

THE JEWISH STANDARD

DECEMBER CHANUKAH 2012



(Cover story on page 2)

MICHAEL HAYMAN
PUBLISHER AND EDITOR

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1937-2000

Cover Story

Top photo shows Israelis in Kiryat Malachi heading for a bomb shelter following a siren. Bottom photo illustrates the damage to an apartment in the same community. Most Israelis believe that another war with Hamas is inevitable and the photos on the front cover are not the last we will see of the impact of rocket attacks on innocent civilians. Photos IGPO

Israelis Turn Attention to January 22nd Election

With the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas still holding, campaigning for the January 22nd election has resumed. The bi-partisan spirit that Israelis displayed during Operation Pillar of Defense has already given way to the vitriolic attacks that inevitably accompany political debate in Israel. Opposition Leader Shaul Mofaz wasted no time in criticizing the government for agreeing to a ceasefire long before the operation's goals had been met.

With a month left until voters cast their ballots, every public opinion poll indicates that Benjamin Netanyahu will retain power, although Likud's shift further right during its primaries might alienate more moderate voters. Still, the opposition is splintered, even more so now that Tzipi Livni has re-entered the political arena. Likud-Yisrael Beytenu should have little difficulty forming another coalition. And while we have been uneasy with some of the government's policies - we did, after all, express our hope that Kadima would win the 2009 election - we have always believed that Jews living in their comfortable Diaspora pews should permit Israelis to make the decisions upon which their lives depend. There is a simple solution for those in the Diaspora who complain about the foreign or domestic policies of an Israeli government. Sink your roots in Israeli soil and become a full partner in the political life of your new home.

But while we will accept the outcome, whatever it is, there is no moral imperative preventing us from expressing our wish list for the make-up of the next kneset. And we would hope that the Israeli electorate would take a look at Yair Lapid and his new party Yesh Atid. Yesh Atid may not have the experience necessary to govern. Its foreign policy initiatives lack clarity and consistency. But its domestic platform takes dead aim at those Israelis who believe that there are "Christian Jews" living among them and that "secular Jews are just like goyim". A party that believes that all streams of Judaism must be treated equally deserves representation in the kneset.

Readers may remember Yair Lapid's late father, Yosef 'Tommy' Lapid, former justice minister and leader of the secular, almost virulently anti clerical Shinui party. But unlike his father

Yair Lapid has sought out modern Orthodox rabbis who share his views on religious extremism. He counts among his friends rabbis Shai Piron, Benny Lau and Dov Lipman. Indeed, Piron is second on Yesh Atid's list. And in contrast to the home in which he grew up, when guests visit Lapid's Tel Aviv residence they will find kosher food on the table.

Yair Lapid may be more conciliatory than his father. He may want to avoid fratricidal conflicts. But Lapid intends to confront those who oppose his view that "religion should not be involved in politics". His party condemns heredi leaders who "don't let followers go to work and release themselves from poverty." It would fight any attempt to reintroduce the expired Tal Law that for too long "released people from their duties as citizens". Indeed, praying for the success of the IDF should be encouraged. Using it as an excuse to avoid active participation in the defence of Israel's citizens cannot be tolerated. The party would end the monopoly of the chief Rabbinate on marriage, scrap MK David Rotem's conversion bill and welcome women at the wall. Lapid reserves his harshest criticism for politicians such as United Torah Judaism's Yisrael Eichler who maintain that Reform Jews are "anti-Semites". For Lapid craven capitulation to religious extremists and the unilateral imposition of halachic law have no place in Israeli society. And to help ensure that smaller parties aren't able to cow the larger parties into submission and thereby paralyze policymaking, Yesh Atid would raise the threshold for kneset representation to 6%. While this is hardly the political overhaul Israel's electoral system needs, this measure would at least make it difficult for otherwise inconsequential political parties to exert an influence that their numerical strength does not justify.

Reform, Conservative and secular Israelis need a strong voice in the next kneset to continue their fight against the powers of inequity. They need to be certain that they have a place in the national religious constellation of the country. Polls vary but Yesh Atid is predicted to win up to ten MKs. That result, together with a rejuvenated Labor, would give a strong voice to those Israelis who resent being accused of avoiding the obligations necessary to be a good Jew.

ANITA SURMAN
Editor
General News Section

THE WORLD IN REVIEW

NEWS OF THE RECENT PAST IS REVIEWED

By NOAH FREEDMAN

Sister of Nazi Leader Hid Jews

Madeline Cornet, the sister of Leon Degrelle, leader of the Belgian Nazi Rexen movement instrumental in the deportation of Jews during the German occupation of Belgium, hid three Jews in her home near Brussels.

Hanna Nadel, 86, says that she, her niece and her mother was rescued by Cornet. The three had escaped deportation orders and were wandering aimlessly around the town of Sint-Genesius Rode. Cornet had a help wanted sign on her door. Cornet immediately hired them as cook and chambermaids.

Cornet apparently realized that the three women were Jewish but despite her family ties assured Nadel that they would survive. "I have", she told them, "broken with the fascism of my brother". When Nazi visitors came to the house the three Jews would hide in the basement. The gefilte fish Nadel's mother cooked, was given to her Nazi guests as "oriental fish".

Hanna Nadel, who was 16 at the time, eventually immigrated to Israel, Degrelle, who never apologized for his Nazi beliefs, managed to escape death after the war and died of natural causes in Spain in 1994.

Jewish Vote Propelled Obama

Barack Obama may not have received the 74% of the Jewish vote he garnered four years ago. But with 70% of Jews still supporting the Democrat, it appears that the massive

fund raising efforts on the part of Jewish Republicans, and the perceived unfriendly attitude of the White House towards Israel, failed to make much of a dent in Jewish support for the president.

