

**OBITUARIES**

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**VERA GROSS**

Vera Gross, née Werier, suddenly and peacefully in her 85th year, on Sunday October 15th 2000 in Toronto. Beloved wife of the late David, loving mother of the late Shelley Gross, survived by her son Marty of Toronto and her sister Sarah Werier Goodman of Winnipeg. Donations to Beth Tzedec Men's Club, Shelley Gross Scholarship Fund or Beth Tzedec Museum, 1700 Bathurst Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5P 3K3.

**In Memoriam  
10th Yahrzeit**



In loving memory of **MICHAEL WAISMAN** who passed away October 31, 1990 12 Days in Cheshvan — Ever remembered, loved and missed by his wife, children, and grandchild.

**In Memoriam**



In loving memory of **HYMIE (CHAIM) TELCHEN** who passed away October 30, 1986 28 Days in Tishrei — Ever remembered, loved and missed by his nieces and nephews, relatives and friends.

**In Memoriam**



In loving memory of our dear mother, grandmother and great-grandmother **DORA SHURVEL** who passed away October 16, 1974 30 days in Tishrei — Ever remembered and sadly missed by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**In Memoriam**

In loving memory of **ZEV DOV UNGER** who passed away October 21, 1979 30 days in Tishrei, 5740

Sadly missed along life's way, Quietly remembered day by day, No longer in our lives to share But in our hearts you are always there — Ever remembered and sadly missed by his family.

**In Memoriam**



In loving memory of **RAY RUDELIER** who passed away October 26, 1981 28 Days in Tishrei, 5742 — Ever remembered and sadly missed by her loving children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

**In Memoriam**



In loving memory of **EVA MICFLIKIER** who passed away October 17, 1998 27 Days in Tishrei — Lovingly remembered and sadly missed by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchild.

**In Memoriam**



In loving memory of **ARCHIE ELFENBEIN** who passed away October 11, 1988 30 Days in Tishrei Many a lonely heartache Often a silent tear But always a beautiful memory of one we loved so dear — Ever remembered and sadly missed by his loving wife, children, grandchildren and family.

**Israeli news**

**The pain - and grace - of a victim's family**

By **JUDY LASH BALINT** JERUSALEM (JTA)

Anna Nourzitz is inconsolable. Her long hair caught in an almost girlish ponytail, the mother of Vadim Nourzitz, one of two Israeli reserve soldiers lynched by Palestinians in Ramallah on October 12, cannot control the quiet sobs. Her husband Issai sits next to her on the small couch, staring into the black hole of his grief. Their two remaining children, Misha and Marina, hover close by. The dark circles under their eyes mask handsome faces framed by the same high cheekbones as their father. The small living room in Or Akiva is filled with mourning friends and relatives, all still in shock over the loss of Vadim.

Shiva calls are always difficult, but what do you say to a family who sits numbed by the unspeakable violence committed against their 33-year-old son and played on TV screens all over the world? The pain in the room is palpable. It hangs heavily in the warm, still, mid-October humidity of the small town near Caesarea.

The Nourzitz apartment reminds me of the homes of refuseniks I visited in the former Soviet Union in the 1970s and 1980s. The furniture and chotchkes have that Russian flavor, but Or Akiva is a far cry from Irkutsk, the Siberian capital from where the family fled in the early part of the 1990s.

Vadim was married just one week before his death. He and Irina, a soft-featured, attractive woman, dated for four years before standing under the chupah together two weeks ago. Irina pulls out pictures of their wedding - pictures that had graced the pages of all the Israeli dailies October 13. A shy-looking, handsome Vadim, wearing a white satin kippah, looks at the camera with an open smile. Irina, in traditional white, looks radiant, far from the state in which we find her just 10 days later. I'm accompanying Rabbi Avi Weiss who has traveled from New York to comfort as many of the families of the Israelis killed in the



Vadim Nourzitz, 33, was lynched along with fellow reserve soldier Yosef Avrahami in the West Bank on October 12. Nourzitz, who was married a week before he was killed, immigrated to Israel from the former Soviet Union in 1992. He lived in the coastal town of Or Akiva.

