JUNE 30, 2013

CELEBRATING YOM HAATZMAUT IN ISRAEL - PHOTO IGPO
The Jewish Standard -
84 Years and Counting

In 1971, shortly after the Canadian Jewish News was sold by founder M. J. Nuremberger to Ray Wolfe, Murray Koffler and Al Latner, the editor of The Jewish Standard made it clear that he had no quarrel with a competitor entering the Anglo-Jewish publishing field. What he did object to was the purchase by the United Jewish Welfare Fund of 15,000 subscriptions to the CJN for which it was rumoured to have paid some $850,000. On the fifth anniversary of the CJN in 1976 our editor wrote that the “siphoning off of funds that have been contributed for charity, for Jewish educational institutions and for Israel, is, we believe, immoral.” Joining The Jewish Standard in that sometimes nasty fight was M. J. Nuremberger, by then the publisher of the fledgling independent Jewish Times.

Over the decades we mellowed somewhat in our attitude towards the CJN, although never ceasing to believe that it was more of a lapdog than a watchdog of the Jewish establishment. The current editor of The Jewish Standard and Mordechai Ben-Dat have long had a cordial relationship and when Julius Hayman passed away in 2000 the CJN ran a lengthy obituary. And so we were saddened by the announcement of the death of the CJN and hope those trying to save the paper in some form are successful. Every good publication dealing with matters of Jewish interest increases the awareness of the Jewish community of its problems, its position in the world generally and, as well, of its very considerable achievements. There are altogether too few Anglo-Jewish publications still in existence for us to display any sense of schadenfreude at the CJN’s financial woes.

In 1972, with the seemingly inexhaustible resources behind the CJN, friends of the 43-year-old Jewish Standard “made no bones” about their concern for its survival. Many feared that The JS would follow other Jewish newspapers, Yiddish and English, into the dustbin of history. But I remember asking my father whether he was “worried” that the CJN would force him out of business. “Not a chance”, was his confident reply. Well, here we are, some 40 years later, very much a part of what’s left of the Anglo-Jewish publishing field. We may not be a “household name”. Yes, in all honesty, there are people who have never heard of The Jewish Standard. But once we give them a copy most soon realize what they’ve been missing. We do, moreover, have a loyal base of paying subscribers who, based on the feedback we receive, eagerly await their monthly copy.

We don’t have 50 people working for us. We subscribe to various wire services and news gathering organizations. We pay a modest amount for good freelance articles. Readers will also notice that most of our advertisers are non-Jewish. They see our publication as a means of tapping into the Jewish market. It’s a sales pitch we use unapologetically and, as our bottom line indicates, we must be doing something right. Of course we’ve had to adapt to the times and so now all are issues are on our relatively new website. It’s something we could do for a very modest investment. The editor was once asked how we could survive by putting out a 12 page issue. His response was clear and unequivocal: we survive because we put out a twelve page issue. Our longevity has never been determined by the number of laudatory letters we can print from the prime minister of the day.

Will the print media become extinct in a few years as so many pundits predict? Even we can’t say for absolute certainty. But what we do know for sure is that The Jewish Standard will remain a source of information for those genuinely interested in Jewish life. We will continue to offer our readers a good publication, an independent publication and a responsible publication. And we will, if the opportunity presents itself, pursue advertisers who have been freed from their obligations to the CJN.

The current editor of The Jewish Standard, now 69, has no plans to retire, although he has little desire to preempt the Anglo-Jewish publishing field in Eastern Canada. Ideally he would like to follow in the footsteps of his father and die at his desk at 92 working on the latest issue. But when that inevitable day comes when he is no longer able to continue, there is unlikely to be a buyer with deep enough pockets willing to tempt the fates of the Anglo-Jewish publishing field. It is entirely possible that this publisher and editor will be forced into retirement just in time. But for now, there need be no fears for our future.

