

**Focus on
Newton**
See Pages 12-15

Food
All fired up for
the Fourth
See Page 16

Theater
Courtside with
Red Auerbach
See Page 17

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Building bridges at Babson

The Wellesley college brings together Palestinians and Israelis and challenges them to create businesses back home.

See Page 3

Sounding the alarm

In Wellesley, Colette Avital, a former Knesset member, says Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu must take the initiative on peace talks or risk isolating Israel further.

See Page 5

Boom in rebuilding

Two Newton synagogues, Shaarei Tefillah and Beth El-Atereth Israel, tout major makeovers.

See Pages 12-13

X-Men and Shoah

An Auschwitz survivor turned superhero? The Movie Maven reflects on the propriety of using the Holocaust as the background for a comic book character.

See Page 17

Don't be a stranger

Singles columnist Tamar Caspi bemoans the way the newly smitten suddenly seem to forget their old friends.

See Page 18

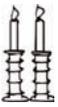
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Swinging scholars



Oren Bazer and Maya Leschinsky dance their way out at the recessional for eighth grade graduation at JCDS, Boston's Jewish Community Day School. Students were encouraged to make a creative good-bye gesture. The Watertown school has another reason to celebrate: It has raised \$2 million, to be matched by \$1 million from George Krupp. More day school photos, Page 23.

That championship season

Shomer Shabbos boys win Brookline World Series

By Leah Burrows
Advocate Staff

At first glance, the group of boys who rushed the mound after winning their baseball championship, jumping up and down, hugging and dousing their coach in water, may have seemed like a typical group of pre-teens.

Look closer.

Those aren't sideburns, they are the early wisps of payot. Under several of those Mets caps sit yarmulkes.

And when coach Jonathan Cohen gathered the team together for a post-game pep-talk, the first thing he did was thank Hashem.

This is a team of observant Jewish boys, and they are the World Series champs of their age group in the Brook-

Two shy of a minyan, Needham tennis team takes state title

By Lawrence Bergman
Special to the Advocate

If it could pull in two more Jews, the boys tennis team at Needham High could form a minyan. But the team's prayers have been answered anyway. It went undefeated this year, and last week won its first MIAA Division I State Championship trophy.

Of the seven starting varsity players, six are Jewish. On the entire Rockets team, Jews account for eight of the dozen members.

The team's top two singles players, juniors Aaron Revzin and Aaron Segel, both Jewish, have been best friends since pre-school.

Why so many Jews? Bruce Revzin, Aaron's father, offered several possible



The Mets celebrate by drenching coach Cohen.

Continued on Page 6

Continued on Page 7

Stepping down as the conscience of Maimo

After 41 years, Rabbi David Shapiro retires from the Brookline school

By Elise Kigner
Advocate Staff

When Maimonides School lay leaders asked Rabbi David Shapiro to become the school's religious leader, he accepted the job, but only grudgingly took on the honorific "rosh yeshiva." And, he said, he did not want business cards with that title.

But by any measure, Shapiro, who is stepping down after 41 years as a teacher, administrator and, most recently, rosh yeshiva, was a towering figure at the Modern Orthodox K-12 school.

He has seen immature middle school students grow into student body leaders; and officiated at weddings of former students and

then taught their children. As an administrator, he ensured that school policy on everything from curriculum to student clubs remained true to the intentions of Maimonides' founder Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik.

"I see my job as an educator, as a religious gadfly," said Shapiro,

Continued on Page 4

Russian Jews in Boston lose a hero and a friend

Bonner's death a personal loss

By David H. Goldberg
Special to the Advocate

When Yelena Bonner moved to Boston two decades ago, it helped that her next door neighbor was a woman she had been friends with since the '70s in Moscow.

"She was like a sister to me," Ella Gorlova said Monday from her Brookline home. "I can tell you the date and time that we met. It was Feb. 13, 1974. That was the day Solzhenitsyn was arrested and sent to jail and eventually put on a plane and sent out of the Soviet Union. ...



Bonner

"This day, almost every friend and good acquaintance came to visit them," Gorlova continued. "We were very good friends of the Solzhenitsyn family. ... We entered the small kitchen and several minutes later, Miss Bonner with her husband, Andrei Sakharov, arrived."

