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(Cover story on page 4)

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ANITA SURMAN
Editor
General News Section

Debating a Strike on Iran

Ronen Bergman, an Israeli expert on strategic affairs, believes that the three major factors for an Israeli strike on Iran are now in place: international legitimacy, Israel's capability and the necessity to act. Israeli Minister for Strategic Affairs, Moshe Yaalon, responding to those who question Israel's capability to launch a preemptive strike, told the Herzliya Conference that "any facility that is guarded by a human being, can be penetrated by a human being. It is possible to strike at all the facilities in Iran militarily, and I can say that from my experience as chief of staff". The threat, moreover, of Iranian retaliation is, some conclude, overblown. "There will not be 100,000 dead," says Defence Minister Ehud Barak, "or 10,000 dead of 1000 dead. The State of Israel will not be destroyed".

Other Israelis are not convinced of the wisdom of immediate action. Former Mossad chief Meig Dagan believes a military strike now would be the "stupidest thing I have ever heard." Retired Israeli military intelligence head Maj-Gen. Amos Yadkin echoes these comments arguing that if and when Iran makes the decision to get the bomb, there will still be time for a strike to be ordered. Adds Shlomo Brom, a general retired from Israel intelligence and former deputy national security advisor, "assuming that once they do make a decision to weaponize, we will know it...There is a window of time from the point of making the decision and until they succeed in weapon making". Indeed, some within the Israeli Defence Forces believe it could be as late as 2018 before Iran has nuclear operation capability.

There is some general agreement among military personnel both in Israel and within the international community. Even the most optimistic military commanders in the IDF admit that Israel cannot completely wipe out Iran's nuclear capabilities. Senior officers are on record as saying "we will have to go back to Iran a second time" and that "we have no illusion that we can delay their plans by more than two or three years." Moreover, a large scale operation against Iran would quite likely mean strikes against Iranian missile launchers in Lebanon, Gaza and maybe even Syria. Such operations would stretch IAF resources, even if not beyond its capabilities. Bombing Iran would mean Israeli pilots would have to fly more

than 1000 miles across unfriendly air space, refuel in the air en route, fight off Iran's air defenses, use at least 100 planes and attack multiple underground sites all at the same time. "I don't think you'll find anyone who'll say, 'Here's how it's going to be done - handful of planes, over an evening, in and out,'" says Andrew R. Hoehn, director of the Rand Corporation's Project Air Force.

The Jewish Standard believes that while all options must remain on the table a pre-emptive Israeli attack at this point is premature, even if Iran continues to hit "soft" Jewish targets around the world. Sanctions are having an impact. Mysterious explosions have killed scientists and destroyed missile plants. Computer worms have set back research programs. We are by no means suggesting that the rhetoric from Jerusalem, or from its neoconservative allies in the United States, should be toned down. Nor do we think, as some incredibly naive observers suggest, that all it would take to stop Iran's nuclear program would be to treat Ahmedinejad with "respect". Mutual deterrence is not an option either. Iran is not a "rational actor". Its proxies in Lebanon and Gaza never consider how many of their own people might perish in a nuclear war.

Some fifty years ago, Levi Eshkol was being prodded by his ministers and the public to launch an attack on Egypt. For several months Eshkol resisted waiting, wisely as Michael Oren has pointed out, until he received the go-ahead from Lyndon Johnson. We think the current Israeli government would do well to follow Eshkol's lead, a view, according to one poll, shared by 80 percent of Israelis. Barak Obama may be cautioning Israel against "loose talk of war". But if Iran's threat to block the Straits of Hormuz is not a bluff, if sanctions ultimately prove to be insufficient, the president has stated unequivocally that he would then be prepared to use force to stop Iran's nuclear build-up. Yes, Israel alone has the right to determine its response to threats to its national security. But the last thing the country needs is further international isolation. We think it is in Israel's best interests if the US military doesn't have to be "sucked in" against its will to finish the job.

