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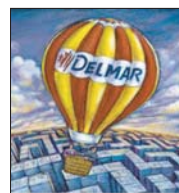
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# JEWISH TRIBUNE

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## Olmert Abbas Rice to hold US mediated summit

No date has  
been set yet

The Israeli and Palestinian Authority leaders have agreed to hold a US-mediated summit.

The decision was announced Monday after US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice met Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert in Jerusalem.

An Olmert aide gave no immediate date for the meeting between Olmert and PA President Mahmoud Abbas, which Rice would mediate.

Olmert and Abbas held their first summit last month, but hopes of a breakthrough in peace efforts have not yet been borne out. Rice, who visited Abbas in Ramallah on Sunday, pledged stepped-up US support for establishing a peaceful Palestinian state alongside Israel.

Addressing his parliamentary faction Monday, Olmert said he hoped the three-way meeting would be an opportunity to discuss a "far-reaching political horizon" with the Palestinians.



One of the 35 used clothing bins in the GTA that help B'nai Brith Canada earn money to run some of its many human rights programs across Canada.

## Used clothing program 'good deal' for some charities

While many private entrepreneurs out there are making big profits by collecting used clothing in bins and reselling them for cash, only a handful of legitimate charities are benefiting from the same thing — where the money collected from their clothing bins go substantially to charity and advocacy programs.

A spokesman for B'nai Brith Canada told the *Toronto Sun* last week in a front-page exposé of private entrepreneurs, that B'nai Brith's used clothing program in Toronto was one of the best agreements that exists in this kind of industry as it manages its own program.

B'nai Brith Canada has more than 35 bins in the Greater Toronto Area and works with Somodif, a Montreal-based exporter, which buys the clothing B'nai Brith collects at a per-pound rate.

Last year, the spokesman told the *Toronto Sun*, the Jewish advocacy group took in about \$160,000 for its human rights programs, adding that its agreement with Somodif allows B'nai Brith to use some of the clothes it collects for emergencies or national disasters like the Asian tsunami of 2004 and last year's Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, where B'nai Brith collected and helped distribute 250,000 pounds of clothing. When approached by social service agencies for clothing, B'nai Brith tries to accommodate community needs.

The spokesman said, "if it's done properly and effectively, it's a very good program for a charity. But if you sell your rights and claims to it, people will take advantage of charities. We would never let that happen."

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## ANTI-ISRAEL MOTIONS ON TEACHERS' AGENDA – AGAIN

### District 12 criticizes 'B'nai Brith's interference in OSSTF democratic processes'

By Atara Beck  
Tribune Correspondent

Last month, the *Jewish Tribune* published a story about the cancellation of an anti-Israel motion at a meeting of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (OSSTF) District 12 (Dec. 21, 2006).

However, a new motion is being brought to the table at a meeting Thursday, Jan. 18 and, according to information from a number of irate teachers, the motion on the agenda is worse than the original. For instance, it includes a request that "the provincial Human Rights Committee develop an educational campaign for its members as well as curricular materials for the classroom, to be ready for September's Provincial Council on Israel's treatment of the Palestinians; Palestine's role in this conflict; the role of Canada in the Israel-Palestine conflict, and the international community's response."

In other words, the creators of the motion would like to see the blaming of Israel included in the provincial high school curriculum.

B'nai Brith Canada issued an alert, which included the following statement:

"On Thursday, Jan. 18, 2007, the Council of the Secondary Teachers Bargaining Unit (STBU) — part of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation-District 12 Bargaining Unit — will be voting on one-sided motions that vilify Israel. In December 2006 we alerted you about a similar motion calling for support of the CUPE-Ontario's boycott of Israel. Your vocal opposition made the difference and that motion was removed from the agenda. It is time to make your voices heard once again."

The alert went on to suggest ways to respond to the "delegitimization" of Israel.

According to information provided to the *Jewish Tribune*, a protest is planned outside the building during the Jan. 18 meeting. However, a number of teachers have said that they are not particularly worried about the motion, because, they say, in most cases such motions are defeated on the spot and go no further. Others disagree, saying it's unacceptable that union members, who should be concerned with union issues, are carrying on with an anti-Israel campaign in a completely inappropriate venue and attempting to have their agenda included in the school curriculum.

Roger Langan, executive officer of District 12 OSSTF, expressed concern in an email that OSSTF should not be "blamed for motions being brought by some of its members (all of whom, with the exception of one, are Jewish). We are a democratic organization. Everyone gets heard." He also seems to agree that the motion likely will be defeated.

"There are actually three motions being proposed, none by OSSTF," he said. "Two are unobjectionable in my view — one by David Orenstein and Karen Pape asking for peace in the Middle East, and a second by Jason Kunin and Hayssam Hulays asking that the OSSTF endorse the recommendations of Amnesty International. Both these motions pass the test of even-handedness. The second is tightly focused on human rights."

"The more objectionable motion," he continued, "will, once again,

See *OSSTF*, page 2.

## Mass resignation from Carter Center

ATLANTA (JTA) — Fourteen members of the Carter Center in Atlanta resigned last Thursday to protest the former president's book blaming Israel for the failure of Middle East peace efforts.

In a letter to Carter, the group wrote that he had abandoned his role as peace broker in favour of malicious partisan advocacy, portraying the conflict as a "purely one-sided affair," which Israel bears full responsibility for resolving.

"This is not the Carter Center or the Jimmy Carter we came to respect and support," the letter said. "Therefore, it is with sadness and regret that we hereby tender our resignation from the Board of Councillors...immediately."

## NEWS

# Protest planned outside OSSTF meeting

OSSTF cont. from page 1.

be substantially withdrawn except for one piece – its call for a BDS [Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions] campaign. Regrettably, the proposers of this motion plan (at this time) to graft this remnant onto the Amnesty motion, which makes the latter impossible in my view. So I hope to have the movers leave the BDS motion to stand on its own, where I am quite certain it will be defeated. I am confident, in any case, that an amendment to delete a BDS addition to the Amnesty motion would succeed, especially as the Amnesty motion calls for human rights education, and a BDS action is inconsistently asking for a political action.”

B'nai Brith in its alert pointed out that the motions were one sided and failed to reflect the complexity of the issues; neglected Israel's right to live securely; supported sponsoring terrorist organizations by supporting calls for Hamas's rehabilitation in Canada; attempted to introduce bias into the classroom and that calls for boycotts have been widely rejected.

In the OSSTF District 12 President's Memo to the members following cancellation of the last motion, titled “Confusion Regarding Council Motion,” President Doug Jolliffe said:

“The confusion arose from an apparent lack of understanding of how resolutions are dealt with

within a democratic organization such as OSSTF. The motion was neither proposed nor endorsed by the executive, but came from a member of council. As long as there is a mover and a seconder, any council representative has the opportunity to bring forward motions for consideration.... Once a motion is at council, it is up to the individual council representatives at the meeting to listen to and to participate in debate and then decide whether or not the motion – regardless of the issue – reflects the appropriate direction our organization should take, and vote accordingly.

“OSSTF is a democratic organization and as such members decide whether it is appropriate or not for OSSTF to be involved in any issue, whether local, provincial, national or international in scope, and what that involvement should be, if any.

“The executive does not have, nor should it have, the power to veto motions.... However, as the motion was ultimately withdrawn (not by the executive, but by the original mover and seconder) the debate did not occur at this meeting.”

Further explaining OSSTF's official position, a response to the most recent B'nai Brith alert, condemning what it called “B'nai Brith's interference in OSSTF democratic processes,” was posted on its web site.

According to the posting, “a

motion only becomes official OSSTF action/policy IF it is passed by a majority vote. This has not occurred.”

“We of course reject any criticism by the OSSTF executive that we diverted the democratic process,” said Anita Bromberg, director of legal services for B'nai Brith. “By alerting the community, as well as individual members of the union, our purpose was to encourage people to exercise their democratic and constitutional right to express their concerns by being informed about the issues and then expressing their views. In fact, it was the very democratic process that we were engaging by encouraging OSSTF members in particular to ensure that their views were known to their elected representatives who are

charged with voting on the motions. Surely the executive of the OSSTF, which has, in fact, expressed some opposition to the motions, appreciates that those opposing the motions have as much right to express their views as those putting forward the one-sided motions.”

B'nai Brith continues to receive numerous calls and emails from concerned teachers who hope it will continue to stand up against what they perceive as anti-Jewish action in the unions. For instance, in its November newsletter, *D12 Voice*, OSSTF District 12 published vicious, one-sided, anti-Israel articles, completely ignoring the violence perpetrated against Israeli citizens. Such propaganda must not be ignored, they insist.

## Kindness A Day calendar originators take it online for wider reach

By Shlomo Kapustin  
Tribune Correspondent

If an apple a day keeps the doctor away, what does a kindness a day achieve? With post-modern irony and detachment lightly suspended, such is the question that a new web site will try to answer.

Kindnessaday.com, the online cousin of its print predecessor, the A Kindness A Day calendar, was recently launched by Areyvut, a New Jersey-based non-profit organization, and Judaica Press, a Brooklyn-based Jewish book publisher.

Areyvut, founded in 2002 by educator Daniel Rothner, aims to spread the gospels of kindness and social justice, or Tikun Olam, to the corners of the Jewish world... and beyond.

“Just like the pages of the Talmud are learned in a unified, daily manner worldwide,” Roth-

ner said, referring to the popular *Daf Yomi* [literally, Daily Page] program, “so too should good deeds and acts of kindness be daily events. Charity, kindness and social justice must be an integral part of everyone's day. The 2007 calendar – and now the web site – is great for adults and children; as well as homes, schools and other organizations; both as a guide to help inculcate Jewish values into one's life and as a springboard for discussion and study.”