"We were outspent by Jewish Republicans by over \$40 million and they have only four points and another four years in exile to show for it," said Steve Rabinowitz, a former Clinton White House press

aid who ran a Jewish media hub to help the president's re-election bid. "Some mazel" he noted sarcastically.

While it may be true that Jews in general are shifting slightly to the right the decline in Jewish vote corresponded with the national decline for Obama.

Jewish Pollster Bang On

Polling during election is a highly competitive business. The public may become tired of the daily polls released, with all their minute details, but the reputation of the polling companies is at stake and they take their numbers, and their methodology very seriously.

The winner in the presidential polling sweepstakes was Nate Silver, the man behind the popular FiveThirtyEight blog. Silver correctly predicted the results in 49 or the 50 states.

During the campaign Silver took a lot of heat from Conservative anchors for maintaining that Obama had a 90.9 per cent chance of being re-elected. But even Bret Baier of FoxNews praised his accuracy at the end. And firms like Gallop and Rasmussen again were way off the mark.

Some 90 polling firms conducted at least one poll during the final weeks of the campaign. There seems little doubt that Silver deserves what one comedian called him on Twitter: "The Emperor of Math".

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THE HONOURABLE JOE OLIVER, CANADA'S Minister of Natural Resources and Member of Parliament for Eglinton-Lawrence, visited Chabad House during a recent his visit to India. "Canada stands united with the friends and families of those who were slaughtered in the atrocity that targeted Chabad House in Mumbai and indirectly all the Jewish people." said Minister Oliver. "The resilience and strength of Chabad House is an inspiration in the face of unspeakable acts of barbaric cruelty." The coordinated attacks of November 26 - 29, 2008, included Chabad House and the Taj Mahal Palace. Over 166 people were killed in 11 shooting and bombing attacks, including two Canadians. Chabad House has been previously visited by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, the Honourable John Baird, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Honourable Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism.

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THE JEWISH VOTE

OBAMA AND THE JEWISH ELECTORATE

By MITCHELL BARD

Prior to the election partisans on both sides sparred over the question of whether President Obama was a friend or a threat to Israel. We now know how Jewish voters felt and the result was close to my prediction that Obama would win 70% of the vote. He fell short of that total with 69%. The result left partisans spinning the numbers to suit their arguments, but

the result did provide some unambiguous conclusions.

First, let's look at the raw figures. Obama's share of the Jewish vote was nine points below what it was in 2008. It is two points below the average for a Democratic candidate and the lowest percentage since Michael Dukakis in 1988. This was also the second lowest Jewish vote total for

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BOTH SIDES CLAIM WIN

ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS SEE OUTCOME DIFFERENTLY

By LINDA GRADSTEIN, MEDIA LINE

At the aptly named Holy Bagel on Jaffa Road in downtown Jerusalem the morning after a halt to the fighting in the Gaza Strip was announced, patrons were skeptical that the nascent ceasefire would end the fighting for a long time.

"It won't last – I don't believe in it at all," Gavriel Yacovich, 22, told The Media Line. "I'm not sure we should have undertaken a ground invasion but we should have kept fighting until we were sure that our citizens in the south can sleep quietly without rocket fire."

Yacovich, wearing a green knitted skullcap

showing he is a religiously observant Jew, had just returned to Jerusalem from the border with Gaza, where he had been called up as a reservist. He said many soldiers were frustrated that Israel did not continue the fighting for longer.

"Of course, it is up to the political side to decide, but there was a sense that we didn't do enough in Gaza," he said. "We should have finished the job."

His girlfriend, Shira Badici, 22, a university student disagreed. She said the most important thing is that residents can now sleep peacefully in their homes

without worrying about rocket fire.

"I think it's good because the people in the south were living in fear," she said. But looking at the other side of the coin, Shira added that, "At the same time, Hamas can just use this time to regroup and get stronger."

A poll reported on Channel Two television right after the cease-fire found that 70 percent of the residents of southern Israel opposed the cease-fire. Almost two-thirds of them thought it would not last long, and a quarter of those surveyed thought it would

(Please turn to page 11)



MIKE COLLE, M.P.P. EGLINTON-LAWRENCE, recently presented the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medals to Reuben Cipin and Monty Mazin. Cipin was the recipient of the Medal for his untiring work that finally persuaded the Ontario government to issue Photo Identity cards for the Visually Handicapped in Ontario. He is also past president of the Reuben Cipin Healthy Living Community, a Seniors Building unit built by Baycrest Properties. Monte Mazin was the recipient of the Medal for his community volunteer service through B'nai Brith Canada, Rotary International, Baycrest Hospital and the Apotex Nursing Home, The Reuben Cipin Healthy Living Community (where he lives) and the Salvation Army.

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FINDING A LIFELINE

BOYS TOWN JERUSALEM RECEIVES
RARE APPOINTMENT

Submitted by BOYS TOWN JERUSALEM

In a rare appointment, Israel's Ministry of Education has selected Boys Town Jerusalem to open its third "mainstreaming" class in the 2012/13 school year to serve special-needs students. The new 7th grade class will join the 10th and 12th grade classes now operating in the school. "Very few schools are called upon to conduct three mainstreaming classes," said Boys Town special education instructor Rabbi Mordechai Rosenfeld. "This is a tribute to Boys Town's hard-won accomplishments in granting special-needs students both life skills and independence."