THE WORLD IN REVIEW

NEWS OF THE RECENT PAST IS REVIEWED

By NOAH FREEDMAN

Basketball vs Shabbat

The Robert M. Beren Academy, an Orthodox Jewish school located in Houston, has a pretty good basketball team. After winning their regional game Beren earned the right to compete in the semi-finals. The problem was that the semi-finals were scheduled for Friday March 2 and Saturday March 3 and the Academy asked the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools to change the times of Beren's games.

Initially the request

was denied. TAPPS maintained that the game would have to be forfeited, claiming that its bylaws stipulated that the game must go forward.

URJ's Rabbi Rick Jacobs was at the forefront of the protest: "What message", he wrote, "would be sent to these scholar/athletes if they were forced to choose between their faith and their athletic goals? And what a powerful message TAPPS could send by finding an accommodation which would allow Beren to participate. Only the later choice could be true to our

shared American heritage of religious freedom". Among those joining in the protest were Houston Mayor Annise D. Parker and the former coach of the Houston Rockets Jeff Van Gundy.

When the protest fell on deaf ears, Nathan and Alyza Lewin, a father and daughter legal team based in Washington, decided to act. Nathan Lewin has argued several religious cases before the Supreme Court and knew that TAPPS had a very weak position. The Lewins asked the Dallas-based

firm of Carrington, Coleman, Sloman and Blumenthal to represent the Academy and all agreed to work pro bono.

While some parents were reluctant to join in the lawsuit, the complaint proceeded against the Mansfield Independent School District and TAPPS. And that's when TAPPS surrendered.

TAPPS reluctantly complied with Beren Academy's request and rescheduled the semi-final game for Friday

(Please turn to page 18)



PRIME MINISTER STEPHEN HARPER AND ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU ARE presented with hockey jerseys. PMO photo by Jason Ransom

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HATRED ON CAMPUS

ISRAEL APARTHEID WEEK MUST BE FOUGHT

By **DORE GOLD**

Anti-Israel hatred on campus crests each year during an event called "Israel Apartheid Week." With this ominous name and programs that thrive on ignorance and blind disregard for the facts, tens of thousands of college students are urged to rise up against Israel – painfully evoking the types of racist characterizations of the Jewish people which defined attitudes once heard in Europe in the middle of the last century.

These campus initiatives were incubated in 2001 at the first Durban



DR. DORE GOLD IS President of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs and former Ambassador of Israel to the United Nations. He is a senior adviser to the Prime Minister of Israel. To find out about a screening of Crossing the Line readers can visit www.StepUpForIsrael.com/ctl/

Conference, proclaiming "no apartheid South Africa in the 20th century and no apartheid Israel in the 21st." This battle cry sparked the BDS movement calling for boycotts, divestment and sanctions to punish Israel, and it all evolved into an invective-loaded campaign that found a degree of favor on campuses coast to coast, not to mention among some labor unions, churches, media and cultural institutions. But it is based on a lie.

Typically, those hurling these charges against Israel hope that their audiences are ignorant of the facts. In apartheid South Africa, blacks were not allowed to use white hospitals, they could not attend white universities and they could not participate in the South African

(Please turn to page 8)

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TO BAN OR NOT TO BAN

DEBATING THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

By **RAFAEL MEDOFF**

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

Adolf Hitler's favorite Shakespearean drama is now at the center of an ironic tug of war in London, between a Jewish theater troupe that wants to perform it, and an anti-Israel group that wants to shut it down.

Wait, what?

There were no less than fifty productions of "The Merchant of Venice" in Nazi Germany during Hitler's first six years in power. Understandably, the fuhrer saw it as a powerful tool for advancing anti-semitism. With its portrayal of the cruel and wily Shylock, the Jewish money-lender who lusts for "a pound of [Christian] flesh," the play in some ways encourages the worst medieval anti-Jewish stereotypes.

