

JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- A young Israeli who served eight of his 12 months in the army in prison for refusing to go to a training base on the West Bank on the grounds that such service in occupied territory was against his conscience, has been discharged from the army as "unsuitable" it was reported. Gadi Algazi said he knew the name of "occupied areas refusenik" would stick with him from now on "but this is the price I must pay for following my conscience."

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- A rare and valuable, handwritten 15th Century Hagaddah, beautifully illustrated and until now kept at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, has been donated to the Hebrew University library by Mrs. James de Rothchild. It was known as "Murphy's Hagaddah" to all scholars while at Yale.

PARIS (WNS) -- 80 tombs in the Jewish cemetery of Bagneux on the outskirts of Paris were desecrated with swastikas and slogans such as "death to Israel," "death to the acid throwers" and "revenge for the attack" the eve of the French "Deportation Day" when the memory of those who died in World War II concentration camps is commemorated. The last two slogans are a reference to an attack against a neo-Nazi militant who lost his eyesight after alleged Jewish activists threw acid in his face.

PARIS (WNS) -- Father Gerard Thiroux-Villette, 64, long lost son of Jewish painter Amadeo Modigliano has been found in a small village near Paris where he serves as a local parish priest, it was reported here. Thiroux-Villette told a French newspaper, Le Journal de Dimanche which claimed the "discovery," that he had known since he was 13 years old that he was the son of the world famous painter of the 20th century who many describe as the greatest painter of the 20th century.

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WASHINGTON (WNS) -- Pawel Spiewak, a lecturer at Warsaw University and a member of the editorial staff of Wiesz, a prominent Catholic publication stated here that the anti-Zionist campaign being conducted in Poland is an attempt "to legitimize Soviet intervention" in that troubled nation. Spiewak reminded a B'nai B'rith audience here that the Soviets conducted a similar campaign before invading Czechoslovakia in the 1960s.

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- Menachem Begin, in his capacity as minister of Defense declared that the Arab National Coordinating Committee, an umbrella organization of a number of nationalist groups among Israeli Arabs is illegal. The committee was established at a meeting of Israeli Arabs in December 1980 and its charter was ratified last February that declares that the Israeli Arabs are part of the Palestinian people, whose sole representative is the Palestine Liberation Organization.

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STAN SIMMONS

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- Egypt has agreed to reduce by \$3 a barrel the price of top quality oil it sells to Israel, its single biggest customer. Finance Ministry officials said that about \$2 million a month will be saved by the reduction. Israel had asked for the price drop in view of falling prices and a glut in crude oil on world markets.

AMSTERDAM (WNS) -- A figure of Anne Frank has been added to the Madame Tussaud wax museum here. Anne is shown at the age of 14 sitting at a desk and writing her diary in a room which is a faithful reproduction of the attic in the house where Anne Frank and her family hid during the Nazi occupation of Holland.

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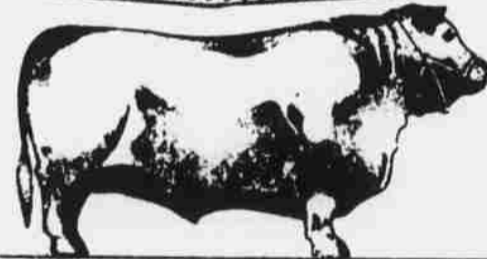


Students of human behavior tell us that ceremonies for saying goodby have existed as long as man. Ceremonies mark events in the lives of people and communities. Weddings mark new families; baptisms and bar mitzvahs welcome children and adolescents into society. Death marks the end of life. The funeral acknowledges that a life has been lived. People express their feelings about life through ceremony. Funerals also provide a socially accepted way for people to come together to support the grieving family. Many people welcome social support. If there were no funerals, how would you find a way to tell a family that you cared about their loss.

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