

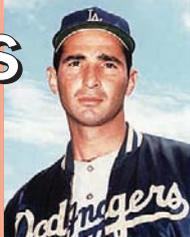
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Moishe/Kavod House welcomes Deval Patrick to its group home in Brookline.

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A portrait of 'the singing rabbi'

A documentary looks at the life of Shlomo Carlebach, from Jerusalem to Haight-Ashbury.

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Boston loses a leading light

Joan Cutler, a major force in Boston philanthropic and social circles, dies.

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or story idea?

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SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES



Parashat Rosh Hashanah

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Call him artist for the year

The paintings of Boston lawyer Michael Bogdanow are featured in the new Art Calendar issued by the Women of Reform Judaism. Much of Bogdanow's work is inspired by the Bible. Pictured is "Full Circle," which started with the idea of Jacob's ladder.

Story on Page 2.



PHOTO BY JONAS KAHN



Survey: US Jews' link to Israel still tight

Brandeis study comes amid schism debate

By Cara Hogan
Advocate Staff

A new study counters the notion that American Jews are distancing themselves from Israel, both politically and emotionally.

"The study challenges that there is a schism between American Jews and Israel over disagreement about policies in Israel," said Brandeis Professor Leonard Saxe, who led the study. "I wasn't surprised. American Jewish attitudes seem to be relatively stable and very positive toward Israel and are not directly linked to political ideology."

The survey, conducted by Brandeis' Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies in June, asked more than 1,200 individuals nationwide who identified as Jewish about their attachment to Israel in the abstract, their reaction to last spring's Gaza flotilla incident and their views on US-Israel relations.

Among the findings: 63 percent of respondents felt "very much" or "somewhat" connected to Israel, and 75 percent agreed that caring about Israel is an important part of their Jewish identities. The results

Continued on Page 4

9/11 widow battles poverty and intolerance

By Cara Hogan
Advocate Staff

On Saturday, the ninth anniversary of 9/11, Susan Retik Ger of Needham will watch her son, Ben, bike 62 miles to raise money for Beyond the 11th, the nonprofit she founded to help Afghan widows.

Retik was seven months pregnant with her third child when her husband David was killed. He was

aboard an LA-bound flight that hijackers instead crashed into the World Trade Center.

Since then, Retik has devoted her life to helping women in the land where the hijackers had trained.

Last month, President Barack Obama presented Retik with the Citizens Medal in recognition of her efforts.

"It was absolutely thrilling. It was not something

Continued on Page 5

His star shines from Israel to Brookline

By Heather Porter
Special to the Advocate

If star quality can be measured by the devotion of one's fans, then Israeli actor Ohad Knoller has his own galaxy.

Knoller, whose star is rising on both the large and small screen, plays Nati, the religious doctor with commitment issues on the hit Israeli TV series "Srugim." He was in Brookline last month for the screening of the final two episodes through a project called The "Srugim" Weekly Israeli Movie Night for Young Professionals,

under the auspices of the American Zionist Movement.

Knoller spoke to the *Advocate* while the show was being screened at Congregation Kehillath Israel. The interview was conducted Israeli-style, namely on the fly as Knoller walked down Harvard Street in search of coffee, sipped his brew and had a smoke. Several times gawking fans interrupted, one of whom even asked for permission to eavesdrop. A Cambridge resident – fresh from a trip to Atlantic City – said she had come

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Ohad Knoller at "Srugim" showing at Kehillath Israel.



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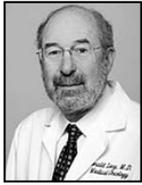
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American Jew wins 'Arab Nobel Prize'

An American professor is the first Jew to win the King Faisal International Prize in Medicine, popularly known as the "Arab Nobel Prize."



Levy

Stanford professor Ronald Levy, head of the university's Oncology Department, told Haaretz that as an American Jew married to an Israeli he never thought he would win the Saudi-financed competition.

The prize, which included \$200,000, a medal, and a certificate in English and Arabic, also came with a dinner with Saudi King Abdullah. Levy's wife and daughters attended the ceremony with him, despite their Israeli visas.

Levy won the prize for developing a drug used in the treatment of many types of cancer.

Calendar artist isn't the usual suspect

Women of Reform Judaism feature Boston lawyer Michael Bogdanow

By Leah Burrows

Special to the Advocate

Michael Bogdanow's small office in downtown Boston doesn't look like a typical lawyer's office. But then again, Bogdanow isn't a typical lawyer.

