



**Happy 60<sup>th</sup>  
Birthday  
Israel!**

**WIZO'S PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT**

# The Fuller Picture



NEWS FROM ISRAEL (that your media doesn't report)

<http://www.wizo.org/newsletter>

## Freedom

What a wonderful year we are having in Israel. It is simply great to see so many visitors who have come to celebrate with us the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the rebirth of the State of Israel.

The period of festivities began by celebrating Pesach (Passover) – the time when we recall how we left the bondage of Egypt and found our freedom. Yom Ha'Atzmaut is preceded by Yom Hazikaron, the day when we remember over 22,000 who have given their lives for this State. The first battle was *The War of Independence* in 1948 also known as *The War of Freedom (Liberation)*. **For those born after 1948, into a world where Israel already existed, it must be far more difficult to imagine what a world without Israel was like.** My generation - remembering the pain, trauma, unimaginable loss and barbaric death of six million of our brethren - is aware that the responsibility lay, not only with Hitler but also with the free world. The countries with quota systems who did not allow those seeking refuge from Hitler to find a haven in their lands, the *British White Paper* that refused Jews entry into Palestine and finally a decision not to bomb the railway lines leading to Auschwitz - surely these decisions contributed to our people's annihilation.

In 1947 the United Nations voted for the partition of Palestine and thereby the creation of a Jewish state. **From May 14<sup>th</sup> 1948 when Ben-Gurion declared the rebirth of the State of Israel Jews no longer needed to rely on others to find refuge. This is freedom – a home whose doors are always open to every Jew in every place.**

These past weeks I have been privileged to participate in a number of celebratory events. One was a special ceremony dedicating the "*Park of the Australian Soldier*" in Be'er Sheva. Here was unveiled a magnificent sculpture of "The Australian Light Horseman". On the 31<sup>st</sup> October 1917 the *Battle for Be'er Sheva* was won by the Australian Light Horse Brigade - the last known cavalry charge. Some 800 mounted and very brave soldiers, with their bayonets and swords, took on the strength of the Turkish army and won! **There can be no doubt that this battle played a key part in enabling the British to defeat the Turks and so set the scene for the *Balfour Declaration*- the turning point in the British commitment to a Jewish homeland..** The guests at the ceremony were addressed by the Governor General of Australia, Major General Jeffery as well as Israel's President, Shimon Peres. He expressed the gratitude of the State of Israel to Australia for what it did in 1917 and what it continues to do up until today in support of a peaceful world and in support of the Jewish state. Israel is both privileged and appreciative to count Australia amongst its friends. Just a few weeks ago, the Australian parliament held a special session where Prime Minister Kevin Rudd proposed a motion celebrating the achievements of the State of Israel in the 60 years since its inception.

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Shlomo Avineri and Natan Sharansky hold opposing views on: *Does Diaspora Jewry have the right to decide on the future of Jerusalem?*

We asked the question: **Whose Jerusalem?** You replied:

From Cape Town, South Africa, Queenie Sacks writes:



As a mathematician and scientist, I set aside emotional considerations and concentrated on logic. Diaspora Jews do not share the fullness and joy of Jewish life in our spiritual and historic homeland. However, neither are we burdened by living in an environment surrounded by hostile elements – intruding violently into our daily lives. While we, in the Diaspora, willingly undertake our obligations and responsibilities to Israel, whose security affects us all – do we have the right to express our opinion on the future of Jerusalem? Yes! Our voices should be considered and heard by Israel's leadership but **the ultimate decision and final responsibility remains theirs**. In other words, we have the right to express an opinion but not insist on its implementation. The survival of the Jewish people remains paramount.