The Jewish Standard is published monthly in Toronto and Montreal by Michael Hayman, B.A., M.A., Editor and Publisher. 20 McBride Lane, Toronto, Ontario M2N 7B9. (416) 937-2696 Printed and bound in Toronto, Canada by Regal Press Canada. Publication Mail Registration Number 40715546 Please send all address changes to: thejewishstandard@sympatico.ca We cannot guarantee that voice mail changes will be made.
Glen Beck Should Know Better

Talk show host Glen Beck has angered American Jews by depicting New York mayor Michael Bloomberg giving the Nazi salute. He did so in the context of describing what he argues sarcastically will be New York’s new tourism slogan: “You will love New York.” Beck was the keynote speaker at the National Rifle Association’s annual convention a few weeks ago. “While he doesn’t say it,” said Abraham Foxman, the national director of the Anti-Defamation League, “it seems Glen Beck is implying through an image of Mayor Bloomberg in an apparent Nazi salute that the mayor’s policies on gun ownership and other issues are turning New York city into a Nazi-like state.”

This is not the first time Beck has angered American Jewry with inappropriate analogies to the Holocaust. He has used Nazi imagery to show his displeasure with a “mean” flight attendant; to describe Al Gore, President Obama, and The Peace Corps. He has, according to John Daly, “Nazi Tourette’s.” In yet another one of Beck’s ridiculous analogies, he once compared Reform Judaism to radical Islam.

Shakespeare and The Boycott Movement

Emma Thompson, Mike Leigh, Jonathan Miller, Alexei Sayle and Harry Potter actress Miriam Margolyes are among 50 actors and directors who called on Shakespeare’s Globe Theater to rescind its invitation to Israel’s national theatre company Habima to perform the Merchant Of Venice at its Globe to Globe Festival. According to these Middle East “experts” Habima has a “shameful record of involvement with illegal Israeli settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory.” The letter, published as might be expected in The Guardian, concluded that the prestigious Globe Theatre should not become “complicit with human rights violations and the illegal colonization of occupied land.”

The protest, however, did not stop Habima from performing the play during the festival held last month. Protesters who unfurled banners of Palestinian flags were evicted from the theatre, with one man being arrested. There were airport-style metal detectors in the foyer and bags were searched at the entrance to the theatre.

The Globe theatre made it clear that the international festival was a “celebration of languages and not...a celebration of nations and states”. It added that “a people meeting and talking and exchanging views is preferable to isolation and silence.”

New Controversy for Reform Judaism

Leaders of Reform Judaism are grappling with a problem which on the surface seems ridiculous. The question is whether an applicant to a reform rabbinic school can be married to a non-Jew.

At present the Hebrew Union College, Reform Judaism’s central rabbinical school, will not admit any applicant who is “engaged, married or partnered/committed to a person not Jewish by birth or conversion.” While most Reform leaders believe that this is the correct policy, that even discussing the question “offers further evidence that the Reform Movement is losing its religious focus” at least some rabbinical students argue that the Hebrew Union policy “is antithetical to our Movement’s essential focus on welcoming and outreach”.

David Miliband Leaves British Politics

David Miliband, brother of British Labour Leader Ed Miliband, and former British foreign minister, is leaving politics to become NGO for the New York based International Rescue Committee.

Miliband lists his religion as “atheist” and has devoted his career to secular rather than Jewish causes; but he does take great pride in his Jewish roots. And that should allow him to fit right in to his new role. The IRC, which responds to humanitarian crises around the globe, has had many Jews involved in shaping its role, among them Albert Einstein, Leo Chelne and Reynold Levy, Elie Wiesel, Randi Weingarten and Jay Mazur on its board. Like Miliband, the organization defines itself as “non sectarian” but its Jewish values remain at the forefront. The IRC’s choice of its first non-American president indicates a shift toward international sponsorship, as increasingly funds come in from overseas.

For David Miliband the move marks the end to a stellar political career that came to an sudden halt when he lost the leadership of the Labour party to his brother.
We Extend Best Wishes to the STATE OF ISRAEL on its 65th Anniversary
May the year ahead bring peace and prosperity to all in the Middle East

We Wish to Extend Best Wishes to the Jewish Community and to the STATE OF ISRAEL
On the occasion of its 65th anniversary.
May the year ahead bring peace and security to all in the Middle East.
We thank our loyal customers and are always pleased to welcome New.