Most of the mainstreaming students have high potential, but are

plagued by harmful behavioral problems deriving from such family traumas as divorce or dysfunction. According to Rabbi Rosenfeld, the students arrive in 7th grade lacking motivation, self-esteem or study habits, which gravely impair their ability to learn. "Our program targets both the emotional and academic realms, building the student's self-confidence and his knowledge base at once."

Rabbi Rosenfeld's colleague Moshe Fortgang has been a special education instructor on the Boys Town mainstreaming team for nearly a decade. "I specialize in teaching the students strategies to apply to

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RABBI MORDECHAI ROSENFELD SPENDS meaningful one on one time with special-needs students at Boys Town Jerusalem.

THE TOP TEN

THE TOP 10 ISRAEL AND JEWISH PUBLIC
RELATIONS PROFESSIONALS

BY RONN TOROSSIAN

Ronn Torossian founded 5WPR, a leading PR firm. He is a philanthropist who serves on the board of numerous non-profit organizations, and his book "For Immediate Release: Shape Minds, Build Brands, and Deliver Results with Game-Changing Public Relations" has been called "the best book ever on Israel public relations" by the Deputy Speaker of the Israel Knesset, Danny Danon. - The Editor

From Abba Eban to Menachem Begin, the Lubavitcher Rabbi to Theodore Herzl, there is a valiant history of great Israel and Jewish public relations advocates who have been of enormous help to the Jewish people and Israel. Today public relations is more important than ever before.

As Zionist leader Ze'ev Jabotinsky once said: "The work of the publicist is a legacy from the Prophets of Israel...Our passion is to speak, to proclaim—"Shouting" is what the same

audience calls it, 'we have no need for words, give us actions.' One thing that audience forgets is that speech is also an action – Perhaps the most authentic of all other actions. Cities have been destroyed, and more will fall, but what was shouted in the wilderness thousands of years ago is alive and still relevant. The world was created by the word. The world will be mended by the article."

Here then is The Top 10 Living Israel and Jewish Public Relations Professionals, (Please turn to page 14)

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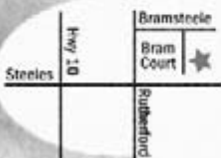
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STANDARDS FOR ISRAEL

By GILEAD INI

Gilead Ini is a senior research analyst at CAMERA (www.camera.org), a media monitoring organization working to promote accurate, balanced and complete reporting of the Arab-Israeli conflict. - The Editor

How should reporters describe a targeted attack against a terrorist? A sterile "drone strike"? A neutral "killing"? Or an "assassination," with that word's negative connotations?

At the Associated Press, the answer apparently depends on who is responsible for the strike.

The Israeli military killed Hamas's senior militant commander in the Gaza Strip, Ahmed al-Jabari, after days of cross border attacks from Gaza that included over 100 rockets launched toward Israeli towns and an attack on an Israeli jeep patrolling its side of the border.

Associated Press coverage of the incident referred to Israel's pinpoint air strike as an "assassination," described it as a resumption of "Israel's policy of assassinating Palestinian militant leaders," pointed out that "Israeli aircraft have previously assassinated the previous commander of Hamas' military wing," and noted that "Israeli officials had said that they were considering assassinating top Hamas officials following a wave of rocket fire."

One might think AP's style book calls for describing such attacks assassinations. But the wire service has a whole different standard when it comes to U.S. drone strikes that so frequently target terrorists in Yemen and Afghanistan.

According to the Nexus news database, there have been 2,907 AP news stories mentioning one of the two countries along with the word "drone" or "drones." Of those stories, 208 also mention "assassi-

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TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By MIKE COHEN

PORTLAND, MAINE- Three years after our first family vacation to Maine, we returned recently and once again chose Portland (www.portlandmaine.com) as our base. We really enjoyed the accommodations at the Embassy Suites last time, so that certainly helped with our decision when they had availability and the spacious two bedroom suite we had our eyes on. This was a significant upgrade for my family. The large living room in the middle was perfect for me to work late into the evening or early in the morning without disturbing anyone. Portland is Maine's business, financial and retail capital and the largest city in the state. Seascapes and cityscapes blend harmoniously in Portland, perched on a peninsula, jutting out.

WHERE TO STAY: The Embassy Suites

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(Please turn to page 19)

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JEWISH VOTE AND OBAMA

(Continued from page 4)

a winning Democratic candidate, besting only the 55% of Woodrow Wilson in 1916. Romney's 30% share of the Jewish vote was the highest since 1988 when George H.W. Bush steamrolled Dukakis. The GOP total was six points above their historical average.

Anyway you look at it, Obama's support in the Jewish community was, by historical standards, unimpressive. And it could have easily been worse. Had the Republicans nominated a candidate who was strong on Israel and moderate on social issues (maybe Romney the governor, but not Romney the candidate), it is likely Obama's total would have been even lower and the Republican's higher.

There is no great mystery about the reason for Obama's poor showing. While some Jews may have voted based on their concerns with the economy or other domestic issues, there is little doubt that the main reason for the vote was distrust of Obama's Middle East policy based primarily on his behavior during his first two years in office and fear that this would be the direction he would return to after the election.

Just over a year before the election, in September 2011, Obama's support among Jews fell precipitously to 54%, and 53% specifically said they disapproved of his handling of U.S.-Israel relations. But Obama's policy had already begun to change. For his last two years, he did not publicly criticize Israel, he expressed more anger at the Palestinians and stopped their UN efforts to gain statehood and declare settlements illegal. He also increased military cooperation with Israel and took every opportunity to assert his commitment to Israel.

