

One Voice women visit area colleges

By Julie Masis

Boston area college students had a chance to meet two young women from the Middle East and hear their views on how to bring about peace to the area. The women – an Israeli and a Palestinian – came to Boston as representatives of One Voice, a grassroots organization that aims to find a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Odelia Englander, 25, a university student from Israel, says she did not join One Voice because she felt bad for the Palestinians.

"I joined One Voice to make my future better," she said, adding she hopes that by the time her children turn 18 they won't be drafted into the Israeli Defense Forces, because, hopefully, there won't be the need.

Nelly Soudah, 24, a finance student from Ramallah, said she joined One Voice because she didn't want to lose hope.

"There is so much suffering back at home, the only thing we're left with is hope. I was scared to lose hope," she said.

The two women met for the first time in Boston last Friday to spread their message to American college students: Israelis and Palestinians need to come together to achieve their common goal – peace – and to do this, they need the support of the American people.

During their weeklong stay in the Hub, Nelly and Odelia spoke to students at Boston University, Boston College, Tufts University, Harvard University and the University of Connecticut. They also visited local Arab student groups, Hillels and synagogues.

"I want the people in America, especially the students, to encour-



Nelly Soudah, left, and Odelia Englander speak to students.

age us. Instead of dividing us into two camps – demonstrating against Israel's policy, or against the Palestinian policy – [they should] direct [their efforts] at bringing oneness to the people," Englander said.

Jake Hayman, international coordinator for One Voice, said there is a need for tours such as these, because "very often, people who are outside the conflict take views that are even more hard-line than those living in the Middle East."

"What we're showing people is that the conflict in the Middle East is not Israelis against Palestinians, but extremists against moderates," he said. "We feel very much this is only going to change when moderates start taking more responsibility to go out into the streets and engage their community and be forces for change."

Hayman added that even if Israelis and Palestinians don't agree on everything, they realize that their futures are intertwined. "Either both of them will be having peace or both of them will be having war," he said.

One Voice develops its princi-

ples on the basis of answers to survey questions. According to Hayman, 76 percent of Israelis and Palestinians – exactly the same percentage on both sides – would like to see a two-state solution. Hayman said 113,000 people answered the One Voice questionnaire, of whom 51 percent were Palestinian and 49 percent Israeli.

One Voice is also preparing mass demonstrations for the 40th anniversary of the 1967 war. In June of 2007, hundreds of thousands of Israelis and Palestinians simultaneously will go out to the street to demand a return to negotiations. The organization is hoping that the international community can show their support with the Israeli and Palestinian people at this time. To achieve this goal, One Voice will be sending delegations like the one that was here in Boston to other cities in North America and Europe.

To learn more about One Voice, visit www.onevoicemovement.org.

Contact Julie Masis at juliem@thejewishadvocate.com.

Protesters target CJP's tactics

By Kristin Erikson

Young Jewish activists across the Bay State called for justice from Combined Jewish Philanthropies in Boston last Thursday, taking issue with the way the city's premier Jewish fund-raising arm uses its money in Israel.

Decked out in white outfits, 11 people silently protested outside CJP headquarters on High Street as the organization's board of directors filed into the building for a morning meeting. Activists held signs stating: "This year, support justice not war in Palestine and Lebanon," and a woman blew the shofar to signify the spiritual need to seek redemption.

Hannah Mermelstein, a Jewish, pro-Palestinian advocate who attended the event, said CJP spends tens of thousands of dollars to help build military bases and encourage Jews to

support Israel by buying from Israeli businesses located on occupied Palestinian territory on the West Bank.

Another CJP protester, Emmaia Gelman, whose family lives in Tel Aviv, said she believes the Jewish organization uses fear tactics to raise money. For example, a CJP mass e-mail urging individuals to attend the joyful "Talk, Walk & Rock" event for Israel on June 18 stated: "Every day, the newspapers run articles that document the efforts against Israel's right to exist. Join us on June 18th ... Show your support for Israel."

"I feel like my family's whole identities and lives and attempts to live in peace have been hijacked by major Jewish organizations that use this idea that Israelis and Jews should look for security by bombing and containing other people and it's a lie," said Gel-

man, 32, of Cambridge.

