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'Two Jews' in Kabul.

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Cooking

Cleaning the cupboards for Pesach.

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Purim

Snapshots of holiday parties.

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Mourning

Sumner Z. Kaplan

The popular civic, legislative and humanitarian leader died on March 22.

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Hebrew College sets timetable

The Newton school will remain in its current digs until August 2012. Meanwhile, its president says enrollment and the faculty are growing.

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Brandeis head off and running

As he looks to next week's inauguration, Frederick Lawrence talks about forging new ties with local Jewish community.

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Two views of Itamar

One columnist faults settlers and Israeli leaders for exploiting the massacre; another blames the media for turning a blind eye to Jewish deaths.

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Hearings hit close to home

Columnist Judy Bolton-Fasman says a congressional committee probing Muslims in effect put her family's friends on trial.

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THE JEWISH ADVOCATE®

Established 1902

Vol. 202 No. 12 ■ 19 Adar II 5771 — MARCH 25, 2011 ■ www.TheJewishAdvocate.com ■ \$1.50

Good sports



Above: Loren Galler Rabinowitz has earned four national medals. Left: Alexandra Raisman is aiming for '12 Olympics.

Hall of fame will add to their laurels

By Leah Burrows
Advocate Staff

Walking down the street, Loren Galler Rabinowitz and Alexandra Raisman – with their dark hair, olive skin and diminutive height – could be sisters.

But as athletes, the two couldn't be more different.

Rabinowitz, an ice dancer, is all

grace and style.

Raisman, a gymnast, is all power and agility.

But on March 27 both young women will be honored by the National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in Long Island, New York, for their achievements in athletics and academics.

Rabinowitz, 25, will be award-

ed as a Marty Glickman Outstanding Jewish Scholastic Athlete of the Year. The Brookline native won four national ice dancing medals from 2000 to 2004 with her partner David Mitchell, including the bronze at the 2004 US Figure Skating Championships.

If Rabinowitz's name is familiar

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An Olympic ice star warms to Israel

By Elise Kigner
Advocate Staff

Competitive skating has taken Emily Hughes to Japan, France, Russia and the Olympics in Italy.

This winter Hughes took a trip in which rinks weren't on the itinerary; rather, she was off to explore her Jewish heritage.

On a Harvard Birthright trip she prayed at the Western Wall, watched the sunrise on top of Masada and splashed around the Dead Sea.

"We were looking over the Old City of Jerusalem, and our tour guide was telling us the old stories," said Hughes, a Harvard senior. "It was so amazing to be where so much history has happened."

Hughes, who competed in the 2006 Olympics in Torino,

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Emily Hughes



Jogging in Jerusalem (from left): Samuel M. Fisher, Ben Fisher, Zach Avigan and Sam L. Fisher.

Maimo marathoners

When Maimonides graduate Zach Avigan arrived in Israel for a year of study, he worried about the sedentary lifestyle. "We spend a lot of time sitting in class, and we live in the same building where we have classes, so I wasn't doing a lot of moving," said Avigan, a student at Yeshiva Eretz HaTzvi.

To stay fit, Avigan and friend and fellow '10 Maimo grad Ben Fisher started running, beginning with two-mile routes around Jerusalem. Coming back from jogging, they caught the eye of Joe Benun, a fellow yeshiva student and a veteran of an

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How big is Boston's big tent?

JCRC reviewing member groups

By Leah Burrows
Advocate Staff

Many things have changed since Jews were wanderers in the desert – but some things have not.

The proverbial tent was once a literal meeting place for community elders and priests – the tabernacle, a center of Jewish life. Today, it's a metaphorical tent, filled with Jewish organizations, but still right in the center of Jewish community.

In Greater Boston, one tent is erected by the Jewish Community Relations Council and funded by Combined Jewish Philanthropies. It encompasses dozens of organizations that focus on community outreach, social action, and Israel aid and advocacy.

Just how far the tent stretches is now at issue as JCRC reviews the more than 40 groups that belong to its Greater Boston council.

"Our bylaws require us periodically to look at organizations that are part of the council," said Alan Ronkin, acting JCRC executive director. "We just finished our strategic plan, and we decided now was a good time to do it."

The review, though, comes at a time when more liberal groups have come under fire for not being sufficiently pro-Israel. For example, conservative critics have raised questions about J Street, which never was officially voted onto the council, but became a member when it absorbed the grassroots peace organization Brit Tzedek last year.

Ronkin said the membership review committee will look at every organization represented on the council – controversial and noncontroversial alike – to make sure they are compatible with the JCRC mission statement. That statement calls on JCRC to "pursue social justice, ensure a vibrant Jewish community, and build a network of support for Israel."

The tricky part is that last goal. Ask J Street, the Zionist Organization of America, the New Israel Fund or CAMERA to define support for Israel and you could get four different answers.

