

Jewish War Veterans Jack Wisenfeld (left) and Michael Shapiro salute the flags.



## Saluting Israel on its 63rd birthday

### JCC celebrates with children's concert

By ZACHARY JOHNSON  
Jewish Press

A wave of children rushed onto the stage when Doni Zasloff Thomas, lead singer of the children's group, The Mama Doni Band, took the mic. The audience started to clap and gradually rose to its feet in a full-on dance as Thomas instructed them to "show some *ruach!*"

That *ruach* — spirit — infused the Israel Independence Day celebration on Sunday, May 15 at the Maureen & Douglas Cohn Jewish Community Campus, which featured the children's concert. In addition to the band, there were hot dog and cotton candy vendors, a balloon artist, organizational informational booths, and a giant cake shaped like the flag of Israel.

Before the late morning concert began, members of the Jewish War Veterans organization presented the American and Israeli flags while the *Star Spangled Banner* and *Hatikvah* played.

The Mama Doni Band, fronted by an effervescent Thomas, aka Mama Doni,  
CONCERT continued PAGE 10



Birthdays cake is served after the concert.  
Photos by ZACHARY JOHNSON/Jewish Press



Mama Doni, the leader of the children's band, asks the audience to "show some *ruach!*" The outdoor concert was at the Cohn Jewish Community Campus.

## Obama to AIPAC: Pre-'67 borders only starting point for Israeli-Palestinian negotiations

WASHINGTON (JTA) — President Obama said his call for Israeli-Palestinian negotiations based on the pre-1967 lines did not mean the future state of Palestine would have those exact borders.

"By definition, it means that the parties themselves — Israelis and Palestinians — will negotiate a border that is different than the one that existed on June 4, 1967," Obama said Sunday, May 22, to the annual policy conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

"It is a well-known formula to all who have worked on this issue for a generation. It allows the parties themselves to account for the changes that have taken place over the last 44 years, including the new demographic realities on the ground and the needs of both sides," he said.

In his major Mideast policy address on May 19, Obama said  
BORDERS continued on PAGE 13

## News Analysis Has Arab Spring reached Israel?

By URIEL HEILMAN  
JTA news service

TEL AVIV — If a single phrase could capture the sentiment that motivated thousands of Arabs to try to cross Israel's borders on May 15 to "retake Palestine" from the Jews, it would be this: Yes, we can.

That can-do attitude had toppled regimes in Egypt and Tunisia, and threatened dictators from Tripoli to Damascus. So why not apply it toward Israel? If Arab leaders weren't willing to send their armies to storm the Zionist state, the Arab protesters figured, well then, they'd just do it themselves.

The charge toward Israel's borders from Arabs in Syria, Lebanon, Gaza and the West Bank led to the most violent day in Israel in months, with about a dozen protesters reportedly killed by Israeli fire — some on foreign soil — and a suspected terrorist attack in Tel Aviv that left one Israeli civilian dead.

On the day of the border breaches, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that Israel would  
ARAB SPRING continued PAGE 14

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JTA news service

**Circumcision ban put on SF ballot**  
A measure seeking to ban male circumcision will appear on the November ballot in San Francisco. City officials approved more than 7,700 signatures from city residents on a petition in support of the measure as valid. At least 7,168 signatures were required, and more than 12,000 were submitted.  
The measure, which would apply only in the city of San Francisco, would make it a misdemeanor crime to circumcise a boy before he is 18 years old. The maximum penalty would be a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine. Circumcisions would be permitted only for medical reasons, with no religious exemptions.  
Even if the measure passes in November, it likely would be challenged as a constitutional violation of freedom of religion. The Anti-Defamation League and the San Francisco Jewish Community Relations Council have come out against the proposal.  
Jewish boys traditionally are circumcised at eight days of age and Muslims at some time during boyhood.

**D.C. synagogue makes 'green' history**  
Ohev Shalom, the National Synagogue in Washington, has become the first U.S. synagogue to earn Energy Star certification from the Environmental Protection Agency. The certification, bestowed May 16, means the capital's oldest Orthodox congregation has met strict environmental standards, including energy conservation, recycling and alternative power sources. The modifications made by Ohev Shalom are calculated to save the congregation tens of thousands of dollars in bills, the Washington Jewish Week reported.  
Seventeen houses of worship — all churches, according to the newspaper — have earned the certification since its establishment in 2008.

