he strolled down the street or entered a supermarket. Moreover, he was distressed to discover that his recording contract and night club engagements had been abruptly cancelled.

The turnabout was a result of several thoughtless statements made by Eisenberg at public appearances, both in regard to other performers and, more importantly, in regard to military service.

"I haven't served in the army," the singer declared, "because I'd rather be holding a guitar than a sub-machine gun in my arms."

Many other young entertainers have dodged the draft, usually by pretending to be mentally unstable. But they didn't make an ideology of it. They just picked up their discharge papers and faded into the woodwork.

However, the problem has become too serious to ignore, with half the population essentially exempt from military service. The Arabs and the ultra-Orthodox aren't called up and religious girls are allowed to opt out as well. This is bad enough. But



## MYTH: 'Israel refused to allow Palestinians to return to their homes so Jews could steal their property'

**FACT:** Israel could not simply agree to allow all Palestinians to return, but consistently sought a solution to the refugee problem. Israel's position was expressed by David Ben-Gurion (Aug. 1, 1948): "When the Arab states are ready to conclude a peace treaty with Israel this question will come up for constructive solution as part of the general settlement, and with due regard to our counter-claims in respect of the destruction of Jewish life and property, the long-term interest of the Jewish and Arab populations, the stability of the state of Israel and the durability of the basis of peace between it and its neighbours, the actual position and fate of the Jewish communities in the Arab countries, the responsibilities of the Arab governments for their war of aggression and their liability for reparation, will all be relevant in the question whether, to what extent, and under what conditions, the former Arab residents of the territory of Israel should be allowed to return" (*Howard Sachar, A History of Israel: From the Rise of Zionism to Our Time*, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1979, p. 335).

The Israeli government was not indifferent to the plight of the refugees; an ordinance was passed creating a Custodian of Abandoned Property "to prevent unlawful occupation of empty houses and business premises, to administer ownerless property, and also to secure tilling of deserted fields, and save the

crops..." (*Joseph Schechtman, The Refugee in the World*, NY: A.S. Barnes and Co., 1963, p. 268).

The implied danger of repatriation did not prevent Israel from allowing some refugees to return and offering to take back a substantial number as a condition for signing a peace treaty. In 1949, Israel offered to allow families that had been separated during the war to return, to release refugee accounts frozen in Israeli banks (eventually released in 1953), to pay compensation for abandoned lands and to repatriate 100,000 refugees (*Terence Prittie, "Middle East Refugees," in Michael Curtis, et al., The Palestinians*, NY: Transaction Books, 1975, pp. 66-67).

The Arabs rejected all the Israeli compromises. They were unwilling to take any action that might be construed as recognition of Israel. They made repatriation a precondition for negotiations, something Israel rejected. The result was the confinement of the refugees in camps.

Despite the position taken by the Arab states, Israel did release the Arab refugees' blocked bank accounts, which totaled more than \$10 million, paid thousands of claimants cash compensation and granted thousands of acres as alternative holdings.

*Source: Myths & Facts Online – A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict by Mitchell G. Bard.*



**Nechemia Meyers**

**In Israel**

more recently a significant number of secular young men have been evading the draft, and in Israel's precarious security situation this is a matter of some concern. Major General Elazar Stern, head of the human resources directorate of the general staff, has decided to do something about the situation. He has suggested that young men who are not drafted should no longer have the term "unsuitable" written in their army discharge document.... Instead, it should be written that they have been "released for bad behaviour." Such a designation would presumably make it more difficult for them to get a good job, as employers are always interested in an applicant's military record. There may even be a time when such terminology would make it more difficult for a young man to get a driver's license or a firearm license.

Not everyone is pleased with Stern's proposal

that draft dodgers be punished by such a black mark. Columnist Tom Segev characterizes it as "a childishly vengeful idea that will label people to the end of their days. This initiative, Segev adds, "reflects the growing tendency to slander people without proper justification or authority."

This issue has also come up in regard to supermodel Bar Rafaeli, presently the intimate companion of film star Leonardo DiCaprio. Israeli Minister of Tourism Isaac Herzog was as pleased as punch when Ms Rafaeli agreed to open the Israeli pavilion at a tourism exhibition in London last week. Less pleased were some Israeli commentators, who pointed out that the stunningly beautiful Ms Rafaeli had avoided service in the Israeli Army using a phony marriage. This criticism notwithstanding, Herzog decided that her other attributes more than made up for her draft dodging.

It remains to be seen whether other Israelis, ministers or ordinary citizens, will be influenced by the marks of shame that henceforth may be borne by those who worm their way out of military service.

*Nechemia Meyers is a freelance writer living in Rehovot, Israel.*

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## COMMENTARY

# With Hezbollah war barely over, Israel perceives threats on horizon



**Leslie Susser**

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Less than three months after the guns fell silent between Israel and Hezbollah, Israeli military intelligence has warned the government to be ready for a new outbreak of fighting with the Lebanese Shi'ite militia as early as next spring.

Military intelligence also is warning of the possibility of war with Syria next summer.

And there's an even greater concern: With Prime Minister Ehud Olmert hinting that Israel might take military action to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, the upshot could be a showdown with the complete Hezbollah-Syria-Iran axis sometime next year, a much wider war than last summer's confrontation with Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.

But to what extent is the Israeli assessment based on hard evidence, and how much of it is spin designed to persuade other actors to take firm action? In other words, is Israel trying to goad the United States and other leading players into taking stronger action against Iran — and, at the same time, warning Syria and Hezbollah not to test its patience?

Clearly, the biggest threat to Israel comes from Iran's nuclear program.

In a recent interview with *Newsweek*, Olmert argued that Iran must be made to fear the consequences of continuing its presumed nuclear weapons push. The Israeli position is that unless the mullahs in Tehran are worried about a military strike that could topple their regime, there's little chance they'll drop their nuclear drive.

Israel believes that strictly applied sanctions, coupled with a credible military threat, might deter Iranian leaders without the use of force.

The new tough talk by Olmert and other cabinet ministers seems intended to create a credible military threat, analysts say. In dealing with Iran, "we have



A building in Haifa destroyed by a Hezbollah missile in July.

many options," Olmert told *Newsweek*.

But not everyone in the American administration is buying the Israeli line. A senior US official recently told journalists in Tel Aviv that he doubted that Israel really has a military option: Iran is too big and its nuclear installations are too well protected and too widely scattered, he said.

Iranian leaders treat Israel's veiled threats with contempt. Foreign Minister Mohammed Ali Hussein declared that if Israel is foolish enough to attack, Iran's response "will be quick, strong and destructive, and will take just a few seconds."

Hussein indicated that Iran was in no mood to be deterred, promising to have 3,000 centrifuges capable of producing weapons grade uranium operating by next March.

Israeli officials are convinced that the issue goes far beyond Iran: If Iran is allowed to go nuclear, they believe, other Middle Eastern countries will attempt to follow suit.

In early November, six Arab countries — Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — declared that they intended to adopt more robust nuclear programs. They claim the programs would be for civilian purposes only and under strict International Atomic Energy Agency control.

But analysts say the six clearly were spurred to action by fear of a nuclear Iran and will want to develop a "security hedge" — the technological capacity to produce nuclear weapons at short notice, if they feel threatened.

Some Israeli analysts see in this a very dangerous development.

"If the six — or some of them — develop a bomb, this will herald a lot more than a 'new Middle East': It will be a new world, significantly more dangerous than the world that existed during the Cold War period," strategist Reuven Pedatzur of the Netanya Academic College wrote recently in *Ha'aretz*.

In contrast to the bilateral model of mutual deterrence between two rational players, which kept the Cold War within manageable limits, the "existence of a large number of circles of deterrence — each with its own rules of the game and different strategic considerations — will necessarily lead to instability. The dangers of miscalculation, of misunderstanding the actions of an opponent and of uncontrolled use of the bomb, will increase dramatically," Pedatzur warned.

He and other Israeli strategists argue that unless Iran is stopped, the international non-proliferation regime could collapse, with disastrous consequences for world peace.

## Parades and principles

In the end, it wasn't threatened violence from any haredi hotheads that did in the planned 'gay pride' parade scheduled for the streets of Jerusalem, but an IDF strike in Gaza that brought about the deaths of 20 Palestinians and subsequent threats of retaliatory terror attacks against Israelis and Americans.

Fear of violence, though — of any sort — should not have been the impetus for the parade's cancellation. What should have made such an event unthinkable in the first place, and should do so in the future, is something stark and simple: respect — for Jerusalem, for her residents and, ultimately, for Judaism.

The word 'parade' conjures images of music and festivity, gaudily bedecked marchers and perhaps an elephant or tiger or two. And indeed, in venues like San Francisco, 'gay pride' parades have been exhibitions of exhibitionists.

But organizers of the ill-fated Jerusalem parade — originally part of Jerusalem WorldPride 2006, an international call to homosexuals to descend upon the holy city "in a massive demonstration of LGBT dignity, pride and boundary-crossing celebration" — insisted that their event would be no such spectacle of bad taste. It would be, rather, a civil and principled attempt to advance the legitimacy of a homosexual lifestyle through changes to the traditional conception of the family.