From Berlin, Germany, Dr. Elvira U Grozinger writes:



I agree with Professor Avineri rather than Natan Sharansky. Sharansky should recall Camp David -Arafat was not the head of a sovereign state so cannot be compared to the Israeli participants. Israel is a sovereign state and like all other countries in the world, the only one entitled to decide on its policy. It was the Israeli army in 1967, at the cost of many fallen soldiers – among them my dear friends, that made accessible Jewish holy sites in Jerusalem. It is not the “entire Jewish people” who bleed daily defending the boundaries of their country, just Israeli soldiers and civilians - although they do it on behalf of all Jews who feel close to Israel. **Diaspora Jews can be consulted on important issues but the final decision is that of the democratically elected Israeli Government.**

From Glasgow, Scotland, Miriam Shenkin writes:



It would be of no benefit to Jerusalem's citizens for the city to be again divided. Education should be conducted in three languages, Hebrew, Arabic and English, with the Jerusalem Municipality having two mayors (one Jewish, one Arab). This would clearly show tolerance, respect and understanding prevail – we can but dream. Whose Jerusalem? Sharansky, on whose behalf I campaigned many years ago, is still a right wing Russian at heart. **Avineri brings the view of a man who considers the problems as a citizen of the world and it is with his view that I identify.**

From Boca Raton, USA, Judith Weinrach-Fried writes:



The Torah clearly states that the boundaries of Eretz Yisrael. *Bereshit 15:18, Shmot 23:31, Bamidbar 34, Devarim 1:6-7 and Devarim 34:1-4*. The Koran (Islam's bible) recognizes the Five Books of Moses (Torah). This is not an issue of whether Jews in the Diaspora have a right to decide on Jerusalem's future because of the above scriptural definition. **In other words, our Torah's view takes precedence over those of Professor Avineri and Natan Sharansky.**

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Israel's founding father and first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion (left) had a keen interest in twentieth-century science and technology, believing that accomplishments in these areas would be the hallmark of the Zionist state. **His dream that the desert would bloom has come to fruition by the hands-on 'Jewish brain,' which more than compensated for the country's dearth of natural resources.** Gone are the malarial swamps and arid wastelands of pre-state Palestine that greeted the *halutzim* (pioneers), wearing their customary *kovah tembels* (three-cornered sunhats) whose grit and determination forced the first seeds of tomorrow to grow in the parched earth of the fledgling State of Israel sixty years ago. With the intervention of home-grown green technology, we've come a long way since then.

Drip irrigation, soil solarisation and the use of industrial waste water to feed the agricultural landscape have made Israel's garden grow green and clean. Electro-magnetic water treatment has improved animal health and crop yields. Israeli-designed and manufactured computers coordinate daily farming activities with innovative equipment for the purpose of tilling, sowing and planting, harvesting and packing. Scientific research and development has resulted in biological insecticides, disease-resistant seeds and biological fertilization. In desert conditions specially adapted crops of citrus, avocado, mango, vegetables and flowers thrive. Two plant species were introduced twenty years ago; Jojoba, which produces oil seeds used in cosmetic production, and Opuntia, (sabras or prickly pear) a thornless cactus whose leaves serve as animal feed and whose fruit has a valuable market.



Ranunculus asiaticus grown in the Negev is exported to Europe.



A variety of crops are grown in the north; citrus, avocado, mango, grapes, apples, peaches, banana, dates, wheat, corn, cotton, peanuts, potato, vegetables, flowers and flower bulbs. Saline water, present in arid lands, irrigates tolerant crops such as tomatoes, melons, wheat, cotton, beets, asparagus, Bermuda grass, dates, grapes and olives. Cotton was introduced in the 1950s. Water reservoirs, built along dry river beds, irrigate cotton, maize, sorghum and legumes. In the south, thermal water has been derived from deep wells and is used to heat greenhouses where ornamental pot plants are grown.



**Over one billion trees have been planted in Israel in a massive reforestation effort designed to reverse centuries of neglect.** National parks and wildlife reserves adopt home-grown ecologically-friendly technology to conserve and protect Israel's indigenous flora and fauna. As a party to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, Israel promotes measures to; prevent soil erosion in the irrigated croplands of the northern Negev and central Negev; increase the use of treated wastewater for dry land agriculture while minimizing the danger of soil and aquifer contamination and salinization; assist desert residents through ecotourism, aquaculture, sustainable and environmentally friendly industries. Israel's universities are committed to ongoing research and development programs in these areas.