Credit: IDF Spokesperson.



Yosef Avrahami, 38, was one of two Israeli reserve soldiers lynched by a Palestinian mob on October 12. Avrahami, a toy salesman and father of three, lived in Petach Tikvah. Credit: IDF Spokesperson.

terror as possible. We decide to drive first to Or Akiva and Petach Tikva, where the two Ramallah murder victims lived.

Why there and not Elon Moreh, where Avi's friend, Rabbi Zvulun Lieberman, is mourning his son Hillel, killed on Shabbat Shuvah walking to Joseph's Tomb in Nablus? Simply because driving to Or Akiva and Petach Tikva is still relatively safe, whereas getting to Elon Moreh has become a complicated and risky endeavor. Taking a car with protected windows is not sufficient. Such measures protect only against stones, not bullets. We simply don't have enough bulletproof vehicles in the country for everyone who needs to travel to and from their communities these days.

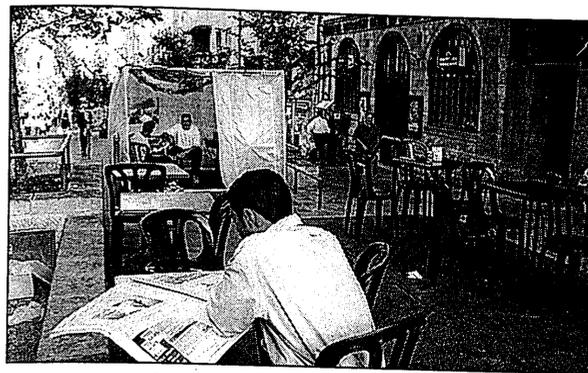
Rabbi Lieberman tells Avi that he would welcome visitors. Avi, as rabbi of a New York congregation that is one of the most vibrant Orthodox synagogues in the United States, has decades of experience comforting the bereaved. But

I can see that even for one accustomed to confronting mourning, the deep, profound grief of the Nourzitz family is difficult for him to face. Each of us in that living room grapples with the task of erasing the horrible images of Vadim's death from our minds.

The rabbi's words are translated into Russian for Issai and Anna by Alex Rovni, a family friend and local council member who is helping to coordinate the stream of condolence visits by Knesset members, rabbis and government ministers. The parents nod slowly in appreciation of Avi's empathetic expressions of caring and sympathy. Finally, as we rise to leave, Issai raises his eyes to tell us that he still has a future and Vadim will have a legacy because Irina is pregnant.

As we rise to leave, Issai raises his eyes to tell us that he still has a future - and Vadim will have a legacy because Irina is pregnant.

**Israeli news**



A tourist sits at a deserted open-air cafe on Jerusalem's downtown mall on October 17. The Sukkot holiday is usually an upbeat time throughout Israel, but the streets of Jerusalem were much more somber than usual because of the ongoing violence. Credit: Brian Hendler/JTA.

**Behind the headlines**

**Israelis set aside bickering for now, but still disagree on future of peace**

By **AVI MACHLIS** JERUSALEM (JTA)

Customers at an Israeli supermarket wince at photos of a Ramallah mob lynching two reserve soldiers who accidentally turned into the West Bank town. "They are barbarians and they hate us. That is the problem," says Orit, a cashier. "Now there is nothing left to do, no chance for peace."

The horrific lynchings and the deadly violence has left Israel as it usually is during times of national crisis - briefly unified.

People across the political spectrum are together if only in their disgust, as many saw the lynching as a personification of the deep enmity Palestinians feel towards Israelis. Now, in the streets or on TV talk shows, the tone of the public debate is different. Israeli Jews are no longer shouting at each other and are trying to pull together to face the challenges ahead. During the Sukkot holiday last week, usually an upbeat time throughout Israel, the feeling of despair has become more tangible in the public mood.

Several annual festivals were cancelled due to the situation, and the streets of downtown Jerusalem are much more somber than usual for a holiday week.

