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# JEWISH TRIBUNE

Circulation 62,530 Largest Jewish Weekly in Canada

## Israel to welcome Indian descendants of 'lost' Jewish tribe

By Dina Kraft

TEL AVIV (JTA) – A group of 218 people from a remote mountainous corner of northeastern India who claim descent from one of the lost biblical tribes will be immigrating to Israel as recognized Jews for the first time.

The aliyah of members from the Bnei Menashe community to Israel is a turning point, said Michael Freund, founder of Shavei Israel, which assists "lost Jews" seeking to return to the Jewish people.

"This is a major historical event, because these members of a lost tribe of Israel, after 27 centuries of wandering in exile, will at last be coming home," he said.

News of the planned arrival in November of 218 Bnei Menashe, who have already undergone official conversion in India, was made public for the first time last Tuesday after it was leaked to the Israeli daily *Yediot Achronot*.

The government decision to bring the 218 to Israel followed months of bureaucratic wrangling in which Israel's Interior Ministry and Absorption Ministry balked at plans to bring them here, Freund said.

Advocates have been working for years to convince Israeli authorities that the Bnei Menashe were indeed long-lost Jews who had returned to the faith. They hope this group will pave the way for others in the community to also make aliyah.

The group of immigrants went through conversion courses and were approved for conversion by rabbinical judges sent to India last year by Israel's Sephardi Chief Rabbi Shlomo Amar.

Amar has declared Bnei Menashe "descendants of the Jewish people" and has been working to help facilitate the aliyah of those who want to live in Israel.

To date, many of the some 1,000 members of the community – who arrived in the country as tourists and later converted to Judaism and became citizens – live in West Bank settlements. Some also lived in settlements in the Gaza Strip until last year's Israeli withdrawal.

The decision to place them predominately in settlements has drawn criticism.

Their advocates say the move was not a political but a practical decision. They say the settlements were among the only communities in the country willing to financially help the Bnei Menashe who arrived in Israel and had to spend their first year studying for conversion, without much time to hold down jobs.

Zvi Khaute, 32, lives in the West Bank settlement of Kiryat Arba, on the outskirts of Hebron, where the largest number of Bnei Menashe reside. He welcomes the government decision to bring more



A member of the Bnei Menashe community in India prepares for the Sukkot holiday.

of his community to Israel as Jewish immigrants for the first time.

"It really is a dream come true," said Khaute, who studies in a yeshiva part-time and works for the Shavei offices.

The group that is scheduled to arrive next month will be living for the first year in absorption centres in the northern towns of Carmiel and Nazareth lit.

Some 7,000 Bnei Menashe live in the northeastern Indian states of Mizoram and Manipur. They trace their descent to the tribe of Menashe, one of the 10 tribes expelled from ancient Israel by the Assyrians.

They claim their ancestors wandered eastward toward China, then eventually settled to the south in what is now northeastern India and nearby Myanmar.

Most of the community converted to Christianity at the turn of the 20th century. In recent decades, some have returned to the Judaism their ancestors have practised for centuries, including observing Shabbat, keeping the laws of kashrut, practising circumcision on the eighth day of a baby boy's life and observing the laws of family purity.

The Jewish Agency will be facilitating their absorption into Israel.

Freund said some \$1 million in financial support for the undertaking will be provided by the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, a Chicago-based group that has raised tens of millions of dollars from Christian supporters of Israel.

**Special Report**  
**5766 Year in Review – pages 6-8**



### Bail for Hamas men overturned

JERUSALEM (JTA) – An Israeli military court reversed its decision to release 21 jailed Palestinian Authority officials on bail. The Ofer Military Court last Monday accepted arguments by prosecutors that 21 Hamas legislators and cabinet ministers should not be allowed out of jail for security reasons. The officials were rounded up after Gaza Strip gunmen abducted an Israeli soldier, Cpl. Gilad Shalit, on June 25. The court announced the bail decision earlier this month, but put it on hold pending appeals by prosecutors. Above, Hamas lawmakers Palestinian Parliament speaker Abdul Aziz Duaiq (centre), Ahmed Attoun (left) and others, wait for the hearing at the Ofer Military Court.

## Phony charges by UN rapporteur fomenting antisemitism: Matas

David Matas, Senior Legal Counsel to B'nai B'rith Canada, was in Geneva last week to attend the second session of the United Nations Human Rights Council. Matas delivered an address on behalf of B'nai B'rith International in response to Special Rapporteur John Dugard's report, which accused Israel of war crimes.

I speak on behalf of B'nai B'rith International, an organization committed to combatting antisemitism. We wish to express our concern that the United Nations Human Rights Council and its expert mechanisms are fomenting antisemitism worldwide through phony charges of criminality against the Jewish state. Anti-Zionists hurl these false charges to delegitimize the Jewish state. They lead to demonization of the Jewish people everywhere for their actual or presumed support of this imaginary criminality.

John Dugard, the special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, is a classic but far from the most egregious example of this problem. To begin with, the mandate of this rapporteur is biased; it is indefinite, assuming that there are human rights violations now in the West Bank and Gaza and that these violations will continue indefinitely into the future. It is unbalanced, focused on the West Bank and Gaza only, without regard to the violations the Palestinian Authority and Arab and Muslim states perpetrate on Israel through terrorist attacks. It is tendentious, slapping the label of "occupation" on Israel's presence and control of the same territories Jordan and Egypt once controlled without their ever having been accused of occupation. It is politicized, calling into question the existence of the state of Israel by suggesting that there are other so-called Palestinian occupied territories, presumably Israel proper.

Dugard, by the gusto with which he has embraced his skewed mandate, has made a bad problem worse. Paragraph 36 of his Sept. 5 report to this Council says it all. It accuses Israel of war crimes. Yet, according to the statute of the Interna-

tional Criminal Court [Article 25(1)] and the Geneva Conventions on the Laws of War [Article 146, Fourth Convention], only individuals can commit war crimes. Accusing Israel as a whole of war crimes is a form of collective guilt.

Dugard accuses Israel of violation of Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions on the Laws of War. But that Protocol is a treaty, which Israel has neither ratified nor even signed. No state is bound by a treaty to which it is not a party. Even if one can think of this Protocol as customary international law, a term, it should be noted, Dugard does not use, it would be a flagrant injustice to prosecute anyone for an act that is forbidden only by customary international law, and not set out either nationally by statute or internationally by a binding treaty. Dugard promotes this sort of flagrant injustice.


Dugard misquotes and misapplies the relevant standard found in Protocol I. He refers to the excessive use of force arising from disproportionate attacks. But that is not what Protocol I says. The Protocol criminalizes an attack that causes damage which would be excessive "in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated." One can scour in vain through Dugard's reports for any consideration of the military advantage anticipated. Dugard is not a military expert. Nor does he seek any outside independent expert military advice. His condemnation of the damage inflicted without consideration of the military threat Israel faces or other alternatives Israel might have to the response Dugard decries, is just one-sided, decontextualized Israel bashing.

Dugard makes a gratuitous charge of collective punishment. Collective punishment is more than just extensive damage. Like all crimes, it requires proof of intent. But Dugard provides none.


The mandate of John Dugard should be terminated. As long as that mandate continues, Dugard himself should be removed from his position. While he remains in that position, the slander in which he regularly indulges against the Jewish state should stop.

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## NEWS

# 'Israel on front lines' against Islamofascism: Glick

By Rick Kardonne  
Tribune Correspondent

"Jerusalem is on the front line in the global war against Muslim terror," *Jerusalem Post* Deputy Managing Editor Caroline Glick told a capacity audience at Holy Blossom Temple last week. The capacity crowd gave her a standing ovation for her views on the current world situation, which focused on Israel with direct implications for the world.

Her address was sponsored by the Canadian Coalition for Democracies.

She proclaimed that the world is not engaged in a war against terrorism per se.

"Terrorism is a tactic of Global Jihad," she said. "I am gratified by the direction of the Canadian government under Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day. Harper realizes that the enemy is Islamofascism."

Glick said, "Extremist Sunni and Shia Muslims are totalitarian imperialists who truly believe that it is God (Allah) Almighty who wants to rule the world. They value death over life. They value everything we oppose."

She made the case that Islamofascism is an extreme right-wing phenomenon.

"The Islamic movement started in Cairo in the 1920s," Glick said. "The Muslim Brotherhood wanted to destroy Israel even before it regained independence. Hamas was actually founded in 1929 by Haj al-Amin Hussein (who British High Commissioner Sir Herbert Samuel appointed as grand mufti of

Jerusalem) who established a Muslim Brotherhood that used Bosnian Muslims to attack the Jewish Warsaw Ghetto uprising. Hussein was a mentor to Yasser Arafat.