THE HATTER
(Since 1936)

For Hats and Caps
also Cleaning & Blocking
1794 Avenue Rd.
416 783-8233
Please visit www.thehattter.ca

• Borsalino • Stetson • Women’s dress hats • Andrea
• Biltmore • Puerto Fino • Facinators • Parkhurst

MILLIONAIRE AT 19
DESPITE WEALTH ISRAELI TEEN STILL MODEST

By LINDA GRADSTEIN, MEDIA LINE

It started around the time of his bar-mitzva at age 13, when Tomer Hen decided it was time to open his first business. “I wanted to be independent and not take money from my parents,” Hen told The Media Line. “I was too young to get a job so I started an online business. First, I started selling stuff from my room on Ebay; then I started buying Dead Sea products and Israeli army T-shirts. Soon it became larger than I expected and I was making $200 a month at 14-years old.”

Today, at 19, Hen is a millionaire and owns three homes – one in Dallas, Texas; one in Tel Aviv; and one in the Israeli (Please turn to page 8)
TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By MIKE COHEN

ISRAELI TOURISM: Hats off to the Israeli Government Tourism Office of Canada (www.goisrael.ca), which held receptions in Toronto and Montreal recently as part of a promotional program with local travel agents and media. Based in Toronto, the Tourism Office always puts on a terrific presentation. Ami Allon, the recently appointed head of Israeli Tourism in Canada, is most charming. He and his colleagues from national airline El Al Airlines and the country’s biggest hotel chain Isrotel (www.isrotel.com) were so convincing I began pondering a trip to the Jewish State. I have been there seven times, but my last trip was almost 20 years ago. El Al (http://www.elal.co.il) now flies to Eilat (this translates into absolute paradise) (Please turn to page 14)

We Extend Best Wishes to Our Jewish Friends and Customers. We are always pleased to serve you.

Setting the standard since 1960

- I.S.A. Certified Arborists
- Tree & stump removal
- Tree & shrub planting
- Fertilization & aeration of trees & shrubs
- Environmentally Friendly Insect & disease control programs
- Year round corrective pruning of trees, shrubs & hedges by trained certified arborists

FULLY INSURED • SENIORS DISCOUNTS

905 888-1166
www.vandykestreetcare.com
BUILDING BOOM

JEWS HAVE LONG PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT

By MARVIN SELICSON

A “home of one’s own” is, for most people, the climax of their personal ambition and the symbol of their personal security in an often uncertain world. How much more important a symbol of “belongingness” it must be to a group which, over the centuries has found so little in its environment to give it a sense of security and a feeling of genuine integration. It might appear to be an anomaly that an ethnic group which was, for centuries, discouraged from owning real property should in our country and in our time become a community of homeowners.

But providing a stimulus for construction by adding to the demand for housing is only one factor in the contribution which the Jewish community has made to the growth and development of the construction industry and building trades. As builders, building contractors, engineers, architects and investors, Jews throughout Metropolitan Toronto are playing a notable part in the phenomenal physical expansion which has marked Toronto over the past few decades.

Jewish participation in commerce and manufacturing, in addition to housing, constitutes an important reason for the rapid tempo of construction throughout the GTA. The modernization of stores has been one of the features of urban life and virtually every Canadian city has been transformed by the erection of beautiful new structures. Factories, too, have been modernized and expanded, with new construction not only adding to the capacity of the nation to produce but making conditions of employment more conducive to health and happiness.

While the individual Jewish demand for facilities which can only be met by the construction industry is an important factor in the Canadian economy, it is in the erection of communal institutions that the Jewish community derives its greatest satisfaction. The past few decades have signalled the coming of age of Jewish communities throughout Canada. New Jewish schools, synagogues, community centres and youth centres have been built, in order to enable the Jewish communities to preserve and per-

(Please turn to page 8)
When the jihadist organization Jabhat al-Nusra announced it was joining Al-Qa'ida, Syrians in rebel-held territories cringed. "Now everyone will think our revolution is nothing but a jihadist power grab," complained 28-year-old Muhammad Ansari to The Media Line. "Who will support us now?"

With the Syrian revolution faltering and secular rebel groups disintegrating amidst infighting and civilian abuses, it is the jihadists who have benefited most. But the attention they have received from foreigners has angered Syrians who believe these groups have hijacked a secular revolution. Like many in this town, Ansari fought to dislodge regime troops hunkering down in the city center last year. Since then the municipality has endured months of punishing airstrikes by regime fighter jets and long-range shelling. For most of the ordeal, it was homegrown rebels who were directing the fight. But recently, Jabhat al-Nusra fighters have poured into the town, hoping to turn it into a base. Ma'arat Numan connects a number of cities in northwest Syria, making it a key locale coveted by the warring parties.

