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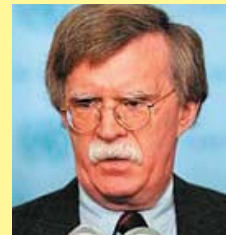
  
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## Bolton to step down

John Bolton, a staunch defender of Israel at the United Nations, resigned as US ambassador.

The White House said Monday that Bolton would step down once his recess appointment ends.

US President George W. Bush had given Bolton the position in August 2005, but his nomination was blocked in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The appointment will expire by early January, though Bolton may step down earlier. Most major US Jewish groups broke with tradition to endorse Bolton, who in addition to his support of Israel is a strong opponent of Iran's nuclear drive.



**JOSH BOLTON RESIGNS**

# JEWISH TRIBUNE

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## Jewish community looks to Dion's future positions

By Daniel Smajovits  
 Tribune Correspondent

MONTREAL – It took four ballots and 2,521 votes, but last Saturday night, delegates from across Canada elected Stéphane Dion as the new leader of the Liberal Party. The mandate of the new Liberal leader begins with many questions from the Jewish community on how his previous statements on Israel will translate into policy.

Dion completed his improbable jump from fourth to first place by narrowly edging out his competition through each ballot. The pivotal moment occurred when Gerard Kennedy threw his support and his delegates behind Dion after the second ballot, vaulting Dion from third place to first over long-time frontrunner Michael Ignatieff.

"We congratulate Stéphane Dion on his campaign victory and look forward to working with him in his new role as leader of the Liberal party," said Gerry Weinstein, national president of B'nai Brith Canada, and



Stéphane Dion, with ecstatic family and friends, becomes federal Liberal leader with a convincing victory over Michael Ignatieff on the weekend.

Frank Dimant, executive vice president of B'nai Brith Canada, in a joint statement.

"We look forward to continuing our positive working relationship and to cooperating on priority issues of concern to the Jewish community. Foremost amongst these issues is the safety and security of our Jewish community, and indeed all Canadians.

"We hope that the Liberal Party under the helm of Stéphane Dion will strengthen

the party's commitment to countering anti-terrorism, and demonstrate strong support for democratic Israel – in keeping with 21st century realities."

B'nai Brith Canada officials attended the Liberal Party convention for discussions with delegates and candidates.

Looking back on the convention, Michael Mostyn, director of government relations for B'nai Brith Canada, believes that the election of Dion will be beneficial for relations between

Canada and Israel. Dion is on record as denouncing Hezbollah and Hamas as terrorist organizations and criticizing the actions of the UN Human Rights Council and its resolutions against Israel. He has also said that he does not believe taxpayers' money should go directly to a government led by Hamas.

"Stéphane Dion," said Mostyn "has always had a good working relationship with B'nai Brith in the past.... We recall hosting him at a special leadership dinner

at our national offices in Toronto when we introduced him to Jewish community leaders."

Mostyn believes that Dion, along with the Liberal Party, will continue to work with B'nai Brith on pertinent Jewish issues such as security. "I think the important thing is that we all work together for the right causes," he said, noting that the 2004 Talmud Torah school bombing took place in Dion's riding so the expectation would be that the new leader would be particularly sensitive to these

issues.

Mostyn said that B'nai Brith will work alongside Dion on the ever-changing issues.

"B'nai Brith is all about working with the candidates and the future is always in flux...things are always changing," he said. "We'll be there to work with him and do the best thing, do the right thing by Israel."

Jordan Glass, a delegate from Sudbury and a Bob Rae supporter, hopes that Dion will surround himself with people who will guide him when it comes to Israel.

## Haniyeh, Ahmadinejad meet

Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad vowed to see Israel eliminated. Hamas leader Haniyeh met with Ahmadinejad in Qatar over the weekend. An Iranian news agency quoted Ahmadinejad, who has stepped up support for Hamas in a bid to offset a Western aid embargo on the PA, as saying that "there is no doubt the Palestinian nation and Muslims as a whole will emerge victorious." Ahmadinejad also predicted: "The continued commission of crimes by the Zionist regime will speed up the collapse of this fictitious regime."

Haniyeh thanked Ahmadinejad for his country's support. "The Iranian nation's brilliant stand in the rightful battles of the Palestinians encourages them and signifies their deep understanding of Islamic principles," he was quoted as saying.

## 'What is this, Nazi Germany here?': Rabbi

JERUSALEM (Arutz-7) – Arab marauders smashed up a Talmud Torah in the northern city of Acco (Acre) over the Sabbath, painting Arabic graffiti and swastikas on the walls, destroying furniture, and scattering holy books.

The latest and gravest escalation in the struggle between Jews and Arabs in the mixed city of Acco, between Haifa and the Lebanese border on the Mediterranean coast, occurred this past Friday night.

Rabbi Avraham Shushan, a rabbi at the school at which the vandalism occurred, said that a worshipper who arrived for early Sabbath morning prayers was the first to discover the destruction: "He saw the lights on and the windows broken. He went in and the sight shocked

him. All the walls had swastikas, and the Arabic words 'Hamas' and 'Allahu Akbar' (Allah is great). Destruction all over – it looked like Sodom and Gomorrah.

"The vandals went into the classrooms, dumped over the equipment, turned over the principal's office, and threw the Torah books in all directions. They took expensive equipment worth thousands of shekels. The worshipper went by foot to the police and called them to come, which they did.... He told me about it on Saturday night, and I called Rabbi Yashar, the rabbi of Acco. He came and cried out, 'What is this, Nazi Germany here?'"

Rabbi Shushan said that in his 30 years in the city, he had "never experienced an Arab

pogrom like this one.... I don't know what's going on here."

Several days ago, a band of Arab youths attacked and cruelly beat a Jewish girl. Six months ago, local Arabs burned trees standing at the entrance to the Talmud Torah, and during the recent Simchat Torah holiday, Arabs surrounded students from the local Yeshivat Hesder (who combine Torah study and army service) and threatened them, until one student was forced to fire in the air to disperse them.

Knesset members of the National Religious Party-National Union visited Acco a month ago, warning of the deterioration in the city. The police claimed at the time that the violence and clashes were of a criminal, not nationalistic nature.

"When we toured the city a

month ago," MK Uri Ariel said Monday, "it was claimed that we are provocateurs and looking for trouble. This pogrom in the Talmud Torah proves that the bitter reality is that in the year 2006, antisemitic pogroms take place in sovereign Israel. The police in Acco must give an accounting as to how it is that Arab rioters feel free enough to carry out such a despicable act. We won't allow the police to evade its responsibility.

"We have no illusions," Ariel said. "We know what the Arabs are trying to do. They have composed a new Declaration of Independence, and they want to change the (Israeli) flag and anthem. The Arab citizens understand the trend, and they

See ACCO, page 13.



### Congratulations, Mr. President!

Canadian Moishe Smith was installed Monday night as the new B'nai Brith International president, the first non-American to hold the position. See full coverage in next week's Jewish Tribune.

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## ANTI-ISRAEL PROTESTS



About 150 people came out to support the Canadian Arab Federation protest in Toronto on Saturday.

## Canadian Arab Federation protests Israel in 4 cities

By Doris Strub Epstein  
Tribune Correspondent

Palestinian flags — black, white and green, with the lateral red triangle — flapped in the bitter, cold wind in front of the Israeli Consulate on Bloor Street in Toronto last Saturday. They were part of carefully orchestrated demonstrations across Canada, organized by Palestine House and the Canadian Arab Federation (CAF) for an 'International Day of Solidarity With the People of Gaza.'

In Winnipeg, Vancouver and Montreal similar demonstrations were taking place. About 150 people showed up in Toronto.

CAF, established in 1967, describes itself as a "national, non-partisan, non-profit and membership organization, representing Canadian Arabs on

issues relating to public policy."

In 2002, when the Canadian government announced they would ban Hezbollah in Canada, the CAF came out against the ban — calling Hezbollah "a legitimate Lebanese political party."

Only a week before, members of Palestine House woke up to find that the centre had been vandalized with graffiti — a large Star of David had been spray painted near the door of Palestine House and the words 'Jews + Nazi = Palestine' carved into the ground of their parking lot. Although this was clearly an anti-Jewish message, the centre has claimed that the incident was directed against their community in the context of a "rise in racist, pro-Zionist organizations."

## 20 brave cold to protest 'attacks on Gaza'

By Martin Zeilig  
Tribune Correspondent

WINNIPEG — A group of about 20 parka-clad individuals, some carrying placards or holding a banner, on a bitterly cold, wind-whipped afternoon found themselves on the steps of the Manitoba Legislature here last Saturday during a rally in support of 'The International Day of Action to Stop the Attacks on Gaza.'

In Winnipeg, it was sponsored by Peace Alliance Winnipeg, Canada-Palestine Support Network — Winnipeg, and Jews for a Just Peace-Winnipeg. Similar rallies, sponsored in part by the Canadian Arab Federation, were held in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. There were also rallies in the US, Europe and Israel.

A fragile ceasefire is in place, but Palestinians in Gaza continue to die and suffer as a result of the untold destruction of the past six



About 20 very cold protesters rally against Israel in Winnipeg.

months, noted a flyer handed at the rally: "Over 400 people have been killed, mostly civilians. Countless homes, hospitals, and schools have been turned into rubble. Demonstrate to help keep the ceasefire in place and to stop the cycle of violence that threatens us all."

No mention was made of the Kassam rockets that continue to pound Israeli cities such as Sderot from Gaza, killing and injuring Israeli citizens.

"There is too much killing and bloodshed going on. It's time for it to stop and to look for more constructive solutions," said Bassam

Hozaima, a social services worker in Winnipeg, who was born in Gaza City and moved to Canada in 1972.

"Any solution to the conflict needs to take into account, the needs of the Palestinian people for self-government and self-determination. Palestinians, Israelis and Jews can live in peace and harmony. There's no need for this tragic state of oppression and violence. The Israeli government has to make peace first with the Palestinian people (in the West Bank and Gaza) and then with the rest of the Arab world," said Hozaima, a speaker at the rally.

## Photographer swarmed at anti-Israel protest

By Sean Shapiro  
Special to the Tribune

Today (last Saturday) I attended yet another protest in front of the Israeli Consulate in Toronto coming a week after spray painting of 'Jews + Nazis = Palestinians,' along with a Star of David, on the wall of the Palestine House in Mississauga, which protesters blamed on the Jewish Defense League.

There were about 150 people in attendance and upon my arrival, protesters bearing Palestinian flags immediately swarmed me; some covered their faces to mask their identity.

They surrounded me holding their flags against me, blocking my ability to move and photograph their event. They yelled out, calling me a Zionist Racist Jew and suggested that I was a member of the Jewish Defense

League. They crowded and pushed from all sides in an attempt to intimidate and end my photographic mission.

During this attack a dozen protesters with cameras took my photograph, which added an ominous undertone to the experience.

With a smile I turned around and simply looked at the police who were on scene and shrugged, this is also universal for "so what am I supposed to do now?"

Officers immediately came to my aid and instructed the mob to back off so that I could move. What I found most interesting is that I saw the organizer of this peaceful protest being consulted throughout this scene, suggesting that these aggressive actions met with his approval as he smiled at me.

Once I removed myself from the situation, I was approached by two women, one of whom was holding a sign that read, 'I'm the child of Holocaust sur-



Jewish protester supports anti-Israel rally.

"It's a country in the Mideast and it has to exist there and needs to make peace with its neighbours."

No mention was made of the conditions for peace set out by the UN, which requires the recognition of Israel's right to exist.

Daniel Thau-Eleff, a member of Jews for a Just Peace, said it's important for Jewish people to speak out against the occupation and against Israeli violence.

"We need to make it clear that this is not an issue of Jews versus non-Jews. There are no natural reasons for Jewish people to support violence against Palestinian civilians. And, if we want the violence to stop, we need to speak out against it," added the actor/director, playwright and drama teacher.

There was no call for Palestinians to abandon their terrorist activities against Israel, as a precursor to peace.

vivors. They taught me NEVER-AGAIN to anyone." They yelled, "Here you want a picture? Take this and bring it back to your people."

Tired of these games I moved to another vantage point to continue coverage, which got boring and increasingly cold so I went to a coffee house close by for some hot chocolate. Once I had warmed up, I headed back to the consulate and my car only to see that the crowd had dissolved and there were only a handful left. One protester, the same one who had led the swarming earlier and now armed with a flag-pole sans flag, swore at me as he passed.

I asked him what his issue was with me and he replied, "I know all about you and your organization, you should all die and burn in hell."

I smiled, wished him well and continued on my way amazed at how hated I was and all I did was take some photos!

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## NEWS

# Actors union holds major meetings on Yom Kippur

By Rick Kardonne  
Tribune Correspondent

Canadian Actors Equity conducted two major annual meetings – during which union officers are chosen – on Yom Kippur this year. The union executive did not issue an official response regarding a member's concern over holding the meetings on Yom Kippur.

Last year, the Toronto Musicians Association president, in a formal written letter, apologized for holding a nomination meeting on Rosh Hashanah.

Canadian Actors Equity represents professional stage actors across Canada.

The poor scheduling came to light after Equity member Lindy Papoff's letter to the editor was printed in the union publication, the *Equity Newsletter*, in its November 2006 issue. Here's what she wrote:

"Dear Equity:

"I would like to know how, with the very large membership of Jewish people involved in Equity, that BOTH the National AGM (Annual General Meeting) and the SM (Stage Managers) all-candidates meeting convened on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement (*capital letters a direct quote from her letter*), THE HOLIEST DAY OF THE JEWISH RELIGION. I personally am not particularly religious (though I would never attend or do any work-related venture on this day) but that is certainly not the point as it is a matter of respect and honour and indeed pride in cultural heritage, and the forced alienation and non-inclusive attitudes, this scheduling represents.

"While I certainly realize that as Canada's ethnic and cultural diversity grows, so do the number and

diversity of holy days throughout the calendar year.

