

CHICAGO'S OLDEST
AND MOST WIDELY
CIRCULATED
INDEPENDENT
JEWISH NEWSPAPER
FREE THROUGHOUT
METRO CHICAGO

CHICAGO Jewish Star

למצא דברי-חפץ וכתוב ישר דברי אמת



תחל שנה וברכותה
"Let the new year begin
with its blessings!"
"LITTLE SISTER," AVRAHAM BEN ISAAC (GERONDI)
Happy Jewish Year!

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Monument Mystery



— CHICAGO JEWISH STAR PHOTO

This changing monument — shown here as it appeared earlier this month — has stood at the southeast corner of Schoenbeck Road and West Dundee in Wheeling, in front of a Walgreens, for some three years. No one seems to know who set it up, although its purpose is not mysterious.

Turning 7/23/06 into a cause for good

By GILA WERTHEIMER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

It looks like any other suburban Walgreens — except for the curious homemade wooden marker that is situated at the corner of the property.

The marker has long been topped by a Star of David and decorated with a changing variety of objects.

Among them have been a trumpet, an Eagle Scout badge, a teddy bear, a Cook County Sheriff's patch, a balloon, and a small plastic toy of a boy with a fishing rod holding a fish.

Although the area is kept clean and evidently watched over, last March a "Happy Hanukkah" card could still be seen attached to this display.

From time-to-time it is refreshed with real flowers or artificial bouquets. In August, a passerby noticed for the first time a single laminated sheet, secured to the wooden post with push pins and a makeshift hook in the shape of a dragon fly.

It contained a poem which begins:

*To honor you, I get up
everyday and take a
breath,
And start another day
without you in it.*

The handwritten word "Corey", in large blue letters, has been centered within the Star of David for years, initially handwritten and later professionally drawn.

Today, inside the letter "o" is a yellow diamond; above the name hangs a heart-shaped pendant with a heart suspended at the center. Engraved on it are two words: "Love Always".

The marker has stood at this site in Wheeling, at the intersection of West Dundee and Schoenbeck roads, for some three years.

Three teens

No one seems to know who set up this marker or who cares for it. But its purpose is not mysterious: it stands in mute testimony to a tragedy which occurred at that site at 8 p.m. on July 23, 2006.

PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 10



— SHAUL WERTHEIMER PHOTO

Sweet New Year

During the fateful Days of Awe, when Jews worldwide stand in judgment, our Sages urged us to eat foods which would uplift our spirits with positive associations for the coming year, explains Abraham P. Bloch in his book on the background to Jewish customs.

Apples — of course with honey — are one of many such traditional foods for the season. Shoshana Wertheimer (above), seemingly in a contemplative mood, held tight to her apple, with a child's bright expectation for tomorrow.

Rosh Hashanah 5770 begins on Friday evening, September 18. Kol Nidre is Sunday evening, Sept. 27, followed by Yom Kippur the next day. ☞



— ISRAELI PHOTO

At the 2003 funeral of Ilan Ramon, Rona held the hand of her 15-year-old son, Assaf.

Ilan Ramon's son dies in F-16 crash

JERUSALEM—Assaf Ramon, 21, the oldest of four children of the late Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon, was killed in the crash of an Israeli Air Force fighter plane on Sept. 13.

Capt. Ramon was flying the jet in the Hebron Hills as part of advanced training. He had completed the course for pilots with honors in July at the top of his class — like his father.

The Air Force ordered all F-16 training halted until further notice.

The private funeral, held the following day at Kibbutz Nahalal, was attended by Israel's political and military leaders. Ramon was buried next to his father.

Ilan Ramon, Israel's first astronaut, was killed aboard the U.S. space shuttle Columbia in 2003 when it broke apart upon its return to earth (JEWISH STAR, Feb. 14, 2003).

Ilan Ramon had been a fighter pilot in the Air Force, and participated in the 1981 strike on the Iraqi Osiraq nuclear reactor. ☞ JTA

SHUTTERED SHUL PULLS ITSELF FROM THE DEPTHS

Agudas Achim elections

Lefkowitz returns

By DOUGLAS WERTHEIMER
EDITOR

Members of Agudas Achim North Shore Congregation hoped to put behind them the bitter synagogue dispute which resulted in the shuttering of the synagogue building last year, when they elected new officers on Sept. 13.

Sixty congregants (mainly seniors) packed a room at 5225 N. Kenmore for what was labelled an annual meeting. The purpose was to hold elections and designate new officers on Sept. 13.

