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At his inauguration, President Frederick Lawrence emphasizes international ties and defends the value of a liberal arts education.

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The Talner Beis Midrash will hold its last service next week, closing a chapter of Hasidic history in Boston.

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**Losing pounds, making peace**

Israeli and Palestinian women bond in a weight-loss support group. Their story is told in the documentary "A Slim Peace."

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**Parents, read all about it**

Five from Massachusetts are among honorees in the Sydney Taylor Awards, recognizing the best in Jewish children's literature.

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**The Israel-Massachusetts connection**

**Meeting Peres moves Patrick most**

By Leah Burrows  
*Advocate Staff*

In his whirlwind trip to Israel, Governor Deval Patrick visited three cities, met two prime ministers, and one president and attended more than 20 meetings, conferences and forums with politicians, scientists, CEOs and students. There were press conferences and town hall meetings; meet-and-greets and photo-ops; tours and power lunches.

But of all the encounters over those five days last month, it was an hour long session with an 87-year-old man that left the deepest impression. Talking with President Shimon Peres, Patrick said, moved him to tears.

The purpose of the trip was to promote economic ties between Israel and Massachusetts. But every now and then, Patrick said, he stopped. He

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Waltham: MKs Ronit Tirosh (left) and Tzipi Hotovely at Brandeis.



Jerusalem: Governor Patrick and President Peres.

**Mini-Knesset debate at Brandeis**

By Leah Burrows  
*Advocate Staff*

The diversity, conflict and humor of Israeli politics was on full display at Brandeis University when six members of the Knesset – two from each major party – took the stage to field student questions on topics from J Street to the Loyalty Oath to tolerance.

The Knesset members were visiting Brandeis as part of the weeklong Ruderman Fellowship program, created by Massachusetts native and Brandeis alum Jay Ruderman to foster a better understanding between Israeli officials and American Jewry.

"This program was created to educate Israeli leaders of the complexity and breadth of the American Jewish community," Ruderman, president of the Ruderman Family Foundation, told an audience of 200 stu-

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**Not your traditional 'Fiddler'**

Hit musical is retuned for an all-girl cast from an Orthodox school

By Amy R Handler  
*Special to the Advocate*

Chances are few directors have had to grapple with all the challenges

Ariel Bavly faced when she presented "Fiddler on the Roof."

Her cast was aged 6-13 – and all 15 of them were girls.

The script had to be altered out of respect for the actresses' Orthodox and Conservative backgrounds. No daughter would be marrying outside the faith in this "Fiddler." Some traditions just can't be broken.

Furthermore, Bavly had never directed a show before. Then again, how many 12-year-olds have?

A congregant at Temple Emanuel in Newton, Bavly directed and produced the 1964 Jerry Bock-Sheldon Harnick musical as a project for her bat mitzvah.

That bat mitzvah took place last Saturday. The show took place the next day, before a large audience at Gann Academy in Waltham.



Cast rehearses for "Fiddler on the Roof."

Most members of the cast were current or former students of Shaloh House Day School in Brighton.

Crowd reaction was so enthusiastic that there is already talk of Bavly directing children in another show.

Bavly, who just turned 12 on March 15, is already a veteran actress. Last October,

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**Marathon makes Pesach more of a runaround**

By Elise Kigner  
*Advocate Staff*

The day of the first seder is a busy one for everyone, but the Davids are planning a schedule like no other.

Around 6 a.m. Amit and Adi David will leave their Brookline home for Hopkinton, run the 26.2 miles of the Boston marathon, then dash home to host a seder for 30 people.

Fortunately for them, everyone is pitching in with the cooking.

"It is very clear to everyone in that group that we're not available that day," said David, 41, who works as a military officer in Israel. "We just have to get back home and everything will be organized."

The Israeli family is in the United States for a year while Amit participates in the Wexner Fellowship at Harvard University. Monday night, the Davids will host six of the families in the fellowship, which teaches public administration to Israelis in the public sector.

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# Israelis spar at Brandeis 'town hall'

Continued from Page 1

dents, faculty and community members Monday night.

The visiting politicians got a taste of that complexity during the town-hall style meeting when a group of students from the Brandeis chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace protested Knesset member Avi Dichter – a ruckus reported in the Israeli press.

Dichter, a member of the Kadima Party, is the former head of the Israeli security agency Shin Bet. He had come under scrutiny by some organizations for actions during the Second Intifada, including the assassination of a high-ranking Hamas terrorist that also resulted in the death of 15 people, including nine children. Shouting “war criminal,” and “we’ll see you in the Hague,” referring to the international criminal court, the handful of students was escorted from the building.

In an interview after the event, Dichter downplayed the protest. “We expected some kind of reaction,” he said, “But I wouldn’t say it was a significant protest against me. As head of Shin Bet, they call it crimes against humanity, but I’ve been fighting terrorists over 40 years.”

The other Israeli MKs were Labor’s Eitan Cabel and Daniel Ben Simon, a former *Haaretz* reporter; Kadima’s Ronit Tirosh, who sits on the Committee of Education; Likud’s Tzipi Hotovely, the youngest member of the Knesset at 32; and Carmel Shama-Hacohen, chairman of Finance Committee.

The members arrived in the States on Sunday and by Monday were already learning lessons from American Jewish life.

