



Stress identity, Sharansky says

The head of the Jewish Agency says Jews in the Diaspora are losing their sense of pride, and he aims to change that.

See Page 3

Former Shin Bet head pushes hope

Ami Ayalon tells J Street meeting that Israel can't rely on its military alone to win a secure peace.

See Page 4

Frank in the hot seat

Jewish leaders grill the congressman over his comments to the Herald.

See Page 7

Making sure we don't forget

Sonia Schreiber Weitz is honored for her efforts to keep memories of the Holocaust alive for generations to come.

See Page 6

A would-be terrorist

In the feature "For My Fathers," a Palestinian's plans to blow himself up are derailed by his heart.

See Page 14



SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Parashat Korah

 BOSTON
 8:03 PM

 MANCHESTER, N.H.
 8:06 PM

 FALL RIVER
 8:01 PM

 PORTLAND, MAINE
 8:04 PM

 PROVIDENCE, R.I.
 8:02 PM

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 8:08 PM

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 8:05 PM

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Making Israel's day

New England Celebrates Israel drew more than 1,500 people to Gann Academy in Waltham for a day of games, Israel-themed arts and crafts, camel rides and Jewish rock music Sunday. Above, Ellen Berkowitz stands with her children, Jesse, a preschool student at Temple Beth Avodah, and Noah, a first grader at the Rashi School. Berkowitz is holding a photo of her sons, digitally manipulated to make it appear that they are planting a tree in Israel.

JCC to increase focus on values

Aims to promote Judaism through new programs

By Elise Kigner

Advocate Staff

Beth Lappen, the incoming president of Temple Beth Emunah in Brockton, was not the least bit unnerved as she listened to a rabbi predict that the future of the Jewish community would likely not be centered around the synagogue.

As a member of the board of the Jewish Community Centers of Greater Boston, Lappen is helping to guide the organization as it refocuses its strategy. The goal: to transmit Jewish values and wisdom to more Jews, affiliated or

The JCC has enlisted the help of Rabbi Irwin Kula and his organization, Clal (Hebrew for inclusive), the National Jewish Cen-

Continued on Page 2

Mosque again at center of dispute

As gubernatorial candidates clash, so do Jewish leaders

By Cara Hogan

Advocate Staff

Nearly a year after its controversial opening, the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center is again at the center of an acrimonious dispute – this time with gubernatorial candidates and Jewish leaders getting caught in the crossfire.

The furor began when gubernatorial candidate Tim Cahill accused Governor Deval Patrick of "pandering to special interest groups" and being soft on terrorism after he met with some 1,100 Muslim-Americans at the Roxbury mosque last month.

A few days later, Christian, Jewish and Muslim clergy assembled on the mosque steps to denounce Cahill as bigoted.

Matters heated up further when Charles Jacobs, president of Americans for Peace and Tolerance and a columnist for *The Jewish Advocate* weighed in. Jacobs' column last week and a video posted on his organization's Web site, assails Patrick and questioned the credibility of several Muslim leaders with whom he met at the mosque. Jacobs describes his organization as "Christians, Jews and authentically moderate and reformist Muslims who seek to expose radical Islam in America and to support moderate Muslims."

In the column, Jacobs also criticized Rabbi Eric Gurvis of Temple Shalom in Newton for appearing at the interfaith rally and hugging Bilal Kaleem, the executive director of the Muslim American Society of Boston.

Continued on Page 4

Israeli skates rings around Boston

Olympic hopeful trains here this summer By Elise Kigner "When you go to a comp

Advocate Staff

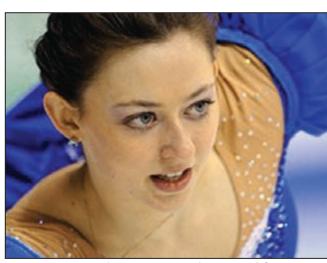
Where does a three-time Israeli national figure skating champion spend her summer?

Training at the Boston Skating Club – one stop, Tamar Katz hopes, on her way to the Olympics.

"My main motivation is to stand on a podium with an Israeli flag and hear 'Hatikvah' playing," said Katz, who will speak at Boston's Vilna Shul "When you go to a competition you wear the Israeli uniform, and you're representing Israel and that is an amazing feeling, especially when I can represent Israel in a different light. ... Sports don't include politics so much."

Katz, 20, qualified to compete in this year's Olympics under the requirements of the International Skating Union, but failed to meet Israel's higher standards. In an effort to overturn the decision, she created a Face-

Continued on Page 22



Tamar Katz is a three-time Israeli national figure skating champ.

ORGANIZATIONS

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Tamar Katz finished her season this year at the International Skating Union World Figure Skating Championships in Torino, Italy.

Israeli champ sets sights on Olympics

Continued from Page 1

book group. More than 1,800 people joined, but Katz never

made it to Vancouver. Among her supporters was sports agent Jerry Solomon of Lynnfield, who called the head of the Israeli Olympic Committee. Katz appeared with Solomon's wife, Olympic medalist Nancy Kerrigan, in "Halloween on Ice" on NBC. Katz skated as

a vampire. As to whether she thinks she'll be competing in the 2014 Olympics in Russia, Katz said, "In Hebrew there's a saying, only G-d knows, elohim gadol."

Meanwhile, in preparation for starting her freshman year this fall at the University of Pennsylvania, she is taking a calculus course and the SAT subject test in Hebrew. This is on top of skating full-

time at the Brighton rink, where she trains with Peter Johansson, a four-time Swedish champion and former Olympic competitor, and Mark Mitchell, a three-time medalist at the US Figure Skating Championships.

Accustomed to traveling, Katz seems able to make herself at home wherever she is living. Born in Texas, Katz grew up in Israel, moving to Maryland when she was 8. Her mother worked at the Israeli Embassy in Washington with Nadiv Tamir, who later became consul general to New England. After turning 10, Katz baby sat for Tamir's children.

Katz came to ice skating by way of rhythmic gymnastics. She began competing as a child in Israel, placing third at the nationals for ages 6-8. When her family moved to Maryland and she couldn't find a place to train, she joined a group of Israeli kids for skating lessons. At first she didn't like the cold and the heavy skates, but before long she was hooked.

When she was 13 her family

My main motivation is to stand on a podium with an Israeli flag and bear 'Hatikvah' playing,

Tamar Katz

returned to Israel, moving close to the one skating rink in the country, in Metula near the Lebanese border. About 50 skaters train there, but the top athletes tend to go abroad to train with more experienced coaches. Katz herself ended up returning to the United States, living in the New York area and then last February moving to Boston, first staying with the Tamirs in Brookline and now a

family in Newton. Just this season, she competed in the United States, Germany, Italy, Croatia and Estonia. When she competed in the ISU World Figure Skating Championships in Italy in March, she went to a Passover seder at the house of a Jewish Italian skater. The family had never heard of matzo ball soup, but - like at her own family's seder - once the food came out, they put away the

haggadahs. When she's not skating or studying, Katz attends Israeli concerts and Israeli folk dancing performances by the consul's wife, Ronit Tamir. Last week, she spoke to teens at Gann Academy in Waltham

"Since I've been here I think

certs than in Israel," she said. "[Boston] is not only Jewish friendly, it's Israeli friendly." Katz will speak at the Kabbalat non-denominational,

I've been to more Israeli con-

lay-led Shabbat June 18 at 7 p.m. at Vilna Shul. Visit vilnashul.org.