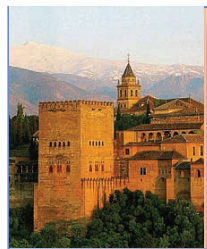




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The glories of Granada.  
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# THE JEWISH ADVOCATE®

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## Milk Street on Wall Street

The kosher café is opening a branch in New York City. Meanwhile, it's working to resolve a kosher matter back in Boston.

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## Jewish schools, by the numbers

Want to find out about Jewish education anywhere in the US? This Brandeis database has the answers.

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## These comics aren't funny

California Jewish leaders condemn "Foreskin Man," a cartoon book by a leader of the anti-circumcision movement.

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## Rescuing kids in Israel

A Brandeis doctoral thesis leads to an Israeli nonprofit that helps 4,000 people a year by breaking the cycle of poverty.

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## Fruit-filled dinners

Columnist Joni Schockett offers healthy recipes that will satisfy your sweet tooth, too.

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Have a news tip or story idea?

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## SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Parshat Shelach

BOSTON	8:05 PM
MANCHESTER, N.H.	8:09 PM
FALL RIVER	8:03 PM
PORTLAND, MAINE	8:07 PM
PROVIDENCE, R.I.	8:05 PM
SPRINGFIELD	8:10 PM
WORCESTER	8:08 PM

### ERUV STATUS:

BOSTON	781-446-9797
MALDEN	781-322-5686
SHARON	781-695-0505

## Life after high school



PHOTO BY SEAN F. MACDONALD

Sean MacDonald volunteering with children in Uganda as part of his Israeli gap year program.

## Jewish gap year programs bounce back after recession

By Leah Burrows  
Advocate Staff

Two years ago, when Zander Sebenius stood on top of Masada, under the baking sun, surrounded by his fellow soldiers in matching olive green IDF uniforms and M-16s, he only had one thought.

"How on earth did I get here? The rest of my friends are sitting in economics class right now."

The Cambridge native, like a growing number of American students, opted to take a "gap year" between high school and college.

Popular in other countries, the gap year only recently took off in the

United States. Rather than immediately enrolling in university, Jewish and non-Jewish high school graduates are entering programs that offer opportunities for travel, volunteer work and even college credit.

There are dozens of gap year programs in Israel, catering to every kind of student, Orthodox to secular. Despite taking a hit in the recession, many are bouncing back.

"The real question is, why aren't there even more [students] doing it?" asked Yossi Garr, director of Nativ, the Conservative movement's gap year program. "Taking a year off is not taking a year off; it's taking a

Continued on Page 7



Maimo grad Naomi Mitchell learning search and rescue techniques with the IDF.



Zander Sebenius during the IDF portion of his Young Judea gap year program.

## A veteran diplomat lambastes Washington

At Brandeis, Kurtzer urges Mideast push

By Charles A. Radin  
Advocate Columnist

Daniel Kurtzer, who was the US ambassador to both Israel and Egypt during his 29 years in the Foreign Service, is one of the true sages of Middle East policy and peacemaking.

Analysis When he says "it's time to start worrying," it is.

During the 27th annual Association for Israel Studies Conference, which drew some 350 top specialists from around the world to the Brandeis campus this week, Kurtzer gave plenty of reasons for worrying. All were convincing and unsettling, starting with his likening of Middle East diplomatic efforts to the Monty Python skit of a 100-yard dash in which the runners have no sense of direction, and run off every which way.

Kurtzer was particularly alarmed at what he called the current "Washington consensus" that because of the turmoil and instability in the region associated with the so-called Arab Spring, now is not the time to attempt serious negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians.

It is an attitude much encouraged by the prime minister of Israel, the Israel lobby in America and their allies in Congress.

"The real question for us is: Is it in the interest of the United States to buy into this Washington consensus on the peace process and the Arab Spring?" Kurtzer said. He does not think so, believing that the situation is only going to continue to erode, making any solution more elusive and difficult.

David Makovsky, director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy's project on the Middle East peace process, presented his analysis of the situation just before Kurtzer. Makovsky pointed out a good historical reason for not buying into "now is not the time" reasoning.

He recalled that roughly 30 years ago the struggle between Israelis and Palestinians bore

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## Sandler shoot packs shul on Shavuot

Bar mitzvah scene filmed in Brockton's Beth Emunah

By Elise Kigner  
Advocate Staff

Rabbi Arye Berk was leaving the parking lot of Temple Beth Emunah in Brockton right before Passover when a location scout for a new Adam Sandler movie pulled in. He told the rabbi he was looking for a sanctuary to use for a bar mitzvah scene.

The scout toured the Conservative synagogue, loved the place and told his bosses about it. Soon, Berk was getting calls from people working on "I Hate You Dad," who were hoping to rent the space.