“The Kindness A Day project fits right in with our mission as a Jewish publishing company,” said Nachum Shapiro, managing editor of Judaica Press. “Specifically, we aim to help our fellow Jews to better themselves, and thereby affect the rest of the world, one act, one word, one step at a time. Our hope is that the new web site will disseminate the Kindness-a-Day concept



PHOTO: ISRAEL SUN

## Ex-Ukraine PM moved by visit

Yulia Tymoshenko, former prime minister of Ukraine, visited Yad Vashem last week during a three-day visit to Israel. At the end of the tour of the site, Tymoshenko said, “It is difficult for me to find words which can express how I feel in this place except for utter shock. I am horrified. With that said, if there is any lesson to be learned from the horrific events of the Holocaust, it is the profound need for love and compassion among mankind.”



PHOTO: SHLOMO KAPUSTIN

Daniel Rothner (right), the founder of Areyvut, the organization behind the Kindness A Day calendar and web site, talks to Richard Joel, president of Yeshiva University.

and content to an even larger audience.”

Originally inspired by the *Book of Jewish Values*, written by well-known author and member of Areyvut's Advisory Committee Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, the calendar contains 365 suggested activities – one per day – that exemplify Jewish values. These activities and values are supported by statements solidly rooted in established Jewish tradition and borrowed from the Talmud and other Jewish texts. The hope is that the success of the calendar, which has sold almost 50,000 copies since its first publication three years ago, will be complemented by the new online presence, which will allow the calendar's fans to interact – both with Areyvut and with one another – by providing feedback and sharing stories.

For Rothner, the calendar, and the attendant web site, were no mere afterthoughts. “Right out of the box (with Areyvut's inception), the calendar was something I wanted to do.”

Not surprisingly, there has been no dearth of touching stories along the way.

“There was a girl who was struggling with cancer,” Rothner recalled. “She had originally received the calendar as a gift.” In turn, she eventually purchased her own stock to distribute among individuals who had helped her during her sickness.

Whether in schools, synagogues or Jewish community centres, Areyvut's goal is the organic, natural spread of the practices and ideals of kindness via the calendar's specific daily reminders.

So, then, if the goal isn't a respite from doctors, what does a kindness a day bring, at the end of the day?

“A kindness a day,” said Rothner, after some thought, “enhances your life.”

Areyvut (www.areyvut.org) – Hebrew for mutual responsibility and accountability – is a multi-denominational organization, both in its leadership and activities. During the past year, Areyvut has worked with more than 20 schools and synagogues, conducted more than 30 Individual B'nai Mitzvah Consultations (in which it personalizes kindness programs for prospective B'nai Mitzvah), and involved several hundred teens in community service projects. Its third annual Make A Difference Day program, which will symbolically join together myriad Jewish communities, each working on its own project, will take place March 23-25.

This marks the third year Areyvut and Judaica Press have teamed up to publish the calendar. Calendars can be purchased through JudaicaPress.com, Amazon.com, Areyvut.org, kindnessaday.com and at Jewish book and gift stores.

## Olmert's popularity at record low

Ehud Olmert's approval rating is at a record low, a poll found. According to the survey published over the weekend by Ha'aretz, just 14 per cent of Israelis approve of their prime minister's performance, a drop from the previous low of about 22 per cent. Defence Minister Amir Peretz is even more unpopular, with a 10 per cent approval rating. Olmert and Peretz have been struggling to shore up their standing since the summer war in Lebanon, whose setbacks were blamed by many Israelis on government incompetence. The poll found that were parliamentary elections to be held today in Israel, the right-wing Likud Party would trounce Olmert's centrist Kadima, taking 29 seats in the Knesset. Kadima would drop to 12 seats. The survey had 500 respondents and a margin of error of plus or minus 4.9 percentage points.

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## NEWS



PHOTO: NORM GORENER

## Kenney confers with B'nai Brith leadership

Jason Kenney, Secretary of State for Multiculturalism and Canadian Identity, at one of his first meetings in his new position, held a meeting in B'nai Brith Canada's boardroom in Toronto last Friday to discuss responsibilities in his new portfolio and issues of common interest with B'nai Brith. Sitting at his side is Aubrey Zidenberg, chair of Government Relations at B'nai Brith Canada.

## Morgan Stanley report hails shekel

American investment house Morgan Stanley issued a laudatory report on the strength of the Israeli shekel and Israel's economy last week.

According to the report, the shekel remains undervalued against the dollar as well as against the euro. It concludes that Israel's economy has the strength to withstand a global slowdown.

"Imbalances in the US economy and the dollar's depreciation have become an overwhelming theme in global financial markets, triggering significant shifts in portfolio allocations," Morgan Stanley analyst Serhan Cevik wrote. "However, although the dollar is likely to remain weak in the near future, our currency

### Sharon advised Bush: You need Iraq exit plan

Ariel Sharon advised US President George W. Bush to have an exit strategy before invading Iraq.

The former Israeli prime minister, who has been in a coma for a year, met with Bush in early 2003, before the US invasion. According to a report in the *Forward* this week, Sharon said he believed, as Bush did, that Iraqi strongman Saddam Hussein posed a threat to the region. However, he warned Bush to have an exit strategy and not to press for democratization, and asked him to be mindful that once the United States ended its venture in the region and withdrew its troops, Israel would be left to deal with the consequences.

The *Forward* report cites Daniel Ayalon, who has just completed a term as ambassador to Washington, and another unnamed source present at the meeting. Ayalon reports Sharon was adamant that Israeli officials refrain from endorsing or opposing the war.

economics team expects it to get stronger towards the end of this year and especially in 2008. Of course, such a turnaround in the dollar's valuation and the reasons behind it would have a range of implications for Israel's economy and financial markets. Nevertheless, we do not see a major risk to our call for the shekel's continuing strength.

"The dollar's weakness may have been a trigger, but the shekel's appreciation is certainly not just about what has happened to the dollar. As we have long argued, the shekel is fundamentally undervalued against the dollar and even more so against the euro. Therefore, we still expect economic fundamen-

### Israel gets first Arab minister

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel's first Arab minister — Raleb Majadele — was appointed by Labour Party leader Amir Peretz to replace Science, Culture and Sport Minister Ophir Pines-Paz, who resigned two months ago to protest Yisrael Beit-einu's entry into Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's coalition. Majadele, 53, who hailed the news as a step towards equality for Israeli Arabs, was elected to the Knesset in 2004 and has served as chairman of its environment committee.



PHOTO: ISRAEL SUN  
**RALEB MAJADELE**  
 First Arab cabinet minister

tals and financial developments to keep supporting the shekel and the country's domestic assets. Israel has the strength and dynamism to weather a global slowdown."

The report deals with the technical results of the increased privatization of government-controlled industries, and analyzes the stability of the shekel in light of the Israeli high-tech boom and the resulting interactions with the global market. The report concludes, "Despite geopolitical constraints and indeed the eruption of a guerilla war in Lebanon, the Israeli economy has continued to grow at a robust pace."

## Media poll confirms B'nai Brith Canada's findings

A Leger Marketing poll on racial tolerance in Canada, commissioned by Sun Media, confirms trends identified by B'nai Brith Canada in its Annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents.

"The results confirm that many Canadians hold deep-seated racist attitudes and that antisemitism is a large part of that picture. We know from our own experience that hate targeting the Jewish community often serves as a barometer for

racism against other communities. The distrust of immigrant as well as religious and ethnic communities that this poll documents is a reality that must be faced head on," said Frank Dimant, executive vice president of B'nai Brith Canada.

"Canadian identity devoid of racism must be an integral educational component in school systems Canada-wide as well as specially devised compulsory courses

for new immigrants," he added. "While better integration practices are needed to ensure that immigrants don't import their hate into Canada, at the same time it must be ensured that immigrants to Canada do not suffer from ingrained prejudice directed against them."

The League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada will be releasing its annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents in the upcoming months.

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## COMMENTARY/LETTERS

## Lost no longer



**Nechemia Meyers**

In Israel

The recent arrival in Israel of more than 200 olim from the states of Manipur and Mizoram in northeast India may prove that the Lost Tribes, last heard of in 721 BCE when they were scattered by the Assyrians, may be back. The immigrants call themselves Bnei Menashe and claim descent from the Tribe of Menashe. DNA tests don't back up their claims, but it has been accepted by Sephardic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Amar, and after undergoing a conversion process, they have been accepted as Jews and allowed to make their homes in the Jewish state.

Members of the Bnei Menashe group began coming here in the '90s, arriving as tourists and then converting to Judaism. They numbered about 1,000 when, three years ago, then Interior Minister Avraham Poraz decided to stop issuing them visas. It wasn't so much a question of their Jewishness as the fact that most of them were going to live over the Green Line, in settlements to which he was opposed. The case for refusing them entry collapsed when the Israeli rabbinate sent rabbis to India to convert them to Judaism before they applied to come to Israel. As a result, they now have the same rights as other Jews under The Law of Return.

Evidence of their historical links to Judaism is patchy and far from convincing. Among other things they cite the fact that one of their traditional harvest festival songs, called *Sikptui Hli*, features events parallel to those described in the Book of Exodus such as enemies chasing them over a red-colored sea. Also cited are

supposed similarities between their earlier animist rituals in regard to sacrifices and the sacrificial rites described in the Bible.