"For an association that not only represents its membership but also works to promote tolerance, acceptance and celebration of cultural-ethnic diversity, this 'scheduling oversight' is at the best inexcusable and at worst blatantly anti-semitic.

"At the recent 'meet the candidates' meeting I attended, one of the major concerns addressed was to the lack of attendance at membership meetings. In scheduling the National General Meeting on Oct. 2, you have virtually cut off the entire Jewish population of membership from attending the meeting. Is this what Equity is all about, or how it intends to move in the future?

"I thank you for your time and consideration.

"Lindy Papoff, Equity Member."

The letter was followed by an *Editor's Note*, presumably written by Lynn McQueen, editor of the newsletter. It said:

"Equity attempts to avoid scheduling meetings in conflict with religious holidays, but this is not a guarantee. Times for meeting are generally chosen by elected members in concert with Equity's staff. The primary considerations when planning meetings is the work schedule of the membership."

The *Jewish Tribune's* request to interview Canadian Actors Equity Executive Director Susan Wallace

was rejected.

McQueen told the *Jewish Tribune* that the (above-quoted) *Editor's Note* constituted the official response by Canadian Actors Equity to the matter raised by Lindy Papoff's letter.

In a followup phone interview,

Papoff said that most Equity meetings are held on Mondays, when very few Equity members are working in stage productions, adding that Yom Kippur in 2006 fell on a Monday. She believes that this scheduling was "not malicious" and a "sincere oversight."

Still, she said, "If it was Christmas or Easter, they wouldn't have done it. They have Jewish people in the office," so Equity should know the Jewish calendar. "They should have even stopped and thought about it. Could they (Equity) not have tried a bit harder?"

## Hezbollah launches mass protests

JERUSALEM (JTA) – Hezbollah launched massive protests aimed at toppling Lebanon's Western-leaning government.

Thousands of protesters loyal to the terrorist party gathered last Friday in central Beirut, where Prime Minister Fouad Siniora was protected in his office by hundreds of police and soldiers.

Hezbollah, which launched a war against Israel this summer, left the cabinet ostensibly because Siniora refuses to grant the party veto-wielding powers.

Such powers would prevent Siniora from taking steps to disarm Hezbollah's militia and keep it from being armed by its Syrian and Iranian backers; it also would stymie investigations of Syria's suspected role in a spate of assassinations of anti-Syrian figures.



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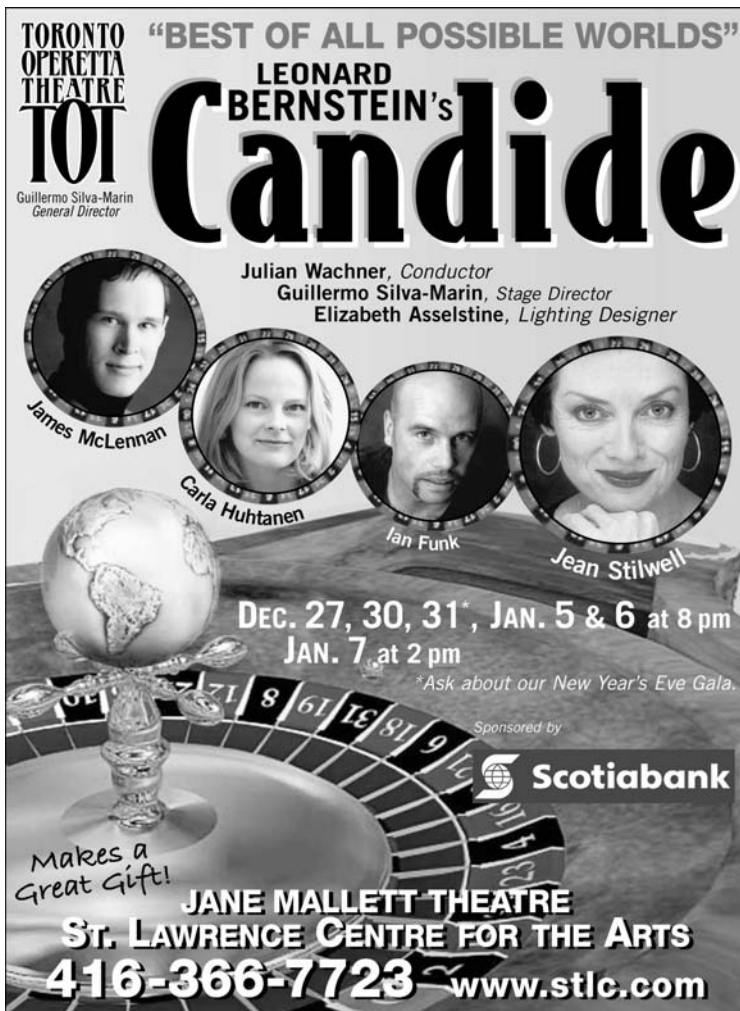
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## COMMENTARY/LETTERS

# There is no excuse for Columbia's Nazi links



**Rafael Medoff**

Columbia University has responded to revelations about its past ties to Nazi Germany – by claiming that everyone was doing it. That's a poor excuse for forging warm relations with the most evil regime in human history.

The controversy began last month when new research by Professor Stephen Norwood of the University of Oklahoma revealed that:

- Columbia invited Nazi ambassador Hans Luther to speak on campus in 1933 (about Hitler's "peaceful intentions") and university president Nicholas Murray Butler hosted a reception for him;
- Columbia continued student exchanges with Nazi-controlled German universities in the 1930s, even after a Nazi official characterized German exchange students as "political soldiers of the Reich";
- Columbia sent a delegate to a celebration at the University of Heidelberg in 1936, even after it had been purged of Jewish faculty members, instituted a Nazi curriculum, and hosted a burning of books by Jewish authors; and
- Columbia permanently expelled student Robert Burke after he led an anti-Nazi rally outside President Butler's mansion.

There are, of course, different ways that an institution might respond to such revelations. For example, when Professor Laurel Leff revealed, earlier this year, that leading US newspaper publishers and journalism schools refused to help German Jewish refugee journalists in the 1930s, the Newspaper Association of America apologized and agreed to publicize the findings.

Columbia is trying a different approach: circling the wagons.

Columbia Provost Alan Brinkley told the online journal *Inside Higher Ed* (Nov. 27): "If the events that Prof. Norwood describes are examples of 'collaboration,' then the collaborators include many thousands of leaders and citizens of the United States, Britain, and many other nations."

In other words, "Everyone-was-doing-it, so don't blame us."

Considering some of the other unsavoury things that "many thousands" of people did in those days, one wonders if Columbia's provost has really thought about the implications of his position. For example, if a researcher were to find evidence that Columbia officials tried to forge relations with the Ku Klux Klan in the 1930s, would the fact that "many thousands" of people were associated with the Klan absolve Columbia of criticism?

The fact is, however, that not everyone was doing it. There were universities that built friendly relations with the Nazis, but there were others that took a morally appropriate stance.

While Columbia insisted on maintaining its student exchange program with Nazi Germany, Williams College terminated its exchange program.

While Columbia sent a delegate to the 1936 celebration at the Nazi-controlled University of Heidelberg, leading British universities refused to do likewise, and 1,000 Columbia students and faculty signed a petition opposing Butler's plan to send a delegate.

While Columbia's President Butler strongly defended Harvard University's invitation to Nazi professors to

take part in its tercentenary celebration, Albert Einstein (then a professor at Princeton) boycotted the celebration because of the Nazis' participation.

While there were university presidents who were indifferent to the persecution of Jews by Hitler, there were others who did the right thing. Dr. Frank P. Graham, president of the University of North Carolina, helped arrange faculty positions for Jewish refugee scholars, testified before Congress in favour of legislation to grant haven to refugee children, and was active in the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe (the Bergson Group), which lobbied for US action to rescue Jews from Hitler's genocide. The fact that there were "many thousands" of people in North Carolina who were hostile to Jews (and who kept re-electing the extreme nativist Robert Reynolds to the Senate) did not deter Graham.

And while Columbia permanently expelled student Robert Burke for criticizing Butler at an anti-Nazi rally, no other American university is known to have expelled student critics of Hitler.

A respected institution of higher learning should not be teaching its students that immoral conduct is in any way mitigated by the fact that "many thousands" of other people did it, too. Our universities are looked upon as exemplars for our society, and they, therefore, bear a moral responsibility to speak out against injustice, regardless of what others are doing.

Brown University in Rhode Island has shown the way by recently acknowledging its past ties to slavery and taking steps to make amends such as constructing a memorial to slaves and establishing a centre to study slavery. It is not too late for Columbia to do likewise – that is, to admit that its friendly relations with Nazi Germany were wrong, and to grant Robert Burke the degree he would have earned had he not been unjustly expelled seven decades ago.

*Dr. Rafael Medoff is director of The David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies, www.WymanInstitute.org.*

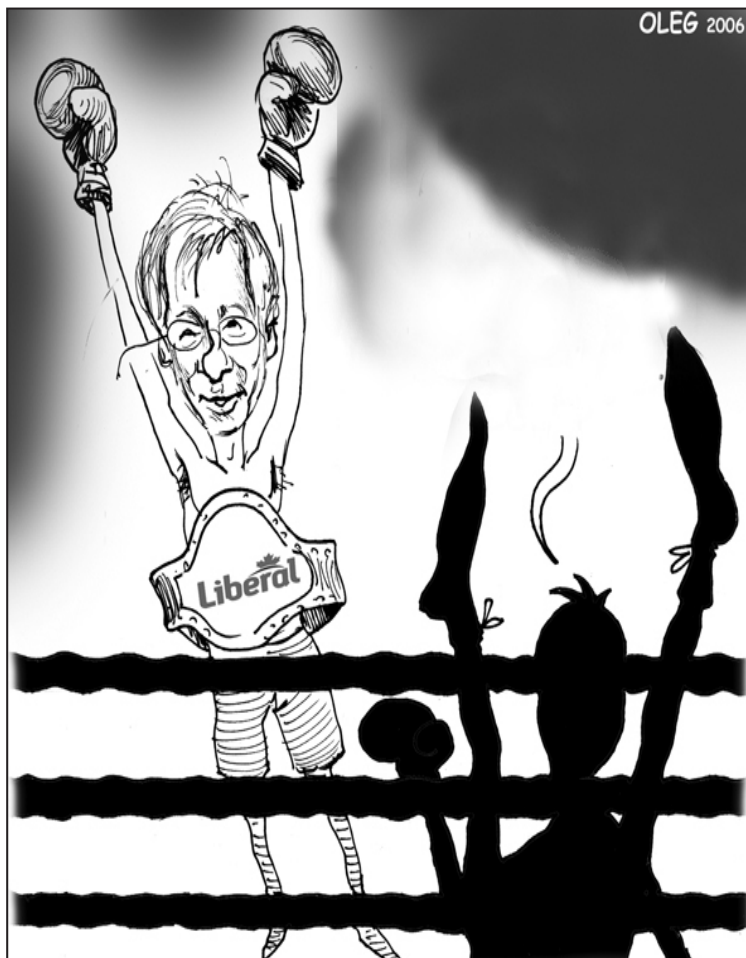
## Ban full-face head coverings before it's too late, reader pleads

*The following open letter was sent last week to Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day.*

I am hoping that the Canadian government will be one step ahead of itself, when it comes to further debate on religious head coverings. There is no question that coverings of the head (in any way) do not contribute to threats to our safety; but surely the line must be drawn to those who might publicly cover their entire face (except for their eyes). How could law enforcement possibly work effectively, if this was allowed under freedom of expression?

If we aren't one step ahead of ourselves on this issue, i.e., legislatively, Canadians could face a security problem on a huge scale. I am very concerned about this issue; as once public coverings are allowed, there would be no turning back without grave consequences. We should therefore legislate now, before it's too late.

*Name withheld  
Thornhill, ON*



## Coverage praised

I want to comment on two articles from the *Jewish Tribune's* Nov. 23 issue.

My husband and I attend a weekly class at York, and so were able to witness the promotional activities and preparations for the recent anti-Israel rally there.

Since I wasn't present at the rally, I counted on the *Tribune* to report on this event. I wasn't disappointed; it is important that our community be aware of the disturbing activities taking place at York, which is now a hotbed of fomenting hate towards Israel.

I was present at the recent *yahrzeit* memorializing Meir Kahane. The program details were described well in Atara Beck's article. I'm pleased that the *Tribune* covered this annual event.

Thanks to Atara for a job well-done!

*Anna Mae Belmont  
Toronto, ON*

## Letter writers

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

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

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## NEWS

# Dissent crushed MYTH: 'A unity Palestinian government will reinvigorate peace process'

By Adam Brodsky

NEW YORK — Muslims are often accused of not speaking out sufficiently against terrorism. Nonie Darwish knows one reason why: Their fellow Muslims won't let them.

Darwish, who comes from Egypt and was born and raised a Muslim, was set to tell students at Brown University about the twisted hatred and radicalism she grew to despise in her own culture. A campus Jewish group, Hillel, had contacted her to speak there last Thursday.

But the event was called off.

Muslim students had complained that Darwish was "too controversial." They insisted she be denied a platform at Brown, and after contentious debate Hillel agreed.

Weird: No one had said boo about such Brown events as a patently anti-Israel 'Palestinian Solidarity Week.' But Hillel said her "offensive" statements about Islam "alarmed" the Muslim Student Association, and Hillel didn't want to upset its "beautiful relationship" with the Muslim community.

Plus, Brown's women's centre backed out of co-sponsoring the event, even though it shares Darwish's concerns about the treatment of women. Reportedly, part of the problem was that Darwish had no plans to condemn Israel for shooting Arab women used by terrorists as human shields, or for insufficiently protecting Israeli Arab wives from their husbands.

In plugging their ears to Darwish, Brown's Muslim students proved her very point: Muslims who attempt constructive self-criticism are quickly and soundly squelched — by other Muslims.