"This is the Palestinian Arab national movement."

She went on to declare: "Global Jihad cannot be appeased. Its epicentres are in Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt. Hezbollah has three ministers in the Lebanese government."

Glick mentioned the intellectual voice of Global Jihad, the late Columbia University professor Edward Said, whose book *Orientalism* was "an intellectual attack against the West, which stated that all Western studies of Islam by such recognized scholars as Bernard Lewis (whose important article in the July 1970 issue of *Encounter* magazine, *Arabs and Negroes*, authoritatively documented anti-Black racism and genocide by Arabs against Black Africans) were automatically racist."

She defined the dangerous role played by arguably the strongest instigator of Islamofascism, Iran.

"Iran set up Hezbollah in Lebanon in 1982," Glick said. Ayatollah Khomeini (who led the Iran revolution) lived in Lebanon during the 1970s. Yasser Arafat trained Hezbollah in Lebanon. Iran supported Hezbollah in the most recent war. Israel fought the best army in the Mideast: Hezbollah, supported by Iran. Subsidiaries of the Iran Revolutionary Guards - Hamas and Hezbollah - have the ability to strike in North America."

She identified Iran President Mah-



Islamofascism is the enemy, Caroline Glick tells Holy Blossom crowd.

moud Ahmadinejad as not a madman, but a truly religious man who is "evil," whose belief in the 12th Imam, a Shiite Muslim messiah who will usher in the destruction of the world and the emergence of an all-Islamic world, is all-pervasive.

"The Muslim extremists want an Islamic empire to rule the world," she said.

She bitterly castigated recent Israeli governments, including the present one, for governing according to "half-truths":

(1) the Oslo accords of 1993, which allowed the "PLO to radicalize Palestinian society and derange a generation of Palestinian Arabs";

(2) the Gaza disengagement, and most recently,

(3) the Olmert-Peretz acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution #1701, on which grounds the most recent Lebanon war ended.

She said that 1701 was based on two

lies:

(1) making Israel and Hezbollah, which started the war, equal combatants; and

(2) not mentioning Iran and Syria, which armed and fought with Hezbollah, at all.

Expressing fear that Israel's war against Iran might have to be fought all over again; as the kidnapped soldiers have not been released and Hezbollah has been restocked with rockets by Iran, Glick concluded with a declaration of principles she believes must guide Israeli policies in the near future:

"Stop worrying if people like us. Why should we care about Kofi Annan? Israel is fighting for the free world. Columnist Mark Steyn said that the UN should be moved to Caracas. We want to exist. We must tell the entire truth. Israel is ours. We have a right to it. Let's stand up for ourselves!"

In a post-speech interview, Glick told the *Jewish Tribune*, when presented with several current articles regarding present US policy regarding Iran, expressed her disappointment with Bush administration directions.

Andrew Bostom in *The American Thinker*, Sept. 13, wrote that Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, a Shiite, was greeted warmly in Tehran by Ahmadinejad. They vowed that "Iran and Iraq, as two brotherly neighbours, will stand by each other."

Scott Sullivan, writing in *The Conservative Voice*, also on Sept. 13, also noted that Bush was toning down his rhetoric on Iran, not mentioning sanctions in his UN speech, and giving

Ahmadinejad's predecessor, Mohamed Khatami, a visa to tour the US freely. Sullivan said: "The Khatami visit and the Bush speech on terrorism sent a clear message to the Middle East that the US is shifting support from the Sunnis, the US's traditional partner, to the Shiias (headed by Iran)."

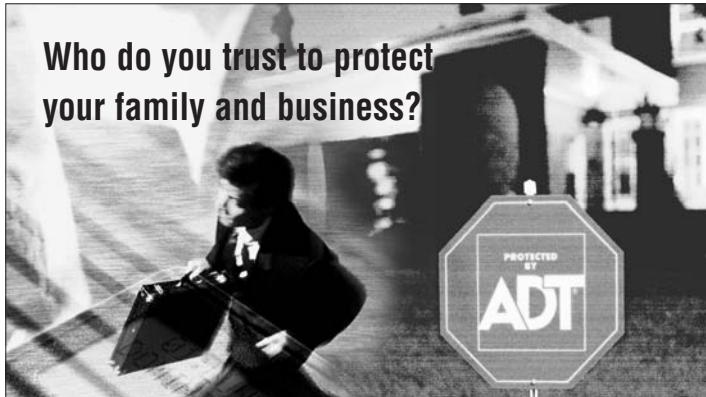
Glick agreed with Sullivan and Bostom's theses, calling this shift to the Shiias and concomitantly Iran "a regrettable turn. The US is building up the Iraqi Shiite army under the belief that it will become a force for democracy. But instead it is in danger of becoming an arm of Iran." She rebuked Bush for this seeming softening towards what Sullivan called, "Iran's Nazi regime."

But when asked whether the US Democratic Party, if returned to the White House in 2008, could more firmly stand by Israel than the Republicans, she replied: "No."

When asked whether US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice forced Israel to accept UN Resolution 1701, as Glick and her colleague Anne Bayefsky inferred in their *Jerusalem Post* columns during the war, Glick replied that Rice's actions were "unwise. But 90 per cent of the blame for Israel accepting UN 1701 must be on Olmert."

In her speech she said that Olmert, in a recent poll, only has 7 per cent of Israelis behind him.

"There are plenty of good potential leaders in Israel," she has full confidence in any of them as a possible successor to Olmert, hopefully sooner rather than later.



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The appointment may only be made after Tuesday, October 3, 2006 and must be made on the *Appointment of Voting Proxy* form, available in the Clerk's Department. The form must be certified by the City Clerk and is to be taken to the voting place by the elector appointed. The Clerk's Department will be open Monday to Friday to receive and certify the *Appointment of Voting Proxy* forms during the following times:

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Monday, November 6 to Thursday, November 9, 2006  
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### QUESTIONS?

To find out more about who can vote by proxy and who may be appointed a voting proxy, please call the Clerk's Department at 905-832-8504.

JOHN D. LEACH, City Clerk & Returning Officer

First Published: October 1, 2006

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NEWS

# Ukraine remembers 33,000-plus Jews murdered at Babi Yar

KIEV, Ukraine (Arutz-7) – Some 1,000 religious and political leaders and others took part in an impressive memorial ceremony for the more than 33,000 Jews massacred in just two days at Babi Yar 65 years ago. The memorial event took place last Wednesday at the infamous ravine outside Kiev, where Jews were systematically machine-gunned to death. The slaughter continued for 48 hours, on Sept. 29-30, 1941. The Nazis marched the Jews from Kiev in groups of 10, ordered them to strip naked, and then machine-gunned them to death, leaving them to fall dead into the pit.

An estimated 100,000 were shot and their bodies burnt at the site during the 1941-1943 Nazi occupation of Ukraine.

Among those who took part in the memorial ceremony were witnesses to and survivors of the Nazi massacres at Babi Yar and elsewhere, liberators of Kiev, and those recognized as Righteous Gentiles for their Holocaust-era heroism.

A conference entitled Let My People Live! – sponsored in part by the government of Ukraine – was held at the memorial ceremony. The conference was also organized by the World Holocaust Forum Foundation and Yad Vashem. President Moshe Katzav and his Ukrainian counterpart Viktor Yushchenko addressed the gathering.

The World Holocaust Forum stated that the goals of Let My People Live! include memorializing the victims of Babi Yar and

other mass-murder sites, uniting world leaders in confronting manifestations of xenophobia and antisemitism, and more. A Pan-European Holocaust Educational Program for Teachers has been inaugurated as well.

Yad Vashem, which has collected the names of 3.5 million Holocaust victims thus far, has the names of only 3,000 Jews – less than 10 per cent – known to have been killed at Babi Yar. Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev told *Ha'aretz* that more than 90 per cent of Jewish victims killed in western and central Europe are known, 35-40 per cent of those killed in Romania, Hungary and Poland, and only about 20 per cent of those killed in the former Soviet Union.

The Simon Weil Holocaust Research Fund in France, the Holocaust Museums in Paris and Washington, and the Zaka Organization are sponsoring a wide-ranging campaign to find other mass Jewish graves in eastern Europe. Last month, the remains of some 1,800 Jews murdered by Nazis in Ukraine were discovered in the pit that became their mass grave.

The memorial events in Kiev were the brainchild of Russian Jewish leader and business magnate Vyacheslav Moshe Kantor, according to a *JTA* report. Kantor said the idea came to him a few years ago when he noticed young boys playing soccer near the site of the Babi Yar massacre, oblivious to the travesties that occurred there decades before.