To some of us, including a majority of Jerusalem's residents, that "principled" social agenda is considerably more objectionable than any bacchanalian display. Crassness and craziness, after all, are laughed (or gasped) at and soon forgotten. Social revolution, though, by its very definition, aims to effect societal change.

There are societies, of course, for better or worse, that welcome such change, and there are Israelis with similar feelings as well. But Israel also has many citizens, particularly in Jerusalem, who consider the radical redefinition of moral



**Avi Shafran**

behaviour and the concept of family to be a deliberate affront to their deepest convictions.

Israel has hardly adopted the Torah's laws as her own, as is readily evident from a visit to any of a number of neighbourhoods or night spots in Tel Aviv (or even, sadly, in Jerusalem). Nor is there any religious effort afoot to pry into fellow citizens' private lives. But the Torah is very clear about what sort of personal intimate relationships are proper and what sorts are not. And all but a small proportion of the Israeli citizenship endorse the idea that the Jewish state owes a certain respect to the Jewish religious heritage.

Yes, in a free society, any group can promote any cause, no matter how ill-conceived or offensive it may be to others. But bounds, including limits to free speech and demonstration, exist even in the freest of societies. Is it really an unthinkable curb on legitimate self-expression for the authorities and judiciary of a self-described Jewish state to prevent an intentional affront to dedicated and faithful Jews — not to mention to the Jewish religious tradition?

The threats of violence against the would-be marchers that reportedly appeared in anonymous pamphlets and posters in Jerusalem are indefensible. But such ugliness — whatever its source might in fact have been — should not obscure the actual issue: Are the Jewish religion and the sensibilities of tens of thousands of Jerusalem's residents deserving of respect? Or is all that trumped, even in the Holy Land's Holiest City, by the social agenda of radical activists?

Over the course of history, Jews lived their lives



Participants wave Israeli and rainbow flags at a gay pride rally, Nov. 10, 2006, in Jerusalem (above). Demonstrators use donkeys during a protest Nov. 9, 2006, against a gay rally in Jerusalem (below). The protesters used farm animals as a symbol of what they asserted is the 'abomination' of gay relations.



— and all too often died their deaths — in dedication to the Jewish faith. Does that faith not deserve, at the very least, the respect of the Jewish state?

On Syria, military intelligence is taking a more ambivalent line. After warning of possible war with Damascus in the summer, intelligence officials now are urging the government to talk to the Syrians. If it works, such an approach could pry Syria away from the Iranian-Hezbollah orbit and take it out of the war equation.

Yet the government is unlikely to move soon. For months Syria has been making peace overtures to Israel, while warning that their rejection could lead to war. But most Israeli leaders see the overtures as a trap, a Syrian attempt to use negotiations with Israel to score points in the international arena without really breaking with Iran or Hezbollah.

The Bush administration shares that view. Unless Syria stops serving as a conduit for Iranian arms to Hezbollah, harbouring Palestinian terrorists, interfering in Lebanon and aiding anti-American forces in Iraq, Israel should not consider peace talks, American officials say. Yet the concern is that ignoring Damascus could create new tensions.

Moreover, intelligence analysts believe that in a situation where Israel faces growing tension with Syria and Iran, their Lebanese proxy Hezbollah could spark new hostilities. According to both Israeli and American sources, rockets and other military supplies continue to flow to Hezbollah from Iran via Syria, despite the call for an arms embargo on Hezbollah in the UN Security Council resolution that ended this summer's war.

Military intelligence estimates that Hezbollah now has about 20,000 rockets — slightly more than when the Lebanon war began in July. Indeed, Israel finds itself facing pretty much the same threat as it did before the war, which suggests that important war aims were not achieved.

The name of the game in Israel is to remedy as quickly as possible the flaws in the Israel Defence Forces that the war exposed, and develop new methods of countering Hezbollah rockets. But will the IDF be able to do all that while keeping an eye on the bigger Iranian threat?

To put it more starkly: Will the IDF be ready in six months or so to cope with a multiple threat from Hezbollah, Syria and Iran?

Rabbi Shafran serves as public affairs director for Agudath Israel of America. © AM ECHAD RESOURCES



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## NEWS

## The importance of a prejudice-free work environment



**Lior Samfiru**

### Employment Law

Since most of us spend the majority of our day at work, our work environment is a very important place. A pleasant, friendly and supportive work environment is essential to our well being and encourages us to do our best work. Unfortunately, some work environments are rife with tension and prejudice. I am often asked by employees whether there is something that can be done to force their employer to deal with a poor work environment.

Traditionally, employees believed that there is little that can be done about a work environment contaminated with prejudice. It was believed that while the employer has responsibility for maintaining and encouraging a proper work environment, there was not much that employees could do if they found themselves working in an environment filled with prejudice and discrimination. Often, the only remedy considered was a human rights complaint, where the employee was discriminated against based on a prohibited ground such as their religious beliefs.

Today, the law has evolved considerably so that an employer who fails to maintain a proper work environment may be deemed to have constructively dismissed an employee. A constructive dismissal occurs when the employer unilaterally changes a fundamental term of an employee's employment arrangement. The most common example is where the employer demotes or reduces an employee's pay. Such a change, unless specifically contemplated by contract of employment, amounts to a constructive dismissal. This, effectively, means that the employee was dismissed from the job and, if they so choose, may leave their work and demand a termination package.

The courts have now confirmed that it is an implied term of every employees' employment agreement that the employee be treated with respect and that the employer will maintain a work environment free of harassment, prejudice and discrimination. If the employer fails to meet these obligations, the employer may be deemed to have breached a term of the employment agreement, thereby constructively dismissing the employee.

Take the following example: A Jewish employee works in a factory where employees often make light of his religious beliefs and where the employee is subjected to name calling and degrading behaviour by co-workers. In this case, it is not the employer who directly caused the work environment to become poisoned. The employer, however, has an obligation to ensure that such behaviour does not happen in the workplace and that measures are taken against those individuals who are engaged in inappropriate behaviour. Failure by the employer to take such steps – if the employer is made aware of the situation – may well amount to a constructive dismissal.

For an employee, it is important to advise an employer of any instances where the employee feels harassed or mistreated in the workplace. This will impose an obligation on the employer to take immediate action, or be deemed to have constructively dismissed the employee, thereby becoming liable for a potentially hefty termination package. As an employer, it is imperative to have in place clearly communicated policies dealing with workplace behaviour and treatment of employees and to actively monitor the workplace to ensure that these policies are being complied with.

In addition to a constructive dismissal, a poor work environment exposes an employer to other liability. Courts today have shown an increasing willingness to compensate employees for mental distress suffered as a result of poisoned work environments. The courts have realized that all employees have the right to be treated with dignity and have their beliefs respected in the workplace and that, where this does not happen, employees are likely to suffer considerably. Gone are the days where the work environment was solely the employee's problem, as today, employers must take note of these changes in the law.

As always, I welcome your comments as well as suggestions for topics that you would like me to cover.

*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.*

## Aftermath of war: good news and bad news

By Doris Strub Epstein  
Tribune Correspondent

The good news about the aftermath of the Lebanon-Israeli war is that Hezbollah has been considerably weakened militarily. Their underground fortifications and bunkers built right on the line of the Lebanese Israeli border, have been destroyed, said a director within the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

"Israel will never allow them to be rebuilt," declared Yigal Palmor, director of the Maghreb, (Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria) Libya, Syria and Lebanon Desk at the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

"They lost plenty of other fortifications and bunkers and weapons' caches all over southern Lebanon," he said. "They've lost their headquarters in Beirut, their operation centres and all their control and communal centres in southern Lebanon."

They have been politically weakened.

"Before the war, most of the population was intimidated and would not speak out. Hezbollah created a state within a state in southern Lebanon. It was a no go zone for anyone Lebanese. But Lebanese – Druze, Christian, Sunni – even some Shia leaders are standing up now and challenging Hezbollah."

"There's a façade of support for Hezbollah... because people are still scared to speak out although that is changing and many Lebanese are saying what they think. Lebanon has a better chance now to assert its own authority and regain its sovereignty now that it's not gnawed from within by Hezbollah."

Syria has lost its direct control, although it still has a lot of influence at all levels. Lebanon's President Emil Lahoud is a puppet of Syria."

The bad news is that the Syria-Lebanon border, over which Israel

has no control, is completely open. Terrorists, weapons, missiles go freely back and forth in broad daylight.

"Syria's policy of sponsoring international terrorist groups is partly to help Iran and partly to damage as much as possible, American and Western interests."

A UN resolution at the end of the war in August declared an embargo on arms and gave the 5000, UN peacekeepers currently stationed in Lebanon, together with the Lebanese army, directions to do whatever is needed militarily to enforce the embargo. The resolution states Hezbollah must be disarmed.

But only three weeks ago, Hassan Nasrallah, leader of the Lebanese Hezbollah boasted, "We had 13,000 missiles before the war. Now we have 33,000."

To keep access free, Syria doesn't recognize Lebanon – they have no diplomatic relations says Palmor. "Bashar refuses to delineate the border. When Syrian intellectuals call for delineation and recognition of Lebanon, they're thrown into jail."

