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Miss Israel talks about the Miss Universe contest and her future – P. 9



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JEWISH TRIBUNE

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Complaint against Concordia withdrawn Confidence in new administration cited

MONTREAL – In consideration of the positive steps being taken by Concordia University's new administration, the League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada has withdrawn its 2004 complaint to the Quebec Human Rights Commission against the University.

The complaint stemmed from incidents where invited guests – former Israeli Prime Ministers Benjamin Netanyahu and Ehud Barak – were prevented from giving speeches on campus venues because the university said it could not guarantee their safety.

Gerry Weinstein, B'nai Brith Canada's national president, and Allan Adel, national chair of the League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada, said in a statement:

"Following a careful ongoing process of dialogue and consultation, we have come to the conclusion that our concerns are being met. We have, therefore, informed Concordia's President, Dr. Claude Lajeunesse, that we have withdrawn our complaint.

"We are pleased that our suggested recommendations are being taken into account as Concordia drafts a revised security policy that it plans to make public shortly. We have every hope that the new security protocol – unlike the previous one – will be non-discriminatory in both its conception and implementation.

"B'nai Brith continues to offer its expertise to Concordia's Risk Management Committee on security and safety issues. We will also continue to monitor the situation closely for any future contentious situations that might arise on campus."



Boy one of 50 wounded, 9 dead at suicide bombing

Pizoli Mansherov cries next to his son David's bed at Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv. This is the second time David, who works at the bombed-out restaurant, is wounded by a suicide bomber, the last time was three months ago when another suicide bomber attacked at exactly the same place. Both times David was lucky to escape with his life. Right: the scene of the crime. See stories, page 8.

New JTS head favours gay rabbis, but calls halachah 'non-negotiable'

By Chanan Tigay

NEW YORK (JTA) – In his first interview with the US Jewish media after being named the next chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary, Arnold Eisen told JTA he favours allowing gays and lesbians to become Conservative rabbis.

"My personal opinion is that I would like to see these processes end up with the ordination of gays and lesbians," he said. "But I might be outvoted."

The Conservative Movement in recent years has been roiled by this hot-button issue. The movement's central halachic authority, the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards, has debated the issue at length and has scheduled a vote for December.

Still, Eisen said, despite pressures to resolve the issue, a change cannot simply be imposed from above.

"There's got to be halachic process," he said. "You have to preserve the integrity, the authenticity of halachah.

"The halachic process is non-negotiable," he added.

Eisen, 54, advocated a robust discussion

among seminary faculty on homosexuality's place in the Conservative Movement. He pointed out that such a discussion preceded the seminary's decision to ordain women in 1983.

"The faculty is going to have to decide how it wants to think about this issue," he said. "I just want to have a discussion. I just want to know how my colleagues feel about this."

A sociologist who has focused largely on American Jewry, Eisen officially was tapped as chancellor last Monday following a lengthy search. He will succeed Rabbi Ismar Schorsch, who will step down in June after two decades in the position.

Eisen will serve a year as chancellor-designate before taking the reins full time in July 2007. He comes to JTS at a time of some uncertainty for the movement: Conservative Judaism faces dwindling numbers, a debate on the homosexuality issue and a struggle to articulate a unified vision.

As a Jewish studies professor and chairman of Stanford University's Religious Studies Department, and as a frequent



Arnold Eisen, newly tapped as chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary.

traveller to congregations around the United States, Eisen is well-acquainted with the American Jewish community. He is not a rabbi, however, and will be just the second seminary head without rabbinical ordination in JTS' 120-year history.

Some Conservative rabbis have expressed concern about the fact that a position sometimes likened to the movement's de facto chief rabbi will be filled by a non-rabbi. Eisen says he understands the concerns.

Some within the movement have suggested that the chancellor's role as a halachic voice could be transferred elsewhere: perhaps to the head of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, the movement's synagogue arm; the head of the Rabbinical Assembly, the rabbinical arm; or a newly created position like a mara d'atra, a local halachic authority.

Eisen declined to speculate on whom this position might fall to. But he stressed that movement rabbis will find him to be a strong ally.

"I'm not one of these scholars who doesn't care about the rabbinate," he said. "You're going to find me a super-supportive chancellor for rabbinical students.

"I think this is going to be good for the rabbis," he said.

Eisen said he imagined a rabbinical school graduation ceremony in which he will ordain the movement's newest spiritual leaders "as a representative of the Jewish people and the Conservative Movement in America," rather than as a rabbi ordaining another rabbi.

"I am a member of the communities they're going to be serving," he said. "And

I like the symbolism of me representing these communities in ordaining these rabbis."

Eisen said the major challenge facing the movement is getting unconnected Conservative Jews involved.

"How do you get them to be part of Jewish communities? How do you connect them?" he asks. "There's a membership crisis" in the Conservative Movement, which in recent years has been overtaken numerically by the Reform movement. "But to me, with Jews in general, everybody worries about the declining numbers – but half the Jews we have are not connected.

"With camps, with schools, with synagogues, the challenge is to make the meaning so real, so palpable that people want to come back for more."

Eisen said his first responsibility as chancellor will be to the seminary rather than the movement as a whole: there will be a focus on scholarship, on applying that scholarship to Jewish life, on training students in each of JTS' schools and in raising funds necessary to accomplish these goals, he said.

INSIDE

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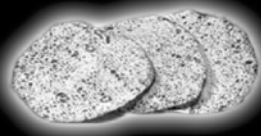



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Holocaust Memorial Day

Hate on the Internet vs. Freedom of Expression
Eliminating Online Propaganda of Racial and Religious Hatred

Wednesday, April 26, 2006 4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Location: The Law Society of Upper Canada
Donald Lamont Learning Centre
130 Queen St. West, Toronto (enter at east doors)

A panel of experts in law and law enforcement will discuss the legal, social and political questions regarding the proliferation of hate & Holocaust denial on the Internet. Speakers will examine the relationship between racist and religious-based hate propaganda on the Internet and hate crimes. Practitioners in human rights law, criminal law, media and technology law, Crown prosecutors, and those working to eliminate hate will have the opportunity to engage in a dialogue on freedom of expression and laws against hate propaganda.

Speakers: Jane Bailey, Law Professor, University of Ottawa
David Matas, Senior Legal Counsel, B'nai Brith Canada
Mark Sandler, Partner, Cooper, Sandler & West
Heidi Schellhorn, Sergeant, York Regional Police

Moderator: Alain Goldschlager, Professor, Director of the Holocaust Literature Research Institute, University of Western Ontario

A reception will be held at 6:00 P.M. in Convocation Hall at the Law Society to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day. The reception will feature Ruth Fazal, concertmaster, composer, Oratorio Terezin.

Members of the legal profession and the public are invited to attend the panel discussion and the reception. **Admission is free.**

To attend RSVP by April 24, 2006 by calling 416-947-3413, or e-mail rticzon@lsuc.on.ca. For more information, visit our Web site www.lsuc.on.ca



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NEWS

From DP camp to Canadian embassy



Prime Minister Paul Martin greets Alex Himelfarb in Dec. 2003 at a Rideau Hall ceremony. Then Governor General Adrienne Clarkson looks on.