"Speaking out for human rights, women's rights, equality or even peace with Israel is a taboo that can have serious consequences" in the Arab world, Darwish says. In part to drive home that point, she wrote a book, just out. Its title says it all: *Now They Call Me Infidel: Why I Renounced Jihad for America, Israel, and the War on Terror.*

Darwish argues that her own community — in the Middle East and in America — is hostile to criticism, even from Muslims. After 9/11, she says, many in Egypt refused to believe that Muslims were responsible. Instead, they blamed "the Zionist conspiracy."

From her childhood in the '50s, she's seen seething animosity towards Jews, Israel, America and non-believers generally pervert her culture. "I

asked myself, as a Muslim Arab child, was I ever taught peace? The answer is no. We learned just the opposite: honour and pride can only come from jihad and martyrdom."

In elementary schools in Gaza, where she lived until age 8, Darwish learned "vengeance and retaliation. Peace," she says, "was considered a sign of defeat and weakness."

An event in 1996 inflamed her longstanding frustration with her community. Her brother suffered a stroke while in Gaza, and his Egyptian friends and relatives all agreed: To save his life, he needed to go to Hadassah hospital in Jerusalem, not to Cairo. Even though they had spent their lives demeaning Israelis — and boasting of Arab supremacy.

Hadassah saved her brother's life; understandably, her appreciation for Jews and Israelis grew. Today Darwish preaches not only the almost embarrassing lengths to which Jews go to seek dialogue and peace, but also their cultural, political, scientific and economic contributions.

Such notions from anyone in the Arab Muslim world are indeed rare. But Darwish isn't just anyone: Her father was killed by Israelis. Yet she doesn't blame the Jewish state — for her father was Lt. Col. Mustafa Hafaz, an Egyptian who headed one of the modern world's first terrorist groups, the anti-Israel fedayeen in Gaza.

Hafaz's terrorists killed hundreds, maybe thousands, of Israelis in cross-border attacks. Of course, the Israelis fought back. Darwish realized that Egyptian ruler Gamal Abdul Nasser, who controlled Gaza, had sent her father to a certain death.

Hafaz became a shahid — a martyr for jihad — and that bought Darwish's family great status. She'd rather have had her father alive.

Darwish's message is invaluable for our age. Too few Arabs and Muslims share her desire for peace with Israel, equality and cultural reform; too few speak — in their living rooms or mosques — about the need to root out radicals from among them. When one Muslim voice does raise such sentiments, it deserves to be heard. Too bad the young Muslims (and their Jewish enablers) at Brown won't hear it.

And if those values can't be espoused in America — land of tolerance and free speech — well, what hope is there for meaningful cultural change?

*This column first appeared in the New York Post. It is reprinted here by permission of the author.*

**FACT:** Israel has been hoping since the death of Yasser Arafat that a Palestinian leader would emerge with the vision and courage to pursue peace negotiations. The hope was that Mahmoud Abbas was that leader. However, he has proven over the last two years to be unable to control the Palestinian Authority, and he is, therefore, incapable of negotiating any agreement that Israelis could expect to be implemented.

The election of Hamas further undermined the position of Abbas, and worsened the overall situation of the Palestinians as the international community has withheld most of its financial and political support for the PA unless and until Hamas agrees to recognize Israel, end its campaign of terror and agree to fulfill past agreements signed with Israel. Though Abbas has repeatedly offered to form a unity government with Hamas, and said that it was prepared to meet those conditions, Hamas has adamantly refused to do so.

As recently as Sept. 21, Abbas told the UN General Assembly that a Hamas-Fatah government would recognize Israel. Hamas denied this, however, and Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh reiterated his opposition to recognizing Israel's right to exist and reasserted the Palestinians' intention to continue their "resistance." Haniyeh also urged moderate

Arab countries not to support US policy just as Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was meeting in Egypt with Arab allies in an effort to revive the road map (*Ha'aretz*, Sept. 23; *Jerusalem Post*, Sept. 21 & Oct. 3).

The only way that a unity Palestinian government can become a partner for peace is if the Hamas half of the government effectively ceases to reflect the core values of the organization expressed in its covenant, which calls for Israel's destruction.

For now, the Palestinians cannot even make peace among themselves. Fatah's al-Aksa Martyrs Brigades threatened to kill all of Hamas' leaders, including Haniyeh, and 11 Palestinians were killed and more than 150 were wounded in battles between the rival Palestinian groups (*Jerusalem Post*, Oct. 3). In addition to either instigating the violence or being unable to stop it, Abbas has also failed to secure the release of the Israeli soldier still being held by Hamas. None of these developments inspire confidence that an Abbas-led government, unified or not, can advance the peace process.

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

## Using cucumbers to curb crime

If Nissim had followed family tradition, he would be sitting in jail. His father and grandfather were both drug dealers and petty criminals. And in ordinary circumstances, Nissim — who knew how to break and enter but not how to read and write — would undoubtedly have followed in their footsteps.

What saved the young man was a vegetable garden at the Volcani Agricultural Research Institute in Beit Dagan, not far from Tel Aviv. He was brought there by Elem, an organization devoted to helping youth in distress, which, in cooperation with Volcani, has developed a program to take kids off the streets and give them some agricultural experience. Research Institute land was allocated for the project and Volcani personnel agreed to serve as instructors without compensation.

Nissim and a dozen other youngsters spend six hours, twice a week, tilling the fields, irrigating them and eventually harvesting the melons, lettuce, cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers and other crops. Later the produce is packaged and sold, primarily to Volcani personnel, with the money going to the kids themselves. They could have earned much more peddling drugs, their likely alternative employment, but this way it is more likely that they will remain on the straight and narrow.

The youngsters in the program are from Lod and Ramle, Arab-Jewish towns east of Tel Aviv with a low standard of living and a sky-high crime rate. The participants include a number of Sabras — Jews and Arabs — as



**Nechemia Meyers**

In Israel

well as some recent immigrants. Statistics published earlier this month indicate that some one-third of Ethiopian and Russian immigrant youth never reach high school or feel part of Israeli society. Inevitably, some of the dropouts end up on the wrong side of the law.

Elem can't, or course, solve the problem on its own. But it contributes to a solution by running a variety of outreach programs all over the country.

These include, for example, clubhouses for alienated youth, and for those who need help but won't come to the clubhouses, it sends out vans with volunteers and refreshments to places where troubled young prostitutes and petty criminals gather. It also provides temporary housing for some of them.

The leaders of Elem believe that the new program at the Agricultural Research Institute is another step in the right direction.

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

## Insecticides and dope



Participants in the Elem-Volcani Program

The management of Volcani decided that the Elem youngsters should limit themselves to organic produce, cultivated without pesticides or artificial fertilizers. This is because the researchers at Volcani are doing their best to promote this kind of farming. But, as it turns out, there are unexpected secondary benefits. One of the boys in the group came up to a researcher and told him that organic farming had taught him something important.

"It shows," the youngster said, "that I'll be much better off if I don't swallow a bunch of chemicals with my food. And I'm sure the same is true if I don't swallow or inhale those drugs that are so readily available on the streets of my town."

## DIPLOMATIC ROLE FOR SYRIA AND IRAN DISCUSSED IN IRAQI CONFLICT

NEWS ITEM





## NEWS



## Israeli strike ends

An Israeli public-sector strike has ended. Airports, seaports and government ministries resumed normal operations last Thursday after the national Labour Court issued back-to-work orders to thousands of striking employees. The strike had been called last Wednesday to protest nonpayment of municipal workers. The Labour Court suspended the strike for a week while the Histadrut labour federation and Finance Ministry hold talks on a resolution. The one-day general strike paralyzed the country and garbage accumulated in the streets.

PHOTO: ISRAEL SUN

## Canada's UN voting called inconsistent with foreign policy

Canada's voting last week on a slew of anti-Israel United Nations resolutions has been characterized as "inconsistent" with the Conservative government's record on issues relating to the Middle East.

According to B'nai Brith Canada's Executive Vice President Frank Dimant, "Canada's votes (last week) in favour of an overwhelming majority of the proposed anti-Israel resolutions serve to bolster a UN system riddled with inherent biases against the Jewish state. This voting behaviour appears to contradict the principled foreign policy stance that has been charted to date by the government."

"Canada was the first of the Western countries to come forward to cut off ties with the terrorist Hamas-controlled PA government. Canada once again led the charge at the Francophonie conference earlier this year when it stood firm against those seeking to delegitimize Israel. At the UN Human Rights Council, Canada opposed a one-sided anti-Israel resolution passed just weeks ago, a resolution that never once con-

## Canada lone nay vote on anti-Israel resolutions

NEW YORK (JTA) — The UN Human Rights Council passed two resolutions against Israel. The council voted 32-1 last Monday to declare Israel's presence in the Golan Heights illegal, and 45-1 to condemn Israel's settlement construction.

Canada was the lone nay vote in both resolutions.

The 47-member council has singled out no other country but Israel for human rights abuses since the council was established six months ago.

B'nai Brith Canada immediately commended the government for returning to its principled position.

demned ongoing Palestinian terrorism against Israeli civilians.

"This apparent dichotomy between Canada's voting yesterday and its actions to date point to an inconsistency in Canada's foreign policy. It is contradictory on the one hand to vote in support of resolutions, which through their sheer weight and volume offer moral justification for groups like Hamas and Hezbollah to carry out their terrorist agenda, and on the other hand to stand on the world stage to oppose these same groups and expect other countries to follow Canada's lead."

da's lead.

"With more resolutions expected to be voted on in the coming days and weeks, we urge the government to stay its original course and take the lead in countering the anti-Israel tide at the UN and elsewhere."

Amongst the nine resolutions of the 4th Committee to negatively single out Israel, Canada voted in favour of seven of these resolutions. Canada voted against two of the resolutions, in one instance altering its abstention last year to a "no" vote this year.

## Canada working against spread of weapons, materials of mass destruction

Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay recently tabled in Parliament the annual report on Canada's contribution to the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction.

"Terrorists are intent on acquiring weapons and materials of mass destruction," MacKay said. "Canada is playing a crucial role in preventing them from accomplishing these extreme actions. The Global Partnership is taking action to ensure these weapons

and materials remain beyond the reach of potential proliferators who would use them to stand in the way of freedom and democracy. It is one of Canada's most important security programs and a key international instrument to address this threat."

The report presents Canada's accomplishments in 2005-06, including Canada's work in the Russian Federation and other countries of the former Soviet Union. It describes the destruction of chemical weapons, the

dismantlement of nuclear submarines, nuclear and radiological security, the redirection of former weapons scientists and biological non-proliferation.

The Global Partnership comprises 23 countries, including Canada, which has committed \$1 billion over 10 years to address non-proliferation, disarmament and counterterrorism.

For more information on the Global Partnership Program, visit <http://www.globalpartnership.gc.ca>.

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## PLO takes pride in being source of international terror

By Itamar Marcus  
and Barbara Crook

JERUSALEM (PMW) — As the world recoils from international terror, the PLO takes pride in the fact that it has been the source of world terror, and that terrorists around the world have copied its tactics and techniques.

It has already been noted by ter-

ror analysts that much of world terror was started by the Palestinian terrorists, and then copied by other terrorists in their own countries for their own purposes. Where the world views this with contempt, the PLO's Fatah faction acknowledges this and even takes pride in it.

Ahmed Hales Abu Maher, the secretary of Fatah in Gaza, expressed pride on Palestinian TV that the Fatah "gives daily examples" that the world has "imitated," from the participation of children in combat to the widespread use of suicide terror, all of which

started with the Fatah-PLO.

The following is Maher's statement on PA TV:

"Oh warrior brothers, this is a nation that will never be broken; it is a revolution that will never be defeated. This is a nation that gives an example every day that is imitated across the world. We gave the world the children of the RPG [Rocket Propelled Grenades], we gave the world the children stone[-throwers], and we gave the world the male and female Martyrdom-Seekers [suicide bombers]."

— PA TV, Nov. 14, 2006  
Reprinted with permission of  
Palestinian Media Watch.

## Israel releases Hamas minister

Israel has released a Hamas government minister from custody. Abdel-Rahman Zidan, the public works minister, was among Palestinian Authority Cabinet members from Hamas detained after gunmen affiliated with the terrorist group nabbed an Israeli soldier in a June 25 cross-border raid.

Zidan was released last Wednesday near the northern West Bank city of Jenin. Reuters reported. It quoted a spokeswoman for Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert as saying that Zidan was released on the orders of a military court.

## NEWS

# New Israeli justice minister brings tensions

JERUSALEM (Arutz-7) — Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has solved one cabinet problem — by appointing Tzippi Livni as justice minister — but has caused another, by passing over Housing Minister Meir Sheetrit.

Olmert yesterday filled the vacant position by appointing Livni, adding to her duties as foreign minister. The post had been filled by Chaim Ramon until this summer, when he was indicted for forcibly kissing a female soldier. Livni is to step down from the position if Ramon is cleared, but it is not clear who will assume the position should Ramon be convicted. Ramon's trial is expected to end within a matter of weeks.

By solving this problem, however, Olmert has caused another one. Housing Minister Meir Sheetrit, who was appointed by Olmert as temporary Justice Minister three months ago, is miffed that he was passed over for the permanent spot. Sheetrit's aides accuse Olmert of wanting to keep Sheetrit away from power centres, in anticipation

of a leadership race within Kadima.

"Olmert is once again acting out of political interests, and not with professional considerations," they blame. Olmert, for his part, says he replaced Sheetrit to broadcast the transient nature of the appointment and his confidence that Ramon will return, while the prime minister's aides accuse the housing minister of "betraying his friends."

Both Livni and Sheetrit have served as justice minister in the past — Livni throughout 2005, and Sheetrit from March 2001 to February 2003.