But now Syria does not have the same freedom of action and impunity in southern Lebanon. They have to deal with international pressure and UN peacekeepers. International law clearly states Hezbollah started the war – not Israel – and demands that the two kidnapped soldiers be released unconditionally.

"The feeling in Israel," he continued, "is that Hezbollah is still a live wire and that it could send an electrical shock through the region any time." There are those in Israel he said, that think it could

happen even in a year.

Palmor also came to Canada to dispell the misconceptions that people had about Israel during the war. The plight of the 500,000 Israelis displaced was barely reported in the media, he said, compared with the coverage of the Lebanese situation. But to solve the Lebanon-Syria-Hezbollah problem, he strongly believes it is Iran that needs to be dealt with – he calls Syria a vassal state of Iran – and by the highest international authorities.

"If people think Iran is only out to destroy Israel they don't know anything about Iranian motivations and goals, which are to take the leading role of Muslims globally and to convert the whole world to Shiite Muslim."

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## Arnie to Israel: I'll be back

Arnold Schwarzenegger reportedly is to make a second official trip to Israel. Israel Radio reported last Tuesday that Israeli Industry and Trade Minister Eli Yishai invited the California governor to visit next spring to discuss joint high-tech ventures, and he agreed. Schwarzenegger last was in Israel in 2004.



## AWARD OF MERIT DINNER

## CN CEO honoured

AWARD cont. from page 1.

ter of ceremonies. Ted Greenfield and Eric Bissell co-chaired the Award of Merit Gala.

Allan Adel, national chair of the League for Human Rights, and recently appointed Quebec Chair Moise Moghrabi presided over a special candle lighting ceremony. In keeping with tradition, a candelabra or menorah – the very symbol of B'nai Brith – is lit in an attempt to shine a beacon of light and hope and to reinforce the commitment of the organization and its grassroots volunteers to helping make the world a better place.

That was followed by a video describing the important role B'nai Brith plays in the community, including its work stretching across the generations. Notable highlights included the organization's assistance to Vietnamese Boat People who sought refuge in Canada and outreach to the Japanese community interned in this country during World War II.

The feature video presentation related to Harrison's youth, his involvement with railroading through the years, and his out-

standing leadership in transforming the industry as a whole.

Guests at the dinner were invited on an imaginative "journey" from Memphis, where Harrison was born, to Chicago where Harrison currently spends much of his time, and to Montreal, headquarters of CN. At various junctures in the evening, a life-sized CN train flashed across the enormous screen – complete with full locomotive sound – pulling into each of these cities that played such pivotal roles in the life of Hunter Harrison. At each 'stop,' imagery, sites and sounds particular to each city was revealed.

"This fantastical feeling of actually visiting each city was a memorable highlight," gushed one guest, who said she "had never experienced anything quite like it, except perhaps on a 3-D screen at the IMAX theatre."

As well as the Award of Merit plaque, Harrison received a set of Israeli cufflinks made from bronze coins from the year 70AD, engraved with the words 'The Freedom of Zion,' symbolizing the connection between the ancient homeland of the Jewish people and today's modern democratic state of Israel.

Guests enjoyed the ambiance as they walked alongside enormous ice sculptures designed for the occasion, as lively conversation was taken up by those mingling at the martini bar made entirely of ice. The dining room was regally outfitted in gold and burgundy, the rose flower arrangements breathtakingly beautiful, as guests feasted on a sumptuous main course of grilled veal chop à la moutarde de Mau, accompanied by a bouquet of vegetables, grilled portobello mushrooms and roasted new potatoes prepared by Giorgi of Tradition Catering outside in tents under the stars. It was the first time a kosher event was held at the Windsor Station.

"I have met Mr. Harrison several times," said Greenfield. "He is a typical southern gentleman, a charming man, straight as an arrow. He has a great sense of family, married for 44 years, with two daughters and three grandchildren. Mr. Harrison is a hands-on corporate leader who is recognized as an innovator who has changed the face of railroading and has led CN to new heights. He has a philosophy of corporate culture based on people and is a communicator who speaks equally to the person on the ground floor or in the executive suite. He is a person who realizes the need to give back to the community and seems committed to that goal. I believe his visit to our B'nai Brith House project on the morning before the dinner made a big impact on him. I am sure that we have a friend and ally in Hunter Harrison."

Harrison noted that during his visit to B'nai Brith House, a newly-opened low-income residence for seniors in the heart of Cote St. Luc, he encountered a former CN employee currently living there. It was either "staged by B'nai Brith" or "divine intervention," he joked.

Harrison assumed his current post at CN on Jan. 1, 2003, having served as executive vice-president and chief operating officer during the previous five years. He was appointed to the company's board of directors on Dec. 6, 1999.

Before joining CN, Harrison had been president and chief executive officer of the Illinois Central Corporation (IC) and the Illinois Central Railroad Company (ICRR). During his career

with Illinois Central, he initiated the concept of scheduled service for freight shipments, maintaining a sharp focus on operational efficiency and asset use. By 1996, he had succeeded in driving the railroad's operating ratio down by some 30 points to the low 60s – the best in the entire North American rail industry.

As CN's executive vice-president and COO, he applied the same philosophy and methods, implementing an aggressive operating plan and refining the railroad's scheduled service to produce an industry-leading operations ratio and on-time performance results.

In his acceptance speech, Harrison thanked B'nai Brith Canada, his family, CN employees at the Windsor Station venue and especially dinner co-chairs Sabia and Tellier.

Regarding B'nai Brith Canada, he said the organization and CN are "a hard combination to top."

Speaking of the honour bestowed upon him, he said:

"I'm truly honoured to receive this recognition. I'll never forget this night. You should be extremely proud of the work you do and that I've read about and saw today, throughout Canada, the United States and around the world."

Photos by: Yacov and Ryan Blau - PBL Photography names from left to right



Robert and Joanne Libman



Sen. Yoine Goldstein



Joanne and Steve Slimovitch, legal counsel, B'nai Brith Canada



Marc Attali, Consul General of Israel



Michael Mostyn, Director of Government Relations, B'nai Brith Canada; Neil Drabkin, Chief of Staff to Stockwell Day; Rhonda Watson, Deputy Consular Section Chief at the United States Consulate General; Standing: Bernard Billard of the Austrian CG, Ulricke Billard, Consul General of Austria.



One of the beautifully designed ice sculptures.



Sheldon Popliger, Co-chair Montreal Food Baskets; Ron Kennedy, Purolator; David Guttman, Co-chair Montreal Food Baskets.



Lucien Bouchard, former Premier, Province of Quebec



Master of Ceremony, Robert G. Scully



Standing: Co-chairs Eric Bissell, CEO Charter Capital; Michael J. Sabia, CEO, Bell Canada Enterprises; Jeannie Harrison; E. Hunter Harrison, President and CEO, CN; Naomi Bissell; Co-chair Paul M. Tellier, Corporate Director; Frank Dimant, Executive Vice President, B'nai Brith Canada. Seated: Ted Greenfield, Fuller-Landau, Co-chair, Award of Merit Gala; Betty Greenfield; Lynne Weinstein; Gerry Weinstein, National President, B'nai Brith Canada; Andrée Tellier.



Ted Greenfield, Dinner Co-chair, Pearl Gladman, Dir. C.C.A., B'nai Brith Canada, Stephen Scheinberg, Chair, Montreal Exec. Cmte., Allan Adel, Chair, League for Human Rights, B'nai Brith Canada.



The scrumptious kosher food was prepared in tents outside Windsor station under the supervision and talents of Mr. Giorgi, Tradition Catering.



## NEWS

# 'JDL is back in business,' says national director at Kahane memorial

By Atara Beck

Tribune Correspondent

Toronto's Jewish Defense League (JDL) held a memorial last Wednesday on the 16th anniversary of the murder of Rabbi Meir Kahane, founder of the JDL in North America, at the Zionist Centre on Marlee Avenue.

JDL National Director Meir Halevi (Weinstein) had received calls from militant Arab groups telling him not to hold the memorial. Halevi responded by warning them not to come near the event, reminding them of the beating they received several weeks ago when they tried to prevent the JDL from protesting at an anti-Israel conference at the University of Toronto.

Asked whether he had taken the threat seriously, Halevi said:

"We always take it seriously. Last month, at the protest called to 'Boycott Israeli Apartheid,' about 50 of us went down," adding that some pro-Palestinians thought they would push the JDL around.

What's interesting is that not one protestor dared appear at the JDL event, although the anti-Israel activists organized confrontations at other events at university campuses. (See related stories in this issue.)

At the Kahane memorial, a



**Rabbi Moshe Stern, spiritual leader of Shaarei Tefillah Congregation, reminded the gathering that Kahane was an ordained rabbi with a profound understanding of Torah, a rabbi who "practised what he preached."**

Jewish war veteran, also an admirer of the late Rabbi Kahane, told the audience that years ago, while still living in Montreal, he attended a meeting of about 12 people that "would change my life forever."

"I was completely taken by what he had to say.... We were always advised to stay quiet," he said. Kahane, however, "taught us not to be frightened...to stand up for what is right.... It's time to wake up and realize that unless we stand up to those terrorists who want to kill us, they'll succeed."

The audience saw a video from

the late 1980s of a debate between Kahane and Ehud Olmert, which demonstrated Kahane's deeper understanding of the Mideast situation even then.