By Rick Kardonne
Tribune Correspondent

OTTAWA — Alex Himelfarb, born in a Displaced Persons camp near Frankfurt to German-Jewish parents who, despite going to jail under the Nazis, survived the Holocaust without being sent to concentration camps, is Canada's next ambassador to Italy. He looks forward to this new assignment with enthusiasm and a keen wish to acquaint himself with everything Italian from business and political life to everyday life.

While he does not speak Italian yet, he will be taking intensive lessons before heading off to Italy in August. "I'll have briefings on the world of diplomacy, language training and diplomatic orientation about Italy."

As former Privy Council Clerk under PMs Jean Chretien and Paul Martin, he has frequently visited Italy with the purpose of cementing Canada-Italy business ties.

Himelfarb's background as a sociology teacher at the University of Toronto, where he obtained his degree in sociology, rather than that of a lawyer, has enabled him to establish ties with Toronto's Italian community, which, together with that of New York, is the

largest Italian community outside of Italy.

He rose through the ranks of the Department of Heritage and Citizenship, where he became the deputy minister under Sheila Copps. In this position, Himelfarb initiated one of the largest government-sponsored cultural programs in any democratic nation in the world: Tomorrow Starts Today. His additional high-level civil service positions such as working with the Department of Justice and the Office of the Solicitor-General helped Himelfarb get the experience he needed to assume the post of Privy Council Clerk, which oversees many heritage and cultural federal projects.

High-ranking civil servants have often been accused of lavishly living off the public purse with sometimes extravagant perks. Alex Himelfarb denies ever having conformed to this stereotype. "The only perk I ever got was a car and driver," he said, which he still has as a special advisor to Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

At press time, Italy had an election, in which the business-oriented government of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and his centre-left opposition led by Roberto Prodi were running

neck-in-neck. Regardless of the outcome, Himelfarb looks forward to "good relations between Canada and Italy."

"There are many similarities between the business structures of Canada and Italy," Himelfarb told the Jewish Tribune. "For the most part, both countries are dominated by small and medium-sized enterprises as opposed to large multinational corporations. One of the relatively few Italian multinationals, Parmalat, best known for Beatrice dairy products, has its North American headquarters in Toronto."

These similarities, Himelfarb believes, will be conducive to smooth Italian-Canadian trade relations.

Himelfarb emphasizes that he will be making special efforts to reach out to Italy's Jewish community, which, despite a long and distinguished history dating back to pre-Roman times, today, due to the German occupation of Italy during World War II, is down to a total population of about 50,000, most of whom live in and around Rome. "I already have Canadian-Jewish contacts and consultants who will enable contact between Canadian and Italian Jews to be more visible and friendly," he said.

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NEWS

Documentary gives voice to 'demonized' disengaged

By Doris Strub Epstein
Tribune Correspondent

"Democracy is the worst form of government except for all the other forms that have been tried."

— Winston Churchill

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon passed a motion in the Knesset on Oct. 26, 2004 that resulted in the expulsion of 8,000 Israeli citizens living in the Gaza Strip. A place that for many had been home for more than 30 years. A year later, more than 40,000 police and soldiers began uprooting Jews from their homes.

Igal Hecht's remarkable new documentary, *Disengaging Democracy*, tells us about that historic event, but from the point of view of those evicted. He lifts the veil of unwillingness of the media and government who gave, he says, short shrift to the residents — their anguish, bewilderment and bitter aftermath. There is much in the film that has never been seen before and that once viewed, is disturbingly unforgettable.

Rather than cast about for the usual journalistic attempt at evenhandedness, the film focuses on the people who lost their homes and livelihoods, because Hecht says, "I want people to experience what the residents of Gush Katif had to confront; more than anything, I wanted to give them a voice because nobody else has."

The anguish you see is palpable and the pain is everyone's pain, including the soldiers — visibly distressed and trying not to make eye contact with the residents. But the anger is at the Israeli government, who, many claimed, decided to disengage the basic democratic rights of its citizens and have the disengagement take place by any means. "It was a dictatorial decision," cries one woman who had lived there for 15 years. "They didn't even come and talk to us."

Moshe Engel is a former Torontonian. He is also a son of survivors of the Holocaust. A handsome man with cropped white hair and dark, tanned skin, he, like many, are bitter. "I live here because it's quiet and because I love the sea. I left Toronto because of discrimination — only in Israel can you be truly Jewish. And in this Jewish state they are kicking other Jews out."

Hecht, 28, an Israeli-born Torontonian, and co-producer Talia Klein, had originally intended to shoot a short feature of the disengagement. "I knew it was an important event in Jewish history and I was going to shoot it short

and newsy," he said. But when Sharon attempted to block the protesters by not allowing them to leave their towns and villages; when he blocked buses from Bnei Barak from joining a protest; and when several teenage girls were jailed for protesting and not released until they signed a document saying they would not protest again, "that's when I decided to shift into a full-length overview and in-depth story. They were denied their civil rights," he said. "They took Israeli democracy and set it aside so the disengagement could happen without any obstacles."

The documentary covers before, during and after the disengagement. We are left with the aftermath — largely ignored by the media — with the despairing sight of people who had comfortable homes and productive lives, still living in hotels, in cramped, flimsy mobile homes and in small tents. When it rains the ground turns to mud. "We live in a ma'abara, (shanty town)," says one middle-aged woman with grim humour. Two-thirds are unemployed. Many still have no cash compensation but have lots of "paper forms."

Hecht, usually quiet spoken, becomes angry. "These people were taken out of their homes and thrown out into nothing. The bottom line is that the government is responsible for them."

He has been attacked for being anti-disengagement and accused of being too right wing. "I'm not right or left," he responds. "I'm not anti- or pro-disengagement. I'm pro telling the story of these people because no one else would; because Israeli society and the media and filmmakers, did everything they could to demonize these people and make it seem as though they're not a part of Israel. Despite all our disagreements, we're one nation and one people."

Disengaging Democracy was expected to have its world premiere on the i-channel on April 18. (Channel 197 on Rogers, 514 on Bell ExpressVu, 115 on Telus, 95 on Shaw, 593 on Star Choice and 146 on Videotron). Director/Producer/Editor/Writer: Igal Hecht. Co-producer and Writer: Talia Klein.

Seven years ago Hecht created Chutzpa Productions to create films about Judaism and Israel. *Not in My Name*, about the political Jewish left, *The Chosen People*, *Lessons in Fear* and *Y.I.D. — Yebudeem in the Diaspora*, just to mention a few, have been shown on television and in a number of film festivals.

In the works at Chutzpah Productions, is *Israeli Night Life*, a "fun, fast-paced, sexy" look at the night life scene in Israel; *Streets of Jerusalem*, a journey through Jerusalem that explores what the future has in store for Israel and the Palestinians, and *Promised Land*, a two-year exploration of the political Jewish right in North America.



In a scene from *Disengaging Democracy*, a Gush Katif resident is carted away by Israeli police and soldiers during last summer's disengagement and evacuation.

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COMMENTARY/LETTERS

In memoriam: the man who exposed Auschwitz



Rafael Medoff

Rudolf Vrba, one of the few Jews to escape Auschwitz, died in Vancouver recently at age 82. What Vrba revealed about the notorious death camp triggered a series of appeals to the Allies to bomb the gas chambers. But the Allies refused to do so.

In the spring of 1942, the 17-year-old Vrba was deported from his native Slovakia to the Maidanek death camp, in Poland. Later that year, he was transferred to Auschwitz.