PHOTO: Courtesy of JNF Montreal  
Newly elected JNF Montreal President Renna Bassal stands with outgoing president Joe Kislowicz at the recent annual meeting.

## JNF Montreal elects new president

Jewish National Fund of Montreal has unanimously elected Renna Bassal, community leader and passionate supporter of Israel, president of JNF Montreal – succeeding Joe Kislowicz – along with a new executive and board of directors.

The election was held at the annual meeting of JNF Montreal held recently at the Montefiore Club.

JNF National Executive Vice-President Joe Rabinovitch brought greetings on behalf of Israel and KKL. He also thanked JNF's 2006 Honouree David Azrieli for his role in making the

campaign and dinner, featuring keynote speaker General (Ret.) Colin Powell, one of the most successful ever in Montreal.

Special commemorative albums were presented to David Azrieli and outgoing president Joe Kislowicz.

## Winnicki released

OTTAWA – The Federal Court of Appeal ordered the release last week of Thomasz Winnicki – under strict conditions, including no Internet postings – pending the hearing of his appeal for his contempt of court conviction before the Federal Court (trial division).

He was also applying for parole (having served close to a third of his 9-month sentence). The court did not deal with this issue.

If his appeal fails he goes back to jail and can then apply for parole.

The appeal is set for Jan. 16, 2007 here in Ottawa.

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Between 1941-1944 over 15,000 children were numbered amongst thousands of Jews who were held captive by the Nazis, in the ghetto of Terezin, a small town northwest of Prague, in Czechoslovakia. Most of those in Terezin were transported to the death camps and executed. Composed by Ruth Fazal, Oratorio Terezin is set in the context of the Holocaust, using some of the children's poetry that was written during their time in Terezin, woven together with the Hebrew scriptures.

## COMMENTARY/LETTERS

## Everyone is Jewish until proven otherwise



## Charles Krauthammer

WASHINGTON — Strange doings in Virginia. George Allen, former governor, one-term senator, son of a famous football coach and in the midst of a heated battle for re-election, has just been outed as a Jew. An odd turn of events, given the fact that his having Jewish origins has nothing to do with anything in the campaign and that Allen himself was oblivious to the fact until his 83-year-old mother revealed to him last month the secret she had kept concealed for 60 years.

Apart from its political irrelevance, it seems improbable in the extreme that the cowboy-boot-wearing football scion of Southern manner and speech should turn out to be, at least by origins, a son of Israel. For Allen, as he quipped to me, it's the explanation for a lifelong affinity for Hebrew National hotdogs. For me, it is the ultimate confirmation of something I have been regaling friends with for 20 years and now, for the advancement of social science, feel compelled to publish.

Krauthammer's Law: *Everyone is Jewish until proven otherwise.*

I've had a fairly good run with this one. First, it turns out that John Kerry — windsurfing, French-speaking, Beacon Hill aristocrat — had two Jewish grandparents. Then Hilary Clinton — methodical Methodist — unearths a Jewish step-grandfather in time for her run as New York senator.

A less jaunty case was that of Madeleine Albright, three of whose Czech grandparents had perished in the Holocaust and who most probably contended that she had no idea that they were Jewish. To which we can add the leading French presidential contender (Nicolas Sarkozy), a former supreme commander of NATO (Wesley Clark) and Russia's leading antisemite (Vladimir Zhirinovskiy). One must have a sense of humour about these things. Even Fidel Castro claims he is from a family of Marranos.

For all its tongue-in-cheek irony, Krauthammer's Law works because when I say "everyone," I don't mean everyone you know personally. Depending on the history and ethnicity of your neighbourhood and social circles, there may be no one you know who is Jewish. But if "everyone" means anyone that you've heard of in public life, the law works for two reasons. Ever since the Jews were allowed out of the ghetto and into European society at the dawn of the Enlightenment, they have peopled the arts and sciences, politics and history in astonishing disproportion to their numbers.

There are 13 million Jews in the world, one-fifth of 1 percent of the world's population. Yet 20 percent of Nobel Prize winners are Jewish, a staggering hundred-fold surplus of renown and genius. This is similarly true for a myriad of other "everyones" — the household names in music, literature, mathematics, physics, finance, industry, design, comedy, film and, as the doors opened, even politics.

But it is not just Jewish excellence at work here. There is a dark side to these past centuries of Jewish emancipation and achievement — an unrelenting history of persecution. The result is the other more somber and poignant reason for the Jewishness of public figures being discovered late and with surprise: concealment.

Look at the Albright case. Her distinguished father was Jewish, if tenuously so, until the Nazi invasion. He fled Czechoslovakia and, shortly thereafter, converted. Over the centuries, suffering — most especially, the Holocaust — has proved too much for many Jews. Many survivors simply resigned their commission.

For some, the break was defiant and theological: A God who could permit the Holocaust — ineffable be

His reasons — had so breached the Covenant that it was now forfeit. They were bound no longer to Him or His faith.

For others, the considerations were far more secular and practical. Why subject one's children to the fear and suffering, the stigmatization and marginalization, the prospect of being hunted until death that being Jewish had brought to an entire civilization in Europe?

In fact, that was precisely the reason Etty Lumbroso,

Allen's mother, concealed her identity. Brought up as a Jew in French Tunisia during World War II, she saw her father Felix imprisoned in a concentration camp. Coming to America was her one great chance to leave that forever behind, for her and for her future children. She married George Allen Sr., apparently never telling her husband's family, her own children or anyone else of her Jewishness.

Such was Etty's choice. Multiply the story in its thousand variations and you have Kerry and Clinton,

Albright and Allen, a world of people with a whispered past. Allen's mother tried desperately to bury it forever. In response to published rumours, she finally confessed the truth to him, adding heartbreakingly, "Now you don't love me anymore" — and then swore him to secrecy.

Charles Krauthammer's e-mail address is [letters@charleskrauthammer.com](mailto:letters@charleskrauthammer.com). © 2006, The Washington Post Writers Group.

## Layton taken to task

(Open letter to Jack Layton, leader of the New Democratic Party.)

How is it that on one hand you can wish the Jewish Community a 'Shana Tovah,' (your photo and Rosh Hashanah greetings were recently in the *Jewish Tribune*, Sept. 28 issue) while on the other hand, vote, along with 90 per cent of your NDP brethren, to acknowledge Hezbollah as a legitimate political party: a party which seeks the *destruction of the state of Israel and delegitimizes its right to exist!* How could you possibly do that, and betray the Jewish community as a whole! You and the likes of Syd Ryan are true political comrades. Shame on you, Mr. Layton. I for one do *not* accept your New Year's wishes, for they are empty, hypocritical and morally repugnant. It is truly astounding that you can be one of our so-called Canadian 'leaders,' while supporting terror and evil at the same time, posturing a position that our own Prime Minister (and most Canadians) wholly rejects (thank God). Your thinking is distorted and disturbing, and highly unsettling to me as a Canadian Jew. I hope that you will do the right thing in dropping this motion.

Eileen Shapero, Thornhill, ON



## Inviting Hitler to campus

Inviting Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to speak "is like inviting Hitler in the 1930s," an Israeli official has said, in response to the invitations extended to the Iranian leader by the Council on Foreign Relations and Columbia University. Those invitations followed, by less than two weeks, Harvard University's hosting of a speech by one of Ahmadinejad's defenders, former Iranian president Mohammad Khatami.

The Israeli official's remark was closer to the truth than he realized. Although neither Columbia nor Harvard invited Adolf Hitler to speak in the 1930s, they did the next worst thing — they welcomed senior officials of the Hitler regime.

Thanks to recent groundbreaking research by Prof. Stephen Norwood of the University of Oklahoma, the shameful details of this Ivy League flirtation with the Nazis is a secret no longer. Perhaps it makes their recent invitations to Iranian officials seem less surprising.

In May 1934, the Harvard administration played host to Nazi Germany's ambassador to the US, Hans Luth. He visited Harvard's Germanic Museum and Widener Library. The following month, Harvard President James Conant rolled out the red carpet for Hitler's foreign press chief, Ernst (Putzi) Hanfstaengl. A graduate of the class of 1909, Hanfstaengl came for the June 1934 commencement and his 25th class reunion. He had been a close ally of Hitler's since the early 1920s, and in his new position was responsible for spreading Nazi propaganda abroad.

Conant received the Nazi official at a tea for the Class of '09 in his home. The student newspaper, *The Harvard Crimson*, even urged the administration to award Hanfstaengl an honorary degree "as a mark of honour appropriate to his high position in the government of a friendly country."