"The world would be different today if Rabbi Kahane were involved in the leadership of the State of Israel," Van Delman declared.

Rabbi Moshe Stern, spiritual leader of Shaarei Tefillah Congregation, reminded the gathering that Kahane was an ordained rabbi with a profound understanding of Torah, a rabbi who "practised what he preached."

Kahane "had a deep love for every Jew, but that love wasn't returned by the Jewish establishment.... He had to stand up and fight other Jews who didn't understand the depth of his commitment" to the Jewish people and to Israel, Stern said.

Jews don't understand that they have the God-given right to the land of Israel," the rabbi continued. "God created the world and gave us that land. If we don't believe that, then it's easy to walk away from Gush Katif, to walk away from Yehuda and Shomron, to walk away from Jerusalem.... We are not yet convinced that the land of Israel was meant for the Jewish people. That's why it's called Israel, for the children of Israel. Its borders are delineated clearly in the same bible that says don't kill and don't steal."

"We have no right to compromise one iota of the land," he said, because "it doesn't belong to one individual Jew."

Halevi explained that "we have a problem. We have a notion that we must give in to what's politically correct. But this world is devoid of morality, and the Jewish people have little backbone...."

"The JDL is back in business," Halevi declared.

Rabbi Ronnie Cahana of Montreal, a cousin of Meir Kahane, sang the *Kel Malei Rabamim* and the kaddish prayer, and led the *Hatikvah*.

"The world needs Israel to be Jewish," Cahana said.

## BRIEFS

## Peretz, Abbas in talks

Israel's defence minister drew fire for holding talks with the Palestinian Authority president. *Yediot Achronot* reported Monday that Amir Peretz spoke by telephone this week with Mahmoud Abbas about the escalating violence in the Gaza Strip, at the behest of an Israeli Arab lawmaker. Political sources said Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who has held off on meeting Abbas, was angry at the disclosure. Appearing before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, Peretz said he spoke with Abbas only to make clear that Israel was firm in its demand that unless Palestinian rocket salvos from Gaza cease immediately, Israel could mount a massive military operation. Peretz heads the centre-left Labour Party and has long been seen as more dovish than Olmert, who heads the centrist Kadima.

## PA unity talks suspended

Talks on forming a unity government in the Palestinian Authority were suspended. An aide to PA President Mahmoud Abbas, who heads the formerly dominant Fatah faction, said Monday that negotiations on joining a coalition with the governing Hamas had been suspended given irreconcilable differences. Palestinians had hoped that by bringing the more moderate Fatah into government, a Western aid embargo imposed when Hamas came to power in March could be removed. But the Islamist terrorist group has rejected donor nations' conditions that it recognize Israel and renounce terrorism. According to one Palestinian media report, the dispute between Fatah and Hamas centred on the distribution of cabinet portfolios.

## Ahmadiyeh dismisses threats

Iran's president shrugged off Israeli threats to attack his country's nuclear facilities as psychological warfare.

"This is a media campaign, because the Zionist regime is weak. We have faced stronger countries in the past," an official Iranian news agency quoted Mahmoud Ahmadiyeh as saying Monday.

Israeli officials recently have stepped up hints that a pre-emptive strike on Iran's nuclear sites could be launched if diplomatic pressure on Tehran fails to curb its atomic ambitions. Some independent analysts, however, believe Israel does not have the military capability to take on Iran.



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## 2006 JEWISH BOOK FAIR

# Short-sighted approach called responsible for France's predicament today

By Rick Kardonne  
Tribune Correspondent

A long-standing short-sighted approach by France regarding Jews, has been ultimately responsible for the Arab intifada, which plagues today's urban France, says one of the English-speaking world's most venerable journalists and journalistic-historians.

David Pryce-Jones, whose presentation of his latest book, *Betrayal: France, the Arabs and the Jews* was a highlight of the 30th Toronto Jewish Book Fair. His recent address at the Leah Posluns Theatre was sponsored by B'nai Brith Canada and he was introduced by B'nai Brith's Editorial Board Chair Arthur Siegel.

The Vienna-born, Oxford-educated Pryce-Jones, before assuming his present post as senior editor of *The National Review*, was literary editor of *The Financial Times*, *The Spectator*, and a contributor to both *The Times of London* and *The Daily Telegraph*. Fluent in French, having grown up in Vichy France, he declared that he is "upset that France doesn't live up to the standards of its own great past."

France, in its imperial designs, even before the Revolution, denied the Jews a sense of peoplehood. A prominent French aristocrat declared in 1789: "To the Jews as individuals, everything. To the Jews as a nation, nothing."

This principle guided French Middle East policy during the Balfour Declaration. While French policy was always to protect the Christians of Lebanon and even built the Jaffa-

Jerusalem railroad, which is still in existence in Israel today, Pryce-Jones said, "Zionism offended France. The Quai d'Orsay (the Paris equivalent to the US State Department or the UK Foreign Office) was openly hostile to the Balfour Declaration. Many French diplomats were obsessive anti-Semites."

In fact, in 1920, the top Middle East French diplomat made disparaging remarks about the first British High Commissioner to Palestine, Sir Herbert Samuel, describing him as having been "scrapped clean from the ghetto."

In contrast, according to Pryce-Jones, "British foreign policy was more realistic. Zionism was just a very small component of the British colonial plan. Many British diplomats were pro-Jewish."

Even French literary figures between the wars such as the esteemed anti-war playwright Jean Giraudoux (*Tiger at the Gates*, *Ondine*) portrayed Jewish characters in a totally negative light. His colleague Paul Claudel began life as a militant antisemite. But Claudel had second thoughts following the revelation of the Holocaust, which he described as "an event like no other."

"Haj Amin al Husseini, the mufti of Jerusalem, who led the Palestinian Arabs from the 1920s to the 1940s, was a war criminal, who said that the Arabs must kill all of the Jews," stated Pryce-Jones. "He fled to Baghdad, and then to Berlin, where he consorted with leading Nazis from Hitler himself to Eichmann. After the war, he fled to Switzerland, who handed him over to France, who gave him

royal accommodation (despite British attempts to arrest him) before sending him back to the Middle East on a TWA plane. He was the forerunner to Yasser Arafat.

"France did all it could not to recognize Israel in 1948-49. There were only three pro-Israel diplomats in a sea of diplomatic hostility. One French diplomat, Louis Massignon, who dressed as a Muslim, openly campaigned against Israel."

French attitudes towards Israel became friendlier during the 1950s, "when France saw Arab nationalism in North Africa as a common threat. Then, France formed an alliance with Israel and sold arms to Israel."

Pryce-Jones saw the British-French-Israeli Suez campaign of October 1956 as the peak of this friendship.

"The Suez campaign was a good idea but it failed. Had it succeeded, the Middle East would have been today a far more stable area."

"French friendship to Israel abruptly ended with the first president of the Fifth Republic, Charles de Gaulle, who realigned with the Arabs, openly stating: 'There are very few Jews and many Arabs.'"

DeGaulle then made a racist remark about Jews in 1967, calling Jews 'domineering and aggressive.'

"Since 1967, every French president, from Pompidou to Giscard d'Estaing to Mitterrand to Chirac has followed deGaulle," said Pryce-Jones.

"France was the first country to give the PLO under Arafat proper recognition. France let Arafat do anything he wanted to do. There was constant French

diplomatic promotion of Arafat, who thanked 'Dr.Chirac.' Chirac also propped up Saddam Hussein. France built Saddam's Osirak atomic reactor which Israel destroyed in June 1981. France supported Saddam through thick and thin. France also received the first Iranian Ayatollah, Ruhollah Khomeini, when he was plotting the revolution against the Shah. France was the only western country who would accept Khomeini. When, under pressure from Iraq, to whom France was selling arms, France finally sent Khomeini home to Iraq, Iranians in revenge started murdering people in France."

As France, since the deGaulle days and the independence of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, accepted multitudes of Arab immigrants from North Africa, the Arab-Jewish conflict erupted between these millions of Arabs and France's long-established Jewish population of 600,000. France now has the largest Arab population in Europe: six million, or 10 per cent of its total population. Since the Arabs openly call for Israel's annihilation and since the Arabs in France regard the Jews as representatives of Israel, they have conducted a war against the French Jews.

According to Pryce-Jones, "There are 12 attacks on Jews every week in France. Some of these are particularly horrifying." He gave two examples: (1) the eyes of a Jewish disc jockey in Paris were gouged out; and (2) the vicious 2005 murder of Ilan Halimi in Paris.

"He was tortured for three weeks, then burned to death. The police said that his murder



Author David Pryce-Jones was at the recent Jewish book Fair.

was merely an act of vandalism."

Needless to say, much of the French-Jewish population see no safe future in France, and are leaving, mainly for Israel.

Beginning in October 2005, Arabs rioted in the housing projects on the far north side of Paris. This intifada, as defined by the French police, continues to this day in many other French cities. "The Arabs burn 100 cars every day in France." Such intifada-style terror is now extending far beyond the Jews. The bombing of a Marseille bus, in which a black woman suffered burns to more than 80 per cent of her body, is just the latest example of this intifada.

Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy wants a crackdown on the intifada, while Prime Minis-

ter Dominique de Villepin favours appeasement. But appeasement only whets the wish by extremists to wreak further havoc on France with the ultimate goal of turning France into an Islamic state, Pryce-Jones believes, adding that a backlash against the Arab intifada is developing in France, as well as throughout much of Europe, and that Sarkozy has a good chance of winning the next French presidential election in 2008.

"What is needed is there to be a political will (as a result of the backlash) to end this centuries-old French attitude of accommodation to the Arabs (and other antisemitic elements). Sarkozy has this political will, and if elected, he will make a difference."

## Expressive brilliance acknowledged – after poet's death

By Rick Kardonne  
Tribune Correspondent

Osip Mandelstam was Russia's greatest poet of all time. He was Jewish and a victim of the Stalin purges after he wrote a poem which was a veiled criticism of Stalin in 1931, which did not even mention Stalin by name.

Now, 66 years after his death, there is an international revival of Mandelstam's brilliantly expressive poetry, including in his homeland of Russia. One of the world's foremost anthologists of Mandelstam, Rafi Aaron, who lectured on Mandelstam in October 2004 at Russia's second-ranked institute of higher learning, the University of St.Petersburg, led a tribute to Mandelstam at the Leah Posluns Theatre on Nov. 12 as part of the 30th Toronto Jewish Book Fair. Rafi Aaron's book on Osip Mandelstam, entitled *Surviving the Censor*, is published by Seraphim Publishers of Hamilton.

This tribute consisted of readings in Russian of Mandelstam's poetry by Eduard Zinoviev and the singer Mila Kanev, whose expressively dramatic interpretations captivated the audience, most of whom did not know Russian. Aaron then read English translations of the same poems. The readings were set to a live musical background provided by cellist Daniel Domb, for many years the Toronto Symphony Orchestra's first cellist. He was accompanied on classical guitar by Carey Domb.

Aaron said that during the Stalin years in the Soviet Union, "artists either were silenced or they became state-controlled puppets." Mandelstam was one of the very few who refused to toe the Stalin Communist line. His 1931 thinly veiled criticism of Stalin is a lament of the pain inflicted by Stalin's dictatorship, but it is not the slightest bit offensive in any way. Some sample verses, which Aaron read, are as follows: "There is something deep inside me: always tears, destroyed notes."

For that, Mandelstam and his wife Nadezhda were taken to the

See *POET*, page 11.

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## 2006 JEWISH BOOK FAIR

# Professor tells why he's a Zionist

By Shlomo Kapustin  
Tribune Correspondent

Most days he can be found at McGill University in Montreal lecturing on American history, proud of the academic objectivity he has cultivated as a professor and scholar.

Recently, though, at the Jewish Book Fair in Toronto, Gil Troy doffed the professorial hat and donned the activist one for his talk, *Why I am a Zionist – Now More than Ever*, sponsored by Tel Aviv University, which is celebrating its 50th year. It is a role he relishes no less than his more scholarly one. "I bring the passion of the amateur," he said. Also, as a professor who bristles at imposing his viewpoints on students, he finds the opportunity to share his views on Zionism liberating.

The likable Troy (*Maclean's* has repeatedly designated him as one of McGill's "Popular Profs"), author of *Why I am a Zionist: Israel, Jewish Identity and the Challenges of Today*, regaled the crowd of about 100 with his vision of Zionism and its advocacy.

The impetus for the New York City-born, Harvard-educated Troy's reflections on Zionism came from what he saw as the "defensiveness" of the Jewish community when it comes to Jewish nationalism. He became frustrated with the plethora of books defending Zionism from countless accusations, but the dearth of those that simply took pride in it. His article *Why I am a Zionist*, pub-



MCGILL PROFESSOR GIL TROY

lished in the *Montreal Gazette* in 2001, was a precursor to the book.

To his brand of Jewish nationalism, he affixes the term 'Identity Zionism' (as in, a pursuit that doesn't define itself in terms of its attackers, but whose nature emerges as an organic outgrowth of its identity).

For Troy, Zionist expression is more about celebration than verbal combat in service of the movement (and the state), although he does exercise that activism muscle, as well. He therefore also titles it 'Positive Zionism.'

In Troy's search for Zionism's meaning, he decided to "go back to the original Zionists." Those thinkers were more concerned with anti-semitism, and sought Jewish nationalism as its panacea. This issue, Troy says, wasn't overly pressing back in 2001, when his search first began. No, for Troy, the needs that Zionism can fill are existential ones: the challenges of thwarting assimilation, teaching values and building a sense of community. And these, indeed, are the issues his students face at university.

There is a nugget of common sense here, and Troy makes no bones about it: "I am a utilitarian Zionist," he says. Zionism need not be a "one size fits all" proposition; each individual can find their own meaning in its embrace, and human beings only adopt a belief system if it suits their needs.

Ultimately, though, Troy's novelty is his 'accentuate the positive' vibe. Still, he insists his optimism does not cast him as a Pollyanna. He believes in "acknowledging the challenges (in Israel), but not forgetting its many blessings." Some of these blessings are oft-cited – Israel's liberal democracy is a case in point – but Troy also had a surprise in store.

"Israel won the war," he said, referring to the recent conflagration in Lebanon. "Prior to that raid," he continued (speaking of the Hezbollah initial kidnapping of Israeli soldiers), "Israel had accepted a status quo that was unacceptable." Now, however, the issue is on the world's radar.

Also, Troy said, "the Hezbollah headquarters were flattened... and their embankments destroyed." Israel's attacks were also "relatively surgical; in the context of the ugliness of war, Israel showed a certain morality."

Relating to that "ugliness, many terrorists were killed," and Israel's casualties were relatively minimal. In fact, the "kill ratio" was between 7-12:1 in Israel's favour.

Finally, Israelis opened up their homes to their countrymen and displayed a vibrant national spirit in the process.

The cherubic professor whose cup always seems half-full, though, acknowledges that 'Identity Zionism' requires tempering with 'gevalt (or crisis) Zionism.' The trick, he says, is "to both celebrate and defend."

## Mandelstam 'never lost faith in power of his poetry'

POET cont. from page 10.

Lubyanka prison in central Moscow, the headquarters of the secret police (then called the NKVD) and then they were both sentenced to three years in internal exile, outside of the Siberian town of Voronezh. There, he wrote about the "dark and damp, bleak skies," and amidst the icy long winters, felt "buried under glass." He felt like a "man without a body." One of his poems describes his sensation of constantly falling: "I fell through the veins of my country," like "the wings of a seagull without a body."

After their release in 1935, all professional doors in the USSR were closed to the Mandelstams, according to Aaron. Such was the fear of Stalin that many writers burned their own books to prevent being discovered as being subversive. Noting this phenomenon, Mandelstam wrote a poem entitled *When Manuscripts Burned*. In fact, Nadezhda memorized all of her husband's poems and frequent newspaper articles, which he wrote before 1931, so that even if his poetry was not available in writing, she would make it available through memory.

Aaron stated: "Osip Mandelstam never lost faith in the power of his poetry."

Following the readings, Aaron told the *Jewish Tribune* how Mandelstam died.

"After his release, he was soon sent to a sanatorium for 'rehabilitation.' There, he was re-arrested and sent to a Soviet camp near Vladivostok, on the Pacific Coast, where, in 1939 he died. His death was officially listed as 'heart failure.' But his heart failure was probably brought on by the long haul of forced exile and official ignorance of his work."

More than 50 years later, in January 1990, just before the collapse of the Soviet Union, Mandelstam's voice was finally officially heard in Moscow. And 54 years after his death, in 1993, an uncensored version of Osip Mandelstam's poetry finally was published in Moscow. Today, Mandelstam is highly recognized both in Russia and worldwide. Rafi Aaron's book *Surviving the Censor* has become the authoritative guide to the long-oppressed work of this poetic genius.



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## NEWS

# Iran-Israel war within a year, political analyst predicts

By Rick Kardonne  
Tribune Correspondent

A war between Israel and Iran, with possibly other allies joining in against the ayatollahs, is a distinct possibility within the next year, predicts Brooklyn-born Israeli political analyst Yossi Klein-Halevy.

He made this prediction when he spoke at Holy Blossom Temple last Wednesday night to a capacity audience in the main sanctuary. His address, which concluded a two-week speaking tour throughout North America, also included a speech at York University the following day.

Klein-Halevy, although a member of the Brooklyn Jewish Defence League in his youth,

was identified as a dove in Israel for many years. No more.

He quoted Ephraim Sneh, a cabinet minister in the Israeli government, who recently said: "If Iran acquires the atom bomb, then Israel is finished. The present Iran regime is contemplating a nuclear war against Israel. Many Israelis will send their kids overseas to escape an atomic war."

Klein-Halevy agreed, saying that a possible war against Iran is the most dangerous crisis Israel has faced since the founding of the state in 1948.

"Sometime in the coming months there will be a crisis versus Iran," he said. "I have tried to avoid comparisons (of what Israel may or may not have

faced during its various wars) since the Holocaust. But when it comes to Iran, this is the first time ever that the Holocaust precedent needs to be invoked."