In April 1944, as the Germans prepared to deport hundreds of thousands of Hungarian Jews to Auschwitz, Vrba and a fellow-inmate, Alfred Wetzler, made their daring escape. For three days, they hid in a hollowed-out woodpile near the edge of the camp. On the advice of Soviet prisoners of war, the fugitives sprinkled the area with tobacco and gasoline, which confused the German dogs that were used to search for them.

On their second day in the woodpile, Vrba and Wetzler heard Allied warplanes overhead. "They came closer and closer – then bombs began to crunch not far away," Vrba later recalled in his searing memoir, *I Cannot Forgive*. "Our pulses quickened. Were they going to bomb the camp? Was the secret out? Was this the end of Auschwitz?"

The Allied planes were actually bombing German oil factories in and around the Auschwitz complex. The idea of bombing the death camp had not yet been raised, and details such as the location of the gas chambers and crematoria were not yet known. But that was about to change.

After an 11-day, 80-mile trek through southern Poland, Vrba and Wetzler reached Slovakia, where they met with Jewish leaders and dictated a 30-page report that came to be known as the Auschwitz Protocols. It included details of the mass-murder process, maps pinpointing the gas chambers and crematoria, and warnings of the impending slaughter of Hungary's Jews.

"One million Hungarian [Jews] are going to die," Vrba told them. "Auschwitz is ready for them. But if you tell them now, they will rebel. They will never go to the ovens." A copy of the report was given to Rudolf Kastner, a Budapest Jewish leader. Instead of publicizing the information, Kastner negotiated a deal that involved bribing the Germans to permit a train with 1,684 of his relatives, friends, and Hungarian Jewish leaders to leave the country. Kastner's action became the centrepiece of a controversial trial in Israel after the war.

Another copy of Vrba's Auschwitz Protocols was given to Rabbi Michael Dov Weissmandel, a rescue activist in Bratislava, who then wrote the first known appeal for the use of Allied air power to disrupt the mass murder. Weissmandel's plea to the Allies to bomb the railroad lines between Hungary and Auschwitz reached the Roosevelt administration in June.

Assistant Secretary of War John McCloy rejected the request. He said such a bombing was "impracticable" because it would require "diversion of considerable air support essential to the success of our forces now engaged in decisive operations." In response to subsequent bombing requests by other Jewish leaders, McCloy asserted that such raids "might provoke even more vindictive action by the Germans." He also claimed the War Department's position was based on "a study" of the issue.

In fact, no evidence of such a study has ever been found by researchers. McCloy's position was actually based on the War Department's standing policy that no military resources should be used for "rescuing victims of enemy oppression" unless

it happened to coincide with a military operation. Vrba's report convinced the Jewish Agency leadership in Palestine to change its position on bombing. Agency leaders initially opposed bombing Auschwitz because they believed it was a labour

camp, not a death camp. But after receiving the Auschwitz Protocols in June, Agency officials lobbied British, American, and Soviet officials to bomb the camp or the railways leading to it. Their requests were rebuffed.

A condensed version of the Auschwitz Protocols reached the US government's War Refugee Board in June. The new information helped galvanize the board to mobilize international pressure on Hungary to halt the deportations to Auschwitz. Although that effort came too late for the more than 400,000 Hungarian Jews who had been shipped to their doom, it did spare the 200,000-plus who were still alive in Budapest.

The full version of the report, however, was held up in Switzerland for three months by US diplomats who regarded it as low priority. After it finally reached Washington in October, the Auschwitz Protocols was widely distributed by the War Refugee Board – despite the objections of the Office of War Information, which claimed publicity about atrocities against Jews would undermine the Allied war effort.

After the war, Vrba studied at the Czech Technical University in Prague, specializing in neuro-chemistry and earning a doctorate in 1951. He later relocated to Canada and became a professor of pharmacology at the University of British Columbia. Vrba is survived by his wife Robin, their daughter Zuza, and two grandchildren.

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



NEWS ANALYSIS

Europe changes its tune after Hamas victory

By William Echikson

BRUSSELS (JTA) – Hamas' takeover of the Palestinian Authority is changing European attitudes towards the Middle East.

After years of praising the Palestinians and blasting Israel, the Europeans this week froze much of the half-billion or more dollars they give to the Palestinian Authority, a consequence of Hamas' victory in PA legislative elections in January.

European leaders say they'll seek alternatives to allow "humanitarian" aid – for electricity, food, education and other projects – to continue flowing. Seeking to distinguish between the Palestinian people and the government they elected, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, the EU's external relations commissioner, said the European Union would come up with other funding ideas, but was not yet ready to outline them.

Still, something profound has changed. When the Palestinians began their intifada in September 2000, most Europeans blamed Israel. Even when Palestinian suicide bombers terrorized Israeli cities, the Europeans seemed to spend most of their time criticizing Israel for its reprisals and for building a security barrier in the West Bank.

This time, Europeans have begun blaming Palestinian radicals. The European Union labels Hamas a terrorist organization, a designation that bars EU officials from dealing with the group.

Europeans insist that Hamas must renounce violence, recognize Israel's right to exist and uphold previous Palestinian agreements with Israel.

In a draft statement, European foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg said they "noted with

grave concern that the program of the new Palestinian government does not contain a clear commitment to (these) three principles." EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana added that the Palestinian Authority must take a clear decision against violence.

The harder line illustrates more than just disgust with Hamas; it underlines how the European worldview has changed in the past few years.

Until recently, the widespread feeling here was that the United States and Israel overreacted to Islamic terrorism. But now terrorism has struck hard in Europe, in Madrid in March 2004 – with bombs on a series of commuter trains – and then with synchronized bombings on London public transport last July.

Just as Europeans feel more vulnerable to Islamic terrorism, they also have been shocked by Islamic intolerance, especially in European countries with large Arab populations. The brutal murder of Theo Van Gogh, a filmmaker whose work was critical of Islam's treatment of women, convulsed the Netherlands. Riots in Paris' suburbs shocked the French.

More recently, the violent reaction in the Middle East to a series of Danish cartoons on the Prophet Mohammed caused many Europeans to believe that the Arab world does not share their values, beginning with a commitment to freedom of expression.

At the same time, Israel's image has improved. Former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon – long demonized in Europe as the architect of Israel's settlement movement and blamed for a 1982 massacre of Palestinian refugees carried out by

Lebanese Christians – forged a positive impression by withdrawing from the Gaza Strip. Europeans praised Sharon's courage, and perceive his successor, Ehud Olmert, as a pragmatist.

To be sure, many in Europe continue to criticize Israel's security barrier and Olmert's talk of unilaterally drawing Israel's eastern border without negotiating with the Palestinians. In a statement last Monday, European foreign ministers urged Israel "to desist from any action that is contrary to international law."

But that gentle nudge is much less noticeable than the pocketbook pressure on the Palestinians. The European Union is the Palestinians' largest donor, with annual European aid totalling around \$615 million, or about a third of the PA's total budget.

About half of that aid comes from the European Union itself, and half from the governments of the 25 EU member nations. Some of those governments, led by the United Kingdom, Denmark and the Netherlands, have frozen their individual aid packages as well.

The aid cutoff could help restore European power in the Middle East. Traditionally, the Europeans have had little leverage with Israel, which has dismissed them as biased, and they have been hesitant to exert pressure on the Palestinians.

Maybe now, Israel and the United States will consider giving Europe a little more say.