Decorating the walls above his bookshelves and file cabinets are vibrantly colorful paintings of landscapes and people, of starry nights and Hebrew letters – all works by the lawyer himself.

Bogdanow, the managing partner at the law firm Meehan, Boyle, Black & Bogdanow, was selected as the featured artist for the 5771 (2010/2011) Art Calendar issued by the Women of Reform Judaism. The 4-by-6 3/4-inch appointment book includes paintings and descriptions by the artist. About 5,000 copies were printed.

Much of Bogdanow's art is inspired by Jewish stories and themes. "I try to paint what is meaningful to me," Bogdanow, 56, said, "and Judaism and Biblical stories have always been a component of my life."

The attorney sees parallels between art and law. "You have to be willing to improvise in court, and the same goes for painting," he said. "With both you have to conceive an idea and figure out how to get that across to other people."

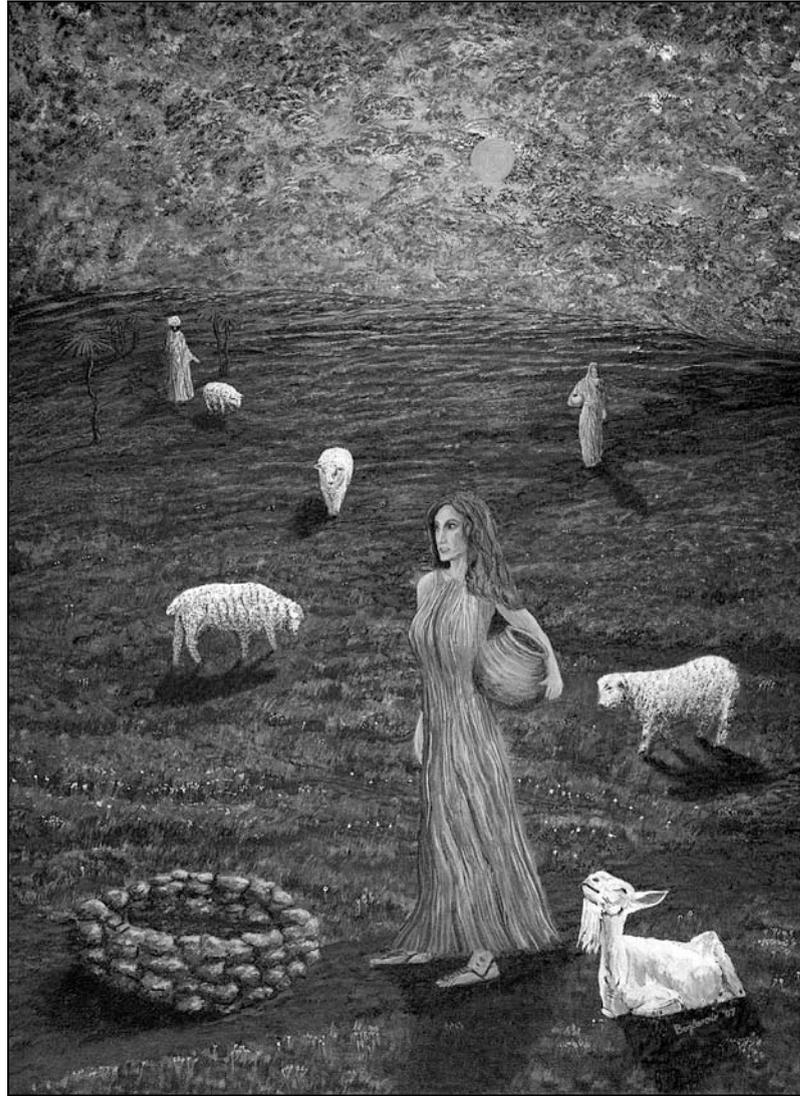
Raised in Houston, Bogdanow moved to Boston to attend Brandeis University in the early '70s. Although he had painted all of his life, Bogdanow said he originally planned to study theater. During his first semester, a friend encouraged him to take an art class with sculptor Peter Grippe. Bogdanow found his niche and his mentor.

Grippe, who passed away in 2002, took Bogdanow under his wing, giving him a large, disheveled studio in the basement of the fine arts building and teaching him how to sculpt with wood and metals.