In any case, most of the Bnei Menashe came to Judaism by way of Christianity, which was brought to their region by missionaries in the 19th century. Then, in 1951, a man by the name of Challianthanga from Buallawn village dreamt that God instructed him to direct his people to return to their pre-Christian religion, which he determined to be Judaism.

It is too early to fully evaluate their integration in Israel, which received a setback with the evacuation of Jewish settlers from the Gaza Strip, where many had been sent to live. Now the former Gaza residents are re-establishing themselves, meeting many of the same difficulties as other evacuees.

Most of the newly arrived Bnei Menashe have been sent to various absorption centres. The Tlau family, for example, is in the Upper Nazareth centre. The husband Peer (previously Peter) recalls the time that he asked his grandfather why his family weren't Christians like most of their neighbours. The old man answered: "We believe in one unified God, not the Trinity." This made a great impression on Peer. The Tlaus are very pleased at what they have found in Israel, including the possibility of eating meat. In the absence of Kosher meat back in India, they ate only fish and vegetables.

Searching for and helping lost Jews is an organization known as Shavei Israel, literally 'Israel returns.' The group reaches out to:

- Descendants of Anousim – namely Jews forced to abandon their faith during the Inquisition – now living in the Iberian Peninsula, Latin America and the southwest United States;
- Descendants of the Ten Lost Tribes (like the Bnei Menashe);
- Descendants of assimilated Jews who seek to reconnect with Jews and Judaism; and
- Anyone seriously considering conversion to Judaism.

Michael Freund, leader of the group, sees their work as offering a partial solution to the demographic crisis confronting the Jews today.

Many other Israelis are worried about Shavei Israel's search for lost Jews. It is not, the critics argue, a racial question, as Judaism has always focussed on beliefs, not blood. But Israel's relatively high standard of living is liable to attract Third World people who see Judaism not as a belief system but as a meal ticket.

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



## MYTH: 'Abbas is helpless to stop the terrorists'

**FACT:** The media has helped create the misperception that the Palestinian Authority (PA) cannot dismantle the terrorist network in its midst because of the strength and popularity of the radical Islamic Palestinian terrorist groups.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad are not huge armed forces. Together, the armed wings of both organizations total fewer than 5,000 men. By contrast, the PA has 45,000 people in a variety of police, intelligence, and security forces (Anthony H. Cordesman, *Escalating to Nowhere: The Israeli-Palestinian War – The Actors in the Conflict: The Palestinian Factions That Challenge Peace and the Palestinian Authority*; DC: CSIS, Sept. 12, 2003, p. 35; *Jerusalem Post*, Nov. 25, 2006). Not only does the PA have overwhelming superiority of manpower and firepower, it also has the intelligence assets to find most, if not all, of the terrorists.

Given the disparity of forces, the *Jerusalem Post's* Palestinian affairs correspondent, Khaled Abu Toameh, asked, "Why then, doesn't (PA President Mahmoud) Abbas simply order thousands of his policemen to deploy along the border with Israel to halt the Kassam attacks? How come he hasn't even made the slightest effort to stop the smuggling of tons of explosives from Egypt into the Gaza Strip?" (*Jerusalem Post*, Nov. 25, 2006).

Toameh answers the questions himself. "Abbas

lacks the will – not the ability – to take harsh decisions. In fact, he appears comfortable with the image of a weak leader low on funds and resources."

Despite the suffering the terrorists have brought them, the Palestinian public has not called for an end to the violence. No equivalent to Israel's Peace Now movement has emerged.

Still, on an individual basis, it is possible for Palestinians to say no to terror. When the suicide bombing recruiter phoned the wife of former Hamas leader Abdel Aziz al-Rantisi to ask whether her son was available for an operation, she turned him down (*Israel Radio*, Aug. 1, 2002).

In other countries, including Israel (where they helped prompt a withdrawal from Lebanon), mothers have often helped stimulate positive change. When enough Palestinian mothers stand up to the terror recruiters, and to their political leaders, and say that they will no longer allow their children to be used as bombs, the prospects for peace will improve. As long as they prefer their children to be martyrs rather than doctors, bombers rather than scholars, and murderers rather than lawyers, the violence will persist; young Palestinians will continue to die needlessly and peace will remain a dream.

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

### Letter writers

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

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

## Scarcity of pro-Israel voices in media, reader points out

This letter is in regard to the letter-to-the-editor, Why don't we spend Jewish funds on counter-demonstrations, reader asks (*Jewish Tribune*, Dec. 21, 2006).

The letter writer rightly complains about the lack of funding for pro-Israel demonstrations to counter pro-Palestinian demonstrations. Street demonstrations exist for the purpose of giving powerless people the chance to make their voices heard. And more and more, it is the pro-Jewish and pro-Israel advocates who find themselves outside of power. More and more large media organizations, for example, are stridently anti-Israel. And while it is true Stephen Harper and the Conservative Party support Israel, it is also true that the Liberal, Bloc and New Democratic parties are largely sympathetic to the Palestinian cause.

Demonstrations can have a telling effect. A few years

ago, Hillel in Toronto sponsored a demonstration protesting against Neil MacDonald, then a *CBC* reporter stationed in Israel and the Palestinian territories. As readers know, MacDonald has been accused of being a very biased journalist, biased against Israel and American foreign policy. But *CBC News* soon transferred him to his current position as a senior reporter in the United States. There MacDonald continues with his style of reporting, but at least he is not in Israel.

The letter writer's point is well taken. But I feel that Jewish pro-Israel advocacy in other areas is weak also. During the Israel-Hezbollah conflict, I noticed a scarcity of Jewish, pro-Israel voices in Canada's media, particularly the radio/TV news media. I watched *CBC NewsWorld* and *CTV Newsnet* wall-to-

wall for the first four days of the conflict. During those days neither network put on one pro-Jewish or pro-Israel advocate for an interview. All talking heads were from Arab, Muslim or military/strategic organizations.

In Fredericton, where I teach and live, our local newspaper, the *Fredericton Daily Gleaner*, promotes a strongly left-wing editorial slant. On two consecutive days during the conflict the newspaper ran editorial cartoons attacking Israel, both cartoons using the Star of David in a derogatory manner.

I faxed the cartoons and a covering letter-of-protest to B'nai B'rith, the Canadian Jewish Congress, the Atlantic Jewish Council, the Canada-Israel Committee, the *National Post*, and several non-Jewish advocacy organizations. Only *B'nai B'rith* and the *Atlantic Jewish Council* contacted me. But the Atlantic Jewish

Council, after saying they would look into the matter, refused to protest to the *Daily Gleaner*. B'nai B'rith phoned me, and Frank Dimant of B'nai B'rith did have a very good letter published, protesting the cartoons.

In New Brunswick, where I live, citizens are bombarded with anti-Israel viewpoints, from *CBC News*, *CTV NewsWorld* and all three left-wing, Irving-owned newspapers. The *National Post* no longer circulates in an easily accessible manner. Therefore, it is important for Jewish advocacy organizations to speak more forcefully to general audiences. This is especially true in areas beyond large cities in central Canada. There is a problem here, and it extends beyond visible street demonstrations.

*David Murrell (PhD), Fredericton, NB*

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## NEWS

# Bush must move Israel embassy to Jerusalem



## Neal Sher

NEW YORK (JTA) — On the evening of Dec. 18, a group of Jewish leaders enjoyed a lovely evening at the White House as they joined US President George W. Bush at the annual Chanukah celebration.

Just a few hours earlier, Bush had signed a document relieving his administration from the obligation — and his own campaign promise — to move the US Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, as required by the 1995 Jerusalem Embassy Act.

Since identical waivers have been invoked like clockwork twice a year since the law took effect, the president's action hardly came as a surprise, certainly not to the pro-Israel lobby. Indeed, with the Zionist Organization of America as the one glaring exception, no major Jewish group uttered as much as a whisper of disappointment, let alone protest.

That yawn of a reaction is itself troubling because the waiver perpetuated the single most hypocritical element of the pro-Israel agenda.

There's plenty of blame to go around, as elements of the pro-Israel lobby have treated this issue as a pawn in a game of political partisanship.

A bit of history is in order. It was early 1995 and the Oslo process was trudging along. The Jerusalem embassy issue had come to the fore and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, which I headed at the time, could not ignore it.

Recognizing that both the Rabin government in Israel and the Clinton administration in the United States did not favour legislation, AIPAC's board made a deliberate decision to support a "softer" approach, such as a non-binding congressional resolution.

But the 1996 presidential campaign was heating up and AIPAC would soon hold its annual policy conference. The conditions were ripe for some



The US Embassy building in Tel Aviv in a file photo.

political mischief, so a few manipulators leaped into action and hijacked the issue in hopes of driving a wedge between Clinton and the Jewish community.

Several days before our conference, my deputy, current AIPAC Executive Director Howard Kohr, told me that behind my back he had lobbied Robert Dole, a US senator and Republican presidential candidate, and had persuaded him to introduce a bill requiring the US to move its embassy to Jerusalem, Israel's capital. Most countries do not keep their embassies in Jerusalem for fear of angering Arab and Muslim circles, which do not accept Israeli control of the city.

Slated to speak at our gathering, Dole undoubtedly would make this the centrepiece of his appearance. Did it matter to Kohr — or to Dole's AIPAC contact and fund-raiser Robert Asher, a

powerful board member — that the senator previously had opposed such legislation, or that the scheme was in direct contravention of AIPAC policy?