This combined with the natural Jewish Democratic DNA had an impact and his poll numbers slowly climbed so that Gallup nearly hit the final vote on the head when it reported in September 2012 that 68% of Jews would vote for Obama and 29% for Romney.

Obama's improvement in the polls also coincided with the Republican primary campaign that forced Romney so far to the right that his moderate positions as governor were forgotten and he lost the opportunity for many Jewish votes. Still, Jewish Republicans are touting the fact that nearly one-third of

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JEWISH VOTE AND OBAMA

(Continued from page 4)

American Jews repudiated Obama's policies, particularly on Israel, and that this is another sign that the GOP is attracting more Jews to the party. Sadly, this is not the case. If they could not get a better turnout against a candidate with so much baggage on Israel, it is hard to imagine a Republican doing better against a Democrat whose attitude toward Israel is unambiguously supportive.

It's also worth noting that Israelis still are extremely distrustful of Obama and overwhelmingly preferred Romney. Overcoming this trust gap will be crucial if Obama hopes to succeed in working with Israel on not only the Iranian issue but the peace process.

Ultimately, the election wasn't close and the Jewish vote didn't play a significant role in the outcome (though many individual Jews were important Obama donors, fundraisers and advisers). The key to Obama's victory was his ability to attract the votes of women and minorities. Jewish Democrats may still have some soul-searching

to do over the alienation of so many Jewish voters, but in the end the only number that really counted on November 6 was 332, the number of electoral votes he won to be reelected.

Now the question will be which Jewish voters will be vindicated. Will Obama pursue policies toward Israel more like his first two years or the last two? He will be tested early on the most important issue of all, Iran, and how he handles the nuclear issue may not only affect his standing with Jews but the success of his entire presidency.

Mitchell Bard is the author of The Arab Lobby: The Invisible Alliance That Undermines America's Interests in the Middle East (HarperCollins) and Israel Matters (Behrman House).

BOTH SIDES

(Continued from page 5)

not hold at all. Most of them said they wanted to see an Israeli assault that would make it impossible for Hamas to fire rockets in the future.

In the streets of Gaza, Palestinians celebrated late into the night with fireworks and candy. Many said Hamas had grown stronger by being able to stand up to Israel.

"I am satisfied because it means no more children will be killed," Sami Abu Salem, a Palestinian journalist told The Media Line. "It has strengthened Hamas and weakened the Palestinian Authority (headed by the rival Fatah movement). Hamas has more popular support and more international legitimacy."

Abu Salem, who lives in the Jabalya refugee camp in northern Gaza, says he had moved his family from the three-story

(Please turn to following page)

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BOTH SIDES CLAIM VICTORY

(Continued from preceding page)

house they lived in to a small apartment out of the line of Israeli artillery fire while hostilities raged.

"It was so good to get back to my own bed after more than a week," he says.

Abu Salem argues that Hamas is coming out of this conflict stronger than ever, having stood up to the Israeli army – one of the strongest in the world – and proving it can hit Israel's major population center, the greater Tel Aviv area, and even reach to the outskirts of Jerusalem with its arsenal of rockets. For more than a week, he points out, life came to a complete standstill in southern Israel as more than a million Israelis huddled in bomb shelters. And a Grad rocket hit a building in Rishon Letzion near Tel Aviv, completely destroying the building, although there were no casualties.

At the same time, Israeli officials insist they

have achieved a new level of deterrence with Hamas, which saw that Israel is unwilling to accept continued rocket fire on southern Israel. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Hamas is now responsible for ensuring that the smaller terrorist groups, like Islamic Jihad, also stop firing at the Jewish state.

Yet, Israeli analysts say it is too early to know whether these goals have really been achieved.

"We need to see if it is sustainable or not – it's too soon to see whether Hamas is capable of restraining all of the other actors," Uzi Eilam, a security expert at the INSS think tank in Tel Aviv told The Media Line. "Time will show whether deterrence has been achieved or not. Deterrence is fuzzy but in a few weeks time we will be more knowledgeable about how much deterrence has been strengthened."

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FINDING A LIFELINE

(Continued from page 6)

all of their studies. Because they are generally quite impulsive, I teach them to carry out instructions, how to ask and answer questions, analyze and pass exams, and improve reading comprehension. It's a very long process, but through the years I have seen students gradually integrate the concepts to become more independent and capable."

Both instructors stress that Boys Town's very small mainstreaming classes (from eight to 14 students) and their inter-

disciplinary professional team of teachers, therapists, a psychologist and guidance counselor are major elements in the success of the program. Moreover, the students are highly involved in Boys Town's school life and have good friends among the entire student body. The mainstreaming students study in regular English and math classes, and also join in the school's sports teams, field trips, community service projects and other activities. "They have a very

(Please turn to following page)



DONALD M. CARR, A KEY MEMBER OF MILLER Thomson LLP's team was presented recently with a Zenith Award honouring legal professionals who have been change-agents for 40 or more years. For 60 years Donald Carr has served clients full-time in his legal practice. He is committed to pro bono work, and has long been involved in Jewish communal life. Mr. Carr is a Member, Board of Governors, University of Haifa, and a member of the International Council of Beth Hatefutsot, Tel Aviv, Israel.

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FINDING A LIFELINE

(Continued from preceding page)

busy and varied schedule," Rabbi Rosenfeld notes. "Like all Boys Town students, they study a dual curriculum of academic and Jewish studies. However their program is augmented by special training in organizational and social skills, as well as time management. Our professional team works closely to design an individual study program for each student, in full cooperation with the parents."

