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## Sukkot feature

### Etrog's beauty more than skin-deep

Some believe that it is also the "apple" from Tree of Knowledge in Garden of Eden

By SHARON KANON

**D**id Adam and Eve take a bite from an etrog? Is there any basis to the claim that the etrog was the Median or Persian apple that grew on the Tree of Knowledge in the Garden of Eden? Was it tasty - the bite of the Forbidden Fruit that altered the fate of mankind?

The yellow-green fruit - a citron similar in appearance to a lemon - is bitter, and so is its bark. And, yet, for the Sukkot festival, it is the uncontested choice. It is generally agreed that the etrog is the pri etz hadar, the fruit of the tree of loveliness, one of the Four Species specified for rejoicing during the seven-day autumn harvest festival of Sukkot. In fact, it is said to be the most perfect of the four (palm branch, myrtle and willow), which together symbolize the unity of different segments of the community.

Yossi Zlochevsky, one of 70 etrog growers in Israel, showed me how each branch has to be tied to protect the fruit from the insidious thistles; even a leaf touching the fruit can cause a blemish.

"We throw away thirty percent of the fruit in the orchard, and another twenty percent during the stages of selection," said Zlochevsky. Getting a kosher etrog in the box is a major accomplishment.

What are the rules for a kosher etrog? Fruit from a grafted tree are disqualified. An etrog can not be smaller than an egg, dried up, or punctured. If an



Two Orthodox Jews examine their etrogs with a magnifying glass for any imperfections, in an open market in Mea Shearim, Jerusalem. Sukkot this year starts Friday night, October 13, and ends Friday night, October 20. WZPS photo by flash 90.

etrog has a pitum (protuberance) it must be intact and straight.

What lowers the value of an etrog? A slight tilt at the top, blemishes, spots, marks or injuries of any kind. Grade "A" etrogim have to pass very stringent tests. In the open markets, some buyers come with a magnifying glass.

Etrogim intended for export have to be put in quarantine for five days to ensure that their state of health is equal to their appearance. Israel exports to the United States, Australia and Europe.

If an etrog seems pricey, remember the effort that goes into growing the fruit for this limited market. Jews since Biblical times have been willing to pay well for choice fruit to fulfill the commandment of lehadare (selecting the best). The Code of Jewish Law actually suggests "that one spends one-third more than the minimum price to acquire a beautiful etrog."

"We are now two and a half months before the harvest," said Assaf Avdani, advisor to etrog growers in Israel, "and so far it looks to be a good year for etrogim. Most are growing pitum and the flowers on the trees are beautiful. Growers expect a harvest of between 150,000 to 200,000 etrogim this year," which will enable Jews the world over to celebrate a fulfilling and kosher

Sukkot.

- WZPS.

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## Canadian Jewish news

### Trudeau remembered as friend to Canada's Jewish community

By **GLADSTONE BILL**

**TORONTO (JTA)** - Former Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, who died September 28 at the age of 80, is being remembered as a staunch defender of minority rights and a friend of the Jewish community.

Trudeau served as prime minister from 1968 to 1979, and again from 1980 to 1984. He was the parliamentary representative of the largely Jewish area of Mount Royal in central Montreal. He kept a number of Jewish advisers around him and "always made himself accessible to the Jewish community," said Moshe Ronen, national president of the Canadian Jewish Congress. Celebrated for his intelligence and charisma, Trudeau had a profound impact on the country and played a leading role in shaping Canadians sense of values and identity.

Among other accomplishments, he promoted bilingualism and multiculturalism as official state policy, enshrined a Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and strengthened Canada's role as a peacekeeper on the international stage. He also encouraged immigration and helped the Liberal Party build a strong base of support among many immigrants, including the Jewish community. "He's recognized as someone who was concerned with the welfare of minorities, and he always promoted social tolerance and acceptance of minorities, something that we in the Jewish community consider very important in our leadership," Ronen said.

Trudeau promoted many Jewish members of Parliament to cabinet posts, and was the first prime minister to appoint a Jew to the Canadian Supreme Court. "He dealt with people on the basis of their talents, not their background," said Deputy Prime Minister Herb Gray, who became the first Jewish member of the federal cabinet under Trudeau in 1969. "He was interested in building an inclusive society and fostering multiculturalism, which he entrenched in the constitution. He was a giant."

But Trudeau's record in regard to Nazi war criminals living in Canada was lackluster. At a time when the Jewish community here had not yet begun pushing for prosecution of former Nazi war criminals, the Trudeau cabinet believed to do so would stir up a hornet's nest of ethnic tensions. Trudeau could sensitively articulate the historic struggle of the Jews, and so eloquently defend Israel's right to exist, that he inspired standing ovations from Jewish audiences.

But his government's relations with Israel were not always smooth. In a 1993 memoir, Trudeau recalled a meeting in 1978 with former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, whom he disappointed by refusing to consider moving the Canadian Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. "Begin became rather nasty about it and said, 'I'm going to tell your voters in Toronto that you're not supporting Israel on this,'" Trudeau wrote. "I told him: 'They already know. You can tell them what you want but I don't think it would be very courteous and I don't think it would be very effective.'"