**Seminary to train rabbis, imams, pastors**  
The Claremont School of Theology, a Christian divinity school in Los Angeles, will use a \$50 million gift to begin training Jewish and Muslim clergy. The gift from David and Joan Lincoln of Arizona will help Claremont transform itself into a multi-faith institution offering interfaith degree programs as well as training for rabbis, imams and ministers, The Los Angeles Times reported.

The university will be the first U.S. school to offer clerical degrees in all three religions, according to Tamar Frankiel, dean of academic affairs for the Academy for Jewish Religion, California.

**World's largest falafel ball certified**  
A falafel ball weighing nearly 52.8 pounds, created at the Santa Clarita Valley (CA) Jewish Food and Cultural Festival, has been certified as the world's largest for submission to the Guinness Book of World Records, the Los Angeles Daily News reported. The ball, made of ground chickpeas and fava beans, measured 12.5 inches high. Health regulations prevented food festival attendees from tasting the record-setting falafel ball.

**Glenn Beck to hold Jerusalem rally**  
WASHINGTON — Glenn Beck said he plans to hold a rally Aug. 20 in Jerusalem to support Israel and "restore courage."  
The conservative talk show provocateur, who paid a surprise visit to Israel this month, announced on his website that he wanted to "show the world what living a life of faith and honor really means...it is time for us to courageously stand with Israel."

WIN ZOO TICKETS  
Jewish Press Online Ticket Contest  
See inside for details

## Rabbi Mordecai Levy, spiritual leader, teacher, dies at 82

Rabbi Mordecai Levy, spiritual leader at Temple Ohev Shalom, died May 12 after an extended illness. He was 82.

Rabbi Levy was a rabbi for more than 50 years, serving the last 10 years at Ohev Shalom, an independent congregation in New Tampa. He also was a popular teacher at Congregation Kol Ami, where he led a weekly discussion group, Mondays with Mordecai.

At Ohev Shalom, "his role was part-time rabbi, but he also served as cantor and volunteered where he was needed," said congregation president Steve Rothfarb.

"He was truly a wonderful man, intelligent, witty and caring. He did our first (rabbi led) bar mitzvah and did Shabbat services twice a month as well as other rabbinical duties."

Rabbi Robert Judd of Kol Ami called Rabbi Levy "a rabbi's rabbi."

"I learned to be a better rabbi from him," Rabbi Judd told mourners at Rabbi Levy's funeral held at Kol Ami on Sunday, May 15.

Rabbi Levy never ceased to function as a rabbi, Rabbi Judd said. "He kept himself and others active and engaged" including serving as the kosher supervisor for several Tampa businesses.

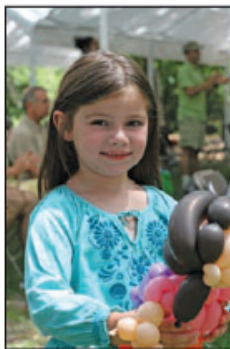
Rabbi Judd also called Rabbi Levy a "true Ben Torah — son of the Torah." He was always available to read Torah at a service or participate in a Beit Din, Rabbi Judd said.

"His thirst for knowledge was unquenchable," said his longtime friend and colleague Rabbi Raphael Gold, who attended the Jewish Theological

RABBI LEVY continued on PAGE 14



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Addison Capurso with her balloon animal. At right, her mom, Angela Capurso, sings along with other adults and children onstage with the band.



into the children's concert in the morning and an adult program in the evening, featuring Alan Elsner with The Israel Project. (See Page 3 for story)

Addison even won a CD for showing off her dance moves during the song *Chanukah Fever*.

Kendra Langli went to the celebration with her husband, Gabor, and two sons, Kelemen, 6, and Elek, 4. "It was just wonderful," Langli said. "Mama Doni was very funny and engaged the audience well."

The band was lively and encouraged dancing both on and off stage. Mama Doni maintained a strong rapport with the crowd and even got some of the most unwilling up on their feet dancing and singing. Seniors from the adjacent Weinberg Village — some in wheelchairs and with walkers — even got into the groove.

Following their performance, Angela Capurso, who attended the event with her 3-year-old granddaughter, Addison, noted how much of a great time she had. Addison and her grandmother both went on stage for many of the songs to sing and dance with Mama Doni.

"I'm very excited with the way it turned out," Fischel said. "It was a great time for kids."

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Photos by ZACHARY JOHNSON/Jewish Press

From grandmothers, wearing T-shirts emblazoned with "Tampa" in Hebrew letters, to toddlers, Mama Doni, got everyone up and dancing



Kids danced and screamed to win T-shirts and CDs from Mama Doni