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Livni opposes Olmert's peace plan

By **BARAK RAVID**
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JERUSALEM — Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni told her French counterpart Bernard Kouchner that in principle she opposes the agreement that outgoing Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has offered Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

"I do not believe in far-reaching proposals and an attempt to expedite matters, especially in light of the political situation," Livni, the prime minister-designate, told Kouchner on Sunday.

That morning, Kouchner had met with Olmert, who said he was frustrated that Abbas had not accepted his proposal. "You've read what I said in the interview," Olmert told Kouchner, referring to his statements in *Yediot Achronot* favouring Israeli withdrawal from east Jerusalem and the Golan Heights. "Still, the Palestinians do not want to sign."

Kouchner raised the matter later when he met with Livni and asked why she objects to Olmert's proposal. Olmert's plan proposes a comprehensive solution on borders and refugees, and postpones a decision on Jerusalem.

Livni's explanation was a criticism of Olmert. "[Abbas] in his present political situation cannot



Seen before a joint conference on policy and strategy at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem are, from left, former German foreign minister Joschka Fischer, Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Malki, Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner.

accept such an agreement," she said. "The political situation in Israel also does not allow it to be signed."

Livni also argued that blaming the Palestinians for refusing to accept Olmert's offer does no good. "We can say this is their fault – but what will that do?" she said. "We had the same thing after Camp David in 2000 and look where that got us."

Earlier Sunday, in her first foreign policy address since winning the

Kadima party primary last month, Livni voiced her commitment to continue peace negotiations with the Palestinians.

"Annapolis will continue," Livni said, referring to a U.S.-sponsored peace conference last November that restarted negotiations on the establishment of a Palestinian state.

"Let us not allow dates or political changes to stand in our way," she said, in her address to a Foreign

[Photo Olivier Ftoussi/FLASH90] Ministry conference on policy and strategy in Jerusalem.

"The point is to understand the required concessions in order to conduct a correct process," Livni said.

Sunday's conference marked the first of what are to be annual assessments of Israel's foreign policy. It was attended by Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Malki.

Continued on page 33

Bahrain wants Iran, Israel in regional club

JTA

LONDON — Bahrain has called for the establishment of a Middle Eastern association that would include Israel and Iran.

"Why don't we all sit together, even if we have differences, and

even if we don't recognize each other?" Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed al-Khalifa told the London-based, Arabic-language daily *Al-Hayat*, according to a report in Thursday's *Guardian* newspaper. "Why not become one organization?"

He said Israel should be a

member, together with Iran and Turkey. "This is the only way to solve our problems."

Bahrain, an island nation across the Persian Gulf from Iran, has for years resisted Iranian efforts to intervene in its politics. Both nations have Shiite Muslim majorities.

Bahrain leans toward the West and has low-level ties with Israel. The Bahraini royal family, which is encouraging democratization, recently appointed a Jewish woman as ambassador to Washington, a first in the Arab world.

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Greater Toronto Area

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Ilan Ramon's diary goes on display in Jerusalem – please see page 34

Greater Toronto Area

Triplets raise \$30,000 for Sunnybrook NICU

By ADAM MICHAEL SEGAL
Special to The CJN

As they gazed at the babies in Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre's neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), Amanda, Samantha and Jake Wolfe truly understood the impact of their tzedakah.

"When we were in the NICU, we got such great care," Amanda said.

"So we really wanted to give back, to make sure other babies get the same care that we got."

As part of celebrating their bar and bat mitzvahs, the triplets decided to ask their guests to donate money for renovations and upgrades to the same nursery that they themselves had spent time in 13 years ago.

Originally aiming to raise \$5,000, the trio managed to garner an exceptional \$30,000. The funds are being used to pay for 32 bassinets in the new NICU.

"We were amazed by how much we raised," said Amanda, who like her siblings, is a Grade 8 student at Windfields Junior High School in Toronto.

As impressive as the trio's donation is, their own birth story at Sunnybrook was also quite a gift for everyone involved.

When Beverley Wolfe went into labour five months into her pregnancy, doctors and nurses did everything they could to delay her delivery so that the babies could develop as fully as possible.

Beverley would spend the next 12 weeks resting in bed at the hospital, and the triplets were born on Dec. 28, 1994.

"Even the doctors and nurses said it was amazing that we were able to hold off on delivering for so long," Beverley said.

Beverley and her husband, Michael, first talked with the kids about the

idea of making tzedakah part of their bar and bat mitzvahs while they were planning the affair.

"We brought up the idea of giving some part of their gifts to charity," Michael said.

"The timing was such that Sunnybrook needed equipment for the new NICU, and when the kids learned about that, they were very excited."

As money flowed in well beyond their expectations, the triplets were very pleased and realized that they were within reach of paying for all of the bassinets required.

To hit the target, they enlisted the support of their aunt, who arranged a



From left, Jake, Beverley, Amanda, Michael and Samantha Wolfe

fundraiser – a movie screening at Yorkdale.

Friends and family bought tickets to a preview of Journey to the Center of the Earth, and with the added funds from ticket sales, the final total raised was \$30,317.

While the hospital is extremely happy about the donation, mom and dad are also beaming with pride.

"We are proud of them all the time, but even more so with this endeavour," says Michael.

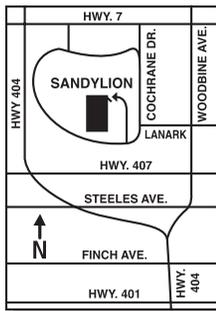
"They got behind this and really embraced it." Recently, the triplets went to Sunnybrook to deliver their gift, and to pay their first visit to the NICU since their birth.

"It was really amazing to see the babies," Samantha said. "It helped us see how important [the donation] is."



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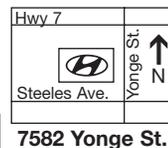
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HIGHEST QUOTES ON RRIF's, ANNUITIES, etc.
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Candidates make their pitches at shul forum

By **ANDY LEVY-AJZENKOPF**
Staff Reporter

With the 10 Commandments behind them, four political candidates debated each other – sometimes heatedly – Sunday night on the bimah at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation.

On the eve of the last day for observant Jewish voters to take advantage of advance polling, Tory Jason Kenney, secretary of state for multiculturalism and Canadian identity; Liberal Joe Volpe, the incumbent in Lawrence-Eglinton; Rosemary Frei, Green party candidate for York Centre, and Susan Wallace, New Democratic Party candidate for Willowdale, gathered to discuss some of the pressing issues for the Jewish community and shed more light on their parties' policies on Israel.

Moderated by local journalist Naomi Parness and organized by the Canadian Jewish Political Action Committee (CJPAC), candidates took written questions from the audience of approximately 150 people and were given one minute to respond directly

and then another 45 seconds to rebut their colleagues remarks.

In his opening remarks, Kenney thanked the other candidates for attending, but he tried to downplay the presence of the NDP and Greens, saying there are really only two "main" choices in this election, the Liberals and his Conservatives. It was a sentiment he expressed again later on when he predicted that both the Green party and NDP would "never have to worry" about balancing the country's budget.

Kenney then recited a list of actions his government has taken to show support for Jews and Israel, including being the first country to pull out of the upcoming followup to the 2001 World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa, – known as Durban II – and for its consistent support for Israel over the last two years.

Volpe countered that his party's "long-standing" position on Israel meant that the Jewish state has "never had a better friend" in Canada than the Liberals.

Continued on page 13



From left, CJPAC chair Dennis Bennie; Jason Kenney, secretary of state for multiculturalism and Canadian identity; Joe Volpe, Liberal incumbent for Lawrence-Eglinton; Rosemary Frei, Green candidate in York Centre, and Susan Wallace, NDP candidate for Willowdale.



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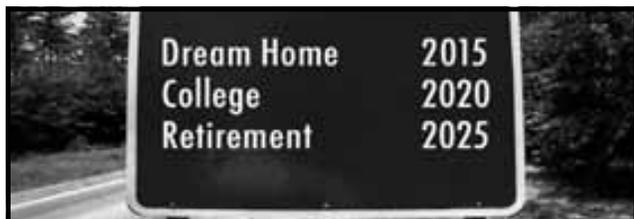
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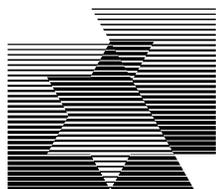
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Greater Toronto Area

Election coverage woes

ness of our coverage.

Given the pressures of time and space, most readers will agree that we generally succeed.

Sometimes however situations arise where the appearance of fairness may be compromised.

Two such situations arose last week, and they require explanation.

Readers will notice that among the letters to the editor, we published Rosh Hashanah greetings from Prime Minister

Stephen Harper. No other leader was afforded such treatment. Some people thought our decision was unfair to the other leaders.

Two factors motivated our decision. The first was that such greetings to the community from the head of the national government are intrinsically worthy of publication, despite the fact that they were sent during an election campaign.

The second was the fact we received greetings from no other leader before deadline. After the paper had already gone to press, we did receive greetings from Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion. But by then, it was too late to publish them. His greetings appear in the web edition of the paper.

Readers will also notice that we published an interview with only one party leader, namely, Elizabeth May. The reason for this is simply because the Green party head was the only one who responded to our requests for an interview.

Running for the first time as a leader of a party in a federal election, it makes sense that May wanted to introduce herself to our readers – to explain herself, her actions and her policies.

As of Oct. 6, our press date for this issue, none of the other leaders was able to set aside the time to meet with

the paper. Of course, all of them have appeared in *The CJN* in the past.

Moreover, two of the leaders, Harper and Dion, have held political rallies during this campaign specifically with Jewish audiences.

Harper's rally was held early in the campaign in Toronto. Dion's rally was held in Winnipeg two weeks ago. Both rallies were reported upon in the paper.

The story reporting upon the Winnipeg rally appeared in the paper last week. It evoked a very strongly worded, angry accusation of bias against the paper from a cabinet minister in Harper's government.

A message on my voice mail awaited me upon my return to the office after the Rosh Hashanah holiday.

The minister was upset, complaining emphatically about the fact that there were a number of omissions in the story. The story did not contain statements made previously by Dion that the minister alleged were inconsistent with the positions put forward by Dion at the rally. The caller was angry with what was referred to as constant bias by *The CJN*.

Had the caller left a return phone number, I would have called to point out the story was a news report of the event of the rally: what was said and what was the reaction. It was neither commentary nor analysis.

In that sense, I would have said, it replicated the type of news reporting that appeared in the paper of the community rally held earlier in the election campaign with Harper in Toronto.

I would have reiterated to the minister that *The CJN* strives for fairness. That we are not always perceived to be fair is one of the many woes with which we must cope during the heat of an election campaign.

MBD

The timing of this federal election posed a number of challenges for *The CJN* in terms of providing the very best coverage we could in the condensed campaign period that fell squarely within the High Holidays. The main complicator for the paper was the fact that the High Holidays significantly truncated the production schedules for the two issues immediately prior to the election, including, of course, this one.

The policy of the paper – at least for the past 38 years – is not to editorially endorse one political party over another. Rather, we have always urged readers to vote according to conscience.

Only during the Quebec unity referenda did the paper effectively endorse one party over an other. But in those instances, the editorial choices were driven by the importance of the cause and not by the individuality, strengths or weaknesses of the respective leaders. The endorsement of the pro-federalism party was the indirect result of the endorsement of the pro-federalism cause.

We assiduously strive to achieve maximum, transparent fairness in our election coverage.

Nevertheless, we understand that our efforts will not always match up with the perception of some of our readers, who, viewing our coverage through the prism of their partisan loyalties, may draw opposite conclusions about our attempt at fairness.

Some readers measure and compare the inches of space allocated among the candidates in the riding profile stories. Some comment on the ordering and placement of the candidate quotes. Some comment on the placement of the photos, where candidate photos accompany the story.

We do our best to ensure the fair-

From the
editor's
desk

SeeJN CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF ISRAEL

WYE NOT TRY?

In October 1998, then-U.S. president Bill Clinton, centre, brought then-Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, right, and Palestinian Authority president Yasser Arafat, left, together at Wye River Plantation in Maryland for talks to implement the outstanding issues of the 1993 Oslo accords. After many days of intensive negotiations, the leaders signed an agreement at the White House on Oct. 23. A visibly ill King Hussein of Jordan, second from left, had joined the talks from his home in Amman on Oct. 17. At the White House ceremony, Arafat made the following statement: "We are

fully committed to whatever is required from us to achieve real security and constant peace for every Israeli person and for the Israeli people... I will do everything I can so that no Israeli mother will be worried if her son or daughter is late coming home." Arafat's subsequent behaviour proved that he had prevaricated.

[RNS/Reuters photo]





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Durban II will damage Israel, prof says

By **DAVE GORDON**
Special to The CJN

Durban II is a major threat to Israel, York University political science professor Anne Bayefsky says.

The United Nations' Durban Review Conference, planned for April 2009 as a follow-up to the 2001 UN World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa, is expected to be rife with anti-Semitism and anti-Israel sentiment, just like the first one, she told a Sept. 18 audience at Beth Tikvah Synagogue in a lecture titled "The Durban II Nightmare," one of two talks given at the event.

Bayefsky, who is also the editor of EYEontheUN.org, showed a film she made featuring the anti-Semitic placards and propaganda that were prominent at the first Durban conference.

The film showed many anti-Semitic signs and hundreds of people wearing shirts with the slogans "Zionism is racism," and "Apartheid Is-real" [sic]. Bayefsky said the proliferation of these messages and their sheer repetition lends credibility to these fallacies and contributes to Israel's image problem on the international stage.

In addition a string of anti-Israel and anti-Semitic declarations, accompanied by hate-filled protests, hijacked the conference, she said.

"It was a racist anti-racist conference that anti-Semites took full advantage of."

The same kind of images, rhetoric and propaganda are expected at next year's forum, to be held in Geneva, she said, adding that they are reminiscent of those propagated in Nazi Germany. "The lessons of the Holocaust have never been learned."

Iran, Pakistan and Egypt are preparing to draft a declaration branding Israel as racist, she said.

South Africa, Bayefsky said, refused to host the 2009 conference because of the issues that arose in 2001. The American and Israeli representatives walked out at the time, although Canada stayed.

This time, however, the Canadian government, in anticipation of the upcoming conference's likely bias, declared last January that it would not participate, she said.

Bayefsky, who is also a member of the International Law Association committee on international human rights law and practice, hopes that, with enough advocacy in the coming months, other democratic countries will follow Canada's lead in boycotting the summit, which she said is expected to host many Holocaust deniers and human rights violators who want to see Israel destroyed.

The United Nations isn't to be trusted to fight injustice, she added. Six of the emergency sessions in its history were specific to Israel, while not one was called to deal with the Rwanda and Sudanese genocides.

"One-fifth of Israelis are Arabs with more rights than anywhere in the Arab world. Arab states have made their states Judenrein [free of Jews]. Almost nothing Israel does, accord-

ing to the UN, is perceived as legitimate. The criticism it receives and standards it is expected to hold are applied nowhere else."

Bayefsky was preceded by Aryeh Green, director of Media Central in Jerusalem, who discussed how the media are influenced when reporting on Israel and how journalists interpret the situation in the Middle East.

Green rebuked Toronto's Citytv for its Aug. 14 broadcast about clashes at a construction site in the West Bank between pro-Palestinian protesters and Israeli soldiers. The report, by Citytv host Gord Martineau, said that 11 Palestinians were killed. In fact, no deaths occurred, Green said.

HonestReporting Canada called attention to the error, and says the correction offered was terse and insufficient.

Such misinformation coupled with ignorance is a double battle that has to be fought, Green said. "There is a lack of understanding among foreign journalists about Israel."

Most reporters stationed in the Middle East, he noted, have been parachuted in with little or no knowledge of the history, facts or context of the conflict. "They weren't told that Palestinian leaders goaded, led and were encouraging violence in September 2000."

As a result, a new form of information-gathering took shape.

Palestinian media liaisons have welcomed journalists with open arms for 30 years, Green said, befriending them and meeting with them, thus successfully swaying and influencing their reports.

"As a result, so many in the media have adopted a pro-Palestinian slant." This is important, he said, because "bureaucrats and UN leaders learn from the media."

Green decided to borrow the idea, and recalled an example of inviting a certain journalist – known to be a harsh critic of Israel – to his backyard barbecue and on a wine tour. That journalist soon afterward became an advocate to help Green call attention to a problematic report on Israel.

"Journalists are given information ad nauseum. We criticize so shrilly [that] it's often ignored," he said.

Instead, Green said he takes cues from Dale Carnegie's book *How to Win Friends and Influence People*. "First make friends, then you can influence them."

In the session's introductory remarks, Amir Gissin, Israel's consul general in Toronto, spoke of a similar kind of diplomacy on Israel's behalf.

"The image [of Israel] is problematic in the world," he said. "It is a burden on our national security. Your influence can make things better. We are all ambassadors to convince others that we are right in what we do."

The evening's sponsors were the Speakers Action Group, Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University and Beth Tikvah Synagogue, with co-sponsors One Family Fund Canada, Canadian Jewish Civil Rights Association, International Christian Embassy Jerusalem Canada, HonestReporting Canada and Christians United for Israel – Canada.

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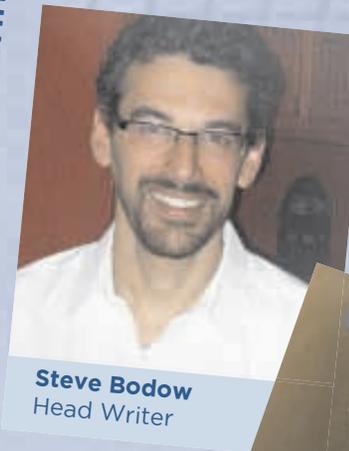
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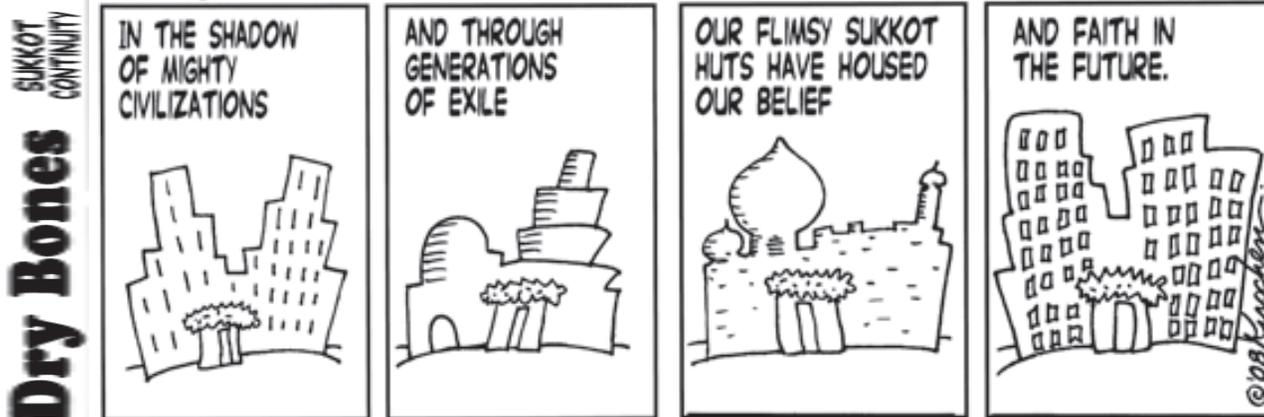
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Shared values means Israel is not alone

History – ancient, medieval, modern and the spaces in between – has taught the Jewish People to be wary. Alas, in every generation, someone or some group has sought to do us harm. Indeed just last month, the current avatar of Jew-harmers, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, again frothed his foamy hatred of Israel and the Jewish People from the rostrum of the UN General Assembly. The constant Jewish concern, if not also obsession, for Israel's security is therefore quite understandable.

But sometimes in our overall wariness and worry for the future, we neglect to take proper note of the fact that Israel has many friends in the world, some of whom are very close at hand. It is especially important that we set aside a moment to note these friends and friendships well.

For example, as reported in *The CJN* last week, Quebec has just concluded an agreement with Israel that will promote trade, investment and collaboration in sectors such as biotechnology, aerospace and the environment. This new agreement complements an existing agreement between the two jurisdictions in the areas of culture, education and science.

Economic Development Minister Raymond Bachand led some 40 Quebec businesspeople on a four-day mission to the Jewish state last month. He was clearly impressed and even, it seems, inspired by what he saw. "Israel and Quebec maintain solid ties that are based on a common vision and objectives... Quebec must not only maintain, but also increase, its relations and collaboration with this country whose expertise is diverse and amazing," Bachand said.

The minister insisted upon visiting Yad Vashem. "It was very important for me to go to Yad Vashem to meditate in this place and to show the full sympathy of the Quebec people for this great tragedy." Could there be a more poignant, more cutting refutation of the ignorant fulminations of the Iranian president?

In the same vein, as also reported in last week's *CJN*, the Manitoba-Israel Shared Values Roundtable sponsored a celebratory concert last month, in honour of Israel's 60th anniversary. More than 900 people attended. The group is the brainchild of Manitoba's Minister of Water Stewardship Christine Melnick and the late Harold Buchwald. Melnick has been to Israel several times. "Our group recognizes that the people of Manitoba and Israel share many important values, such as belief in a democratic system of government, respect for freedom of speech and human rights, and commitments to public health care, public child care and education," Melnick said.

It is heartening to note that many Canadian public figures openly acknowledge and laud the deeply held, democratic and life-affirming values that Canada shares with Israel. As long as they do, it is equally heartening to note, Israel will not ever be alone.

25 years ago in *The CJN*

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak assured U.S. President Ronald Reagan that the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty is "a pillar" of Egyptian policy. Meanwhile, the first brit milah in more than 30 years took place in Alexandria, Egypt. A rabbi and a mohel came from Israel to officiate. Alexandria had 150 Jews, out of 350 still in Egypt at the time.

Unbalanced political coverage

As a supporter of the Conservative party in the upcoming election, I was disturbed to see the imbalance in space given to the Liberal and Conservative candidates, respectively Susan Kadis and Peter Kent, in the article "Economy, health care concerns in Thornhill riding" (*CJN*, Sept 25). I would have thought that, given the sensitivity and interest of your subscribers and readers to partisan issues that separate the political parties in the upcoming election, or any election for that matter, that a fair balance of space and treatment would have been given to all parties. To the contrary, significantly more space was devoted to discussing Kadis' positions than Kent's.

This issue is all the more important in light of the obvious favouritism that is shown toward the federal Liberal party by some of the so-called "Jewish establishment" institutions operating in Canada. I would expect these organizations to be impartial and non-partisan vis-à-vis the various political parties and to not support any one party.

Jack Shore
Toronto

Arts funding

I am a writer. It is my job, just like some people are teachers, auto workers, cashiers or doctors. I feel blessed to be able to do what I love, but I never considered myself special until recently, when I read that Prime Minister Stephen Harper said that ordinary people don't care about arts cuts. I guess that makes me out of the ordinary.