But Patty Jacobson, the vice president of marketing services at CJP, said that the major fund-raising arm never raises money for war and is consistent about launching advertising campaigns that promote human warmth and universality – not terror.

"The CJP is not always comfortable being the target [of political problems]," Jacobson said. "But we support the right of people to express their opinions. Anti-Semitism and anti-Israel feelings are a core part of Jewish history, but, by and large, our relationship with Israel is one of promoting positive things."

Since the most recent conflict began on July 12 when Hezbollah terrorists kidnapped and killed Israeli soldiers, CJP has raised \$9.3 million for Israel.



COMBINED JEWISH PHILANTHROPIES

CJP INVITES YOU!

Mark your Calendar

Mid-October, Assorted dates
Ikkarim: A Jewish adult learning program for parents of young children

If you have a child newborn to five, come explore basic Jewish values and their modern significance by bringing your own contemporary concerns to our study of ancient Jewish texts. Classes begin in mid-October and daytime classes include free on-site childcare. To learn more or register, contact Elana at adultlearning@cj.org or 617-457-8586. Locations: Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley, Temple Beth Elohim of Wellesley, Temple Beth Shalom of Needham, Temple Emanuel of Newton or MetroWest Jewish Day School of Framingham.

Mid-October, Assorted dates
Me'ah: One Hundred Hours of Adult Study

Me'ah is an intensive, two-year adult Jewish learning program, taught by renowned professors and scholars. Me'ah gives students the opportunity to grow as literate students of Jewish life, and to join a growing community of adult learners. Me'ah is sponsored by Hebrew College and CJP's Commission on Jewish Continuity & Education. Locations still recruiting for classes meeting on Thursdays from 7-10 p.m. include the Metrowest Collaborative, Temple Beth Elohim of Wellesley and Temple Shalom of Newton. Temple Shir Tikva in Wayland is recruiting for a class from 9:30-11:30 a.m. on Thursday mornings. Classes at other locations are also available. For more information, contact Rachel at rachelw@cj.org or 617-457-8742.

Monday October 9, 2-4 p.m.
Chaverim Chaim Sukkot Celebration
JF&CS, 1430 Main St. Waltham

Join us in learning and celebrating Sukkot with great games, activities and trivia! This program is open to all adults with disabilities in the Greater Boston Area.*
Cost: Free. This program is supported in part by Combined Jewish Philanthropies. Please RSVP to 781-647-5327 Ext. 5004.

Tuesday, October 10, 11 a.m.
Annual Lion of Judah Event†
With special guest Abigail Pogrebin, author of *Stars of David*
Luncheon at the Four Seasons Hotel*
Couvert: \$150
For more information contact Margo Golos at 617-457-8589 or margog@cj.org.
† A Lion of Judah level of commitment begins with a contribution of \$5,000 to the CJP Annual Campaign.

Wednesday, October 18, 12:00 – 1:15 p.m.
Genesis Forum: Lunchtime Learning
at Combined Jewish Philanthropies
9th Floor, 126 High Street, Boston
Join us over lunch for an inspirational journey through the Tehillim, or Book of Psalms, with Rabbi Samuel Chiel. This is the first session in a series of free noontime text study. Photocopies of the texts will be provided. Please bring your lunch; beverages will be available.
Cost: Free
Please confirm your attendance by calling 617-457-8586 or e-mailing adultlearning@cj.org

Sunday, November 5, 2006
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. & 4:00- 9:00 p.m.
South Area – 9:00 a.m. - 1:00
Super Sunday
Leventhal Sidman Jewish Community Center, 333 Nahanton Street, Newton and Striar Jewish Community Center, 445 Central Avenue, Stoughton
Join hundreds of other volunteers on the phones at Super Sunday. With your help we can raise much-needed funds for the sick, the hungry, the elderly and the children who need us most here in Greater Boston, in Israel and around the world. Your participation is critical to our success.*
Cost: Free
For more information or to register, contact Mark Griffin at markg@cj.org or 617-457-8744.

*Dietary laws are observed at all CJP events.

Never miss out on another great event!

More than 11,000 people receive the CJP Community e-newsletter every two weeks. To sign up, visit www.cjp.org and click on the blue e-newsletter box at the bottom of the homepage.



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