"We don't want them"

(please turn to page 12)
We Join in Extending Best Wishes to Our Jewish Friends in the CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AND BUILDING TRADES. We congratulate you on your contribution to the growth and development of our city and province. We are always pleased to serve you.

We Join in Extending Best Wishes to Toronto’s Jewish Builders, Developers, Architects and Engineers We congratulate you on your contribution to the growth and development of the GTA. We are always pleased to serve you.

SERVICES
- Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning
- Electrical
- Sheet Metal Fabrication
- Process Piping, Plumbing & Refrigeration
- Millwriting

Capabilities
- Design/Build, Renovation & Upgrade
- Building Automation Systems
- Facilities Management
- Planned Preventive Maintenance
- 24-Hour Emergency Services

Facilities
- Commercial/Office, Industrial, Education & Institutional.

Contact Person:
Ken Kingham @ 416.366.2541

BUILDING BOOM (Continued from page 6)

petuate their identities. These institutions will remain permanent manifestations of the Jewish community’s desire to perpetuate its religion, culture and tradition.

It is, indeed, a far cry from those tragic days in Jewish history when Jews found it necessary to transmute their wealth into diamonds and jewels so that they might accompany them on their sorrowful odyssey from one country of persecution to another. Jewish participation in the construction industry and building trades and in real estate development generally indicates the confidence of Jews that the patterns of the past will not be repeated. Certainly, they are convinced that the democratic form of government offers them complete security and limitless opportunity in a country and a city to which they have become so devoted.

MILLIONAIRE AT 19 (Continued from page 4)

beachfront community of Netanya. Yet, he lives in a small one-bedroom apartment that he rents in Tel Aviv, walking distance from the beach.

FOR OVER 60 YEARS, WYCLIFFE HOMES HAS introduced a level of sophistication and substance in more than 10,000 homes in 100 communities. Timeless style, excellent craftsmanship and lasting quality are hallmarks of every Wycliffe neighbourhood. The firm’s unique architectural designs and uncompromising quality and service continue to raise the bar in the industry. Wycliffe’s unique approach to service at Eight on Bayview includes personalized in-depth design interviews that ensure town manors will be made to measure. Seen above Wycliffe Homes celebrates the start of construction by “hammering” on the existing Bayview Ave. and York Mills Rd. tear down, to make way for the Eight on Bayview luxury townhomes. Shown (l-r) Wycliffe’s VP Development Jared Bensky and President Gary Bensky. (Photo Nicola Betts Photography)
While it’s nice having the money, he says, his life is similar to those of other Israeli teenagers.

“I have my money and I have my bank account which my parents, both accountants, are managing,” he said. “But I’m like any regular kid. I think twice before I spend money and I even sometimes spend less than my friends because I know about money. But everything I want to buy I just go and buy it; it’s really fun.”

Hen got on the ground floor of mobile marketing, an extension of online marketing featuring mobile devices such as smart phones and tablets. He has 200 clients all over the world, including in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and even Iran. For each one, he comes up with a strategy to get targeted ads popping up on people’s mobile phones.

“Look around us,” Hen said on a busy Jerusalem pedestrian mall, “All around us you can see people using their mobile phones for information such as restaurant listings. I said there must be a way to make money from this.”

Hen was one of the first in Israel to jump on the bandwagon of mobile marketing, which today is estimated to be a $4 billion industry worldwide.

“Today everyone has a mobile device but not everyone has a computer,” Akiva Ben Ezra, an expert in mobile marketing told The Media Line. “These days everyone is

(We extend Best Wishes to the State of Israel
On the Occasion of its 65th Anniversary
May the coming year bring peace and security to the Middle East

QUALITY ALLIED
Experts in Vertical Transportation
80 Citizen Court, Unit #11, Markham, Ontario L6G 1A7
Tel: 905.305.0195 • Fax: 905.305.9518

Rick Sokoloff
President

80 Citizen Court, Unit 11, Markham, Ontario L6G 1A7
Tel: 905.305.0195 • Fax: 905.305.9518
Toll Free: 1.888.750.2444
E-mail: rick@qualityallied elevator.com

We Join in Extending Best Wishes to Toronto’s Jewish Builders, Developers, Architects and Engineers
We congratulate you on your contribution to the growth and development of the GTA.
We are always pleased to serve you.