Cartoonist Shai Cherke succinctly summed up the recriminations between Sheetrit and the Prime Minister. His drawing shows Olmert primly telling Sheetrit, "You needn't try to hold fast to a job you received as a result of your predecessor's predicament," to which a steaming Sheetrit responds, "Look who's talking!" (Olmert was elected prime minister after the leader of Kadima, then-Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, entered a coma nearly a year ago, short-



New justice minister

ly before the national elections.)

The situation is embarrassing to the Israeli government from several aspects, in addition to the Olmert-Sheetrit tensions and the incident itself that led to Ramon's indictment. Ramon has charged that the trial against him was motivated by the desire of police and justice ministry elements to victimize him. Police officials admitted that they had not only wiretapped conversations during the investigation of Ramon, but had not handed them over when they should have. At least one wiretap indicated that police investigators were motivated by the desire to prevent Ramon, as justice minister, from appointing the next Chief Justice.

Rabbi Nachum Rabinovitch, dean of the Birkat Moshe Heder Yeshiva in Maaleh Adumim, responded with a stern warning, saying that the combination of egotism, hypocrisy, corruption and small-mindedness in the government is actually a danger to Israel's very existence.

"This particular Olmert-Sheetrit dispute is far from the only one of its kind. The prob-



Solving or causing problems?

lem is that it's typical of so many other similar situations — tensions between the prime minister and the defence minister and the chief of staff, and in almost every sphere we find a similar combination of egotism and hypocrisy. There is also a problem from the opposite direction: our optimism — we're so sure that 'everything will turn out OK.' This might not be such a wise approach; nothing will happen of itself, and rectifying this situation requires a real effort on our part.

"It's true that in the long run, we know that there is a large segment amongst us whose instincts are basically sound — a healthy generation is growing up based on Torah and values and trust in God and in each other; this has been growing in the past 30-40 years in a manner that holds promise for the future



Feeling slighted?

and the long-range. But in the short run, the dangers are very great indeed — not only a danger of collapsing from within, but in many ways, our enemies look at us and truly believe that we are weak and fragile, and may try to take advantage of this. Nasrallah has described us as a spider web society, and Ahmedinejad thinks we are weak — they really believe that; they don't

know about the solid core within us — and they may try to take advantage and deal us a real blow. This is a genuine security danger."

What can be done in the short run?

"What we have to do," Rabbi Rabinovitch said, "is to sound the alarm. We must not be afraid of being alarmists. We have to wake up people to realize that there is an immediate danger. World Jewry must also get involved. US Jewry has much influence with these people, and they can hold public protests against corruption and demand resignations."

"And let it not be said that this is 'meddling in Israel's internal affairs,'" the rabbi concluded. "This is not just internal affairs; it is something that is threatening our existence. And neither must we or they be afraid of speaking out publicly; this is the only way the message will be heard."

## Federation revenue tops \$161 million

UJA Federation (UJA) of Greater Toronto said last week its total revenue topped \$161 million in 2005-06 — a 71 per cent increase over the previous fiscal year.

The 2005-06 revenue figure includes gifts to UJA's annual campaign; the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, UJA's endowment arm; and to the Tomorrow Campaign, a project to build new facilities and create new services for Jewish community members throughout the GTA.

UJA ranks third, behind New York and Chicago, among the world's largest Jewish federations. It is also one of the largest not-for-profit corporations in Canada.

UJA holds \$200 million in endowment, bequest and planned giving assets at the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, a more than 800 per cent increase over the past decade. This year's annual campaign is expected to raise \$81 million.

UJA Federation's Tomorrow Campaign is aiming to raise \$250 million to create three campuses for Jewish life in the GTA. The Downtown District, serving Toronto's growing Jewish population in the city core, is anchored by the new Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre at Bloor and Spadina, and the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life at Harbord and Huron.

Central Square on Bathurst, north of Sheppard, will include, among other facilities, the new Prosserman Jewish Community Centre; a new Kofler Centre of

the Arts and the Latner Centre for Jewish Knowledge & Heritage.

The 50-acre Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus, in York Region, at Bathurst and Weldrick, north of Rutherford, is designed to provide a wealth of programs and services for York Region's Jewish community of 60,000 — the fastest growing in Canada.

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# GETTING READY *for the Holidays*

## Chanukah party at West Island JCC

MONTREAL – Kids will explore their creative side at a Chanukah part at the West Island JCC Dec. 17 from 10 a.m. till Noon – and admission is free.

There will be holiday arts and crafts with Franceen; mosaics with Sheba; menorah

decorating; holiday games; storytelling with Selina brought to you by the Jewish Public Library; sing along with 'Mr. Music'; latkes and soufganiot for everyone, and boutiques on-site for last-minute gift shopping.

Admission is free, but all

are encouraged to bring a non-perishable kosher food item.

There will be door prizes, a candle-lighting ceremony and loot bags for everyone.

For more information, please call: Jacqueline (514) 624-6750 ext. 35.

## Shedding some light on history of 100 years of chanukiah

By Joyce Eisenberg and Ellen Scolnic

PHILADELPHIA (JTA) – Just as not every pancake is a latke, not every menorah is a chanukiah.

While Chanukah commemorates the Maccabees' victory over the Syrians more than 2,100 years ago, the word chanukiah – the term for the menorah, the singular symbol of the holiday – was coined just about 100 years ago by Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, the Hebrew writer and lexicographer responsible for the revival of Hebrew as a modern spoken language.

Israelis call this candelabra a 'chanukiah,' but most Jews around the world say 'menorah' or 'Chanukah menorah.'

Menorah is a broader term that describes both the Chanukah menorah and the ritual candelabra that has been a symbol of Judaism for thousands of years. In fact, carvings on the archaeological ruin of the Arch of Titus in Rome depict Roman soldiers sacking Jerusalem in 70 CE and carrying a menorah out of the Temple.

The seven-branched menorah appears in front of the Knesset building in Jerusalem, as well as on modern Israeli coins and synagogue furnishings. Flanked by two olive branches, the symbol is also part of the national emblem of Israel.

The chanukiah features nine candle holders – for eight Chanukah candles and the shamash, the candle used to light the others. It celebrates the story, first mentioned in the Talmud, of the Maccabees entering the Temple in Jerusalem to rededicate it, finding enough pure oil to kindle the menorah for one day, but the oil burning miraculously for eight days.

Rabbis later decreed that Chanukah would be observed annually for eight days beginning on the 25th of Kislev. The holiday became known as The Festival of Lights.

Why is there a ninth candle?

Halacha demands that Chanukah candles be lit for the purpose of *pirsumay nisa*, publicizing the miracle of Chanukah. Using the lights for a practical reason – to read by, for example – would be disrespectful. But if Jews could not use the Chanukah candles for light, some other source was needed to kindle them. Thus the shamash provides the practical light for other activities, including kindling the other candles.

In keeping with the command of *pirsumay nisa*, a lighted chanukiah is traditionally placed in the window of one's home. In Israel, some houses are built with a small indentation near the front door, which may be covered with a piece of glass, specifically to display chanukiyot.

Talmudic times featured a debate over the lighting of Chanukah candles. Rabbi Shammai said all eight candles should be lit the first night, with a decreasing number illuminated each subsequent night. Rabbi Hillel believed that one candle should be lit on the first night, two on the second night and so forth.

Hillel's instructions on kindling Chanukah candles have been interpreted to mean that by increasing the number of candles, and by increasing the light each night, one increases the holiness in the world. Of course, his teaching prevailed.

(Joyce Eisenberg and Ellen Scolnic are co-authors of *The Dictionary of Jewish Words*.)



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### Salmon Mini Danishes

For some finger-food entertainment, here's a savory salmon danish with a hint of lemon and basil. A real crowd pleaser and it's healthy, too!

1 can	(213 g) Clover Leaf® Sockeye Salmon, drained	1
2 oz	chèvre-style goat cheese	.60 g
1/4 cup	finely chopped sun-dried tomatoes	.50 mL
2 tbsp	chopped fresh basil	.30 mL
1/2 tsp	finely grated lemon zest	2 mL
1/2 tsp	pepper	2 mL
1/2 pkg.	puff pastry dough, thawed (about 1/2 lb/250 g)	
1	egg, beaten	

Preparation Time : 30 min. Baking Time: 15-18 min.

• Preheat the oven to 450 F (230 C). Remove skin and bones, as desired. Blend the salmon with the goat cheese, sun-dried tomatoes, basil, lemon zest and pepper until well combined.

• Roll the puff pastry into a 12-in (30 cm) square. Cut into four squares and then cut each smaller square into four again to make sixteen in total. Brush the edges of each square with some of the beaten egg.

• Cut three, 3/4-inch (2 cm) slashes crosswise, down the centre of each square. Place a spoonful of the filling in the centre of the square so that it sits over the slashes. Fold opposite sides over the filling, one slightly overlapping the other. Lightly pinch the ends shut and place, seam-side-down on a parchment paper lined baking sheet. Brush the danishes with the remaining egg and bake for 15 to 18 minutes or until puffed and golden.

Makes 16 servings.

Nutrients per serving: About 120 calories, 8g fat, 5g protein, 7g carbohydrate, 0g fibre, 100 mg sodium.

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# GETTING READY for the Holidays

## Chanukah delights and latkes galore



**Gloria Guttman**

Let me begin with my Mother's Latkes. I remember vividly, Mama bending over an oversized cobalt blue huge ceramic bowl scraping a large potato up and down. There would be an occasional "ouch" as her knuckles would hit the grater.

Those were the best latkes I have ever had. Mama made them small then soaked off the oil on paper towels, twice. She would pack them, layer them on tin foil in empty boxes, that were all the same size.

Here is her simplistic but out of this world recipe.

### My Mama's Latkes (made easier with a food processor)

2 medium onions, peeled  
1/4 to 3/4 cup all-purpose flour  
6 large Idaho potatoes  
salt and pepper, to taste  
3 eggs  
canola oil, for frying

Process onions, until finely minced. Remove from processor and place in a large bowl. Process the potatoes in two batches, until grated.

Combine potatoes with onions, eggs, salt and pepper and just enough flour to make a batter.

Heat oil in a large skillet on medium-high heat, depending on the size and thickness you like. (I prefer them smaller and I flatten them so they will be crispier)

Fry latkes on each side until golden brown, about 2-3 minutes per side. Drain on paper towels. Place on a cookie sheet in a 200°F degree oven, while frying remaining latkes. Then I arrange them in layers and freeze them.

Reheat uncovered in a 400°F oven for 10 minutes, until crispy. Serve with apple sauce or sour cream, depending whether it is for a dairy or a meat meal.

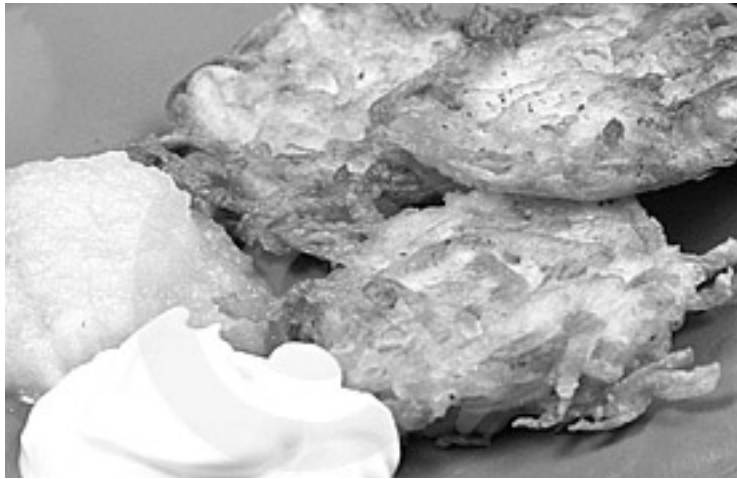
**Yield: about three dozen.**

*Tip: If you process the onions first, the potatoes will not discolor.*

### Zucchini Latkes (Try this low-carb alternative to regular latkes)

1 tablespoon olive or grapeseed oil  
2 tablespoons flour (add a little more if mixture is too loose)  
1 medium onion minced  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 clove garlic minced  
2 pounds (500grams) zucchini shredded  
1/4 teaspoon pepper  
1 bell red pepper, seeded & minced  
1/4 cup canola oil  
3 eggs lightly beaten  
Sour cream or parmesan cheese to garnish (if for a dairy meal).

Heat olive oil over medium heat in a large heavy skillet. Cook onion until tender, about 5 minutes. Add garlic, zucchini and bell pepper. Cook until zucchini softens, about 4 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat.



Sour cream when serving dairy and apple sauce when serving meat are recommended.

Drain in a strainer, squeezing out as much moisture as possible. Transfer to a bowl and stir in eggs, flour, salt and pepper.

Wipe skillet clean and heat 2 tablespoons canola oil over medium-high heat. When oil is hot, add a heaping tablespoon of batter to skillet for each pancake, flattening it with back of spoon. Fry latkes for 2 to 3 minutes on each side, until golden brown.

Drain on paper towels. Repeat with remaining batter and oil. Serve with sour cream or a sprinkling of parmesan cheese for a dairy meal.

**Yield: about 12 pancakes (4 servings)**

Alana Maksymin a nutritional chef has developed a healthy and mouthwatering Latke. I thank her for this rendition.

### Root Vegetable Latkes

1 small sweet potato, peeled  
1 raw beet, peeled  
1 large yukon potato, peeled  
2 eggs  
1/2 onion, chopped  
1/4 cup parsley, chopped  
Salt and pepper to taste  
1 cup flour

Enough oil to cover an inch high in a medium pan with high sides.

In separate bowls, grate the sweet potato, the beet (wear gloves so you don't dye your hands), and Yukon potatoes. Rinse the potatoes under cold water to get rid of the starch. Squeeze the excess water out of the potatoes. In a large mixing bowl, add the eggs, onion, parsley and use a hand blender to puree the three ingredients. If you don't have a hand blender, use a stand up blender. Add the grated potatoes to the egg mixture in a large mixing bowl. Add salt and pepper. Add the flour and combine until it is firm enough to form a pancake in the palm of your hand.