William Echikson is Brussels bureau chief for Dow Jones Newswires and author of three books on Europe, most recently "Noble Rot: A Bordeaux Wine Revolution."

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IN THEIR OWN WORDS

The story of us

By Sari Cornfield
Special to the Tribune

Anee Dodee V'dodee Lee.

The Hebrew words meaning I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine were stated with true meaning and conviction almost six years ago on the happiest day of my life. May 28, 2000 was the day that I had to pinch myself to believe that it was really true; that I was marrying a man who not only met every single one of the wish list items of characteristics that I had made as a young teenager including Jewish, handsome, funny, smart, hard working, blue eyes, no back hair, etc. (Life was obviously a lot simpler back then.) But also a man who truly understood me, loved me unconditionally and was really my very best friend. That beautiful day, all of my dreams became real as I believed that marriage was forever and that good people go on to lead good lives.

And our lives were more than good for a while. David was becoming a rising star at his accounting firm and headed towards partnership. I had a job that I loved as a human resources specialist at an advertising firm. We had many good friends and were surrounded by a big and loving family. We travelled to places we had never visited. We dined out often, trying new restaurants and exploring different neighbourhoods in the city. We bought our first house and entertained often. And most

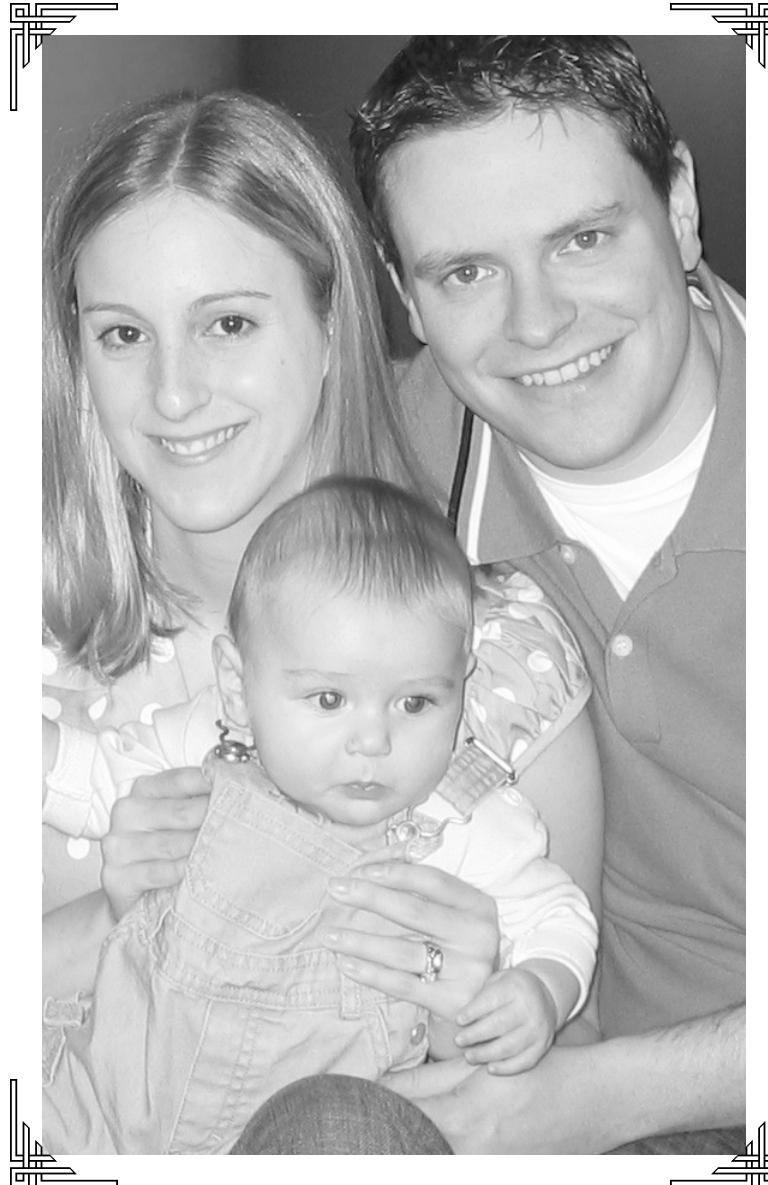
importantly the love that we thought could grow no stronger, continued to surprise us with the intensity and closeness of our bond.

And then the world of peace and happiness that we had created was shaken with the news that a small mole on David's back was stage three melanoma. At the time we could not comprehend the significance of this. Still secure in our belief that we were young and in love and good people, and it would all be okay. We struggled through surgeries and a year of treatment that challenged both of us to our core. And we truly wanted to believe that we had paid our dues and would never again take anything for granted. And as the CT scans revealed that there did not seem to be evidence of disease anywhere in David's body, we felt the black cloud seem to lift and we were able to once again enjoy the sunshine.

The cloud, however, hovered nearby, unable to disappear completely. We took this as a reminder to live each day to the fullest, to love each other fiercely, to remember what is truly important.

What better environment to bring a child into the world? An environment filled with love and excitement about life. A house filled with warmth, fun and understanding. Parents who had faced a tremendous challenge and who were thankful every day to be together.

It was with some apprehension and a tremendous amount of gratitude and excitement that we welcomed our son Noah Brandon into our world. From his big blue eyes to his charismatic personality, it became quickly apparent that Noah was a miniature version of his daddy. The first year of Noah's life, the black cloud moved even further away as we thrived on seeing the world through the amazing eyes of our son. All of his firsts were observed with pride and wonderment as we believed there could be no greater gift than a healthy, growing, bright and curious



Sari, David and Noah Cornfield in the summer of 2004 – happier times.

child. Noah's first birthday is now the last memory I have, where the cloud is not apparent at all.

Just two weeks after Noah's first birthday, our world was shaken for the second time when a routine CT scan

revealed that the disease had reappeared this time in David's lungs. We were now in for a real fight. A fight that involved having to travel to the United States for treatment, horrible side effects, weeks of waiting for results and

disappointing news time and time again. Sept. 21, the day of David's 32nd birthday, brought more frightening news that the disease had spread to his brain. More surgeries and radiation treatments followed, but the disease now was moving quickly and by November it had spread to his liver and spinal column paralyzing him from the chest down.

The doctors advised us they could do nothing more for David so we made the decision to bring him home to spend this precious time with Noah and I and our families. Dec. 18 I lost my very best friend, and Noah lost the daddy he had known for less than two years.

Anee Dodee V'dodee Lee, I now uttered the words with sadness and despair at the end of my eulogy for my husband.

The past few months have been the biggest challenge yet. I have to learn to live again, without my partner by my side. The decisions big and small that David and I made together, I now make alone. The days are long and the nights are lonely but through the dark cloud I imagine the light and laughter that lies ahead. I will cherish the beauty of the relationship that I shared with David forever. During the last few months that I shared with David he told me that the heart has four chambers and that he will always occupy one chamber in my heart, but that the other three will be shared with Noah and other people that will come into my life. My husband taught me so much about life and love and it is with his strength, courage and eternal optimism that I continue on for Noah. Though each day presents me with new challenges, I strive to provide Noah with the same sense of love security and excitement about life that David was so eager to show his son.

The black cloud hasn't departed yet – it lingers with me – only lifting with the laughter and smile of my son. However, I believe that the cloud will part, showing me the sunshine and happiness that my husband so loved.