Not in the least. It was just too delicious: No self-respecting political partisan could pass up such an opportunity to score points and raise a few bucks for his candidate and party.

They knew they could bank on their ploy taking on a life of its own once it went public. And that's exactly what happened: Dole's office solicited AIPAC lobbyists to draft the speech he would give a few days later to thunderous applause; a boxed-in AIPAC had to reverse itself and endorse the proposed law; and the government of Israel, despite its well-known misgivings, had to support the effort publicly.

But the legislation that eventually passed con-

tained an escape clause, permitting the president to waive implementation on the grounds of national security. When Clinton invoked that provision, as he promised he would, he ran into a firestorm of criticism.

Arizona's Republican Senator John Kyl accused Clinton of showing "contempt" for Congress, acting in bad faith. Kyl threatened to amend the law to remove the waiver authority, if Clinton dared to use it again.

For his part, Republican Senator Sam Brownback was "very disappointed" that Clinton relied on a "loophole" to ignore the congressional mandate. The Republican Jewish Coalition, the Orthodox Union and ZOA all took Clinton to task.

As for AIPAC, Kohr proclaimed after Clinton's June 1999 waiver, "We're disappointed, to put it mildly."

Predictably, the issue became part of the 2000 presidential campaign. Democratic candidate Al Gore, it was assumed, would continue with the waiver; no real story there.

But what about Governor Bush of Texas, the foreign policy novice who was intent on improving on his father's weak showing in the Jewish community? Here it gets interesting.

When ZOA President Morton Klein met with Bush for several minutes at a Newark Airport hotel in 2000, he raised only one point: Would a President Bush move the embassy?

"No," was the reply, since it would "screw up the peace process."

When those views hit the press, the Bush campaign staff went into full damage control, insisting with straight faces that their boss must have been misunderstood.

A short time later the handlers were in full command as Bush, now more Catholic than the pope, promised thousands of faithful at the AIPAC conference that he would move the embassy "as soon as" he took office. To punctuate the pledge, he assured the Republican Jewish Coalition that he would do this on his very first day as president. Apparently the messiah had arrived, and he hailed from Crawford, Texas.

Last month's waiver marks, by my count, the 12th time this president has certified that honouring his braggadocio campaign promise would not be in the US's interest. Where, I ask, is the sense of outrage from Senators Kyl and Brownback and the others who had been like bulldogs in attacking a previous administration? Is only one party capable of "bad faith" or "contempt" of Congress?

And where is the protest from Kohr's AIPAC, whose platform Bush used to trumpet a promise he had no intention of keeping?

How about the Republican Jewish Coalition? They used the waiver to try to discredit Clinton, but when Bush did it in 2001, they offered up support and understanding.

In 2001, a Jewish activist and Bush backer was asked what he thought of his man having issued a waiver in the face of the barnburner AIPAC speech given only a year earlier.

"No one," he claimed unapologetically, "takes these promises seriously."

Really? If he's right, shame on us for allowing — indeed, encouraging — the US-Israel relationship to be treated so cavalierly by politicians and their operatives. It makes us look inept and foolish.

And these days, with so much on the table, we cannot afford to look inept or foolish. Either get serious about the embassy and launch a full-scale push to make it happen, or put it aside. In any case, we must not allow political partisans — no matter what hat they claim to be wearing — to play us like fiddles.

There may be a way to bring this to a head: The House International Relations Committee, chaired by Democratic Representative Tom Lantos, or the Foreign Relations Committee, under Democratic Senator Joe Biden, should hold hearings on why George Bush has not made good on his bold and repeated campaign promise.

It's time to smoke out and expose the hypocrisy.

*New York attorney Neal Sher is former executive director of AIPAC and former director of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations.*

## More than fear itself



## Avi Shafran

You suddenly begin noticing signs bearing Arabic script in buses. What do you do?

Well, what bus riders in Richmond, Va., did was call the local transit authority to find out what it might know about the signs, which had been turning up on buses and the walls of local universities.

The *Associated Press* and other media outlets subtly scoffed at the concerned citizens, explaining that the Arabic phrases were in fact innocuous — translating as things like 'paper or plastic?' or 'paper, scissors, rock' or 'I'm a little teapot.' Those translations in fact appeared at the bottom of the signs, along with admonishments like 'Misunderstanding can make anything scary' or 'What did you think it said?'

The provocative ads were the work of the Virginia Interfaith Center, which placed them in public venues as part of an effort to change the fact that, as the centre's executive director put it, "as soon as people see Arabic, they immediately make an association with terrorism."

Orthodox Jews like me have considerable experience with bias, and sympathy for good-willed, law-abiding Muslims who are victims of religious prejudice. We know well what it is like to be targeted by bigots for harsh stares, ugly comments and worse. I always carry the realization that some subset of society will, when seeing my beard and headgear, associate me with Shakespeare's Shylock, Dickens' Fagin, the fictional poisoners of wells or the fantasized Elders of Zion.

And those are all, in the end, imagined characters. In this age of all-too-real and widespread Islamist terrorism — where the Muslim faith is regularly invoked by people around the world as directing murder and mayhem — innocent Muslims surely feel even more marginalized as a result of the hasty generalizations people tend to make, and bear the bitter fruit of the suspicions and fears born of their coreligionists, all-too-real words and actions.

But there are times, still, when suspicion and fears cannot be dismissed as the products of bias, and can even rightfully lead to the curtailment, at least temporarily, of the freedoms we enjoy as our birthright.

Like the recent case of a group of imams who were removed from a flight about to leave Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport for Phoenix.

That the Muslim religious leaders had reportedly prayed loudly in the airport before the flight was certainly no reason to consider anything amiss. But when passengers and flight attendants told law-enforcement officials that the imams had switched from their assigned seats — to a pattern associated with the Sept. 11 terrorist passengers: two in the front row first-class seats, two in the middle of the plane in aisle seats and two in the rear of the cabin — security officials' concern was not outlandish, as a number of American Muslim groups later charged.

And when three of the men then asked for seat-belt extenders, despite being of average build, and proceeded to place them, unused, on the floor before them, it was hardly religious bias — or, in the words of Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee (D., Texas), "aeracial profiling, harassment and discrimination" — that motivated police to detain the group for questioning.

No weapons in the end were found among the

imams, but that happy fact does not mitigate the less-happy one that the authorities, actions were more than justified.

As a visibly Jewish man, whenever I am on a plane or train, I always consciously try to alleviate any discomfort others might have with my own appearance or actions. Even well before September 2001 — even before a young lady at a bus stop asked me to please tell her cowering 5-year-old that, despite my in-need-of-a-trim beard, I wasn't Osama bin Ladin — I would always make sure to apprise seatmates, with a friendly smile and a pleasant demeanour, of the fact that I was about to say my prayers, and that my swaying and whispering were only parts of the ritual. And Orthodox Jews, to the best of my knowledge, haven't ever hijacked airplanes.

It is unfortunate, but Muslims who disavow the hatred and violence preached by some of their coreligionists have to accept, with sadness but pragmatism, the burden of society's suspicion-by-association. It's a regrettable reality that actions they take in all innocence might be misconstrued at times as sinister — or that Arabic script suddenly appearing in public places might cause some alarm. But our world is, as they say, what it is.

Yes, sometimes things that seem frightening in fact turn out to be harmless. But fright can also save lives and limbs. "Fear itself," unfortunately, is no longer the only thing we have to fear.

The Virginia Interfaith Center would probably consider me in need of re-education. But, with all due respect to the group and its well-meaning efforts, for my part, I still think that when I see something, I'll say something.

*Rabbi Shafran is director of public affairs for Agudath Israel of America. © 2007 Am Ecbad Resources.*

## NEWS

## Yossi Samuels goes to Washington



From the left, Laura Bush, Avi Samuels (Yossi's younger brother), Yossi Samuels in wheelchair, Kalman Samuels (Yossi's father), and US President George W. Bush chat at the White House Chanukah party on Dec. 18, 2006.

WASHINGTON, DC – Apparently, dreams do come true.

Thirty years after receiving a routine DPT vaccination, which left him blind, deaf and severely hyperactive, Yossi Samuels realized his dream by meeting with US President George W. Bush at the annual White House Chanukah Party on Dec. 18.

Yossi, who is often referred to as Israel's Helen Keller after realizing a similar, astonishing breakthrough in communication at the age of eight, was the subject of a recently released documentary about his extraordinary life. The movie, *About Yossi*,

received rave reviews at the Haifa Film Festival and has been submitted to both the Sundance and Tribeca film festivals.

Yossi came to Washington with his father, Kalman, who is the founder and director of Shalva-The Association for Mentally & Physically Challenged Children in Israel.

There were many guests at the ceremony; each one afforded a 30-second handshake and photo op with President Bush. But Yossi chatted with the president for a full five minutes. Speaking in Hebrew, which his father simultaneously translated

into English, he offered opinions and asked for the president's help on the Iranian situation and with Israelis being held hostage. President Bush was very taken with him, saying, "This young man knows what he's talking about."

On Dec. 20, Yossi addressed students of Ramaz High School in Manhattan. After viewing the powerful documentary, the students peppered the charismatic young man with questions about his life. They were awed by his poise, keen sense-of-humour and infectious optimism. It was a most fitting culmination to the

four-day, whirlwind visit.

The creation of Shalva (translation: peace of mind) was directly inspired by the experience of raising a special-needs child. Today, the award-winning organization provides advanced therapeutic treatment and activities for hundreds of challenged children and empowers the families to raise their children at home.