Not everyone sees it that way, of course. Actor Yossi Gerber, who portrayed Shylock in an earlier Israeli production of the play, says that Merchant - with its famous Shylock monologue about Jews being human like everyone else - is "anti-antisemitic." Ilan Ronen, who will direct the new Habima version in London, says it "allows us to attack the hatred of Jews and fear of strangers."

As it happens, the opponents of the new production are upset not by the choice of "Merchant" but by the fact that the organizers of a London-based Shakespeare festival invited an Israeli troupe to participate. According to their web site, the protesters, known as Boycott from Within, re-

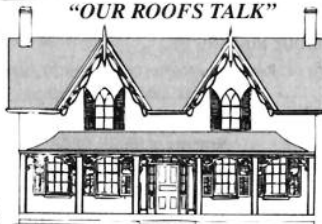
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By MIKE COHEN

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CHOOSING NON-VIOLENCE

PALESTINIANS ADOPT NON-VIOLENCE

By **ARIEH O'SULLIVAN, MEDIA LINE**

Sami Awad is wrapping up a day of training with Palestinian women leaders in Bethlehem, another step in the effort not only to empower women, but to extend the concept and practice of non-violent popular resistance.

"At the theoretical level," Awad says. "I would say that the idea of non-violence is becoming more accepted. The criticism we had is going down."

"These women in this workshop are taking a very big role in the non-violence movement," Awad tells The Media Line. "We are doing this by talking to people who were marginalized or felt they were marginalized to help give them a very strong voice."

The Bethlehem-based Holy Land Trust has become one of the most visible organizations promoting non-violent resistance as a Palestinian weapon.

"The misperception among Palestinians is that

we are a bunch of peaceniks; peace-loving people trying to get along with the other side," says Awad, executive director of the trust. "That is not what we are promoting. We believe that non-violence taken as a popular movement of resistance will be able to achieve the goals of the Palestinian people."

There is no doubt that the Palestinians have recognized the devastating toll on their society and political goals caused by the violence witnessed in the second Intifada from 2000 into 2005. Suicide bombings and attacks on Israeli civilians led to the Israeli army recapturing the West Bank in an iron-fisted crackdown that left more than 4,000 dead and more than 5,000 prisoners in Israeli jails along with colossal economic losses, territorial fragmentation and incalculable social suffering.

Now, a decade later,
(Please turn to page 12)

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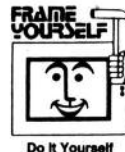
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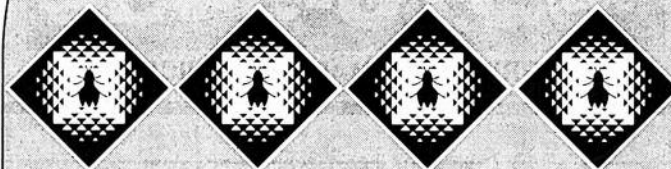
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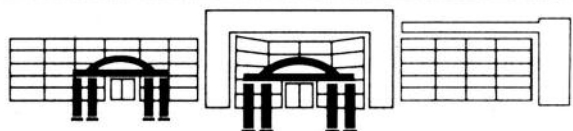
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HATRED ON CAMPUS

(Continued from page 4)

parliament. Visit Hadassah Hospital today, or any other health facility in Israel, and see Jewish and Arab doctors caring for Jewish and Arab patients. Witness for yourself at Hebrew University or any institution of higher learning as Jewish and Arab professors teach students of different backgrounds. Go to the Knesset, and observe the debates involving both Jewish and Arab parliamentarians.

Given this reality, Justice Richard Goldstone, a former judge on the South African Supreme Court wrote in the New York Times on October 31, 2011: "The charge that Israel is an apartheid state is a false and malicious one that precludes, rather than promotes, peace and harmony." Goldstone, it should be remembered, did not have a problem criticizing Israeli policies in the aftermath of its 2008-2009 military operation in the Gaza Strip.