Kibbutz Seder privatized

The seder, like so many other kibbutz institutions, has been partially or completely privatized in many places, among them Kibbutz Urim, near Beersheba. Until a decade ago, all the members and their guests would gather together in the communal dining hall to read the kibbutz Haggadah, hear the local choir perform and enjoy the posters and other works of art specially prepared for the occasion. Also, of course, there was a bountiful meal with the usual holiday delicacies.

But then it became evident that the dining hall was simply too small to hold all the members and their numerous guests. So, with the encouragement of the kibbutz, several individual seders were arranged. This year there were some 15 family-oriented seders as well as a large communal one in the dining hall. Each group chose which Haggadah to read, be it the traditional one used in most Jewish homes or one of a dozen different kibbutz versions, where more contemporary themes – like the Holocaust, the War of Independence or the beauties of springtime – are dwelled upon in addition to the Exodus saga.

The multiple seders create logistic problems, as the food is still prepared in a central kitchen. Then it is sent, hot and ready to serve, to the various seders. Each group can then add or subtract items from the general menu. All in all, the hybrid system works very well, and the holiday remains popular at Kibbutz Urim, as it does elsewhere in this country.

Every year at seder time here in Israel I remember the seders I attended, and hated, when I lived in the United States. I didn't know Hebrew, and couldn't understand a thing that was being said as my European-born relatives mumbled their way through the Haggadah. I'm not at all sure that they



Nechemia Meyers

In Israel

understood Hebrew either, and I didn't much care. All I wanted was for the ordeal to end so that I could get back to my toys and comic books.

No such problem exists for my children and grandchildren, all of whom know Hebrew and fight for the privilege of reading a portion of the Haggadah. Needless to say, they also enthusiastically belt out the traditional Pesach songs and identify with Moses and the Children of Israel.

I feel particularly sorry for the tens of thousands of Sabras who have been taken by their parents to live in North America. These youngsters can still read the Haggadah in Hebrew, but their children will probably feel as I did as a kid, that it is a lot of gibberish, not nearly as interesting as sitcoms and video games.

I suppose that most of the former Israelis in the Diaspora read through the Haggadah last week. But, I wonder, how they handled that troublesome phrase 'Next year in Jerusalem.' Perhaps, instead, they said 'Never again in Jerusalem.'

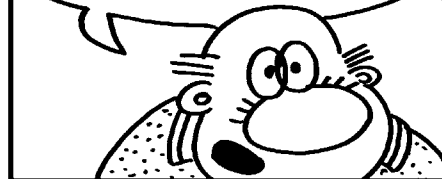
In any case, it will certainly not be easy for Israeli envoys to convince other Jews in Toronto, New York, Chicago and Los Angeles that they should pay serious attention to the phrase 'Next year in Jerusalem' when so many people in their town have clearly decided that Jerusalem is not for them.

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

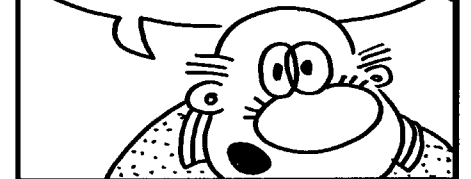
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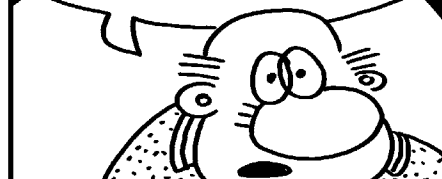
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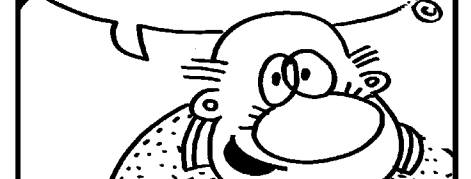
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NEWS

Grievance with Caterpillar, not Israel, Anglican primate says

Featured speaker at annual interfaith dinner

By Sylvia Brooke
Tribune Correspondent

Jewish and Christian congregations from within the mid-town Toronto area gathered to share, dine and learn together at the 20th Annual Neighbourhood Interfaith Dinner held recently at Beth Tzedec Synagogue.

The representatives from 12 congregations rejoiced in the strides that have been made in interfaith dialogue. The dinner, sponsored by the Bronfman family to mark the first yartzeit of their father and husband Edward Bronfman, was a fitting venue, as Bronfman was the director of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews for a number of years.

In his tribute, Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl referred to Bronfman's mitzvah as "love your neighbour as yourself," and noted that "this evening epitomizes his ideal." His values were evident in all his business and philanthropic endeavours. Keynote speaker The Most

Harper condemns Ahmadinejad remarks

OTTAWA — Prime Minister Stephen Harper condemned remarks by Iran's president for once again calling for the end of Israel and his continued Holocaust denial.

"Canada vigorously condemns the recent call by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for the annihilation of Israel, and his continued denial of the Holocaust. The Canadian people reject the hatred that underlies such appalling and irresponsible statements.

"It is particularly disturbing that these remarks are being made at a time when Iran is in serious violation of its international obligations with respect to nuclear non-proliferation.

"Canada continues to believe that these outrageous comments by the president of Iran do not reflect the traditions and values of the Iranian people."

Ahmadinejad made the remarks at a conference of visiting heads of Arab terrorist groups operating in areas under Palestinian Authority control.

CORRECTION Singer not rabbi's son

In a review in the April 13 issue of the *Jewish Tribune*, singer Jason Allen was incorrectly identified. He is not the son or other relative of Beth Tikvah Rabbi Wayne Allen.

The *Jewish Tribune* regrets the error.



PHOTO: SYLVIA BROOKE
Anglican Primate Andrew Hutchison was guest speaker at 20th Annual Neighbourhood Interfaith Dinner.

Reverend Andrew S. Hutchison, 12th Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, is himself an award winner for his work in interfaith dialogue. His was a strong message, that we must always continue to work together for a better, more just world.

He referenced Senator John Danforth, an Anglican priest, who observed that most world conflicts are caused by religion, or have a significant religious component. Hutchison said that dealing with such issues with world religious leaders does not seem possible, when many such leaders are not unanimously recognized. Perhaps, that is why he said, negotiating such matters on a daily basis at the local level is so crucial.

As a Christian leader, Hutchison has formally "apologized for

the legacy of antisemitic teaching and preaching that led to the horror of the pogroms, and gave the Nazis theological justification for the Holocaust."

He corrected the widely held belief that the Anglican Church has voted to disinvest in Israel. The Church's grievance is with Caterpillar Inc., manufacturers of the heavy equipment used to mow down Palestinian houses as retaliation for Palestinian Arab terrorism. Christians, while longing for justice and peace, have found with their "commitment to that longing we have always maintained the freedom to criticize government policies we perceive to be unjust." Their issue with Caterpillar is a criticism of a political decision, not a criticism of a people.

He further noted that when a memorial gathering took place on Parliament Hill following the events of Sept. 11, 2001, the event was completely free of any religious references or invitation to prayer, adding that political correctness had been taken so far that the result left a vacancy offending many. "Surely there is a better way to deal with religious pluralism than to retreat behind the walls of our private convictions," he exclaimed.

Hutchison concluded quoting the theme of the 9th Assembly of the World Council of Churches, from which he had recently returned: "God, by your Grace, transform the world," reiterating the notion that justice and peace remain in our hands, as we work together.

Portrait photographer Al Gilbert marked the occasion of Hutchison's address with a formal portrait of the reverend.