I was also pleasantly surprised to learn that the prime minister thinks that I am rich. Remind me to mention that to Revenue Canada when I do my taxes in April. They may be quite surprised, given my income last year.

If ordinary people, by the prime minister's standards, are those who go to work, pay taxes and care about how our government spends those taxes, then please count me in. But let me add this: I am one ordinary person who has had the privilege to live and work outside of this country. I have seen first-hand how widely our artists and writers are received elsewhere in this world and what a wonderful job they do as ambassadors from our country. I am an ordinary person who had her first novel published a year and a half ago and am now thrilled that it is being read and enjoyed by many other ordinary people. I am an ordinary person trying to make a living doing something I love.

When I hit the ballot box, I'll



be sure to give my vote to a party that not only thinks I'm special, but treats me that way.

Sidura Ludwig
Thornhill, Ont.

B'nai Brith disciplinary committee

The trite adage, "What goes around, comes around," may have found validity in "B'nai Brith faces human rights complaint" (*CJN*, Sept. 11).

B'nai Brith Canada's disciplinary committee cited a number of its members for "conduct unbecoming a member... and contrary to the best interests of the organization." The members were informed they would be able to make a submission in person at a hearing.

How did that hearing compare with B'nai Brith Canada's complaints about the Manitoba Human Rights Commission?

Counsel for the members accused by B'nai Brith Canada requested the following:

- (a) information as to who authored the complaints – denied
- (b) identification of the executive committee that authored the accusatory resolution – denied
- (c) production of documents given to the discipline committee, but not to defence counsel – produced near the end of proceedings
- (d) adjournment to provide defence counsel an opportunity to examine those documents – denied
- (e) submissions from members represented by counsel – never happened

Which brings us to that other trite adage, "The pot calling the kettle black."

Morley Wolfe
Brampton, Ont.

Seniors' discount for community events

Every year, our Jewish organizations present world-renowned speakers as part of their fundraising events. Those of us who live on pensions would love to hear these speakers. May I suggest the following: ask your speaker if he/she would donate their time to talk to us oldies or the poorer folk in the community. I think a nominal fee of between \$5 and \$10 would be acceptable to most of us, and I think you would still fill a hall, as well as it being a mitzvah to give us oldies and some younger people the chance to hear some of these wonderful speakers.

Esther Friedman
Toronto

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Has the Mossad delayed Iran's attainment of the bomb?

By ALUF BENN

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Every Thursday, Mossad chief Meir Dagan and a few of his staff members report to Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's office in the old Defence Ministry building in Tel Aviv to present an operation for approval or report on one that has taken place. Olmert loves these moments more than any others in his job. He wants to know the details, to see the faces of the soldiers before the operation. He usually approves Dagan's proposals.

Over the past two years, Dagan has become the most important security official close to the prime minister. His evaluations on the Second Lebanon War and the Mossad's cumulative achievements vis-a-vis Iran, Syria and Hezbollah have strengthened his status and led Olmert to approve more and more daring missions.

During the recent cabinet meeting in which Olmert announced his resignation, the outgoing prime minister said: "I believe the processes the government of Israel has enacted under my leadership in various areas – those that can be told and those that cannot – will yet receive their proper place in the history of the State of Israel."

Olmert didn't go into detail, but over the past year, in September 2007 the nuclear facility that Syria was building was bombed; Hezbollah attributed to Israel last February's assassination of a senior leader, Imad Mughniyah, in Damascus; the foreign press reported the blowing up of a chemical weapons factory in Syria, in which dozens of Iranian and Syrian technicians were killed; and an Iranian Revolutionary Guard convoy delivering weapons to Hezbollah was blown up near Tehran. No one claimed responsibility for these actions.

In June, Olmert announced to the cabinet that Dagan's tenure would be extended by another, seventh year, telling the ministers "there is no doubt that the work of the Mossad has taken off" thanks to Dagan.

The Mossad's main thrust under Dagan has been to thwart Iran's nuclear plans. According to several sources, Israel has managed by diplomatic pressure to obtain a delay of as much as a decade in Iran's attaining nuclear capability, even if it has not been stopped.

"We are being accused in the media of exaggerating warnings and ultimatums," a source in the intelligence community said. "For years we have been saying that Iran is moving toward a nuclear bomb, and it hasn't happened. The reason the evaluation has not come true is because of the pressure brought to bear on Iran."

In the last year of former prime minister Ariel Sharon's term, the defence establish-

ment presented a list of necessary equipment and organizational capabilities to confront the Iranian threat. This included sophisticated deterrents and protection of sensitive facilities, with huge price tags. "Forget it," Dagan reportedly said. "Let me deal with Iran my way. I promise to give you deterrents in time."

Over the past year, a number of reports of malfunctions have emerged regarding the Iranian nuclear project. Among them: an Iranian general who defected, Ali-Reza Asgari, had been involved in leading his country's contacts with Hezbollah; an Iranian dealer in sophisticated communications equipment was charged with spying for Israel and sentenced to death; and his sons, engineers who helped build the Iranian centrifuges, were fielded as double agents for the CIA.

"Thwarting" involves psychological warfare, leaks to the international media and diplomatic moves to embarrass Iran and enlist western countries against it. In one case, the Iranians destroyed a facility near Tehran they were using to develop nuclear weapons and covered it with a soccer field after its existence was leaked to the International Atomic Energy Agency. Dagan is in charge of this work as part of the mandate he received from Sharon, with the co-operation of the Foreign Ministry and the Atomic Energy Commission (and, at certain points, the Strategic Affairs Ministry, headed by former minister Avigdor Lieberman).

Some of those who have voiced the most vociferous warnings against the Iranian threat, including former deputy defense minister Ephraim Sneh and Defense Ministry security department chief Amos Gilad, are full of praise for Dagan. Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, who recommended Dagan's appointment to Sharon, said Dagan restored the Mossad to being "Israel's long operational arm, with the ability to go anywhere and do anything it wanted."

Sneh has called Dagan a man of "exceptional operational imagination and daring."

President Shimon Peres, who knows the Mossad from the day it was born, said Dagan

"brought the Mossad back to its days of glory."

The army has some criticism, especially Military Intelligence, for what appears to be the unjust reaping of credit by the Mossad for successful operations. But even Dagan's adversaries are said to acknowledge his creativity and daring.

The Mossad's budget and human re-

sources have grown by dozens of percentage points during Dagan's tenure. He presents his operations in the Knesset sub-committee on the secret services, which approves his funding, as if he were the CEO of a cell-phone company showing the board how many new subscribers he has enlisted.

The Mossad's work is more complex than ever before. When Europe was the arena and the PLO the adversary, things were easier. The Iranian focus has changed the organization's activity, and stricter supervision at airports and border crossings since 9/11 have



Meir Dagan

began work to thwart the Iranian threat, which Dagan made a major focus.

Sharon knew Dagan from their days together fighting terror in Gaza. Dagan won a medal for jumping on a wanted man and wrestling away a grenade after the man had pulled the pin. The fighters in his unit disguised themselves as Palestinians, booby-trapped grenades belonging to the Popular Front, and gained a reputation in the Israel Defence Forces as merciless assassins.

Citizen Dagan is said to love classical music, jeep trips, smoking a pipe and nature.

He has been heard to joke about the fact that he is a vegetarian, despite his particular operational expertise. He served for a few years as head of the counterterrorism unit in the Prime Minister's Office and tried his hand as a security consultant.

He stayed in contact with Sharon, and served as his campaign headquarters chief on election day in 2001. After Sharon's election, Dagan was enlisted to head a special body to fight the funding of terrorism, and a year-and-a-half later, he was appointed head of the Mossad. Then-MK Yossi Sarid opposed what he said was an appointment that smacked of the political advancement of a personal associate, but senior Labor party officials Sneh and Ben-Eliezer were in favour of their old friend's appointment.

Sharon was said to appreciate Dagan's operational capabilities, but less so his diplomatic acumen.

Olmert's entry into power was Dagan's big chance. Olmert did not have the military background of his predecessor, and Dagan's expertise could come to the fore. Olmert used to say that nothing preoccupied him more than the Iranian threat.

Dagan's biggest step forward came as a result of his Lebanon experience. The Winograd Committee that investigated the 2006 war cited his evaluations, which were far more accurate than the IDF's. Four months before the war, in a cabinet discussion about Hezbollah's attempts to kidnap soldiers, Dagan and Gilad warned that any conflict that developed would not end without a ground operation. The day Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev were abducted, on July 12, 2006, Dagan began to insist that a military response would engender a long conflict, in which the home front would suffer, and an air operation would not be enough to decide the outcome.

Dagan is now at the peak of his power. Premier-designate Tzipi Livni, a former junior officer in the Mossad, receives continual updates from him as foreign minister. But she has no experience of approving special operations. It will be interesting to see if she continues to approve Dagan's daring operations, or if she'll step back and sleep on things before making her decisions.

*Meir Dagan
has brought the
famed spy agency
'back to its
days of glory'*

Opinions

Mandela's mixed legacy

Amid much international fanfare, Nelson Mandela celebrated his 90th birthday earlier this year. Often likened to peace icons as revered as Gandhi and Mother Theresa, Mandela has emerged as the quintessential hero of the 20th century. Former British prime minister, Tony Blair, has described him as the "greatest and most courageous leader of our time."



Lawrence Hart
in Hamilton

However, the imprint that Mandela will leave behind is not all roses. Yes, there is little doubt that without him, there may well have been a

hideously violent insurrection as South Africa threw off the shackles of apartheid in the early 1990s. Even in retrospect, it's evident that he was the right person at the right time to broker a peaceful transition from the excesses of the previous regime to what was hoped would be the moderation of an emerging "rainbow nation" that would serve as a beacon of racial harmony, civil society and good government on an otherwise retrogressive and mostly impoverished subcontinent.

Sadly, the South Africa of the past 14 years has not lived up to expectations. With one of the highest murder rates on the planet, widespread violence that affects every stratum of its society, and a total neglect of any policy to combat an HIV/AIDS pandemic that has decimated large segments of its population, the "new" South Africa has turned out to be much more like the rest of "Third World Africa" rather than its mentor and anticipated saviour.

While most of the blame for this rests with Mandela's successor, Thabo Mbeki, the seeds were sown on Mandela's watch. It was Mandela, as well, who turned a blind eye to the tyranny and incompetence of Robert Mugabe, thus enabling the Zimbabwean president to singlehandedly destroy his country's economy and civic infrastructure.

And while many Jewish South Africans still get dewy-eyed at the very mention of Mandela's name, there is relatively little in his relationship with Jews or Israel that is particularly impressive.

He is on record for having supported Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein and for having embraced both Yasser Arafat and Libyan strongman Moammar Gadhafi, affectionately referring to Arafat as his "comrade in arms" and Gadhafi as "my brother leader."

But what is much more troubling than such questionable personal associations is Mandela's myopic and counterproductive attitude to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. By commenting some years ago, for example, that "injustice and gross human rights violations were being perpetrated in Palestine" and by more recently adding his voice to those who accuse Israel of being an "apartheid state," he has declared his biases and added perceived legitimacy to the all-too-common libels that underpin today's rampant anti-Zionism.

So, for various reasons – but, from our perspective, especially when judging his attitude to Israel – Mandela's legacy will be irrevocably tainted.

Next year in Jerusalem no longer assured

We Jews regularly repeat the age-old prayer of "Next Year in Jerusalem." For many of us who call this city home, that entreaty is no longer self-evident. With the New Year upon us and municipal elections just weeks away, it's fitting to examine different prospects for Jerusalem's future.

Jerusalem is a city of contrasts. It has deep-rooted cultural institutions, spiritual wealth, and unequalled physical beauty, as well as being the country's political hub. However, many people also consider it a complex city to live in, with continuing tensions between Arabs and Jews and their incumbent security implications, on the one hand, and between haredim and other Israelis, on the other.

Far more Israelis are leaving the city than choosing it as their home. From 2000 to 2007 alone, 51,100 more people left the city than entered it. They were mainly Jews, both secular and religious (including many haredim).

There are several reasons for this exodus.

Jerusalem is a very poor city. In 2006, more than 40 per cent of its entire populace and 27 per cent of its Jews were statistically poor.

To add insult to injury, house prices in the city have skyrocketed – more than 20 per cent in 2006-7 alone – and continued to rise during this year's early months. This increase was largely due to thousands of real estate purchases made by foreign residents, many of whom want a foothold in Jerusalem, but whose properties remain empty for most of the year.

As a result, many young people can no longer afford to live in the city. Haredim are

moving to large ultra-Orthodox towns, such as Betar Illit, Emanuel and Kiryat Sefer in the West Bank, and to other places within the Green Line. Secular and modern Orthodox people are leaving for satellite communities around Jerusalem, such as Mevasseret Zion and Ma'ale Adumim. Almost one-third of all who've left since 2000 moved westward to the metropolitan Tel Aviv area.

Furthermore, some non-haredi Jewish Jerusalemites, mostly young, feel there's no future for them and their like in the city. They feel stifled by its complexities and view it as a bland, parochial backwater, inhabited by government and university employees. They're looking elsewhere for less weighty alternatives.

Much of the problem is image-related. While it doesn't have a beach or some of Tel Aviv's flair and cosmopolitan sophistication, Jerusalem, with all its contradictions, is a wonderful place to live and bring up a family. It has a great cultural life, excellent museums and galleries, terrific restaurants, clubs and bars (many open on Saturdays), an array of schools providing a good education for the city's varied populations and demands, and employment opportunities, not limited to government and academia, in commerce and industry. All this with the obvious bonus of living in one of the world's most beautiful and historical cities – juxtaposed as a crossroads for all three major western religions.

This brings us to the upcoming municipal elections. The previous vote, held in 2003, resulted in Jerusalem's first haredi mayor, Uri Luplianski, and a city council with an Orthodox



Yair Lootsteen
in Jerusalem

Jerusalem terror: predictable 'spontaneity'

For more than 60 years, campaigns of incitement and hatred have taught Palestinians to use violence against Israel, and as a response to each wave is developed, a new tactic is found. The excuses change according to the climate, moving from Palestinian refugee claims, economic rationalizations, "occupation and settlement" (after the 1967 war), false claims of "war crimes," etc., but the underlying strategy of "armed struggle" and "resistance" remains steady.

The most recent wave has taken the form of hit-and-run attacks in Jerusalem's streets, as Palestinian terrorists find it more difficult to carry explosives across the separation barrier. Two deadly assaults involved bulldozers used for construction, and on Sept. 21, the third such attack took place – in this case, the "militant" (in Reuters-speak) plowed a passenger car into a group of pedestrians at high speed. These attacks, as well as a murderous rampage in the Rav Kook yeshiva, were carried out by east Jerusalem Arabs who live inside the barrier and do not have to cross the Israel Defence Forces checkpoints.

Although the attacks are described as spontaneous individual outbursts, and no organization has been found to be involved, they are part of the constant pattern of hatred and terror aimed at Israelis and Jews. The armistice that ended the 1948 Independence War was followed by the beginning of infiltrations by Fedayeen

based in Jordan and Egypt, who attacked Israeli civilians nearby. When these were halted, the attacks led by Yasser Arafat's PLO shifted to the Jordanian-occupied West Bank, (until 1967), to Jordan itself (until 1970), and from there to Lebanon. More recently, when IDF operations such as Defensive Shield and the construction of a security barrier ended the suicide bombing campaign (misnamed "the second intifadah"), rocket barrages started from Gaza. And after Israeli strikes led the Hamas leadership in Gaza to impose a temporary ceasefire, the hit-and-run assaults began in Jerusalem.

As the latest attacks demonstrate, Palestinians are capable of reading the signals and acting on their own, with whatever weapons are most readily available. This may be a rifle, a suicide belt filled with explosives, rockets assembled in Gaza, a bulldozer, or a BMW. The steady incitement plays a central role, including Palestinian television programming preaching the virtues of martyrdom and the glory of fighting the Zionist enemy. As a result, the isolated action may appear to be spontaneous, but the foundation and preparations are never far away.

Palestinians also recognize that the United Nations and the powerful non-government organizations claiming to promote human rights rarely respond to terror, in contrast to their shrill condemnations of Israeli responses. In the

plurality. Luplianski received 51.4 per cent of the votes in the mayoral race, while the leading secular candidate, successful businessman Nir Barkat, received 42.5 per cent of the votes. Eighteen of 31 council seats went to Orthodox candidates.

Considering that roughly a third of Jerusalem's population of 750,000 are Arabs who traditionally boycott these elections for ideological reasons, and that the haredim comprise only 30 per cent of the remaining populace, these results were not a foregone conclusion. They were a product of secular apathy. While 70 per cent of haredim exercised their right to vote, only 50 per cent of others did so.

Non-haredim had no one to blame but themselves, but the results only added to the mood that the city is moving toward religious control. Since then, the rate of movement out of the city has grown. The number of pupils in secular primary and secondary schools is falling, while the number of haredi pupils and schools is on a continual rise.

This time round, there finally seems to be a genuine air of urgency among the non-haredi voter base. Barkat, who's running again for mayor, is ahead in all the polls and the haredim are still bickering about who'll be their candidate. There's an understanding among many Jerusalemites that another haredi victory will have serious long-term ramifications for the nature of our capital and that they can no longer stand idly by.

Leshanah Haba'ah B'Yerushalayim Hahnuyah!

This column is dedicated to the memory of my cousin Barbara Meissner Fishbein, who passed away recently in Toronto.



Gerald Steinberg
in Jerusalem

Second Lebanon War, and in recent months, during the Gaza rocket attacks, the statements and campaigns by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, B'tselem, Alternatives (based in Montreal and funded in part by the Canadian government) and others focused primarily on falsely accusing Israel of "war crimes."

If Israel were to take steps to deter or defend against these attacks, such as destroying the houses of the terrorists, or preventing Palestinian residents of east Jerusalem from entering the city with their cars, the accusations of "racism" and "collective punishment" would follow immediately. For Palestinians and their supporters, all Israeli responses to terror are illegitimate.

To defeat this strategy, and end terror in its different forms, this incitement must end. The moderate Palestinian leaders who are credited with negotiating peace must move clearly and decisively to stop the parallel demonization and delegitimization of Israel in the United Nations, particularly in the context of the Human Rights Council. If Palestinian officials continue to use the discredited Durban process to use terms such as "apartheid," all aid to the Palestinian Authority and its NGOs should be cut off.

The Canadian government, which has recently granted another large aid budget to the Palestinians, can set an important example. Unless the incitement ends, terror will continue, this money will be wasted, and there will never be Palestinian economic development, peace or regional stability.

The Kirshner File

An oasis in a harsh desert environment

Sde Nitzan is a speck in the remote wastes of the western Negev Desert, an oasis south of the volatile Gaza Strip and east of the tranquil Egyptian border.

The bleak area south of Sde Nitzan is an empty, sun-baked quarter of sand dunes and gravel plains, one of Israel's last frontiers.

Thirty four years ago, when Efraim Perlmutter arrived at this moshav as a 31-year-old American who had made aliyah the year before, this arid region was far less settled than it is today.

"If I had known what lay ahead," he said the other afternoon, "I might not have come here. But it's been a challenging life."

Sde Nitzan and the archipelago of rural communities around it were built with the express purpose of developing the Negev, which comprises two-thirds of Israel's land mass. The Jewish National Fund played an integral role in preparing the land and infrastructure.

David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first and perhaps greatest prime minister, decreed that the Negev's development was a national priority. He poured scarce resources into it, and when he retired, he settled in Sde Boker, a kibbutz facing an immense desert crater. Some of his successors, intent on retaining territories won in the Six Day War, placed considerably less emphasis on making the Negev green. But in general, Israel has kept faith with Ben-Gurion's dream.

Sde Nitzan, about an hour's drive from Be'er Sheva, the capital of the Negev, is a pivotal component of Israel's long-range plan to conquer the desert. Established in 1973 as an agricultural settlement for new immigrants from Anglophone countries, Sde Nitzan broke the spirit of many of the newcomers, who simply dropped out in exhaustion. The climate was harsh, the demands unyielding and unfamiliar and hard. Israelis replaced the dropouts, but eventually, North American Jews like Perlmutter joined them. Perlmutter, originally

from Washington, D.C., is a life-long Zionist, having been a member of the Habonim youth movement and having resolved to settle in Israel when he was only 16 years old.

True to his convictions, he spent a year on Kibbutz Geshet Haziv when he was 17. Returning to the United States, he continued his studies. While pursuing a graduate degree in political science at the University of Maryland, he read a story in the *Jerusalem Post* that piqued his attention. It was about a Jewish agronomist from New Zealand, a nephew of the renowned Yiddish writer Isaac Lieb Peretz, who had immigrated

to Israel and had introduced the glass-house concept of agricultural to Israel. Upon further delving into the matter, Perlmutter discovered that this revolutionary method shortens the growing season, increases yield and uses less water, a perfect formula for Israel.

Captivated by the concept and by the notion that he could transform himself into a farmer, Perlmutter finally immigrated to Israel. He reached Sde Nitzan in 1974, just months after the Yom Kippur War.

Perlmutter's life-changing decision to reinvent himself was surprising, to say the least.

Apart from having worked as a volunteer in a chicken and turkey coop at a kibbutz when he was a teenager, Perlmutter knew virtually nothing about farming. And as a city slicker to the marrow of his

bones, he always assumed that he would live in an urban environment. "I never thought I would end up on a moshav, much less the Negev," he said, sitting in the kitchen of his rather modest cottage and sipping a cold Coke to ward off the heat.

Having committed himself to the moshav, he was presented with the choice of either tending to tomatoes or flowers, the two crops Sde Nitzan concentrated on at the time.

He chose tomatoes. "It turned out well," he said. "I survived."

But the hours were incredibly long and he was forced to supplement his income by teaching at a local school.



Samuel Cohen at the Besor reservoir

Perlmutter, assisted by his wife, was a tomato farmer 20 years, until he got fed up with Israel's byzantine export regulations and resolved to expand his horizons.

These days, he tends to pineapples and ruscus, a green ornamental plant native to Europe, Africa and southwest Asia and normally used at festive occasions. Neither is as labour intensive as tomatoes, he noted. He ships the bulk of the pineapples to Tel Aviv and the ruscus to markets in Europe, Japan and the United States.

"I'm not rich, but by Israeli standards, I'm well off," he explained. "I put food on the table."

Sde Nitzan has a population of 400 – the majority of whom are native-born Israelis – and 74 self-contained farming units. Typically, each house is attached to a field. Perlmutter owns 8-1/2 dunams (one dunam is equal to 900 square metres), plus more land in partnership with associates.

Crops are grown in hothouses and fed and watered electronically through a drip system of irrigation.

Like most farmers in Israel nowadays, he relies on Thai workers to care for and harvest crops. He and his partners employ six Thais, whom he praises as diligent and reliable workers.

Sde Nitzan no longer has Palestinian Arab workers on its payroll. "We never employed Palestinians on a big scale," he said.

