



# SHELANU

Volume 2; Number 4

January - February 1991

Shevat 5751

Published by  
The B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation  
State University of New York at Stony Brook

## WAR IN MID-EAST ISRAEL ATTACKED BY IRAQ

As we work to compose this issue of Stony Brook Shelanu, war rages in the Middle East. We had planned for this issue to welcome you back to campus and a host of the usual Hillel activities that begin a semester. Some of those activities will take place, and others have been replaced or modified to address the rapidly changing situation.

Being at war in and of itself is traumatizing to all Americans. Seeing Israel under attack only exacerbates those feelings for us as Americans and as Jews. Regardless of how you may have felt about U.S. intervention in the Persian Gulf, everything changed when Tel

Aviv was hit by Iraqi Scud missiles.

We recognize that those in our community have a need to come together and share our feelings about the war and our support for and solidarity with the State of Israel. We invite you to participate in our Middle East Forum on Tuesday, January 29 at 7:00 pm in the Stony Brook Union Fireside Lounge.

The featured speaker will be Arveh Naor, former Israeli Cabinet Secretary. In addition, Shabbat services on Friday, February 1 will be devoted to a special prayer service for the security of Israel and peace in the region. See other articles in this paper for details.

### Middle East Forum on Jan. 29

A special emergency Middle East Forum will be held on Tuesday, January 29 at 7:00 pm in the Stony Brook Union Fireside Lounge. In addition to student and faculty speakers, Arve Naor, the former Secretary of the Israeli Cabinet, will speak.

Mr. Naor served as Cabinet Secretary under

Prime Minister Menachem Begin, and will provide an up-to-the-minute assessment of the war in the Persian Gulf, particularly as it affects Israel.

Come demonstrate your solidarity with Israel and show your concern for what's happening in the Middle East!

### Special Service Feb. 1

A special Shabbat service, devoted to prayers for the security of the State of Israel and peace in the Middle East, will be held on Friday, February 1. Services will be at 5:00 pm in Roth Quad Cafeteria, first floor. Those who would

like to bring a personal prayer or thought to read or share at this service are encouraged to do so. The service will be followed by Shabbat dinner in the K kosher Dining Room to which all are cordially invited to attend.

### Your Help is Needed!

Israel and world Jewry need you more than ever on Sunday, February 3rd for UJA's Super Sunday Phonathon. Please volunteer by contacting Keith or Kevin at 632-6565 or 632-3237. We will be making calls at the Commack YMHA, and transportation for the 7 - 10 p.m. shift will

be provided. We will meet at 6:15 p.m. outside the Hillel office, Humanities Room 165.

There will be a light dinner and all volunteers will receive a free T-shirt. It's fun and also important to be part of our UJA Campus Campaign. See you on Super Sunday!

### Interfaith Prayer Vigil

Wed. Jan. 30, 1:00 - 1:30 pm  
Administration Building

### INSIDE...

OPEN HOUSE.....	2
JEWISH LIFETIME.....	3
CALENDAR.....	4
HSC HILLEL.....	2
OP-ED COLUMNS.....	2 & 3
WAR & PEACE.....	2

  
B'NAI B'RITH HILLEL FOUNDATION  
Interfaith Center  
State University of New York at Stony Brook  
Stony Brook, NY 11794-5335

Ask for Judaica courses available through Hillel.

# From the Editor: Reflections on the War

by Jerry Katz

After Iraq invaded Kuwait and Bush sent American forces to Saudi Arabia, I was very supportive of Bush's decision. I knew that there would be certain students on campus who would protest this action, and I was determined to counter protest. When they did have their protest near the Administration building, I went there ready for a "war of words," excuse the pun. At the rally, I heard so much US bashing I felt like screaming. Instead, I sang the national anthem, albeit off key. Afterwards, I had a long discussion with them on how Iraq's invasion of Kuwait had nothing to do with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as a woman from Spartacus had claimed.