"We have seen a number of our graduates become outstanding soldiers in the Israeli army, hold down jobs and make great strides," says Moshe Fortgang. "Had these students remained in regular classes, they would have suffered terribly and been bound for failure. Boys Town's diligent efforts have given them a lifeline. With a record three mainstreaming

classes this year, we have our work cut out for us—and we have great hopes for the future of our very special students."

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TOP TEN

(Continued from page 7)

people who help Israel and the Jewish people's image and brand, and help foster a love of Israel and Judaism. The list is in no particular order.

Benjamin Netanyahu: The Israeli Prime Minister is the epitome of a strong, passionate leader with an unwavering commitment to the survival and strength of the Jewish state. He is well-spoken, speaks "American", and captivates audiences worldwide.

Alan Dershowitz: The famed Harvard law professor is a stalwart defender of Israel, who regularly stands front and center discussing the Jewish state. As he says in his book "The Case for Israel", there are "unfair attacks on the only democracy in the Middle East." The two fundamental viewpoints on Israel which

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TOP TEN

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he describes and discusses so clearly and passionately are perfectly right-on: The right of Israel to exist and thrive as a Jewish state, and the right of Israel to defend itself, to defend its citizens.

Chabad Emissaries Worldwide: It's said that one can find two items all over the world – Coca Cola and Chabad. The Shluchim (emissaries) of Chabad work hard to show the beauty and warmth and wisdom of Judaism worldwide. These people do so much for the people of Israel and the core of Judaism.

Dennis Miller: The comedian and political thinker is often in the mainstream media discussing the vast dangers facing Israel (and America) by the Muslim dominated Middle East. He is charismatic, clear and a cherished voice in the media on Israel and Western values.

Mark Regev: The Australian-born Israeli diplomat and media spokesman currently serves

as a spokesperson for the Prime Minister of Israel and an advisor on foreign press. He is simply great at his job of protecting and defending Israel. As an article in The Guardian said: "If the men from Mars ever wanted to manufacture a PR man, they would model their robot on Regev. No matter how formidable the interviewer, or how aggressive the questioning, he never buckles under pressure. His disarming Aussie accent and unfailing politeness – he calls interviewers 'Sir' and uses phrases like 'I beg to disagree' – almost lulls listeners into overlooking his aggression...As a PR performer he is horribly compelling."

Elie Wiesel: The Nobel Prize winner a Jewish hero, the living embodiment of survival. The man is a symbol of so much of Jewish history, and has been outspoken on so many important Jewish issues. He speaks and the world listens. As he says, "Jerusalem must remain the spiritual capital of the Jewish people", and "As a Jew I see my role as a melitz yosher, a defender of Israel: I defend even her mistakes... I must identify with whatever Israel does...", and as he has been known to tell critics of Israel, "The nations that kept silent during the Holocaust ought to keep silent now as well. The world that then condemned itself by its silence has lost all rights to judge Israel now."

Noa Tishby: Named "sexiest woman in Israel", today Tishby lives in LA and has credits in films and TV shows including NCIS, CSI: Miami, Las Vegas and Nip/Tuck. While her website boasts that her Israeli army service trained her to "wield any weapon like she means it and kick some

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TOP TEN

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serious ass", she is an active outspoken supporter of Israel. She's a vocal member of AIPAC and the Israeli Leadership Council, and co-founder of Act for Israel, whose website declares, "We believe that Israel has the right to live in peace and security, and that all people deserve the right to live in dignity. Our goal is to share this centrist position with a wide audience to correct misinformation, end demonization, stop delegitimization, and to give Israel a well-needed voice."

Bret Stephens: The foreign-affairs columnist of *The Wall Street Journal* and deputy editorial page editor, he formerly served as editor-in-chief of the *Jerusalem Post*. For the last many years he has written repeatedly on Israel's viewpoints in the world's media and made Israel's positions so clear.

Christian friends of Israel: From Pastor John Hagee to Jay Sekulow, the millions of Evangelical friends of Israel have been so vitally outspoken for Israel over the last many years. The Christians have stood by Israel, politically, in the media, and financially and their Public Relations support is vital for Israel.

Noah Pollak: He's a rising star, an American political writer who writes regularly in mainstream media, including *Commentary* and was formally an assistant editor of the *Middle East Quarterly*. He previously worked for *Azure Magazine*, and is well spoken on Israel.

Honorable mentions: Broadcasters Mike Huckabee & Glenn Beck, Dr. Mordechai Kedar (Israeli scholar from Bar-Ilan University), Rabbi Avi Weiss, Ido Aharoni (Diplomat & creator of "Brand Israel" concept),

David Saranga (A brilliant Israeli diplomat, former Consul for Media of Israel in the US, whom *The Jewish Chronicle* described as "The man whose campaigns are rebranding Israel"), and Dan Gillerman (Israel's Longtime Representative at the UN).

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AP'S DOUBLE STANDARD

(Continued from page 8)

nation" or some derivative of that word. But only one of the 208 stories referred to an American drone operation as an attempted "assassination." (A May 2003 article stated, "The U.S. government last year declared Hekmatyar a terrorist, and in May 2002 a CIA drone tried to assassinate him near Kabul, but missed and killed some of his followers.") In the 9 years that followed, during which U.S. targeted killings increased dramatically, not a single AP article described American drone attacks as assassinations in the voice of the reporter.

Most of the 208 articles used the word "assassination" in describing attacks by al Qaida or other killings by anti-American insurgents. And another few make mention of Israel's "assassination" of Hezbollah terror leader Imad Mughniyeh and Hamas leader Ahmed Yassin.