After graduating from Brandeis in 1976, Bogdanow earned his master's in fine arts at Columbia University. He returned to Massachusetts to teach art in a local high school, but realized after a few years that full-time teaching wasn't for him.

"I knew I didn't want to teach forever, and art is a hard way to raise a family," said Bogdanow, who lives in Lexington with his wife, Margie. They have three grown children.

In the early 1980s, he applied to Harvard Law School. In the application, Bogdanow outlined the reasons art and law are similar. He also noted that both require an understanding of human nature and an ability to



"Rachel at the Well": Artist Michael Bogdanow notes that the shepherdess is so striking that Jacob falls in love with her at first sight – and "that even the goat in the painting is mesmerized by her."

connect with audiences.

He got in and graduated cum laude in 1984. His law firm generally takes the plaintiff's side in lawsuits. Among its high-profile cases was representing the family of the woman killed in the 2006 ceiling collapse in the Ted Williams tunnel.

As Bogdanow grew older, his art began to change. While Judaism had inspired his art from early on – in college, for example, he created a clay sculpture of Abraham smashing the 10 Commandments – in the '90s he turned to the Torah more and more.

When Bogdanow painted a scene based on his son's bar mitzvah Torah portion, some friends took notice. People began commissioning Bogdanow to create paintings for their children's bar or bat mitzvahs and for weddings and temple sanctuaries. Soon he was displaying his artwork at the Biennial, one of the largest Jewish conventions organized by the Union for Reform Judaism.

"It all kind of snowballed," Bogdanow said. "Some artists hate being in a niche, but for me the niche works."

His art appears in such books as "Wandering Stars: An Anthology of Jewish Fantasy and Fiction" and on the album cover of Peri Smilow's "The Freedom Music Project."

'You have to be willing to improvise in court, and the same goes for painting.'

Michael Bogdanow

Bogdanow is also a musician, playing piano in a contemporary Jewish band the Guys and in the rock band Titanic All Stars.

His paintings often include women. "As an artist, you paint what you like, and I like women," Bogdanow said. "I don't understand them, they're a mystery to me, and I think that's why I like painting them so much."

Many of Bogdanow's paintings in the calendar focus on Biblical women—from Miriam dancing at the Red Sea to Lot's wife staring at Sodom and Gomorrah to Rachel at the well.

"Full Circle," the painting on page 1, began with the idea of Jacob's ladder to heaven and then took on a life of its own, the artist said. It depicts a young couple at different phases in their budding relationship. Bogdanow said he often uses circles in his art. A perfect mathematical form, he said, "it symbolizes earth, life, the eye and sight, and the circle of life."

"Michael's art work was very spiritual in nature and spoke to the women on the calendar committee," said Shelley Lindauer, executive director of the Women of Reform Judaism. "His art is very visceral."

Bogdanow said that although the Torah inspires much of his art, he believes people of all religious backgrounds can relate to it.

"As an artist, the goal is always, with whatever you do, will this speak to someone? Can I connect with people from all different experiences and walks of life," Bogdanow said. "As a litigator, I ask myself that same question all the time."

For more on Bogdanow's art visit his Web site, www.michaelbogdanow.com. To purchase the calendar, visit www.womenofreformjudaism.org.

Correction: A story in last week's *Advocate* incorrectly reported that Andrea Werner Insoft is the second female president of Temple Emeth in Chestnut Hill. She is the third; her predecessors were Barbara Diamond and Shoshanna Rosenthal. In addition, she uses Insoft as her last name, not Werner Insoft.

The Jewish Advocate online

Online debate

September poll question:

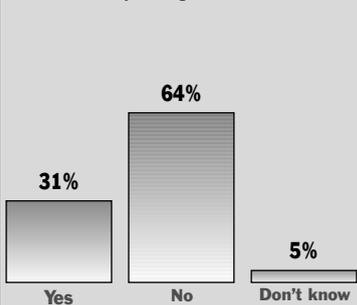
Israeli Prime Minister's Benjamin Netanyahu's moratorium on settlement construction expires Sept. 26. Should he extend it?

- A. Yes
B. No
C. Depends on progress in negotiations

Tell us what you think at www.TheJewishAdvocate.com

August Poll Results

The Rabbinical Council of America has called on US Jews "to respect Israel's internal political processes" and stay out of the conversion debate. Do you agree?



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