ADAMSANDLER.COM

Adam Sandler

asked. Berk needed some time to think. He first considered his congregation. As almost all the members drive to shul, he felt that switching locations would

This all not be a problem for the 30 or so who typically attend Shavuot services.

He then thought about the two days' rental fee the synagogue would receive from Columbia Pictures – and how the shul's strained budget could use the money.

So the 30 Beth Emunah congregants joined with Rabbi Loel Weiss and members of Temple Beth Am in Randolph for Shavuot. Berk said it was nice davening with a bigger group.

"As Rabbi Weiss and I joked, we would have loved if Adam



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# Daniel Kurtzer: 'It's time to start worrying'

## Scholars descend on Brandeis

By Leah Burrows  
Advocate Staff

They came to Brandeis from India and Argentina, from China and Lebanon, from Russia and Mexico. They came to Brandeis from all over the world, hundreds of scholars, to discuss one thing – Israel.

This week, Brandeis University hosted nearly 400 scholars at the 27th annual International Conference of the Association for Israel Studies.

The conference signals the growth and diversity of Israel studies, according to Ilan Troen, director of the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies at Brandeis.

"It reflects the enormous interest in Israel studies all over the world," Troen said. "They are in countries [represented here] in which there aren't a lot of Jews, which should tell you that the study of Israel is not just a Jewish subject and not just the study of Jews."

The size of the conference is nearly double that of last year's, which was held in Toronto, Troen said.

"The fact that there are all kinds of crises and problems only enhances the interest, but the interest isn't only in crises and problem," Troen said.

This year, scholars presented papers on the subject of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state – a controversial issue that has "great current interest," Troen said. "There is a great deal of discussion of whether or not Israel is,

should be or can be a Jewish and democratic state."

The three-day event also offered scholars a chance to network and learn how universities in different countries run Israel studies programs.

Alla Zakharchenko came to Brandeis this week from Odessa, Ukraine. A professor of Middle East politics and Israel studies at the Odessa National University, Zakharchenko she said she is the only Israel studies professor in the Ukraine.

She said she came to the conference to learn how to develop a stronger Israel studies program at her university. "It is a very important topic [in the Ukraine]," Zakharchenko said. "There are many historic ties between Odessa and Israel. We can't close our eyes to that."

Israeli Channa Pinchasi is a scholar-in-residence at Boston College, where she studies midrash from a feminist perspective. Pinchasi said the conference was an interesting way to learn how others perceive her country and its people.

"My life has been transformed into a conference," Pinchasi said, with a laugh. "It's interesting to see how people see you, everyone brings their own views."

But the whole point of a conference is to share those different views and learn from them, Troen said. "The prime function of the conference is to stimulate more scholarship and ultimately to create another conference."

Continued from Page 1

many similarities to circumstances today. Both sides were led by politicians who were reluctant to enter negotiations; the United States had a liberal president, Jimmy Carter, who was not trusted by many supporters of Israel; and the shah of Iran, Israel's primary ally in the region, was fast going down the tubes.

Some people told Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin "that there is instability in the region, it is no time to negotiate peace," Makovsky said, but the treaty Israel made with Egypt at that time – with significant American help, cajoling and prodding – offset all other factors, "and Israel enjoyed 30 years of peace."

There was plenty of cajoling and prodding a dozen or so years later too, when President George H.W. Bush and Secretary of State James Baker brought the two sides together in Madrid for what proved to be the beginning of the Oslo process.

At that time, Yasser Arafat was in no position to say "no" very strongly, as he had disastrously supported Saddam Hussein in the First Gulf War. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir did try to dig in his heels, but Bush and Baker responded with hard-nosed financial pressure – for which some supporters of Israel will never forgive them.

Sometimes, to accomplish the very difficult work of world-leading statecraft, you've got to refuse to take "no" for an answer.

"Would we have got to Madrid without it?" Kurtzer said. "No."

It gets worse.