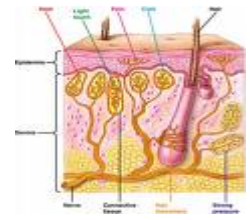
**That the 'desert would bloom' was David Ben-Gurion's vision – his dream. Today, nurtured and cultivated - it is our reality.** It is just one of the many remarkable aspects that constitute the clarity of such a vision but certainly one that flourishes – and will continue to do so – forever!

## Happy 60th Birthday Israel!

# On the medical horizon

## Israeli scientists find that human skin acts as an antenna

Jerusalem's Hebrew University Applied Physics Department scientists have found that human skin acts as a tiny antenna operating on the "sub-terahertz" frequency. The researchers have documented that the discovery, based on the finding that sweat ducts have a coiled structure similar to coil antennas in wireless communication systems, could serve as the foundation for long-distance sensing technology that reads various physiological and emotional parameters, leading to the development of a variety of medical and security applications. (*Jerusalem Post*)



## Israel's tomato-based extract provides natural sunscreen

Researchers at Beer Sheba's *LycORed* – an agro farming chemical company specializing in custom-made natural carotenoid colorant solutions for the food and beverage industry, have now come up with a natural tomato-based composition that helps prevent sunburn when taken orally. The company's novel cosmetic-pharmaceutical preparation, *Lyc-O-Mato*, uses lycopene (the natural red colouring of tomatoes) which has been found to protect the skin from damaging UV radiation. Studies have shown that after 12 weeks usage of the preparation taken orally, skin reddening – the process leading to sunburn – could be reduced by as much as 50 per cent. (*Israel 21c.com*)

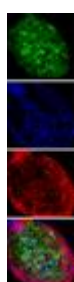
## Israel's novel respirator for babies

Israeli start-up, *Pneumedicare*, a company which evolved from an award-winning project carried out by undergraduates at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, is developing a non-invasive device for detecting early-stage respiratory irregularities in premature babies. Unlike those currently used, this device directly monitors respiration mechanics, making for earlier detection of complications that can cause brain and other vital organ damage. Additionally, it can be used to immediately detect deterioration in lung ventilation and the development of common problems in ICU patients, such as partial blockage of the air passages or ventilation from only one lung. Early detection of such problems reduces the risks of complications, damage to vital organs and irreversible brain damage. (*Israel High-Tech & Business Report*)



## Israeli researcher develops weight-loss wonder drug

Petah Tikvah's Beilinson Hospital physician, Dr. Nir Barak, (*photo right*) has developed a potential "weight-loss wonder drug" called *Histalean*, based on betahistine, an approved drug marketed worldwide for the treatment of vertigo. The drug works by activating chemical agents that reduce appetite by focusing on the histamine system. The histamine system has always been associated with the immune system but recently scientists have begun to connect it with dietary behaviour. *Histalean* quells the desire for fatty foods, particularly in women under the age of 50 because it is at its most effective when the body is producing the oestrogen hormone. (*Israel 21c.com*)



## Accurate cancer diagnostic tool from Israel's ZetiQ Technologies

Current diagnostic tools for cervical cancer like the PAP smear have a high percentage of false negative and false positive results because cells are often scarce in number or distinction between cells and their background is scant. Ramat Gan-based Israeli company, *ZetiQ Technologies* have come up with an accurate visualization diagnostic tool called *CellDetect* that is based on tumour staining using a metabolic signature developed using clinical tissue samples to distinguish between non-malignant and malignant cells. If the cells stain red they are cancerous and if they stain green they are normal. ([www.zetiQ.co.il](http://www.zetiQ.co.il))

# Reasons to be Proud



**IBM's enthusiasm** for the technological aptitude of Israeli engineers was further evidenced after news that the multinational giant is forming a new **Systems and Technology Group laboratory in Israel** – its third in the country. IBM's new lab will specialize in storage products, microelectronics and chip design. (*Israel High Tech & Investment Report*)