Prior to the eruption of the second Palestinian uprising, farmers like Perlmutter

performed much of the manual work themselves, only using Palestinian farm hands when absolutely necessary.

Being seven kilometres from Gaza, Sde Nitzan has been occasionally shelled by Qassam rockets and mortars, but all the projectiles fired by Palestinian militants have landed in empty fields, not causing any material damage or injuries.

Perlmutter has four children, three sons and one daughter, but only his daughter has remained on the moshav. His eldest son is employed by a hotel at the Dead Sea, while his youngest one resides in Tel Aviv. The middle son lives in Australia.

Perlmutter has no intention of leaving Sde Nitzan. "Life is more intense here than in the city," he said.

He is grateful that the Jewish National Fund has taken such an interest in the Negev. "Without the JNF, the moshav could not have been built."

Nor could Sde Nitzan have survived without the benefit of the JNF's Besor reservoir, a relatively short distance away.

Constructed about a decade ago with the help of JNF branches in Australia, South Africa and the United States, it was conceived to provide the region with an extra 10 million cubic metres of recycled water annually.

The water, used exclusively for agriculture, comes from a sewage plant in Tel Aviv and from flash flood, said Samuel Cohen, an engineer employed by Mekorot, Israel's national water company.

Cohen said that the Besor complex consists of three pools, the Lower Rehovot reservoir, the Upper Rehovot reservoir and the Besor reservoir.

The Besor reservoir, the largest ever built by the JNF, is a sight to behold, resembling nothing less than a small lake in a hard-scrabble tan landscape. Stocked with 100,000 male fish to feed on algae, the reservoir is 17 metres deep when full.

Thanks to it, farmers are able to cultivate 25,000 dunams of citrus, corn, wheat, sunflowers and vegetables, much of it for export, in this heretofore inhospitable region.

"This was once desert," said Cohen.

And now, miraculously, it is a lush garden.



Sheldon Kirshner in Israel



Efraim Perlmutter

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Greater Toronto Area

Israel paramount concern to forum audience

Continued from page 3

For her part, Frei said that while her party supports Israel, it also wants to bring its environmental challenges to light.

"What's the point of defending our homeland if at the same time we're making it unlivable?" she asked, referring to sentiment expressed by Israel's Green party on its website.

Wallace opened by saying the NDP has had a "long and honourable" tradition of working with Canada's ethnic communities and would continue to do so if elected.

Throughout the evening, the candidates tackled questions ranging from their parties' platforms on dealing with a nuclear Iran led by President Mahmoud Amahdinejad to how Canada can prevent tax dollars from reaching terror groups to what their favourite commandment is.

Kenney could barely spit out Amahdinejad's name and title, and he reassured the audience that the Conservatives have been "clear in consistently denouncing" his regime. He later added that the best way to counter Iran's "insane" leadership is to help foster civic society in that country so that "one day, the Persian people will elect a new, sane, government."

Volpe summed up the subject by saying he didn't "think there's a person in this room who wouldn't condemn Ahmadinejad." He then chided the Tories for not "implementing Canada's role under the genocide convention" by refusing to support a motion proposed by Liberal MP Irwin Cotler that urges bringing

Ahmahdinejad to justice by charging him and Iran with incitement to genocide under international law.

In his rebuttal, Kenney said that when Cotler's motion came before Parliament, the "Israeli government was not in favour" of it because it was concerned it would be used as a "propaganda tool" by Amahdinejad if the motion was defeated at the United Nations.

Frei called Iran's build-up of nuclear capacity "very worrisome," but said there has been a lot of "spin" on the issue and that it's still not clear what stage Iran's nuclear development is at. She cited last year's U.S. National Intelligence Estimate report, which suggested Iran won't achieve nuclear capacity until at least 2013 and warned that any "weapons-based solution" is not part of the Green party's ethos.

Wallace said that the NDP has called for "condemnation of Iran" for its threats to destroy Israel and that her party agrees there must be "absolute vigilance on the proliferation of nuclear weapons."

Referring to Durban II, she added that the NDP has also stated that it would not allow Canada to be part of any peace conference that could be "hijacked in the name of anti-Semitism."

The candidates also spoke about their various parties' positions on the arts, taxation and the economy, echoing what their party leaders have been saying. But the topic of Israel was of paramount concern to the audience.

With regard to the question of Israel's security and Canada's role in ensuring it, Kenney noted that "Israel was roundly condemned in 1981 for taking out the Iraqi nuclear reactor. Today, I think most people are glad they did."

Volpe said a Liberal government would support its "critical ally in the Middle East" by providing logistical support to help it fend off any attack.

Wallace reiterated that the NDP "is a party of peace and

dialogue, and our armed forces exist... to protect our national interests," although she said her party has "heightened empathy" for Israel.

In closing, Kenney recapped Prime Minister Stephen Harper's actions in standing up for Israel on the world stage. Volpe ended the evening by reminding the crowd that he has been "unwavering and consistent" in his support for Israel and issues important to the Jewish community. Frei summed up by saying that while the Conservatives have a "great record" on Israel, it shouldn't be the only consideration when going to the polls.

Clarification

Some information reported in "Children's musical *Marshmallow Island* gets a facelift" (CJN, Sept. 25) has been updated. The 11 a.m. presentation of *The Legend of Marshmallow Island*, on Oct. 19, will not be preceded with a What A Bagel-sponsored brunch. A representative of the Aliyah chapter of Canadian Hadassah WIZO apologizes for any inconvenience the cancellation may cause.

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Israeli social, economic issues are 'a time bomb'

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Now that Israel is 60 years old, it's "definitely time" for some soul-searching and tough questions regarding social issues, Rachel Liel says.

The director of SHATIL, the New Israel Fund's empowerment and training centre, was in Toronto to speak at Congregation Darchei Noam on Sept. 22 about "Meeting Israel's Greatest Internal Challenges." Her talk was co-sponsored by the synagogue and the New Israel Fund of Canada.

Among the issues that Liel cited were treatment of Arabs, the role of Ethiopian *kessim* (Jewish spiritual leaders) and

the gap between rich and poor. Social and economic justice issues constitute "a time bomb" in Israel, Liel said.

"Very poor people live right across the street. It's not like America, where you have to drive to see them."

She noted that people tend to "go to the heavy [political] issues before we go to these issues." But she said there is much that can be done to address socio-economic issues, and she believes that, while "nobody denies that we are in a state of threat," the issues are interconnected.

Israelis have a per capita income of about \$30,000 a year, which is better than that of Belgians, Liel said. In the last three years alone, she added, there were 7,000 new Israeli millionaires.

However, she said, 20 per cent of Israelis live below the

poverty line, among them every third child. As well, she said that half of the low-income Israelis are the "working poor," a new category.

"The data about gaps and poverty in Israel is not something we can accept... We are number 1 in the western world in social and economic gaps. We need to fix it."

An Israeli-born child of Holocaust survivors who grew up in Herzliah, Liel said her three children don't even remember the "Zionist dream."

Her daughter, she said, is interested in "the green agenda," an issue that she said is closely tied to social justice. "How come they build refineries in poor neighbourhoods?" Liel asked. "How come rich people get clean air and poor people don't?"

Liel, who began her career working for the Israeli government, became interested in working at the grassroots level when her husband served as Israeli ambassador to South Africa from 1992 to 1995 and they witnessed the fall of apartheid.

"This was a transformative period in my life," she said.

"Being in South Africa in those times was really seeing people who were oppressed, who didn't have a voice, suddenly voting for the first time and getting organized. It all happened in front of my eyes. When you see old African women standing three days in the sun waiting to vote – women who couldn't read or write – there is something so inspiring about it."

SHATIL – a Hebrew word that means "seedling" and is also an acronym for the organization's Hebrew name – proved to be the opportunity Liel was looking for on her return to Israel.

The organization's efforts to improve society include "helping groups get organized and advocating for their rights." SHATIL facilitates partnerships and teaches groups how to lobby government effectively.

Liel said it's a privilege to work with disempowered groups, including immigrants and Arab Israelis who make up 20 per cent of the population. Her organization's aim is to help them to help themselves. "This is how dignity is maintained and strengthened."

Despite all the challenges, she said, "there isn't a place like Israel in the entire world. It's dynamic and vibrant. There are young people with fantastic ideas. There's never a dull moment – for better and worse."

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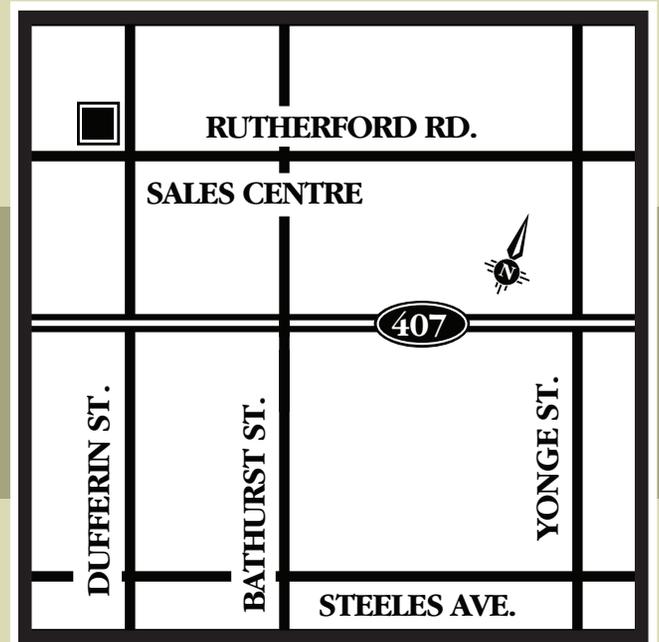
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Lack of context makes *Globe* reports inaccurate

Two recent reports in the *Globe and Mail* illustrate a lack of context which, when dealing with the complexities of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, make for inaccurate and one-sided journalism.

In "Palestinians' underground lifelines" (*Globe and Mail*, Sept. 26) Carolynne Wheeler reported about the smuggling tunnels that run from Egypt into the Gaza town of Rafah.

Key elements of this piece are either inaccurate or woefully incomplete.

Wheeler wrote: "[T]hree years after Israel pulled its soldiers and settlers out of Gaza, the tunnels are thriving as the only means of import and export since the sealing of Gaza's borders in June, 2007, when the Islam group Hamas violently wrenched control."

Unstated is the fact since Israel and Hamas reached a ceasefire this past summer, an average of 100 truckloads of food, fuel and medical supplies per day are being shipped from Israel into Gaza. The flow of goods is interrupted only when Israel temporarily closes the crossings in response to rocket and mortar firings into Israeli territory.

Yet according to Wheeler, were it not for the smuggling through the tunnels, several hundred of which reportedly exist, the Palestinians in Gaza would be in a perilous

state of deprivation.

Also ignored is the fact that even prior to the ceasefire, Israel shipped essential humanitarian goods into Gaza under United Nations supervision. Israel was frequently forced to abandon its efforts due to mortar fire on the crossings. Western journalists rarely reported about these events, even when a UN spokesperson criticized the Palestinians for impairing the flow of essential goods.

More egregious still is Wheeler's claim that "In the past, Hamas kept a tight lid on the smugglers, sealing tunnels and fining their owners. But with no end to Israel's economic blockade in sight, and with the Egyptians bowing to international pressure to keep their border

crossing with Gaza sealed, even Hamas, which brags of clamping down on other criminal activity, has had to shrug and look the other way."

It's simply not true that Hamas took on the smugglers, at least not in the way that Wheeler implies, with Hamas acting as a "good cop." Hamas has always relied on, and benefited from, the smuggling, especially in weapons.

Hamas was provoked because the tunnels were in the hands of Gaza clans, many of whom are allied with rival faction Fatah. Hamas set about taking control of the tunnels by insisting on getting a cut of everything "imported" by the clans.

As to Egypt's bowing to "international pressure" to keep its border with Gaza closed, the reality again is substantially different. While there has indeed been such pressure, Egypt, first and foremost, is acting in its own

interest. It is trying to prevent Hamas, an outgrowth of the Muslim Brotherhood that threatens President Hosni Mubarak's regime, from being able to operate freely in Egypt and thereby add to its instability.

Mark MacKinnon's piece, "Going through hell to reach heaven" (*Globe and Mail*, Sept. 27) was a sympathetic account of the ordeal that Nader Deek, a 26-year-old West Bank resident, went through in order to pray at Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque during Ramadan.

Violating Israeli law and dodging an Israeli checkpoint, Deek eventually made his way through fetid water in a drainage pipe to achieve his goal.

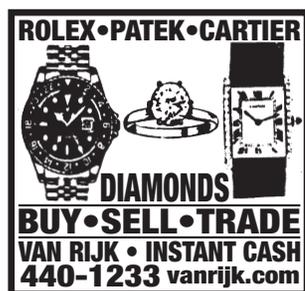
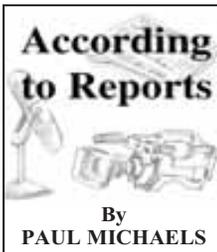
MacKinnon noted: "[S]ince the second intifadah... Palestinian men [from the West Bank] under the age of 45 and women under 35 are barred" from the mosque.

Yet, the only reason MacKinnon gave for Israel's restriction is "the idea that young people are more likely to cause trouble" such as "riots after Friday prayers."

Unmentioned is the much more relevant fact that Palestinian men under 45 have been involved in terrorist attacks on Israeli civilians. By omitting any reference to terrorism, MacKinnon deprived the reader of the broader context that led to the Israeli restrictions, making them seem more punitive.

MacKinnon also wrote: "It has never been easy for West Bank Palestinians to go to the al-Aqsa Mosque." This is not correct. Before the first intifadah, access to the mosque was taken for granted, except when there were isolated acts of violence.

Paul Michaels is communications director for the Canada-Israel Committee.



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Coast to Coast

More younger kids bodes well for Winnipeg's Gray Academy

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — While the 572 students enrolled at the Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education (BJE) Gray Academy of Jewish Education is virtually the same number as last year, head of school Rory Paul is particularly happy about the number of children in the school's early years program.

"We have had to add a third junior kindergarten class and a third Grade 1 class for this year," he said. "That bodes well for the future, especially since demographic figures indicate that there has been a slight decline in the number of school-age children in Winnipeg."

He also hopes the increase will boost the school's enrolment 10 years from now, since Gray Academy traditionally loses a substantial number of students at the junior and senior high school level to other private schools — and at the senior high level in particular, to the University of Winnipeg Collegiate program.

Gray Academy — Winnipeg's main Jewish private school, with students from kindergarten to Grade 12 — is also benefiting from a bequest by the late Samuel Grosberg. The Holocaust survivor, who died childless three years ago, left \$500,000 to Jewish education in the city.

That amount and other funds donated by Grosberg are being administered by the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba. Interest earned on the capital is being used to pay the tuition of several Gray Academy students from less well-to-do families who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford it.

This year marks the third year of the school's international student program. Once again this year, the school is

hosting one student from Brazil and another from Chile who are here for the opportunity to receive a Jewish education and to earn a Canadian high school diploma, which would make them eligible to attend any Canadian university. (Gray Academy graduates receive two diplomas — a standard provincial diploma and a diploma in Jewish studies.)

"Our school is a member of the Manitoba Council for International Education, and we have been certified and accredited by RAVSAK: The Jewish Community Day School Network," Paul said. "Gray Academy has become one of the top Jewish schools in North America."

New this year Winnipeg Jewish families also have the option of enrolling their younger children in North America's only public Hebrew bilingual programs, which are 100 per cent government-funded.

Enrolment in the Hebrew bilingual program at Brock Corydon Elementary School in south Winnipeg has remained steady at about 180 students — peak capacity — for the last several years.

In north Winnipeg, with its declining young Jewish population, Margaret Park Elementary School continues to register a corresponding decrease in student numbers. Margaret Park's Hebrew bilingual program has just 50 students this fall, down from 60 last year. For observant families, there is one more educational option. The 10-year-old Ohr HaTorah Day School, an Orthodox elementary and junior high school that holds classes at the Herzlia-Adas Yeshurun Synagogue in south Winnipeg, has an enrolment of 50 this year, about the same as last year.

The school has a new principal this fall, Rabbi Uriel Malka, 30, a veteran of the Second Lebanon War two years ago. He and his wife, Ortal, are from Karnei Shomron and both have bachelor of education degrees from the Beit Midrash for Teachers of Judaic Studies in Rehovot, Israel. Rabbi Malka is also a graduate of Israel's Hesder Yeshiva program, which combines Talmud study and military service within a religious Zionist framework.

The Malkas and their five children arrived in Winnipeg at the beginning of August. Both the rabbi and his wife are teaching at the school.

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Young rabbi takes reins at troubled Winnipeg shul

By RHONDA SPIVAK
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Twenty-nine-year-old Rabbi Ari Ellis is the new spiritual leader at Herzlia Adas-Yeshurun Synagogue, an Orthodox synagogue in Winnipeg's south end.

It's Rabbi Ellis' first position as a pulpit rabbi and he said he's looking forward to getting to know the community.

For the last year, the 100-family congregation has been without a spiritual leader since the departure of Rabbi Tzvi Muller.

In June 2007, the badly divided synagogue had a contested election for its board of directors, an event that had not occurred for many years. The synagogue currently doesn't have a president, and there was no quorum at its annual general meeting in June. The most recent executive director, Rona Davies, is also no longer working at the synagogue.

Rabbi Ellis said he sees himself as bringing a fresh start to the shul and enabling it "to move forward."

He also hopes to be a resource for all of the Jewish community.

"I see myself here as not just specifically to serve the Orthodox community, but

to serve all of the community. I have spent time... meeting with leaders from the Jewish federation... the Gray Academy [of Jewish Education], and other organizations. I anticipate spending more time at the Gray Academy and hope to get to know the community. I am meeting people and getting different perspectives," he said.



Rabbi Ari Ellis

He said he is also looking forward to working with Rabbi Uriel Malka, the new principal of Ohr Hatorah Day School, the modern Orthodox day school located in the synagogue building.

"I know him [Rabbi Malka] from Israel. We studied in the same program... He and I are both interested in Jewish education and awareness and understand that children are the future of our community."

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Rabbi Ellis, who has lived in Israel for the last six years, admitted, "I'm not quite sure what to expect from Winnipeg winters."

Ellis didn't grow up in an Orthodox household, and he attended the Conservative University of Judaism (now the American Jewish University) in Los Angeles and began attending an Orthodox shul. He received his master's in education and administration from the University of Judaism's Fingerhut School

of Education.

Rabbi Ellis studied at Yeshivat Hamivtar under Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, chief rabbi of Efrat, and received his smichah in May 2007.

Ellis said he and his wife Tikva, 25, wanted to come to a smaller Jewish community.

"Of course, it's great for any Jew to live in Israel, but we figured that if we weren't going to be in Israel, we didn't need to be in a larger Jewish centre. There are enough rabbis in New

York or Los Angeles... We figured it would be good to be in a smaller community where we felt we could make a difference."

Rabbi Ellis said one of his areas of interest is "in the application of Halachah to issues of technology... and medical ethics."

The couple, who arrived in Winnipeg at the end of August, have two children, ages two and six months. Tikva Ellis, who is from Sacramento, is working in the preschool at Ohr Hatorah Day School.



BBYO KICKOFF: More than 100 teens recently kicked off BBYO's new year at an outdoor carnival co-ordinated by members of the Lake Ontario regional executive. Pictured, front row from left, are Kelly Indarjit, Kyle Goldman, Robbie MacMillan, Michael Galowitz; and, second row from left, Rochelle Derlick, Michelle Covant, Nicole Glassman, Alissa Malina, Michelle Naftalis, Naomi Sand and Bobby Ben; and, back row, Sarah Katz.

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Yossi Klein Halevi

Nov. 5

Yossi Klein Halevi is Senior Fellow in the Shalem Center's Institute for Zionist History and Ideas, and is the Israel correspondent for the *New Republic*.

Introduction: **Linda Frum**

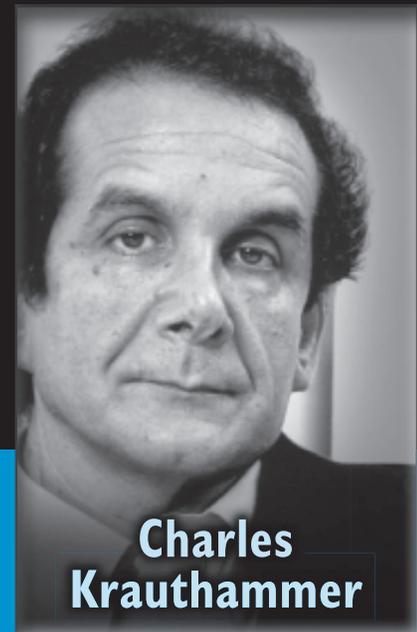


Daniel Gordis

Nov. 12

Rabbi Daniel Gordis is Senior Vice President of the Shalem Center, a Jerusalem-based research and educational institute.

Introduction: **Michael Diamond**



**Charles
Krauthammer**

Nov. 19

Charles Krauthammer is a columnist for the *Washington Post* and winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Distinguished Commentary.

Introduction: **Robert Lantos**



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Supreme Court won't hear chassidim's appeal

MONTREAL — The Supreme Court of Canada will not hear a chassidic group's appeal to keep its summertime Laurentian synagogue and school open.

The high court dismissed with costs the case of the Congregation of the Followers of the Rabbis of Belz to Strengthen the Torah vs. the municipality of Val Morin.

The Belzers were contesting a Quebec

Court of Appeal decision last April in the town's favour over a zoning dispute that goes back more than 25 years.

The Court of Appeal ruled that the group is violating municipal bylaws by using two houses, one for worship and the other for their children's religious education, at the community's summer enclave in Val Morin. The area is zoned for residential use only,

and the court decided that the houses are, in fact, institutions.

Quebec Superior Court reached the same conclusion in 2005.

The community was given permission by the Court of Appeal to continue to use the houses in the same manner this summer, after it filed its case with the Supreme Court in June.

The Belzers, who consist of about 50 Montreal families who spend two months a year in Val Morin, were represented by prominent civil rights defender Julius Grey. He argued that his clients' religious freedom is being infringed and that the congregation should be exempt from the bylaw.

The Supreme Court did not offer any reason for its refusal to hear the case.

Jewish marine plays against stereotype

By **RITA POLIAKOV**
Special to The CJN

Dave Rosner doesn't look like a U.S. marine. With his short stature, wire-rimmed glasses and kippah, he looks more like the army's accountant, or, as he puts it, "the guy that designs their website."

Still, despite his appearance, Rosner was a full-time U.S. marine for more than four years, and he has been a part-time marine on reserve duty for 14 years. He served in both the first Gulf War and in Iraq.

Rosner, who specializes in intelligence and public affairs, is currently a lieutenant colonel and a member of the Marines' public affairs unit in Manhattan. And, in his spare time, he's a stand-up comedian.

On Sept. 25, Rosner proved his worth

as a comedian at the Chabad Lubavitch of Markham synagogue.