Form circle shape in your hand and place in oil. Cook until lightly brown and then flip over

and cook the other side. Take out and place on paper towel to absorb excess oil.

Serve and enjoy!

**Yield: Makes 12 latkes**

If there is any room left after having your fill of delicious latkes how about a Chanukah doughnut? I am grateful to my cousin Margolit Glazer for this Moroccan recipe called Shfinge. Her Mother Farcha Azoulay makes them every Chanukah for her family, reminding us of the miracle of the oil.

### Shfinge

1 kg. Flour  
1 teaspoon of salt  
1 teaspoon sugar  
1 tablespoon of dry yeast  
4 cups of lukewarm water  
2 eggs  
Cooking oil

Mix the salt, sugar, dry yeast, eggs and water in a bowl. Add the flour and mix the contents to produce dough. Knead the dough and let it rise for 40 minutes. Knead the dough a second time and let it rise for 15 minutes.

Knead the dough a third time and let it rise for another hour. The dough is now ready for making doughnuts.

Moisten the hands in lukewarm water and take an egg-size portion of the dough and mold it into the shape of a bagel. Then place it into a pan of hot cooking oil and fry until both sides of the doughnut are golden. Remove from the pan and use paper towels to absorb excess oil from the doughnut.

Repeat the above procedure with additional egg-size proportions of dough until you have used up the entire batter.

Sprinkle on a coating of powdered sugar or honey according to taste.

**Yield: Makes between 20 to 30 doughnuts.**

### Soufganiot (filled doughnuts) A different version of a traditional Chanukah treat.

2 1/2 cups flour

1 teaspoon vanilla  
2 cups hot milk Rind of 1 lemon  
1 oz. compressed or 1/2 cup butter (I use earth balance butter - pareve)  
2 packages dry yeast 1/4 cup lukewarm milk  
Jam for filling 6 egg yolks  
Oil for frying 2/3 cup sugar  
Icing sugar

Sift 1 cup of flour into the hot milk and beat until smooth, then allow to cool. Dissolve the yeast in the lukewarm milk, add to the flour mixture, and set aside for about a 1/2 hour. Mix the egg yolks and sugar with the vanilla and rind and add to the dough.

Then add the remaining flour and butter and knead. Allow to rise and double in bulk (about 45 minutes).

Roll out on a floured board to a thickness of 1/2 inch and cut into rounds. Put a teaspoon of jam in the centre of one round and cover with another round. Press the edges together and allow to rise again in a warm place. Fry in hot oil, drain on paper towels, and dust with icing sugar.

*Tip for Chanukah cooking: Be sure to have an adequate amount of paper towels on hand!*

*The recipes for Mama's Latkes and Zucchini Latkes may be*

found in my book **Cooking Kindness: Heroes in the Kitchen**. The book's prime purpose is to fund scientific research with the net proceeds going to ICRF for Israeli scientists.

Their research finds new drugs and cures for cancer. It may be purchased from Indigo/Chapters stores, online or by calling 416-440-7999, or Toll free 1-866-230-3269.

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## NEWS

## Capture the Dream – and win trip to Israel

*Babaganewz*, the Jewish values classroom magazine for middle-schoolers, is teaming up with Nefesh B'Nefesh, the organization that is revitalizing Aliyah (immigration to Israel) from North America and the United Kingdom.

In a contest designed to make spirits soar, students in Grades 4 through 7 are invited to create a logo for one of Nefesh B'Nefesh's summer Aliyah planes. One Grand Prize winner and a guest will fly to Israel next summer (on the plane decorated with the winning logo) for a three-day, four-night stay and will have their artwork published in the Iyar (May) issue of *Babaganewz*. Three runners-up will also be recognized and rewarded, and the first 100 entrants will receive a book about Jerusalem.

The contest began last Friday, and ends Jan. 29, 2007. It is open to students in the United States and Canada, except where prohibited. Complete rules and the official entry form (to be signed by parents) may be downloaded at [www.babaganewz.com/dreamcontest](http://www.babaganewz.com/dreamcontest).

All entries will be reviewed by a panel of judges whose decisions are final. No purchase is necessary.

Schools are encouraged to submit groups of individual entries, one per person.

*Babaganewz* publisher Michael Foilb said, "Every year we develop a contest to engage our readers and strengthen their ties to Israel. Our students have designed travel brochures, postage stamps, and greeting cards. We're delighted to be working with Nefesh B'Nefesh and know that our students will welcome this activity."

Yael Katsman of Nefesh B'Nefesh agrees. "We're always amazed at the creativity that

comes from young people when they think and dream about Israel. By collaborating with *Babaganewz*, we're not only creating awareness about Israel and the concept of Aliyah, but we will benefit from the education and insight that *Babaganewz* teachers can bring to the subject."

Contest updates and winners will be posted on [www.babaganewz.com/dreamcontest](http://www.babaganewz.com/dreamcontest) and on [www.nbn.org.il/logocontest](http://www.nbn.org.il/logocontest).

## Judy & David make history come alive for Chanukah

Judy & David take the audience on a hilarious musical journey through time, where they meet very silly characters from Jewish history. Special guests include CharActor's Kids Choir and Boomie The Boom Box.

The show is set for Sunday, Dec. 10 at 10.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. at the Isabel Bader Theatre; Dec. 16 and 17 at the City Playhouse on New Westminster Drive, with two shows on Dec. 16 at 1.30 p.m. and 4 p.m. and three shows on Dec. 17 at 10.30 a.m., 1.30 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Tickets for the Dec. 10 shows can be purchased through Ticketmaster at 416-872-1111.

Tickets for the Dec. 16 and 17 shows are on sale at City Playhouse Box Office 905-882-SHOW (7469).



Judy & David gear up for traditional Chanukah shows.

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## NEWS

# Jewish mother's life saved with new liver and kidney

## Lucky family remains determined to improve health-care system

By Atara Beck  
Tribune Correspondent

"We're not done," says Sarit Kind, one of two purposeful sisters who recently organized a successful fundraiser to raise awareness of the need for organ and tissue donations (*Jewish Tribune*, Nov. 30).

Their mother was at death's door, in dire need of a liver and kidney transplant.

The wonderful news is that Suzi Kind was fortunate to receive the new organs a couple of weeks ago and is reportedly doing well.

Suzi's daughters, Sarit and Sherry, had been working tirelessly not only to save their mother's life, but also to help the thousands of desperately ill people in



Suzi Kind (second from right), surrounded by her husband and daughters, recently received a new liver and kidney and is doing well. Her daughters, however, plan to keep pushing to improve the system.

Ontario who await transplants. The sisters had been arranging events and media interviews to enlighten the public about this important cause.

Their efforts were probably instru-

mental in the creation of the new Citizens Panel, announced Nov. 24 by the Ontario ministry of health and long-term care, to develop recommendations to increase organ donation.

"I suggested to the health minister," Sarit told the *Jewish Tribune*, "that, first and foremost, we have to educate the public. Next, we have to give people choices regarding how to go about it, including the opportunity to opt out. Then there needs to be some kind of registration system, making donor cards more accessible."

Sherry described the emotional roller coaster the family experienced since the night of the fundraising party:

"We were so exhausted on Saturday night [the fundraiser]. We woke up on Sunday to go for brunch with our parents and their friends. After brunch, we went home to relax and to get the money counted up for the Canadian Liver Foundation. The phone call came in at two from my dad, telling us Mom

has to go to the hospital for her surgery. "There are no words to describe how we felt. It was scary, exciting, amazing, etc. We were stunned, shocked, amazed, delighted and so happy."

"Our prayers have been answered, and we continue to pray that she has a full recovery and a long, happy and healthy life."

Nonetheless, Sarit and Sherry have not completed their mission to help others in need.

"My sister and I will be hosting another event in a couple of months to help raise more awareness, if the government does not take action and make changes to the system to increase organ donation," Sherry says.

According to Sarit, their mother can't wait to get better and join the action.

# Jewish community gives Dion a chance



Mike Cohen

## Quebec Confidential

MONTREAL — When I first arrived at the Federal Liberal Party Leadership and Policy convention here in Montreal last week, the many Jewish community delegates I spoke with sounded nervous. It was clear that Michael Ignatieff would win the first ballot.

"If he wins the whole thing we're toast," said one Bob Rae supporter.

Then there were people like Steven Pinkus, a party vice-president and Laval MP Raymonde Folco, who felt their presence on the 'Iggy' team would help bring people inside once the former Harvard professor won the leadership. When I met Senator Yoine Goldstein in the crowded hallways of the Palais des Congr s he insisted that if Ignatieff won the Jewish community would come around.

Interestingly, it was far more than the Jewish community that was concerned about an 'Iggy' win. Except for his die-hard supporters, people from other camps were focusing on an ABI approach — Anybody But Ignatieff. He might be a very bright fellow, but his total lack of political experience and a tendency to have the old foot stuck very hard in the mouth made him a liability. The Jewish community had still not gotten over his ill-timed remarks criticizing Israel for its actions in Lebanon this summer.

The surprise victory of Montreal area MP St phane Dion will definitely help smooth things over with the Jewish community. His strong stand against the separatists has gone over well here. And he has never made any waves regarding Israel. Can he beat Stephen Harper? That is another question altogether. Liberals are expecting an election call in late spring or early summer. Dion will not win too many seats in Quebec. Sure, he is popular in the strong federalist ridings. But the separatists revile him. He has a lot of work to do in a very short time. Harper would be well advised to have his government fall to a non-confidence vote sooner rather than later. If the Liberals manage to hold off an election until the fall, Dion has more time to organize.

Tories I have spoken to are relieved that Rae did not win. They say he represented their biggest challenge. Despite his questionable record as NDP premier of Ontario, he probably would

have been able to pick up more seats in Ontario. And he came across well in Quebec. Dion won mainly on the strength of Gerard Kennedy's support. When Kennedy dropped off the ballot he took virtually all of his delegates over to Dion. Why did Kennedy do this? Some around the convention floor speculate that he foresees Dion losing the next two elections. By this time Kennedy will have improved his French, settled in as Dion's Liberal Ontario lieutenant and given the fact he will not yet be 50 years of age be seen as the most credible successor.

In Montreal, people are wondering what the fate of former Justice Minister Irwin Cotler will be. His Mount Royal riding has the highest per capita Jewish votes in the country and for the first time since Brian Mulroney's 1984 sweep to power, the Tories have a chance here. People are still seething over the Liberal position on Israel. Ignatieff's rant prompted Cotler's wife, Ariella, to quit the party.

Cotler supported Rae. He did so hoping that a Rae victory would propel him back into his justice minister's portfolio. "I still have work to do in that portfolio," he told me a few weeks ago.

While Rae lost, 'Iggy' did not win. So that it is good news for Cotler. He has always had very good relations with Dion. His riding chief of staff, Howard



The atmosphere was electrifying, according to the delegates who attended.

Liebman, adamantly insists Cotler is not going anywhere and that he will run in the next election. Everytime I write otherwise, I get a grilling from both he and his boss. This very well may occur. Certainly Cotler's wife will be comforted that 'Iggy' is history. But what if he stays on, the Liberals win the election and 'Iggy' is named foreign affairs minister?

The lineup for Cotler's seat is long. At the convention, longtime Liberal strategist and prominent lawyer Eric Malloff simply smiled when I asked if he would be interested in the Mount Royal nomi-

nation "if" it came open. Anytime I have floated this rumour about him dating back 15 years he has stated that this was "not" part of his plans.

Then there is David Berger, the former MP for Westmount who gave up his seat to Lucienne Robillard a decade ago and was appointed Canada's ambassador to Israel. He sounded very itchy to get back in the game, prompting Folco to look him straight in the eye and say "we might need a good Jewish candidate in Mount Royal."

Jonathan Schneiderman, a former

Young Liberal president and a key party backroom strategist, is also eager for the riding.

Then there was the story of perhaps the biggest fish in the sea. Justin Trudeau was the "star" of the convention, first supporting Kennedy and then Dion. His late father Pierre, the most popular prime minister this country has ever seen, represented the Mount Royal riding. Justin is only 34. He got married less than two years ago and he and his wife have no children. But as I watched him work the room, it was clear he has caught the bug. "If we can convince him to run for us in the next election I think it could push St phane Dion to victory," one high-ranking Liberal told me.

Here is the wildcard in Mount Royal. Tory Neil Drabkin, who did quite well against Cotler in the last election, is now the chief of staff to Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day. Those credentials will look mighty fine on his resume if he decides to run again. Former B'nai Brith Quebec Region Director Robert Libman is also hinting that he might seek the nomination, but only if Cotler steps aside.

Schneiderman, who was a Scott Brison delegate, supporter and organizer, believes the party made a truly inspired choice in Dion. "Liberals have a strong federalist voice and warrior at the helm, which is good news for keeping Mount Royal Liberal and a leader who will re-brand the party to face the public's growing preoccupation with the environment," he told me.

The convention itself was a fun place to be. But let's make no mistake about it. This thing was all about the leadership race, even though it was supposed to be dealing with policy as well. When I walked into the different workshops, the rooms were virtually empty. Jewish delegates I spoke to were disappointed to see a tiny crowd in the international affairs session.

"Nobody wants to rock the boat here," said one delegate.

"Nope," agreed another, "they are just here to see who becomes the leader."

One Jewish community professional felt his presence there somewhat of a waste of time. "They should have just cancelled all of the policy forums and wait for the new leader to get settled and call one at another time," he said. "At least we get to do some networking here."

Mike Cohen is the Tribune's senior Quebec correspondent. He can be reached at [info@mikecohen.ca](mailto:info@mikecohen.ca)

# York student president sets poor example for 'Stop the Hate' campaign

By Shawn Michael Shapiro  
Tribune Correspondent

A complaint was made against York Federation of Students (YFS) President Corrie Sakaluk for reportedly making derogatory and racist remarks to a Jewish student, Tamar Tepper, who ran in the YFS elections against her last spring.