But when it came to calling Israel an apartheid state like the old South Africa, with which he was intimately familiar, he firmly rejected the charge which was completely divorced from the reality of Modern Israel.

No nation has fought racism more consistently than the Jewish people, whether through the anti-apartheid activists in the South African Jewish community or through those American Jews who joined the civil rights movement and locked arms with Martin Luther King, Jr. The Jewish state was founded on the very same moral outlook, reflecting the Jewish value of Tikkun Olam, or repairing the world, which is deeply held across the Jewish religious spectrum. When Israeli medical teams rushed to international disaster zones in Turkey (1999), Kosovo (1999), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2008), and Haiti,



THE ABOVE PHOTO APPEARED IN THE NOV. 1, 1961 edition of *The Jewish Standard*. The caption read as follows: The dedication of the new Adas Israel Synagogue in Hamilton was attended by a number of distinguished guests. Above, left to right, are Rabbi Samuel Belkin, President of Yeshiva University, who was the guest speaker, Rabbi Morton Green, spiritual leader of the congregation and Canto Moshe Kushevsky, who chanted the services during the dedication week-end.

helping the afflicted regardless of their race or creed, they were driven by the very same core Jewish value.

Moreover, no group cherishes or champions freedom of speech more than the Jewish people. But, the systematic dissemination

of hate-based lies is not what freedom is about. This crosses the line. No one has a license to lie, manipulate or manufacture falsehoods. Make no mistake, the primary characteristics of Israel Apartheid Week programming are terrible, unjustified charges expressly aimed at demonizing Israel. Unsubstantiated allegations, constantly repeated, take a toll on American opinion, despite bedrock gut support for Israel which, thankfully, exists as a strong counter-force to this mass exercise in propaganda. Studies confirm that when accurate information about Israeli policies, society and values is provided, the false arguments are uniformly rejected.

Our most critical challenge is to educate the young and to begin this process during high school years or earlier--long before they arrive on college campuses. Our students feel confident and empowered when they know the facts and can challenge group-

think favoring Israel's isolation, dismantlement or destruction. We are duty-bound to engage students in creative, effective ways, through the media they best relate to: Facebook, Twitter and other Internet communication. We must knock down the posturing of the

IAW agitators, who could not care less about promoting peace or helping people in the Mideast. Encouraged by foreign governments that do NOT share Israel's commitment to democracy and human rights, they are the purveyors of hatred, akin
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HATRED ON CAMPUS

(Continued from preceding page)

to many others before them.

Here's the good news. Friends of Israel are not backing off. Important new initiatives are already working hard to roll back the hatred. We must spare no effort to protect full legal rights and freedom of speech for pro-Israel students on campus. Visual communications which have the power to speak the truth immediately and graphically are one super-critical tool required for this process.

Specifically, I conclude with a vitally important call to action, as easy to do as it is effective: I invite you to watch a film of monumental importance called "Crossing the Line".

This powerful 30-minute documentary exposes the growing anti-Israel sentiment taking root on college campuses across North America. Once you understand the problem, I hope you will join me in my quest to make sure all Jewish students are educated with the facts about Israel.

If modern Jewish history has taught our generation anything, it is that no threat to our existence should ever be ignored. Generations to come will judge us for what we do today to secure Israel's future. I urge you to view Crossing the Line today and to share it with the high school and university students in your family and in your community.



HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR AND PARTISAN VITKA Kovner (nee Kempner) has passed away at the age of 92. She was the widow of the poet and partisan Abba Kovner. During World War II, Vitka, a native of Kalish, Poland, was a member of the youth movement and active in the Vilna Jewish underground, where she joined the ranks of the partisans. "Vitka Kovner's story is one of struggle, courage and determination, not only to survive but to triumph, not only to save her own life, but to be with the Jewish people during its most difficult hours, even when that meant that her own life would continue to be threatened by the Nazis," said Avner Shalev, Chairman of Yad Vashem. Seen above in the back row, far right, is Vitka Kempner Kovner; back row, fourth from left, is Abba Kovner (photo courtesy Yad Vashem Archives)

TO BAN OR NOT TO BAN

(Continued from page 5)

gard Israel as "evil" and "an apartheid state," and use the Arabic word for 'catastrophe', Nakba, to characterize the creation of Israel in 1948.