Later that year, the Harvard administration hosted Germany's Boston consul-general, Baron Kurt von Tippelskirch, at a ceremony honouring Harvard grad-



## Rafael Medoff

uates who had died while fighting in the German army in World War I. The consul's wreath included the infamous Nazi swastika.

Meanwhile, at Columbia, president Nicholas Murray Butler in 1933 invited Nazi ambassador Hans Luth to speak on campus, and also hosted a reception for him. Luth represented "the government of a friendly people," Butler insisted. He was "entitled to be received...with the greatest courtesy and respect." Ambassador Luth's speech focused on what he characterized as Hitler's peaceful intentions.

Three years later, the Columbia administration announced it would send a delegate to Nazi Germany to take part in the 550th anniversary celebration of the University of Heidelberg. (Harvard did likewise.) This, despite the fact that Heidelberg already had been purged of Jewish faculty members, instituted a Nazi curriculum, and hosted a burning of books by Jewish authors.

"Academic relationships have no political implications," Butler claimed. Many Columbia students disagreed. The student newspaper, *The Spectator*, denounced Butler's intention to send the delegate to Heidelberg, and students held a "Mock Heidelberg Festival" on campus, complete with a bonfire and mock book burning. "Butler Diddles While the Books Burn," their signs proclaimed.

That was followed by a student rally in front of Butler's mansion. Butler was furious that a leader of the rally, Robert Burke, "delivered a speech in which he referred to the President [Butler] disrespectfully." As

punishment, Burke was permanently expelled from Columbia.

(In the late 1930s, Butler would change his position and speak out against the Nazis. Unfortunately, it was too late to undo the damage he already had done.)

Universities are uniquely positioned to shape public attitudes. As the pillars of America's educational system, they are looked upon as exemplars for our society. But what example did they set in the 1930s, by hosting officials of the Hitler regime and expelling a student for the 'crime' of leading an anti-Nazi rally? What message do they send today by welcoming leaders of a regime that sponsors international terrorism and threatens to annihilate five million Israeli Jews?

As it happens, Ahmadinejad will not speak at Columbia, but for the wrong reason. He was originally invited by the dean of Columbia's School of International Affairs, Lisa Anderson, to speak as part of the University's World Leaders Forum. Following protests, university president Lee Bollinger told Anderson that Ahmadinejad should speak at the School of International Affairs itself rather than at the university-wide forum. Anderson, for her part, said the logistical and security requirements for the visit were too complicated to resolve on short notice. Unfortunately, neither Bollinger nor Anderson acknowledged any moral problem with inviting the Iranian president.

Robert Burke is the person who should be embraced by Columbia, not Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Even at this late date, an honorary degree for Burke would constitute an appropriate replacement for the Iranian leader's speech, and a powerful expression of Columbia's opposition to fascist tyrants and their proxies.

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COMMENTARY

# A straw that saves lives



## Nechemia Meyers

In Israel

Dr. Moshe Frommer might have become a distinguished scholar like Rabbi Zvi Frommer, his father's uncle, who headed the main rabbinical seminary in Lublin, Poland, on the eve of the Holocaust. But, as a teenager, he tired of yeshiva studies and turned to science. So instead of saving souls, he is saving lives.

Frommer won't hazard a guess as to how many, but the LifeStraw that he helped develop offers a ray of hope in dozens of developing countries where safe, drinkable water is in short supply, if it exists at all.

According to generally accepted estimates, more than one billion people – one-sixth of the world's population – are without access to a safe source of water. As a result, at any given moment, about one-third of the world's poor are exposed to water-borne diseases like diarrhea, typhoid and cholera. Thanks to the LifeStraw, this no longer need be the case, as the device allows people to consume water from a bacterially contaminated source without ill effect.

The user simply puts the LifeStraw into the water and sucks on the straw, which contains a disinfecting resin developed and patented by Frommer that decimates the lethal components in the water as it moves towards the person's mouth. A single LifeStraw is capable of processing about 700 litres of contaminated water, approximately one year's consumption by the average person. Moreover, it has no moving parts and is remarkably sturdy.

"Not to be overlooked," adds Frommer, "is the

fact that it requires no electricity, which is the most costly component in many purification systems and is often unavailable in the outlying areas of developing countries."

Most remarkable of all is the cost of the LifeStraw: \$3 per unit. The straw itself was developed by a Swiss-based company, the Vestergard Frandsen group, which turned to Frommer for assistance in the development of a straw that would eliminate bacteria from microbiologically polluted water and for the supply of an appropriate disinfecting resin. It found Frommer's firm, Purofilter Ltd., after a long Internet search, during which it was impressed by his papers and the work he had done in Israel, Egypt and elsewhere. The LifeStraw is manufactured in China and sold to customers around the world. Most of them are in Third World countries, but its obvious benefits for armies and tourists has not gone unnoticed elsewhere.

Sometimes, unfortunately, politics do interfere with marketing. "A few days ago," Dr. Frommer says, "I got a phone call from someone in Malaysia who was interested in the LifeStraw. He asked me if I was an Israeli. When I replied in the affirmative, he inquired if there were any non-Israelis on my staff. When I told him there weren't, he slammed down the phone."

Dr. Frommer, who holds a doctorate from the Weizmann Institute of Science and performs his development and testing at a number of certified laboratories in the Rehovot-Tel Aviv area, is proud of the great international interest aroused by the LifeStraw. It won the Index Prize for 2005 (awarded to the product that has done most to improve the quality of life that year) and was highlighted in a recent *Time* magazine feature as one of the most amazing inventions of the year. Finally, and most recently, *Forbes* listed it among "the 10 things that



Israeli-invented LifeStraw is a lifesaver for those without access to safe, treated water.

### MYTH: 'Israel's Mossad carried out the bombing of the World Trade Center to provoke American hatred of Arabs'

**FACT:** Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlass told a delegation from Great Britain that Israel was responsible for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States. He claimed the Mossad had warned thousands of Jewish employees not to go to work that day at the World Trade Center. He was the highest-ranking Arab public official to publicly voice a view that is widespread in the Arab world that the attacks were part of a Jewish conspiracy to provoke US retaliation against the Arab world and to turn American public opinion against Muslims. One poll published in the Lebanese newspaper *An Nabar*, for example, found that 31 per cent of the respondents believed Israel was responsible for the hijackings while only 27 per cent blamed Osama bin Laden. A *Newsweek* poll found that a plurality of Egyptians believed the Jews were responsible for the Trade Center bombings (*Jerusalem Post*, Oct. 19, 2001; *Newsweek* poll quoted in *Protocols, The New Republic Online*,

Oct. 30, 2001).

The conspiracy theory is also being circulated by American Muslim leaders. Imam Mohammed Asi of the Islamic Center of Washington said Israeli officials decided to launch the attack after the United States refused their request to put down the Palestinian intifada.

"If we're not going to be secure, neither are you," was the Israelis' thinking following the US response, according to Asi (*JTA*, Nov. 2, 2001).

The passing years have not reduced the popularity of the conspiracy theories in the Arab world. An Egyptian researcher, for example, told a television interviewer (*Iqra*, May 26, 2005) the twin towers were brought down by a pre-planned "controlled demolition" and that "4,000 Jews caught influenza on that exact day." A Saudi women's rights activist told another interviewer (*Al-Arabiya TV*, April 12, 2005) that the attack was "premeditated" and that Osama bin Laden works for "global Zionism." An Egyptian professor claimed the attack was "fabricated as a pretext to attack Islam and Muslims" (*Saudi Channel 1*, Aug. 8, 2005). "The plan was to take over the world's energy sources," according to Abd Al-Sabour Shahin, who concluded "a dirty Zionist carried out this act." The editor of *Middle East Magazine* told *Al-Manar TV* (Dec. 30, 2004) that the attack was a "grand scheme" engineered by Zionists, evangelical Christians and "American right-wing forces" to "push America into war" (*MEMRI TV Special Report: 9/11 Conspiracy Theories on Arab and Iranian TV Channels 2004-2005*, Sept. 9, 2005).

No US authority has suggested, nor has any evidence been produced, to suggest any Israeli or Jew had any role in the terrorist attacks. These conspiracy theories are complete nonsense and reflect the degree to which many people in the Arab world are prepared to accept antisemitic fabrications and the mythology of Jewish power. They may also reflect a refusal to believe that Muslims could be responsible for the atrocities and the hope that they could be blamed on the Jews.

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



Photo of newly constructed World Trade Center towers at dusk, before Battery Park in 1977.

**Dry Bones** FIVE YEARS LATER. . .

FIRST PUT ON THE MEDIA BIAS BLINDERS. . . THEN THE PC BLINDFOLD. . .