IT’S NO MYSTERY

Eagle Building Services
1237 C Woodbine Ave.
Toronto, Ontario
M4C 4E5
Phone: 416.429.1200 email:eaglebuildingservices@bellnet.ca

We’ll seek out dust and grime. We’ll track the dirt. We’ll catch the grit. We’ll trap the scum. No smoke - screens here. Just good old fashioned hard work and a well trained, dedicated staff to serve you!
We’ll leave your building looking its best. We’re experts in office cleaning, floor maintenance, carpet care, and more. Call us for an appointment. We’re looking forward to hearing from you.
mobile and everyone is looking for Internet on the go. If you are out with your friends and are looking for a restaurant, you pull out your iPhone and look it up.”

Ben Ezra said that text messages are read an average of three minutes after they are received while emails often go unread for as long as three days, and some are never read. He also cited a study claiming that the average person has a telephone within three feet of where he or she is at any given moment.

Studies show that people are buying more and more through their mobile phones.

“It’s amazing how pervasive and integrated shopping is becoming, such as Facebook pushing purchases of real gifts when you wish your friends a happy birthday,” Nadine Wildmann, the founder of Meeple Communications, told The Media Line. “Online marketing continues to adapt to multiple platforms, supporting the trend toward responsive websites, which automatically provide an optimal viewing experience across various devices.”

While still in high school, Hen started teaching his friends how to start their own on-line businesses. Today, he runs the Mobile Marketing College, which offers classes in mobile marketing. Prices
range from $200 for a one-time six hour workshop; to $2,000 for a year of one-on-one coaching.

Each month, Hen says, he has between 100 and 150 new students.

“I love teaching,” he says enthusiastically. “I can take someone with no business sense at all and teach him to start his own business.”

Most other Israelis of Hen’s age are in the army. He was given an exemption for health reasons, but hopes to begin volunteering in national service, an alternative program to army service, soon.

Hen says he works between two and eight hours each day, and spends his free time at the beach or hanging out with friends.

“I’m just a regular kid,” he insists.

TORONTO-BASED architect Paul Cravit has devoted much of his work to designing Jewish schools. Cravit, Design Director at CS&P Architects (csparch.com), worked on the Community Hebrew Academy Toronto (CHAT) fifteen years ago building on a long-standing relationship with Independent schools in Canada. It was this project and his association with Jewish culture that led to the growth of the firm’s work in education. Last year CS&P finished a $5 million renovation to Leo Baeck, the only reform Jewish Day School in Canada and largest in North America.
Fartawi and others are angry Jabhat al-Nusra is getting all the credit for liberating bases and taking towns. They claim it is the secular Free Syrian Army (FSA) which is responsible for the gains the opposition has made.

In this city, where Jabhat al-Nusra has a higher public profile, many admire the organization. But they are just as worried by the organization’s affiliation with Al-Qa’ida. For months, Samir Maliki nodded with approval when the organization’s name was mentioned. They helped him adjudicate a land dispute. “They are very efficient, very good,” explained the 51-year-old landlord in January.

But as the battle for Syria’s second largest city became a stalemate and the international community stepped up its concerns about Jabhat al-Nusra’s influence, Maliki began having second thoughts about the organization. “We in Syria welcome everyone from the other religions,” he noted. “But we don’t want sectarian killing and Islamic emirates.” Now, with the announcement that the organization is joining Al-Qa’ida, Maliki has turned against it, claiming that it is a black stain on a pure white revolution.

Others in the city are equally concerned that the negative publicity Jabhat al-Nusra is bringing them will derail their support in Western capitals. “Westerners already don’t like the revolution because they think we will not keep the peace with Israel like (President Bashar) Asad has done,” says 43-year-old pharmacist Walid Awajli. “If people think we are all Al-Qa’ida, then no one will support us.”