It would not have been a complete shock, though, if they had supported the choice of "Merchant,"

when one notes how the Shylock slur has been used by some Arab denouncers of Israel. In a sermon last year, Muhammad Badi, leader of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood, cited Shylock as revealing "the true character" of Jews, while Hafez Barghouti, editor of the Palestinian Authority newspaper *Al-Hayat Al-Jedida*, has described Israel as "the Shylock of the lands and settlement" and Israeli banks as "Shylock-style banks that empty our pockets."

American Jewish defense organizations have long been concerned about the impact of the stereotypes in *The Merchant of Venice*, and for good reason. Shylock references abound in American literature going back to the 19th century and even seeped into the political arena. Just weeks after General Ulysses Grant expelled all Jewish merchants from Union-occupied areas of Tennessee, Mississippi, and Kentucky in 1862, Confederate Tennessee congressman Henry Foote declared that unless the Confederacy took similar steps, "the end of the war would probably find nearly all the property of the Confederacy in the hands of Jewish shylocks."

As early as 1912, the Central Conference of American (Reform) Rabbis urged the College Entrance Examination Board to remove Merchant from its lists of plays "to be intensively studied" as a prerequisite to college admission. The Anti-Defamation League in 1917 launched a campaign to ban the study of Merchant in American high schools on the grounds that "Shylock is erroneously pictured as typical of all Jews." Several hundred schools acceded to the ADL's request.

(Please turn to following page)

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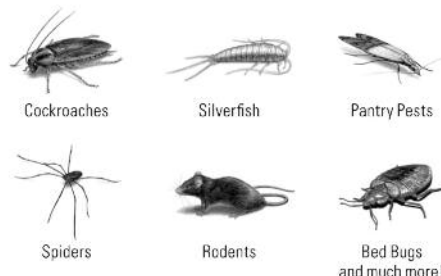
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TO BAN OR NOT TO BAN

(Continued from preceding page)

After World War II, perhaps reflecting the fact that American Jews now felt more secure in American society, the ADL changed its position. When parents in Brooklyn in 1950 tried to force the New York City Board of Education to drop "The Merchant of Venice" (and Oliver Twist, with its repulsive Jewish villain, Fagin) from high school curricula, the ADL likened the effort to "book-burning."

There is, however, a middle ground between banning a controversial play and presenting it, unvarnished, to audiences that might not appreciate the context or implications of what they are viewing. Perform the play, but have a historian speak before it begins, and have a panel discussion when it concludes. In classrooms, use The Merchant of Venice as a teachable moment, just as teachers confront issues of

racial stereotyping when their students read, for example, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.

Bernard Weinraub's hit off-Broadway play, "The Accomplices", stirred its share of controversy in 2007-2010, with its frank account of President Franklin Roosevelt's indifference to the Holocaust and the efforts by the Bergson Group activists to shake America's conscience. I was invited to take part in a post-performance "Talkback" on stage, along with the playwright, several of the actors, and Dr. Rebecca Kook, Peter Bergson's daughter. The discussion helped clarify historical and moral issues that the play raised.

A similar approach to "The Merchant of Venice," whether in London or anywhere else, might help make the best of an otherwise bad situation.

CHOOSING NON VIOLENCE

(Continued from page 7)

the Palestinians have slowly regained their hold on their cities, but their fight for statehood and the end of Israeli control has taken a more passive turn as they remain wary of another up-

prising. A poll done by the Palestinian Center for Public Opinion has found that 25.9% of Palestinians were in favor of holding huge demonstrations to overrun barriers and Israeli

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settlements; 15.2% supported violent actions; and a silent majority of 53.4% were in favor of peaceful negotiations. (5.5% answered, "I don't know.")