Klein-Halevy believes that sanctions against Iran would not work because to do that they must be all-comprehensive, supported by every nation around the world, and he thinks that this worldwide political will, for reasons of business and oil interests, is absent.

To win a war against Iran, he said that the present Olmert government has to fall as soon as possible. He felt that the Olmert government's behaviour during the Hezbollah war was grossly incompetent.

"Not since May of 1967 (just

before the Six Day War) has the Israeli public been more militant than its leadership. Even Yossi Beilin, the most famous dove in Israeli politics, wrote in the mass-circulation daily *Ma'ariv*, that rather than bombing Beirut, we should be bombing Damascus.

"By the last week of the war, *Ha'aretz*, the most leftist Israeli daily, demanded that the army impose its will on the government of Olmert; in other words, stage a soft Putsch (army takeover of the country). Even *Ha'aretz* was adamant, stating that the Hezbollah war was the worst assault on the Israeli home front since 1948. 'This was the first war that Israel lost' said *Ha'aretz*," Klein-Halevy said.

"(Ehud) Olmert and defence minister (Amir) Peretz should have resigned," proclaimed Klein-Halevy. The Hezbollah war has triggered, in his words, "the moral collapse of the Israeli political system. The latest poll gives Olmert only 7 per cent popular support. Peretz has no military experience. Peretz claimed that he hadn't known that there were Hezbollah missiles in Lebanon pointed at Israel."

Klein-Halevy had harsh words for President Moshe Katsav, who is under judicial investigation for alleged sexual harassment of female employees.

"Katsav was minister of tourism before he was appointed president: not a qualification for the presidency. Katsav is the symbol of Israeli ethics today. He has turned the...presidency, a symbol of honour, into a laughing-stock. When Olmert visited Moscow, Russian President Vladimir Putin made Katsav jokes. Katsav must resign!"

Klein-Halevy believes that "Olmert has provided us with

the opportunity to confront ourselves. The culture of political expediency, which got Olmert, Peretz and Katsav into office, is no longer acceptable to the Israeli public. While he believes that the Air Force did a pretty good job in the Hezbollah war, he also believes that IDF Chief of Staff Dan Halutz blundered. These blunders are now being exposed by the various military and government inquiry commissions into the war. One of the generals being investigated, Gal Hirsch, has already resigned. "Dan Halutz opposes Hirsch's resignation, because he fears that he will be next," said Klein-Halevy, adding that everybody involved must admit to mistakes in judgment, and that includes himself. He favoured the Oslo accords of 1993 and the Gaza withdrawal. Now, he admitted, the pullout from Gaza and the Oslo accords were disastrous mistakes.

"The experiment with unilateral withdrawal is over. We paid a very high price. (The day before he spoke at Holy Blossom, a Qassam rocket fired from Gaza killed a Sderot woman). Israel is fighting a two-front war, in Gaza and Lebanon. Unilateral withdrawal from the West Bank means facing a war of missiles hitting Tel Aviv and Jerusalem as well."

Now, Klein-Halevy favours maintaining the status quo in Judea and Samaria (West Bank). "Israel's 250,000 citizens in Judea and Samaria are of prime strategic interest, as well as living in the Jewish historical and Biblical heartland."

He declared that "(PA President Mahmoud) Abbas did nothing to rehabilitate the Palestinian Arab refugees in Gaza. He kept them in misery, waiting for final status negotiations, which would mean the Arabs going 'home' to Israel, which would destroy Israel. The premise of the Oslo process has failed. The Palestinian Arab leaders want more to destroy Israel now than ever before. They don't want a 'two-state solution.' Hamas' goal is not a Palestinian-Arab state. Rather, it is the resurrection of the medieval Islamic caliphate with Jerusalem as its capital."

He thinks that the Olmert government will fall sooner or later, citing coalition tensions (he cannot imagine the nationalist hardliner Avigdor Lieberman and the Meretz concessionists cooperating much longer).

He also believes that the results of the various inquiries into the Hezbollah war will provoke public outcry for Olmert and Peretz to resign, forcing new elections. When that happens, Klein-Halevy expects a wall-to-wall national unity government to conduct what he believes will be an inevitable and necessary pre-emptive war against Iran.

Yossi Klein-Halevy believes that the Air Force will be able to defeat Iran - which has no air force - but that the price will be very heavy.

"We could see Iranian sophisticated missiles striking Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, causing considerable loss of life and property." But he predicts that the US, and possibly Europe, will fight on the side of Israel.

"Iranian President (Mahmoud) Ahmadinejad has warned Europe that it is in range of Iranian missiles."

Should such a war happen, Klein-Halevy predicts that Diaspora Jews could be the object of a severe backlash by not only antisemitism but multitudes of 'peace' groups. But he said that "the Diaspora Jews must be treated as grownups" and meet the challenge in solidarity with Israel. We're all on the front line against evil."

Klein-Halevy concluded his speech by invoking Tikkun Olam: "Not only does Tikkun Olam command us to commit acts of goodness; it also asks us to commit acts one must do to resist evil. In the coming months, Iran will present a challenge to all Jews. Jews will be supporting pre-emptive military action against Iran. There can no longer be a division of labour between Israel and the Diaspora, in which Israel fights and the Diaspora supports with money. The Jewish response has been and will be versus Iran: 'How can we get more involved?'"

## UN should censure Palestinian terrorists not Israel, Olmert says

Israel rejected a United Nations resolution deploring Palestinian deaths in a recent artillery barrage on the Gaza Strip.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Sunday that it is Palestinian terrorists, not Israel, that deserve the General Assembly's censure. He was responding to an Arab-drafted resolution condemning Israel's Nov. 8 shelling of Beit Hanoun, which killed 19 civilians, and calling for a probe and an immediate Israeli troop withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

"We have no doubt that it is the state of Israel which must respond to attacks on civilians," Olmert told his cabinet. "But those who preach morality and roll their eyes have yet to see fit to initiate a resolution in condemnation of those who are shooting with the goal of hitting civilians as a long-range, systematic policy."

It was not immediately clear whether Israel would cooperate with any UN probe of the Beit Hanoun deaths.

## Alex Grossman, 87, leaves very large shoes to fill

Alexander E. Grossman, who died at 87 last Friday at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, was respected for his profound commitment to numerous Jewish causes, including State of Israel Bonds, Jewish National Fund, Shaare Zedek Hospital, United Jewish Appeal, Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care and the Canadian Friends of Massuah. (The Massuah Centre, located in Kibbutz Tel Yitzhak, teaches youth and adults about the Holocaust.)

Pearl Gladman, national director of B'nai Brith's Centre for Community Action, recalled that "B'nai Brith Canada worked with Alex on several Teachers' Holocaust and Hope Missions. His passion was contagious. A lifelong member of B'nai Brith, he was



ALEX GROSSMAN

generous with both his advice and his funds. He will be sorely missed."

Grossman's sense of responsibility towards Israel and the community were balanced by family values, says Elan Levitan, national marketing director of State of Israel Bonds in Toronto. When, in 1975, Grossman was asked by Kurt Rothschild to become chairman of the organization, his immediate response was that he would first speak to his

wife. He realized the effect that the time devoted to such a position would have on his family. Three days later, he accepted. Grossman's commitment was so deep and so passionate that he became known in the community as "Mr. Israel Bonds."

Alex and Genia, Holocaust survivors, came to Canada in 1950. In partnership with Abraham Bleeman and the late Joseph Silver, Grossman founded Belmont Construction, which became one of Toronto's top real estate companies.

Grossman leaves his wife Genia, children Lili Birenzweig and George and Kitty Grossman, grandchildren Yoram, Haley, Leora, Sam, Justine and Elissa and great-granddaughter Eva.

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## EDUCATION

# Thornhill Student Exchange: A teaching tool with Judaic roots

By Shawn Michael Shapiro  
Tribune Correspondent

Fresh-eyed young pupils eagerly walked into the Thornhill Chabad Flamingo building last Monday at the same moment their nervous yet aptly prepared and excited teenaged counterparts were ready to teach.

The knowledge of school studies, Judaic studies and a sense of strength and pride would be sprinkled evenly in the minds of the children over the next one and a half hours. The program they were all clamouring for was the start of the year-long, second annual Thornhill Student Exchange (or the TSX as it is fondly known in most circles and among members).

The program is offered for a fee and pairs a child with a high school-aged mentor for the duration of the school year. The 90-minute time block is split up so that some time is allotted to studies and some to social development.

"Basically the mentors and students bond, which is very positive," said Rabbi Schmulik Nachlas, director for the program since its inception. "One of the special features is that most programs are focused on just children, or just teens. This is a unique combination where both are targeted, which is meaningful."

Andrea Kumer, is one of many on the TSX committee, and is very positive.

"It is definitely a study-work-in-

progress, and is very rewarding – the kids teach me!" she said with a grin from ear to ear.

"I really wish they had this program or one similar to this when I was a child," beamed returning tutor Melissa Perez a Grade 12 student at nearby Westmount Collegiate Institute. "We are their (the children's) mentors. We have been trained and interviewed properly." When asked why she is back for round two, she has a simple answer. With a smile, she replies, "My child from last year is my student again. I am back for her."