As we count our blessings, Yossi Samuels serves as a powerful reminder that, indeed, dreams can come true.

## American imam 'secretly' deported to Israel

JERUSALEM (Arutz-7) – The former imam of Ohio's largest mosque was deported to Israel on a "secret flight" coordinated by the FBI and Israeli security services, according to an official statement released last Thursday.

The Islamic Center of Cleveland's Fawaz Damra had his American citizenship revoked after he was found to have raised funds for the Islamic Jihad terrorist organization in 1991.

FBI sources called him a threat to national security, as the United States classifies Islamic Jihad as a terrorist organization. The Islamic Jihad is responsible for many fatal shooting and bombing attacks on civilians and security forces in Israel.

Damra's family requested that he be represented in Israel by Attorney Smadar Ben-Natan, who met with her new client last Wednesday at Kishon prison, where he is being held. Ben-Natan said that Damra has yet to be charged with any crimes by Israeli prosecutors, but that he is being closely questioned by Israeli security services.

A judge ordered Damra remanded for two weeks, at which time he will again be brought before a judge for a decision regarding further incarceration.

While still in FBI custody, Damra, 46, confirmed to investigators that he had raised money for terrorists, as well as having preached against Israel and the Jews, whom he called "sons of

## Jewish population in Judea and Samaria rises 6%

JERUSALEM (Arutz-7) – The Jewish population in Judea and Samaria grew by nearly 6 per cent in 2006, four times the rate of increase a year earlier.

According to figures released last Tuesday by the Interior Ministry, there were 268,379 Israelis living in the 126 Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria at the end of 2006, compared with 253,748 in 2005 – a 5.8 per cent increase. In 2005, there was a growth of less than 2 per cent.

The 2006 statistics did not indicate, however, how many of the additional residents were children born in the communities and how many had moved there from other places.

The population growth in

Judea and Samaria is often greater than around the country. In 2001-2003, for instance, the population in Yesha increased by 16 per cent – a rate that was three times higher than that of the Negev and Galilee.

A small part of the latest increase may be attributed to families from Jewish communities that were uprooted from Gush Katif in the summer of 2005 moving to Judea and Samaria. However, spokespersons for the Jewish Communities Council of Judea, Samaria and Gaza note that most of the nearly 9,000 Jews pulled out of the Gaza Strip have moved into temporary or permanent homes in southern, pre-1967 Israel.

Only in December 2006, for example did Israeli officials announce that Maskiot, a tiny village and former army base in the Jordan Valley, would receive an influx of 60 families that once lived in the town of Shirat HaYam. Shirat HaYam was on the southern beachfront of Gush Katif until it was uprooted as part of the Disengagement Plan executed by the Sharon administration.

Another factor that may play a minor role in the population increase is the immigration statistics from the English-speaking West. More than 3,000 immigrants from the United States, Canada and Britain made Aliyah in 2006 with the assistance of the Nefesh B'Nefesh organization. A total of 10,000 Jews immigrated with the organization's help in recent years. Many Western immigrants are known to have familial or religious connections to communities in Judea and Samaria.

In addition, Israel has seen a rise in immigration from France, but the impact of that community on the population of Judea and Samaria is undocumented.

As in past years, the fastest growth rate in 2006 was recorded in the hareidi-religious towns of Modi'in Illit (Kiryat Sefer) and Beitar Illit. Those two communities benefit from the high hareidi birth rate, as well as large numbers of Jerusalem and Bnei Brak residents moving to less expensive and less crowded suburban towns.

Kiryat Sefer, near the centrally located city of Modi'in, is now the largest Jewish town in Judea and Samaria, with 34,500 residents – 1,200 more than Ma'aleh Adumim, a suburb of Jerusalem.

### Canadian premiere of the film

## Before and After

by Marcela Mayo



One year after the 1994 terrorist bombing of the Jewish community building "AMIA" in Buenos Aires, Argentina, which killed 85 persons and injured over 200, filmmaker Marcela Mayo returned to the city of her birth to make this documentary.

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## FOOD NEWS



The frozen cubes, imported by Toppits from Israel, come in six flavours: garlic, dill, basil, cilantro, parsley and ginger. The price for this natural, additive-free, nut-free, gluten-free product ranges from \$3.29 to \$3.99 per 20-cube pack.

## Toppits frozen herb cubes make cooking easier, tastier and healthier

By Atara Beck  
Tribune Correspondent

One of the best food products to hit the Toronto kosher market in recent years is Toppits Frozen Garlic and Herb Cubes, imported exclusively from Israel by Toppits Foods.

Originally known as Pillemer's, Toppits, a fourth-generation family business, was founded in South Africa in 1899 by Sam Pillemer, who had immigrated there from Eastern Europe and began by trading staples such as flour, eggs and sugar.

Now based in Toronto, Toppits imports and exports frozen fish, seafood and other specialty foods. The company introduced many species of seafood from other parts of the world to the Canadian market. (Gustavsen Smoked Salmon, now available here, is a kosher product from Norway.)

With its excellent reputation in the food-service industry for high-quality products, Toppits Foods plans to continue bringing in new, exotic items.

The frozen cubes come in six flavours: garlic, dill, basil, cilantro, parsley and ginger. The price for this natural, additive-free, nut-free, gluten-free product ranges from \$3.29 to \$3.99 per 20-cube pack.

Although the cubes have universal appeal, they're especially useful for kosher cooking. Orthodox Jews recently have been avoiding certain vegetables for fear of not being able to remove all the insects. Cleaning romaine lettuce to meet the highest standards of kashruth, for instance, is very difficult and time consuming. According to some rabbis, certain fruits and vegetables are no longer considered kosher because of this.

The frozen herb and garlic cubes are a great solution. For instance, the parsley and dill cubes can be added to soup for a flavour and nutrition without worrying about bugs.

Another benefit to using the cubes, said Sara Gremont, vice president of marketing and sales for Toppits Foods, is the elimination of waste. Many fresh vegetables bought for cooking purposes turn out to be "really expensive compost," she says. "The average consumer throws away about

70 per cent of the fresh herbs. Even the tray is fully recyclable, so there's zero waste. The cubes are as good as fresh, but easier."

It's so much easier to throw a couple of cubes in the frying pan while making eggs than to start chopping up fresh produce.

The fact that the cubes come from Israel is another advantage from the perspective of support for the Israeli economy. In fact, it was the Israelis who created the frozen product, which was developed on a kibbutz in Ashkelon that borders Ariel Sharon's home.

Gremont said, "The garlic is of an extremely high quality, pungent and flavourful, among the best in the world. It's a unique species, indigenous to Brazil, which was transplanted to Israel. The Israeli herbs, grown in the Negev, are also first rate, very tasty and aromatic."

Gremont discovered the frozen cubes seven years ago at a food show in Germany.

She contacted the supplier in Israel, and the first container was shipped to Toronto in 2000.

"At first, it was really hard to sell," she says. "I expected people to say wow, like I did, but it took time. The product was too new, too out-of-the-box."

The biggest obstacle, according to Gremont, was that the retailers didn't know where to put it. It started to take off a couple of years later, when Toppits instituted the Boutique Freezer Program at Loblaw's.

The product is available and selling well at major foodservice and retail chains in Canada and in other countries, as well as at stores catering to the traditional Jewish community such as Daiter's and Kosher City.

"Once you try it," said Gremont, "you won't go back to more waste and more work for food that's just as flavourful and appetizing."

For more information and recipes, go to [www.toppits.com](http://www.toppits.com).

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## NEWS

# Newfoundland Interfaith group helps break down the walls

By Danette Dooley  
Special to the Tribune

ST. JOHN'S, NFLD. — After Ed Roberts took over as Newfoundland's 11th lieutenant-governor in 2002, he and his wife Eve hosted morning coffee for heads of religious groups.

They chose to invite not only representatives of Christian denominations, but people from other religious faiths.

"I was there representing the Jewish faith," explains Ruth Noel. Also there was B'nai Brith Canada board member Shari Ritter.

"Bani (Bal) was there as a Hindu representative, Noel said. "There was a member of the Baha'i and a lady from the Islamic association. And we said, 'Why don't we form a group to learn about each other's religions — an interfaith group?'"

The women did just that in 2003.

Thanks to Ed and Eve Roberts' gesture, the group now includes representatives from the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Islamic, Jewish, Sikh and Zoroastrian religions.

"At first, there was a little bit of fear of the unknown because we didn't know each other," Bal said of the initial gathering.

"But as the time passed, when we knew each other, the walls

were breaking and that's the objective of our groups — let there not be any walls," she added.

"And once we all had an evening to explain the essence of our religions," Noel said, "that gave us a chance to see that we are all part of humanity, and that's the key as well."

In fact, the group encourages mutual respect for each other and for all humanity, as well as striving to respect, better understand and raise public awareness about various faiths.

"There are differences here," Bal said glancing around the table.

"I'm a brown lady, you're a white lady and Ruth is a white lady. But what does it matter? Are you looking at my colour or at me as a person? When I'm sad, I cry like you. When I'm happy, I laugh like you."

The group is prepared to speak out publicly against acts of religious hatred or racism that may occur in this province.

There are 14 members of the group, and they meet every month to share information that identifies commonalities among the various faiths and also leads to the acceptance of differences.

"Different cultures and religions think differently and one way may not be our way of thinking," Noel said.

"But when I hear someone



Ruth Noel and Bani Bal are founding members of the Interfaith Women's Group

explaining their religion, I try to put myself into their position, to look at it from their viewpoint. It may not be what I believe, but it helps me understand it and respect it."