**The Arrow anti-ballistic missile system**, manufactured by Israel Aircraft Industries successfully



**simulated an interception of a rocket designed to mimic the Iranian Shihab missile.** A Blue Arrow Missile, fired from an Israeli Air Force F-15, which split into multiple warheads, was used to make it more difficult for the Arrow to intercept it. However the Arrow's radar tracked the missile, simulating an intercept. The Blue Arrow is a newer version of the Black Sparrow, which was built to resemble the ground-to-ground Scud A and B missiles. (*Israel High Tech & Investment Report*)

**The Amos 3 communications satellite**, Israel's newest space satellite designed by Space Communications Ltd and built by Israel Aerospace Industries was launched into space successfully from its launch pad in **Kazakhstan**, attended by President Shimon Peres. The launch was part of Israel's 60<sup>th</sup> celebrations and the satellite's carrier was adorned with Israel's 60<sup>th</sup> logo. (*Edited from Ynet*)



**Israeli start-up Conceptic's** e-menus are already in use in many of Israeli's trendiest sushi bars, pubs and restaurants. Now, Europe the US and Japan have taken this innovative technology on board allowing diners to order food from a touch screen computer on their table instead of depending on a waiter or waitress. Besides cutting costs, companies that sell the "e-menu" argue the bytes-for-bites approach has a novelty value that lures younger customers, and boost revenues as tantalizing photographs of succulent steaks and gooey desserts tempt diners to order more. The firm has also supplied its systems to restaurants in France, South Africa and Belgium. ([www.conceptic.co.il](http://www.conceptic.co.il))



**Jerusalem's Yad Vashem Holocaust** document and research centre has launched two unique channels on the *YouTube* video sharing website in a bid to expose English and Arabic-speaking audiences to materials they may not otherwise encounter. *YouTube* houses several short films, which include testimonies and personal stories of Holocaust victims and survivors as well as brief lectures and images from world leaders' visits to the Yad Vashem Museum in Jerusalem. **The increased PR efforts come in a bid to counter the flood of anti-Semitic videos available on YouTube and other websites.** Visit the *YouTube* website ([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)) and type in *Yad vashem* in the menu box



## WIZO IS AWARDED ISRAEL'S HIGHEST HONOUR

The *Israel Prize* is awarded annually by the State of Israel on Israeli Independence Day to Israeli citizens or organizations that have displayed excellence in their field or have made major contributions to Israel. **Receiving such an honour is the highest recognition any Israeli individual or organization can aspire to. To be awarded the Israel Prize on Israel's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is especially momentous.**

**This prize belongs to each and every *chavera* of WIZO – thank you!**

# US tax dollars at work?

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

May marks the 60th anniversary of Israel's independence. Since its founding Israel has faced immense challenges in its struggle for survival against neighboring countries and radical extremists who openly threatening its security, or worse still, seek its destruction. Despite this, **the Jewish state has flourished as a strong and vibrant democracy** and steadfast strategic ally of the United States. The re-establishment of a homeland for Jews escaping the Holocaust and centuries of anti-Semitic oppression and persecution opened a new and hopeful chapter for the Jewish people. However, the recent State Department report on anti-Semitism serves as a reminder that anti-Semitism continues to be a significant and urgent challenge that needs to be confronted and dealt with effectively.