As the class promptly begins at 6 p.m., the kids excitedly open their books and start chattering with their tutors who in turn are learning much

more than people realized. The parents quietly shuffle out of the classroom to let their children have the full experience and talk freely to one another about the program as a whole.

Tilda Roll whose son Cameron was one of the children in last year's flagship program said her son was completely fulfilled by the program last year, and that he not only saw his mentor Ari as a teacher but calls him his friend when talking about him.

Talia Ganz explained it was her daughter's first time trying out this program and had a great feeling about it.

"Not only is she excited about this special way of learning," said Ganz. "I am so excited someone else will be helping out with the homework."

Student Jared Birers' mother Karen was quick to point out the creativity and positive effect of the program, while Tanya Hutchen's was happy with the great learning aspects as well as the great social effects in a safe environment.

The program, which usually runs Mondays from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. is packed with tutors and students, but the rabbi, with a smile, said, "We will always try to make room, we have the facility to grow."

With a strong committee, dedicated tutors, excited students and devoted parents, this program looks as if it just might have the legs to ride strongly into the future and help new generations of students and mentors grow.



Karen Birers, mother of Jared (above), talked about the creativity and positive effect of the program,



PHOTOS: SHAWN MICHAEL SHAPIRO

Students and mentors get down to work at Toronto Student Exchange.



Mothers of some of the program's students talk about the program as they wait for their offspring to finish.

## A never-ending story

Fifty years ago, a young Israeli scientist took part in the discovery of a chemical process, that now forms the basis of multi-billion-dollar polymer and nanotechnology industries. And the discoverer? He still wears sneakers and shorts.

Polymers are molecular 'trains,' composed of identical small molecules, or 'cars,' linked one after the other in a long chain. Creating a polymer, like writing a story, has three stages: beginning, middle (addition of molecules to the chain) and end (the end of production). Fifty years ago, Prof. (then Dr.) Moshe Levy, working in the laboratory of Professor Michael Szwarc in the US, found a way to prevent the third stage from taking place – creating polymers that continue to grow longer, as long as they are supplied with new 'cars.' Using the story-writing analogy, one could say that he managed to find a formula for creating a never-ending story.

The inventors called these chemical chains "living polymers." One of their features was that all chains growing in the same system reached the same length. As the scientists could control this length by altering the building block supply, they were able to control the polymers' physical properties. During the past 50 years, this discovery turned into a fundamental principle underlying the plastics and synthetic rubber industries. It has also provided the momentum for developing macromolecular architectures and various nanotechnology applications.

Levy started out in 1946, working as a technician in the laboratory of Dr. Bruno Rosenfeld, in what was then the Daniel Sieff Research Institute. Dr. Chaim Weizmann granted him an Institute scholarship to study at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. However, Israel's War of Independence broke out two months into his studies, and Levy was called to serve in the Haganah, a pre-state Jewish defence organization. After the war, he completed his studies at the Hebrew University and transferred to the laboratory of Szwarc at the State University of New York at Syracuse, where he received his doctoral degree and went on to post-doctoral research. Szwarc, a winner of the presti-



Professors Joseph Jagur (left) and Moshe Levy

gious Kyoto Prize, and considered one of the greatest physical chemists of all times, had studied at the Hebrew University under Moshe Weizmann, Chaim Weizmann's brother. Thus, Szwarc and Levy were both far from home when they first discovered the living polymers. Levy decided to pack his belongings and go back to Israel. His work in the US on living polymers was carried on by another Israeli – then postdoctoral fellow Dr. Joseph Jagur. Both scientists eventually joined the Weizmann Institute, where they carried on their research for many years.

Profs. Jagur and Levy, who have recently retired, still work in the Weizmann Institute's Perlman Building, continuing to develop new ideas and carefully documenting the basic discoveries that have since become the province of industry. Jagur has written three books on this topic. The third, published several months ago, is dedicated entirely to living polymers and the magic of a never-ending story.

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## RECIPES/BOOK REVIEW

## A gourmet feast – that's light on the calories



**Gloria Guttman**

Another cold month is here, and winter is fast approaching. My excitement for cooking and sharing continues, especially in November when I like to entertain. My goal nowadays is to lessen the quantity, never the flavour nor the nutritional value – and still create a gourmet feast, with not too many calories. Here's to joy at your table!

### November Dinner Party Menu

*Roasted red pepper and goat cheese-stuffed zucchini cups*

*Butternut squash soup*

*Boston lettuce salad, with mandarin orange sections and slivered almonds sprinkled on top (with Brianna's Poppy Seed Dressing)*

*Osso Bucco*

*Mango Sorbet, with fresh Mango slices, sprinkled with fresh Blueberries*  
Recipes are shown here for roast-

ed red pepper zucchini cups, Butternut squash soup – which I made, for the first time on Nov. 7 and it was delicious, if I may so – and Osso Bucco.

#### Roasted Red Pepper and Goat Cheese-stuffed Zucchini Cups

2 zucchini (about 8" long)  
1/2 cup drained roasted red bell pepper (from a jar)  
1/3 cup coarsely crumbled goat cheese  
2 tablespoons toasted pine nuts  
1 teaspoon minced fresh oregano  
freshly ground pepper to taste

Preheat broiler. Lightly oil a shallow baking sheet or pan. Trim and discard Zucchini ends. Cut Zucchini crosswise into 3/4-inch thick slices. Using a Melon Baller, scoop out the centre of each slice leaving a thin shell. Steam shells or microwave, covered in a single layer, with 2 tablespoons of water for about 2 minutes. Drain upside down on paper towels.

Stir together the remaining ingredients. Taste and adjust the seasoning. Place Zucchini cups onto sheet or pan, mound stuffing onto each. Broil about 4 inches from the top of broiler for about 3 minutes until the cheese is lightly browned. Serve warm. (Makes about 16)

#### Butternut Squash Soup

3 tablespoons of grapeseed oil  
6 cups 1/2 inch cubes peeled and seeded butternut squash  
1 cup chopped onion  
2 chopped shallots  
1 cup chopped celery  
1 small granny smith apple, peeled, cored and chopped  
6 cups vegetable broth or chicken broth  
1 tablespoon honey  
1 cup apple cider  
2 sprigs of fresh thyme  
1/2 teaspoon black pepper  
1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt  
1/2 teaspoon allspice  
Chopped parsley

In a large pot over medium high temperature, heat oil. Add the squash, shallots, and celery and sauté until softened, about 10 minutes. Add the apple, allspice, broth and cider. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to medium-low. Cover and simmer until vegetables are tender, about 30 minutes. In a food processor, puree the soup in batches. Return the soup to the pot. Thin soup with additional broth, if desired. Season with salt, pepper and allspice. Adjust seasonings, if necessary. (Serves 6-8)

#### Osso Bucco (with Lemon Gremolata)

8 thick slices veal shank, each tied with a string  
Salt and pepper  
All purpose flour  
2 tablespoons of olive oil  
2 tablespoons of earth balance butter (or parve margarine)  
2 medium onions, finely chopped  
1 stalk celery, finely chopped  
10 baby carrots  
2 teaspoons minced garlic  
1 cup dry white wine  
1 cup of chicken stock  
1 can (28oz.) tomatoes, drained and chopped  
2 whole fresh basil leaves or a 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme  
1/4 cup chopped parsley  
2 bay leaves

Lightly sprinkle veal shanks with salt and pepper on both sides. Coat with flour, shaking off excess. In a large skillet, heat oil over medium-to-high heat, and brown veal on both sides until juices are contained. Set aside. In same pan, melt (parve) butter, add onions, carrots, celery and

garlic. Sauté until softened, 5-10 minutes. Then in a heavy pot, add the cooked onions, carrots, celery and garlic. Now you may add the wine, soup stock, tomatoes, basil, thyme, parsley and bay leaves. Stir to combine and pour over veal in a heavy pot. Season again to taste. Cover and cook, on top of stove, or in an oven, like a stew, slowly, for a few good hours until tender, basting occasionally. Remove bay leaves before serving. This is lovely on a bed of fluffy mashed potatoes.

#### Lemon Gremolata (Can be readied the day before, as well as the veal)

1 tablespoon grated lemon zest (you can use lemon rind)  
1 clove garlic minced  
1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley

In a bowl combine lemon zest,

garlic and parsley. When veal shanks are tender, remove string and place on platter. Spoon sauce over meat and sprinkle with lemon gremolata. (Serves 8).

*Tip: If you prepare ahead of time, entertaining can be a breeze. You might even get rave notices.*

The recipe for Osso Bucco may be found in my book *Cooking Kindness Heroes in the Kitchen*, which may be purchased from Indigo/Chapters stores, or by calling (416) 440-7999, or toll-free 1-866-230-3269.