Providing knowledge also helps guide individuals along the right path, Bal said.

"Like a little ant — if you mix sand and sugar, the little ant picks up only sugar and throws away the sand. We also should have that kind of knowledge to choose what is right and to throw away the other things."

The women are also working

to educate children about the various faiths.

Bal said all great spiritual masters have told simple stories,

and many of the important lessons the group hopes to instil in children are done through the telling of parables.

"We want them to know about compassion, nobility, friendship, love. Because there are stories in all religions and the aim is all about goodness and kindness," Bal said.

She pointed out that sharing similar thoughts and practices is the essence of all humanity, even though common themes may not be apparent at first glance.

"Though, like a tree is not like a mountain and a mountain is not like an ocean — it's all various parts of nature and the nature is one," she explained.

"So, we are one as a human being — and the essence is in search of somebody who is supreme, somebody we don't know. Whether we call him God or some other name — that's what we are all searching for."

"Our greatest philosopher, the Rambam, taught us that the best way to achieve justice for the poor is to bring the poor into partnership with us," Noel said.

Bal said it's also important to keep in mind that justice leads to peace.

"If my mind and my word are in co-ordination, then there will be justice. So, I will always speak the truth and I will always go by the truth in my mind and in my speech. So let my speech and my thought be together," she said of her Hindu prayers.

At a service recently at Memorial University, representatives of the various faiths gave short readings. Some of the words spoken by the Jewish representative come from Amos 5:24.

The simple words can be understood by members of all religions.

"Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream."

## Stink of corruption has Israelis holding their noses

By Yaniv Salama-Scheer  
Tribune Israel Correspondent

JERUSALEM — In a time where the Israeli government needs to appear strong and unified, the same old stink of corruption has Israelis holding their noses.

Many top Knesset officials are under investigation for a series of corruption charges, including fraud and bribery.

The corruption charges surrounding the Israeli Tax Authority emanate from the Prime Minister's Office. The early reports have allegedly shown that Shula Zaken, the head of the Prime Minister's Bureau, has helped businessmen to put individuals within the tax Authority, said police spokesman Mickey Rosenfeld. The suspicions further implicate Zaken for her alleged involvement in bribes that extended tax benefits to undeserving recipients.

Zaken is also believed to be the power behind the appointment of Tax Authority Director Jacky Matza. Matza and his predecessor, Eitan Rub, have already been arrested on charges of fraud and bribery.

According to reports in the Israeli media, police suspect that the Zaken and Matza appointed people to key positions who would be acceptable to businessmen Kobi Ben-Gur and Yoram Karashi, Zaken's brother. Police also suspect that after Matza's appointment, Zaken used his good offices to help Karashi, a Jerusalem city councilman for the Likud party.

The Tax Authority is responsible for collecting income tax, value added tax, customs and other dues.

The corruption in the state of Israel has become alarmingly frequent and is beginning to dampen the morale and the trust Israelis have in their government.

According to recent corruption studies at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, government corruption is on the rise in Israel. The studies



Olmert visited the Great Wall of China recently as scandals continue to multiply at home.

show that the Knesset has fallen from 10th to 37th — along side countries like Cuba and Laos — in the amount of corruption in the government.

This claim was bolstered last week by former Supreme Court Judge Yitzhak Zamir, who said, "What is worse is the loss of confidence in the administration as a whole. People are willing to believe the administration is corrupt...and what makes that worse is the fact there are grounds to this suspicion."

Although Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has been cleared of any implication in the Tax Authority scandal, he received news during his visit to China that he would be placed under criminal investigation for his role in the sale of Bank Leumi while he was industry and trade minister.

The inquest into the prime minister's involvement is concerned with his role with some of the bidder's for the bank, namely Frank Lowy, Australian businessman and owner of the Westfield Group, as well as American media tycoon Mort Zuckerman.

Olmert is accused of advancing Lowy's interests in the privatization of Bank Leumi, Israel's second largest bank.

However, the controversy does not end with the claims of bribery. One of the partners at the firm that handled the possible transaction of the bank is Yossi Gross, the father-in-law of Olmert's son. The firm has said that there was no conflict of interest because "Mr. Gross had retired in early 2005, and was not employed at the time of the negotiations. He does, however, have an office and a secretary and is welcome to come in whenever he wants."

A spokesman for Frank Lowy dismissed the allegations of any improper activity. In a statement issued in response to the accusations, Lowy's people said that "After considering the investment, and conducting some preliminary due diligence, it was decided not to proceed with the consortium or with the tender process."

Ehud Olmert has been involved in several corruption investigations in recent months, including the purchase of his Jerusalem home believed to be sold well under its value due to past favours Olmert has extended while mayor of Jerusalem. No formal charges have ever been filed against him.

The secular New Year has not started off very well for Israelis. One week into 2007, the same old questions of leadership and cohesiveness are arising. The countries morale and patience in the government is running out. Events have culminated in last week's Dahaf polls, which showed that 77 per cent of Israelis are dissatisfied with Olmert's performance.

With a weak political image and US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's recent visit to the region, the time is right for the Olmert government to get its act together and rally the fading Israeli support for the Kadima party and its leader. It is imperative that this is done, because the political cultures — Ehud Barak, Benjamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni — are already circling overhead waiting for another Olmert blunder.

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## NEWS

# US appeasement strategy called wrong, but still hope

By Rick Kardonne  
Tribune Correspondent

NEW YORK — US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice — according to multiple sources including *Arutz Sheva*; *WorldNet Daily* Jerusalem correspondent Aaron Klein, and *Israel Press Service* Director David Bedein, as heard on the *Zelda CHIN*-Toronto radio shows on Nov. 26 and Dec. 4 — is giving arms to the terrorist Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade.

This was verified by Herb Zweibon, director of Americans For a Safe Israel (AFSI), an advocacy group which has ongoing ties to both parties in the US Congress.

In a telephone interview recently, Zweibon, having been to Washington last month, told the *Jewish Tribune* he had harsh words for what he feels is an appeasement strategy regarding Israel both within Congress and the Bush Administration. However, he feels that there are glimmers of hope for Israel amidst the gloom.

"Aaron Klein and David Bedein are very reliable reporters," said Zweibon. "What they say regarding Condi Rice's giving US arms to the Palestinian Arab terrorists are correct. And I will go further. Condi Rice spent 24 hours to get Israel to make sure that the Philadelphia road connecting Gaza to Egypt remains open. Weapons are pouring into Gaza from Sinai. The terrorists don't even have to build tunnels to move the weapons into Gaza. Egypt turns a blind eye. Terror groups run rampant in Gaza.

"Condi Rice thinks that she is providing a 'moderate' leadership to the Palestinian Arabs. She feels that she can be 'nice nice.' In fact, Abbas, as well as Haniyah (prime minister of the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority government) have the same goal: the destruction of Israel."

On Dec. 5, Robert Gates, White House nominee for Secretary of Defence to replace Donald Rumsfeld told the House of Representatives confirmation committee, according to *Arutz Sheva*, that the US won't stand by Israel should Israel be attacked by Iran. He also said that Iran is developing an atom bomb as a deterrent against Israel among other nations, and that's OK by him. A US war against Iran and Syria would only be a very last resort, and he even warned about the dangers to the US of such a war.

Commenting on Gates' statements, Zweibon declared:

"Gates fits into the party of appeasement. Israel is expendable. To him, what the hell? Gates does not realize that the Jewish presence in Israel is a strong deterrent to radical Islam."

Then there's the Iraq Study Group, headed by former US Secretary of State James Baker and former US Rep. Lee Hamil-

ton, which issued a report recently urging the United States to re-engage with Iran and Syria and renew efforts to resolve the Israeli-Arab conflict.

The congressionally mandated study group said that there were disincentives and incentives available to the United States to probe Iran and Syria into a more constructive role in Iraq, but they were not outlined in the executive summary made available to reporters.

It also said "there must be a renewed and sustained commitment by the United States to a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace on all fronts: Lebanon, Syria and President Bush's June 2002 commitment to a two-state solution for Israel and Palestine.

This commitment must include direct talks with, by, and between Israel, Lebanon, Palestinians (those who accept Israel's right to exist), and Syria."

Israeli officials had no immediate comment but one Israeli pundit, Ben Caspit of *Ma'ariv*, said the Iraq Study Group's recommendations appeared to be in line with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's recent push to engage moderate Arab regimes against strategic threats like Iran and the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority.

When asked about the study group's recommendations, Zweibon replied: "Baker has tremendous influence with the Bush family, which has Saudi oil interests. He favours retreat and appeasement." But he feels that in the crunch, the president will not go with the Baker-Hamilton recommendations.

"George W. Bush has commissioned two other report-recommendations, by the National Security Council and the Pentagon, on the Middle East. They will have a stronger impact on Bush than the Baker-Hamilton report."

He believes that the other two reports will recommend that the US Army in Iraq "should stay in the desert; not in Baghdad. But the US cannot pull out of Iraq now. If they do so, Iran will be the dominant force in the Mideast. The Iran atom bomb has more serious impact on the US than Israel. All of the weapons the US sold to Saudi Arabia will go to Iran."

When asked what Democrats in Congress are friendly to Israel and which are not, Zweibon talked about a few important names.

Senator Joe Lieberman was re-elected in Connecticut, running as an independent against the Democrat nominee Ned Lamont. Lieberman will now be a prime kingmaker regarding close bills in the Senate, and Zweibon regards him as being very pro-Israel. Moreover, Zweibon has high praise for his foreign affairs expert, Cherie Daniels, as being a staunch friend of Israel.