However, my opinion didn't remain constant. While I never stopped believing in Israel's innocence in the situation, I was beginning to feel that the US shouldn't be involved either. I was not convinced by the

oil argument. I didn't like the US being the world's police force and that we had 90% of all foreign troops there. I didn't like Saudi Arabia not allowing Christian and Jewish soldiers to openly celebrate their respective holidays. I opposed the idea that Saudi Arabia wanted American blood to protect them but wouldn't allow American culture to sustain our soldiers while they were there. When there was a petition in the Union protesting the deployment, I willingly signed it, not because I thought the US was evil or that Iraq was innocent. On the contrary, Hussein must be stopped, and while the US is not always right, it's not the horrible monster some profess it to be. I was protesting Saudi Arabian contempt for the US.

I was watching a Growing Pains rerun when a special report interrupted. I was disappointed, but I knew that the war was more important. When I

Continued on Page 4

Stony Brook  
**SHELANU**

The monthly newsletter of the Stony Brook Jewish Community

Published by  
The B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation  
State University of New York at Stony Brook

Jerry Katz  
Editor

Kevin Leopold, David Vilkas,  
Keith Babich, Adam Kaminsky  
Staff Writers

David Vilkas  
Hillel Student President

Joseph S. Topek  
Hillel Director &  
Jewish Chaplain

Lauren Garlick  
Assistant Director

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks  
Assistant Jewish Chaplain

Abby Friedland  
Administrative Assistant

Dr. Robert Goldenberg  
President, Friends of Hillel at Stony Brook

Office:  
B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation  
Interfaith Center  
Humanities Building 165  
State University of New York at Stony Brook  
Stony Brook, New York 11794-5335

(516) 632-6565

The views reflected in this paper do not necessarily reflect the views of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation, the State University of New York, B'nai B'rith International, B'nai B'rith Hillel/Jewish Association for College Youth, or the United Jewish Appeal-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies.

The B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation at SUNY at Stony Brook is an affiliate of B'nai B'rith Hillel/Jewish Association for College Youth; an agency of UJA-Federation and a constituent of the International B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations.

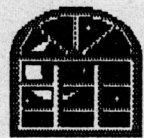
## OPEN HOUSE!

Roast an almond  
in Ammann!

Wed. Jan. 30



8:00 pm



Ammann College  
Lounge

Join us for a roaring fire, good  
food, and warm friends!

Making Judaism Relevant Series

### Jewish Views of War & Peace

The new Hillel series "Making Judaism Relevant" will present its first discussion at Shabbat dinner on Friday, February 15 with "Jewish Views of War and Peace" led by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks of the Hillel staff. This series will continue to address current issues

(such as the environment, animal rights, etc.) from a Jewish perspective throughout the semester. Everyone is cordially invited to attend Shabbat dinner and participate. Those not on the kosher meal plan should make a reservation by calling 632-6565.

## HSC Hillel Israel Night

HSC Hillel continues its program offerings with an Israel Night on Tuesday, February 12 from 4:30 - 6:30 pm. The program will feature Israeli food, music, and Israeli folk dancing

led by Lorraine Cohen, professional Israeli dance instructor. The program is free and will be held on Level 3 of the Health Sciences Center, and all are cordially invited.

## Hillel Lounge

Wed. Feb. 6, 8:00 pm  
Roth Cafe., lower level

featuring

**Dick Tracy**

The movie

Free!



## Chevre

At Chevre's (Stony Brook Hillel's Hebrew speakers group) first meeting of the Spring semester we will show the movie "I Don't Give a Damn" (Lo Sam Zayin) with English subtitles. It is the story of a budding romance between a young Israeli soldier and an art student that

is shattered when the soldier is wounded during military action. All are welcome to this program which starts at 9:00 pm in Union Room 226. For more information about Chevre contact Naveh, 2-2769, Farshad, 2-2768, or Lauren 2-6565.