*Net proceeds from Cooking Kindness are donated in support of the Israel Cancer Research Fund.*

## Much mother-daughter wisdom between these covers

### I Am My Mother's Daughter

By Iris Krasnow  
Basic Books, 2006  
223 Pages, \$25

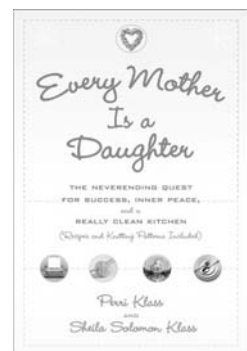
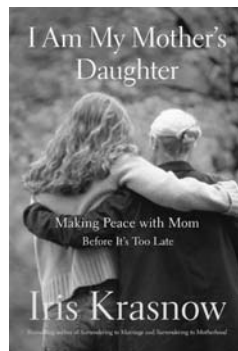
### Every Mother Is a Daughter

By Perri Klass and Sheila Solomon Klass  
Ballantine Books, 2006  
320 Pages, \$33.95

### By Morton Teicher

Tribune Correspondent

The terms used to describe troubled family relationships include marital discord, sibling rivalry, Oedipus complex, and Electra complex. There is no special designation for mother-daughter difficulties although Iris Krasnow's book records many stories in which this relationship is often filled with anger, hostility, and resentment. Oscar



Wilde tried to capture the nature of the problem between mothers and daughters when he wrote, "All women become like their mothers – that is their tragedy; no man does – that's his."

The Jewish mother has been depicted positively in a Jewish maxim: "God could not be everywhere, so he invented mothers." She has also been mocked as a domineering, controlling person.

While Krasnow tends to stress the negative aspects of mother-daughter relationships, Perri and Sheila Klass, mother and daughter, highlight the warmth and loving-kindness in their association. Taken together, the two books offer insights that may be helpful to mothers and daughters, enabling them to avoid some destructive pitfalls.

The Klasses have skillfully collaborated in writing what are in effect their autobiographies. Stress is placed on the nature of their generally happy interactions. Their contributions alternate and are labelled as coming from one or the other. Sheila is a 77-year-old widow who taught writing for many years at the Manhattan Community College. She grew up in a poor Orthodox Jewish home in Brooklyn. Sheila has published numerous books and has three children. Perri is Sheila's oldest daughter; she is a pediatrician, also has three children, and has authored both fiction and non-fiction books. Although Sheila lives in Manhat-

tan and Perri lives in Cambridge, Mass., they see each other often and enjoy being together.

Krasnow's mother, a Holocaust survivor, is now 85. For many years, they had a difficult relationship to the point where Krasnow "felt that I hated my mother." Now, that her mother is ill and confined to a wheel chair, there is much less hostility between them. Seeing each other is difficult since Krasnow lives in Annapolis, Maryland, and her mother in Chicago. However, she visits frequently and has managed to mend fences. Her experiences led her to collect stories about mother-daughter relationships from other women and her book offers vignettes about these links. The presentations are interspersed with Krasnow's reflections about her own relationship with her mother and with the lessons she has learned. Perhaps the most important one is that to avoid remorse when it is too late, anger has to give way to compassion and reconciliation. Increased life expectancies means that today's adult women are indissolubly bound to their aging mothers for many years until they die. This provides opportunities for making peace.

*Dr. Morton I. Teicher is the Founding Dean, Wurzeiler School of Social Work, Yeshiva University and Dean Emeritus, School of Social Work, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.*

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## NEWS

# There's no place octogenarian Marv Levy would rather be



Buffalo Bills' GM and VP of Football Operations Marv Levy couldn't be happier about his situation today (left) and back in his coaching days when he brought Buffalo to six AFC East titles and four consecutive Super Bowl appearances.

By Jack Borenstein  
Tribune Correspondent

After being inducted into Pro Football's Hall of Fame in 2001, one would think Marv Levy would relax and enjoy life. Instead, he has taken on a new challenge in a sport he has been immersed in all his life.

Levy is general manager and vice president of football operations of the National Football League's Buffalo Bills, where he achieved his greatest success as a head coach 15 years ago.

The 81-year-old was born and raised in Chicago and participated in basketball, track and field, as well as football, earning varsity letters in all three sports at Coe College in Iowa. After serving in the Army during World War II, Levy earned an English Literature degree and a subsequent Masters degree in English History from Coe College and Harvard University, respectively. He attended law school, but there was a part of him who always had great admiration for college coaches.

"Based on a local coach's suggestion, I transferred out of law school after a few weeks and became involved in a sport that was steeped in my blood."

After a few years as an assistant in Iowa, Levy became head football coach at the University of New Mexico, University of California and College of William and Mary. He began his professional coaching career in 1969 as kicking team coach for the Philadelphia Eagles. Despite being special teams coach in Los Angeles and Washington, he missed being a head coach.

J.I. Albrecht was a US college scout, and gave Levy his first professional head coaching job with the Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian Football League in 1973.

"I always had great regard for the late Sam Berger, who was team owner at the time. He was an individual with great integrity, and sense of humour. Our fans were passionate at the old Autostade. When the team moved to Olympic Stadium in 1976, there were 70,000 people in the stands and that passion grew leaps and bounds."

After winning two Grey Cups in his five Montreal years, Levy received several NFL offers. He was head coach of the Kansas City Chiefs for five years, beginning in 1978. After a couple years away from the sport, Levy coached Chicago in the USFL for one year. Bill Polian was an Alouettes scout when Levy was there, and had become general manager of the Buffalo Bills. Polian hired



him in mid-1986, which began a legacy of continuous success that has been unrivalled by NFL coaches since. His intelligent and analytical play schemes, including the no-huddle offence, led the Bills to six AFC East titles and four consecutive Super Bowl appearances.

Levy said Buffalo was different from NFL cities that had other sports.

"There was no professional (major league) baseball, basketball or major college football in Buffalo. Bills fans are very passionate and supportive, which was uplifting for all of us at the time."

While it was tough to come back after crushing and disappointing Super Bowl losses, Levy said the streak "was a testament to the football program. Our players had an intelligence, work ethic and resilience that was unmatched in the history of sports."

After a 112-70 regular season won-loss record over 12 seasons, Levy left the Bills in 1997 tied with George Hallas as being the oldest active NFL head coach. He enjoyed the first year away from the game travelling to Europe, and worked on a book. He subsequently worked with FOX-TV Sports in Chicago, NFL.com, was a television analyst on Bills pre-season games, had various education and corporate speaking engagements and devoted a couple hours each day to exercise.

Levy spoke with Bills owner Ralph Wilson a few times each year, analyzing the status of the team.

"In January 2006, Mr. Wilson asked who would be a good GM for the team, and I gave him three of four names. He asked 'what about you?' After a couple of moments, I informally accepted his offer, and asked for 10 days to think it over and discuss it with my wife."

Levy learned a great deal from past Bills General Managers Polion and the late John Butler, and said it would not be his policy to be intrusive or micromanage.

"I had complete confidence and respect in team scouts and our director of player personnel who knew a lot more than me about draft-eligible collegiate players."

Bills Head Coach Mike Mularkey surprised Levy by resigning, shortly after he was on board. It forced him to immediately start interviewing for a replacement and after speaking to many capable candidates, selected Dick Jauron as the new head coach.

"Jauron is on the same wavelength as our staff," Levy said. "He has a great work ethic, and an innate ability to teach and bring out the best in our players."

With a 3-6 record at press time, the Bills are a definite work in progress. Levy said quarterback J.P. Losman is a great athlete, and the Bills are discovering how he adjusts to adversity.

"It will be interesting to see how Losman matures and progresses. He needs to be his own person, and will be encouraged to develop his personality as a leader."

Levy likes reading non-fiction books and travelling to Europe and maintains a steady exercise regimen.

"I'm having a lot of fun on the job, and have no timeline for leaving. The scenario is much like my (2004) book titled *Where Else Would You Rather Be?*"

Levy has never shirked challenges. No one is better suited to return the Buffalo Bills to success than the guy synonymous with the glory days of the franchise.

Jack Borenstein can be emailed at [j\\_borenstein@hotmail.com](mailto:j_borenstein@hotmail.com).

## Milton Friedman dies at 94

Nobel Prize-winning economist Milton Friedman died at 94. He succumbed to heart failure in San Francisco last Thursday.

Born in New York City to Jewish immigrants from what is now Ukraine, Friedman was the youngest of four children. He developed some of his early economic theories while working for US President

Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal.

Friedman helped found the Chicago school of economics, which believed that government should have a reduced role in the economy, outside of regulating the monetary supply to control inflation. His work earned him the Nobel Prize in economics in 1976.



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# PROJECT NORTHERN RECOVERY

## Repairing the Unseen Scars

Dr. Chava Ankor is an expert on psychological difficulties among children within Israel's education system. And her skills were certainly tested during this summer's war with Hezbollah.

The war, she says, psychologically affected at least 30% of northern Israelis. One young patient still stutters even though the war is over. Another becomes hysterical when her mother suffers one of her ongoing panic attacks. Many children are constantly listening for sounds of a siren. Often the symptoms are unseen and some may not even show up for two years.

Dr. Ankor's patients are among the reasons for **Project Northern Recovery**, the next phase of **UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2007**.

Through your generosity, we're helping northern Israel's children make the transition from trauma to recovery.

**Project Northern Recovery** is also helping to finance a reinvigorated **Fund for Victims of Terror**, providing loans for small businesses on the brink of bankruptcy, and developing an initiative that will encourage northern families to stay in the area.

As Dr. Ankor knows so well, the emergency facing northern Israel is far from over and critical needs remain.



If you have yet to make your campaign commitment, please call 416.631.5705 or visit [www.ujadonations.com](http://www.ujadonations.com)



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