AND OVER THOSE. . . THIS "I HATE BUSH" HOOD

IS THE WEST UNDER ATTACK BY ISLAMOFASCISTS IN WHAT IS BEGINNING TO LOOK LIKE WW3?

FRANKLY I DON'T SEE IT.

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## HIGHLIGHTS 5766



German Chancellor Angela Merkel lays a wreath in Yad Vashem's Hall of Remembrance, commemorating the six million Jews killed in the Holocaust, in Jerusalem on Jan. 30, 2006. Merkel was on her first official visit to Israel.

### Compiled by JTA intern Talia S. Coutin

September 2005

**JERUSALEM** – Thousands of Israelis and Palestinians hold rallies calling for a return to peace talks and an end to violence in Jerusalem and Ramallah. Some 10,000 people attend the Ramallah rally and 7,000 assemble in Jerusalem.

**VIENNA** – Simon Wiesenthal, a survivor of Nazi death camps who went on to found an eponymous human rights centre dedicated to tracking and prosecuting Nazi war criminals and to promoting justice and tolerance, dies at 96.

**WASHINGTON** – US President George W. Bush awards the US's highest military honour to Tibor Rubin, a Holocaust survivor who served with US forces in Korea and was a prisoner of war. Rubin singlehandedly held off attackers on several occasions, and after his capture he helped as many as 40 US POWs survive by smuggling food and medicine to them.

**AMSTERDAM** – The head of Dutch Railways apologizes for the company's role in deporting Jews during World War II at the launch of an anti-racism campaign, a collaboration between Dutch Railways and the Central Jewish Organization for External Relations.

**JERUSALEM** – Israel's population rises by nearly 1.8 per cent in 2004 to more than 6.8 million. Some 5.2 million Israelis are Jewish, with 1.3 million Arabs and 300,000 others, according to figures released by the Central Bureau of Statistics. The growth rate among Muslims was 3.3 per cent, more than double the rate among Jews.

**NEW YORK** – Pakistan's president, Pervez Musharraf, addresses representatives of the Jewish and Pakistani-American communities at a meeting convened by the American Jewish Congress.

October 2005

**NEW YORK** – Iran's president calls for Israel's destruction.

Addressing a Tehran conference titled *The World Without Zionism*, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad voices hope that Palestinian terrorists "will wipe off this stigma from the face of the Islamic world," a reference to Israel. In response to Ahmadinejad's comments, Israel calls for Iran to be ousted from the United Nations.

**JERUSALEM** – The Jewish Agency for Israel compensates Israeli Arab terror victims for the first time. Four families who lost relatives in a gun attack by an extremist Jew in the Arab town of Shfaram last August are each given a check for \$5,000.

**JERUSALEM** – Qatari officials contribute \$10 million towards a sports complex in the Israeli Arab town of Sakhnin, home to Bnei Sakhnin, which won Israel's soccer championship last year.

**KRAKOW** – The city of Krakow, Poland, gets its first full-time rabbi since World War II from the Israel-based Shavei Israel organization following a request from Poland's chief rabbi, Michael Schudrich. Rabbi Avraham Flaks will serve 200 community members, descendants of mixed marriages and those who covered up their Judaism during World War II and the subsequent Communist era.

**JERUSALEM** – Robert Aumann of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem is awarded the 2005 Nobel Prize in Economics along with Thomas Schelling of the University of Maryland for contributions to game theory, the science of strategy.

**JERUSALEM** – Israel offers aid to Pakistan after a 7.6-magnitude earthquake kills nearly 40,000 and leaves millions homeless. Pakistan, which has no formal ties to Israel, accepts the aid on the condition that it be channelled through a third party.

November 2005

**JERUSALEM** – Shimon Peres is ousted as leader of the Labour Party by union leader Amir Peretz.

**WASHINGTON** – The US Supreme Court lets stand a \$116

million judgment against the PLO and Palestinian Authority. The high court chooses not to block the judgment in favour of the family of an American citizen and his Israeli wife who were killed in a 1996 terrorist attack in the West Bank.

**NEW YORK** – The UN General Assembly passes a Holocaust commemoration resolution with more than 100 co-sponsors, establishing a Holocaust memorial day at the United Nations and calling on member states to incorporate Holocaust education into their missions.

**NEW YORK** – UNESCO, world leaders and Israelis mark the 10th anniversary of Yitzhak Rabin's death.

**HOUSTON** – The Union for Reform Judaism becomes the first Jewish denomination to speak out against the Iraq war at its biennial, passing a resolution criticizing the handling of the war and seeking a partial troop withdrawal.

**BERLIN** – German Reform Jews will receive federal funding after the Central Council of Jews in Germany votes to admit liberal Jewish associations.

**JERUSALEM** – Prime Minister Ariel Sharon quits the Likud, paving the way to form a new centrist party, Kadima, a few weeks later.

December 2005

**JERUSALEM** – Shimon Peres quits Israel's Labour Party, his political home for decades, to join Kadima and help Prime Minister Ariel Sharon pursue peace with the Palestinians.

**JERUSALEM** – The number of Israelis taking charity increase from 11 per cent last year to 17 per cent, according to a survey by the Latet lobby. One in two Israelis cites poverty as the country's No. 1 problem, ahead of education and terrorism.

**PRAGUE** – Austria begins the process of compensating Holocaust victims. Payments to Austrians stripped of their assets after the Nazis assumed control in 1938 had been delayed by lawsuits, but a federal court in New York cleared the last of the

# 5766: A YEAR OF WAR, VIOLENCE, HATE AND ANTISEMITISM

lawsuits in November.

**JERUSALEM** – Ariel Sharon is admitted to the trauma ward of Hadassah-Ein Kerem Hospital in Jerusalem after suffering a light stroke.

**NEW YORK** – With concern growing over Saudi influence on American education, Saudi prince Alwaleed bin Talal bin Abdulaziz al Saud donates \$40 million to finance Islamic studies at Georgetown and Harvard universities.

**NEW YORK** – Seventy per cent of American Jews disapprove of the war in Iraq and the way the United States is handling the campaign against terrorism, according to the American Jewish Committee's annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion.

January 2006

**NEW YORK** – Iran says it would resume research and development on its "peaceful" nuclear energy program that was suspended in late 2004, drawing international criticism.

**JERUSALEM** – Abbas Al-Sayed, mastermind of the 2002 "Passover massacre" bombing at Netanya's Park Hotel, receives 35 life sentences for his role in the bombing, which killed 30 people.

**JERUSALEM** – Israeli Prime Min-

ister Ariel Sharon suffers a second, massive stroke that leaves him in a coma. Industry, Trade and Labour Minister Ehud Olmert becomes acting prime minister.

**PRAGUE** – The Jewish community of Poland dedicates its first community offices in Lublin since World War II on the premises of the Yeshiva Hachmei Lublin, the most famous yeshiva in Europe before the Holocaust.

**NEW YORK** – A new study produced by the Rambam Medical Centre in Haifa finds that 40 per cent of Ashkenazi Jews are descended from just four women who lived somewhere in Europe during the last 2,000 years, but not necessarily in the same place or the same country. The four women left a genetic signature that is detectable in some 3.5 million Ashkenazi Jews today.

**NEW YORK** – An Austrian court orders the return of Gustav Klimt paintings seized by Nazis when Germany annexed Austria in 1938 to the heir of their original Jewish owner. Maria Altmann, 89, the niece of Czech-Jewish sugar industrialist Ferdinand Bloch-Bauer, wins the return of paintings after a seven-year battle.

**JERUSALEM** – Hamas wins a resounding victory in Palestinian Authority parliamentary elec-

tions, taking 76 seats in the 132-seat Palestinian Legislative Council. Acting Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert says there will be no negotiations with a Hamas-led Palestinian Authority.

**NEW YORK** – Philanthropist Andrea Bronfman, co-chair of the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies and major supporter of birthright Israel, dies at 60.

**NEW YORK** – Playwright Wendy Wasserstein, known for her wry portrayal of strong, conflicted women, dies of lymphoma at 55.

February 2006

**JERUSALEM** – Ehud Olmert says Israel would have to unilaterally withdraw from much of the West Bank, the clearest indication yet of his plans since taking over as Israeli prime minister after Ariel Sharon went into a coma.

**JERUSALEM** – Hamas chooses Ismail Haniyeh as Palestinian Authority prime minister.

**JERUSALEM** – Israel will release tax revenues to the Palestinians amounting to \$55 million in monthly customs duties that had been frozen after Hamas won Palestinian elections.

**NEW YORK** – Betty Friedan, whose book *The Feminine Mystique* launched the feminist revolution in the United States, dies at age 85.