# Report From Israel

by Keith Babich

I first found out that I would have the opportunity to go to Israel during intersession in October. At that time I wasn't paying attention to the situation in the Middle East. I knew that Saddam Hussein's army had invaded Kuwait. I also knew that American soldiers were being sent to Saudi Arabia and perhaps most of all, I knew that gasoline prices were rapidly rising. But at that time, at least to me, war did not seem like a possibility, and I did not give this issue consideration when I thought about going to Israel.

As I became wrapped up in classes, I stopped thinking about Israel until late November when I had to make my decision. By this time, the Middle East situation had become a conflict and Bush had set his first deadline for Iraq to pull out of Kuwait. The television news was devoting less time to Donald Trump and more time to the conflict. (This was an obvious sign of the seriousness of the conflict).

All along, I knew that I wanted to go to Israel. I did not consider that Israel might be dangerous, although I was almost alone in this attitude. I made my plans to go, but did, however, make certain that I would be home before the 15th of January. This was my father's idea, and it was the least I could do to please my mother

who was not happy about the trip to begin with.

As the date of departure neared, the conflict intensified and what was originally supposed to be a United Jewish Appeal mission of 180 was reduced to 77 students. In the short time that I spent in Israel I saw so many wonderful things, that it is almost too much to communicate in this article. But there is something I would like to address which is a major concern of Israel today. This concern was obvious when visiting the country, it is about support of Israel.

In the days before I left, former New York mayor Ed Koch, a strong supporter of Israel, was visiting there in an effort to boost American tourism, which had dropped nearly 80% since August. Koch, unfortunately, was hit on the head by a rock. The terrorist who threw the rock obviously knew who Koch was and also knew that his act would be newsworthy here in the States.

I referred to Jewish people visiting Israel as tourism, but it is much more. Jewish diaspora support of Israel has been very strong and the enemies of Israel realize this. Israelis also realize it and are reassured by worldwide support, although Israel is capable of protecting itself. When Jews stopped going to Israel, Israelis began to question their support. Enemies of Israel also

Continued on Page 4

Join us for  
**Shabbat**  
**Services & Dinner**  
**Friday Evenings**  
**Roth Cafe.**



המוציא לחם  
בין המדע

Feb. 1, 8, 15: 5:00 pm  
 Feb. 22: 5:15 pm



# Opinion: Oil, Israel, & The Coalition

by Adam Kaminsky

Oil. Kindly remove your hat to this commodity, for it is the sacred liquid without which life in America would be impossible. American life floats on this viscous, black flammable liquid in areas that extend far beyond its use as a fuel. A liquid that, should we be deprived of it for any length of time, would paralyze us, and, eventually exterminate us.

Saddam Hussein. A name unfamiliar to the average American before August 2, 1990. The Iraqi president who single handedly invaded an independent neighboring nation, with the "justification" that since it was once part of Iraq, it was his for the taking, thinking that its independence was some terrible misprint on the world map. In doing so, he pillaged this country of Kuwait, and raped and brutalized its inhabitants all because he desired the great wealth the citizens of the "nineteenth province of Iraq" have accumulated. Most of this wealth was the result of tapping its rich oil reserves and selling this commodity to the world, which uses it in a variety of ways.

While most of the world condemned this blatant barbarous act, the United States had a special stake in Kuwait's independence in that it meant Saddam, who was also responsible for other atrocities, was one step farther from controlling a large percentage of the world's oil, charging an exorbitant price for it

(far higher than the \$40.00 a barrel already seen), and slowly but surely putting this country in an inescapable stranglehold.

Add to this fact that after the world condemned his actions, and set up a deadline by which Saddam must begin withdrawing from Kuwait, or face serious consequences, Saddam said he would not move unless the Palestinian question was addressed and solved "satisfactorily." Now it gets a little clearer, and way more complicated.