According to the 2007 report, US embassies worldwide have noted an increase in anti-Semitic incidents, such as attacks on Jewish people, property, community institutions, and religious facilities 'over much of the past decade.' A particularly disturbing fact is that governments play an active role in spreading anti-Semitic sentiments through national policy or through the state-controlled media's hateful propaganda. Among the biggest offenders are Iran, Belarus, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela. Examples include Iran's President Ahmadinejad's suggestion that "Israel be wiped off the map," Saudi state-controlled newspapers alleging that Jews were behind the September 11 attacks, as well as state-sponsored media in Venezuela accusing Israel and the Jewish community of conspiring to overthrow Hugo Chavez's regime. The worst governments have also found a venue at the UN to spout their anti-Semitic venom. According to the State Department report, "between 2001 until it was disbanded in 2006, the UN Commission on Human Rights passed 26 resolutions and one decision that were critical of Israel," compared with a combined total of 11 resolutions on appalling human rights violations in Burma, North Korea, and Sudan. This double standard, sadly, is alive and well inside the new UN Human Rights Council, a body created with much fanfare nearly two years ago to replace the discredited Commission. The Council's obsession with Israel continues unashamedly. It has passed dozens of resolutions condemning the Jewish state instead of fulfilling its duties as a guarantor of human rights. In its session in March, the Council passed more resolutions against Israel than against Burma and Sudan combined, and it failed to comment at all on abuses by Iran or Cuba. Always more willing to denounce Israel than condemn terrorism, the Council has also overlooked Palestinian extremists who have fired more than 4,000 rockets into Southern Israel and instead rebuked Israel for its defensive actions.



**Despite threats leveled against Israel on a daily basis, Israel's commitment to human rights and rule of law is on par with any Western nation, and singling Israel out for defending its citizens from extremists is hypocritical and undoubtedly anti-Semitic.**

All civilized nations should join with Israel and the US in this struggle against anti-Semitism and intensify the pressure on those governments that justify such bigotry or those who engage in it. As part of that effort, we must deprive governments of international forums to voice their loathsome rhetoric by refusing to host, participate in, or finance such meetings. In particular, the US and other contributors should proportionally withhold funds to the UN budget for UN agencies engaged in such activities, and urge the Secretary-General to further develop and implement international education awareness programs to more effectively combat the global rise in anti-Semitism.

**As Israel celebrates its 60th birthday we should commemorate not only its remarkable journey, but also its role as a beacon of freedom and democracy in the region. We should also use this anniversary as an opportunity to reinvigorate efforts to combat anti-Semitism and the danger it poses to Israel and all of us who cherish decency and freedom.** *(Edited from the Jerusalem Post).*

**Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen from Florida serves as Senior Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee.**

# Worshippers of Death

by Alan Dershowitz

Zahra Maladan edits a women's magazine in Lebanon. She is a mother who undoubtedly loves her son but her ambitions for him differ from those of mothers in the West. She wants him to become a suicide bomber. She was quoted in the New York Times recently giving the following warning to her son: "if you're not going to follow the steps of the Islamic resistance martyrs, then I don't want you."

Traditionally, mothers who love their children want them to live in peace, **marry and produce grandchildren**. The picture of the mother weeping as her son is led off to battle has been a constant and powerful image. Today, there is a new image of mothers urging their children to die, and then celebrating their 'martyrdom' by distributing sweets. **More and more young women, some married with babies, are strapping bombs to their (sometimes pregnant) bellies, because they have been taught to love death rather than life.**



Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah states that "We are going to win, because they love life and we love death." Similarly, after 9/11, Osama bin Laden said, "We love death. The U.S. loves life. That is the big difference between us." The two basic premises of conventional warfare are that soldiers and civilians prefer life to death and that combatants (soldiers) can be distinguished from noncombatants (civilians). These premises are being challenged by women like Zahra Maladan. Neither she nor her son can be deterred from killing by the fear of being killed. They must be prevented from succeeding in their quest for martyrdom. Prevention, however, carries a high risk of error. The woman walking toward the group of soldiers or civilians might be innocent however a moment's hesitation may cost innocent lives, but a failure to hesitate may also have a price.



As more women and children are recruited by their mothers and their religious leaders to become suicide bombers, more women and children will be shot at - some mistakenly. That too is part of the grand plan of our enemies. They want us to kill their civilians, who they also consider martyrs, because when we accidentally kill a civilian, they win in the court of public opinion. Democracies lose, both politically and emotionally, when they kill civilians, even inadvertently. As Golda Meir once put it: "We can perhaps someday forgive you for killing our children, but we cannot forgive you for making us kill your children".