**JERUSALEM** – Scores of Israelis are injured as settlers scuffle with police trying to dismantle the illegal West Bank outpost of Amona.

**AMSTERDAM** – The Dutch Culture Ministry announces that 202 of 267 paintings claimed by the survivors of Jacques Goudstikker, a Dutch Jewish art dealer whose paintings were looted by the Nazis, would be handed over after a decades-long reclamation battle. Many of the paintings mentioned in the suit were hanging in 17 museums throughout the Netherlands.

**PARIS** – At least 1,200 people demonstrate to show their anger at the murder of 23-year-old French Jew Ilan Halimi, who was kidnapped by French and other Muslims and tortured to death. The French government initially says antisemitism played no role in the murder, but later says it was indeed motivated by hate.



Israelis stand outside a destroyed building in the Bat Galim neighbourhood of Haifa, Tuesday, July 18, 2006. Hezbollah continued to fire rockets at northern Israel resulting in one death and many injuries.

**JERUSALEM** – An Israeli lesbian couple wins state recognition as joint parents of their children. In a ruling hailed by gay-rights activists, Israel's Family Affairs Court allows Tal and Avital Yaros-Hakak to legally adopt three boys they had borne after being artificially inseminated.

March 2006

**JERUSALEM** – Ehud Olmert's centrist Kadima Party wins Israeli elections, garnering 28 seats in the 17th Knesset. Centre-right Likud, which dominated the 16th Knesset with 40 seats, falls to 11, and centre-left Labour wins 20.

**NEW YORK** – The Association of Reform Zionists of America wins elections for the American slate to the 35th Zionist Congress, with just more than 38 per cent of 75,686 votes cast. This gives ARZA 55 delegates to the June congress in Israel.

**NEW YORK** – The World Bank approves \$42 million in aid to the Palestinian Authority. This decision comes shortly after the European Union announced it would release \$143 million in emergency funding for the Palestinian Authority, despite the victory of Hamas, a terrorist group, in PA elections.

**NEW YORK** – More than 150 rabbis representing the Reform, Conservative, Orthodox and Reconstructionist movements gather outside United Nations headquarters to urge international action in the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Darfur.

**NEW YORK** – Harold Ostroff, who helped launch the Russian and English editions of the *Forward* newspaper and saved the Yiddish paper from extinction, dies March 2 at age 82.

April 2006

**WASHINGTON** – The Bush administration bans US officials from contacting Palestinian Authority officials associated in any way with Hamas.

**WASHINGTON** – Antisemitism on college campuses is a "serious problem" that merits a campaign to inform Jewish students of their rights, the US Commission on Civil Rights says.

**WASHINGTON** – Israel and the Palestinian Authority had poor human rights records in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 2005, the US State Department says.

**PRAGUE** – The Czech Republic announces that it completed its compensation of individual Czech victims of the Holocaust, disbursing \$4.23 million over the past five years to 516 people who requested compensation.

**WASHINGTON** – Germany agrees to drop its resistance to the opening of one of the world's largest Holocaust archives from the International Tracing Service, the arm of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

**NEW YORK** – Fewer than one-fifth of non-Jews who marry Jews convert to Judaism, according to a study by the American Jewish Committee.

**NEW YORK** – The number of ex-Nazis convicted of war crimes more than tripled in the past year, the Simon Wiesenthal Centre says.

**WASHINGTON** – Tens of thousands rally in Washington to advocate action on the humanitarian situation in Darfur, Sudan. The event is organized by the Save Darfur Coalition, a collection of 150 faith-based advocacy and humanitarian aid organizations initiated by two Jewish agencies.

May 2006

**JERUSALEM** – Israel's new coalition government led by Kadima and joined by the Labour Party, Shas and the pensioners' party Gil is sworn in.

**MONTREAL** – B'nai Brith Canada's senior citizens' housing complex opens in time to hold B'nai Brith's annual general meeting, where Gerry Weinstein was reelected president of the Canadian organization.

**WASHINGTON** – Resolutions introduced in the US Congress call for any reference to Palestinian refugees to be matched by similar references to Jewish refugees.

**NEW YORK** – Sweden breaks



A molotov cocktail blew out the glass in Sikver-Toldos, an Orthodox Jewish boys' school in Montreal on Sept. 2, 2006

with EU policy by granting a visa to a Palestinian Authority Cabinet minister from Hamas.



Gerry Weinstein was reelected president of B'nai Brith Canada in May.

**JERUSALEM** – Millions of dollars in foreign aid to the Palestinian Authority were used to buy weapons, Israel's Shin Bet security agency says.

**JERUSALEM** – Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's Cabinet

decides to free \$11 million in tax and customs levies that Israel collects on behalf of the Palestinian Authority but had frozen since Hamas won elections in January.

**WASHINGTON** – Reform Jews lead a lobbying effort for Darfur, with more than 300 people meeting with US senators from more than 30 states.

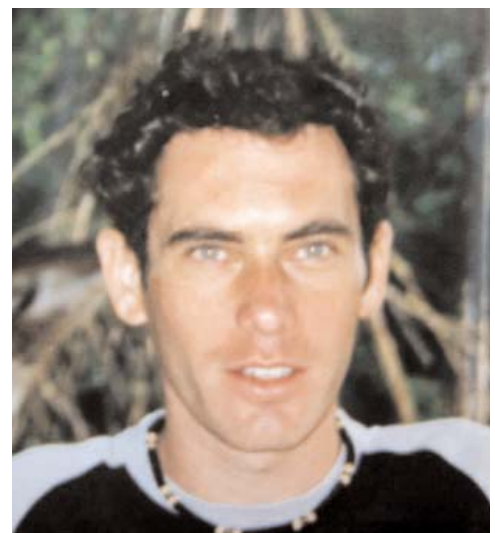
**JERUSALEM** – Israel's population tops 7 million. Seventy-six per cent of the population is Jewish, 20 per cent is Christian or Muslim Arab, and the remainder is made up of immigrants or foreign workers without religious classification.

**NEW YORK** – Investment guru Warren Buffett invests \$4 billion in an Israeli manufacturing firm. In what Israeli media hails as the "deal of the decade," Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway corporation buys an 80 per cent interest in Iscar, an international metalworks consortium based in Tefen, Israel.

**TORONTO** – The Canadian Union of Public Employees, a large public-sector union, votes to back a boycott against Israel until it "recognizes the Palestinian right to self-determination."

**NEW YORK** – JDate, the world's largest Jewish dating web site, takes top prize in the 10th annual Webby Award competition for outstanding social/networking site, beating out MySpace.com.

**NEW YORK** – Stanley Kunitz, a former US poet laureate who made metaphoric use of the Talmud and other Jewish images in his poetry, dies at age 100.



Kidnapped Israeli army reserve soldier Eldad Regev, 26, is seen in this undated family photo made available July 13, 2006, at their home in Kiryat Motzkin in northern Israel. Regev is one of two reservists captured by Hezbollah militants during an attack on Israel's northern border with Lebanon a day earlier.

June 2006

**WASHINGTON** – The diplomatic Quartet overseeing the Mideast peace process approves a program to funnel emergency assistance to the Palestinians, bypassing the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority.

**WASHINGTON** – The US government declassifies more than 8 million pages of files related to Nazi war crimes, including documents relating to the CIA's employment of suspected Nazi war criminals after World War II.

**WASHINGTON** – The US House of Representatives approves \$2.34 billion in military aid and \$120 million in economic assis-

stance to Israel, with another \$40 million approved for the absorption of former refugees.

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala.** – The Presbyterian Church declares suicide bombing and terrorism as crimes against humanity during their General Assembly, during which the Church also replaces a call for divestment from Israel with a policy of peaceful investment in Israel, the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

**NEW YORK** – Israel's emergency services agency is formally admitted into the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, ending 58 years of exclusion of Magen David Adom.



## HIGHLIGHTS 5766



Israeli reserve soldiers exit Lebanon on Aug. 15, 2006.

PHOTO: DAN BRONFELD/DF

NEW YORK – The birthright israel program celebrates the arrival in Israel of its 100,000th participant.

NEW YORK – A Holocaust-era looted painting is auctioned to cosmetics magnate and philanthropist Ronald Lauder for a reported \$135 million, the highest sum ever paid for a painting. The 1907 portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer by Gustav Klimt had been returned recently to Bloch-Bauer's niece, Maria Altmann. It is to be displayed at the Neue Galerie, a New York museum of German and Austrian art that Lauder owns.

NEW YORK – Anti-Jewish sentiment is nearly universal in Jordan and Egypt, the two Arab countries to sign peace treaties with Israel, according to the Pew Global Attitudes Project for 2006.