Israel has been an important ally to America since it received statehood. Unfortunately, the Arab states on America's side are against Israel. These states include Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Syria. While they hate Saddam, they hate Israel more, and since Israel has been attacked several times by Iraq, Israel is planning retaliation, which will disturb the allied coalition, and therefore harm America as well as Iraq. As an aside, the U.N. condemned Israel for its 1982 bombing of the Iraqi nuclear facility, and we as "citizens" of Israel have yet to hear an apology for this favor to the world.



In my opinion, this war should have happened as far back as two or three months ago. While the world was playing around with sanctions and diplomacy, which in the Middle East are worthless, Saddam had ample time to prepare for a war he knew was coming; it was just a matter of when. While it was admirable for the U.S. to look

Continued on Page 4

Announcing...

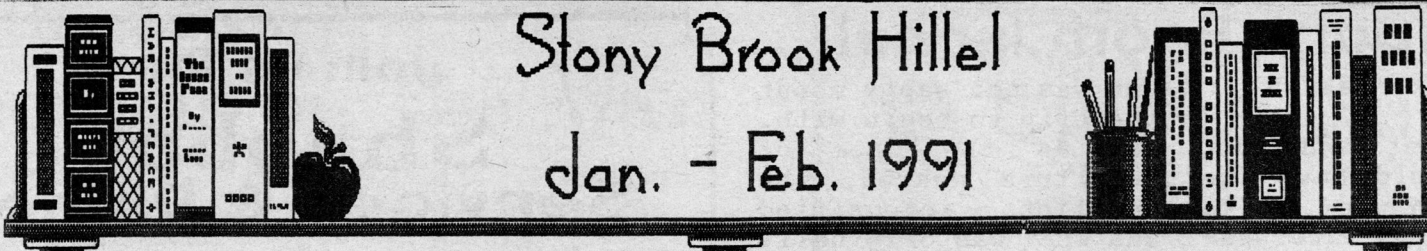
## Jewish Lifetime

During the new "Campus Lifetime" period.

**Wednesdays**  
**12:45 pm**  
**Roth Cafeteria**  
 Kosher Dining Room

Join us for discussions of current topics and study of Jewish texts. Open and informal!



# Stony Brook Hillel

Jan. - Feb. 1991

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 JANUARY	28 Classes Begin Welcome Back!	29 Middle East Forum with Arye Naor 7:00 pm Union Fireside Lounge	30 Interfaith Prayer Vigil 1:00 pm Central Mall Hillel Open House, 8pm Ammann Lnge.	31  O17V	1 Shabbat Services 5:00 pm Roth Cafe. Special serv. for peace & Israel	2 Shabbat Services 9:30 am Roth Cafe. Orthodox & Conservative
3 UJA Super Sunday Volunteer to help! Call 2-6565	4 Chevre 9:00 pm Union 226 Film: "Lo Sam Zayin"	5 	6 Jewish Life-Time, 12:45 pm Roth Cafe. Hillel Lounge "Dick Tracy" 8:00 pm Roth Cafe.	7 CHAI WEEK IS COMING Feb. 27 - Mar. 6 Get involved!	8 Shabbat Services 5:00 pm Roth Cafe.	9 Shabbat Services 9:30 am Roth Cafe. Orthodox & Conservative
10 Register for Ping Pong Tournament on Feb. 18 Call 2-6565	11 	12  HSC Hillel Israel Night 4:30 pm HSC Level 3	13 Jewish Womens Group 8:00 pm	14 	15 Shabbat Services 5:00 pm Roth Cafe. "Jewish View of War & Peace"	16 Shabbat Services 9:30 am Roth Cafe. Orthodox & Conservative

Writers, layout artists needed for Stony Brook Shelanu. Please contact Jerry or Joe at 632-6565.

Interested in working on this year's Chai Week? Want to know what Chai Week is? Contact David at 2-6565 or 2-2779.