That's OK, Ronkin said. "The whole point of the council is to have a rigorous community dia-

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Maimo alum to race in first Jerusalem marathon

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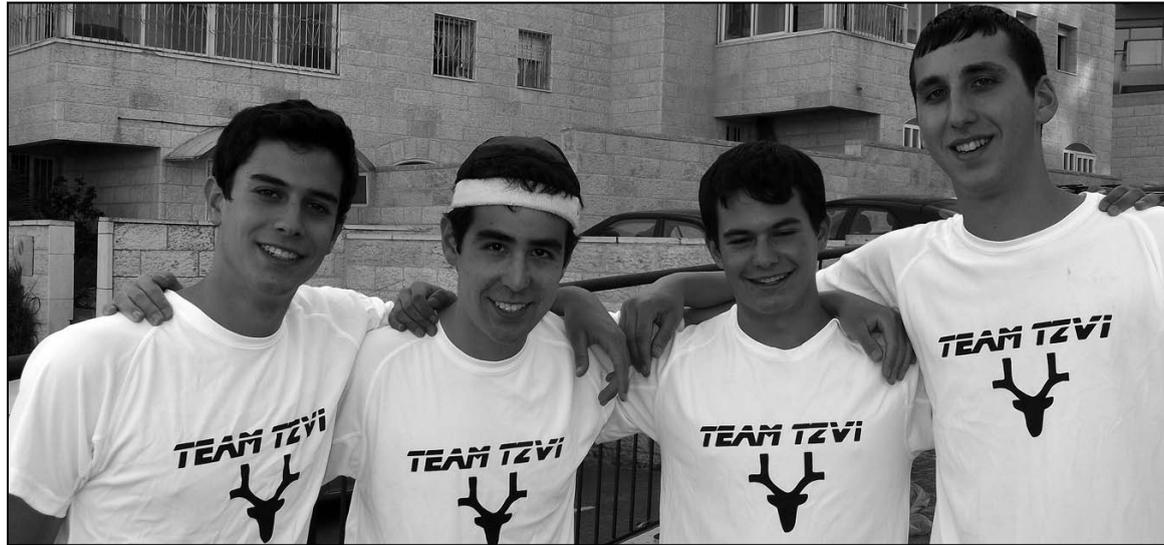
Ironman (a competition that includes a marathon along with swimming and cycling).

"He jokingly said at this rate you guys can totally run a marathon," Avigan recalled.

As it turns out, Benun wasn't kidding. He had plans to run the marathon, and he was looking for people to run with him. Avigan and Fisher signed on.

On March 25, Team Tzvi will join more than 10,000 runners for the first Jerusalem International Marathon. The 26.2-mile route winds through the city, passing by such sites as the Western Wall, the Knesset and the president's residence.

The course includes parts of East Jerusalem, drawing fire from three city councilors and Israeli members of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement. They unsuccessfully tried to pressure Adidas, one of the sponsors,



From left: Ben Fisher, Samuel M. Fisher, Sam L. Fisher and Zach Avigan.

to withdraw its funding.

Led by Benun, Team Tzvi includes two other Maimo alumni: Fisher's twin, Sam L., also a student at Eretz HaTzvi, and a friend of theirs who is studying at Oray-

ta Yeshiva, Samuel M. Fisher (no relation).

Most members of the team are new to running. Avigan's father has run the Boston Marathon for the past few years, but the Sharon native said he had never thought of running a marathon himself. "I scoffed at the idea that I would ever put myself through that much training," he said.

But once he got started, running became part of his routine. Avigan and several of his teammates now run three times a week, jogging past the Knesset, Hebrew University, the Old City, and the shuk (marketplace.) A week and a half ago, the group completed its longest pre-

marathon run: 20 miles.

Samuel M. Fisher, the Orayta student, started going on half an hour runs at the beginning of the summer. When he heard about the marathon, he thought why not put his running "toward something greater"?

Now, he runs on his own three days a week, often squeezing in training during his two-hour lunch break (he eats his lunch during class). At his yeshiva, classes start before 8 a.m. and last until 10 p.m. Despite his crazy schedule, he enjoys running through the hilly cobblestone streets.

"It is a pretty amazing thing," said Fisher, who is from Newton.

"I am just jogging, the most mundane activity anywhere in the most spiritual place in the world."

The team is using the marathon to raise money for Israel Defense Forces veteran Eitan Hermon, who lost his right leg when his tank hit a roadside bomb during the Second Lebanon War. After the injury, Hermon, a competitive runner, vowed that he would run another marathon.

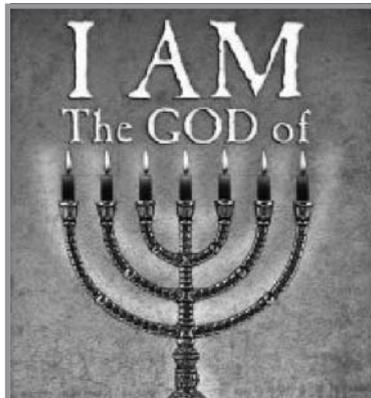
Tikvot, a charity that rehabilitates Israeli soldiers through sports, purchased a prosthetic leg for Hermon so he can run the Rotterdam Marathon in April. Team Tzvi aims to raise \$18,000 for Tikvot to cover the cost of the leg. So far, it has raised about \$14,000.

The plight of disabled vets now hits home for Fisher.

"I see the soldiers every day," he said. "It makes it very real."

To donate to Tikvot, visit www.jcfsandiego.org/donate.asp. Under "Designation of Funds," select "Tikvot" and add "Team Tzvi" to the text. Or mail checks to 4950 Murphy Canyon Road, San Diego, CA 92123. Make them payable to The Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego, with "TIKVOT - Team Tzvi" in the memo line.

- Elise Kigner



Texas rancher gives unique perspective and insight into the importance of the land of Israel, the American Jewish Aliyah, and a glorious Passover event which is being activated by the fall of the American economy.