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**CANDLE LIGHTING**  
August 7 – 7:44 PM  
August 14 – 7:35 PM

**FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK**

BY LARRY GORDON

## A Reluctant Friend

It's just not working out; it's not getting any of the parties involved anywhere. I am referring to this diplomatic shadow-boxing exhibition that is supposed to double as a peace process between Arabs and Israelis in the Mideast. It is not working, and clearly it will not work in the future, because of the insistence that the process be unbalanced and not based on genuine reciprocity.

Those acquainted with the lack of progress of these "peace" machinations have understood

that it is mostly built on anything but substantive ground, and therefore has no survivability. In a sense, what is happening before our very eyes is the revision of an attitude that some people in high places were certain was the only way to peace in the region. President Obama has been awakened to a sobering reality that he will need courage to accept and articulate. Someday soon he may even be a very real but

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## RAV ZELIK EPSTEIN, ZT'L: AN APPRECIATION

BY RABBI YAIR HOFFMAN

The loss is most profound, and it will be deeply felt by those who knew who he was. He was truly a *rosh yeshiva's rosh yeshiva*. He was a *ba'al eitzah* to thousands of people. He was the last of the *gedolei ha'dor* of the past generation.

Maran HaGaon Rav Zelik Epstein, zt'l, studied in the



Continued on Page 11

## From West Point To The IDF



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu led a host of officials and dignitaries who greeted 55 soon-to-be-drafted soldiers among 238 new olim arriving on Tuesday's Nefesh B'Nefesh flight to Tel Aviv. Above, some of those young Americans joining the IDF. See Page 45

## A LONG HOT SUMMER



Above, youngsters in Israel enjoying a cool dip at the beach on an overheated day. As part of the planning process for a new multimillion-dollar chareidi resort village, the Ashdod municipality is considering a plan to reserve part of its beach for the chareidim, who require separate swimming accommodations for men and women. See Page 16

**HEARD IN THE BAGEL STORE**

## Single Encounter

BY LARRY GORDON

"If you want to write anything about us," she said, staring straight on and in a matter-of-fact tone, "just say that, more than anything else, people should be sensitive to us and what we are going through."

It was a recent summer weekend at a resort area not far from New York City. After shul and after lunch we met a small group of young Orthodox Jewish women who were spend-

ing Shabbos away together. The increasing numbers of single men and women we encounter is not necessarily a new phenomenon, but as the population of our communities has grown exponentially, so have the different subgroups of people within them.

Of all these varying groups, however, it is probably the singles and their increasing numbers that continue to stand out

Continued on Page 17

## Old-School Dating

Single In Cedarhurst, Part 2  
BY TARA FRIED

Recently, a friend told me how dating lingo had caused a bit of a mix-up in her house. After sending her information to a *shadchan*, to be passed along to a certain boy, she was told that he was "busy." When my friend reiterated the information to her parents, her father attempted to soothe her frustration by commenting, "Busy? Well, then, after things

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## DOES MIGHT MAKE RIGHT?

Our Aliyah Chronicle  
BY SHMUEL KATZ

This week, I am writing not at all about my personal experience, but rather about current events and my take on them. Over the past couple of months, the Israeli media has been abuzz with various protests that have been taking place in Yerushalayim (and for a couple of days even spilled over into Bet Shemesh). We have read accounts of uncontrolled vio-

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prison?" Mrs. Schon asked herself. But then, as she read further, the answer became clear. The following lines read: 09185016, Pollard, Jonathan; charitable contribution.

Despite being incarcerated for over 20 years, Jonathan Pollard has not forgotten the importance of a Jewish education for the children in Israel—a Shuvu education—and with the limited funds he has access to, he made a donation to Shuvu.

Pollard's donation was in response to an emergency campaign launched recently by Shuvu to save six of its schools—and their 1,366 students—on the verge of closure due to the financial crisis. (An anonymous donor has agreed to match all donations over \$100, thus making each donation even more meaningful.)