Trudeau "was a strong supporter of Israel but realized there had to be some balance with the Palestinians," said Barney Danson, who served in Trudeau's cabinet beginning in 1974. However, the late prime minister was "deeply, deeply incensed" by the Arab economic boycott of Israel and its secondary boycott of companies that traded with Israel. In his memoirs, Trudeau recalled a trip through the Middle East in 1948 during which, having violated a curfew in Jerusalem, he was arrested by Arab soldiers and imprisoned as a Jewish spy. He was freed only after the British Embassy in Amman came to his aid.

### CIC criticizes Arafat, UN vote

(Cont. from page 1.)

"Palestinian, armed violence within and without Israel, verging on all-out war, risks drawing in neighboring Arab states as well. The recent kidnapping of three Israeli soldiers in northern Israel by Hizbollah is a vivid example.

Responsibility for this tragic destruction, which has so far caused over 80 deaths and thousands of casualties, must be laid squarely at the feet of Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat, who unleashed it and who refuse to end it.

Let us be clear. No stones and Molotov cocktails would have been thrown, no guns would have been fired in anger, no one, not one innocent civilian or child, would be dead or wounded today, if Arafat had not chosen violence, instead of compromise and reconciliation.

This violence (part of a larger pattern of non-compliance with the 1993 Oslo Accords) has shaken the peace process to its foundation. Why, and why now?

Arafat's outright rejection of Prime Minister Barak's extraordinarily generous Camp David II peace terms stunned world opinion, calling into question his commitment to a final negotiated peace of mutual recognition and reconciliation.

It was this negative political shift - not the peaceful visit (accepted in advance by Palestinian security chief Jibril Rajoub) of an Israeli politician to the Temple Mount on the eve of the Jewish New Year - that led to Arafat's unleashing of armed rioting.

Yasser Arafat always resorts - in clear violation of the Oslo Accords which bear his signature - to violence when he deems it politically useful. He did so in November 1996 (the Western Wall tunnel) and May 1996 (to mark the "Naqba", the "catastrophe" of Israel's re-birth in 1948). Today he is again using violence, in Jerusalem and throughout Israel, and in the West Bank.

Arafat uses violence to make "martyrs", to offset negative public opinion, and to influence negotiations. The riots are coordinated by Arafat's armed (in violation of Oslo) "Tanzim" fighters and 40,000-strong Palestinian "police".



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use of force against the Palestinians" in the "current violence raging in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and eastern Jerusalem.

Joseph Wilder of Winnipeg, CIC national chair, said: "We are outraged by the Security Council's adoption of such an overtly biased and discriminatory resolution which, in criticizing Israel alone, fails to reflect the fundamental complexity of the situation on the ground. The resolution ignores completely the Palestinian Authority's rejection of Israel's unprecedentedly elected government proposals, the PA's role in initiating the...days of unremitting violence against Israel, and its continued refusal to use all of the resources at its disposal to end the violence.

"It is particularly offensive that the resolution was adopted on the very same day that Palestinian Authority security personnel permitted rioters to overrun and viciously desecrate Joseph's Tomb in Nablus, thereby violating the terms of the understanding by which Israel agreed to temporarily withdraw from the tomb in return for PA guarantees that the sanctity of the tomb would be respected. It was also the day on which three Israeli soldiers were kidnapped by a Hizbollah unit that crossed the Israel-Lebanon border in violation of UN Security Council Resolution 425.

"For the Security Council to ignore these unprovoked acts of Arab aggression, and to focus its criticism exclusively on Israel, makes a mockery of the world body."

### A message of hate on the streets of Toronto

*A personal reflection*

By **RUTH KLEIN**

**National director, Institute for International Affairs of B'nai Brith Canada**

**TORONTO** - It was agreed that a joint leadership delegation from B'nai Brith Canada (BBC) and Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) should attend a Palestinian demonstration held on October 3, 2000 outside the Israeli Consulate in Toronto. The purpose was to observe the proceedings, to monitor the material that was handed out, to gauge the tenor of the public statements, and to be on hand to answer media enquiries in order to ensure that a biased, inflammatory message was not the only comment to reach the Canadian public.

As crowds of approximately 200 advanced, pinning us back against the doors to the Consulate, plain clothes policemen finally intervened to escort us away from the demonstrators. They could no longer guarantee our safety, they said, since the mood of the crowd had turned ugly and our very presence might be seen as a "provocation". We had seen ample evidence over the past days in Israel that the Palestinians felt entitled to respond with violence to anything

they classed a "provocation", so we naturally followed these instructions.

But the entire mood of the demonstration had been ugly, with a display of naked hatred so intense that one could sense the unspoken threat in the air. Without the obvious police presence, there might well have been physical violence against us. As it was, we were cursed, spat upon, shouted down when any of us attempted dialogue, and surrounded by menacing crowds, made up of masked demonstrators wearing kaffieh and waving placards and Palestinian flags right in our faces.

It was a horrifying experience to get a taste - on the quiet, civilized streets of Toronto - of the kind of underlying hatred and rejectionism that seems to bubble under the surface of Palestinian society, waiting for the opportunity to emerge. Unfortunately, the Israelis are no strangers to this reality. And it was only too clear from the tenor and the rapidly escalating pace of the October 3 demonstration that the ongoing potential for violent confrontation - even in the Diaspora communities - cannot be ignored.

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