Watching popular revolts in Egypt and Tunisia and the civil wars in Libya, Yemen and Syria has had a limited impact on Palestinians, who have remained largely silent as they seek to reconcile their Hamas Islamists and Fatah nationalist camps and figure

direct talks with the Israelis had so far failed.

Yet grassroots activism today, such as the Holy Land Trust, is behind the successes it has seen, like the fight against the route of the Israeli security barrier through various West Bank villages. One of the factors that weighs



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heavily on the minds of Palestinian non-violence activists is the inherent negative effect of the involvement of international and even Israeli volunteers. Some argue their presence risks portraying this kind of resistance as something not emanating from within the Palestinian community, supported primarily from without.

"At one point, there were more internationals than Palestinians, but now we are at a different level of thinking. Also, many internationals and Israelis are coming, not to try and end the occupation, but to see what they can do to support us in ending the occupation," Awad tells The Media Line.

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CHOOSING NON-VIOLENCE

(Continued from preceding page)

Awad is blond and speaks excellent Americanized English after spending 10 years at universities in the United States. He tries to dismiss the perception that the non-violence movements have a distinctly Christian air because of its many sympathizers abroad and affiliations of many of its pro-

ponents. Only 2 per cent of the Palestinian population is Christian and none live in areas like Nablus, Jenin and Qalqilya, where there is growing involvement, he says.

What is preventing the non-violence movement from really taking off, they say, is the lack of charismatic leadership, vision, unity and strategy - a Palestinian Gandhi.

"I would still say that there is not a nonviolent movement in Palestine because we are still in a reactionary state. We have to be proactive. This is the challenge for us and that is what we are engaged in at the moment," Awad says. "We are not there yet."

During last September's initiative by President Mahmoud

Abbas to win recognition of statehood and full membership in the United Nations, mass nonviolent protests were organized in the Palestinian territories. Orchestrated by the Palestinian Popular Committees across the West Bank, they failed to achieve the hoped-for impact because Israelis neither saw nor cared about them. Ironically, the low profile that kept the demonstrations beneath the radar came largely because the Palestinian Authority did not want to provoke Israel to respond with military force.

At the moment, the Palestinians are mainly interested in the reconciliation negotiations being held between Hamas and Fatah, which is taking up a lot of

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their energy and less in the statehood efforts. Yet they are inspired by the Arab Spring.

"What we see in the Arab Spring is that this was the voice of the majority and while this is Western thinking, we see this now as part of our culture and I think this is our role model,"

think this is our role model," Awad said.

One of their main obstacles is the simple semantics of the term "non-violence." In Arabic it is "la-umph," or "no-violence." Some argue that it sounds as if it is negating something, like the right to fight back. For this reason, activists use the terms "civil resistance," "popular resistance," or "political defiance."

This is important, Awad explains, because in the Palestinian Arab culture, pacifism is seen as a sign of weakness.

Palestinians claim the Israeli army has developed a culture of hostility toward peace activists by defining them as the enemy and condoning violent behavior toward them by soldiers. Some involved in protests have said that organizers sometimes put a quota on the number of internationals and Israelis at demonstrations in order to make certain that the majority were Palestinians.

"To build a movement you need to show that it is a local movement and what has happened with non-violence is a dependence on internationals and Israelis; a sense that if they are not there then we can't do anything," Awad says. "Part of it is fear of not having this shield and part is a lack of self-confidence."