"Does Washington understand

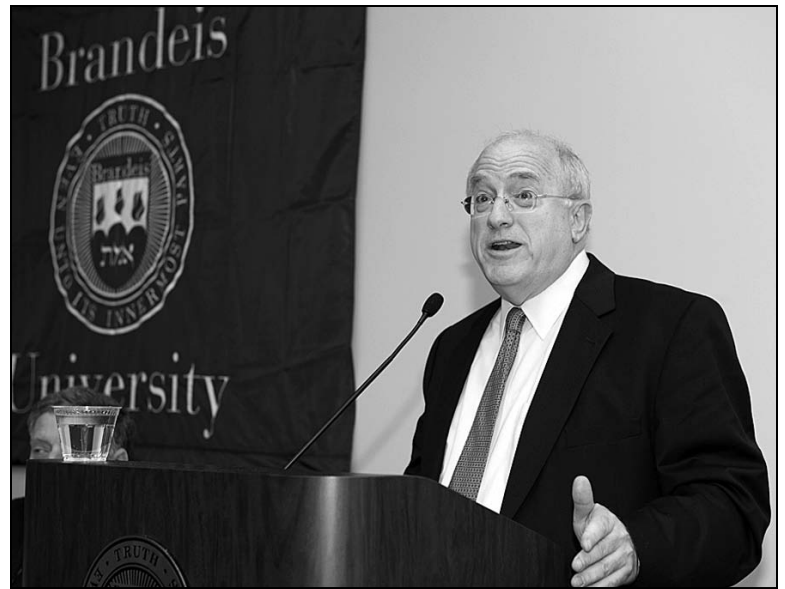


PHOTO BY TIFFANY KNIGHT

Daniel Kurtzer, former US envoy to Israel and Egypt, addresses Association for Israel Studies Conference at Brandeis.

*Sometimes, to accomplish the very difficult work of world-leading statecraft, you've got to refuse to take 'no' for an answer.*

what's happening in the region?" Kurtzer asked. "Does it have the will and the smarts to see the policy through?"

He suggested that the correct answer to all these questions was "no."

The veteran diplomat, who now is a visiting professor of Middle East policy studies at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, was particularly critical of President Barack Obama, whom he said had failed to act powerfully, resolutely or presidentially.

Obama articulated a clear policy in his May 19 speech, Kurtzer said. One could argue about whether the president's idea – that Israelis and Palestinians should address security and territorial issues first, refugees and Jerusalem later – was the best idea, but having a vision and pursuing it is what presidents are supposed to do. And Benjamin Netanyahu had a parallel right, as prime minister of Israel, to reject what Obama said.

What was inexplicable, in Kurtzer's view, was Obama's non-reaction.

The prime minister of one of our deepest, friendliest allies put our president down, in the Oval Office and then in front of Congress," Kurtzer said. "The president did not react. He did not act presidential."

Maybe he was afraid of the Republicans, who will surely side with Netanyahu and will accuse Obama of throwing Israel under the bus on the slightest pretext. Maybe he was worried, with the long presidential election campaign just beginning to get underway, of how a spat with Bibi would play with Jewish activists and donors.

The problem is, if he allows an

ally – any ally – to flick away his initiatives like so many mosquitoes, why should anybody take his policy seriously?

"If you're a big power, you've got to act like a big power," Kurtzer said, "and we don't."

He faulted the United States – starting well before the Obama administration – with failing to do the day-to-day diplomatic work necessary to turn policy visions into action. "We haven't had one of our ambassadors get into hot water [with a foreign government] for pursuing our policy in at least 10 years," Kurtzer said, suggesting that lack of persistence and toughness, and the fact that new aid money to enhance US sway is not available, may mean the end of the era of great American influence in the region.

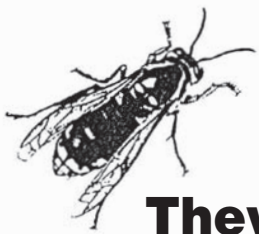
Deepening divisions in the American Jewish community and in the United States in general may also play a role in that reduced influence. People are less and less interested in using American power as a club. Many polls since the uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt show that Americans feel friendlier toward the people of these countries and would support the rise of democracies in the Middle East, even if those democracies were unfriendly toward the United States.

Shibley Telhami, a senior fellow of the Saban Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution and a leading pollster on Middle East issues, said his surveys show that if Americans are asked whether they want their country to tip toward the Israelis, the Palestinians or neither, about two-thirds say neither.

Of the remaining third, people advocate favoring Israel over the Palestinians by a 5-to-1 margin. Still, that means only about 25 percent overall want a tip toward Israel. And the big majority of that group are Republicans and evangelicals, Telhami said.

Let's see. Incompetent Foreign Service. Meek president. Declining influence. Shifting attitudes in the American public.

Like the man said: "It's time to start worrying."



## They Don't Just Make Honey!

It's the time of year when stinging pests are looking for food and increasing their colony size. These stinging pests include Bald-faced Hornets, European Hornets, Yellow Jackets, and Honeybees.

Yellow Jackets, Bald-faced and European Hornets will build paper-like nests containing 2,000 to 6,000 cells and up to 4,000 workers. Nests will often reach the size of a basketball by late summer.

Nesting sites are often located in some protected area, like a wall void, attic or within the branches of a bush. The entrances are guarded and workers can quickly become aggressive if their nest is disturbed, resulting in painful and sometimes repeated stings.

If you notice a colony of these insects around your home, call A-1 Exterminators, and let our trained experts quickly eliminate the problem.



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