Report, Cont. from P. 3

question this long standing support, which has been a weapon of Israel. Their terrorist actions have succeeded in frightening Jews from coming to Israel (needless to say this has been a goal of theirs for some time.) By weakening world Jewish unity, they hope Israel would be weakened as well.

Diaspora Jews must realize the need to show their support for Israel. Israel needs our support as much as we need Israel. We must show the enemies of Israel that we are united in support of Israel and we will not

**Oil, Israel, & The Coalition**

Continued from Page 3 for support, it should have done so without consulting and relying on the Arab states as much as it did. Israel has its hands tied in that retaliation will mean upsetting the balance struck by the U.S. and the Arabs.

Imagine. Syria, a nation harboring known terrorists who have repeatedly lashed out against American targets, is on our side, and they are not on our side because they love us, but because Syria wants to be the leader of the Arab world, at Saddam's expense. After the war, Syria will drop us like a hot potato. Had we been allied with Israel instead of Syria, and maybe Japan, who uses much more Arab oil than we do, instead of Egypt, we could have wiped out Iraq faster

run away because of terrorist activities.

We also need to show the Israeli people that they are not alone and that Jews throughout the world are there to support them.

When I was in Israel I did not feel scared. Instead I felt the strength of the Jewish people. I saw their determination and commitment to the Jewish nation. They were not afraid. They have faith in themselves and in the Jewish people. The struggle has been a long one and it continues. We in the diaspora must never forget the need for our commitment and support of Israel.

and more efficiently than if we had these gold digging neo-Nazis on our side. Egypt has vowed to fight against us if we allow Israel on our side. Ditto for Syria, Saudi Arabia (another of our "big allies"), and even Jordan's King Hussein. I say to hell with all of them. While I applaud America's use of force against Iraq, I say our choice of friends will become more detrimental as time wears on.

Perhaps if those chanting "no blood for oil!" were to go without electricity, their automobiles, heat, or even certain medicines for a few weeks, they would support the US effort. In any event, I do wish for peace to come in the near future, and that Israel will be able to retaliate to the level which it feels is appropriate.

**Reflections on the War**

Continued from Page 2 heard of the attack on Israel, I was in shock. I knew of Hussein's threat, but to have the attack actually happen can't possibly be easily described. After the initial shock, when the CNN reporters put on the gas masks, I cried, feeling horror at the thought of a chemical attack. Even though Israel denies it's possession, for a moment I wanted the Israeli Air Force to nuke Baghdad, if it was a chemical attack, but then the UN would condemn Israel for the umpteenth time, so I quickly got rid of that thought.

I didn't want a war. I wanted a peaceful solution, but since it didn't happen, I support our forces, and even more so after the attack on Israel. With the understanding that in war people die, most complaints are about innocent civilians getting killed. While unfortunately innocent Iraqi citizens were most likely killed, they were never the target. It is, however, acceptable in wartime to attack military targets, and that is exactly what the United States of America is doing. This is not true for Iraq. When he attacked Israel, Israeli citizens were under attack, not the Israel Defense

**Forces.**

When I saw a town meeting on 9 Broadcast Plaza (Channel 9), a participant said the attack on Israel was America's fault because we attacked Iraq. Poppycock. Israel is not part of the coalition against Iraq. This is an Iraq vs. The World war. This has nothing to do with Palestinian or Arab conflicts with Israel.

As for America's involvement, I still have the problem with the US being the world's police force. Gee, isn't this an Arab problem? Shouldn't the Arab countries solve it? They tried, but failed, and I mean no disrespect. However, if one argues that we have no business in foreign affairs, i.e., the Middle East, then we have no business in other parts of the world. We shouldn't have been in WWII. We should only have fought Japan since they bombed Pearl Harbor. We shouldn't concern ourselves with the UN. Sound ridiculous? Of course! While war is certainly the most evil thing in the world, it's the war that's bad, not the US. We are, after all, part of the world community. I want the war with Iraq to end. I never wanted it to happen, but since it has, may it be quickly over with an American victory.