"I know it's very odd to hear the word Jewish marine and not hear the word biologist after that," he said to the crowd. "But I never liked science."

Rosner's first joke was met with a titter of laughter, but his last was met with a roar. It wasn't just the comedian's humour that won over the audience, but his sincerity.

Amid jokes about his appearance, his "Jew food" and his Marine Corps radio call sign — Mazel Tov Cocktail — there came moments of honesty, like his reaction to the war in Iraq.

"I said, 'If we're going to war, you've got to take me.'"

In 2003, he was given 24 hours to decide whether he would join the fight in Iraq.

"I had sideburns, I was doing standup every

night... but I knew I'd go."

Rosner's smile began to fade as he told the audience about the enemy's use of children as decoys. Throughout the show, he quickly made the switch from comedian to marine and back again. The audience responded well, laughing in the right places and nodding quietly during the silences.

But Rosner's stories were about more than Jewish wine and yarmulkes. They were about a proud Jew trying to maintain his culture.

It was the Marine Corps that helped Rosner connect to his religion.

"My father had said, 'Don't let them know you're Jewish.'"

When he first joined the U.S. Marines, his dog tags listed no religion. In Saudi Arabia, he decided to change his tags. From then on, his religion was public knowledge.

As a reserve marine, Rosner can be called to serve for short or long periods of time. His 96 days at the marine base in Hawaii gave him culture shock. Or rather, he caused culture shock. After putting up two mezuzahs in his room, he noticed that it wasn't being cleaned.

"I went to the front desk. They said 'The maids are afraid of the things on your door. They think it's witchcraft.'"

Unlike most standup comedy shows, Rosner ended with a question-and-answer period.

"Are you single?" asked a woman in the back.

"Yes," he replied, looking worried.

"I've got a girl for you," the woman said.

Rosner sighed, smiling. "Only in a Jewish crowd."



Photo by Al Gilbert, C.M.

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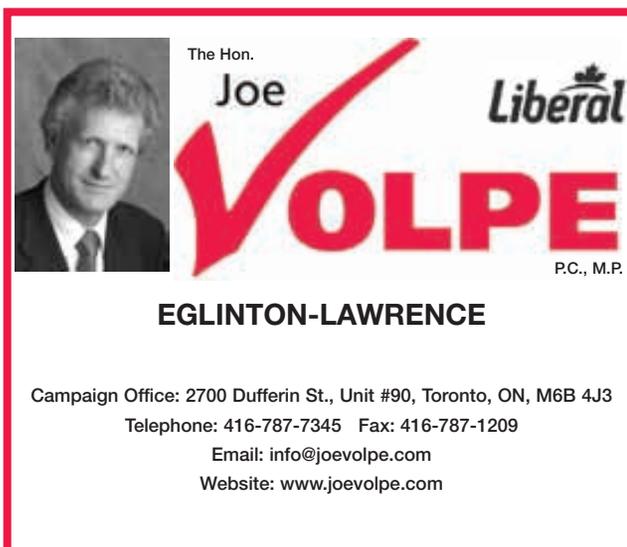
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Jewish Life

The connection between Yom Kippur and Sukkot

By RABBI MORDECAI ZEITZ

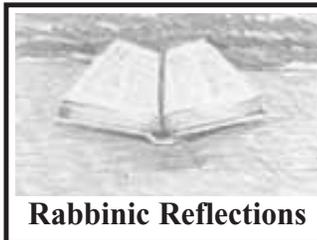
The jump from Yom Kippur to Sukkot appears gigantic. Two different solitudes: one a day of judgment with fasting and solemnity; the other a festival whose very name is zman simchatainu – a time of rejoicing. We stand in the shadow of Yom Kippur just concluded and in anticipation of Sukkot this coming week. Two unconnected events or maybe not.

According to Jewish law, immediately after breaking our fast we are to go outside and at least start the building of our sukkah. Our rabbis were not general contractors setting up a time line to meet a deadline. There are still four days to get it done so why push it? But it appears that Yom Kippur and the sukkah are really an extension, one of the other. The essence of the sukkah is what Yom Kippur was all about. One complements the other. If you really want to experience Yom Kippur, then build a sukkah!

The very essence of the Jewish People is the ability to maintain a delicate balance between worry and concern for the future with the ability to find reason enough to celebrate life with joy and determination despite the uncertainty that exists. Yom Kippur and Sukkot are kindred spirits representing the co-existence of these two realities of Jewish life.

On Yom Kippur we had a real person-

al one-on-one with God. It's the day that God is closest to each of us and the very nature of the day brings us up a notch, truly feeling a connection with the Creator. In the light of this special day, I am able to see my life and the world in a slightly different fashion and resolve to make some adjustments more to His/Her way of thinking. At the same time we let God know that He created the human situation a little less than perfectly and so forgiveness is in the



Rabbinic Reflections

air. Hopefully, there is room for some give-and-take but no guarantees. On the way out after Neilah, God says: "You know – Salachti Kidvarecha; I shall forgive you, as you said!"

Pretty neat, but it's not so simple. 'Salachti Kidvarecha' is not an answer but a condition. Your forgiveness is dependent upon 'devarecha' your frame of mind and your actions to back up your Yom Kippur words. On Yom Kippur your future world was shaky but you were determined to work out a deal. You left with good and optimistic feelings but nothing absolute. So how do we back it up?

I go out and build a house of joy – a sukkah – worthy of brachah even as I ponder my fate which is yet to be disclosed. I make plans for the future and I implement them despite lingering doubts about my future. My resolute action sets up 'Kidvarecha' so as to be worthy of God's 'Salachti'.

A sukkah, like life itself, is frail, fragile and very temporary. But that doesn't stop me from filling it, wall-to-wall, with simchah and celebration. I literally take dead wood or leaves – the sukkah roof called schach – and breathe life into them creating a celebration of life. I start immediately after Yom Kippur and continue on through the Festival of Sukkot and thereafter, everyday, showing through my actions that I am worthy of God's continuing trust. I know how to make the blessing of life something long lasting.

How did I do on Yom Kippur to warrant 'Salachti'? Well, that all depends on the 'Devarim', the positive attitude I display as I face the challenges in a very shaky and uncertain world.

So God checks out our sukkah so as to wrap up His/Her Yom Kippur books. My 'Devarim' on Sukkot and thereafter is a validation of my sincerity about the purpose of my life as shared with God on Yom Kippur. Sukkot gives us a heads-up so as to set the pattern and tone for the weeks and months to come. The sukkah itself might be flimsy and fragile but by adding the human dimension, we have the making of yamim tovim, great days of meaningful joy and celebration.

We can make God's job easier this year by living it up in a sukkah and making it our entry point for a continuing year of joyous and successful life. Gmar Tov and Chag Sameach.

Rabbi Mordecai Zeitz is spiritual leader at Congregation Beth Tikvah Ahavat Shalom Nusach Hoari in Montreal.

Keeping tzedakah close to home

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

The ethic of giving charity has long been ingrained in Jewish law and practice, and Jewish communities have rightly prided themselves on the generosity exhibited by its members in small and large ways. And despite recent turbulence in world financial markets, there appears to be plenty of dollars still potentially available for tzedakah. But a 2003 study by researcher

Gary A. Tobin, president of the Institute for Jewish and Community Research in San Francisco, reveals important and somewhat disturbing trends that will have a direct impact on how Judaism conducts its business in years and decades to come.

On the plus side, Tobin writes, Jewish individuals and organizations give away billions of dollars every year, and seem to do so in disproportionately greater amounts than their numbers would suggest. But Tobin found that between 1995 and 2000, only six per cent of gifts given away by Jewish mega-donors went to Jewish causes. From 2000 to 2003, that figure dropped to five per cent. In 2006,

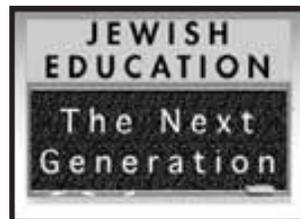
despite the fact that four of America's five biggest donors were Jewish, the vast majority of their money was left to non-Jewish causes. Robert Stanton's \$100-million gift to Yeshiva University was the sole super mega-gift (defined as \$100 million and up) to a Jewish cause in 2006.

Tobin's analysis of these developments is noteworthy: "Not only have Jews prospered economically, they are now able to prosper socially and politically and participate in every aspect of American society. All that is positive. The question becomes: How do Jewish organizations and causes effectively compete in that environment?"

Thus the struggle to integrate into the larger society has by and large been won, but the great ensuing irony is whether Jewish culture will get left behind financially. Naturally, there are still many people supporting many Jewish causes, but as any day school parent will be able to tell you, the cost of tuition is rising almost beyond the breaking point. Parents rightly expect quality for their money; teachers expect to be properly remuner-

ated; but students aspire to well paying jobs, and education is well down on their list. In this vicious cycle lies a problem for the future of Jewish schools. The struggles manifest themselves in all parts of the system: parents squeezed to pay for an education they do not always admire; teachers sometimes drained and burnt out with salaries that might not meet their own home budget; schools trying to cope with all of it and more.

Money is not the answer to everything, but if our community's charitable giving became more targeted in the field of Jewish education, there is little doubt that we would see a brighter future for our children's Jewish identity. Sometimes givers are not even aware of all of the opportunities. A case in point: as the director of York University's Jewish teacher education program, I know that donors who give to scholarships for our Jewish teacher candidates will, above a certain level, have every one of their dollars matched by the Ontario government, which leads to a bittersweet but hopeful scenario. The same province that a year ago did not want to alleviate the tuition bill of Jewish parents will, ironically, help to support the future teachers of our children.

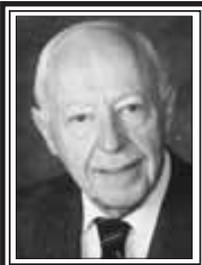


Jewish Life

Benjamin Disraeli by Adam Kirsch, Random House of Canada.

Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881) was the most exotic figure ever to reach the summit of British politics. He is still remembered as a notable exception in British history. More than a century and a quarter after his death, he is still the only Jew to have been prime minister of England.

When his father had him converted to Protestantism at the age of 12, his desire was to open for him avenues of education that otherwise were closed. He could not have foreseen that the change in religion would make it possible for his son, one day, to enter into a political career. For at the time, Jews, Catholics as well as dissenters were all "disabled" from serving in Parliament.



Books
Bernard Baskin

After several attempts, Disraeli was elected as a Conservative member of Parliament in 1837. His maiden address was drowned out by discordant jeers and laughter.

The author of this brief but compelling biography, poet and *New York Sun* book critic Adam Kirsch, writes that Disraeli's Jewishness was the central fact about him. "It didn't matter that he was born in London like his father before him or that he spoke no language but English. It didn't matter that he was, in fact, a practising Christian, baptized into the Church of England." Former British prime minister Winston Churchill wrote that Disraeli never became wholly assimilated

Disraeli's Jewishness gave him confidence

to English ways of life. It was as though he remained a permanent immigrant in the country of his birth.

It is sometimes overlooked that Disraeli, like his father, was a prolific and widely read author. Before he entered Parliament, six of Disraeli's novels, several fantasies, satires, verse, travel journalism and political pamphlets were in print. His novel, *Alroy*, set in the 12th century, was written after an extensive tour of the Near East, including Palestine. It deals with Jewish persecution, survival and national identity. The book's messianic hero, David Alroy, seeks to achieve positive Jewish selfhood through a redeemed religio-political state in Palestine.

Disraeli's greatest legislative achievement was the passage of the Second Reform Bill in 1867, which gave the right to vote to most male heads of households – a measure more liberal than even the Liberals had been ready to contemplate. Many of his Conservative colleagues felt betrayed. The result was that Disraeli laid himself open to charges of opportunism and hypocrisy. The author suggests that "this compounded the distrust he already inspired – as a novelist, a dandy, an adventurer and, of course, a Jew."

In 1839, he married a wealthy widow 12 years his senior. The match considerably

enhanced his social position and provided him with financial security. "Dizzy married me for my money," his wife was known to say, but "if he had the chance again, he would marry me for love." Actually, the union turned out to be lasting and successful.

The author is convinced that Disraeli's Jewishness gave him the confidence to compete with the best-born men in England; it gave him the dignity he sustained through the most wounding attacks; it licensed him to see his passage through the world as a noble adventurer.

Once, baited by an anti-Semite, he famously responded, "When the ancestors of the right honourable gentlemen were brutal savages in an unknown land, mine were priests in the Temple of Solomon."

Disraeli felt no contradiction between his adherence to the Anglican faith and his pride in being Jewish. In arguing that Jews should not be excluded from Parliament, he suggested that Christianity owed most of its basic tenets to the Hebrew Bible and to the Jewish teachings of Jesus.

Among Disraeli's major achievements was the purchase of a share in the Suez Canal company for Britain, with the help of a four-million-pound loan from the Rothschild family.

This engaging volume devotes as much attention to the Jewish side of Disraeli's life and career as to his political activities. In both spheres, he remains a many-sided, enduringly provocative figure.



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By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Living a green Sukkot

It's so obvious, really. If there were one Jewish holiday that lends itself to the appreciation of the environment, it must be Sukkot. There's the harvest. The changing of the seasons. And of course, eating, entertaining and even sleeping outdoors for a week. Today, a look at some websites that suggest how to celebrate Sukkot the green way.

First though, I would be derelict if I didn't acknowledge other holidays that have green ties. Many Jewish festivals have agricultural connections: Passover celebrates the spring planting; Shavuot commemorates the season's first fruits; and of course, Tu b'Shvat is a sort of Jewish arbour day that falls in mid-winter. [tinyurl.com/sukkot09]

Today, however, the enviro-focus is on Sukkot. Are you looking for something inspirational to discuss while sitting in your sukkah? The Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life has gathered several relevant quotations related to the Book of Kohelet (Ecclesiastes), which is traditionally read during Sukkot: "When God created the first human beings, God led them around the Garden of Eden and said: 'Look at my works! See how beautiful they are, how excellent! Take care not to spoil or destroy My world, for if you do, there will be no one to repair it after you.'" [tinyurl.com/sukkot06]

Ever consider creating a recycled sukkah? Canfei Nesharim, an organization that provides a Torah-based approach to understanding environmental issues, suggests

diverting materials headed for the recycle bin (or garbage!) and using them to beautify our sukkah. I like the idea of hanging strawberry baskets upside down and creating reusable, water-resistant paper chains.

(I'm not sure if the Israelites ever dreamed of hanging old CDs in their sukkot.) [tinyurl.com/sukkot03]

Stay on that same page for ideas about what to eat in the sukkah: locally grown, in-season produce served on non-disposable place settings, of course. Richard Schwartz goes a step further and suggests that Sukkot is the perfect time to try vegetarianism. [tinyurl.com/sukkot08] (Please note that there are opinions that eating meat is a required element for the enjoyment of Jewish holidays. If in doubt, speak to your rabbi. [tinyurl.com/meatchag])

The holiday of Sukkot is also tied closely to water. One of the happiest ceremonies in Jewish tradition took place during this festival. While the Temple was standing, a special water pouring ceremony called *Simchat Bet HaShoavah* was held. The drawing of the water was performed with such intense joy that the following saying remains a testament: "He who has not seen the rejoicing at the *Simchat Bet HaShoavah*, has never seen rejoicing in his life." [tinyurl.com/sukkot04]

The ancient Jews of the Middle East understood the centrality of water, but how do you reawaken those sensitivities in North America? Canfei Nesharim has created a mini-site titled True Joy, Through Water.

There are classes and source sheets about the importance of water, a look at the mitzvah of *Bal Tashchit* (do not destroy) and activities such as Torah, math and the environment. [tinyurl.com/sukkot05]

Is there a special bond between Sukkot, the environment and women? Last year, *Lilith* created an eight-page supplement titled *Eco-Ushpizin*. *Ushpizin* is the traditional welcome given to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron and King David during the seven days of Sukkot. [tinyurl.com/fl4zy] Several women were asked whom they'd invite to celebrate Sukkot and the environment. Barbara Lerman-Golomb had two people on her list: "My mother. In the 1950s, she had three natural childbirths when it was unheard of. She was progressive in a lot of ways. Also, [nature writer] Rachel Carson." [tinyurl.com/sukkot02]

The last word about the special connection between Sukkot and the environment goes to Leah Korican. "Under the sukkah there is a chance to connect with the seasons and with generations of people sitting together under the stars. My daughter's first outing, at eight days old, was to a Sukkot celebration and last night, at the same sukkah she shook the lulav with me in the six cardinal directions. I felt a surge of joy and hope for the future feeling these complex pleasures; our smallness in the night sky, the constancy of the stars and seasons as we age and grow, and the shared warmth of our bodies as our voices lift, together in the dark." [tinyurl.com/sukkot07]

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.



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On Campus

Orthodox Union program hits Toronto universities

By RITA POLIAKOV
Special to The CJN

Toronto is the home of the Maple Leafs, the CN Tower and, as of last month, the Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus (JLIC.)

Earlier this fall, the Orthodox Union (OU), in conjunction with Hillel, introduced the JLIC to Toronto university campuses.

The JLIC has been set up at York University and the University of Toronto, and is available to students from other Toronto-area campuses.

The program, which is run on 15 campuses in North America, was created to continue Jewish education after high school. It promotes Orthodox Jewish culture on campus through one-on-one counselling, social programming, guest speakers and daily seminars.

While the program is available at Ameri-

can universities such as Yale and New York University, this is the first time it has come to Canada.

Toronto universities were chosen because of their high number of Jewish students.

"There is a large observant Orthodox community at York, and basically I think the partnership [between OU and Hillel] stemmed from a need to engage and educate the students who want to learn more about Jewish law," said Steven Kraft, Hillel's program associate at York.

Rabbi Aaron and Miriam Greenberg were chosen to serve as the campus Torah educators in Toronto. Both are natives of the city and York graduates.

While Miriam Greenberg does most of her work from home, her husband is often on campus, giving lectures, organizing social events or simply talking with students.

"There's a wide range of programming. [We have] informal classes and high-level

learning similar to what they would get in a yeshiva in Israel," Rabbi Greenberg said.

The program is unique because of its flexibility. While Rabbi Greenberg provides daily classes on campus to all students, regardless of their knowledge and background, he also meets with students at coffee shops or even in his home.

"The fact that you have a senior educator who's available to educate all day, that is new and innovative," Rabbi Greenberg said.

Since the program started, Rabbi Greenberg has been busy. His one-on-one counselling sessions include advice on dating, divorce, career and Jewish philosophy.

"I spend [all day] talking with students, which is good. It's the way it should be. I really want to be there for students in the day time, to foster relationships. Even for Shabbat, a lot of students don't have anywhere to go to. I get them to know my family and my kids, to feel that Jewish life," he said.

To Kraft, the rabbi's passion sets him apart.

"He's just a true educator. He just really engages [students] with his passion for educating. Students really enjoy his presence on campus, and he constantly has students in his office," Kraft said.

Unlike some American universities, York and U of T are known as commuter schools. Many students there don't live on campus, which is a challenge for Hillel and the JLIC.

"It's difficult to engage students outside of campus. When they have breaks in class on

campus, we can engage them, but they have a whole life [off campus]."

Still, Rabbi Greenberg is able to work around that.

"It's not just a matter of learning. It could be talking, shmoozing, having a coffee with students. We're not locked into a location. Some students don't want to come to Hillel. Wherever the students want to meet and talk, I'm flexible."



Rabbi Aaron and Miriam Greenberg, third and fourth from left, are the campus Torah educators for the JLIC. From left are their children, Tzvi, Nediva and Ezra.

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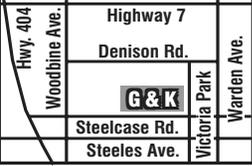
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Health & Lifestyles



SENSORY EXPERIMENT: Plugging his nose and closing his eyes, Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School senior kindergarten student Ben Tannenbaum tries to guess what partner Gabriel Tozman is feeding him as part of a class experiment involving his senses. To coincide with the holidays, apples and honey were the mystery foods.



Former Toronto Maple Leaf captain Doug Gilmour, centre, took part in Strike Out Cancer, together with the event's organizing committee. From left are committee members Laurin Saltzman, Elias Benaim, Marty Firestone and Bernie Shapiro.

Fundraiser held for Strike Out Cancer

By **LEILA SPEISMAN**
Staff Reporter

For years, good friends Harry March, Laurin Saltzman, Elias Benaim, Marty Firestone and Bernie Shapiro used to meet for lunch once a week. Everything changed when, in 2004, March was diagnosed with lung cancer.

Soon after, he died.

The remaining four men decided to organize the bowling party and Princess Margaret Hospital fundraiser Strike Out Cancer to honour March's memory.

Firestone said that since its first year in 2005, the event has raised nearly \$100,000 for early lung cancer detection at Princess Margaret.

This year's event, held at Playtime Bowl on Sept. 13, raised more than \$61,000 (at press time, final tallies were not in).

Unlike most charity programs, there was no admission charge, Firestone said. Money was raised through lane sponsors, a silent auction,

the sale of mystery bags, and general donations. At this year's event, special guest Doug Gilmour, a former Toronto Maple Leaf captain, signed autographs, posed for pictures with participants and helped with the auction.

A media release from the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation said that the funds raised by Strike Out Cancer have helped support the hospital's participation in the international Early Lung Cancer Screening Study. The study was carried out at the institution's Lusi Wong Early Lung Cancer Screening Facility, which detects early stages of cancer, long before symptoms occur.

While "lung cancer is the most common cause of cancer death among Canadians, when caught early it has a cure rate of 70 to 80 per cent," the release states.

Studies have shown that computed tomography (CT) can help identify lung cancers at their earliest stage. It detected up to six times as many Stage 1 cancers as chest radiography, the release noted.

FAMILY MOMENTS

Mazel Tov

The Canadian Jewish News

As featured on
onlysimchas!
Celebrating Jewish Life
www.onlysimchas.com



Mazel tov on the recent engagement of Rachel Harary & Avromi Spitz.



Mazel tov to Chani Kopstick & Leeshai Reichman on their recent wedding.



Mazel tov on the wedding of Steven Farbman & Michelle Kraut.



Mazel tov on the recent engagement of Reuven Guttman & Esther Maimon.



Mazel tov to Avrumi Barr & Esther Kopkaryova on their recent engagement.



Mazel tov on the brit milah of Shlomo Hillel Winslow.



Mazel tov to Yanky & Miriam Berkowitz on the birth of Daniella.



Mazel tov to Dan Kfare on recently making aliyah.