Ask public before changes made, Ontario told



Toni Silberman, Immediate Past Ontario Chair of League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada, shown with Mary Woo Simms, former Chief Commissioner of British Columbia Human Rights Commission, following press conference held last week at Queen's Park calling on Ontario Government to first consult with community stakeholders before proceeding with its announced plans to introduce far reaching changes to Ontario's Human Rights legislation and procedures.

Passport case highlights Jerusalem, Israel as key to Jewish identity

The passport court case brought by David Matas, senior legal counsel of B'nai Brith Canada, in the name of Jerusalem-born Elyahu Veffor, was argued last week before Justice Konrad von Finckenstein in courtrooms in Winnipeg and Toronto. The Federal Court application for judicial review was filed in January 2005 in response to the federal government's refusal to show Jerusalem, Israel as Veffor's place of birth on his Canadian passport. While the proceeding was specific to Veffor, many other Israeli-born

Canadians face the same problem. Matas argued that the government's present passport policy effectively denied the applicant's Jewish identity, which for Veffor is very much linked to Jerusalem, as the very heart and soul of the Jewish people. Matas contended that

the refusal to list Jerusalem, Israel contravened Veffor's rights to religious freedom and equality as guaranteed under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom and stood in conflict with recent judgments by the Supreme Court of Canada, which clearly held that it was not for the courts to question one's sincerely held religious beliefs.

Matas said that the evidence showed that the policy was inconsistent with government practices on other disputed areas where passport applicants were in fact allowed a choice as to how their place of birth was noted. The lawyer for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sharlene Telles-Langdon, responded by arguing that the status of Jerusalem, given its significance to three religions, was a complex, sensitive foreign policy

issue and that the federal government was standing by its foreign policy that its status could only be resolved by peace negotiations between Israeli and Palestinian officials. She argued that to show Jerusalem, Israel on a Canadian passport might somehow favour Israel and thereby prejudice such negotiations.

A coalition of pro-Palestinian groups headed by the Canadian Arab Federation and represented by lawyer Douglas Elliot rejected Matas' argument out of hand and argued that the right to list Israel as the country of birth for Jerusalem-born Jews would somehow offend the multiculturalism that the Charter of Rights guarantees. After one full day of arguments, the matter is now under reserve with a decision expected in a month or two.

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FEATURES

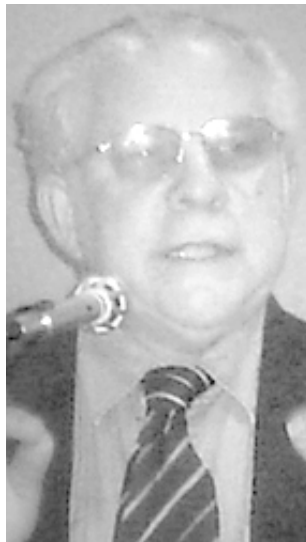
Israeli journalist exposes extreme danger posed by UNRWA Sees 'window of opportunity' in Canada

By Atara Beck
Tribune Correspondent

David Bedein, bureau chief of the *Israel Resource News Agency*, spoke at Toronto's Shaarei Shomayim synagogue recently to 50 people attending his workshop on the Middle East and the peril from within UNRWA – the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. It was organized by the Canadian Coalition for Democracies and Media Action Group.

Bedein encouraged the audience to use its power as Canadians to make a difference. Canada is head of the Refugee Work Group, and therefore, "what Canada says on this issue is vital," he said.

"There's a window of opportunity now... The face of Islam is scaring a lot of people," he continued, adding that intelligence organizations around the world are calling meetings to discuss how to handle Hamas. "They are frightened – especially the ones who know Arabic."



David Bedein of the Israel Resource News Agency, urges Canadians to make a difference at synagogue workshop.

Most people are unaware, Bedein explained, that UNRWA is not funded by the UN; rather, it is supported financially by 38 contributing nations, including Canada, which has donated gen-

erously. He advised his audience to take advantage of the fact that this country now has people in the government like Stockwell Day and Jason Kenney, and to support them. "Don't be like some Jewish organizations that are not doing that," he said.

"We should encourage the Canadian government [following its courageous decision to cease all funding to Hamas] to continue to take the lead," Bedein declared, "and not allow anyone who supports terrorism or the destruction of Israel to work for UNRWA."

There are 17 million other refugees in the world, he said, and yet international attention is focused mostly on Palestinian refugees, due to successful Palestinian public relations and an ongoing worldwide interest in Middle East affairs.

UNRWA's purpose should be to resettle the refugees and resolve the volatile political situation, but instead it perpetuates the misery, the hopelessness and the violence, according to the find-

ings of Bedein's news agency. Many of UNRWA's employees are terrorists with their own destructive agenda that contradicts any plan to improve the quality of life of the refugees. In the camps, the myth of the "right of return" to the Palestinian homeland is propagated, which encourages the people to fight (i.e., terrorize) towards that goal. Although resettlement is the most humanitarian solution for refugees, they are not interested, Bedein said, because they have been brainwashed to believe they will "return" to the land of their parents and grandparents, who were allegedly tortured and murdered by the Zionists.

Following Bedein's talk, the audience was shown a chilling film depicting the wretched living conditions of the refugees, the incitement towards violence and the lies spoken to the Western media. The refugee population is growing remarkably, while the children are encouraged to

become "martyrs." A social worker by profession, Bedein chastised "the ultimate crime of manipulating peoples' dignity for political purposes." It is in the interest of UNRWA

employees to continue the miserable situation of these refugees not only for political gain, but for personal financial security as well, he explained.

9 dead, 50 hurt in suicide bombing at Tel Aviv food stand

TEL AVIV (Arutz-7) – An Arab suicide bomber, blew himself up at a Tel Aviv fast food stand in the Neveh Sha'anun neighbourhood Monday afternoon, killing at least eight civilians.

At least 50 were wounded, with 15 sustaining moderate to severe injuries. The wounded were evacuated to local hospitals, among them, Ichilov, Beilinson, Wolfson, and Tel Hashomer.

Of those seriously wounded, five are reported to be in critical condition.

An eyewitness at the scene, Rafi Hayun, told Israel Radio that the terrorist was a female. He estimated, and officials confirmed, that nine people, aside from the terrorist, were killed in the attack. The identity of the terrorist has not been confirmed.

Police are investigating how the terrorist reached his target and whether he received assistance by other terrorists still in the vicinity.

The Islamic Jihad terror group and the Al Aksa Martyrs' Brigades, the military wing of the Fatah party, have claimed responsibility for the attack. Fatah is the party of PLO Chief Mahmoud Abbas.

In 1993, Israel signed the Oslo Accords and ceded territory to the Palestinian Authority, after the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) and its biggest component, Fatah, pledged in writing to refrain from carrying out terrorist attacks or from using violence of any kind against Israel.

The Al Aksa Martyrs' Brigades and the Islamic Jihad have been cooperating extensively to carry out terrorist attacks against Israel, especially since Hamas won a pivotal parliamentary election in the Palestinian Authority last January.

The fast food felafel stand, Rosh Ha-Ir, in the vicinity of Tel Aviv's former central bus station, was the site of a terrorist attack three months ago. Thirty-two people were injured in that attack, which was also carried out by the Islamic Jihad.