But notwithstanding the one exception, the Associated Press is extremely cautious measured when dealing with American strikes, using the loaded term "assassination" only when paraphrasing or quot-

ing critics of the U.S. practice. A November 2010 story, for example, asserted that the drone strikes to kill high-ranking militants is rarely officially acknowledged by Washington. The program, which U.S. officials say has killed hundreds of insurgents, has been condemned by critics who say it may constitute illegal assassinations and violate international law.

Other stories focused on the debate over how to describe the drone strikes, but refrained from weighing in on one side or the other.

A September 2011 piece referred to U.S. officials who "point out that assassinations are outlawed by the U.S., which condones drone strikes against terrorists as acts of war against combatants."

In a December 2002, article about an American list of terror leaders whom the U.S. military potentially kill, the AP reporter cited American officials who noted that the list "did not abolish a long-standing presidential executive order banning assassinations, as the terrorists are defined as 'enemy combatants and

' and thus legal targets."

Likewise, a December 2005 story quoted an American official stating that if the U.S. was involved in the killing of a particular al Qaida leader, "This would not be an

assassination." He continued, "This is not law enforcement, this is not assassination. This is going against the leadership of an organization that has declared war on the United

(Please turn to page 19)

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AP'S DOUBLE STANDARD*(Continued from page 17)*

States."

And an April 2010 story directly explored the

debate over how such killings should be regarded. The piece, entitled "Legal Questions Raised Over CIA Drone Strikes," begins by asking: "Is the CIA's secret program of drone strikes against terrorists in Pakistan and Yemen a case of illegal assassinations or legitimate self defense?" Although the reporter noted that "four law professors offered conflicting views," she avoided backing any particular view.

So while the AP has recently asked whether the CIA's counter-terror drone program involves assassinations or legitimate killings, it leaves it to readers to decide. When it comes Israel's program, apparently there is no such debate. The wire service shoots first, and does not ask questions later.

TRAVEL TALES*(Continued from preceding page)*

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TRAVEL TALES

(Continued from preceding page)

Out of town dinners are often hosted here

DINING: Greater Portland offers a robust selection of restaurants, specialty foods and brew-pubs, totalling over 200 dining choices.

We were directed towards David's Restaurant (www.davidsrestaurant.com), located at 22 Monument Square in the Arts District. Owner David Turin comes from a family of Russian Jews. He is an award winning chef and artist in residence. David's has a pretty extensive menu, from an array of soups, salads and appetizers to meat, seafood and pasta dishes. If you are looking for an interesting dining experience, then make a reservation at David's at 207- 773-4340.

OLD ORCHARD: While Old Orchard's seven-mile long stretch of wide sandy beach is understandably the major attraction, there is a full range of other things available to see and do in and around the area.

Palace Playland (www.palaceplayland.com) is New England's only beachfront amusement park. It features a giant arcade beautiful carousel, a

kiddieland, a new ferris wheel and the galaxi coaster. It is open Memorial Day to Labor Day and features fireworks every Thursday night by the Pier. What's great about this place is that you do not have to pay for admission, just for the rides. This can be done by buying tickets or a wrist band for unlimited access. There is no particular entrance or exit, so you can take a break anytime you want and explore the Old Orchard beach strip of shops and restaurants or take a walk on the Pier. The park is owned by Jewish businessman Joel Golder. His son Paul serves as executive vice-president and his brother Fred handles business affairs. Paul's wife Silvia works with him at the park. So do his mom Harriet, sister Stacey and Fred's wife Caron. His Aunt Carole operates two food stands as a tenant in the park. Her son, Adam, works with her, with his wife Thea. This year the park has added two brand new rides, Riptide and an upgraded kiddie Frog Hopper. Another new addition for the kids is called Dizzy Dragon. The new

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ferris wheel offers a spectacular light show. Old Orchard was an easy 25 minute drive from our hotel. Palace Playland is the perfect place to spend the evening with family and friends. In the summer you are sure to hear a lot of French being spoken as Quebecers travel to this part of Maine in droves.

JEWISH CONNECTION: Maine is home to about 11,000 Jews, almost 8,300 of whom reside in Portland. The Portland area is home to seven synagogues: the orthodox Shaarey Tphiloh, Chabad Lubavitch of Maine Etz

Chaim (combined orthodox and reform), the conservative Temple Beth El, the reform Congregation Bet Ha'am and Congregation Beth Israel in Old Orchard and another synagogue called Etz Chaim in nearby Biddleford. As I walked the strip in Old Orchard and went into some of the shops, the Hebrew language was in the air. Many Israelis, it turns out, spend the summers here.

Mike Cohen's email address is info@mikecohen.ca. Follow his travels at www.sandboxworld.com/travel and on Twitter @mikecohencl.

WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 3)

Airport Security "Nabs" El Al Pilot

An El Al pilot was heading to his flight out of JFK a few weeks ago. In his bag was a retractable baton. Security at Terminal 4 detained the pilot. He was arrested by Port Authority police and charged with criminal possession of a weapon.

In a statement El Al said that "the first officer was detained following a routine security check after an item relating to martial arts was found in his luggage, against procedure. He

was questioned and released".

The pilot is awaiting arraignment by the Queens Criminal Court.

Jewish Pot Activist Wins His Fight

Mason Tvert was the face of the campaign to legalize marijuana in Colorado. Tvert grew up in a Jewish home in Scottsdale, Arizona. He began his fight while in college at the University of Richmond.