York student Adam Dembe, who knows Sakaluk through campus politics and is a friend of Tepper's from Hillel York, said, "The real issue here is that Corrie allegedly made these comments during her own YFS 'Stop the Hate' Campaign. Basically, this campaign was to help the student population become aware of prejudices at York and perhaps find understanding. Her comment made the campaign feel useless."

Tepper said, "She saw me on Adam's Facebook page (Let's Change York YFS

Elections). I was part of the YFS elections and ran against Corrie."

Tepper explained that at first Sakaluk sent her a message, gently poking fun at the previous spring's elections. That is where the enjoyment and jokes ended and the seriousness of the matter truly began. According to Tepper, that night Sakaluk sent a message to Tepper, the text of which reads: "I guess when you're a rich kid and Daddy pays the tuition fees you don't have to study part time and take longer to do your undergraduate degree. Perhaps it makes you feel good to rub your privilege in other people's faces. Maybe you could message some Palestinians and shit on them for not even GETTING a university education? How lame are they for not learning to 'move on'? \*Wink\*"

Tepper took the issue directly to the YFS and got an "apology" from Sakaluk that Tepper deemed more of a

"duty" and seemed almost like an "un-apology." She said it was like a slap in the face, making matters worse than they were. After taking the matter to the YFS council, on Nov. 15, Sakaluk wrote a final letter to Tepper apologizing in what Tepper said was very diplomatic language, carefully crafted to cause no offence.

Tepper said about Sakaluk's original message, "Who is she to judge? I've never spoken or seen her since March during the elections! The second apology was proper though." Tepper said the situation has simmered down and is being handled tactfully by the rest of YFS, but she is still upset that the person "representing" her at York and other students acted in such a way.

Sakaluk never responded to the *Jewish Tribune's* repeated attempts to reach her by both e-mail and phone.



## NEWS

# Political analyst offers contradictory analysis

By Rick Kardonne  
Tribune Correspondent

An overflowing audience was at Holy Blossom Temple last week to hear noted Israeli journalist and political analyst Ehud Ya'ari, a senior writer of the *Jerusalem Report*, and a member of the Washington Institute for Mideast Affairs.

While his assessment of the current situation involving Israel was for the most part informative and soberly realistic, his proposed solutions for Israel's foreign affairs and security problems in many instances contradicted his own analysis as presented in his speech. He did not take questions following his speech, and tried to duck questions posed to him afterwards.

Four verbal "snapshots" of current scenes throughout the Mideast began his address: (1) a scene at Tehran University Mosque during which Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamaneh (who chose Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to be president of Iran by disqualifying his rivals) spoke in Arabic, not Persian, with a submachine gun at his side; (2) Ahmadinejad boasting that the 12th Imam, a Shi'ite Messiah, will arrive on earth once Israel is wiped off the map; (3) Hamas leaders expressing condolences for a 67-year old grandmother who became a suicide bomber; and (4) a mural of the soul of a dead Chechen terrorist moving up to the heavenly sky. Ya'ari warned: "We better brace ourselves for this environment of Islamic terrorism."

He said that the Lebanon-

## Arab Israelis looking for more say in Israeli affairs

ACCO cont. from page 1.

go out and paint swastikas in yeshivot."

In another city with a large Arab population, Ramle (near Tel Aviv), an Arab organization is renewing its activities for more say in city affairs — and is hoping to similarly encourage Arab populations in other mixed cities such as Jaffa and Lod as well.

Just this past Friday, the Israeli-Arab organization Mossawa presented a position paper demanding recognition as a Palestinian-Arab national minority and the right to return to Arab villages abandoned during the 1948 War of Independence. In what some view as a drive to turn Israel into a bi-national state, Mossawa also demands:

- Allotments for immigration and citizenship;
- Educational and religious autonomy;
- Changes to the Israeli flag and national anthem;
- Appropriate representation in national bodies;
- Special division of national resources; and
- Ties with other Arab countries.

Hezbollah war was for Israel not a strategic catastrophe but a strategic tragedy.

"Israel had a unique opportunity to win. The Lebanese government gave us time. We did not make enough use of this opportunity. The government conducted the military campaign in a half-hearted manner."

Ya'ari described the most recent cease-fire, which went into effect last Sunday, as being "extremely risky. The battle for the West Bank (Judea and Samaria) will begin. Hamas wants to militarize the West Bank. If the Israel Defence Forces stop going out at night to get terrorists in the West Bank, then, in 6 to 8 weeks, Jerusalem and Tel Aviv will be in the range of Kassam rockets."

He then mentioned the recent shift in war strategy. "During the last 30 years, the Arab states' regular armies opted out of a general conventional conflict with Israel. There was a consistent policy not to seek a clash with Israel (with the exception of Saddam Hussein launching Scud missiles at Tel Aviv during the first 1991 Gulf War)."

"The goal was to reduce Israel to a small size. Few spoke openly of destroying Israel since Nasser just before the Six Day War. But this has changed."

"Iran, our worst enemy, is the first Muslim state, which for the first time in 30 years openly wants

to destroy Israel. Total destruction of Israel is now the goal. Iran backs Sunni Hamas and Shi'ite Hezbollah, who, despite fighting each other in Iraq, are of the same school when it comes to Israel: its destruction. This is Islamofascism."

He emphasized that while the Koran accepts Judaism as a legitimate but subservient religion to Islam, today's Islamofascists, adhere to Khamaneh and Ahmadinejad to "wipe Israel off the map" on the grounds that, according to them, "today's Torah is not the same as what Mohammed calls the original Judaism." Today's Torah, according to the Islamofascists, is a corruption of the original Judaism, and today's Muslim leaders, from Abbas to Arafat, as well as Hamas, Hezbollah and Iran, firmly deny any link between Judaism and Jerusalem.

Most significantly, Ya'ari said that the Palestinians no longer want a two-state solution, which would mean gaining control of Gaza and Judea and Samaria. Instead they want a Palestinian Muslim state to completely replace Israel. The Islamofascists feel that they are winning the global war against the non-Muslim world, be it in Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, as well as in the Mideast. Their strategy for doing so, which he defined as

a Doctrine of Empowerment, is as follows: (1) We don't seek victory but we deny them (non-Muslims) victory; (2) Do not defend or conquer territory; (3) You can do battle from a non-military zone (i.e., attack civilians) and (4) We are in no hurry.

He cited an enormous contemporary literature freely available in cafés and libraries throughout the Muslim world, which would sound ridiculous if the circumstances had not been so deadly. Suicide bombers are glorified. Debates in this literature include the fact that women can also be suicide bombers, and as a reward in paradise they can choose the bridegroom of their dreams. However, should the dead bridegroom suicide bombers, in accepting the marriage offers from the women suicide bombers, forfeit the right to the 72 virgins promised to them by Allah? These are the scholarly debates which are posed in this Islamic literature.

Ya'ari predicted that there will be a massive civil war in Lebanon between Hezbollah and the government, dominated by Christians, in the aftermath of assassinated Christian Interior Minister Pierre Gemayel. He praised the "courageous Lebanese government" for accepting the Hezbollah challenge.

However, when asked what Israel can do, he proposed the following solutions: (1) talk with Syria, even though Syria insists that Israel relinquish the Golan Heights

as a precondition for such dialogue, with the aim of "isolating the Palestinians;" (2) "open a dialogue with Saudi Arabia, which he feels is becoming a source of moderation;" (3) promote a Palestinian "armistice regime" and push for the creation of a Palestinian state in Gaza and Judea-Samaria, even though he himself said that the Palestinians now reject such a state in favour of conquering all of Israel, and (4) advocating that there be "international involvement" to coax the Palestinians to accept such a state.

After his speech, the *Jewish Tribune* asked Ya'ari what he thought of US diplomat James Baker trying

to enlist Iran to help end the Iraq civil war (as he spoke, Iraq president Talibani and Iran president Ahmadinejad met in Tehran, with Baker's encouragement, towards this end). Ya'ari replied: "Baker's plans will not happen." Another member of the audience asked Ya'ari what he thought of Iran's plan to acquire an atom bomb to use, as Ayatollah Khamaneh has advocated for a long time, against Israel. Ya'ari replied: "I don't think Iran has a bomb and will not have one for a long time." Then, despite other potential questioners from the audience, he made a quick exit from the Holy Blossom sanctuary.

## Claims Conference challenged

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A campaign is being launched to challenge the Claims Conference to give Israel a larger share of Holocaust restitution funds and more control over distribution.

At a press conference recently, representatives from the Israeli government, the Jewish Agency, Holocaust survivor organizations and Yad Vashem presented a joint covenant calling on the Claims Conference to change the way it allocates its funds, asking that it transfer 60 per cent of its activities to Israel and increase Israeli representation within the organization.

Jewish Agency Chairman Ze'ev Bielski said the effort was inspired by the conference's disappointing response to emergency aid requests from the Jewish state during Israel's summer war with Hezbollah.

"The Claims Conference is a very stubborn organization," Bielski said. "We will continue this campaign until they give us our rightful seats at the table."

The New York-based Claims Conference oversees the distribution of hundreds of millions of dollars per year in Holocaust restitution payments. Among other critiques, the Israeli coalition leaders maintain the Claims Conference shortchanges Israeli survivors.

Claims Conference officials could not be reached for comment.

## Australia sees 110% increase in antisemitism

NEW YORK (JTA) — Antisemitic incidents have increased in Australia, a Jewish group there said. The *Australian Jewish News* (AJN) reported last Monday on a study by the Executive Council of Australian Jewry that cited 442 antisemitic incidents from October 2005 to September 2006, an increase of 110

incidents over the same period a year earlier.

Jeremy Jones, author of the study, said incidents spiked in July, after Israel's war with Hezbollah began, though he noted that the number already had been above average in preceding months, the AJN reported.

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## TORONTO ARAB FILM FESTIVAL

# Movie lauds terrorism, encourages martyrs

## Audience reaction in tune with film's messages

By Atara Beck  
Tribune Correspondent

Whoever still harbours any illusions about the effectiveness of Israeli-Arab negotiations and compromise should have attended last week's Toronto Arab Film Festival to understand the futility of trading land for "peace."

On opening night, the main feature, shown at the Bloor Cinema, was *Leila Khaled: Hijacker*, directed by Lina Makboul, who described the life of the celebrated female terrorist and interviewed her about her "accomplishments."

"That woman over there is a terrorist," Makboul narrates at the beginning of the film, showing us a woman in her 60s whom no one would consider dangerous. "That's why she's my hero."

Khaled was leader of the 1970 hijacking of an airplane by Palestinian guerrillas.

"You are no longer TWA Flight 840," says Khaled to the terrified passengers. "The new pilot is from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine."

Upon hearing this statement, the audience, most of whom appeared to be of Middle Eastern origin, applauded proudly and gleefully. After that scene, Khaled tells Makboul that the mission was a success because it brought the Palestinian cause to the fore.

"The world heard our screams at the hijacking, but not when we were tortured in Israeli prisons," she states.

(In fact, the film was preceded by a short, *All for the Country*, directed by Fadi Kassim, which portrays Israeli injustice and cruelty towards Palestinian prisoners. Enthusiastically received by the audience, the clip completely ignored the murderous crimes committed by the inmates and, of course, showed no footage of the conditions in Arab prisons. "Mother, don't cry, we should all take that route," says a suicide bomber.)

Very clear in *Leila Khaled: Hijacker* is the fact that Khaled and her colleagues consider all of Israel to be occupied territory. She was born in 1944 in what was then Palestine and lived with her family on Stanton Street. (One only needs to notice the name of the street — an obviously British name — to realize that the land was under British rule and was never governed by 'Palestinians.' Nonetheless, says Khaled, "there was a disaster in 1948.")

Professionally filmed, it arouses the uninformed viewer's compassion, showing Khaled as an unfortunate four-year-old who loses her home in the '40s, "far away from Europe." The viewers are then treated to images of concentra-

tion-camp inmates and swastikas, insinuating that the Palestinians have been made to suffer in order to compensate the Jewish survivors.

Khaled appears so warm and likeable on film, so human — cleaning the house, chatting with friends, serving dinner to her devoted husband and sons, and coaxing her guest to eat more. Witty and charismatic, she tells the interviewer that it's easier to hijack than to teach: When you tell your students to be quiet, they don't listen; when you tell the passengers to shut up, they definitely listen.

"When I interviewed Leila," Makboul says, "I expected some remorse, but she had no regrets."

Khaled insists she opposes the killing of innocent human beings. Although frightened during the hijacking, the passengers were unharmed, she says. Asked if hijacking blameless people is terrorism, she responds, "As far as I'm concerned, occupation is terrorism."

It is interesting that the same woman who claims to oppose murder has no problem with suicide bombers, not even if they're children. The film shows adorable youngsters expressing their desire to "fight, whatever the cost." Asked by Makboul whether she would allow her own children to fight, Khaled answers that she

would have "nothing against it. My children are not worth more than other Palestinian children. ... Is it worse than using a child's mother?" Again, the audience's response was admiration.

The Jewish Tribune asked Lebanese-born Vicky Moufawad-Paul, director of the festival's programming and sponsorship, why the movie portrays Haifa as occupied land. Is it not the West Bank that's considered occupied territory? She replied that she believes in a one-state solution, a Palestinian state where people of all religions can live.

She replied that she believes in a one-state solution, a Palestinian state where people of all religions can live.

The audience endorsed her response, if its favourable reaction was any indication.

The Israeli side to the story was given maybe two minutes' time in the film. The now-older TWA pilot, an Israeli, was asked whether he knows about Dir Yassin (a struggle between Arabs and Zionists near Jerusalem a month before Israel became a state, which resulted in the deaths of innocent Arabs). He was given just enough time to say, "Yes, there was a case like this, 20-40 people were killed. So?" Then he was cut off — as if it was the Israelis who have no respect for human life.

## Sentences handed down in Red Sea bombings

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Egypt sentenced 13 men in connection with a wave of Red Sea resort bombings.