Following the attack, Police Commissioner Moshe Karadi, put the nation on maximum alert, out of concern that the inauguration of the 17th Knesset, scheduled for 4 Monday afternoon, will serve as a pretext for more attacks.

As of Monday afternoon, Israel's security apparatus was faced with the threat of 19 specific terrorist attacks, warning of

an impending attack at a specific time and place. Eighty more general threats of attack have been reported to Israel's intelligence agencies.

According to Karadi, the police had no specific warning of an impending terrorist attack in Tel Aviv.

According to the latest reports, a blue Mitsubishi, suspected of being the vehicle that transported the suicide bomber to his target in Tel Aviv, has been stopped by the IDF at the Ofer roadblock near Ramallah in the Binyamin area. A number of persons in the car have been arrested and are being questioned by security agencies.

Canada right to shun contact with Hamas: B'nai Brith

B'nai Brith Canada has expressed outrage over Monday's suicide bombing attack in a heavily populated civilian area in Tel Aviv, which reportedly killed at least nine people and injured more than 50 others.

"Israelis suffered today from yet another suicide bombing, this time in the heart of a bustling Tel Aviv neighbourhood in the midst of the Passover holiday," said Frank Dimant, executive vice president of B'nai Brith Canada. "This ghastly scene of blood and destruction perpetrated by Palestinian terrorists was carried out not only under the watchful eye of Hamas but with the full approval and sanction of the new Palestinian government. This latest attack, all too reminiscent of other Palestinian suicide bombings against Israeli civilians, underlines yet again that terrorist groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad will never allow Israel to live in peace in the region."

"Any fiction that had persisted regarding the possibility that Hamas might change its terrorist stripes must now be rejected out of hand. Canada should be commended for leading the way of Western nations in refusing to recognize and provide support to this terrorist regime now in power on Israel's doorstep. B'nai Brith Canada has called on Russian President Vladimir Putin to follow Canada's example by renouncing the Hamas government and the terrorism that it advocates."

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First published April 13, 2006

FEATURES

Miss Israel didn't even know she was Jewish

Plans include modelling, raising money for kids

By Soriya Daniels
Special to the Tribune

As a young child living in Donyetsk, Ukraine, Elena Ralph never dreamed she would one day become Miss Israel, representing the Jewish state in the 2005 Miss Universe contest. In fact, she didn't even know she was Jewish.

It wasn't until she turned six that her grandmother, a Holocaust survivor living a Jewish life in secret from her communist neighbours, revealed to Elena that she, too, was Jewish.

Elena, an only child, recalls her family making small, secretive celebrations of Passover and Rosh Hashanah. She soon joined the local Jewish Agency club, which cultivated a love of Jewish tradition, eventually leading her to immigrate to Israel without her family at the age of 17.

"I learned a lot about Judaism through the Jewish Agency," Elena recounted. "We made Shabbat and holiday celebrations in the Jewish Agency club, and we danced and sang Jewish songs. It's there that I learned a lot about Judaism," said Elena, adding, "We learned Jewish history and traditions."

Elena came to Israel through the Jewish Agency's Selah (Students Before Their Parents) program, which is a 10-month academic preparatory course for High School graduates from the former Soviet Union. Funded by the Jewish Agency, the program includes Ulpan (accelerated Hebrew language course), cultural activities, room and board in Hadera, and a special course designed to prepare students for post-secondary education.

Elena had a strong gut feeling that aliyah would mark the next chapter in her life. "I didn't see my future in Ukraine, and I knew that if I wanted to make aliyah, that I would have to study in Israel." And that's exactly what she did. Following the Selah program, where Elena met her four best friends who she considers family, Elena enrolled in Tel Aviv University where she currently studies political science and sociology.

"My parents, Irina and Sergey, are engineers by education, and they always told me that the most important things are to be healthy and to study a lot," said Elena. Her parents emphasized the importance of becoming what she calls "a worldwide person," and the critical value of being able to communicate with anyone. With this in mind, her parents provided her with private tutors in many languages at a young age, and enrolled her in a leading school in the Ukraine. Despite having little money, her parents made sure that she was cultured and well-rounded, providing dance and exercise classes, swimming lessons, and surrounding her with many people.



Elena Ralph, Miss Israel, poses at the Miss Universe Pageant. She came in sixth out of more than 80 worldwide contestants.

"I was always very busy and communicative and I still am," said Elena with confidence.

Elena, now 21, cleaned houses in order to supplement her stipend while concurrently studying at Tel Aviv University. "It was a hard time for me, but I never minded doing the cleaning," said Elena. "I didn't know the language, so it was good practice speaking Hebrew. And now I can say - I know how to clean."

Elena dedicated herself to learning Hebrew, admitting that the language barrier was her most difficult transition to Israeli life.

"When you don't know the language, you feel like a small child, and you can't understand anything," she explained.

People on campus started approaching Elena, telling her that she should become a model or audition for a beauty pageant.

"I decided to enter Miss Israel because it was a challenge for me to win this pageant after only three years in Israel and I wanted to show all Jews that we are all one big family in the world," Elena recalled. "In Israel, even if you are a new immigrant, you have the same opportunities as every other Israeli."

When Elena was crowned Miss Israel, the Jewish Agency brought Elena's parents to Israel to be with her.

Elena takes great pride in her

new country, and standing in Thailand for the Miss Universe pageant, she was most proud to be representing Israel and seeing the Israeli flag from the stage.

"It was a great pageant," said Elena who came in sixth place from more than 80 worldwide contestants, in front of an estimated one billion people watching in 170 countries. She also holds the Miss Israel title until mid-2006.

"The pageant started at eight o'clock a.m., so we woke up at two o'clock in the morning to get ready," Elena recalled. "We started with a Thai dance with the dancers. Then there was a national costume parade. Suddenly, I entered the Top 15, then Top 10, and the feeling was so great."

As one of 10 semi-finalists, Elena stepped out in a silk scarf, high heels, and a white bikini swimsuit. Later that day, she paraded in front of the judges wearing a gold, shimmering gown, with long slits on the sides.

Natalie Glebov, 23, representing Canada, was crowned Miss Universe May 30, 2005. Just 11 years earlier she and her parents immigrated to Canada, from Russia, with only one suitcase filled with their belongings. With their heritage in common, Elena and Natalie quickly became friends.

Natalie is spending her year increasing awareness about HIV/AIDS and the research needed to find a cure for the deadly disease. She has taken a trip to Africa where she met with Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and visited children living with HIV and AIDS. She will spend the remainder of her year travelling the globe as an ambassador for organizations such as the Global Health Council, amfAR, and the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

From participating in Miss Universe, Elena said that she learned that our world is actually very small, "and everybody is so different, and the same, simultaneously." She also learned that winning is not the main objective in life. "I knew that if I didn't win, I can be happy with what I have and be happy for the winner!"

Elena does exude happiness in abundance. In fact, she planned her recent trip to New York and Canada to share that happiness with others. "I wanted to tell all Jewish communities how important all the things that they are doing for people like me, and just to give them a big 'thanks a lot' for everything," said Elena who is grateful for the work of the Jewish Agency.

Elena will spend her year as Miss Israel raising money to support children with different health problems, in between modelling shoots in Paris and Israel, and various public appearances. She is working with Look modeling agency, and Laisha magazine, which sponsored the Miss Israel contest. She has cut back on her coursework to accommodate her new commitments as Miss Israel.