TRAVEL TALES

(Continued from page 6)

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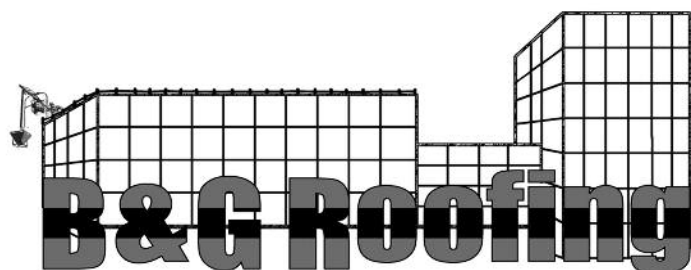
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JEWISH COMMUNITY: The Provo Jewish community in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) will celebrate Passover with a community Seder on April 18 and 19 in Providenciales. Rabbi Sholom Bluming, visiting the TCI recently noted in the Turks and Caicos *Sun Newspaper*: "Passover is

the Time of our Freedom and in every generation, the Passover season brings with it a new liberation. Its highlight is the Seder, with colorful, tasty symbolism – Matzah, Four Cups of Wine, Bitter Herbs – that brings to life the power and the wonder of the Exodus, as we discover anew the freedom that is ours to bring to the world. Passover is a time to celebrate freedom from our daily restraints and limitations. It's a time to share love and hope to each other."

JEWISH WEDDINGS: If you or your family are looking to have a Jewish wedding in TCI or somewhere else exotic, then you can contact Rabbi Finman at rabbi@jewishdestinationweddings.org. The rabbi informs me that he is very busy vis-à-vis the re-emergence of Jewish tourism to Greece and the creation of a kosher food industry there. There is also an emerging kosher destination events industry in Mexico and the Caribbean. He is based in Key West, Florida.

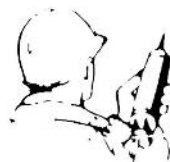
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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 3)

afternoon.

The Robert M. Beren Academy won its semi-final game but then despite a spirited comeback lost in the finals 46-42 to Abilene Christian.

Australian Sex Abuse Scandals

The impact of sexual abuse incidents in Australia's Orthodox Jewish community has spread to the United

States. Australian police are seeking the extradition of child molester David Kramer, currently in a US prison on other sex related charges, on suspicion of having abused children at a Chabad school in Melbourne during the 1990s. But Kramer is apparently not the only molester to end up in the United States after local community leaders failed to take the appropriate action. And he, like others, ended up as youth leader at a Orthodox synagogue in the United States.

Manny Waks, a former vice-president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, has accused Velvel Serebryanski, the son of a Chabad rabbi, and now living in New York, of molesting him at two Melbourne synagogues in the 1980s. Australian police are currently investigating more than a dozen Orthodox individuals suspected of child abuse in Australia who with the help of local authorities were able to flee to the United States.

The late Rabbi Yitzchok Groner, former head of the Yeshivah Centre, is being targeted for failing to act when various cases were brought to his attention. Rabbi Groner advised those accused to move elsewhere to avoid charges. Yaakov Wolf, an Australian now living in Los Angeles who says he was abused by a karate instructor at the Yeshiva, claims that "they take these people and think they've done their job by sending them off to another country that hasn't heard about them, and that's what they've done for years."

Nor was anything done about Morechai

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Yomtov, then a 16-year-old student, who abused a boy several years younger than he was. Yomtov fled to the US where years later he was

arrested in Los Angeles on charges of sexually abusing three boys at Cheder Menachem, a Chabad school.

How to respond to sexual abuse accusations continues to plague the Orthodox community. The ultra-Orthodox Agudath Israel of America still insists that unless one has direct knowledge of the abuse, the person must first consult a rabbi before going to local authorities. Chabad, on the other hand, has told followers that they can report suspected abuse to police without consulting their rabbinical authorities. Rabbi Ze'ev Smason of the Orthodox Nusach Hari B'nai Zion, where David Kramer ended up, urged Jews not to worry about sully-ing Judaism's name. "The ultimate chilul Hashem," says Smason, "is that these things are kept quiet and in the process, individuals bounce from community to community."

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