Ben Simon told an anecdote about having dinner in the kosher section of a Brandeis dining hall. After the meal, which included meat, Ben Simon requested ice cream. He approached the rabbi overseeing the section, asking him where he could find ice cream. The rabbi escorted him to the stand.

“In Israel he would be executed for that,” Ben Simon said, jokingly. “Because in the Israeli way you cannot be both: You have to be religious or secular. Right or left. What he showed me tonight with his simple manners is that you can be tolerant of the other and that is what we have to learn from you.”

Tolerance of different opinions and groups was the focus of several student questions.

Asked about the recent Knesset inquiry into whether J Street is indeed pro-Israel, the members gave answers across the spectrum.

Labor’s Ben Simon said he opposed the inquiry, saying those who instigated it would “fit in the Tea Party here.”

“The question that arises is, what will be the character of Is-



From left at Brandeis forum: Avi Dichter, Carmel Shama Hacohen, Ronit Tirosh, Tzipi Hotovely, Daniel Ben Simon and Eitan Cabel

rael without the conflict,” he said. “J Street and other organizations from right and left should have an impact on our life after peace. It’s better to care than be indifferent; to be indifferent is death. ... We have to be tolerant of all voices.”

Kadima’s Tirosh disagreed. “You talk of tolerance, oh my G-d,” she said. “If J Street thinks they can dictate policy for the government of Israel I am totally against it.”

Further right on the spectrum, Hotovely of Likud said she supported the committee’s inquiry. “There is a legitimacy of all opinions from left and right – this is what democracy is all about,” she said. “But there is a big problem when an organization like J Street delegitimizes Israel’s ability to defend itself. ... This is Israel’s most basic right, and I expect all of you to stand with Israel and to say those people, those actors that are not letting us be who we are, should be excused out of the political game.”

Other sources of contention were the proposed Loyalty Oath requiring new citizens of Israel to pledge allegiance to a “Jewish, democratic state” and the Nabka law, which bans towns or state-sponsored organizations from observing Israeli Independence day as a day of mourning. Nabka, Arabic for catastrophe, is what many Palestinians call the creation of Israel.

Ben Simon told the audience he had voted against the Nabka law.

“Because [your boss] told you to,” Tirosh retorted.

“Democracy must defend itself,” said Hotovely, who supported the Nabka law. “If you don’t do that, you get Germany in the 1930s, and you get Hitler controlling your country.”

The Knesset members did find something to agree on when a student asked when the government would pass a constitution.

Although mandated in its declaration of independence, Israel has yet to adopt a constitution — primarily because of conflicts between religious and secular principles.

“As long as there is no separation between state and religion, we will have this problem,” Tirosh said.


“Maybe, one day, when the messiah comes, we will have a constitution” said Cabel of Labor, only half-joking about the difficulties of bridging the religious and secular.

The event’s moderator, Ilan Troen, director of the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies, praised the debate among the politicians. “There are differences, and there ought to be differences,” said Troen. “In Israel one makes a joyful noise unto the Lord, and that joyful noise is not a quiet one.”

He likened Israeli politics to the miracle of the burning bush.

“The task of the people up here tonight – with their differences and great commonality – is to live in one of the most intense places in the world and not get consumed and not consume each other.”

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Preliminary Prayers: 9:30  
Services 9:45

**Fri. Evening, April 22.** Services 6:30

**Sat. Morning, April 23.** Preliminary Prayers 9:30. Services 9:45 am

**Schedule: End of Passover**

**Sun. Evening, April 24.** Services 6:30

**Mon./Tues. Morning, April 25/26.**

Preliminary Prayers 9:30  
Services 9:45 am.

**YIZKOR Memorial Prayers.** Tues. am  
~ 10:30 am

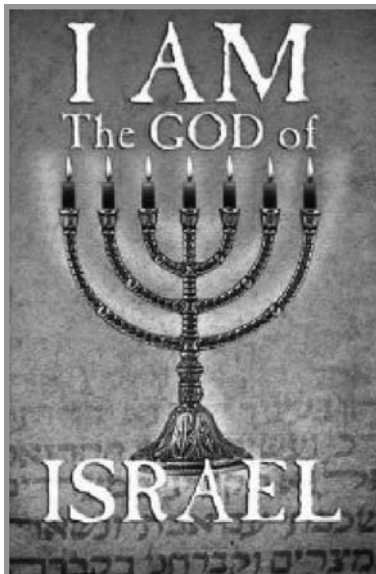
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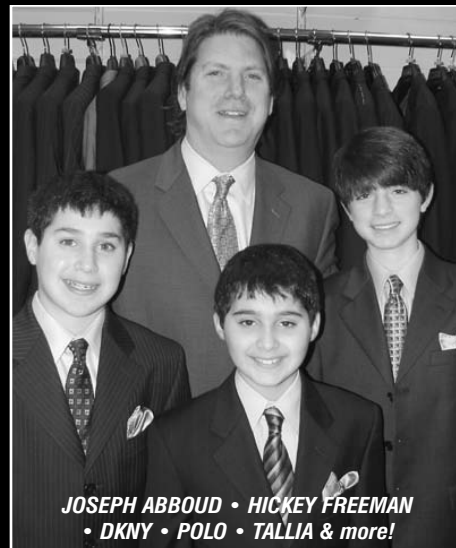


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