Bonner, a giant of the human rights movement and widow of the Nobel Peace Prize winner, died Saturday in Boston. She was 88.

Gloucester resident Yuri Tuvin became friends with Bonner and Sakharov in Moscow in the '60s.

"What can I say about Yelena Bonner?" Tuvin said. "She was one of the very rare people who was always, maybe 100 percent right in any situation in politics

Continued on Page 2



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Front row (left to right): Betzalel Miller, Micah Greenberg, Uriel Cohen, Yakov Sundel, Gershon Shanske, Mendel Lerner; Back row: Mendel Schwartz, Netanel Youshaei, Levi Freedman, Shimon Feuerstein, Dovid Bitran, Ezra Einhorn, Aaron Weinstock; Third row: Coaches Edward Feuerstein and Jonathan Cohen

Brookline champs thank Hashem

Continued from Page 1
line Youth Baseball League.

"I think this shows that Jewish kids are great athletes too," said Mendel Lerner, the 10-and-a-half-year-old second baseman from New England Hebrew Academy. "And even though we had to take time off for Shabbos and [Shavuot], we can still win."

Brookline Youth Baseball is the only league in town, according to Cohen. It serves ages six through 18. The Mets' division, Major B, has 16 teams made up of players ages 10 through 12.

The team, coached by Cohen and assistant coach Edward Feuerstein, was made up of 13 boys from four Jewish day schools: Maimonides, Torah Academy and New England Hebrew Academy in Brookline and Solomon Schechter Day School in Newton.

It was sponsored by the kosher grocery Grape Leaves in Brookline.

This is the second year the Brookline Youth Baseball League featured an all-observant team. It was formed to accommodate observant players who couldn't make practices and games on Friday evenings.

Last year's team, also coached by Cohen, made it to the World Series, but fell short of winning it all.

Initially this year, the shomer Shabbat players were spread

throughout the league, but Cohen traded to get them all on his team – the Mets.

"It was a very exciting evening when trades were made and emails were sent to Mets parents that their sons were now on the Mets in one blockbuster trade after another," Cohen wrote in an email to *The Advocate*.

The team finished the regular season with an 11-2 record, the second best in the league.

Cohen attributed some of the success to "our special Jewish unity, known as 'achdut.'"

Some of the players also said that being all Jewish made them feel more connected. They said they could talk about their favorite Jewish athletes (Kevin Youkilis for many) or simply ask each other about their religious plans.

"You get to say things like 'what are you doing this Shabbos,'" said 10-year-old Uriel Cohen, the coach's son. "You can't say that to someone who isn't Jewish."

Micah Greenberg, the 11-year-old third baseman, pointed out another advantage: They didn't have to worry about game-time snacks not being kosher.

Greenberg, an avid baseball fan, grew up hearing his dad, Paul, talk about Hank Greenberg and Sandy Koufax.

Micah said he admired Greenberg and Koufax for putting their

faith before the game.

"When you play in the majors, people around the country... watch you," Greenberg said. "So it's important for Jews and any other minority players to set a good example."

Many of the players said they admired Youkilis' decision not to play during the High Holidays.

"He showed that you can be in the majors and still be observant. Or, at least, kind of observant," said Ezra Einhorn, who is almost 11.

Einhorn walked in the winning run that put his team in the World Series. He also won the Herbert M. Silverman Sportsmanship Award, given to the league player who shows the best attitude and teamwork.

Einhorn's father, Jacob, said that good sportsmanship was especially important because the boys were cultural ambassadors to other teams in the league.

"They had to play in a way that would reflect well on observant Jews," the elder Einhorn said.

Cohen echoed that. "We always reminded our players that showing good midos [deeds] at every game is as important as winning since we have an opportunity to do a Kiddush Hashem in the eyes of other teams," he wrote in his email.

Cohen even created a team award to honor his players who performed well or showed team leadership during the games. He called it the "METSuyan" award, coming from the Hebrew met-suyan, meaning excellent.

Observant or no, there seems to be something about the game of baseball that connects with young boys – even if they can't quite put their finger on it.

This was 10-year-old Betzalel Miller's first year playing baseball.

"When I hit the ball or catch the ball," he said with a pause, "it just feels good."

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