WASHINGTON – The US Senate overwhelmingly approves legislation that would end direct aid and contact with the Hamas-run Palestinian Authority. The Anti-Terrorism Act allows humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people but not to the Palestinian Authority until Hamas renounces violence, recognizes Israel's right to exist and abides

by previous diplomatic agreements.

NEW YORK – Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Union for Reform Judaism, declares a boycott of Israeli President Moshe Katsav over his refusal to refer to Reform rabbis as "rabbis."

JERUSALEM – Gunmen from Hamas and other terrorist groups attack a military post inside Israel, killing two soldiers and taking captive Cpl. Gilad Shalit.

JERUSALEM – Palestinian terrorists abduct and kill West Bank settler Eliyahu Asheri, 18.

July 2006

NEW YORK – The United Nations' new Human Rights Council passes an anti-Israel resolution, the only country-specific resolution passed at the council's inaugural meeting. The resolution makes Israel's alleged human rights violations and the "occupation" of Palestinian and other Arab territories a talking point in all future meetings, a disappointment to reformers who hoped the council would avoid the obsession

with Israel that discredited its predecessor, the Human Rights Commission.

NEW YORK – Israelis mark the 30th anniversary of the Entebbe operation to free more than 100 Jewish hostages held by pro-Palestinian plane hijackers in Uganda.

JERUSALEM – The women's section at Jerusalem's Western Wall is to be expanded to make it equal in size to the men's section.

NEW YORK – The first woman in Israel to be ordained a rabbi also became the first to head a Conservative seminary when Einat Ramon, 47, a graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary's rabbinical school, is appointed dean of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary in Israel.

WASHINGTON – The speaker of Iraq's Parliament blames Jews for violence in his country. Mahmoud al-Mashhadani, a member of the Sunni Iraqi Accordance Front, said Jews were driven by a desire to see their "agents" assume leadership positions.

PARIS – France marks the



PHOTO: ALAIN AZRIA

A rally against hate in Paris on Feb. 26, 2006, in response to the murder of Ilan Halimi.

100th anniversary of the rehabilitation of Capt. Alfred Dreyfus in a ceremony led by President Jacques Chirac at the Ecole Militaire, the site where Dreyfus was stripped of his military honours in 1895. Dreyfus was falsely convicted of treason in the aftermath of the Franco-Prussian War on antisemitic pretenses.

JERUSALEM – Hezbollah guerrillas stage a cross-border raid into Israel, killing eight soldiers and kidnapping two, setting off a war that would last for 34 days.

OTTAWA – Prime Minister Stephen Harper was among the first world leaders to defend "Israel's right to exist" saying that Israel's "response (to Hezbollah's kidnapping of 2 Israeli soldiers) was measured."

TORONTO – Bnai Brith Canada's Institute for International Affairs organized a solidarity rally in support of Israel's war efforts in Lebanon attended by more than 1,000 Jews, Christians and Hindus.

JERUSALEM – UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan accuses Israel of deliberately targeting UN forces after four peacekeepers are killed in Lebanon by an Israeli airstrike. Hezbollah had been firing rockets into Israel from near the UN position.

NEW YORK – US museums still may contain many Nazi-plundered artworks, a report from the Claims Conference finds.

WASHINGTON – Germany, Israel and the United States sign an agreement that would open millions of Holocaust-era files, raising to eight the number of countries who have signed the April pact devised by the International Tracing Service, the arm of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

August 2006

NEW YORK – The UN Security Council says it will sanction Iran if it does not suspend uranium enrichment by Aug. 31.

JERUSALEM – At least 12 Israeli reserve soldiers are killed in a Hezbollah rocket attack on Kibbutz Kfar Giladi in the Upper Galilee, the most deadly barrage on Israel since the war with Hezbollah began in mid-July.

NEW YORK – Reuters admits it altered a photograph of an Israeli airstrike on Beirut, making the bombardment appear more intense.

NEW YORK – More than 50 Holocaust scholars send a letter to Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez condemning his statements comparing Israel to the Nazis.

BERLIN – German Nobel Prize-winning author Gunther Grass admits he was a member of the Waffen SS during World War II.

NEW YORK – The UN Security Council approves a resolution calling for an Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire. The resolution authorizes an increase in the UN peacekeeping force in Lebanon to 15,000 and calls on the force to assist the Lebanese army in keeping the South free of Hezbollah gunmen and preventing arms smuggling into Lebanon.

JERUSALEM – Three planeloads carrying 800 immigrants from the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom arrive in Israel on the same day in flights sponsored by Nefesh B'Nefesh and the Jewish Agency for Israel.

JERUSALEM – Sixty-three per cent of Israelis want Ehud Olmert to resign because of his handling of Israel's war with Hezbollah, according to a *Yediot Achronot* poll.

September 2006

TORONTO – The 3rd Symposium on Hate On The Internet was held on the date commemorating the fifth anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy. The symposium attracted experts from around the world.



PHOTO: DINA H. SPRITZER/JTA

Pope Benedict XVI views gravestones during a visit to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, May 29, 2006, in Oswiecim, Poland.



## TELEVISION

# Jewish media guru optimistic about new CBC TV series

By Mike Cohen  
Tribune Correspondent

MONTREAL – Moses Znaimer was particularly excited about his newest project when reached by the *Jewish Tribune* last week. The prolific Canadian Jewish media guru and television visionary is the co-executive producer of *Rumours*, which CBC Television officials hope will be a hit with viewers. It premieres Monday, Oct. 9 at 9 p.m. with a special one-hour episode.

Rumours is a replica of *Rumeurs*, which has been airing to viewing audiences of more than one million a week for the past five seasons on CBC's French language network, Radio-Canada.

Znaimer discovered *Rumeurs* two years ago at the launch of the fall TV lineup of Radio-Canada. "I was struck, yet again, by the enormous amount of production being done [in Quebec]. So I started to ask people who the hot Quebec TV producers are," he said, noting that he subsequently met the show's producer Jocelyn Deschênes and watched an episode. "I loved it. We already have a hit comedy about rural Canada, *Corner Gas*. But I'm a downtown boy. *Rumours* is a better fit for me."

Znaimer, who grew up in Montreal and understands French, pitched an English version to CBC, which purchased 20 episodes – the biggest order of any series other than *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*. Wild and wickedly funny, *Rumours* and *Rumeurs* explore sex, love, friendship, family and business, and how the lines between these things blur, fall apart and get smashed to pieces. All of the interior shooting took place at the National Film Board studios

in Montreal, the exact same set as *Rumeurs*.

"This is a big moment for me," said Znaimer. "It is my first outing in the realm of television fiction. I am excited about the show's potential because symbolically it derives from a great Quebec hit. I was attracted to it from the first moment. I liked its high urban drive. I felt like the issues and the personalities that were dealt with could find their replication in any big city in the world, regardless of language or culture."

In conversation with the *Jewish Tribune*, Deschênes credited Znaimer as the show's true promoter. "He trusts me to deliver the product and I trust him to sell the show."

And sell he does. When Znaimer found out that the *Jewish Tribune* did not have any advance screening material, he had it shipped overnight.

If viewers check out the premiere, they should become happily hooked. Here is the show's premise: When ambitious but neurotic Sarah Barnaby (Amy Price-Francis) and 'intellectual caveman' Ben Devlin (David Haydn-Jones) are thrown together as co-editors of a women's magazine named *Rumours*, sparks fly with equal parts of repulsion and attraction. While the pair attempts to bring integrity, improved ratings and sales to the struggling magazine, they receive little help from the *Rumours*' self-involved staff, who are more interested in their own personal drama. *Rumours* also stars Jennifer Dale (ex-wife of movie mogul Robert Lantos) as Michelle, the magazine's beautiful but merciless publisher who is responsible for forcing Ben and Sarah together; and Sadie LeBlanc as Helen, Sarah's straight-shooting, free-spirited best friend who can't seem to find Mr. Right,

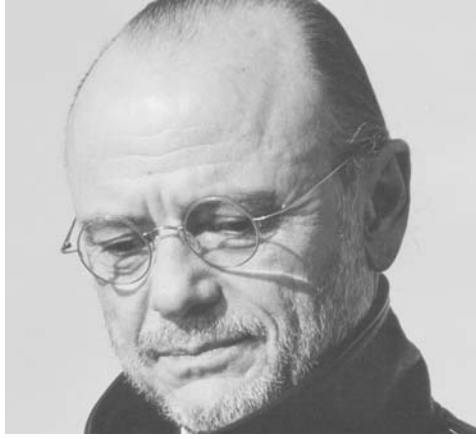


PHOTO: MARIKEN

**Rumours have it that Moses Znaimer is producing new show.**

despite auditioning half the men in Toronto for the part. The rest of the *Rumours* staff has their own issues. Frank (Phil Jarrett), the art director, is not getting any younger in his search for the perfect man. Charles (Anthony Lemke) is a photographer with a libido gone wild. Sandra (Cindy Sampson), the stylist and ex-model, actually wants to write. Emily (Lucinda Davis) acts as the mother hen to this brood of misfits. And of course, the *Rumours* in the magazine have nothing on the ones flying around the office.