What Jonathan Pollard realizes in prison, many free *Yidden* do not yet realize: the future of *Am Yisrael* lies in the education received by the children. Only an education including strong Jewish identity and values can achieve and guarantee this future. May it be a lesson for us all. ❖

**From West Point To The IDF: Oleh Joins Record 430 New IDF Soldiers Making Aliyah This Summer**

This summer's second charter *aliyah* flight, organized by Nefesh B'Nefesh and the Jewish Agency, arrived on Tuesday, bringing 238 North Americans. The new arrivals are joining over 3,000 Western *olim* coming to Israel this summer on 16 *aliyah* flights—comprising 4 charter and 12 group flights. On this week's flight were 55 *olim* soon to be drafted into the IDF, who are among 430 young North Americans and Britons arriving this summer through Nefesh B'Nefesh's recently expanded soldier *aliyah* fund.

One of the new soldiers, Tsvi Mark from Maryland, who plans to enlist in the IDF's elite Egoz unit immediately after making *aliyah*, was training at the West Point U.S. Military Academy when he decided to make *aliyah*. "I had always wanted to join the U.S. army and train at West Point, but once I was there I realized that what I really wanted was to go home, to our land, our people, and our army."

Also on board was a large contingent of 35 *olim* from Cleveland, Ohio. The CEO of American Greetings Corporation, Zev Weiss, joined them to accompany his dear friend, and CEO of Intellectual Property Joseph Mandelbaum, who made *aliyah* on the flight.

This charter plane featured the winning logo of the Nefesh

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## AROUND THE FIVE TOWNS

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B'Nefesh and BabagaNewz.com, an educational website for Jewish middle-schoolers and teachers, 'Destination Israel' logo design contest, which encouraged students in Grades 4-7 to create an *aliyah* plane logo. The winning entry, drawn by sixth grader Esther Bellinsky, was painted on the side of this flight.

Hundreds of families and friends, as well as Israeli dignitaries, gathered at Ben Gurion airport to welcome the country's newest *olim* at the Nefesh B'Nefesh arrival ceremony. Those present includ-

ed: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu; Director General of the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption Dmitry Apartsev; Chairman of the Jewish Agency Natan Sharansky; Head of the Education Department in the IDF's Education and Youth Corps Colonel Roni Sulimani; CEO of El Al Israel Airlines Haim Romano; and Co-Founders of Nefesh B'Nefesh Rabbi Yehoshua Fass and Tony Gelbart.

Founded in 2002, Nefesh B'Nefesh in cooperation with the Israeli government and the Jewish Agency for Israel, is dedicated to revitalizing *aliyah* from North America and the UK by removing or minimizing the financial, professional, logisti-

cal, and social obstacles of *aliyah*. The support and comprehensive social services provided by Nefesh B'Nefesh to its 20,000 newcomers, has ensured that 98% of its *olim* have remained in Israel. [www.nbn.org](http://www.nbn.org) ❖

### It's Gilad Shalit's Birthday—What Can We Get For Him?

By Avrumi Ben Porat

Gilad Shalit was captured over three years ago by Arab terrorists. Nearing his 23rd birthday, he has now spent over 1,100 days in captivity. Gilad needs us to bring his situation back out into the public forum. He needs us to talk about it, to

write about it, and to bring pressure to bear on anyone and everyone who can possibly help.

At Camp Kochavim in Greenville, N.Y., Gilad is remembered every day. As the boys enter the dining hall, they face a larger-than-life picture of Gilad and a display of over 1,100 numbered ping-pong balls inside a glass case. The poster hanging over it says: "The numbered ping pong balls 'held captive' below, represent the number of days Gilad Shalit has spent in captivity. As we pass this display each day, let us remember Gilad, *amush*, and daven to Hashem that the terrorists who are holding him release him, and all other



Photo by Sasson Tam

A flight chartered by Nefesh B'Nefesh and the Jewish Agency arrived in Israel on Tuesday carrying 238 new *olim* from North America.



Rabbi Avrumi Portowicz, director of Camp Kochavim; Sholom Reches, Golani Survivors CIT, of Baltimore; Jacob Komarow of Clifton, NJ; Gabriel Miller of Woodmere; Yaakov Dov of Far Rockaway; Yechiel Kirschner of Flushing; Tzvi Mitzman of Spring Valley, NY; and Rabbi Schiller, learning director of Camp Kochavim standing in front of the "Remember Gilad Shalit" display on day 1134 of Gilad's captivity.

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