It is a problem American policy is driving home. A recent Wall Street Journal article noted that the administration has informed Congress that it does not want the rebels to overthrow the regime now because it fears the jihadists will take over the country.

Though such sentiments are turning Syrians against Jabhat al-Nusra, they are also increasing anti-Western hostility. “The Jews who support Asad don’t want us to overthrow him,” says 51-year-old truck driver Hamid Shufi. “They know Asad has been protecting Israel. So they tell (President Barack) Obama that the rebels are Al-Qa’ida.”

More level-headed Syrians are just as angry

---

**NEW CONDOMINIUMS AT 2221 YONGE AND EGLINTON**

New condominiums at 2221 Yonge and Eglinton are being developed by Tower Hill Developments, one of Toronto’s premier builders, who have been changing the face of Toronto for 70 years.
with the United States. “If Obama had given us weapons, then the jihadists would have never come,” explains 49-year-old technician Salih Hamid. “Now everyone is mad not only that Obama did not help us, but also that our revolution has been transformed into a jihadist adventure.”

Members of the Tawhid Brigade, the FSA’s largest contingent in Aleppo, agree. “The revolution has been hijacked by the jihadists,” laments a member of its military council who goes by the name of Abu Fadi. “They control everything – the weapons, the food, the strategy. We are losing to these outsiders.”

Though Abu Fadi admits that the Tawhid Brigade and other FSA units have joined forces with Jabhat al-Nusra in the past to attack regime bases, he now regrets it. “We legitimized them,” he grumbles.

CITIZENSHIP, IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURALISM

Minister Jason Kenney joined Holocaust survivors from across the country at the National Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony to light candles in memory of the victims of the Holocaust. “I was honoured to pay tribute to both Holocaust victims and survivors,” said Minister Kenney. “Our Government is committed to ensuring that their stories are preserved for future generations so that the lessons of the Holocaust are not forgotten, especially as Holocaust denial, anti-Semitism, and anti-Zionism persist,” he added.
outside a Tawhid base that was once a school. “We showed them how we operate.”

Today Jabhat al-Nusra is operating so well in the revolutionary jungle that it no longer needs its former secular allies to help the organization navigate the mayhem. And that has everyone here worried.

**TRAVEL TALES** (Continued from page 5)

fols) out of Toronto three times a week. Westjet has
agreement with El Al, so they will take passengers to Toronto’s Pearson International Airport to make the connection. From Eilat, a lot of people go on to visit historic Petra in nearby Jordan.

The birth of the Isrotel hotel chain came via David Lewis, a Jewish businessman living in London. He fell in love in the early 1980s with the natural beauty of the city of Eilat and recognized the great potential for tourism in the area. The desert, the sea, the coral, the sun that shines all year long, the proximity to the tourist centers of the Sinai Peninsula and Petra together with the relative proximity to Europe, all formed the basis of his vision to transform Eilat to a center of tourism and recreation. In 1984 Lewis succeeded in seeing his dream realized with the launch of the Isrotel King Solomon Hotel in Eilat, which re-defined the term “vacation in Eilat.”

The hotel, which has won acclaim in Israel and worldwide, paved the way for the establishment of large hotels of international standards and started the ball rolling to put Eilat on the international tourism map. Today, the Isrotel chain operates 17 hotels in Israel, with a huge selection of activities, restaurants, halls, swimming pools, entertainment shows, recreation, and different vacation facilities.

Following the presentations, guests were treated to a fabulous breakfast buffet – which truly reminded me of my many wonderful visits to the

---

We Extend Best Wishes to the
STATE OF ISRAEL
on its 65th Anniversary
May the coming year bring peace to all in the Middle East

A J LANZAROTTA
WHOLESALE FRUIT & VEGETABLES LTD.

SUPPLYING RESTAURANTS, HOTELS, INSTITUTIONS AND CATERERS
We guarantee the highest quality of fresh and custom-processed produce

www.ajlanzarotta.com
1000 Lakeshore Road, East Mississauga
905 891-0510

No charge Dial 1-800-361-4519

---

HI-JACKING THE REVOLUTION
(Continued from preceding page)

We Extend Best Wishes to the
STATE OF ISRAEL
on its 65th Anniversary
We wish its people peace and prosperity in the years ahead.