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NOTE HOLIDAY DEADLINES. What's New deadlines: **Friday, Oct. 10, is the deadline for the Oct. 30 issue, and Monday, Oct. 27, is the deadline for the Nov. 6 issue. I receive calls on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.**

Saturday, Oct. 11

PARSHAH DISCUSSION

David Schaeffer talks about the weekly portion Ha'azinu, 9:30 a.m. at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. 416-221-3433

Sunday, Oct. 12

SINGLES FOREST HIKE

Join Walk and Talk Etc., Jewish singles 50+, for a York Region forest hike at Willow Springs Winery. Meet at 10 a.m. at the Holiday Tract, 16389 Hwy. 48. Walk andtalketc@hotmail.com

Other News

SUKKOT, SIMCHAT TORAH

Chabad of Markham hosts a "Sukkah Hop and Pizza in the Hut" for the whole family, Oct. 14, 8 p.m.; Celebrate Simchat Torah Oct 21, 6:30 p.m., includes dancing, a magic show and young adults bash. 905-886-0420

Join Beth Sholom Synagogue for Simchat Torah service followed by a carnival, Oct. 21, Minchah 6 p.m., carnival following Ma'ariv services. Then join them Oct. 22, for a Simchat Torah luncheon after morning services. \$10, children

(4-12) \$5, non-member \$18, non-member children \$10. Under three, free. Reserve by Oct. 10, at noon, 416-783-6103.

Chabad of the Danforth Beaches celebrates Sukkot, Oct. 13 and 14, 7 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday morning services, Oct. 14 and 15, 10 a.m. followed by a kiddush lunch. Oct. 17, Kabbalat Shabbat, 7 p.m. Simchat Torah, Oct. 21, 7 p.m. dancing and kiddush buffet for the whole family. 2273 Queen St. E. 416-809-1365, ChabadDB.com or rabbi@ChabadDB.com

Join **Adath Israel Congregation** for Simchat Torah celebrations Oct. 21, 6:30 p.m., for an evening of singing and dancing with the Torahs followed by a dessert reception. 416-635-5340

WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Circle of Care is a support

group for women 55+ who have been abused. Facilitated by a social worker, the group will focus on a variety of issues and allow for a safe space for participants to come together to learn and share. Eight sessions beginning Thursday, Oct. 16, 2-3:30 p.m. 530 Wilson Ave. For information, call **Marisa Di Nardo** at 416-635-2860, ext. 418.

POETRY-BOOK LAUNCH

National Council of Jewish Women launches the book *Wildflowers at My Doorstep*, **Marni Norwich's** first poetry collection. The event includes music by **Joanna Chapman-Smith** and **Tim Mar**. Thursday, Oct. 16. 7 p.m. at 4700 Bathurst St. 416-785-3611

FAMILY RESOURCES

The Family Resource Centre celebrates receiving a \$132,500 grant

from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to expand its services for newcomers. The Promenade Mall, Suite 313, Oct. 17, 10:15 a.m. FRC provides programs, activities and resources for parents/caregivers and their preschool children and now has a multi-lingual resource kiosk, with Russian, Hebrew and Spanish speaking staff available during drop-in hours. 905-882-8509 or www.thefamilyresourcecentre.ca

CAMP GEORGE BASH

Campers, alumni, staff, parents and faculty are invited to celebrate Camp George's 10th birthday at the eZone, 120 North Queen St., Toronto. Oct. 19, 2-5 p.m., with in-door golf, laser tag, slot-car racetrack, whirlyball, slide show and more. Tickets at the door, \$25. 416-638-2635

Continued on page 27



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Liz Capezuti, PhD, RN
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Baycrest

What's New

Continued from page 26

TROPER ON THE RESCUER

Temple Sinai Congregation presents **Hesh Troper** talks about his book *The Rescuer*, the story of **Judy Feld Carr's** 30-year struggle to rescue of the Jews of Syria. Oct. 19. Refreshments 7 p.m. Lecture 7:30 p.m. \$5. 416-487-4161

BLOOD DRIVE CLINIC

Beth Tzedec Sisterhood sponsors a blood drive clinic Oct. 23, 4:30-8 p.m. Call 1-888-236-6283 or **Avital**, 416-781-3511, to book an appointment.

BETH JACOB GALA

Beth Jacob Congregation of Kitchener-Waterloo celebrates its 100th year at a gala dinner Oct. 26. **Prof. David Johnston**, president of the University of Waterloo, will be the keynote speaker. To reserve, call 519-743-8422.

CAREGIVERS' WORKSHOP

Join Family Caregiver Connections for high tea and a workshop on helping seniors, caregivers and family members learn about choices for future personal care. Oct. 30, 1:30-3 p.m. at the Bernard Betel Centre. With **Marija Padjen**, of the Alzheimer Society of Toronto. Topic to be discussed include substitute decision making, power of attorney and communicating care choices. Transportation can be provided. RSVP, 416-373-4093 or care@supportingfamilycare.com.

HEBREW READING COURSE

Beth Emeth Synagogue will be running a six-class Hebrew Reading Crash Course: Beginners' Level, created by the National Jewish Outreach Program, starting Oct. 30 at 8 p.m. To register for this free course, call 416-633-3838.

TORAH CONFERENCING

Take out a membership for the 2008-09 season of Torah Conferencing Network and enjoy more than 170 shiurim broadcast at Clanton Park Synagogue. \$118, family \$180. Send payment to 40 Palm Dr. Toronto, M3H 2B6. Information, 416-227-1070, ext. 225.

KIRSHBLUM TRIBUTE

The Toronto Council of Chazanim presents "A Tribute to Cantor A. Eliezer Kirshblum" on Sunday, Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m. at Adath Israel Congregation. The concert features cantors **Daniel Gildar, Naftali Herstik, Paul Kowarsky, Josef Malovany, Benzion Miller and Moshe Stern**. \$36, benefactor \$500, patron \$360 and sponsor \$180. Tickets, 416-635-5340.

FATHER AND SON CONCERT

Cantor Naftali Herstik, of the Jerusalem's Great Synagogue, and his son, **Cantor Netanel Herstik**, of the New York Synagogue, will perform in "L'Dor Vador: Father and Son in Concert" at the Beth Sholom Synagogue, Wednesday, Nov. 5 at 8 p.m. \$18, includes a dessert reception. Tickets, 416-783-6103.

RENEWING OUR SPIRIT

Torah in Motion's seventh annual "Renewing Our Spirit Conference" takes place Nov. 8 and 9 at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Includes speakers rabbis **Michael Brojde, Yoel Finkelman, Yehuda Gilad, Yehuda Herzl Henkin, Yaakov Horowitz, Benny Lau, Naftali Lau-Lavie and Dr. Tamar Ross**. For information and registration, visit www.torahinmotion.org.

BOWLERS WANTED

Couples and singles 50+ interested in a Sunday evening 10-pin bowling group that also includes social activities throughout the year, please contact 416-635-0563 or 416-922-1400.

SURVIVOR OF ABUSE

If you are a survivor of an abusive relationship and are prepared to use your experience to educate the community about abuse, please call Jewish Women International to become part of its speaker's bureau. Training and support will be provided. Call 416-630-9313 or e-mail info@jwicanada.com.

L'CHAIM SUPPORT GROUP

L'Chaim Cancer Support Group for Jewish Women provides confidential, caring support via telephone or personal visits to women facing cancer diagnosis and treatment. Members are all cancer survivors. For information, call 416-630-0203.

HARBORD REUNION

A committee is planning a 60th anniversary reunion in late spring of 2009 for Harbord Collegiate 1949 graduates. Info, **Ron Nefsky** at 416-444-9447 or ronnn@rogers.com.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service. 4600 Bathurst St. Information/registration 416-638-7800 or www.jfandcs.com. Call **Shawna** ext. 215 for info and registration.

Effective Parenting. A four-session group to learn what parents can do to raise a happy, motivated and well-behaved child. For parents of children ages 2-11. Begins Oct. 23, 7-9 p.m. at the Lipa Green Building.

Parenting the Child with ADHD. A seven-week group for parents of

ADHD diagnosed children who want to develop strategies for assisting their children at home and at school. Begins Oct. 29, 6:30-8 p.m. at the Lipa Green Building. Call intake for pre-group interview.

JIAS TORONTO

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, 4600 Bathurst St. #325. www.jias-toronto.org. To register, volunteer, or for more information on these programs call 416-630-6481.

Conversation Cafés: Newcomers to Canada practise speaking English in a casual friendly environment with JIAS volunteers. Interested participants or volunteers, please call **Joanna**, ext. 30.

JUMPStart: If you have a networking or job opportunity in the skilled labour market for a newcomer, connect to our JUMPStart program by calling **Elisa**, ext. 24.

Family-to-Family: Welcome a newcomer family and provide informal advice and orientation to our community. To participate, call **Joanna**, ext. 30.

FOR SENIORS

55+ Forward for Seniors at the MNJCC holds a Sukkot program with refreshments and music. Oct. 16, 1:30 p.m. \$5, Registration required. Contact **Phyllis Fien** at 416-924-6211, ext. 155, or phylisf@mnjcc.org.

Earl Bales Seniors Club in the Park 55+. Sunday dance, Oct. 19; Casino Rama, Oct. 30; Seniors walking group, Thursdays, 9-10 a.m.; bridge, Thursdays, 12:30-3 p.m.; Info about club activities, Tuesday-Thursday 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 416-395-7881.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Creative writing classes with **Sylvia Warsh** begins Oct. 10 for 11 weeks. \$66, non-members \$132. Choose between 9:15-11:15 a.m. or 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Info, ext. 105.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211 or www.mnjcc.org

"Strength and Self," a free program combining yoga, meditation, support and discussion for women transitioning away from abusive relationships. New group begins Oct. 20. Information and registration, ext. 147, or strengthandself@mnjcc.org.

"Film Talk Sunday with **Shlomo Schwartzberg**: International Jewish Cinema," a series exploring the international Jewish experience in film. Starts Oct. 19, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with "The French Experience." Series pass, six events, is \$45. Register, ext. 0.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca

The BJCC offers a new after-school and weekend program, Mobilize Youth, for youth and teens ages 8-16 who have weight and eating issues. The program involves the whole family and helps participants build stamina, learn new skills through non-competitive sports and gain the confidence to incorporate physical activity into their daily lives. Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:30-6:30 p.m., and Sundays, 9:30-10:45 a.m. beginning Nov. 3. Sign up at the registration desk or call ext. 373.

The annual One Day Sale takes place Oct. 19, 9 a.m.-noon. Info, ext. 230.

The Koffler Centre of the Arts offers over 65 classes in visual arts, music and dance for children and adults. Visit kofflerarts.org.



HAIFA U DINNER NOV. 16: Michael Budman, left, and his wife, Diane Bald, and Denyse and Don Green recently hosted the Reason for Hope University of Haifa tribute dinner campaign launch. At the dinner, to be held Nov. 16 at the Fairmont Royal York, primatologist Jane Goodall will be awarded an honorary degree. Proceeds from the evening will be shared by Canadian Friends of Haifa University and the Jane Goodall Institute of Canada. For tickets, contact 416-972-9400 or www.haifa-univ.

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SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 32

OBITUARIES and Related Notices

Steeles Memorial Chapel

Spiegel, Avi (Alan)	Sept. 22/08	121 Lisa Cres
Kagan, Tamarah	Sept. 16/08	88 North Meadow Cr
Silver, Edith	Sept. 11/08	
Marcus, Rose	Sept. 16/08	
Sonant, Dora	Sept. 18/08	3 Stadacona Dr
Berkovitch, Rakhil	Sept. 18/08	Private
Kerner, Ben	Sept. 19/08	Private
Trubman, Semen	Sept. 20/08	Private
Goodman, Sidney	Sept. 19/08	90 Fisherville Rd
Stearn, Hanna	Sept. 23/08	333 Clark Ave. W
Silver, Edith	Sept. 11/08	
Marcus, Rose	Sept. 16/08	
Sonant, Dora	Sept. 18/08	3 Stadacona Dr
Berkovitch, Rakhil	Sept. 18/08	Private
Kerner, Ben	Sept. 19/08	Private
Trubman, Semen	Sept. 20/08	Private
Goodman, Sidney	Sept. 19/08	90 Fisherville Rd
Stearn, Hanna	Sept. 23/08	333 Clark Ave. W
Rozner, Moritz	Sept. 24/08	Private
Saleh, Orna	Sept. 25/08	32 Poinsetta Dr
Suchter, Zena	Sept. 25/08	4200 Bathurst St
Braun, Peter	Sept. 26/08	484 Steeles Ave. W
Leff, Rachel	Sept. 24/08	
Levine, Bluma	Sept. 24/08	343 Clark Ave. W

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Judy Malinsky	Sep 21/08	220 Hillhurst Blvd
Barbara Kohan	Sep 21/08	52 Morewood Cres
Shirley Mekler	Sep 22/08	190 Pineway Blvd
Michael Faith	Sep 22/08	8 Covington Rd
Bessie Abrams	Sep 23/08	3560 Bathurst St
Dagmar Gruber-Winton	Sep 23/08	50 Old Kingston Rd
Hank Skolnick	Sep 23/08	38 Rowanwood Ave
Ruth Tater	Sep 25/08	19 Lower Village Gate
Tillie Cales	Sep 24/08	55 Ameer Ave
Motlya Fleishman	Sep 28/08	Valleyview Nursing Home
Gloria Pearl	Sep 28/08	62 Wellesley St W
Morris Hunter	Sep 28/08	250 Broadway Ave

In Memory of י"ב
Stacey Louise Baer
(Jan. 18, 1971 - Oct. 11, 2004)
When a daughter is special and our hero,
her love lives on. Although we continue
to exist in the dark shadows of the soul,
Stacey's joyful spirit will always be an
example of how qualities like courage,
can and will, continue to inspire us all.
Many of us have good flames and we live
a long life. Other of us have intense
flames that burn deeply and passionately,
but are short. Stacey, we will carry your
heart in our hearts forever.
Deeply loved and profoundly missed
Mom, Dad and Jennifer

The unveiling of a monument
to the memory of the late
**DOROTHY
WALFISH** י"ד
will take place
Sunday, Oct. 12TH
10:30 a.m.
**Bathurst Lawn
Memorial Park**
Husiantiner Klaus Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument
honouring the memory of

**ALLAN
SPRING** י"ד
will take place
Sunday, Oct. 12TH
12:00 Noon
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Cemetery**
Adath Israel Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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Sunday, Oct. 12,
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11TH of Tishrei, 1983

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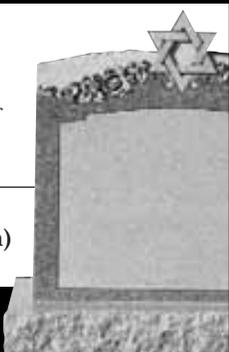
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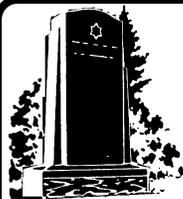
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Election 2008

Opposition candidates attack 'useless election'

By LAURA STRICKER
Special to The CJN

The candidates in Willowdale may be battling each other for votes, but the ones from the opposition parties agree on one thing: the upcoming federal election is unnecessary.

"The election is [Prime Minister] Stephen Harper's way of trying to re-establish the status quo," said Martha Hall Findlay, the riding's Liberal incumbent.

Susan Wallace of the NDP agreed, saying, "[It's a] useless election that no one needs."

The Willowdale riding runs from Highway 401 in the south to Steeles Avenue in the north. In the east, it's bounded by Victoria Park Avenue, Highway 404, Finch Avenue and Leslie Street. The west branch of the Don River, Bathurst Street, and Yonge Street form its western border.

As of 2006, its population was 129,356 – which represents an increase of 19.3 per cent since 2001, although the riding's boundaries were redrawn in the interim. Approximately six per cent of the riding is Jewish.

Besides Hall Findlay and Wallace, Jake Karns is running for the Conservatives, and Lou Carcasole is representing the Green Party.

Hall Findlay – her party's associate finance critic and a former leadership candidate who won the riding with almost 60 per cent of the vote in a byelection last March – is pushing for an environmentally friendly Canada, something she said Harper has made no progress on.

"We want to help Canadians... become greener. This current federal government has done nothing for the environment," Hall Findlay said.

"The Liberal [Green Shift] plan is the only one that will help to lower income taxes," she added.

Hall Findlay also said the Liberals are supporters of Israel and would like to see a peaceful two-state solution to the Mideast conflict.

"We are very supportive of the Jewish community and of Israel," she said, adding it shouldn't be necessary to say that the Liberals stand behind Israel, but Harper has made it that way.

The Conservative candidate Karns, who could not be reached for comment, is running on a platform of further cuts to the GST and a tougher stand on crime, including minimum sentences for gun crime.

Wallace said her goal is to meet the needs of constituents by creating green jobs, putting a stop to further health care privatization and placing more emphasis on arts and culture.

"Artists should not be insulted or diminished," she said, referring to comments by Harper earlier in the campaign that complaints by artists "claiming their subsidies aren't high enough when they know those subsidies have actually gone up, I'm not sure that's something that resonates with ordinary people."

Carcasole's campaign for the Green party is focused mainly on climate change and health care, and more specifically on reinstating the single-tier system and stopping further privatization of health care.

Aside from considering the election unnecessary, Wallace and Hall Findlay both said they're unhappy with Harper's decision to hold the election on the first day of Sukkot.

"I hope they [the Jewish community] can find the means to vote," Wallace said, urging voters to check her website for information about advance polls.

"Thanks, Mr. Harper for checking a calendar," she added sarcastically.

Election 2008

Riding a study in contrasts

By LAURA STRICKER
Special to The CJN

The riding of Don Valley West can best be described as a study in contrasts.

On the one hand, there is the Bridle Path with its multimillion dollar mansions. At the other end of the spectrum is Flemingdon Park, where several families often live in one apartment.

David Sparrow, the NDP candidate for the riding, believes he is the man for the job.

"There are many different issues that face the people of Don Valley West, and I want to be a spokesperson for those issues at the federal level," he said.

Don Valley West is bounded by Highway 401 in the north and Millwood Road and the Don River in the south. Yonge Street, Broadview Avenue, Eglinton Avenue, Bayview Avenue and Moore Avenue make up the riding's western boundaries, and it's bounded by Don Mills Road, the east section of the Don River and the CN rail line in the east.

In 2006 the population was 117,083, an increase of 1.3 per cent since 2001. Approximately four per cent of the riding is Jewish.

The riding was scheduled for a by-election on Sept. 22 to choose a replacement for Liberal incumbent John Godfrey after he resigned in July. It was cancelled after the election was called. Running in Don Valley West along with Sparrow are John Carmichael for the Conservatives, Rob Oliphant for the Liberals, and Georgina Wilcock for the Green party.

Carmichael and Oliphant could not be reached for comment.

Sparrow's big issues include jobs – making sure immigrants work in the jobs they came to Canada for and making the minimum wage \$10 an hour. As an actor and writer, he believes in the importance of arts and culture. The environment is also at the top of his agenda, as is helping young people so that they don't join gangs by the time they're 15.

"I'm a very staunch defender of the arts in all forms, and [Prime Minister] Stephen

Harper's cuts are really reprehensible, because they're cuts to some of the smallest programs that do some of the best work in our country," he said.

Sparrow also spoke about his position on Israel.

"The NDP and myself believe that Israel has a right to exist, and also, frankly, that Palestine has a right to exist. I hope the two will be able to exist peacefully," he said.

"I think that peace in the Middle East is something we all need to support and strive for," he said.

Carmichael lists on his website the environment, crime and child care as his major campaign issues. Specific plans include cutting air pollution in half by 2015, taking a tougher stand on crime and providing more support to families.

Oliphant and the Liberals plan to cut income taxes for both families and corporations, expand the Canada Child Tax Benefit and create more affordable housing and homelessness programs.

Wilcock and the Green party, meanwhile, are making the environment their number 1 priority. Plans include reducing Canada's dependency on fossil fuels and ensuring that Canada's water supply is managed in order to create healthy, sustainable communities.

Wilcock, a convert to Judaism, told *The CJN* that if elected, she would be a "strong and staunch defender of Israel."

She added that her party doesn't practise partisan politics, and that once in office, she would feel free to vote on matters "according to my conscience."

"I was proud of [Prime Minister] Stephen Harper's refusal to go to Durban II," Wilcock said.

Wilcock added that her campaign's main focus is on the environment and addressing the issues of pollution and "crumbling cities and infrastructure," which she said she hears about from constituents in her riding.

The Green party "has a plan to invest in cities," she said.





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TAKE NOTICE that the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto will be held at **Beth Tzedec Congregation** on **December 11, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.** for the following purposes:

- To receive the reports of the Chair and President;
- To receive the financial statements of the corporation;
- To elect the UJA Federation Council;
- To approve and transact other business as may come before the Meeting.

Upon its election the UJA Federation Council shall meet for the following purposes:

- To appoint PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the auditors of the corporation;
- To elect the Board of Directors, Chair and Senior Vice-Chair of the corporation;
- To approve and transact other business as may come before the Council.

DATED at Toronto the 2nd day of October, 2008
BY ORDER OF THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD



Election 2008

Candidates keep it civil at Beth Tzedec meeting

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Enjoined by Beth Tzedec Congregation's Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl to consider the venue and debate the issues with respect, candidates for the Toronto St. Paul's riding did just that.

Far from mind were the raucous scenes in question period, where politicians fling heated barbs back and forth. Approximately 125 people at the mid-town Toronto synagogue were treated to a tame exhibition of political discourse on Sept. 24, with the temperature ramping up only during a discussion of the Tories' anti-crime proposals that would allow youths as young as 14 to face adult consequences – including life in prison – for serious violent crimes while having their identities revealed.

Incumbent Liberal MP Carolyn Bennett reached unexpected heights of oratorical opulence when she called Prime Minister Stephen Harper's proposals "crazy stuff" and an example of "ridiculousity."

Tory challenger Heather Jewell stumbled briefly when she suggested young offenders even under the Conservatives' plan could still be rehabilitated in prison – that after Bennett had called teens in prison the equivalent of "crime school" and Jewell herself questioned whether much rehabilitation took place there.

"Seventy per cent of young offenders have

learning disabilities," Bennett stated. "They [the Tories] can have their crimes stuff. I want a safer society."

Jewell, a political activist who describes herself as a businesswoman, stated the goal of the crime proposals was "to protect society, and that may mean knowing the names of kids who are really whacked out."

Jailing youngsters for serious crimes "means a lot to [victims of crime]. You left wingers may laugh. It's about protecting society. It's not just about rehabilitation."

Jewell's tough on crime approach got unexpected support from NDP candidate Anita Agrawal, a manager in her family's Toronto-based accessories manufacturing and exporting business, who said her party is tough on crime, but also "tougher on the reasons for crime."

Green Party candidate Justin Erdman warned against stigmatizing kids "who really don't know any better."

On support for Israel, Bennett and Jewell vied to see who was stronger. Jewell said she was "proud to be Canadian when Stephen Harper stood up in the international stage and led" during Israel's 2006 war with Hezbollah.

She cited Canada's record under Harper of changing its votes at the United Nations to favour Israel after the previous Liberal governments had voted against the Jewish state 79 times. She called Israel a shining example of democracy in the Middle East,

adding "we have to be there for them because they are on the front line for us."