**Civilian casualties increase when terrorists, operating from civilian enclaves, hide behind human shields.** This phenomenon undercuts the second basic premise of conventional warfare that combatants can easily be distinguished from noncombatants. Have Zahra Maladan and the imams who preach a culture of death lost their status as noncombatants. What about "civilians" who allow themselves to be used as human shields or allow their homes to be used as rocket launching pads?

**There are no hard lines of demarcation between innocent civilians and those who incite murder as well as finance and encourage terrorism.** Mistakes are inevitable - as the terrorists well understand.

New strategies and tactics are required to deal effectively and fairly with these dangerous new realities. We cannot wait until the son of Zahra Maladan - and others like him decide to follow his mother's demand. We must stop them before they export their sick and dangerous culture of death to our shores. *(Edited from the Wall Street Journal)*

**Alan Dershowitz teaches law at Harvard University and is the author of "Finding Jefferson"**

# IRAN IS PLAYING WITH FIRE

Iran under the Islamic revolutionary government represents a serious security problem for Israel. It trains, funds and carries out terror via Hezbollah in Lebanon and via Islamic Jihad in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It, or its emissaries, hid navigator Ron Arad. Under its sponsorship, Syria continues to choose hostility over peace with Israel. Worst of all, its leaders explicitly declare their desire to destroy "the Zionist entity," and act to do so by developing ground-to-ground missiles and attempting to obtain nuclear weapons.

It is therefore impossible to view the statements of Iran's deputy chief of staff, that if Israel attacks Iran then Israel "will be eliminated immediately," as empty rhetoric aimed at prodding National Infrastructures Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer to respond with a similar promise. **Israel has never threatened to destroy any state, while Iran never refrains from doing so.**

The Iranians are evidently counting on the weakness of the West, and with good reason. The West includes states that want commercial relations with Iran, such as Switzerland and its natural gas deal. They laugh at the damage that Washington caused itself in the recent security assessment, which declared that Iran halted its nuclear warhead planning in 2003. Only much later did the authors of the assessment announce that the production of fissionable material continued, and that this was more important. It was to no avail - other states saw the softer assessment as a license to suspend the pressure on Iran. Tehran is now waiting for the U.S. presidential and congressional elections. The obvious conclusion is that the threat of an American military operation, which in previous years seemed quite close - and the fear of which led to the presumed suspension of the warhead program - has nearly disappeared.



If that is the Iranian presumption, it entails a risky gamble. It may be that nuclearization cannot serve as an immediate pretext for action, since Iran is not expected to cross the military nuclear threshold for at least two years, but the Iranians are providing U.S. President George Bush with additional ammunition against them.

U.S. ground forces are already stretched to their limits, but its air forces and its missiles would suffice for an operation against Iran. **Iran is playing with fire that could burn the Middle East.** Bush may not be the world's police officer, but in the absence of any other cop on the horizon, he can be expected to make good on his promise to prevent Iran from acquiring the ability to destroy Israel. (*Haaretz Editorial*)

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## Freedom

*Continued from page 1*

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd remembered with pride and honour the important and influential role Australia played in the establishment of the State and the fact that Australia was the first country to cast its vote in support of Israel's creation.

The Be'er Sheva event concluded with the playing of the two national anthems. As I stood there singing the Hatikva I felt so proud. Here we were in Ben-Gurion's desert – today a city of flowers and trees - participating in all the pomp and ceremony of the Australian 4th and 19<sup>th</sup> Prince of Wales's Light Horse Regiment. Singing the words of Hatikvah "*Lehiyot am hofshi b'arstenu – erez tsion v'yerushalyim*" (*To be a free people in our land, the land of Zion and Jerusalem*). **There is only one place on earth where a Jew can feel free – in all its connotations – and that is Israel.**

***Happy Birthday Israel – thank you for giving us our freedom!***

*Brenda Katten*