We Extend Best Wishes to the
STATE OF ISRAEL
on its 65th Anniversary
May the coming year bring peace to all in the Middle East

TRAVEL TALES
(Continued from page 5)
country.

VISIT FLORIDA: In 1513, Ponce de León made his first visit to Florida. For 500 years since, visitors from around the world have been making history of their own! The organization VISIT FLORIDA® and partners recently held networking luncheons in Toronto and Montreal, highlighting many major Florida destinations. I enjoyed the opportunity to chat with representatives from such destinations as Greater Miami, Greater Fort Lauderdale, Orlando, Kissimmee, the Space Coast the Florida Keys and Key West, Palm Coast and the Flagler Beaches. These kind of events are generally organized every second year for local travel writers and others in the travel industry. Good contacts are made and stories planted for us to bring you the readers. You can go to www.visitflorida.com.

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

---

Pantheon

Authentic Hellenic Cuisine At Its Best
Fresh Fish from Greece
Traditional Greek Dishes
Daily Lunch Specials
Catering Service
Parties For All Occasions
(for up to 60 people)

407 Danforth Ave., Toronto, ON M4K 1P1
416 778-1929
www.pantheonrestaurant.com
We Take Pleasure in Extending
Best Wishes to the
STATE OF ISRAEL
On the Occasion of its 65th Anniversary
May the year ahead bring peace and security to the Middle East

Yes
The Yes Group Inc.
201 Don Park Rd., Unit 1
Markham, Ontario L3R 1C2
(800) 465-3536

Casings-Cures-Binders-Spices

VITAL PLANET
Vitamins • Supplements
Natural Foods, Organic Produce & Bulk Food
Open 7 Days a Week
53 Lower Jarvis Street
416 366-4353

We Join in Extending Best Wishes to the
STATE OF ISRAEL
On the Occasion of its 65th Anniversary
We congratulate you on your many achievements
May the year ahead bring peace to all in the Middle East

WORLD IN REVIEW
(Continued from page 4)

Saying “No” to John Galliano

Fashion designer John Galliano, who in March 2011 was filmed in a bar in Paris praising Adolf Hitler and telling people he believed were Jewish that their mothers should have been gassed, will not be teaching a course after all at the Parsons New School For Design in New York.

Parsons had invited the former Christian Dior top designer to teach a class at the school but the decision resulted in a petition signed by 2000 students protesting his hiring. “We do not want money from our tuition”, the petition read, “going to this kind of person...there should be no room for this kind of person as a staff member on the faculty at Parsons.”

The school had indicated that Galliano’s assignment was to include a “candid discussion about the connection between his professional work and his actions in the world at large”. But after meeting with the designer the school released a statement saying that the “two...
New President Claims He’s Jewish

Newly elected Venezuelan president Nicholas Maduro was hand-picked by Hugo Chavez who “hated Jews and surrounded himself with leaders of other countries who are anti-Semites.” And so there is much skepticism over Maduro’s claim that not only is he not anti-Semitic, but that he actually has Jewish roots. “My grandparents were Jewish, from a Moorish background, who converted to Catholicism in Venezuela.” Madura told those who have accused him of following in the footsteps of Chavez. “We are a humanist people, we are not anti-Semitic”, he continued. “There has never been anti-Semitism in Venezuela. Here we welcome all religions.”

Maduro’s claims have yet to be verified. Caracas-born Yolanda Ptasinski, now living in New York, said that “we know the name Maduro has Jewish origins but I think his grandparents may have been baptized.”

Ironically, if Maduro does, indeed, have Jewish roots it would mean that the recent presidential campaign pitted two “Jewish” candidates against one another. Opposition leader Henrique Capriles Radonski’s grandparents were Polish Holocaust survivors. Added Ptasinski: “Personally, I was so encouraged when I saw Capriles step up to the plate trying to unseat Chavez...I spoke to friends and family in disbelief. Could it be that a grandson of survivors of the Shoah could possibly be the next leader of Venezuela?”