Regarding Nancy Pelosi, the

new Speaker of the House, and third in line for the presidency, Zweibon thinks that while her father "supported the Zionist effort," he has his doubts about her since she hails from San Francisco, whose congressmen have been traditionally unfriendly towards Israel. He is not prepared to discuss Middle East leanings of Steni Hoyer, the new House Majority Leader (Democrat from Maryland).

When asked what influence former US President Jimmy Carter, who recently wrote *Palestine: Peace, not Apartheid*, might have on congressional Democrats, Zweibon said: "None at all. He is perceived as being a loser."

Friendly Democratic senators, according to Zweibon, include Dan Inouye from Hawaii, Chris Bond from Missouri, and Sam Brownback from Kansas. Friendly Republican Senators include Trent Franks of Arizona, John Kyle, Duncan Hunter, and Trent Lott from Mississippi, of whose national security advisor, Mitch Waldman, Zweibon has the highest praise.

When Zweibon was in Washington last month, he met with Professor Moshe Sharon, former Prime Minister Menachem Begin's expert on Islam. His impression was that the majority sentiment in the present US Congress is "put Israel aside. The Americans don't understand the nature of the threat of radical Islam, even since 9/11 and the terrible destruction of the twin towers."

A notable exception was Senator Lott, who declared that "money going from the US for terror (whether it be direct or indirect) kills our boys."

Zweibon and Prof. Sharon firmly believe that the immediate goal should be to "cut off the financing of terror in the US. The terrorists cannot function without the huge amounts of money they have received."

The Americans For a Safe Israel is 30 years old. Its main voice is its publication *Outpost*, which stands for, in Zweibon's words, "the integrity of all of Eretz Israel, from the Jordan to the Mediterranean." Another prime purpose of AFSI is to frequently visit Washington and discuss with senators and representatives the necessity of supporting Israel in the war on terror.

AFSI's major US Jewish organization ties are to the Jewish Institute for National Security. In Israel, AFSI is closely linked to many prominent Israeli politicians, such as the 91-year-old Shmuel Katz, the first journalist for Likud; MKs Aryeh Eldad, Benny Elon, Effie Eitam, Yuval Steinitz, Danielle Weiss, and one of the legendary founders of Israel, Geula Cohen. Americans For a Safe Israel can be contacted on their web site at: [www.afsi.org](http://www.afsi.org).



PHOTO: EZI ISRAEL-ISRUEL SUN

## Gifted kids do more than play 'doctor'

While kids their age play 'doctor,' these gifted school children, aged 6 to 12, come to the Barzilai Medical Centre in Ashkelon to study how heart attacks are caused and how catheterization is performed. A first of its kind project will open for the kids the chance to perform medical research with the hospital's leading doctors.

## Frum family donates Bernini's *Corpus* to AGO

A rare sculpture from the Italian Baroque period, Gian Lorenzo Bernini's *Corpus*, is being donated to the AGO by noted Toronto collector Murray Frum and his family.

*Corpus* is one of the largest bronzes by Bernini, measuring approximately 5 feet, 6 inches. One of the most significant Old Masters works still in private hands, the crucifix was cast around 1650. The Frum gift, which would be worth in excess of \$50 million in the current market, is further distinguished by the fact that the artist created it expressly for himself.

To be unveiled in June at the AGO as part of its summer exhibition, *Corpus* will become the second Bernini sculpture in the Gallery's permanent collection. A marble portrait bust of Pope Gregory XV, 1621, was donated to the AGO by Joey and Toby Tanenbaum in 1997. The National Gallery of Canada owns the only other Bernini sculpture in a Canadian public collection — a marble portrait bust of Maffeo Barberini, Pope Urban VIII, c. 1632, purchased in 1974.

"*Corpus* was immediately appealing because of the beauty and emotion of the subject," said Frum, chairman of the Frum Development Group, a member of the AGO Board of Trustees and long-time supporter of the Gallery. "When we learned that it could be traced back to Bernini's own collection and was an object that he made for himself, it was clear we were in the presence of a unique work of art, a masterpiece that would be a highlight of any collection."

"I have long felt that the AGO's importance was established by the Henry Moore collection and that the gallery should build on the sculpture portion of its permanent collection," Frum added. "The Bernini *Corpus* will make all of the sculptures at the AGO even more significant."

A leadership donor to the Transformation AGO campaign, Frum is a well-known collector of sculpture, particularly African and Oceanic art. The AGO's celebrated Frum Collection of African Art

contains more than 80 pieces dating from the 10th century to the mid-20th century.

"Thanks to the vision and generosity of the Frum family, *Corpus* will figure prominently in our reinstallation of the Old Masters collection to be unveiled in 2008," says Matthew Teitelbaum, the AGO's Michael and Sonja Koerner director and CEO. "This extraordinary gift will underscore the international significance of our Old Masters works."

Bernini (1598-1680) is considered the most important sculptor, architect, draughtsman and painter of the 17th century. He was a celebrated child prodigy who trained in his father's studio and carved his first portrait at 10. Except for a six-month period in 1665 in Paris when he worked on designs for the Louvre, he worked exclusively in Rome.

"Bernini achieved unprecedented naturalism in the representation of the human form in bronze," says Teitelbaum. "The naturalism of *Corpus* is in keeping with the concern of Baroque artists to bring the divine vividly within the realm of human experience."

With the addition of this second Bernini sculpture, the AGO will feature a superlative collection of Baroque artworks. When Transformation AGO is complete in 2008, the gallery will present Peter Paul Rubens's monumental *Massacre of the Innocents*, c. 1611-12, from the Thomson Collection. Rubens is considered the foremost exponent of Flemish Baroque art. Complementing this painting in the AGO's collection is Rubens's turbulent oil sketch *The Elevation of the Cross*, c. 1638, which was purchased by the gallery in 1928.



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## RECIPES/PREVIEW

## January's body + soul = your best self



**Gloria Guttman**

If you really mean business about losing weight, and it is not just another new year's resolution, you can restore that once svelte body by trying these slimming recipes. They will not leave you craving for that 'something' extra. You really can drop a few pounds while enjoying healthy food...and even indulge in a dark chocolate treat.

Lets start with a healthy Canape.

#### Hummus

2 cans (19 oz.) chickpeas, drained, liquid reserved  
4-6 garlic cloves, peeled  
1/4 cup fresh lemon juice  
4 tablespoons reserved chickpea liquid  
1/3 cup olive oil (use roasted garlic olive oil)  
Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Drain chick peas, reserving liquid. Put peas, lemon juice and garlic in food processor. Blend until smooth. Slowly add chickpeas, stopping occasionally to check if the consistency is right. Add olive oil while the machine is running. Season with salt and pepper. Refrigerate until needed, and serve at room temperature. (makes 3 1/2 cups)

#### Low Cal Mushroom Soup

(Ricky Zabitsky brought back this recipe from the Doral Spa: It is one of her favourites and can also be found in *Cooking Kindness Heroes in the Kitchen*, Pg.36.)

3 white onions sliced  
2 tablespoons canola oil  
5 pounds morels and wild mushrooms, sliced  
Skim milk or vegetable broth for liquid as needed (milk or meat meal)  
1/2 bay leaf  
2 teaspoons lemon juice  
Pinch of thyme  
Salt and pepper to taste  
3 sprigs of parsley to garnish  
(Use a large roasting pan on two burners to cook the mush-

rooms for this soup in one batch. Otherwise do it in two batches.)

Sauté onions in oil until soft (add a pinch of baking soda, to soften). Add mushrooms and bay leaf. Cook on medium heat until tender, stirring often for about 19 minutes. Remove bay leaf. Working in batches, process the onions and mushrooms in a blender or food processor until pureed. Add skim milk or vegetable broth as needed until you achieve the desired consistency. Add lemon juice, thyme, salt and pepper. Garnish with parsley.

#### Fish in a Flash

A low-calorie, low-fat dish that takes only minutes to prepare

1 pound fish fillets (sole or your choice)  
3 tablespoons dijon mustard  
1 teaspoon grated lemon rind  
1/4 cup lemon juice  
1 tablespoon minced onion  
1 tablespoon low sodium soy sauce  
1 teaspoon grated ginger root  
1/2 teaspoon sugar (you may use splenda)  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon pepper  
1 teaspoon cornstarch  
1 teaspoon water

In a large skillet, arrange fish in a single layer. In a small bowl, mix together lemon rind, lemon juice, onion, mustard, soy sauce, ginger, sugar, salt and pepper and pour over fish. Bring to a boil; reduce heat to simmer and cook covered for 3-5 minutes or until fish is opaque and flakes easily with fork. Remove fish to platter, reserving mixture in skillet. Mix water with cornstarch until smooth. Pour into skillet and bring to a boil stirring. Pour sauce over fish. (Makes about 4 servings.)

#### Lemon Barley Pilaf with Raisins (an alternative carb and so healthy)

2 tablespoons olive or canola oil  
2 onions finely chopped  
3 celery stalks, diced  
1 cup pearl barley, rinsed and drained  
2 1/2 cups vegetable broth  
1 teaspoon finely grated lemon rind or zest

1/2 teaspoon dried oregano  
Salt and pepper to taste  
1/4 cup golden raisins (sultanas are best)  
1 tablespoon lemon juice  
2 tablespoons pine nuts  
2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley

In a wide saucepan, heat olive oil over medium high heat. Add onions and celery; sauté about 5 minutes, until softened and browned. Add barley to pan, stirring to coat with oil. Add broth, lemon zest or rind, oregano, salt and pepper. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer, stirring occasionally about 40 minutes or until barley is almost cooked through and most of the liquid is absorbed. Stir in raisins and lemon juice. Remove from heat and let stand for 5 minutes. Toast pine nuts over medium heat for 5-7 minutes, or until golden brown. Gently stir pine nuts into pilaf with parsley. Yields 8 servings. (Found in *Cooking Kindness* page 174)

For a fresh green vegetable, try asparagus (in 7 minutes).