An Egyptian security court sentenced three to death, confirming a decree handed down previously by an Egyptian cleric, and the other 10 to between five years and life in prison last Thursday after convicting them of complicity in suicide bombings between 2004 and 2006.

The attacks killed more than 100 people, including 11 Israelis. Several of the attacks targeted resorts frequented by Israeli tourists.

The convicts denied involvement and blamed the bombings on Israel and the United States.

## BRIEFS

## Rocket fired into Israel

Palestinians launched a rocket from the Gaza Strip into Israel, further violating a cease-fire. The rocket, fired early Friday morning, did not cause damage or injuries. It was the 14th Palestinian violation of the cease-fire since it took effect a week ago Friday.

## Rice: Settlements not permanent

JERUSALEM (JTA) — US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has suggested any current Israeli settlement expansion could be rolled back. She met last Thursday with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to encourage both men to revive peace talks. Taking questions after her meeting with Abbas, Rice said she did not believe reports of Israeli plans to expand some settlements were prejudicial. "First of all, the United States has made clear that we expect it to be a viable and contiguous state when it is created," Rice said, referring to the US goal of an independent Palestinian state. "Secondly, that no actions that are being taken now should prejudice the outcome of a final-status agreement; that means, very clearly, that if actions are being taken now, they will not be considered by the United States to have prejudged the outcome of final status." She also referred to the "road map" peace plan, driven by the Bush administration and overseen by international powers, which calls on Israel to stop expanding settlements.

## Future pope warned of Nazi crimes

JERUSALEM (JTA) — New research shows that a future pope warned the Vatican of Nazi crimes against the Jews earlier than previously revealed. Israeli researcher Dina Porat claimed that the future Pope John XXIII forwarded an account of Nazi atrocities to the Vatican in 1944, several months before the Vatican claims to have received it, *Ha'aretz* reported. The pope at the time, Pius XII, is a controversial figure due to claims that he knew of the Nazi genocide against the Jews and remained silent. Porat conducted the research for the Project for the Study of Anti-Semitism at Tel Aviv University.

## Shul stabber sentence upheld

MOSCOW (JTA) — Russia's Supreme Court upheld a guilty verdict last Thursday against a man who stabbed nine people in a Moscow synagogue earlier this year. Alexander Koptsev, 20, was sentenced in September to 16 years in prison for the attack. He was found guilty of attempted murder on racial grounds and of inciting religious hatred. On Jan. 11, he burst into a Moscow shul during evening prayers and injured nine people with a knife before being wrestled to the ground. In his final statement to the court earlier this year, he apologized to the victims and their families. Koptsev's legal team said it might lodge an appeal with the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. In September, Moscow City Court sentenced Koptsev to 16 years in a maximum-security prison and ordered him to undergo psychiatric treatment in prison. Russian Jewish leaders hailed the sentence as a sign of the authorities' seriousness toward hate crimes.

## Report criticizes IDF leaders

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A report on the kidnapping of two Israeli army reservists that set off this summer's war with Hezbollah criticized top military brass. The report, presented Friday by Maj.-Gen. Doron Almog, criticized army chief of staff Lt. Gen. Dan Halutz and the General Staff, Military Intelligence, the Operations Directorate and the Northern Command, according to the *Jerusalem Post*. The report said military leaders were not prepared for the possibility that an incident such as a kidnapping could lead to war. Eldad Regev and Ehud Goldwasser remain captive in Lebanon.

## Rabbis get talk-radio show

Two rabbis will host a new radio talk show. Brad Hirschfield and Irwin Kula's show, *Intelligent Talk Radio*, will begin airing Saturday at midnight on KXL in Portland, Ore.

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## FASHION AND FUNDS

# Fashioning a successful evening to benefit Zareinu



Zareinu students walked the runway at last week's fashion show fundraiser at The Paramount (above and below).

By Sylvia Brooke  
Tribune Correspondent

*If happy little bluebirds fly beyond the rainbow why, oh why can't I?*

These famous words from *The Wizard of Oz* set the theme of An Evening of Fashion and Song, last week benefitting Zareinu Education Centre. How fitting that the crowd of more than 600 were witness to Zareinu students taking to the runway, taking their chance to "fly beyond the rainbow."

Guests at The Paramount were treated to cocktail and dessert receptions, a concert by jazz singer extraordinaire 12-year-old Nikki and an auction. The success of the evening is key to Zareinu, with 80 per cent of its running costs covered by fundraising.

Zareinu is a unique centre where each child's special needs are specifically met, optimizing their potential.

"We are certainly amongst the top half dozen centres in North America, and we are the absolute leader in Canada in providing all types of treatment and special education under one roof," said Executive Director Randy Spiegel.

Children that attend Zareinu benefit from the various disciplines available, including physical, speech, music and occupational therapies.

Observing the event, Spiegel said, "There's a total cross-section of the community here, regarding age, religious affiliation and social affiliation."

It's a place for parents to turn when they feel most lost.

Zareinu parent Anita Gleberzon addressed the crowd, describing the difficulties her family went through while struggling to help her son

Andrew, when he was first diagnosed with autism. Running all over the city to get him to his various therapists was a "scheduling nightmare," she explained.

When at last they came to Zareinu, she found peace of mind knowing he would receive all his needed treatments there, and his therapists could consult with each other.

She spoke of Andrew's Bar Mitzvah last June, a milestone she could only dream about earlier. "He was as proud of himself as we were of him. I have never seen him so focused and happy. I will be forever grateful to Zareinu, who made that day possible," exclaimed an emotional Gleberzon.

Zack Werner, best known as one of the four judges on *Canadian Idol*, was the evening's host.

"I couldn't be more pleased to

be here," he said. "I'm thrilled to be a part of something that's supporting special kids."

Before the event, Werner visited Zareinu to see the school in action. One boy recognized him and treated him to an impromptu

rendition of "I believe I can fly."

With the support and encouragement of the teachers and therapists at Zareinu, these children do believe they can fly, and reach new heights.

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Zack Werner of Canadian Idol was the emcee for Zareinu's fashion show fundraiser last week.



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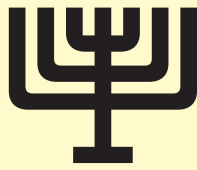
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*- David Frum, National Post, Dec. 2, 2006*

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## FEATURES

# Christian team helps disabled Israeli children

By Doris Strub Epstein  
Tribune Correspondent

Just back from volunteering at Aleh, a facility in Israel for severely disabled children, an extraordinary group of Christians, 12 men and 5 women, can't wait to go back.

Aleh was established in 1982 by a group of a parents who believed disabled children's mental and motor systems could be improved through early intervention and intensive therapy. Aleh currently provides 500 children – in three facilities, Jerusalem, Gedera and Bnei Brak – with the highest level of medical and rehabilitative care they need. Aleh Negev is a new groundbreaking project for young adults.

The group worked mostly at Bnei Brak, an ultra orthodox enclave in Tel Aviv.

Ben Robinson, one of the leaders of the trip and editor of the Christian Evangelical magazine published by Canada Christian College, admits to having been apprehensive about how orthodox Jews would receive them. But "it was real camaraderie," he said. "They opened their hearts to us. I can't speak enough about how nice the Orthodox people in Bnei Brak were to us. They treated us like family."

Ready to do whatever was needed, the men painted as many rooms as possible and cleaned and repaired equipment. The women helped directly with the children, feeding, teaching – however the staff directed them, said Rosalind MacDonald, who is with Christians for Israel based in Brantford.

"A lot of the children were badly disabled," she said, "but you could make contact. At Aleh Negev they actually have programs for young adults – each has their own work, like the assembly line for ceramics – each does a small step."

Aleh takes in any child regardless of faith or identity or how severely disabled they are. The total number of children cared for is 580, and they also provide outpatient services for 32,000 children. The revolutionary Aleh Negev for young adults will serve as a leading international model. It is expected to set new

milestones in the care of the disabled.

They managed to earn the trust and appreciation of the staff. "The staff people allowed us to stay in the room alone with the children," MacDonald said. "The work was such a joy because of the great flow of love between the staff and the children. They make them feel absolutely nothing is impossible. And they treated us royally, even a birthday cake for Ray" (her husband).

Ray MacDonald was the organizer for the team.

"More and more Christians are standing in solidarity with the Jewish people and Israel," he said. "They're not just interested in Israel's past, but in its present and future and they are looking for more than a tourist



Christian volunteers in front of the Bnei Brak Aleh facility. In other photos they work with the kids and even help clean up.



experience.

"The fact that you are here – it doesn't matter what you do – the fact that we're not alone," Rosalind heard over and over from Israelis.

When the One Family Fund, an organization that helps Israeli victims of terror, heard about them from people in Bnei Brak, they prepared a dinner in their honour.

"Even some of the more recent victims – they made us a beautifully decorated table and even prepared the dinner themselves," said Rosalind, choking back tears. "It was extremely humbling for us. We were totally in awe of their courage."

Many of the volunteers were

invited for Shabbat dinners by Israelis.

No one wanted to leave.

"Generally the Israelis bent over backwards," said Rosalind. "You're in a country that people seek to destroy, yet the Israelis are a blessing and an example to the world. It was a privilege to be part of that."

Ray reported that people have already signed up for another volunteer trip.

"We are looking at different projects where we can be of service," he said.

In May, Canada Christian College organized a second annual fundraising dinner and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for Aleh Negev. The Israeli government has promised to match all funds raised.



TV Rabbi Shmuley Boteach had security on stage for the first time when he spoke at Concordia University recently.

## A daunting task for Rabbi Shmuley: 'Shalom at Concordia'

By Daniel Smajovits  
Tribune Correspondent

MONTREAL – For Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, it was the first time he's ever had security with him on stage.

"Who would want to hurt me? Raise your hands please," said Shmuley to a Concordia University audience last week. "I assume that this (the security on stage) is the product of some earlier incidents at this university."

This security was a painful reminder for students about the history of Jewish speakers on campus. Before Shmuley's visit, former Israeli prime ministers Benjamin Netanyahu and Ehud Barak both were prevented from speaking at the university.

In 2002, Netanyahu was forced to cancel his speech due to the now infamous riots, and two years later, Barak never even made it onto campus, a decision made by Concordia University's administration. Although he did not attract a single protester, Rabbi Shmuley, as he is known, used these previous events as the foundation for his speech.

The star of TLC TV's *Shalom in the Home* came to the university to address the topic of contemporary co-existence within diverse university settings: Sharing values and promoting tolerance. In doing so, he took a page from his television series, where he spends his time dealing with various problems, as he connected the relationship between males and females to that between Jews and Arabs.

"Why did I start a lecture about tolerance and togetherness with relationships?" he asked. "The only proof that Jews and Arabs will one day live in peace is that something as different as masculine and feminine can prove that they have something in common... that marriages can be strong and children can be raised in a stable and secure home, in a stable and secure environment."

According Rabbi Shmuley, if males and females cannot only co-exist, but live happily together, then Jews and Arabs must take a page from their relationships and go beyond mere tolerance. He believes that merely accepting someone is one of the highest forms of insult.

"There are those who believe that we should be tolerant, that Jewish students and Islamic students should tolerate each other at Concordia," Rabbi Shmuley said. "To tolerate someone is to believe that if they were hit by a bus tomorrow and no longer walk the earth, that you would not be poorer for it... we have to go beyond tolerance."

Rabbi Shmuley failed to understand what the problem was between students at Concordia University.

"What are university students so angry about?" he asked. "What happened to you guys, that on campuses throughout the world we see so much fighting?"

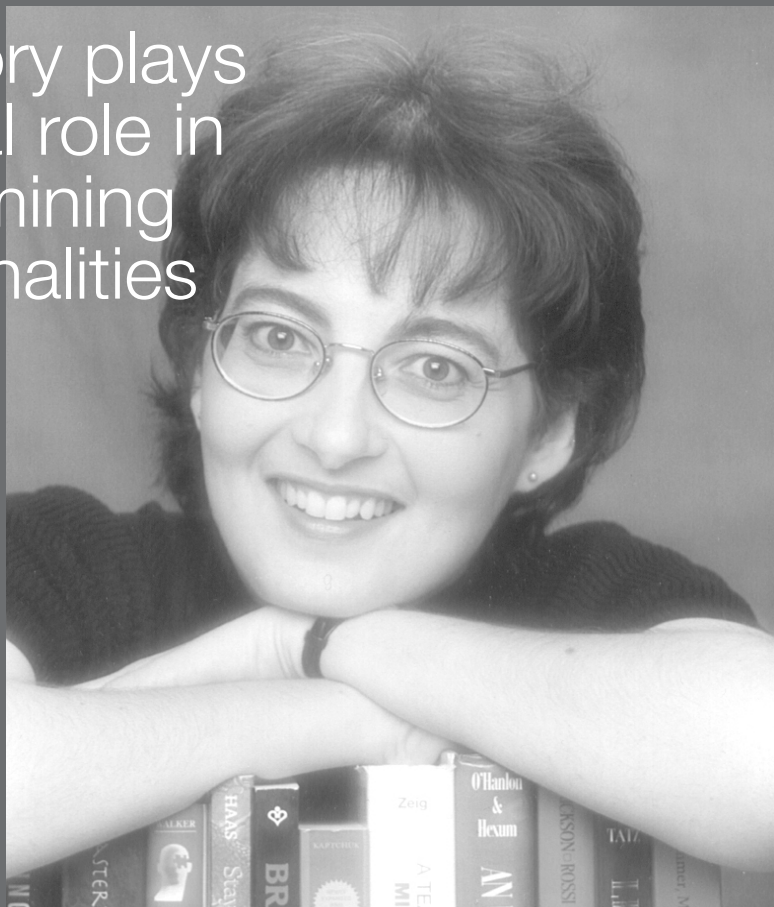
In his lecture, he pointed to over-passionate students on both the Jewish and Arabic side who are redefining the term of hero to fit their respective causes. "We must have a new definition of heroism in our time," he said. "I hope the Jewish students advocate for Israel, I hope the Arab students advocate for their country.... (However it is those) that can shake hands after that peaceful advocacy and still find something human in their adversary, that's the real hero.... It's the man or woman that conquers their passion, that is the hero."