Bennett pointed out Canada's UN voting began to shift under former Liberal prime minister Paul Martin and that the Tories only maintained that same pace of change. Faced with a question about high-profile Liberal Michael Ignatieff, who called an Israeli bombing attack in Lebanon a war crime, Bennett noted he had issued "a profound apology" for the statement. She suggested he had spoken before knowing all the facts.

Bennett shifted to her own experience in Israel, saying she had visited the country seven times. She said she has been to Metulla, on Israel's border with Lebanon, where you could "see rockets coming." She said Canada could play a role as a go-between with Syria and she defended Israel's right to defend itself against rocket attacks.

"Canada needs to stand up to the plate and stand up for that gem that sits in the middle of the chaos," she said.

Erdman, who visited the Jewish state on a Birthright Israel trip, said it was important to recognize there are two sides to any conflict. It is not productive to say that only one side bears responsibility. "Unwavering support completely ignores the needs of the other side, and that's no way to come to a conclusion," he said.

Agrawal said Israel's security barrier was working "for the time being," but was only a short term measure. As for Iran, she said

diplomacy is working and it's important to talk to all sides.

Asked during a question period whether Canada's decision not to attend next year's followup to the 2001 UN anti-racism conference was too one-sided in favour of Israel, Jewell said, "How can you not take a position for the rule of law?... I don't call it one-sided to stand up for the rule of law and democracy. That's all we've got."

Agrawal said the NDP favoured Canadian participation in the conference.

"Things are not as black and white as the Conservatives would like us to believe," she said.

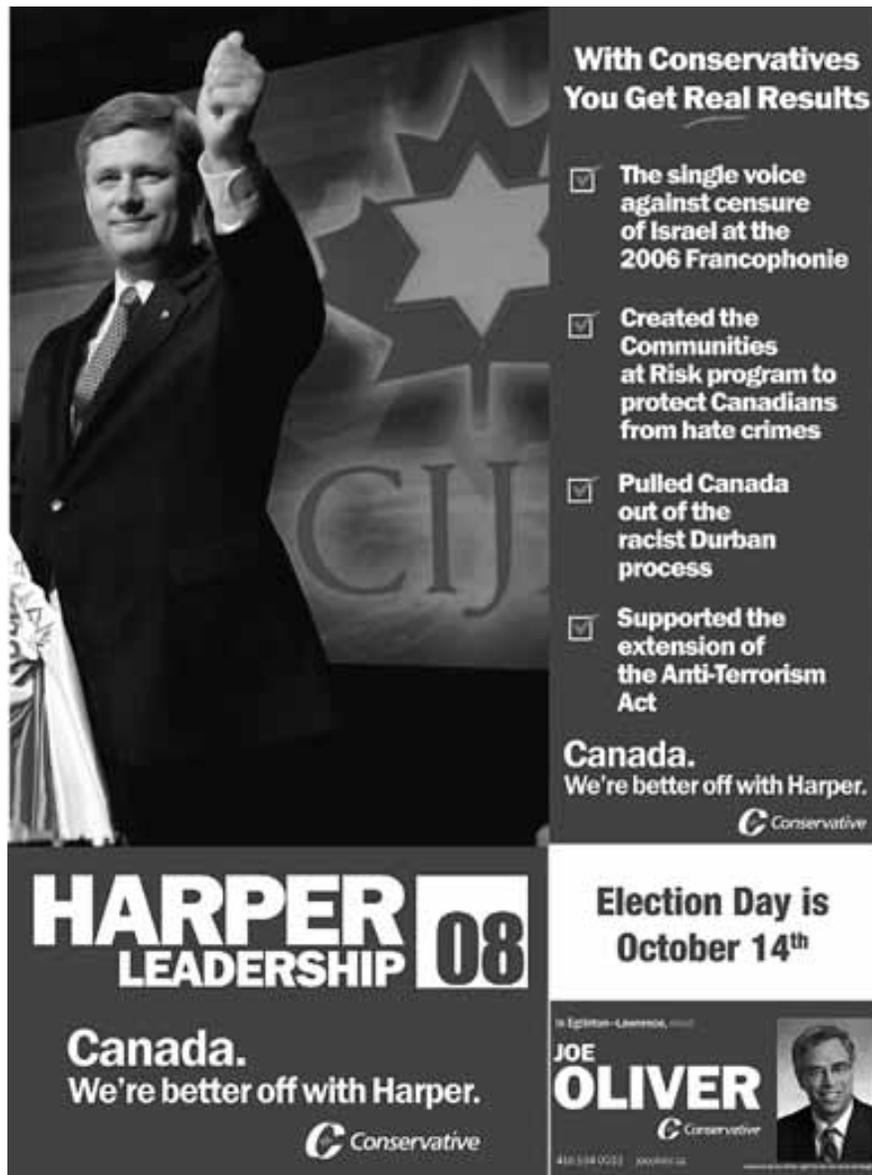
The candidates sparred again on the environment, with Erdman saying the Greens favoured a carbon tax on polluters, believing it "a relatively neutral proposition" if other taxes are lowered.

Bennett said the Liberals proposed a carbon tax coupled with reduced income taxes.

Agrawal said given "the economic downturn, now is not the time to play around with risky propositions." She called for investment in "green collar," environmentally friendly jobs.

Jewell said the Tories' GST cut and the ability to steer clear of a recession has left Canadians able to absorb the shock of higher energy prices.

Liberal leader Stephane Dion's proposed carbon tax would hurt average income families. "Now is not the time," she said.



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- **It was the Liberal government** who began changing Canada's UN votes on Israel and called for an end to all one sided resolutions—**not the Conservatives.**
- **It was the Conservatives alone in parliament** who opposed Irwin Cotler's motion to hold Iran's Ahmadinejad to account.
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Economic issues resonate in Eglinton-Lawrence

By **FRANCES KRAFT**
Staff Reporter

Joe Volpe, the Liberal incumbent for Toronto's Eglinton-Lawrence riding, says the economy is a "major, major issue" in the upcoming federal election.

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"We believe the government has to intervene to ensure the Canadian population is protected in times of downturn, and to look ahead," he said.

Volpe has served the riding since 1988 and is a former federal minister of citizenship and immigration, as well as a former minister of human resources and skills development.

Joe Oliver, Justin Chatwin and Andrew James are running against him for the Conservative, NDP and Green parties, respectively.

Eglinton-Lawrence has a population of just over 110,000, including a sizeable Orthodox community in the Bathurst Street-Lawrence Avenue area. It is bounded by Highway 401, Eglinton Avenue West, Yonge Street and the CN line west of Caledonia Road. Average family income in the riding is \$162,855, and there is an unemployment rate of 5.6 per cent.

For many constituents, the date of the election on Oct. 14, the first day of Sukkot, has emerged as a "troubling" issue, Volpe said.

However, Oliver noted in a separate interview, "there have never been more opportunities to vote" before the actual election day.

He said the timing of the election "resulted from a combination of circumstances that really tied [Prime Minister Stephen Harper's] hands."

Volpe said health care is also a significant issue because of an aging population, increased lifespans, a shortage of health care professionals, and an overall decrease in the number of children per family.

Of particular interest to Jewish voters, Volpe said that his position on Israel has been "to be a vigorous defender and promoter not just of Israel, but of what Israel represents to the Jewish Diaspora."

Regarding funding for the Palestinian Authority, Volpe said that the Liberals, like the current Conservative government, will provide assistance for overseas development "in order to create civil societies, an appreciation for the rule of law and democratic governments."

He added that funding to provide security for Jewish and ethnic communities is "part and parcel of... a [Liberal] strategy to help all vulnerable groups." He said the Liberals

"would always improve" on the present government's \$3-million Security Infrastructure Program.

Oliver – who received his MBA from Harvard University in 1970 and was president and chief executive officer of the Investment Dealers Association from 1995 to 2007 – noted that economic issues "are resonating quite a bit more" since he starting campaigning almost 18 months ago. He said that, under the Conservative government, the average family's tax burden has been reduced by \$3,500, and there have been tax breaks for seniors and young families.

Other issues that Oliver considers significant include crime – particularly gun crime – and the environment. Among other initiatives, the Tories want to cut air pollution in half by 2015, he said.

Safeguards when it comes to funding the Palestinian Authority are "crucial," Oliver said. "The Canadian position is to foster peace in the Middle East [and elsewhere], and not to make naive decisions which will exacerbate the problem."

He noted that Harper "has stood with Israel in times of great peril, when it mattered, and often alone."

Oliver believes that Toronto needs "a strong voice in the Conservative government. There are no Conservative MPs

[from Toronto] at the moment."

Chatwin – a former actor who is completing his undergraduate specialist degree in political science and English at the University of Toronto – said he is in favour of security funding for ethnic and Jewish communities.

Regarding policy on Israel, he said that he is "coming into the riding to facilitate dialogue and build bridges," and that government decisions need to be "in the best interest of the safety of Canadians and the safety of Israel."

He said that there must be "clear safeguards" in place when funding the Palestinian Authority so that taxpayers' money will be spent "in the best interests of our country and our allies," referring in part to Israel.

He added that Canada can play "an important friendship role" in negotiations.

Chatwin, 33, said the economy and the "rising tide of gun crime" are serious concerns. Health care is also "an issue that can't be ignored any longer," he said.

"I would advocate training 12,000 new doctors and 6,000 nurses a year," said Chatwin, whose mother is a nurse.

James, the Green candidate, said that "something has to be done to discourage people from using carbon-producing emissions."

A 49-year-old lawyer by training, James said he believes, based on independent reports, that the world must impose a \$50-a-tonne carbon tax, an amount that he said would work out to 12 or 13 cents per litre of gas and is five times the amount that would be imposed by the Conservatives initially.

He said that "what gets lost in the gloom and doom" surrounding global warming is that the situation provides "the greatest opportunity for job-producing activities. The transition to a low-carbon economy will create wealth and productivity on a level with computers and the Internet 25 years ago."

However, he warned, it will only happen if steps are taken to reduce carbon levels now.

The Green party's approach to health care, which he said has "not really been an issue" in this campaign, begins with reducing toxins in the air and in food that lead to disease, James said. Discouraging car use and encouraging walking and the use of public transit are also part of the plan.

There's "no question" that the Green party is a friend of Israel, he said. "We share common liberal democratic values... We acknowledge Israel's right to defend itself."

He said any funding to the Palestinian Authority "would have to be contingent upon not only denouncing terrorism, but taking active steps to prevent terrorism."

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Peace deal by year's end thought unlikely

Continued from page 1

Israeli and Palestinian leaders have expressed doubts they could meet Washington's goal of reaching a peace deal by the end of the year, before U.S. President George W. Bush leaves office.

"We see that the next months are maintaining a level of uncertainty and that level of uncertainty is getting higher and higher," Malki said in his English-language address to the forum in Jerusalem.

"We are waiting to see who will be the next president, [Barack] Obama versus [John] McCain, and believe me there is a big difference between the two vis-a-vis the situation in the Middle East... the Middle East peace process and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," Malki said.

He did not elaborate on the Palestinian view of the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates.

Livni was asked by President Shimon Peres on Sept. 22 to form a government in 21

days following Olmert's resignation, under a cloud of corruption allegations.

"We hope that [Livni] will succeed [in forming a new government] because this will also show continuity and commitment to the peace process, and to the negotiations [for] a Palestinian state," Malki said.

Commenting on a key issue that has blocked progress in Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations, Malki described Israel's settlement activity in the West Bank as a "time bomb."

But he said the Palestinian Authority remained committed to the talks as a "strategic choice" and to pursuing an "internal dialogue" to reconcile with Hamas Islamists who seized control of the Gaza Strip in June 2007.

Because of the sensitive coalition ne-

gotiations with the religious Shas party, Livni will avoid making any declarations about Jerusalem or future concessions to the Palestinians.

The main goal of Livni and Foreign Ministry Director General Aaron Abramovich at the conference is to advance their quest to raise the status of the ministry vis-a-vis military intelligence, the Shin Bet security service, the Mossad and the Defence Ministry with regard to making military and foreign policy decisions. Senior Foreign Ministry

officials said the idea was to end the military establishment's near monopoly on drafting recommendations for the cabinet and the security cabinet.

Attending the conference's opening session were past and present foreign min-

isters, including France's Kouchner and former German foreign minister Joschka Fischer.

Also in attendance were the director general of Singapore's foreign ministry; the new U.S. ambassador to Israel, James Cunningham; members of the Knesset's foreign affairs and defence committee; and 13 senior Israeli ambassadors serving abroad.

The three-day conference is the culmination of three months of work in the Foreign Ministry to prepare the first annual foreign policy assessment. The goal is to hammer out an assessment similar in style to those produced by the ministry's counterparts in Britain, France and the United States.

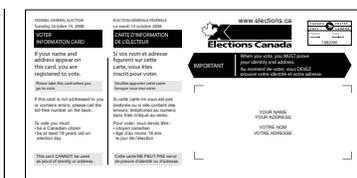
After the conference sessions, a written foreign policy assessment will be assembled and its recommendations will be submitted to the security cabinet for approval. The recommendations are to become part of the Foreign Ministry's agenda and are expected to affect staffing at Israel's diplomatic representations abroad.

Palestinian Authority committed to the talks

OCTOBER 2008

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Ilan Ramon's diary
goes on display in Jerusalem

© Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Pages from an Israeli astronaut's diary that survived the explosion of the space shuttle Columbia and a 37-mile fall to Earth went on display last weekend for the first time in Jerusalem.

The diary belonged to Ilan Ramon, Israel's first astronaut and one of seven crew members killed when Columbia disintegrated upon re-entering the atmosphere on Feb. 1, 2003. Part of the restored diary went on display at the Israel Museum on Sunday.

A little more than two months after the shuttle explosion, NASA searchers found 37 pages from Ramon's diary, wet and crumpled, in a field just outside the U.S. town of Palestine, Texas. The diary survived extreme heat in the explosion, then extreme atmospheric cold, and was subsequently attacked by microorganisms and insects in the field where it fell, said museum curator Yigal Zalmona.

"It's almost a miracle that it survived. It's incredible," Zalmona said.

"There is no rational explanation for how it was recovered when most of the shuttle was not."

NASA returned the diary to Ramon's wife, Rona, who brought it to forensics experts at the Israel Museum

and the Israeli police. The diary took about a year to restore, Zalmona said, and it took police scientists about four more years to decipher the pages.



Ilan Ramon

About 80 per cent of the text has been deciphered, while the rest remains unreadable, he said.

Two pages will be displayed. One contains notes written by Ramon, and the other is a copy of the *Kiddush* prayer, the blessing over wine recited on Shabbat. Zalmona said Ramon

copied the prayer into his diary so he could recite it on the shuttle and have the blessing broadcast to Earth.

"Most of the pages contain personal information which Ramon's wife did not wish to make public," he said.

"We agreed to do the restoration completely respecting the family's privacy and the sensitivity about how intimate the document is," museum director James Snyder said.

The diary provides no indication that Ramon knew anything about potential problems on the shuttle. Columbia's wing was gashed by a chunk of fuel tank foam insulation at liftoff. The spacecraft broke up in flames just 16 minutes before it was scheduled to land at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. All seven astronauts on board were killed.

The diary is being displayed as part of a larger exhibit of famous documents from Israel's history, held to mark the country's 60th anniversary this year.

Also on display will be Israel's 1948 Declaration of Independence, the 1994 peace treaty with Jordan, and a bloodstained sheet of paper with lyrics to a peace anthem that was carried by prime minister Yitzhak Rabin at the time of his assassination in 1995.

Death rhetoric from Iran

Iran's supreme leader again spoke of Israel's destruction.

"Today, officials of the Zionist regime acknowledge that they

are moving toward weakness, destruction and defeat," Ayatollah Ali Khomeini said in remarks. "Definitely, the world of Islam will see that day

and hope the existing generation of the Palestinian people will watch the day Palestine is at the disposal of the Palestinian people, in the hands of the landlords." Khomeini also promised to stand by Hamas, the Palestinian terrorist group that controls Gaza. Israel's ambassador to the United States said that Khomeini's rhetoric was especially dangerous as Iran nears its suspected goal of obtaining a nuclear weapon. "Not since World War II has the world faced such a dangerous and significant threat," Sallai

Meridor said in a statement.

"The fanatical Iranian regime, a sponsor of global terror, is threatening the elimination of another state and is striving to achieve a nuclear weapon.

This should be a moment of truth for the world to take immediate actions to prevent this regime from pursuing the development of a military nuclear capability."

Hezbollah threatens north

Hezbollah warned that it will "soon liberate" the Shebaa Farms and the divided village of Ghajar, Lebanon's *Daily Star* reported last Friday. Sheikh Nabil Qaouk, Hezbollah's leader in southern Lebanon, told supporters in the border village of Abbasieh that diplomacy over the areas had failed and the only way to regain control of the land was to use force, according to the report. "The only guaranteed way to re-

cover the remaining occupied land is the resistance and nothing else," Qaouk said. He added that it was Hezbollah's national duty to fulfil the achievements it had begun with the Israel Defense Forces' withdrawal from Lebanon in 2000, according to the report.

Terrorism not
an 'act of war'

Israeli media reported that a U.S. judge allowed a lawsuit against the PLO to go forward, saying acts of terror cannot be defined as "acts of war."

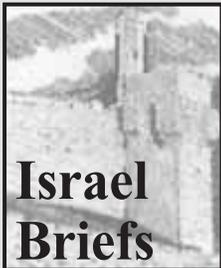
Judge George Daniels of the Manhattan District Court dismissed claims by lawyers for the Palestine Liberation Organization that attacks committed between 2001 and 2004 were "acts of war" and immune from tort action. The ruling will allow a \$3-billion lawsuit filed by victims and their families to go to trial. Daniels wrote in his ruling that the attacks targeted "non-combatative civilians who were allegedly sim-

ply going about their everyday lives" and "do not constitute acts of war." At least 33 people were killed in the attacks at a Hebrew University cafeteria, on Jerusalem streets and on buses. The attacks suggested a "merciless capability of indiscriminately killing and maiming untold numbers in heavily populated civilian areas," Daniels wrote.

Probe into al-Dura case

Israeli media reported that a new French committee will investigate the death of the Palestinian boy, Mohammed al-Dura, who, according to a French television report, was killed by Israel Defence Forces gunfire on Sept. 30, 2000, the first day of the second intifadah. The committee, set up by the French public broadcasting authority, will examine the validity of the original television report in light of repeated accusations that it was deliberately falsified.

— from JTA and Ha'aretz

Israel
Briefs

Israel & the Jewish World

Destination Israel: China launches official tours

By ALISON KLAYMAN

JTA

BEIJING — At a pre-departure session for China's first tour group to Israel, manager Wu Jianguo from China Travel Service answered many questions from his pioneering clients: will all the shops be closed on the day of rest? Are there Chinese restaurants in Israel?

Where can we buy a menorah? Should we not bring any snacks with pork?

Forty Chinese tourists departed Sept. 25 from Beijing for Ben-Gurion Airport, and Wu's group departed with another 40 on Sept. 28.

The trips are the first fruits of an agreement signed last October by Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and then-Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi that landed Israel on the list of more than 100 countries to have China's "approved destination status."

This designation makes it easier for Chinese tourists to travel to Israel, and Israel is hoping this will ultimately lead to a tourism boom. Now the Chinese domestic market for Israel travel is mostly businesspeople, about half of whom make up government delegations, according to El Al's sales manager for China, Helen Huang.

El Al started its Beijing-Tel Aviv route in 1992 and now has three weekly flights, along with five weekly flights to Hong Kong.

"Now we are thinking of adding a fourth flight to Beijing or upgrading to a 777 for that route," Huang said. "We might also think about adding service to Shanghai."

Most of the traffic goes in the other direction, with about 50,000 Israeli visitors to China each year.

Two major Chinese travel companies, China Travel Service and China Youth

Travel Service, worked with six approved Israeli agencies to plan a 10-day tour of Israel and Jordan scheduled to coincide with China's Oct. 1 national holiday marking the republic's founding in 1949.

Before the agreement went into effect Sept. 15, the companies could not publicly advertise travel to Israel.

The agreement is "another demonstration of Israel and China's good relations," said Guy Kivetz, an Israeli Embassy spokesperson.

Some of the travellers were unaware they were making history.

"My wife and I didn't know until a few days ago this was the first group," 30-year-old Church Moore (surnamed Mao in Chinese) told JTA as he was checking in Sept. 25 at Beijing Capital Airport. "We have always wanted to go to Israel because we love

reading about Jewish history and culture."

Many group members are older world travellers who regularly patronize one of the two agencies. The Wangs, who declined to give their first names, are in their 50s and have been to other approved Middle Eastern countries, such as Egypt and Turkey, and travelled to the United States and Europe.

They inquired at the youth travel agency about new opportunities and jumped at the chance to visit Israel.

"Israel is a very mysterious place," Mrs. Wang said. "Also, Israelis are very smart and have persevered through many instances of persecution."

"Jerusalem, the Dead Sea – we know these places better than we know the names of some countries," Mr. Wang added.

Nearly all of the tourists mention the word "mysterious" in describing Israel's appeal, but another major attraction is Christianity's roots in the country.

At his information session for travellers, Wu pointed out the New Testament connections to the itinerary, and many tourists asked about going to Bethlehem. Asked if they were Christian, all but one raised their hands.

Most analysts say that approximately 80 million Christians live in China, while the

government puts the figure at 16 million.

Promoting Israel during an interview with Sohu.com, China's biggest Internet company, Wu described Israel as a place where "you can have a map in your right hand and a Bible in your left hand and find your way around."

While intrigue and Christianity are Israel's major draws for Chinese tourism, it is difficult to find Mandarin-speaking tour guides. Also, the price is high: including visa and airfare, the total per person is 21,800 renminbi, or more than \$3,000 (US).

"At that cost you could go to Europe or the United States," said El Al's Huang, which is why she advocates quality over quantity in the inaugural years. "We want to slowly increase the number of Chinese tourists coming to Israel, not double or triple the amount every month. The early groups need to encourage the next wave of travellers to choose Israel."

A representative of Israel's Ministry of Tourism was quoted in *Ha'aretz* as saying that Israel's goal was to bring in 15,000 Chinese tourists by the end of 2008. Observers here, however, said that figure was unlikely.

Israeli Tourism Minister Ruhama Avraham-Balila was in Beijing for the Paralympic Games and talked about a more long-term vision in which "one-half of one per cent of the Chinese population visits Israel."

That's about 6.6 million people.

Israel is hoping this will ultimately lead to a tourism boom

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HEEBONICS

Filmmaker examines a hyper-accelerated, post-modern relationship

By SHERI SHEFA
Staff Reporter

Who knew that the countless sleepless nights Jeffrey Nesker spent in nightclubs in downtown Toronto would be the fodder for his most successful film to date?

Pairing his club culture expertise with his active imagination and talent for storytelling, Nesker wrote and directed *Nightclub Story*, a short film that is garnering attention and awards from film festivals in Canada and abroad.