A DVD for Netanyahu and Abbas

Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz has a novel idea for promoting peace between Israel and the Palestinians: sit Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Mahmoud Abbas down in the same room and make them watch the Palestinian chicken episode of Larry David’s “Curb Your Enthusiasm”. It’s the episode in which David is torn over whether to buy a chicken from a Palestinian owned restaurant when there is a Jewish deli next door. “Maybe if they both get a good laugh, Says Dershowitz, “they can begin a negotiating process.” Netanyahu says he will watch the episode.
Two weeks after the Reuben Cipin Healthy Community opened, Monty Mazin and his wife Blema settled in. In September Two Neptune celebrates its 12th anniversary and Mazin reflects on why the residence is a “blessing” to live in.

“It all begins with the people” he says. A well-known Ambassador for Two Neptune as well as Baycrest, Mazin makes a point of saying “hello” to everyone he meets, a gesture of warmth and kindness that is noticeably widespread at the residence.

“We’re very much a family here - we’re the Neptune Family” he proudly tells us potential residents. “Everyday our Head Concierge Danny with concierge Sumyra reminds us of this, their greetings and affection for us are so genuine, and they come with a smile. The same with our Property Manager Sylvia Dydzysko, who also extends a helping hand to those who need it, and with Social Director Kelly and maintenance staff, Cesar and Jenny, all ensure residents are happy, safe and living in a building that is in tiptop shape.”

The Two Neptune Residents’ Council, led by President Freda Rubenstein and Vice Presidents Freda Schaffel and Salya Rabow, oversees ongoing activities that include socials, monthly meetings with guest speakers, a garden club, films, discussion groups, a refreshment committee, exercise classes, weekly bus service to No Frills, visits to theatres and other outings.

“Two Neptune isn’t just another building of bricks and mortar”, Mazin points out. “It’s the envy of other senior dwellings because we cherish each other as Mishpoche and Friends. It is a Baycrest Property - and being so close to Baycrest in many ways confirms the truth that the most precious possessions in life, together with good health, are good family and good friends.”

If you or someone you know would like to view a unit at Two Neptune Drive, contact our Property Manager Sylvia Dydzysko at 416 789-9317.
TORONTO BAR MITZVAH BOY GIVES GIFT TO BOYS TOWN JERUSALEM

AT A RECENT EVENT AT A TORONTO Synagogue, young Matthew, who celebrated his Bar Mitzvah only weeks before, presented a generous contribution to Boys Town Jerusalem. Also present to enjoy this special moment were his parents, his two brothers, as well as his grandparents. Rabbi David Seed, a previous visitor to Boys Town, explained that Matthew had decided some time ago to establish a special project that would enable him to share his Bar Mitzvah with another boy or organization. In his mind, a Bar Mitzvah had to be more than chanting his Haftorah and having a big party. It was about creating something meaningful that would support his commitment to Tikun Olam, repairing the world. Previously, Matthew has supported and initiated chesed (good deeds) projects in Toronto and around the world. After listening to a presentation by Jerry Tollinksy, National Executive Director for Canadian Friends of Boys Town, Matthew directed that a portion of the funds be allocated to the extra-curricular in-line hockey program which is enjoyed by more than fifty boys at the school and is sorely in need of equipment. The majority of his gift will be directed to the Annual Scholarship Fund at the school and will directly benefit young Ya’akov K., an Ethiopian student at the school who also recently celebrated his Bar Mitzvah. Accepting the gift on behalf of Canadian Friends of Boys Town Jerusalem (CFBTJ) were Mr. Jules Kronis, President of CFBTJ, Mr. Joseph Bogoroch and Mr. Mark Bernick, previous Chai Founders of Boys Town Jerusalem.
We Extend Best Wishes to the
STATE OF ISRAEL
On the Occasion of its 65th Anniversary.
We congratulate you on your many achievements and wish you peace and
security in the years ahead.

Comfortable Retirement Living, in the Heart of Toronto

New Entrance
Now Open!

THE BRITON HOUSE
RETIREMENT CENTRE

- Lavish, year-round,
  Indoor English Garden
- 9 hole Mini Golf Course
- Indoor Pool
- Elegant Recital Hall
- Home Cooked Meals
- 24 Hour Health Care
- Individual Heat & A/C

416-487-3392
720 Mount Pleasant Rd. (1 block south of Eglinton)
www.britonhouse.com  Email: info@britonhouse.com

Come and see our NEW expanded facilities!