Tvert's long battle
(Please turn to following page)

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WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from preceding page)

culminated in victory on November 6th. The measure passed permits residents over 21 to possess up

to an ounce of marijuana and to grow up to six plants for recreational use. "We have forced a major international, let alone national



NAOMI TEPLITSKY OF Toronto, has been chosen to join the 2012-2013 cohort of Yeshiva University's Presidential Fellowship in University and Community Leadership, a highly competitive program which selects top graduates to spend 11 months working in departments across the institution. "I wanted to be a Fellow because I like to be involved in my community, and YU has been my community for the past few years," said Teplitsky, who studied advertising at Stern College for Women. As a Fellow in the Office of Communications and Public Affairs, she will be putting that background to use, in addition to honing her graphic design, writing and event-planning skills.

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discussion on this issue", Tvert said. "And I truly believe the more people talk about this issue amongst each other, the quicker we're going to see broader changes in how our country and our state and our world treat marijuana", added the executive director of Safer Alternative for Enjoyable Recreation, or SAFER.

Tvert is well-known for his sense of humour. Some years ago he challenged the mayor of Denver and the heirs to the Coors brewing family to a dual. Tvert would smoke pot while the other two drank beer. They would see who ended up dead first. But neither the mayor nor the heirs decided the contest was worth it.

Lawsuit Against Arab Bank Can Proceed

The following item was submitted by Shurat HaDin, the Israel Law Center. - the Editor

A lawsuit against a Lebanese bank accused of funneling money to the Islamist group Hezbollah through a local bank account can be heard in New York, the state's top court has ruled.

The federal suit was brought by dozens of victims of two 2006 rocket attacks in northern Israel that were allegedly perpetrated by Hezbollah. The plaintiffs claim that Beirut-based Lebanese Canadian Bank used an account with American Express in New York to wire millions of dollars to the group.

In a unanimous decision, the Court of Appeals found that because the claims arose from an alleged transaction that took place in New York, courts in the state may hear the case.

The plaintiffs' allegations "show purposeful availment of New York's dependable and transparent banking system, the dollar as a stable and fungible currency, and the predictable jurisdictional and commercial law of New York and the United States," Judge Susan Read wrote for the court.

The decision sent the case back to federal court, where it was initiated.

The victims of the attacks and their relatives filed suit against the Lebanese bank in 2008,

claiming it knew the transfers were being used to fund terrorist plots. They also sued American Express for

negligence.

U.S. District Judge George Daniels in 2010
(Please turn to following page)

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dismissed the case against both banks, finding that the alleged use of the American Express account to wire funds was incidental to the attacks.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit in March reinstated the case against the Lebanese bank and asked the Court of Appeals to weigh in on whether New York courts had jurisdiction.

The federal court asked whether the Lebanese bank's alleged wire transactions constituted a "transaction of business" under state law, and whether the plaintiffs' claim arose from them. The Court of Appeals answered both questions in the affirmative.

The court found that New York courts have jurisdiction over the case because the alleged wires happened repeatedly, and the bank was accused of knowingly funding terrorism.

The Lebanese bank "did not (allegedly) route a transfer for a terrorist group once or twice by mistake," Read wrote. "Rather, plaintiffs allege that LCB deliberately used a New York account again and again to effect its support of (Hezbollah) and allegedly shared terrorist goals."

Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman and Judges Carmen Ciparick, Victoria Graffeo, Eugene Pigott and Robert Smith concurred.

The lawsuit was spearheaded by the Shurat HaDin Israel Law Center in Tel Aviv. In a statement the founder of the center, Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, said "every bank around the world, whether they have branches in New York or not, now knows that if they move terror money through New York they can be (hailed) into an American court and held liable by the terror victims."

The case is Yaskov
(Please turn to following page)

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WORLD IN REVIEW*(Continued from preceding page)*

Licci v. Lebanese Canadian Bank, New York State Court of Appeals No. 183.

Mourning for a Beloved Pet

Anyone who has had a dog or a cat knows the pain felt when the animal dies a natural death or, even worse, has to be put down to alleviate its suffering. An increasing number of Jews are searching for a Jewish roadmap for guidelines on how to mourn the loss of a pet. They are getting confusing and often contradictory advice.

Ari Enkin, an Orthodox rabbi, maintains that it is not appropriate to equate the loss of an animal with that of a person. The Jewish response to death, "Blessed is the True Judge", is reserved for the death of a human being, Enkin says. He acknowledges that some halachic authorities accept the prayer but only if the animal is a source of income as it often was in earlier times.

Reform and Conservative rabbis seem to be somewhat more sympathetic to those Jews who want to mourn their pet in a distinctly Jewish way.

Jeff Goldwaser, a Reform rabbi, understands the bonds that exist between a pet owner and his "child". He argues that while cremation is prohibited in Jewish law, it does not apply to animals. He acknowledges that some Orthodox authorities would argue that the remains of a pet are a source of ritual impurity and that cremation must be avoided, Goldwaser maintains, however, that there is no absolute prohibition on cremation.

Conservative rabbi Barry Dov Lerner suggests that there are appropriate texts that a Rabbi, Cantor or even a Jewish funeral director can provide for comfort. He does say, however, that reciting kaddish and "real" prayers could be regarded as desecrating Jewish worship.

Jewish Food is "In" In Berlin, Germany

Before the war Mitte, the central and trendy district of Berlin, was home to many of the city's 160,000 Jews. There were synagogues, community centres and day schools. But Jewish life came to an abrupt halt in the early

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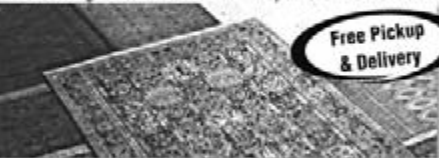
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1940's. Today, however, Jewish cuisine and culture has been revived. In May a Jewish delicatessen, Mogg& Melzer, opened in Mitte. So, too, has a kosher restaurant serving Sabbath dinners. Cynthia Barconi, who moved from New York to Berlin in 1985 after graduating from NYU, opened Barconi's, where customers can get New York style bagels and cheese-cake. A few blocks from Barconi's Ehud "Udi" Cohen runs Ruben Carla, where pastrami sandwiches are a popular lunch for his customers, Jewish and non-Jewish. At night, Carla modifies his menu and serves tagliata, the Italian style roast beef. Same idea at his second eatery, the popular Luigi Zuckermann: here Jewish deli meats with Italian cold cuts await enthusiastic patrons.