"*Nightclub Story* to me is first and foremost an examination - I've always been fascinated by the rules of polite society, the fact that if there were no manners, we'd kill each other over a parking spot," said 30-year-old Nesker, a graduate of York University's department of film and video who has been producing low-budget short films and music videos through his production company Ocular Nutrition since 2000.

"I always thought it's ridiculous that people go to nightclubs to meet people, but it's the most loud, abrasive - it's the opposite of what you would want, ideally, to do that sort of thing."

He explained that his 17-minute short film is "about the disconnect between what we want and what we need, between who we are and who we think we are."

The protagonists, James, 26, and Annie, 21, meet while waiting in line to get into a club. James, who seems to have outgrown the club scene, is meeting up with his friends after a rough day at work, and Annie is, as Nesker describes her, a girl with "wide eyes who is just coming into her sexual understanding of herself and using it almost to a fault as a bargaining chip in all of her dealings."

In the short time they spend in line together, "they share a hyper-accelerated, ridiculously post-modern relationship, from stolen glances to looks of disgust."

Nesker said that the concept for this film was born eight years ago, when he was still in film school.

"Then it was called *Subway Story*, and it all took place on a subway... I always loved the gimmick of it and the idea of the hyper-accelerated relationship in an enclosed setting," he said.

"As I got closer and closer to being able to make a short film last year and I started pouring out ideas... I thought to myself, a really good short film is never too big for its breeches. It's got to be a one-trick pony, and it's got to be well executed."

After making some revisions in the script, mainly changing the setting from a subway train to nightclub queue, Nesker said he was thrilled with the final product and is floored by the response the film has gotten from his film festival peers.

Nightclub Story had its premiere in August at the Rhode Island International Film Festival. His film was accepted into the WILDsound Shorts Festival later that month, at which it tied with another short film for best overall performances.

In September, Nesker travelled to Glasgow for the Bootleg Film Festival, at which he was declared best director for a short film. The film was also given an honourable mention at the Accolade Film Awards in Los Angeles.

Nesker guessed that the film resonates with so many people because the element of fantasy depicted in the film is a major part of the club experience, regardless of the generation depicted.

"I think that people go to nightclubs for the expectation of that cinematic rush of romance that will make everything better, or that will change everything in an instant," he said.

"I notice that especially with my own peers that people were going to nightclubs well past their 'sell-by' date because they couldn't give up on the fantasy. If they did, it would mean that they were settling for the mundane existence that defines what we perceive as adulthood and a lot of people - I think I did, too - struggled with that, and I wanted to dramatize it."

Nesker said that while its important to draw from his experience, he realizes that if a script doesn't measure up in terms of the rules of structure, good drama and balanced portrayals, it'll end up becoming an exercise in self-indulgence.

"It can't just be about you, it has to be universal."

Coming from a suburban Jewish family, raised by his father who is a lawyer and his mother who is a teacher, he found it hard to decide if he was going to take the road less travelled and pursue a film career, or take the safe route by getting a secure desk job.



Saffron Cassaday played "Annie" who is "just coming into her sexual understanding of herself and using it almost to a fault."

"I put enormous pressure on myself, and there isn't a day that goes by when I don't consider quitting it all to drive a bus, or go to law school, to make my parents at least a modicum happier," he said.

"But to be fair, I've always been artistic and I clued in pretty early. I saw *Jaws* and *Poltergeist* when I was five, and that's why I wanted to be filmmaker. Despite it being a nice little story to toss off, there is some truth there.



Nightclub Story director Jeffrey Nesker, and production designer Meredith Woodley on set.

I can remember being terribly affected by film at a very early age, and I knew that it was something I wanted to do."

Although Nesker is working to fulfil his dream of being a successful filmmaker, he knows that it'll never be easy.

"People in my industry are always patting themselves on the back and saying, 'Isn't it great that we escaped that dreary nine-to-five existence?' And they say it with such contempt. You have to look at them and say, 'What did we escape?' We're up at the crack of dawn and in bed like 12 to 18 hours later, just to do it again the next day. We didn't escape much."

And the work doesn't end when the final edits are made. Nesker is currently busy promoting and entering his film into various film festivals.

On Nov 5, *Nightclub Story* will be screened at the Bloor Cinema in Toronto for the opening night gala and best short film showcase of the Moving Image Film Festival.

He said he also plans to enter the film into the Toronto Jewish Film Festival in 2009, four years after another of his films, *Florida: A Snowbird's Paradise?* was accepted into the festival.

He said although there is nothing in *Nightclub Story* that is specifically Jewish, Nesker said that there is a Jewish sensibility to it.

"There is a bratty questioning that I think is very Jewish, like an entitled questioning of society... I think it has Jewish content because I can't escape who I am," he said.

"For me to ignore it or not claim it would be stupid. We are a collection of our experience and I regret nothing."

Nesker is working on his next film, *Apocalypse Story*. "If *Nightclub Story* is about post-modern love, *Apocalypse Story* is about... young love at the end of the world," Nesker said.

LIBERALS ON THE WRONG SIDE

Attended the 2001 Durban conference that became an anti-Semitic circus.

Accused Israel of "war crimes" during the Hezbollah War:

**"TOP LIBERAL CANDIDATE IN CANADA
ACCUSES ISRAEL OF WAR CRIMES"**

- REUTERS, OCTOBER 14, 2006

Bowed to anti-Israel pressure for 13 years at the Francophonie.

Met with Hezbollah in Lebanon and demanded Canada de-list them as a terrorist organization.

Proudly marched in a Canadian parade where Hezbollah flags flew.

Stéphane Dion personally demanded that Canada increase funding to the Hamas-led PA.

Refused to join the International Task Force for Holocaust Education.

Allowed Mohamed Elmasry, who said any adult Jew in Israel can legitimately be killed, to attend the Liberal Convention.

Refused to create a security fund for at-risk Jewish facilities.

Refused redress of the St. Louis Incident.

CONSERVATIVES ON THE RIGHT SIDE

First government in the world to boycott Durban II and stop funding NGOs that attend.

Took the side of Israel, not terrorists, saying:

**"ISRAEL'S RESPONSE UNDER THE
CIRCUMSTANCES HAS BEEN
MEASURED"**

-STEPHEN HARPER, CANADIAN PRESS, JULY 13, 2006

Stopped a one-sided, anti-Israel Francophonie resolution about the Israel-Hezbollah war.

Spoke out against marching with terrorists.

**"...THERE WERE MEMBERS OF OTHER PARTIES
ACTUALLY GOING OUT AND MARCHING IN THE
STREETS BESIDE THE FLAGS OF HEZBOLLAH"**

-STEPHEN HARPER, NATIONAL POST, SEPTEMBER 11, 2008

First government in the world to end funding for the Hamas-led PA.

Immediately joined the International Task Force for Holocaust Education.

Zero-tolerance approach to anti-Semitism.

Created the Communities at Risk Fund, promised security support to synagogues, schools and other at-risk facilities.

Provided \$2.5 million to commemorate the St. Louis Incident.

**"Many in the Jewish community are
reassessing their Liberal party loyalty and
looking upon the Conservatives under
Stephen Harper with fresh eyes."**

- Toronto Star, August 20, 2006

 **Conservative**

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Arts & Travel

Towering over the country western scene

By RUTH ELLEN GRUBER
JTA

CRAPONNE SUR ARZON, France — Think Jews and country music and you'll probably come up with Kinky Friedman, the cigar-chomping frontman of the iconoclastic Texas Jewboys, who is also a humourist, mystery novelist and failed but flamboyant candidate for Texas governor.

The real Jewish king of country music, however, is Ray Benson, the nine-time Grammy-winning leader of the country western swing band Asleep at the Wheel.

At 6 ft.-7 inches., Ray Benson has been described as a "Jewish giant" and "the biggest Jew in country."

He literally and figuratively towers over the stage in a Stetson and fancy boots, with a grizzled beard and long, thinning hair pulled back in a pony tail.

"I saw miles and miles of Texas, all the stars up in the sky," he sings in his deep, mellow baritone. "I saw miles and miles of Texas, gonna live

here 'til I die."

Now 57, Benson was born in Philadelphia but has lived in Austin for 35 years. He talks with a twang, plays golf with Willie Nelson, has recorded more than 30 albums and was named Texas Musician of the Year in 2004.

By his own estimate, he is the only Jewish singing star in the country western scene.

"Kinky's not a country western singer — he's Kinky!" Benson laughed during a conversation with JTA this summer at the annual Country Rendez-vous festival in south-central France, where Asleep at the Wheel wound up a five-nation European tour.

Unlike Friedman, however, who makes playing with stereotypes part of his in-your-face persona, Benson has — until now — kept his religious identity out of the limelight.

"I didn't want to be known as a Jewish country western singer; I wanted to be known as a country western singer who happens to be Jewish," he said.

"You don't usually tell your religion or politics on stage," he added. "For years, because



Ray Benson

I'm 6 ft.-7 and people don't think Jews are tall, and because I guess I don't look like the stereotype Jew, most people didn't know I'm Jewish."

Benson got his musical start as a child in suburban Philadelphia, where he grew up in a Reform Jewish home. He and his sister put together a folk group, and he was only 11 when he played his first professional gig.

"In those days, if you're a Jewish kid, you go to school, you go to college or you enter your parents' business," Benson said. "So, I obviously chose a different path."

Benson founded Asleep at the Wheel in 1970 along with several friends, including his former Philadelphia schoolmate Lucky Oceans, a pedal steel guitar player born Ruben Gosfield, who now lives in Australia.

The band based itself in West Virginia and California before moving to Austin in 1973. Over the decades, Benson has remained the anchor of the group, while some 90 musicians have moved in and out of its lineup.

On the road much of the year, the band has criss-crossed America, playing everywhere from down-home dance halls to the White House — they were, in fact, scheduled to perform there on Sept. 11, 2001.

Asleep at the Wheel has played at inauguration parties for presidents Bush and Clinton and expect to play for whomever is elected in November. Earlier this year, they played at an Austin fundraiser for Barack Obama where the Democratic presidential nominee joined them onstage for a chorus.

When the band first started touring in the '70s, Benson recalled, country music was a "southern, conservative, Christian, white domain — period." He repeatedly came up against offhand prejudice and ignorance about Jews and Judaism.

He cites as an example a member of Tammy Wynette's entourage, who blamed "the Jews in New York" for failing to promote her career, and had a hard time believing Benson when he told

him he was Jewish. Then there's the wife of a musician who had never heard of Judaism as a religion.

"I asked her what she thought a Jew was, and she said, 'Someone who's cheap,'" Benson recalled.

"So the stereotypes are there, and they're still there," he said.

"I always felt myself to be an ambassador," he added. "I'm not a great practicing Jew on a daily basis, but I'm Jewish. And so I try to bring to them that we're just people."

Recently, Benson started doing this publicly, making explicit reference to his Jewish identity on stage.

The revelation comes as part of *A Ride With Bob*, a musical that Benson co-wrote, based on the life of Benson's musical hero, the Western Swing pioneer Bob Wills, who died in 1975.

Benson stars in the play, along with members of Asleep at the Wheel. Since its premiere in 2005, it has played to audiences all over Texas and elsewhere, including a sell-out performance at the Kennedy Center in Washington.

The premise is an imagined conversation between Benson and Wills. In it, Wills asks Benson how "a Jewish boy from Philadelphia" can play western swing music. Benson responds: "The same way that a white, hayseed hillbilly from the West Texas panhandle" can play, as Wills did, blues and jazz.

"Basically in this play I confront the issue, and I let the cat out of the bag — hey, I'm Jewish and happen to be the leader of the 'modern kings of western swing,'" Benson said.

"In the context of the play I was able to reveal this and also give it context," he added.

The point he wanted to make, he said, is that it doesn't matter where you come from or what your religion or background is in terms of music, art or other creative endeavors. What's important, he said, "is what's in your heart or what's in your mind or what's in your talent."

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Arts & Travel



Eye on Arts

By BILL GLADSTONE

JERRY GRAY AND SON JAMES PLAY FOLK, PROTEST & LABOUR MUSIC

Jerry Gray, founder and former lead singer of the famous Canadian folk group **The Travellers**, presents Folk, Protest and Labour Music, a concert of songs of the labour movement, as well as some Yiddish songs, stories about Yiddish artists and recently uncovered songs by **Woody Guthrie**. He will be accompanied by his son **James Gray**, formerly of **Blue Rodeo**. Workmen's Circle, 781 Lawrence Ave. W., Sunday, Oct. 12, 2 p.m. Tickets at the door: members free, guests \$10.

Valentine Joins Teatron Production: Gloria Valentine, a veteran actor and singer of the Jewish and Yiddish stage, has joined the cast of Teatron Toronto Jewish Theatre's upcoming production of the musical *A Glimpse of the Light*. The seasoned actor and singer joins cast members **Jack Ossof**, **Nala Burdyna**, **Martin Edmonds**, **Tori Elliott**, **Barrett Morrison**, **Marc Richler**, **Stephanie Seaton**, **Clinton Somerton** and **Esther Vallins**. The **Ben Finn** musical is to be directed by **Ari Weisberg** for performance at the Leah Posluns Theatre in November. www.teatrontheatre.com

Names in the News: Daniela Gesundheit, a singer-songwriter, poet and cantor who was raised in Los Angeles, is the cantorial soloist at Toronto's Shir Libeynu congregation for the current High Holidays. Gesundheit has spent the past year shuttling between San Francisco and Toronto, and plans to settle here permanently in the spring.

Part of a new wave of musicians with impeccable Jewish education and cantorial training, Gesundheit's professional experience and style "are a perfect fit for our liberal and innovative services," said **Aviva Goldberg**, Shir Libeynu's co-founder and ritual director.

Gesundheit seems equally delighted at taking the cantorial role at the unaffiliated, inclusive and egalitarian downtown congregation, which holds monthly Shabbat services at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre. "Being a chazzan is kind of like singing to an usually focused and quiet audience that knows all of my songs – a rare scenario in bars or clubs," she said. www.shirlibeynu.ca

Names in the News II: Husband and wife Maxine Granovsky



Gloria Valentine

and **Ira Gluskin** have more than doubled their original donation for a total gift of \$10 million to the Art Gallery of Ontario. Following on their 2005 donation of \$3 million, the couple have committed an additional \$7 million.

In recognition of their generosity, the AGO plans to name its new Frank Gehry-designed entrance lobby the Maxine Granovsky and Ira Gluskin Hall. In addition, the foyer leading from the main entrance to the coat check area will be named for Maxine's mother, **Shirley Granovsky**.

Gluskin and Granovsky have also made significant donations to other cultural institutions, including the Royal Ontario Museum, Canadian Opera Company and Toronto Symphony Orchestra, as well as health-care and education.

Arts in Brief

- The Miles Nadal JCC theatre and film group is going on a group excursion to see the Soulpepper production of *Top Girls*, by **Caryl Churchill**. \$42. Tuesday, Oct. 28. Show 8 p.m., optional dinner 6 p.m. Young Centre. 416-924-6211, www.mnjcc.org

www.mnjcc.org

- Dancap Productions announced that its presentation of *Jersey Boys*, the musical about **Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons**, has been extended until Dec. 6. Toronto Centre for the Arts, 5040 Yonge St. Tickets start at \$55. 416-872-1111, JerseyBoysToronto.com or dancaptickets.com.

- Guitarists **Lorne Lofsky** and **Rob Piltch** perform at Café Mezzetta, Wednesday, Oct. 15. Sets at 9 and 10:15 p.m. Cover \$7.

Singer fuses Yemenite sounds and jazz

By RHONDA SPIVAK
Special to the CJN

Award-winning Israeli singer-songwriter Michal Cohen is recognized for the unique way in which she fuses the ancient sounds of her Yemenite heritage with contemporary jazz.

Cohen's soaring vocals and soulful compositions opened this year's Richardson Partners Financial Israeli Concert Series at the Rady Jewish Community Centre in Winnipeg recently.

Cohen, accompanied by local musicians, performed songs from her critically acclaimed debut CD, *Henna*, which she has been showcasing in North America and internationally since its release in early 2004.

Cohen says that her band Henna Project originally blended ancient Yemenite melodies with modern electronic beats, but after becoming involved in the New York jazz scene the band absorbed the jazz influence to create a sound she calls "henna jazz."

She explains how she chose the word "henna" to describe her music. "As a child [born in Israel to Yemenite parents] I lived in the Yemenite town of Rosh HaAyin. I remember going to henna parties, which are traditional Yemenite wedding parties for women. At these parties, there were wonderful old ladies that used to sing and tap on big cans used for storing pickles. They would remove the pickles and make this emotional and happy music," Cohen says.

"Years later, when I started with the Henna Project, I asked my mother to take me again to a henna party, so that I could remember everything about them."

According to Cohen, in Yemen, Jewish women were not allowed to sing in

Hebrew, as it was "sacred language" and instead they "wrote music in Arabic Yemenite." She says, "This music was mostly about love that's happening or happened or that is forbidden. I remember my mother singing and humming all the time while she cooked. As a child I heard this and that ethnic music influenced me."

Cohen, who performed as a lead singer in an army band during her military service in Israel, says that the Henna Project was born after her father died in 2000. "His passing made me look back more into my tradition and that's how this project was born."

The song that is most dear to Cohen's heart, which she performed in Winnipeg, is titled *Ahuva*. It is "a song about my father and my brother, both who passed away," she says. "It's very emotional and sad, but it has an optimistic side. It's about the worth of living your life [fully], rather than just floating through it."

As a child, Cohen says she sang every kind of music that she heard. "I never thought that singing would be a profession for me... But I listened to all kinds of music," she says.

After receiving a scholarship to the Berkley College of Music in Boston, from which she graduated in 2000, Cohen remained in the United States until 2006, when she returned home to Israel.

"Going to the United States is tricky. Once I finished studying, I began to feel out the music scene. You get caught up, because there are so many things going

on in New York where I moved to. So I stayed and stayed. At one point, I realized I would know when it was time to go back. And that's what happened.

"I am glad to be back. I am happy to be with my family, even though the music scene is a bit smaller in Israel than New York," says Cohen, who now lives near Tel Aviv.

Cohen has performed in Europe, Mexico, the Far East and in Canada at the

Ottawa World Music Festival, as well as in the United States. Her vocals have been used for the soundtracks of two movies, *Historias Minimas* by Carlos Sorin and *Divan* by Pearl Gluck, and she has been featured on BBC London and PBS in the United

States.

Cohen says that after a concert in Germany, "a woman told me that she could hear all of my cultural roots from my voice."

In Winnipeg, Cohen performed with Ted Poor, a drummer with whom she usually performs when she's in New York. She was accompanied by talented local musicians Myron Schultz on clarinet, Steve Kirby on bass and Will Boness on piano.

Cohen, who was a finalist in the John Lennon Songwriting Contest and has been the recipient of the Vocal Jazz Cleo Laine Award, says she is currently working on a new CD that "will be out in a few months."

"The new CD of my music is going to be electronic, but it will have all kinds of influences," she says.



Michal Cohen

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Hamlisch and Spiro rock Beth Tzedec

By **SHERI SHEFA**
Staff Reporter

British entertainer Cantor Simon Spiro and award-winning Broadway composer Marvin Hamlisch rocked a nearly sold-out crowd at Beth Tzedec Congregation last week.

The show *Broadway & Beyond* was part of the Beth Tzedec 2008 Musical Magic Concert Series that brought singer Neil Sedaka to Beth Tzedec last May.

Spiro, who arrived in Toronto two years ago to serve as Beth Tzedec's cantor, created the Musical Magic series. At the concert, he treated the audience to some of his favourite Broadway tunes, as well as pop songs from generations ago.

Hamlisch, one of the most celebrated composers and the winner of three Oscars, four Grammys, four Emmys, a Tony,

three Golden Globes and a Pulitzer Prize for *A Chorus Line*, joined Spiro onstage halfway through the show to perform some of his famous compositions and to exchange witty banter.

At the start of the show, Hamlisch appeared in a pre-recorded message to say that he was happy to be performing with "one of the greatest, if not the greatest songwriter, entertainer, singer, cantor and true humanitarian."

He said he was honoured to be able to share the stage with "a giant of a human being."

Offering a taste of the shtick to come throughout the night, Hamlisch, who met Spiro years ago when they both performed for Queen Elizabeth II, asked, "Can I get my cheque now?"

Spiro, dubbed "the British Jazz Singer," has managed to balance careers as both a secular and religious entertainer.

He has performed with such legendary singers as Elton John,

Sheena Easton, Eric Clapton, Shania Twain, Kenny Rogers, Cliff Richard, Phil Collins and Faith Hill, but he also fulfilled his parent's wishes and became a cantor when he was 18.

During the show, which included a 36-piece orchestra, Spiro shared anecdotes about his experiences and his family.

Growing up in London in a religious Jewish home, Spiro said he was heavily influenced by his father who was a performer in the Yiddish theatre of London's East End.

"My father played some of the most colourful characters in Yiddish theatre," he said.

Spiro said that since his father passed away eight years ago, there isn't a moment that he doesn't think of him.

"He was soft, he was gentle, he was my daddy."

He dedicated a song called *Tatenyu* to everyone in the audience who either has or is a father.

"It's about a young boy who thought his daddy was the moon and the sun and, of course, the boy grows up, has children of his own and in the autumn of his father's life sings this very beautiful song," he said.

Spiro became emotional during his performance, as pictures of his father and himself flashed behind him on a screen.

"I haven't sung that song in a long time. The last time I sang that song, he was in the audience," he said.

Spiro was joined intermittently by four young singers, Tammy Everett, Allie Hughes, Alex Samaras and Kyla Tingley, who sang a medley of Broadway tunes, including *Tomorrow*, *Luck Be a Lady*, and "Everything's Coming Up Roses."

Then Hamlisch, who has composed more than 40 motion picture scores, including *The Way We Were* and eight musicals including *They're Playing Our Song*, joined Spiro on stage and the two played off each other, eliciting laughter from the audience.

"I've been backstage and you've been playing every song ever written for Broadway – I didn't hear one of my tunes. So I'm here to change that," Hamlisch said.

He added that he's won and lost many awards, but sometimes the songs that have lost become more popular than those that won.

At the piano, he played a medley of his "Academy Award losers," including *Nobody Does It Better*, which was nominated for an Oscar in 1978 for best original song for the film *The Spy Who Loved Me*.

"I wrote the song, and then I had to take it to Carly Simon because we wanted her to do the song and she was married to James Taylor," Hamlisch shared.

"They're not married anymore – and James was not home that night," he said, getting laughs.

"The name of the song was *Nobody Does It Better*, and I told her it was autobiographical."

Other highlights from the evening included Hamlisch playing *Happy Birthday* on the piano, as he imagined Mozart and Beethoven would have performed it, and Spiro's tribute to Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Phantom of the Opera*.

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Arts & Travel

Israeli film festival to open at Sheppard Grande

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

When Eran Bester moved to Montreal in 2004, he wanted to find a way to counter the anti-Israel bias of the media.