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Honey galore

▶ TRADITIONAL HONEY CAKE FOR THESE AIR TRAVELLERS

El Al, Israel's national airlines, is treating its New York to Israel travellers to traditional honey cake.

With thousands of passengers headed for Israel for Rosh Hashanah, it ordered 300 pounds of sliced apples, 155 pounds of honey, and more than 500 pounds of honey cake. ☞ JEWISH STAR

Stone warns he'll dissolve rights group

ALDERMAN BERNARD STONE REACTS TO CITY EVENT

CHICAGO ARABESQUE: "DEPLORABLE"

ANTI-ISRAEL, ANTI-SEMITIC MATERIAL AT '09 PROGRAM; CITY-FEDERATION MEETING

By DOUGLAS WERTHEIMER
EDITOR

Bernard Stone, the veteran City alderman (50th) and Vice Mayor, said this month he "will move to dissolve" the Chicago Commission on Human Relations (CCHR) if it again sponsors an event which violates its mission to "promote respect and individual responsibility for understanding and accepting differences of all Chicagoans".

Stone was reacting to the story in this newspaper on the City-hosted 3rd Annual Chicago Arabesque, held in June (JEWISH STAR, July 3).

The report documented, with photographic evidence and translation of Arabic material, the fact that anti-Israel crafts and literature were sold at the four-day program, and that anti-Semitic literature was distributed. It noted that the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago had formally complained to the CCHR about this development.

Anti-Israel literature had also been distributed at the 1st Chicago Arabesque in 2007, and for several years before that during the City's Arab Heritage Month. That activity was only stopped after a

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THE POWER OF 'TIKKUN OLAM'

Why Tom Tresser wants no games here

By GILA WERTHEIMER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

What does a city win when it "wins" the Olympic Games?

To Chicago activist Tom Tresser, if the International Olympic Committee selects Chicago on October 2 as host for the 2016 Olympics, the city will "win" bankruptcy, bungling and displacement of the poor.

In an interview with the JEWISH STAR last week, Tresser summed it up this way: the Games "will be a disaster for Chicago financially, environmentally and morally."

And that's just for starters. Tresser is part of a core strategy team for the group No Games Chicago (NGC), an all-volunteer organization that actively opposes Chicago's Olympic bid.

For Tresser, who is the NGC webmaster, the issues surrounding the Olympics dovetail with his social activism, community involvement and concern with civic causes — all mirrored in his Jewish heritage, he says.

Born and raised in New York, he describes his parents as social activists, so that "social engagement is in my blood."

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— TOM TRESSER PHOTO

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— JUAN MANDELBAUM/TIWS
Alejandra Dixon holds a picture of her disappeared sister Patricia, page 8.

NEWS



NEWS BRIEFS

Following Israel's 23rd death related to swine flu, Israel's Health Ministry set guidelines Sept. 10 for the religiously observant to help them avoid contracting swine flu in religious institutions. The guidelines, in advance of the High Holidays season, advises observant Jews to avoid kissing the hands of venerable rabbis, as well as Torah scrolls and prayer books. They are told also to avoid touching their hands to their face or mouth after shaking someone else's hand, according to Dr. Eitan Hai-Am, the ministry's new director-general. One may kiss one's own tefillin, prayer book or prayer shawl, according to the ministry. The advisory did not mention the custom of kissing a mezuzah. Flu sufferers should stay home from their synagogue or yeshiva until they are healthy.

Jane Fonda should not be vilified for her stance on a Toronto film festival's spotlight on Tel Aviv, an Atlanta Jewish leader says. David Minkin, a past president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta, in an article in the Huffington



Post described people like Fonda and Eve Ensler (both shown at left during a visit to Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem in 2002) as ardent supporters of Israel and said vilification by Jewish media outlets is an overreaction. Fonda joined dozens of other stars and personalities who signed a letter criticizing the Toronto International Film Festival for honoring Tel Aviv as the inaugural city in its new City to City series. "People like Jane Fonda, and her co-signers including Danny Glover, Naomi Klein and Eve Ensler, are part of the school of thought that believes that ignoring one side's experience, no matter which side that is, is a surefire recipe for ongoing fighting and conflict," Minkin said. "Not everyone agrees with that approach, but it's a valid one that aims for a just peace for all parties in the region" (please see Editorial, page 4).

Reform leader Alfred Gottschalk, who led the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion for 25 years, died Sept. 12 in Cincinnati from complications following a car accident. He was 79. He is well-known for ordaining Sally Priesand, the first female rabbi in the United States, in 1972; Israel's first Reform rabbi in 1980, and its first female rabbi in 1992. Gottschalk left his native Germany with his mother in 1939 and was ordained by the HUC in 1957 and in 1971 was named HUC president, serving in the post until 1996.