Can *Rumours* gain the same buzz as its French counterpart?

"Shows like *All in the Family* and *The Office* were big hits in the United Kingdom before they came to the US and enjoyed success," reasons Znaimer. "Why can't the same thing happen with *Rumours*? CBC must be patient. We have a show here that is using the exact same scripts, behind-the-scenes crew and sets from a French counterpart that is a huge success in Quebec. And the series is going

with the popular telenovela format, which involves a story arc to be concluded over a period of months. This is a perfect format which allows characters to develop and the storyline is ultimately resolved, unlike a soap opera, which keeps going. CBC has a real nugget on its hands. I hope they realize this."

Znaimer, 64, is the co-founder and was the driving creative force behind Toronto's first independent television station, CITY TV. He was born to a Jewish family in Kulyab, Tajikistan, then part of the Soviet Union, having fled his home country at an early age; settling first in Shanghai, China, and ultimately ending up in Montreal, in 1948. He was educated in Montreal's Jewish day school system United Talmud Torahs and Herzliah and attended McGill University where he earned a BA in Philosophy and Politics and served as president of the McGill Debating Union. He later attended Harvard University, earning his MA in Government.

Znaimer's career in broadcast-

ing began when he joined the CBC in the early 1960s. He became well known for his work as host of CBC Radio's *Cross Country Checkup*, as well as co-host of CBC Television's *Take Thirty*, with Adrienne Clarkson. After being denied the opportunity to pursue his creative vision at the CBC, Znaimer quit and went into private broadcasting. With all of the VHF television licenses in Toronto taken, Znaimer and a partnership applied for and was awarded the city's first UHF broadcast license, on channel 79. CITY launched in 1972, and changed frequency to channel 57 in 1983. In 1981, Toronto-based media conglomerate CHUM Limited purchased CITY, and Znaimer became vice-president of CHUM and executive producer for all of City's programming. By 1984 Znaimer and John Martin's vision of a 24-hour music video station was realized with the creation of MuchMusic. Much like CITY, MuchMusic emphasized the liveness and spontaneity of television, relying largely on handheld cameras, and impromptu shots of VJs taken just about anywhere in the CHUM-CITY offices. Changing a studio's 'backstage' into its foreground is one of Znaimer's chief legacies. *MusiquePlus*, a joint venture based in Montreal and catering to the French speaking audiences of Canada, was launched in 1986. In 1987 CHUM-CITY purchased a former publishing building in Toronto's downtown west end and renovated it into the CHUM-CITY Building, a landmark media centre.

Throughout the 1990s, Znaimer presided over a considerable expansion of the CHUM-CITY television empire. Bravo! was launched as a new style arts channel in 1995, and Space: The

Imagination Station in 1997. He continued his original vision for television with the launching of North America's first 24-hour local news station, CablePulse 24 in 1998. Further cable channels included Canadian Learning Television, Star!, Drive-In Classics, FashionTelevisionChannel, Book Television, CourtTV Canada, SexTV: The Channel, MuchLOUD and MuchVibe. Znaimer also oversaw the launch of CITY TV Vancouver.

Znaimer resigned from his managerial role at CITY and CHUM Limited in April of 2003, but stayed on in certain production roles. In May, 2005, he re-emerged from a few years of virtual exile to head up a series of new media ventures. In 2006, he filed an application with the CRTC to acquire CFMX, a commercial classical music radio station serving the Greater Toronto Area. That was recently approved and he is now hard at work at Classics 96.3 FM. He's also quite proud of his MZTV Museum of Television in Toronto, which presents one of the world's largest collection of historic television sets. For the past two years The Cinémathèque québécoise in Montreal has been presenting an exhibition entitled *Do Not Adjust Your Set*, in association with the MZTV Museum of Television. It traces the evolution of the television set from the 1920s to the 1980s. In an era of digital technology and high-definition television, the exhibit offers a journey through 60 years of history dating from the original discovery of this fascinating magic box. *Do Not Adjust Your Set!* includes more than 30 ancient TV sets that are part of the impressive collection of 94 television sets donated to the Cinémathèque québécoise by Znaimer in 2004.

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FEATURE

# Toronto vocalist dedicated to helping the visually impaired

By Atara Beck  
Tribune Correspondent

Torontonian Melissa Ungar's self-produced CD, with its selec-

tion of popular songs, should attract a wide audience.

Ungar, a talented singer, is also a volunteer reader for VoicePrint, the national broadcast

reading service known as Canada's 24/7 audio newsstand.

VoicePrint records text from newspapers and magazines to more than six million visually impaired Canadians.

Passionate about the cause, Ungar will donate a percentage of the CD's proceeds to this non-profit service that helps people who are, for instance, illiterate, blind, vision restricted, aging or learning disabled, and thus have difficulty reading.

The CD, *Checkered Past*, includes 10 popular songs chosen for their appeal to different age groups.

"The song *Blackbird* would appeal to my mother and to my little niece," Ungar says. Another number, *Corner of the Sky*, is from the Broadway musical *Pippin*.

Ungar, a professional voiceover whose experience includes the reading of medical texts and commercial jingles, is a voice actor with Vox Talent, Canada's non-union voiceover talent agency.

A graduate of Associated Hebrew Schools, she studied voice (speaking) at Ryerson University. She's been singing since her early teens, and her studies at the Royal Conservatory of Music included classical training. In fact, she still takes theory classes. She likes to sing "a well-constructed, good ballad," and she loves the Beatles.

Her favourite vocal artist is Elton John (five songs on the CD were written by him), although Bette Midler, Billy Joel and Anne Murray come close.

Not a songwriter, Ungar is always keeping an eye out for writers, Canadian composers in particular, which would result in more airtime on Canadian stations.

"Most of my heroes," she says, "are singer/songwriters, like Sarah McLachlan."

Asked how she came up with the name *Checkered Past*, Ungar says she's always been curious about the lives of the songwriters. "What was their history? Each song has a past," she says.

*Checkered Past* is available online through Amazon, Chapters, HMV, Future Shop and Ungar's own web site ([www.melissaungar.com](http://www.melissaungar.com)).



Toronto singer Melissa Ungar holds up her CD, *Checkered Past*, part of whose profits goes to VoicePrint. PHOTO: ATARA BECK

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## Israeli flag removed from mural in England



Paul Dunn and Jessica Greenberg in *Hana's Suitcase*

CAMBRIDGE, UK (JTA) – An Israeli flag was removed from a community-designed mural in the English city of Cambridge after repeated graffiti attacks.

The mural, which was completed only a month ago, was designed with local input and featured flags of many countries to reflect their multicultural neighbourhood.

## Hana's Suitcase back

Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People is bringing back *Hana's Suitcase*, written by Emil Sher. The critically acclaimed play will be presented on the theatre group's Mainstage from Sept. 30 to Oct. 19, before setting off on a Canadian tour.

When the play closes in Toronto on Oct. 19 it will embark on a Canadian tour with dates confirmed at the Citadel Theatre in Edmonton (Oct. 28-Nov. 12) and the Manitoba Theatre for Young People in Winnipeg (Nov. 16-26). This marks a return to touring for the theatre group, something that hasn't been done in 10 years.

## Hitler artwork auctioned

LONDON (JTA) – The auction in Great Britain of artwork attributed to Hitler is under attack.

The 21 items, made during World War I, were sold last Tuesday by the British auction house Jefferys for \$220,000 – twice its estimated price.

According to an editorial in the British paper *The Guardian* – which reprinted some of the images – the media's interest in the sale is an example of "unthinking intoxication with fame and infamy."

The images depict landscapes from the regions between Belgium and France where Hitler spent the winters of 1916-1917 and 1917-1918.

They were found in an attic 60 years after their creation.

Since 1976, Toronto's Jewish community has tuned to one source for its daily news: "The Zelda Show".

"Thanks Zelda, your show is great and I'd be happy to join you again"

David Kupelian, author of "The Marketing of Evil"

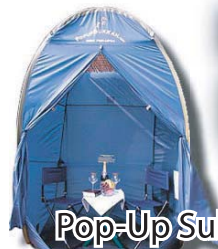
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