"I was shocked by the image of Israel portrayed in the media," says the Tel Aviv-based businessman. "As an Israeli, I wanted people to know that Israel is much more than a country of conflict."

Bester, who spent two years in Montreal, decided the best way to convey a more positive image of Israel was through the arts and so in 2005, he organized an Israeli film festival.

"If I could have brought in the philharmonic orchestra, I would have. But cinema was a more cost-effective and efficient way to give people exposure to Israeli culture."

The Montreal Israeli Film Festival, an annual event for the last four years, has been so successful – some 4,000 people attended in 2008 – Bester is launching a similar festival in Toronto this fall.

The inaugural Toronto Israeli Film Festival will run from Oct. 26 to 30 at Sheppard Grande Cinemas at 4861 Yonge St. The public will have the opportunity to see seven films – all are in Hebrew with English subtitles – over five evenings. Two different films will screen each night.

Bester said the recent crop of Israeli films has been very high quality. "The films are all very good and different from each other. I feel they are the pick of the crop of Israeli cinema."

He added that "the films are very innovative" and have been well received at international film festivals.

The Toronto Israeli Film Festival will include *Beaufort*, which was nominated for an Academy Award for best foreign film in 2008. The co-writer of *Beaufort*'s screenplay, Ron Leshem, will be in Toronto for the festival.

"I am very excited to be hosting this talented writer and filmmaker," Bester says.

The acclaimed film is a screen adaptation of Leshem's award-winning book of the same name, which garnered the 2006 Sapir



Beaufort was nominated for best foreign film at this year's Academy Awards.

Prize, Israel's top literary award. He will give a lecture and host a Q and A session at the 6:30 p.m. screenings of *Beaufort* on Oct. 26 and Oct. 29.

Noodle, the opening film of the festival – its first screening is 3:30 p.m. on Oct. 26 – is a fundraiser organized by Women in Motion. The proceeds will be going to the One Family Fund, an Israeli-based charity for victims of terror.

Bester says that he wanted one of the festival screenings to be a charitable event in support of an Israeli charity. "I am very happy that the fundraiser is for One Family. The organization really does excellent work."

Other films to be shown at the festival are *Lost Islands*, *The Debt*, *Three Mothers*, *Lemon Tree* and *The Secrets*.

Bester hopes the festival will attract unaffiliated Jews, whom, he says, are not well informed about Israel. He also wants to reach students and other young people.

There will be a free screening of *Lost Islands* on Oct. 25 for Taglit-Birthright Israel alumni. The screening is tentatively booked



Proceeds from the festival's opening film, *Noodle*, go to One Family Fund.

for 9 p.m. at the Regent Theatre at 551 Mount Pleasant Ave.

As well, if a film has not sold out and seats are available five minutes before the show, students with proper identification will get free admission.

The festival is a non-profit venture, which he describes as a "win-win situation" for the Toronto Jewish community and for Israel.

"This is a labour of love for me. At the end of the film, I'm standing at the exit to see how the film was received," he says.

"When people are excited about an Israeli film, I feel like the father of the bride. That is my reward."

For tickets, call 416-364-9973. Tickets are \$13 each or \$65 for all seven films. For festival updates, check www.israelfilmfestival.com.

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The banana trade and Samuel Zemurray

By **SHELDON KIRSHNER**

Staff Reporter

The banana, an exotic fruit generally grown in the tropics, was rarely available to North American and European consumers a century ago. Today, thanks to the United Fruit Company, the banana is one of the most popular and cheapest products found on supermarket shelves, having outstripped the apple as one of our favourite fruits.

Indeed, the banana, which is technically a plant rather than a tree, is now the world's fourth major food after rice, wheat and milk.

Apart from being delicious, the banana is good for your health, containing natural sugars (which boosts energy), potassium (which regulates blood sugar levels) and fibre (which assists bowel movements).

For much of the 20th century, the United Fruit Company – founded by a pair of Bostonians but later controlled by a Jewish immigrant from Russia named Samuel Zemurray – maintained a monopoly over the cultivation and distribution of bananas.

In 1969, eight years after Zemurray's death, the United Fruit Company was taken over by Eli Black, an investment banker and devout Jew who had been trained as a rabbi. In 1970, Black merged it with his own firm, AMK, and created the United Brands Company. Black committed suicide in 1975, jumping from the 44th floor of the Pan Am Building in Manhattan.

After his death, the billionaire investor Carl Lindner bought United Brands and renamed it Chiquita Brands International.

These are among the basic facts in Peter Chapman's intriguing history of the United Fruit Company, *Jungle Capitalists: A Story of Globalization, Greed and Revolution* (Canongate).

Chapman's book, as the title suggests, is more than an account of a multinational company that cleared rainforests and built railroads to ship its tantalizing products, mainly bananas and pineapples, to consumers.

In essence, *Jungle Capitalists* is the story of the birth of globalization.

With plantations throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, the United Fruit Company was a pioneer in mass production, a corporate behemoth that exerted enormous influence in such banana republics as Honduras, El Salvador, Panama and Costa Rica.

The first of the modern multinationals, it was a power unto itself, changing governments at the drop of a hat to suit its purposes.

As Chapman puts it, "United Fruit had possibly launched more exercises in 'regime change' on the banana's behalf than had even been carried out in the name of oil."

Nor was the United Fruit Company concerned about its legion of workers, denying them such basic human rights as decent wages and health care.

The company, whose impact on Latin America was incalculable, was established by an American railroad entrepreneur, Henry Meiggs, after he bought out businessman Andrew Preston. Meiggs' nephew, Minor Keith, subsequently took over the company.

Keith, knowing that bananas thrive in hot and damp con-

ditions, realized that he should focus his energies in Central America.

There are more than 1,000 varieties of bananas, primarily in Africa and Asia, but the United Fruit Company settled on the Gros Michel, or Big Mike, variety. It was reasonably tasty and arrived at its destination with less bruising due to its thicker skin.

Big Mike, having succumbed to pests in the 1950s, was replaced by a disease-resistant Chinese variety, the Cavendish. According to the writer Dan Koeppel, the Cavendish is the food equivalent of a fast-food burger: efficient to produce, uniform in quality and universally affordable.

Regardless of the variety it marketed, the United Fruit Company was a going concern, effortlessly absorbing rivals.

In 1930, Zemurray, known to all as "Sam the Banana Man," sold his Cuyamel Fruit Company to the United Fruit Company and retired at the age of 52.

Born in Kishinev, Bessarabia, he immigrated to the United States with his impoverished parents as a teenager.

The family settled in Selma, Ala., but in 1899, Zemurray entered the fruit trade in Mobile, Ala., buying bruised bananas and selling them to second-hand dealers.

Within a few years, he moved to New Orleans, where he befriended Keith.

A canny operator, Zemurray flourished as he and a partner bought bananas from independent growers in Honduras and sold

them in Alabama and Louisiana at a tidy profit.

In 1910, having purchased 5,000 acres of land in Honduras, he formed the Cuyamel Fruit Company.

Fearing that he would be taxed to death, he appealed to the U.S. State Department for help.

His appeal having been rejected, he contacted Manuel Bonilla, a deposed Honduran president who resided in New Orleans.

In a legendary manoeuvre, he hired two mercenaries and had them smuggle Bonilla back to Honduras. With Zemurray's financial support, Bonilla staged a coup d'état and returned to office. Bonilla, indebted to Zemurray, granted him land concessions and waived his obligations to pay taxes for the next 25 years.

A multimillionaire, Zemurray returned to the banana business in 1933, seizing control of the United Fruit Company in a hostile takeover. The company's stock had dwindled in the face of mismanagement

and the Depression, and Chapman describes these events at length. Zemurray ousted its board of directors, reorganized the company and made it profitable once again.

He let nothing stand in his way.

When the democratically elected president of Guatemala, Jacobo Arbenz, announced that he intended to transfer unused United Fruit Company's land to landless peasants in an agrarian reform project, he launched a propaganda campaign against Arbenz, branding him as a communist. Zemurray's tactic worked. The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency sponsored a successful coup against Arbenz.

Zemurray played a more benevolent role elsewhere, helping to fund the purchase of the Exodus for the Zionist movement, Chapman notes.

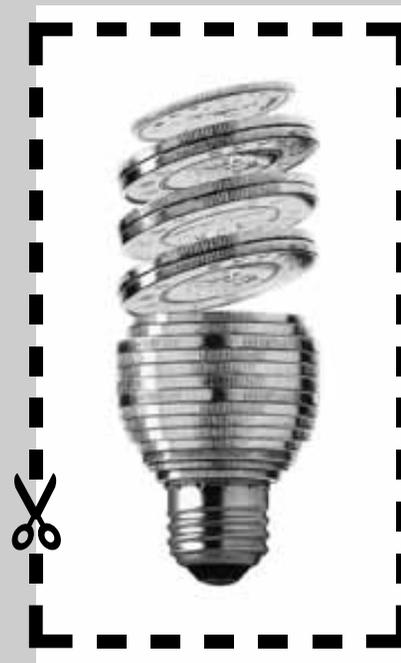
Today, with Zemurray long gone and the United Fruit Company but a hazy memory, four companies rather than one dominate the banana trade: Chiquita, Del Monte, Dole and Noboa.

One wonders what Zemurray would have thought of this development in the annals of capitalism.



Bananas, such as those cultivated in Costa Rica from the 19th century on, brought wealth to the United Fruit Company, controlled by American Jewish immigrant Samuel Zemurray.

[Sheldon Kirshner photo]



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A high-holiday lesson from Sandy Koufax

By TEDDY WEINBERGER
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JERUSALEM — Sandy Koufax was one of the greatest baseball pitchers of all time. He is also a secular Jew, born in 1935, who preferred not to work on the High Holidays.

Normally, Koufax exercised this religious preference without fanfare, as in Rosh Hashanah 1963, when he quietly returned to spend the holiday with his parents in Los Angeles while his team was on the road.

However in 1965, Koufax's team, the Los Angeles Dodgers, played the Minneapolis Twins in the World Series, and the first game was scheduled for the afternoon of Oct. 6, which also happened to be Yom Kippur.

As the team's best pitcher, Koufax was asked to pitch the first game. He refused. He informed the team's management that he did not pitch on Yom Kippur. That refusal

turned out to be perhaps the single greatest moment of Kiddush Hashem (Sanctification of the Name) in American history, so much so that in the movie, *The Big Lebowski*, actor John Goodman could say, "Three thousand years of beautiful tradition, from Moses to Sandy Koufax."

Why did Koufax refuse to work on Yom Kippur? No one knows for sure. He never spoke about it. Asked about this matter in *Sports Illustrated*, Jane Leavy, who wrote a 2002 biography of Koufax, said: "I think it was reflex. Jews just don't work on Yom Kippur. It's the holiest holiday of the year, and whether you're practising/non-practising, observant/non-observant, devout/non-devout, you don't work on that day. For a more religious man, it might have been a no-brainer. For Koufax, it was the right thing to do."

I have been thinking about Koufax in connection with Israeli swimmer Alon Mandel's decision to remain at the Olympics

even though his father had just died (Mandel was awoken early in Beijing the day before the Aug. 8 opening ceremonies and told that his father had died in an accident at the family home). Clearly, the 20-year-old Mandel had an extremely difficult decision to make, and I am sure he was right when he said his father would have wanted him to stay at the Olympics.

But I found it shocking that Israel turned Mandel into a media star. *Yediot Achronot*, Israel's largest circulation newspaper, spoke of Mandel in a large headline as "The First Hero of the Olympics." A popular Israeli sports internet site praised Mandel's "emotional strength" and a writer in *Ha'aretz* said: "His conduct since the tragedy and insistence on participating in the Olympics has been noble. He is a force of nature."

Oh, where are you now Sandy Koufax? Where are you to tell the Israeli people about doing the right thing? Where are you to tell the Israeli people that the right thing

to do when one's father dies is to go home immediately and that the other option — having one's father placed in deep freeze for more than a week — constitutes disrespect for the dead.

Sandy, do we really need to spell out the reasons why this is the right thing? Do we really need to identify each step on the slippery slope once immediate burial is no longer sacrosanct? No Sandy, for the sake of Amir Lev we won't. You see, Sandy, Amir Lev is also a secular Jew who thinks the press used Mandel's story to sell papers and to boost ratings.

According to Amir, precisely because Mandel was representing Israel, where there is a culture of immediate burial soon after death, Mandel should have withdrawn from the Olympics and returned as soon as possible to Israel to bury his father.

So Sandy, in honour of the Jewish New Year, would it be OK to think that Amir is right?

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Canadian teaches golf in Israel

By RHONDA SPIVAK
 Special to The CJN

CAESAREA, Israel — When former Winnipegger Ron Solomon made aliyah to Israel two years ago, he never would have dreamed he could land a job that involved spending hours on a beautiful golf course every week.

"But that is exactly what happened," said Solomon, who has always loved the sport and is enjoying what he calls his "dream job" as a golf instructor at the Caesarea Golf Club.

The 57-year-old Solomon, who teaches golf to children ages eight to 17, worked in Winnipeg for 32 years as an elementary and junior high school teacher.

"I had never taught golf professionally," he said, "but I was always interested in it and studied it and loved to play. Many years ago, I taught a little golf at a community school level, in some after-school programs that had been put on by the school system in Winnipeg."

When Solomon, who speaks very little Hebrew, immigrated to Israel, he did not have a set idea about the line of work he would end up pursuing.

His wife, who was born and raised in Israel, was the driving force behind the move.

"My wife Michal had wanted to move to Israel for a number of years to be close to her large extended fam-

ily," he said.

Solomon was willing to try making the move, but he was concerned because he knew very little Hebrew and worried it would be difficult to find suitable employment.

"My family and I moved to Kfar Yona, just outside of Netanya, because it was affordable and relatively near my wife's family in Kfar Saba," he said. "One day, I approached golf course professional Andy Santos at the Caesarea club and told him I had a teaching background and had always been interested in golf. It turned out the club needed an instructor for their junior program."

Solomon feels lucky he was in the right place at the right time. "Golf is starting to take off in Israel, and the country is trying to attract golf tourism," he said. Although Solomon said that "'speaking Hebrew would be a plus,'" virtually everyone he encounters on the golf course speaks English.

Solomon, who has always been a natural athlete, feels he also "got lucky" a second time when he was hired as a part-time soccer and basketball coach for children attending

the Walworth Balbour American International School. The prestigious private school is located in Even Yehuda, not far from Kfar Yona, where Solomon lives.

"The American School is a great place to work, and the language of instruction is English, which makes it very easy for me. I love to teach sports, and between coaching and teaching golf, I'm having a great time. I never imagined finding work in Israel would have turned out to be so easy," he said.

Solomon believes there is going to be more and more demand for golf instruction in Israel. "The golf course in Caesarea is being completely rebuilt. The club has hired Pete Dye, a world renowned golf course designer, who has an excellent reputation for designing interesting and challenging courses.

"The new course will be world class. We'll be able to host international golf tournaments, which we haven't been able to do now.

"This will mean Israel will become a destination for golf tourists, both Jewish and non-Jewish, and the course should be open in time for the 18th Maccabiah Games in July 2009."



Ron Solomon

On October 14 re-elect

Ken Dryden

in York Centre

Ken Dryden Campaign Headquarters,
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Authorized by the official agent for Ken Dryden

Inside Back

Worth holding on to

Baggage. Every day you collect a little bit more. Eventually, you collect enough that it makes you slow to move forward.

"Can't you just drop the baggage and run?" my friend asked me one day.

Sure, I can drop anything and run, but sometimes you just get tired of running, and when you slow down to take a breath, you realize that someone has taken the time to return the baggage you thought you left behind.

It's hard to know when it's right to move on after a hard breakup. Some people say the faster you can forget someone, the better.

People have different ways of dealing with relationships once they've ended. I've adopted a popular strategy – see no evil, feel no evil. After seven years of couplehood, I figured it was time for me to be my own girl instead of someone else's, and I relished in being as carefree as I wanted.

Hard, tough, jaded. I've been called it all, and it has all been well deserved.

The baggage was there, and I admit I never put it down for a second. Instead, I used it to shield myself from the crowds, occasionally using it to give a hard shove to those who thought they could get in my way.

Maybe I'll be able to move on when I meet someone who will shove me right back. Someone who is so preoccupied with their own baggage that they don't care to notice mine. Someone who doesn't try to get me to hold their hand instead of my baggage. Someone who doesn't expect me to reach out and

take their baggage from them.

"You don't want someone with baggage," people have said.

Once upon a time, I would have dished out the same advice. Now I'm not so sure.

Would I trade my baggage? Never! I cherish all the lessons and experiences I've had in my 28 years, no matter how awkward or painful.

I'd like to think I've learned from my experiences

and that they've made me who I am. That's also the "beauty" of baggage: it builds character. It allows us to look forward with confidence and lets us make decisions with distinction.

The danger is not in holding onto the baggage, but in turning it into one big clutch. It's so easy to use the past as an excuse not to move forward.

But we have to remember: where would any of us be without our past? The very essence of Jewish peoplehood is based on baggage. And a lot of it. Some of it was horrific (I know Holocaust survivors who still can't bear to open up and tell their story), and some of it was glorious. And I can confidently say that we're one of the strongest, most united people on earth, and it's all because of our baggage.

I know that when my time will come to unpack my baggage, the person by my side will be respectful of what comes out.

Because that's what we do with memories. We hold on to them and we know they'll always be at the back of our minds. But at some point, the memories become just a memory, and the baggage can be tucked away.

Sandie Benitah
20Something



SUCCOTH RUBY CARIBBEAN GRAPEFRUIT CHICKEN

2 lg red grapefruits	1/2 c each: light & dark rum
6 boneless, skinless chicken breasts	1/2 c honey
1/2 c flour	1/4 c fresh lime juice
salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste	3 tblsp chopped cilantro
6 tblsp unsalted pareve margarine	1 c chopped green onions, white and 2" of green
2/3 c chopped shallots, about 4	

Peel grapefruits, divide into segments; remove seeds. Set aside. Cut breasts into 1" strips. Place the flour in shallow plate and season liberally with salt and pepper. Toss chicken in flour. Heat margarine in large nonstick skillet. Add strips; sauté over medium heat; about 5 minutes. Remove from the pan; drain on paper towels. Add chopped shallots to skillet; sauté about 4 minutes. Off the heat, add the rums. Bring rums to a boil; reduce for 3 min. Stir in honey and lime juice; simmer 3 minutes. Remove skillet from heat; stir in cilantro, green onions, grapefruit segments. Arrange chicken strips on a platter; pour sauce over.

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About Life

way. My husband works and is not home as much as I am. He does not feel the void like I do.

I am very happy for my daughter, but this empty nest thing is truly for the birds. Do you have any suggestions how I can move on from feeling this way?

**Sadly, Alone at Last
Dear Sadly, Alone at Last,**

Having your last child leave home opens up a whole barrage of emotions, everything from joy and relief to sadness and worry. Having your last child leave home is a major life change, and you need to allow yourself time to adjust. You are entering a new phase as a parent, as a wife and as an individual.

As a parent, you have worked toward this time and given your kids the tools they need to become productive, self-sufficient adults. You are letting go to give them the opportunity to put all the life skills you have

instilled in them to work.

You need to find new ways to fill the void. Now is the time you can enjoy things that perhaps were not practical while your children were at home. You are limited only by your own imagination. You could volunteer, go back to work, take some courses, join a club, work out, travel, read, revive a hobby, get a new hobby, go out on dates with your husband, get a dog, take up golf. The list is endless.

But remember that your girls are not gone for good. You can still stay in touch and be part of their lives through e-mail, phone calls and visits. The most important thing is to allow yourself the time to make this new adjustment.

Plan every day ahead. You need a routine, but now your routine will revolve around what you want, not what your family needs. You've done a good job. It's your turn now.



Dear Ella,

A few weeks ago, we took our youngest daughter to university in Kingston. My husband and I were so glad to have finally reached this stage after raising three girls.

Imagine how surprised I am to find myself constantly depressed and moping around. The house is so quiet now. When I open the front door, there is no one on the phone, no stereo playing, no TV blasting, no negotiations about going out at night. I honestly never thought I would feel this

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN., email: eb@cjnews.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.

How to wipe life's slate clean for the coming year

Every year at this time we reflect on where we've been good, where we've fallen short, and hopefully as we are taking stock, we remind ourselves of the people we want to be, and the people we want to become.

I know I say it a lot, but wishing others well, even silently, is probably one of the greatest gifts and one of the most elevated, beautiful and important things we can do. Instead of the resentful or unhappy feelings of wanting somebody else's

success, good fortune, qualities or possessions, how wonderful to be able to look at what you do have and feel abundant, grateful and satisfied.

Satisfaction. I remember how my late grandmother Lillian Siblin was always satisfied with very little—a fridge full of food and a house full of plants and flowers. No matter what, she was self-content.

How deeply satisfied are we with the way we think, act, and behave with others? What would we like to work on? What are three things we

would like to improve upon in this coming year?

How can we be more humble, more generous, optimistic, kind, gentle and loving to our significant other, our children, our families and friends?

What does it take to wipe the slate clean and start over?

Abundance. How do we know when we have it even when we don't realize it? Sometimes our cups are so overflowing, and we only notice what is not there and

don't notice all that is. How can we be better people in the coming year? What does it take?

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl, senior rabbi at Beth Tzedec Synagogue says, "This sacred season emphasizes the universal dimension of our lives – birth and death, sin and forgiveness, growth and harvest. A central message in all these days is to pay attention, to be aware – of ourselves, those around us, and God. Awareness is a stepping stone to appreciation. We have been given many challenges and blessings. Our task is to find a way

through the challenges of life to reach a point where we can appreciate our blessings."

What a lovely thought. So this year when we are taking stock, a wonderful way to get started making this the best year of your life is to imagine your future positive self. There is a wonderful story in the book *This Year I Will*, by M. J. Ryan, where she describes a man who dreamt of becoming a bull rider and the goal in the ring is to stay on the bull for eight seconds. The man worried incessantly about what if he got thrown or trampled, and naturally that is exactly what kept happening. Finally instead of thinking of everything that could go wrong, he imagined everything that could go right. He pictured what he would do with all of his winnings, imagined all of the fans, and he became the United States bull riding champion!

So focus on all of the positive outcomes in your life and maybe three new positive personality traits you would love to adopt in the coming year. As Ryan puts it,

"To create a new positive frame, write yourself a letter from your future. Imagine it's a year from

now and that future self has accomplished what you want. The you of the future has lost the weight, become happier, found a new partner, learned to take life more easily. The future you is writing to the you of today about what it's like and how well you're doing. What does it feel like? What surprises have come your way as a result of the change? The future you is a year older and wiser. He or she has learned a lot about how to get from here to there. What message does he or she have to help the you of today to get to that marvelous place?"

Wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year full of much joy, good health, blessings of every kind and lots of bliss!

Judy Siblin-Librach is an Adler-trained coach. Website: www.findingyourbliss.com, e-mail: judyelle@ican.net.



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