Unknown vandals painted red swastikas on two Seattle-area synagogues. The swastikas and the phrase "4th Riech" (sic) were painted late Sept. 12 or early the next morning after the recitation of Selichot prayers, police and synagogue members at Bikur Cholim Machzikay Hadath and the Sephardic Bikur Holim Congregation told the *Seattle Times*. ❏

— Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Olympics

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Currently a college educator who teaches civic engagement and public policy, Tresser, 57, moved to Chicago in 1980.

In the mid-1990s he became involved in Beth Emeth The Free Synagogue in Evanston, and he was later married by the congregation's rabbi. At about this time he heard of the Jewish precept of *tikkun olam*, repairing the world.

"I said to myself, 'I do that. I know that. I endorse that. That's how we should conduct our lives,'" he said.

Tresser also has a long involvement in the arts, particularly theater, and it's an involvement that is directly linked to his social activism. Creativity, the arts and civic engagement are intertwined, in his view.

The artist sees possibilities in a blank canvas, just as an activist sees potential in the incomplete tapestry of social life.

"Artists imagine something and make it happen. Similarly, activists imagine a better society and work to make that happen," he said.

In this way, both move from private imagination to public expression, and the result can be social transformation, Tresser said.

It is this outlook that led him to his involvement with No Games Chicago.

Book of Evidence

NGC was co-founded in January 2009 by Bob Quella and another individual (Tresser declined to provide a name because this person fears the loss of employment). Since its founding, the self-funded group has been the sole Chicago community organization opposed to the city's Olympic bid.

In a letter to members of the International Olympic Committee, NGC outlined four reasons why Chicago should not host the Games:

- Chicago's lack of funds, its current deficit, and its history of going over budget on projects;
- Chicago's corrupt and incompetent officials;
- Chicago's roads and a mass transit system are badly in need of repair, with no plans for improvement; and
- Chicago's lack of public enthusiasm for the games, and especially for financing them.

NGC provided backing for its position in a 160-page collection of documents. *Book of Evidence*, subtitled "Why Chicago should NOT be awarded the 2016 Olympic Games," is available at www.nogameschicago.com

Three members of the group — including Tresser — flew to Switzerland in June, where they distributed copies of *Book of Evidence* to IOC members meeting at IOC headquarters in Lausanne.

Tresser said the books "were an object of great curiosity" there.

While NGC garnered a good deal of attention in Switzerland, Tresser said, that has not been the case here. NGC has not been successful in its attempts to engage the Chicago Olympic Committee in public debate, notwithstanding NGC members' attendance at all 50 city meetings held by the Chicago committee.

It has also been unsuccessful in rallying civic or-

ganizations to its cause.

"Many people do not want to cross the mayor on the Olympics, so a lot of civic leaders took a pass," Tresser said.

Meanwhile a debt of some \$10,000 hangs over NGC, which Tresser hopes will be met by donations through their website.

Notwithstanding its lone organizational role opposing the Olympic games in Chi-

cago, a *Chicago Tribune*-WGN poll conducted at the end of August suggests an increasing popular agreement with the NGC position.

Support among Chicagoans for holding the games here now stands at 47 percent — a drop from 61 percent in February — with 45 percent currently opposed, according to a Sept. 3 report in the *Tribune*. ❏

SHANA TOVA כתיבה וחתומה טובה



לשנה טובה!

"And You open the Book of Records ..."

Wishing You a Happy & Sweet New Year

SENATOR IRA I. SILVERSTEIN and Family



Wishing you a Happy New Year
לשנה טובה תכתבו

UNITED STATES CONGRESS
JAN SCHAKOWSKY
REPRESENTATIVE,
9TH DISTRICT

Paid for and authorized by Schakowsky for Congress.

BEST WISHES
HAPPY NEW YEAR



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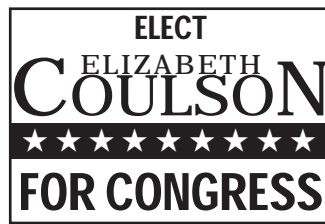
Shana Tova

Happy and Healthy New Year

from

Elizabeth Coulson

Candidate for Illinois' 10th Congressional District



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Paid for and authorized by Coulson for Congress.

לשנה טובה

May the New Year
Bring you Health,
Goodness and Plenty

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