Even though there has been no public panic, Yediot Achronot, Israel's biggest daily newspaper, reported that, according to one supermarket chain, Israelis are stocking up on canned goods and mineral water. The chain,

Supersol, reported a 50 percent increase in sales of both, and snack foods have been selling twice as fast as usual, apparently since Israelis are spending long hours watching television coverage of the crisis.

**BUSES STONED IN JAFFA**

On October 16, the Dan bus company said it would cancel two lines that run through Jaffa, a mixed Jewish-Arab city adjacent to Tel Aviv, since the buses on that route had been stoned several times. Even though for most Israelis the crisis has not changed their day-to-day lives, the constant flood of news has created a feeling of war and an atmosphere of confusion and despair.

Public opinion polls show some contradictions in what the recent events have done to Israeli opinion.

A poll taken by the Israeli daily Ma'ariv before the lynching showed that 62 percent of Israelis no longer believe there is a Palestinian partner to make peace with. However, 63 percent of Israelis said they would still be willing to return to the negotiating table.

Although that figure had fallen 5 percentage points from the previous poll, it appeared to indicate that Israelis are frightened of the war they see unfolding. "I still support making peace with them, since they are our neighbors and we must find a way to live together," says Tzahi Sharabi, 46, who owns a

real estate agency in Jerusalem, and describes himself as a centrist. "But we must strike back at them harder."

Outside of Sharabi's agency, by the Pat junction, a gateway to some of Jerusalem's poorest Jewish neighborhoods and a stronghold of the right-wing Likud Party, many people agree that Israel must be tougher. Few feel that the scores of Palestinians killed by Israeli soldiers are Israel's responsibility. Neither are they concerned about international public opinion that tends to turn against Israel the harder it hits back at the Palestinians. "We must hit them harder," says David Shalom, a 48-year old car dealer. "Not the civilians, but we must teach the Palestinian police a lesson."

In the more liberal Emek Refaim neighborhood, coffee shops were full October 13, the day after the murder of the two Israeli soldiers and the Israeli strikes against Palestinian targets.

But even here, there were plenty of peace supporters who backed Barak's decision to launch strikes inside Palestinian-controlled territory. "As far as I know, the strikes were on Palestinian police targets, and attempted to avoid civilians," says Esther Nadav, an accountant from Jerusalem and an ardent peace supporter. "After what I saw yesterday," she adds, referring to the lynching, "I did not feel that it bothered me."

**Little information is released about Israeli in Hezbollah hands**

NEW YORK (JTA) - Israeli sources are releasing few details on Elhanan Tannenbaum, an Israeli colonel reportedly kidnapped abroad and held by Hezbollah. The explanation is simple: the fewer the words said, the greater the prospects for Tannenbaum's release. Tannenbaum, 54, served as reserve colonel in the Israel Defence Force and had various business contacts overseas.

After several years as a businessman, Tannenbaum reportedly suffered financial difficulties and an unknown family crisis. Friends told the Israeli media that Tannenbaum used to travel overseas frequently, often for short periods of several days. He last left Israel two weeks ago.

However, although family members had not heard from him for several days, only after Hezbollah announced October 16 that it detained an Israeli colonel did the family realize that it was him. "The kidnapping of my father by Hezbollah is an inhumane and immoral act," Tannenbaum's daughter, Keren, 26, said in a brief statement to the media.

She said her father was sick and needed medication.

Reacting to Hezbollah reports that Tannenbaum was tricked to come to Lebanon by a business associate, a close friend told reporters: "This is a sick, elderly family man, who does not speak a word of Arabic. The last things he needs is adventures in Lebanon." Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah claimed last week that Tannenbaum was an officer in the Mossad, a charge that Israeli sources denied. Israeli cabinet minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer called Nasrallah's claim a "fantastical story."

"This is a private businessman whose trip was made in part for personal reasons, and there is no reason to go into those details," Ben-Eliezer told Israeli media. Israeli security officials have said the kidnapping took place in Switzerland, but the Swiss federal police could not confirm the report. Tannenbaum was discharged from service in the 1970s as a junior officer, but throughout the years climbed to the rank of a reserve colonel, a rare phenomenon in the IDF.

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