Although for the rabbi who spends his day as a marriage counselor, there is not one simple solution. Both Jews and Arabs on campus must start on a level playing field and begin redefining their relationship from that point forward. He once again drew on the connection between males and females to emphasize his point.

"Religions always emphasize heterosexual marriage so that it can show that opposites can come together as one because they come from the same origin" he said. "When man and woman come together as one, they create the greatest equation ever known.... Not one plus one equals two, but one plus one equals one."

## FEATURES

# Memory plays central role in determining personalities



Psychotherapist Annette Poizner specializes in treating people with obsessive tendencies and difficulties with compulsive behaviour patterns.

**By Shlomit Kriger**  
Special to the Tribune

Amy (*not her real name*) has obsessive compulsive disorder. She doesn't know why. But an interesting pattern is revealed in her earliest memories.

Amy remembers several times as a child when she was very ineffective in doing things or was clumsy. As a result of these early life experiences, her unconscious mind became convinced that she can't do anything right.

This belief stuck with her until adulthood. Her unconscious mind adopted various rituals and obsessive thoughts to distract her from the supposed difficult tasks she feels unable to perform.

Although she has become more confident over the years and holds a successful full-time job, her early memories appear to have defined how she would respond to the world throughout her life.

Psychotherapist Annette Poizner specializes in treating people like Amy with obsessive tendencies and difficulties with compulsive behaviour patterns, among others. Poizner runs a private practice in Toronto using projective assessment within brief psychotherapy.

Part of the projective assessment involves a technique developed by former Austrian psychologist Alfred Adler, through which Poizner analyzes written descriptions of about 10 of her clients' earliest memories, preferably from before age eight.

What makes these early memories so valuable, explained Poizner, is that young children have a more crude form of intellect, yet they are still forced to make some sense of the world around them. While they may have countless experiences, their unconscious minds will tend to hold onto certain memories that stood out for them and helped them make early generalizations.

These early memories strung together make up a type of map of the world that establishes what the individual can expect

from himself, from others, and from life.

"Not only do memories reveal personalities, they determine personalities," said Poizner.

The centrality of memory in one's life is also apparent through classic Jewish wisdom.

The Hebrew word for memory (*zocher*) and for masculine (*zachar*) comes from the same root word. So there is a relationship between the two, explained Poizner.

Masculinity is said to be associated with the planting of the seminal spark from which something grows and comes to fruition. Similarly, clinicians have found that memory plays an important role by way of "planting a seed" that establishes people's personalities, goals, and how they will respond to their life circumstances.

There are also ideas in Jewish mysticism that relate the role of memory in the lives of Jews as a nation. Poizner noted the idea that the beginning always has a middle and end encoded within it. As mentioned in the *Sefer Yetzira* (The Book of Creation), everything follows from the beginning.

In relation to this, Jews constantly revisit old memories, whether through study of Jewish texts such as the Torah or the celebration of holidays.

"It's as if when we go back to that seminal moment we can recalibrate ourselves," explained Poizner. "Jewishly we're going to be able to access some very powerful national memories, and they're going to have such an influence on the Jewish people and always keep us attached, always remembering."

While it is useful to tap into early memories and bring them to life, clinicians have found that to treat individuals and help them move forward, the memories have to be taken a step further. "It's important not just to marinate in the memories, but also to see each memory in the context of every other memory and put together a sort of life story out of that," said Poizner.

This concept also relates to Jewish tradition. Renowned Jewish rabbi and philosopher Maimonides described memory as one of the character attributes that a person should develop, noted Poizner.

There is also an idea discussed by international lecturer and author Rabbi Akiva Tatz, where he points out that in the Torah there is a part where God says to Moses, "You can't see my face, but you can see my back." Commentators, noted Poizner, say this means we cannot see the way that God is intervening in our lives in the present moments, but when we look back on things and do a life review we can get a better understanding of the bigger picture.

Rabbi Tatz expanded on this idea by explaining that part of each individual's personal agenda is to make a megillah of one's life. "Just like in the megillah read on Purim, God is hidden, when we tell our stories and look back for these interesting patterns, that's going to be part of how we heal memories," said Poizner.

Sometimes memories need to be revisited or desensitized, because they carry an emotional charge for a person or relate to present personality strengths and weaknesses, as was the case with Amy. Clinicians can walk individuals through their early memories and help them understand and change their views of these memories so that they can better cope with their present conditions.

"If you neutralize the negative memories, more positive memories come out," said Poizner. "And then you really have recast a childhood."

Poizner will be giving a lecture on the centrality of memory in one's life and Jewish insights into the function of memory at The Lodzer Centre Congregation on Jan. 14 at 8 p.m. Admission is \$8 with advance reservation or \$10 at the door. For tickets, call (416) 636-6665.

For more on Poizner's work visit [www.annettepoizner.com](http://www.annettepoizner.com).

## Panel, concert pay tribute to German-Jewish poet Heine



Adrienne Cooper put on Yiddish song concert featuring the poetry of Heinrich Heine after merits of his work discussed.

**By Rick Kardonne**  
Tribune Correspondent

Heinrich Heine, along with Johannes Goethe and Friedrich Schiller, was one of Germany's greatest poets.

Heine was born into a prosperous Jewish family in Düsseldorf in 1797. Having had to cope with the antisemitism built into the fabric of German life at the time, he decided to become a Lutheran in 1831 to gain what he hoped would be acceptance into German literary circles. He ended up regretting this move and he never got the acceptance. He remained proudly Jewish and his poetry reflected his Jewish identity vis-a-vis the existing social and philosophical trends of the times in which he lived.

In recognition of the 150th anniversary of his death, the Goethe Institute presented a tribute to Heine last week, consisting of two parts: a panel discussion by four major scholars of his work – its poetic and intellectual significance – and a concert by arguably North America's leading Yiddish songstress, New York's Adrienne Cooper, accompanied by her pianist Marilyn Lerner. Cooper sang songs, many of which were Yiddish translations of Heine's poetry.

The panel, hosted by York University's German Studies Professor Mark Webber, included Yale University Professor Jeffrey Sammons and University of Toronto professors Stefan Haas and David Pugh.

The discussion emphasized Heine's attempts to grope with the philosophical trends of his time.

Heine was a natural romantic who was most at home in German provincial culture. However, he distrusted the political conservatism of the 'back-to-the-land' German romantic movement, which formed the fertile soil for the Nazi movement a century later.

Haas showed slides of the early flight inventions such as hot-air balloons, which Heine initially romanticized as being a force for liberation. Yet, when Heine observed the technological advances of the British Industrial Revolution, he became frightened. He preferred idyllic rural Germany to industrial England.

Heine branded himself as a socialist populist revolutionary. However, he feared that socialist populism would lead to proletarian antisemitism, which in Germany, it eventually did.

So while Heine was sometimes philosophically inconsistent, his poetry, which reflected the complex fusion of sardonic satire and his romantic bent, established him as a far more modern, sophisticated poet than either Goethe or Schiller.

Yet Heine, despite his dalliance with Lutheranism, never forsook his Jewish roots. His mother had a Sephardic background and in the later years of his life, during which he endured painful physical illness, Heine seriously studied the Kabbalah and studied a history of the Jews by Michael Zaks, which emphasized the Sephardic traditions.

Heine also positively valued the Yiddish culture of Eastern Europe, and many Yiddish poets, most notably Reuven Eislam and Zisha Landau, supervised the translation of Heine into Yiddish. The translators also included some of the most famous Yiddish writers, including I.L. Peretz.

These translations, put to music, constituted the second half of the evening, performed by Cooper. Her pianist Lerner composed some of the music.

Cooper's marvelously expressive voice was the perfect instrument to convey the strikingly modernist realism of much of Heine's poetry. For example, she performed a Landau-translated love poem, *In The Dark*, with lines like: "Your hand is smaller, your face is milder, in the dark."

The spirit of Heine permeated many Yiddish poets and Cooper performed a few of these songs inspired by Heine such as Abraham Reisen's poem, *To A Woman Socialist*. Her last several selections were mid-century songs by Yiddish lyricists such as Anna Margolin, with music by Lerner, which bear a resemblance to art songs by Gustav Mahler.



## SPORTS

# Canadians devoted to hockey at Metulla

By Gil Zohar

Tribune Correspondent

METULLA – Once a month a group of fanatic rink rats from Jerusalem, Beit Shemesh, Efrat and other locations across the country trek north to the Canada Centre here to play pick-up hockey at Israel's only Olympic-size ice surface. But last Thursday, to the disappointment of the 15 players who drove for three hours each way for the game, the arena's full-size rink was blacked out and flooded with water from the melting ice. The players were forced to skate on the junior-size rink, battling it out three on three instead of a full squad of five skaters.

The non-contact shinny game was the third since this summer's war in Lebanon – when the rink, which is a slap shot away from the border, was closed for security reasons. It took several months to repair the damage to the Canada Centre caused not by katyushas but by the concussion from nearby IDF artillery batteries which pounded Hezbollah positions in the south of Lebanon.

But now the self-supporting, non-profit sports complex – built by the United Israel Appeal of Canada in 1990 and expanded six years later to include the larger skating surface – has announced that it can no longer afford to operate the Olympic rink.

Besides the once-a-month weekend warriors, this is of grave concern to the Ice Hockey Federation of Israel (IHFI), which has 150 registered amateurs who play for teams in Metulla, Haifa, Ma'alot and Rishon LeZion. As well, the country's figure skating and speed skating Olympic contenders also have nowhere to practise.

As far as Paul Shindman of Efrat is concerned, the game must go on. A die-hard hockey aficionado living in Israel since 1987 when he moved to Jerusalem from Toronto, Shindman says, "Bah – they can melt the ice but they can't melt our resolve. I started the hockey league 17 years ago and we've faced worse challenges than this. We need to get the Canada Centre some help while we wait for the new rink to go up in Hod Hasharon. There are too many kids here who want to play hockey. We can't let the Olympic rink gather dust."

Shindman, who works as a journalist, is eagerly anticipating the construction of an

ice centre in the heart of Israel, 15 kilometres northeast of Tel Aviv. The 5,000-seat winter sports complex will include two rinks – one Olympic-size, the other of slightly smaller NHL dimensions – plus an inline skating facility. Construction of the US\$15 million project in Hod Hasharon, being financed by anonymous private investors from the United States and Canada in conjunction with the municipality, is slated to begin in March, says IHFI chairman Alan Maislin.

The Hod Hasharon complex, originally scheduled to open at the end of 2007, should be completed within 18 months, adds Israel's hockey czar – who operates a Montreal trucking company and runs the league from overseas.

"The Thursday night program is an integral part of the development of hockey in Israel," says Maislin. "If we look at hockey around the world, the largest growing area is in adult hockey. We hope that these players will inspire their children and others to start playing and giving us greater hope to participate in the Olympics."

Maislin is looking forward to the International Ice Hockey Federation's Division II World Championships in Seoul April 2-8. The Israeli men's team will be at a training camp in Tokyo from March 26 to April 1, and will attend a Passover Seder hosted by Israel's Ambassador to South Korea.

In 2005 Israel's national men's team capped its best tournament ever beating Iceland 4-2 to win the gold medal at the International Ice Hockey Federation Division II Group B World Championships in Belgrade, Serbia.

Meanwhile the Israeli women's team, organized by its veteran goalie Dr. Esther Silver, originally from Toronto and now living in Jerusalem, is hoping to participate in the 2007 IIHF World Championships, pending final clarification from the federation regarding qualification and procedure. Women's hockey is growing increasingly popular worldwide, and more nations have applied to have their National Women's teams enter the World Competitions.

The team, led by its pint-sized superstar Lisa Horowitz whose family comes from New York, is aiming for a slot in the 2010 Winter Olympics in Whistler, BC. Horowitz

moved from her home in Kfar Adumim to Metulla to be able to skate more frequently.

Danny Spodek, a dentist originally from Toronto and now living in Zichron Ya'acov, helps organize the informal once a month hockey Thursday night games at Metulla.

"It's too bad that they decided to close the Olympic ice at this point. I have seen our group grow from 15 players when I decided to start this up two years ago to more than 80 players. I get emails every week from people interested in joining our group. There are plenty of people living in Israel who want to play hockey, a sport they grew up loving, and are even prepared to drive three hours each way," he says. "For many it is really not worth the sacrifice to play on an ice surface a third the regulation size. There are enough obstacles to overcome in organizing hockey in Israel. Now we got another one. But I won't give up. As long as people want to continue playing, I will continue to organize the games. Hopefully the ice issue will be resolved soon so that our group can continue to grow."

About half the Metulla regulars hail from Canada, with the rest coming the US, Ukraine and Russia, with a sprinkling of Sabras.

Robert Rouzard, another dentist who now lives in the heavily Anglo community of Ramat Beit Shemesh, was born in balmi Los Angeles and sports a LA Kings blazer on the ice. But he grew up in Cleveland where the winters are, well, wintry and where he learned to love the world's fastest team sport.

Rouzard is the only one of the skaters who is haredi and sports a black fedora off ice. Half the players are Sabbath observant and wear knitted kippot when they're not wearing hockey helmets. The games are scheduled on Thursday evenings to allow them to work a full day yet return in time early Friday morning to still sleep and prepare for Shabbat.

As for your faithful correspondent, while I haven't been on the ice in a dozen years, I managed to score two goals and get an assist. And I'm still sore at the time of this writing.

For more information, contact Danny Spodek at spodek27@hotmail.com.

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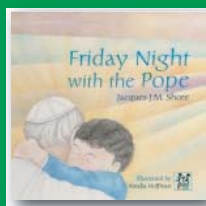


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