Asked about her long-term plans, she responded that she would like to become an Ambassador of Israel, and is studying political science with that in mind.

Thrilled with her new life in Israel, Elena can barely pinpoint what she likes best about her new country. "The weather, the people, my work and studies, my friends, everything," she said with a smile. "That's why I am such a happy person."

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SPORTS

Israel's hockey coach feted at golden age breakfast

By Mike Cohen
Tribune Correspondent

MONTREAL – Twenty years after guiding the Montreal Canadiens to a Stanley Cup victory, Jean Perron is experiencing euphoria at a completely different level as the head coach of the Israel National Hockey Team.

Recently, Perron was front and centre at the Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors second annual Golden Age of Sports Celebrity Breakfast where he received a special award of merit. Responding to a well-deserved standing ovation from the audience of 500 people, Perron spoke about what an honour it has been to play a role in Israel's berth on the international hockey scene.

"I remember one of the first times I went to Israel to coach

hockey," Perron recalled. "I arrived at Ben Gurion Airport and security asked where I was going. I told them I was going to Metulla to coach the Israel hockey team. They didn't believe me. While I was there I got a lot of media coverage so when I went back to the airport I brought the newspapers to show them. Then they believed me."

Perron has served as coach for Israel's national junior team the past two years. He travels to Israel regularly and tours the globe and international competitions, adding significant credibility to the operation. The Award of Merit was presented by Alan Maislin, president of the Israeli Ice Hockey Federation and honorary chair of the breakfast.

"Jean Perron has given something special to the state of

Israel and its hockey program," said Maislin, noting that a national women's Israeli hockey team is now taking shape.

"My ambition is to make hockey one of the most popular sports in Israel," said Maislin. "Sports fans in Israel know soccer and basketball, but very few people know that there actually is hockey being played in the country. We want to make hockey the coolest game in town."

Maislin comes from a well-known business family that has always been close to the Montreal hockey scene. "The Maislins have always had two passions, sports and transports," said Perron.

A wide range of celebrities from the sports world rounded out the impressive guest list assembled by event chair Harold Greenspon's committee: Mon-

treil Alouettes star tackles Uzooma Okeke and Ed Phillion, former Montreal Alouettes great Peter Dalla Riva, former Canadian Football League coach with Montreal and the BC Lions Joe Galat, another former Alouette John Gilman, Montreal Impact all-star Jewish defender Adam Braz, former Canadian Boxing Champion Ian Clyde, Dwight Walton of the Montreal Matrix, Abe Hefter of CJAD and Herb Zurkowsky of the Montreal Gazette.

Walton played four years of pro basketball in Israel. "It was great experience," he said.

Gilman is the CEO of FieldTurf Inc., the Montreal-based company responsible for a successful product best explained as enhanced artificial turf and used in sports stadiums around the world, including Rogers Centre in Toronto.

While expressing his admiration for what Maislin has done for hockey in Israel, Gilman hinted that tackle football could be next. "I sent some footballs to Israel recently," he said. "They're using them for touch football leagues. Tackle will be next."



Alan Maislin presents Jean Perron with an Award of Merit.

Montreal's Jewish Sports Hall of Fame to induct new members

By Mike Cohen
Tribune Correspondent

MONTREAL – Three of the greatest players in the storied history of the Montreal Canadiens – Elmer Lach, Jean Beliveau and Guy Lafleur – will be special guests at the induction of legendary Habs coach Cecil Hart into the YM-YWHA Alex Dworkin Montreal Jewish Sports Hall of Fame on May 8.

Fitness pioneers Joe and Ben Weider, soccer star Dave Kaplan, and the 1949-50 YMHA Blues Canadian Senior Basketball championship team will be similarly honoured at the same ceremony.

Renowned Canadiens play-by-play broadcaster Dick Irvin, will be emcee. Réjean Houle, president of the Canadiens alumni, will also attend.

Lach, Beliveau and Lafleur, who played for the Canadiens at various periods during the club's glory years between 1944 and 1979, have 18 Stanley Cup rings between them and have all been elected to the Hockey Hall of Fame. Their career honours also include the Hart Memorial Trophy, given annually to the NHL's most valuable player. It is named after Cecil Hart, who guided the Canadiens to

Stanley Cup championships in 1930 and 1931.

The Montreal Jewish Sports Hall of Fame is dedicated to Montreal athletes and teams that have recorded outstanding accomplishments, as well as builders and benefactors whose contribution to sports is acknowledged in Canada and internationally.

While the high-profile inductees such as the late Cecil Hart and the Weider brothers are attracting most of the attention, individuals such as Kaplan also have interesting stories to tell. Now 82, Kaplan still plays tennis at least five days a week in the spring and summer. A long-time Montrealer, Kaplan was outstanding in soccer, football, hockey, baseball, track and field and tennis, but earned a national reputation as a goalkeeper with the Montreal Hakoah soccer team from 1948 until 1955. He joined Hakoah on its formation in 1948 and was named its MVP in 1949.

"I just showed up to one of their practices one day," he told the *Jewish Tribune* in an interview. "I

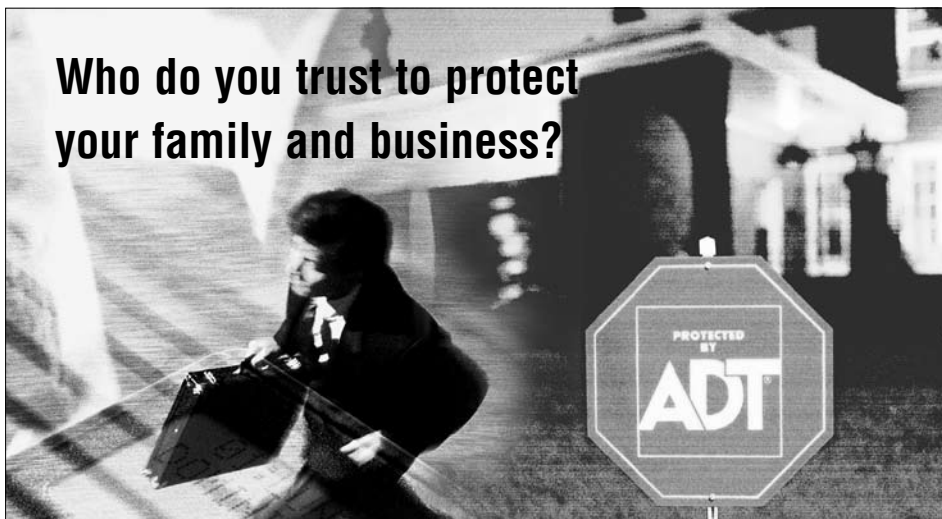
told them I was a goalkeeper. They said they had one already. I responded that I would play anywhere. So they threw me out there and I was on the team. That lasted seven years. I was named MVP in 1949 and in 1950 I was selected as goalkeeper for the Montreal All Stars in a pair of international soccer games against Manchester United and the national team from England. I was the game MVP against Manchester United."

Born in Winnipeg in 1923, Kaplan played football in college and with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers of the Canadian Football League. "Would you believe that in those days you did not get paid a nickel to play pro football in Canada?" Kaplan said.

Kaplan also played hockey with several Winnipeg teams.

The 'Y' Blues team was a major factor in Canadian basketball for several years. After winning the eastern championship, the 1949-50 team won the national title by beating the University of Manitoba in a best-of-five series in Montreal.

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