"Big Bang" Actress Splits With Husband

Mayim Bialik, known today for her role as Amy Farrah Fowler on the TV hit sitcom, "The Big Bang Theory" is parting ways with her husband of nine years, Michael Stone. The Emmy nominated actress told on-line readers that "relationships are complicated no matter what style of parenting you choose". Bialik was referring to her recently released book, *Beyond the Sling*, on the philosophy of parenting which encourages constant physical contact with children in order to form close bonds in later life. The couple has two young sons.

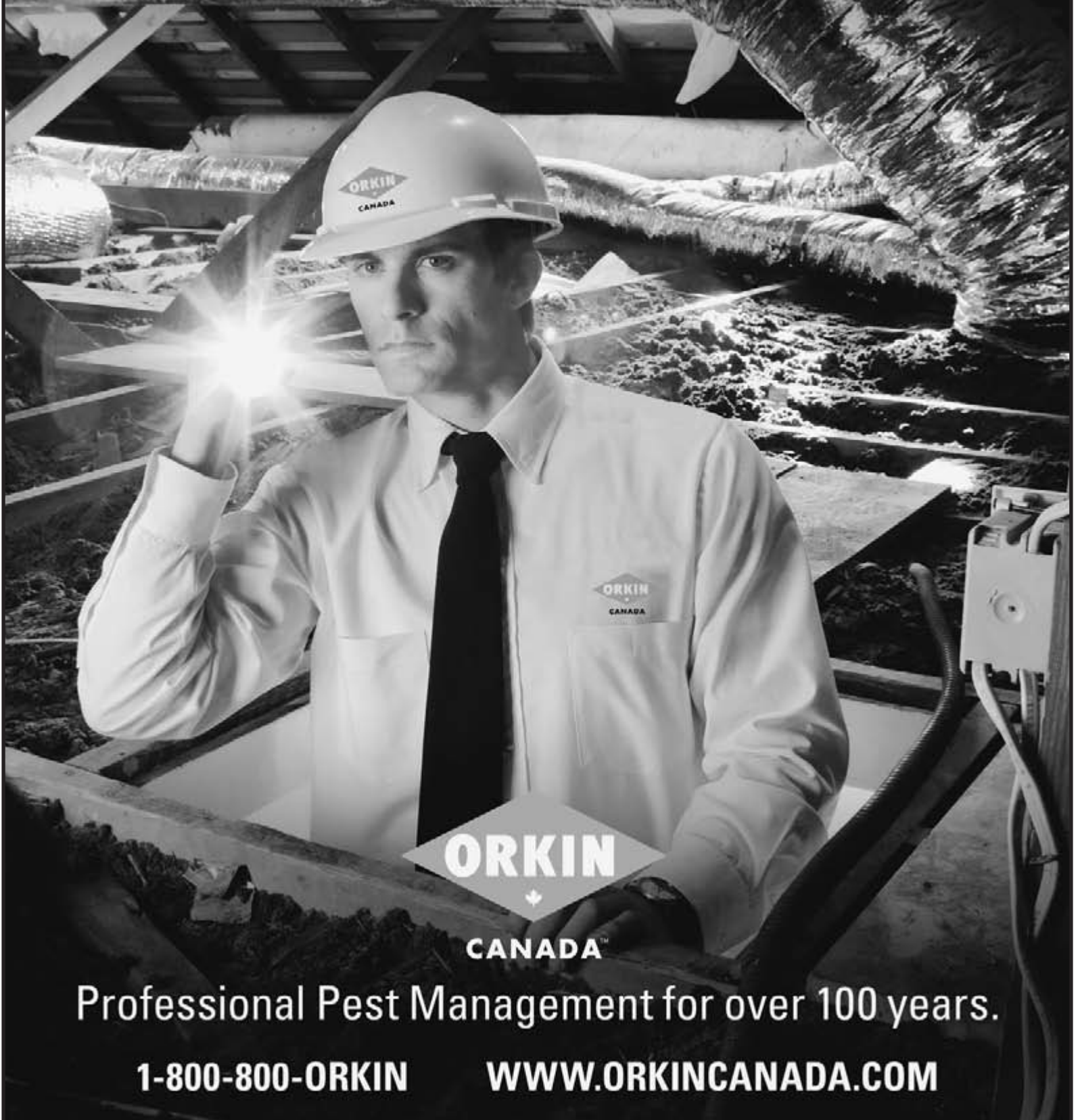
Mayim Bialik holds a Ph.D. in Neuroscience and is the current spokesperson for the Holistic Moms Network.



THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF MONTREAL received an early Chanukah gift wrapped up nicely at City Hall. The city has its first Jewish mayor. Michael Applebaum was sworn into office in mid November, succeeding Gérald Tremblay, who resigned amid a corruption scandal which has rocked the province. Applebaum, 49, is not only the city's first Jewish mayor; he also becomes the first anglophone to hold the post in more than a century. He will remain in the top job until the November 2013 general elections. He will not seek election at the next municipal vote.

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