Preheat oven to 500°F. Prepare a bundle of asparagus by rinsing, and cutting off brittle ends.

Place stalks flat in a pan, sprinkled with olive oil, 1 tablespoon crushed garlic and kosher sea salt. Roast in oven for exactly 7 minutes and immediately plunge them into cold water to blanch. Remove quickly. Voila, dark green asparagus. Add wedges of lemon.

#### A Dark Chocolate Treat

Did you know, chocolate is one of the largest North American dietary sources of copper, which is necessary to form blood cells and use iron. Other top sources: liver, hazel nuts and sunflower seeds. So have a piece or two of dark chocolate and enjoy without guilt. (source: *Body and Soul Magazine*)

You may purchase or order *Cooking Kindness Heroes in the Kitchen*, from Indigo/Chapters book stores, online, or call 416-440-7999 in the greater Toronto area or toll free 1-866-230-3269 or email gguttman04@earthlink.net. The net proceeds from *Cooking Kindness* are donated in support of Israel Cancer Research Fund.

## Denise Williams: A black-Jewish dialogue through song

By Rick Kardonne  
Tribune Correspondent



Denise Williams sings *Walk Together Children*.

Soprano Denise Williams and friends will launch *Walk Together Children* her new CD featuring a mix of Black and Jewish music, Sunday, Feb. 11, in the Al Green Theatre at the Miles Nadal JCC at Spadina and Bloor.

This concert will be an integral part of Black History Month as well as being a major event for the Jewish community.

Antiguan-born Canadian soprano Denise Williams grew up on Toronto's lower west side during the 1950s, when there was a significantly larger Jewish and Black population than is the case in that area today. She was first introduced to Jewish music as a support singer with the Toronto Jewish Folk Choir, and she participated in interracial dialogues between Blacks and Jews, including musical events at the then-Bloor JCC.

A multifaceted singer and trained actor, she began a series of artistic collaborations that showcase diverse cultural and musical traditions. As one of her most popular of these, *Walk Together Children* has been performed at the Toronto Centre for the Arts and was broadcast from

the Glenn Gould Studio on *CBC Radio's Music Around Us*. She has since delighted audiences in Toronto's Ashkenaz Festival, the Yiddishland Café and many synagogues. Audiences have been equally captivated by her program of Afrocentric art songs, *Sophisticated Soul*.

As well, Williams is known for her performances in opera, oratorio, lieder, 20th-century art song, spirituals, musical theatre and jazz. Among her many career highlights have been two memorable solo engagements with the Nathaniel Dett Chorale (of which she was a founding member) in performance with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra in 2001; and in 2001, singing highlights from *Porgy and Bess*. *CBC*

Radio's Andy Barrie described her 2001 performance in *Porgy and Bess*, with Martin Nance, as "to die for."

She has been soprano in David Fanshawe's *African Sanctus* with Pennsylvania's Pocano Choral Society (2004) and in 2005 with the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir. The British composer was present at each.

Williams' CD *Walk Together Children* is both a significant political and artistic statement of what will be a vital fusion of Black and Jewish cultural traditions. All of the 20 songs on her CD, from the opener *Wade in the Water* — an instrumental version of which pianist Ramsey Lewis made a popular hit in 1966 — to the closing theme song *Walk Together Children* are memorable, each with her own individual interpretation according to the moods of each song.

But if there is one standout selection, it would be Williams' version of Dov Seltzer's *The Last War*, written just after the Yom Kippur War in 1973, which she performs in Hebrew, Yiddish and English. This song will bring any audience to tears.

For ticket information, contact the Al Green Theatre at the Miles Nadal JCC, 416-924-2611.



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## NEWS

# Hockey and Judaism suit Remparts and Rubin just fine

By Jack Borenstein  
Tribune Correspondent

After the hoopla and inordinate media coverage in North America late last summer, Benjamin Rubin is glad 2007 has arrived. He hopes people will notice his hockey skills as a six-foot, one-inch rookie left winger with the Quebec (City) Remparts, rather than focussing on the unique religious circumstances allowing him to play in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League (QMJHL).

The soon-to-be 18-year-old (on Jan. 25) was born and raised in Montreal. His hockey interest started at age three, when his dad put him on skates. He grew up playing soccer, basketball and baseball but ended up selecting hockey. "It was the first sport I actively played in, and was better in it than other sports."

Rubin played minor hockey during winters, and a couple of summers. Brent Aubin, current Remparts captain and a 2006 Toronto Maple Leafs free agent signee, coached him five summers ago on the Montreal Kings AAA. "He was a talented youngster who could skate fast, and I could tell then he had potential to be a good hockey player," said Aubin.

After a couple of seasons with the Montreal Maroons AAA, Rubin was ready for major junior hockey but faced a dilemma — what team would take on a player who would miss games and practices on shabbat and Jewish holidays. This is where close friends with hockey connections, become very helpful and timely.

Rubin has played many years with Remparts Centre (and top 2007 NHL North American draft prospect) Angelo Esposito. "Angelo's father knew Patrick Roy, Remparts head coach and general manager. As well, Sam Eltes is a family friend who owns a Mercedes-Benz car dealership in Montreal, and plays golf regularly with Coach Roy. Both told him about my hockey talents, resulting in obtaining a tryout."

Remparts assistant coach Martin Laperriere acknowledged Rubin was invited to training camp having heard great things from team scouts, and Esposito. "Patrick (Roy) liked Benjamin's raw skills in terms of size, speed and shot. The fact he was only 17, was also an eye opener." Rubin said Roy was very positive about the hockey abilities he displayed in camp, and his religious situation. "I was very appreciative, when he granted me a permanent roster spot."

Rubin's first 23 games (out of the Remparts 46 games, at press time) have been an eye opening experience with opposing players being smarter, speedier and body checking more than he previously experienced.

"Most everyone has good hands, and are creative in controlling the puck for scoring



Benjamin Rubin balances his observant religious life with his very busy hockey life with the Quebec Remparts.

chances," Rubin said, adding that his coaches expect the fourth line he plays on to provide lots of energy "and give 100 per cent at all times."

Aubin remarked that Rubin is one of the hardest working players in team practices, works out at a local gym after practices and that teammates have accepted him as family. "He's happy being a Rempart and is a funny guy, who always cracks jokes with us."

Rubin said his best hockey attributes are "speed, having a good shot, vision on the ice to anticipate what's coming next and being aggressive when required." His favourite player growing up was Bobby Orr because of "his ability to control the game, change its tempo, and drive offensively towards the opposition's net."

Laperriere said the coaching staff was happy with Rubin's contributions, having been a threat every game. "He receives a good amount of ice time and has shown more focus lately with on-ice assignments in terms of strength, size and play making. We enjoy that he's using his body on a consistent basis, showing no fear in the corners. He will play more if he continues to work hard."

Rubin has developed a stronger work ethic since joining the Remparts. "I have come a long way since training camp, when I did not know

the game so well. Coach Roy notices every mistake, and stresses how to eliminate them. I want to improve my overall play using my speed, and being physical when needed."

Rubin scored his first Remparts goal Nov. 7 against Rimouski, off a rebound in the faceoff circle. On Nov. 19 against Saint John he stole the puck at the right offensive blue line boards, broke in untouched off the wing and roofed the puck in the top corner. "That goal was exciting and taught me I can do more and contribute to the team, as a good player."

His Dec. 27 goal in the Remparts 5-4 win over Baie-Comeau, started with Christophe Poirier forcing a turnover in the offensive zone. Using Marc Olivier-Vallerand as a decoy, he broke in to the top of the right faceoff circle and snapped a low wrist shot over the goalie's glove side.

Rubin studies social sciences at nearby Champlain de St. Lawrence College, and resides with a Jewish family in a room over a restaurant they operate called Le Vendome. His own family frequently sends strictly kosher foods, and brings the same during visits.

Rabbi David Lewin of Beth

Israel Ohev Sholom in Quebec City was impressed by Rubin being observant with shabbat and kashruth while playing a high level of hockey, and by Roy for placing him on the Remparts. "Not an easy decision, given he may play only half the team's games. Mr. Roy is showing a younger Quebecois generation that may lack spirituality and knowledge of Jewish religion that it's possible to be a religious Jew, and be a good sports player."

Rubin is confident he can progress far in hockey, while maintaining his religious identity. He advised future Jewish religious teen athletes to continue pursuing their sporting goals "no matter the obstacles, if it's something they truly want."

Both Boston Bruins and Montreal Canadiens play only half a dozen games on the Sabbath, in the current NHL season. Therein lays the future possibility, if he continues to develop hockey skills and abilities with the Quebec Remparts, that a NHL team may be happy with Benjamin Rubin playing for them just six days a week.

Jack Borenstein can be mailed at [j\\_borenstein@bot-mail.com](mailto:j_borenstein@bot-mail.com).

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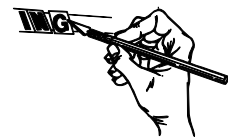
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