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Coyu Griffin poses outside Jerusalem's Golden Gate

FOR YEHOShUA AND ISRAEL, COWBOY TREKS 2½ YEARS AND 12,400 MILES FROM GOLDEN GATE TO GOLDEN GATE

By GIL ZOHAR
ISRAEL CORRESPONDENT

JERUSALEM — New Mexico cowboy Coyu Griffin completed a trek of 12,400 miles here October 27, arriving at the Old City's Golden Gate more than two years after setting out from San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge.

"I felt myself being led to Jerusalem," the evangelist on horseback said in his soft Western drawl.

"I'm a born-again believer in Yehoshua, and felt myself drawn here. The most important event in the Bible — the sacrifice of my Lord and savior — took

place here," said the 35-year-old rodeo veteran gesturing at the Old City.

"I felt the Lord laid this whole ministry on my heart. This is where the Word became flesh. It's pretty awesome. It's a great blessing" to be here, he said.

Griffin grew up competing on the rodeo circuit in the United States, and spent nearly six years at Euro Disney outside Paris in a remake of the Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show.

In recent years he has been working on his fami-

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PA hate at all-time high



POST-ANNAPOLIS ANALYSIS — Itamar Marcus, director of Palestinian Media Watch, was vigorously questioned by audience members following his Nov. 10 talk on obstacles to Mideast peace at the University of Chicago.

MEDIA EXPERT ASSESSES PA HATE PROMOTION, ISRAEL DENIAL

DIFFERENT WORDS IN ENGLISH, ARABIC

DEVELOPMENT COMES AFTER HOPE OF 2007 ANNAPOLIS CONFERENCE

By DOUGLAS WERTHEIMER
EDITOR

The Annapolis Conference — Pres. George W. Bush's effort in November 2007 to reinvigorate Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations — has been followed on the part of the Palestinian Authority not by increased movements towards conflict resolution but by Palestinian hate promotion and indoctrination against Israel without parallel in the two people's relations, Israeli media expert Itamar Marcus said here Nov. 10.

Marcus, the founder in 1996 of the Jerusalem-based Palestinian Media Watch (pmw.org.il) and its director, told the JEWISH STAR after a talk at the University of Chicago that the resulting deterioration has

created "an almost impossible situation" in the region.

Marcus said that among those misled by the current Palestinian Authority under the leadership of Mahmoud Abbas was Norway, which had actually increased its funding to the PA for 2008.

What *Dagen Magazinet*, a Norwegian daily, called "a new, detailed and sensational report about how Norwegian money is spent on the official hate propaganda against Israel" was presented last month to members of the Norwegian Parliament.

The report, co-written by Marcus for Palestinian Media Watch, argued that "well-intended funding by such countries as Norway is used for PA TV and media hate promotion" without Norway actually realizing that the country has been misled.

In English, Abbas has spoken words of peace and suggested a "sincere change" from past ways, Marcus stated in his report.

"However, in Arabic the Palestinian Authority, Fatah

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Equal opportunity Jewish education

► IN ENGLAND, A NEW CODE REQUIRES EQUAL ACCESS TO ALL FAITH-BASED SCHOOLS

The high-performing Hasmonian High School in London, dating to 1944, with mainly Orthodox students, has been ordered to admit children of all faiths.

A new code issued by the British government, which came into effect in February, requires that all faith-based schools must make it clear that they will admit children from other faiths, or no faith, provided there is space available.

A recent report claimed that most parochial schools did not comply with the new code, but defenders said that this was not always intentional. JTA

Bris techniques aiding AIDS fight

► CIRCUMCISION COULD REDUCE HIV TRANSMISSION BY 60 PER CENT

By DINA KRAFT

In a clinic in the hills of Swaziland's capital, Israeli doctors have been training their counterparts in male circumcision, hoping expertise in the ancient technique will help in the battle against the modern scourge of AIDS.

The United Nations announced last year that the procedure could reduce the rate of HIV transmission by up to 60 percent. It was in Israel, with its experience performing adult

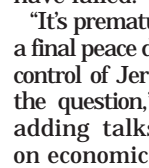
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Netanyahu: I'd nix Annapolis talks

NEW YORK — Benjamin Netanyahu would end Israel's current negotiations with the Palestinians if elected prime minister, his office said.

Netanyahu spokeswoman Dina Libster said the Likud Party candidate for prime minister in elections scheduled for Feb. 10 believes the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks launched a year ago at a peace summit at Annapolis, Md., have failed.

"It's premature to talk about a final peace deal, and sharing control of Jerusalem is out of the question," Libster said, adding talks should focus on economic issues. JTA



BENJAMIN NETANYAHU / ISRAELNET PHOTO

Old Shuls Don't Die ...

► HOW A REFORM TEMPLE RE-DEFINED ITSELF IN A CHANGING NEIGHBORHOOD

By GILA WERTHEIMER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Old shuls don't die; they move to Temple Menorah.

At least that's how it seems. In addition to its own activities, the West Rogers Park Reform temple is today home to a new Orthodox congregation, a Conservative egalitarian minyan and a Lubavitch girls school.

It's a multi-denominational facility that shares space and, periodically, activities, most recently a Kristallnacht program earlier this month.

Temple Menorah, founded in 1946 and located on California between Jarvis and Sherwin, is today the only Reform institution remaining in West Rogers Park. It also houses the only Conservative synagogue in the neighborhood.

As the area became increasingly Orthodox, Reform and Conservative institutions, facing declining memberships, moved elsewhere, merged or closed their doors. This Reform temple has

so far avoided those options, maintaining its presence by accommodating other denominations.

"They have all been blessings to us," John McLeod, Temple Menorah's president, told the JEWISH STAR last week.

Temple membership has declined to a little

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SHARING SPACE — Three Jewish institutions share space with the Reform Temple Menorah (clockwise from top): Or Menorah (Orthodox); Ner Tamid (Egalitarian Conservative); and Cheder Lubavitch.



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Make Thanksgiving a real family affair by preparing ahead, page 9.

Cowboy's mission

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

ly's 3,000-acre ranch in Reserve, New Mexico, near the state border with Arizona.

Two-and-a-half years ago he set out from San Francisco on his trusty steed Molly, reaching New York City on September 11, 2006.

The final leg of his three-continent trek began in April in Galway, Ireland, and ended in Athens, Greece, from where Griffin flew on to Tel Aviv.

Riding across Ireland, Britain, and western, central and eastern Europe, Griffin has used a series of leased horses.

For the final leg of his pilgrimage cantering around the Old City ramps, Griffin leased Ahab from a carriage ride operator named Muhammad. Showing a business card printed in Arabic, the cowboy wasn't sure of the horse owner's last name.

After coordinating his route with Israel Police (whom Griffin credited

with being especially helpful), the cowboy picked up the animal at the Garden of Gethsemane.

Dressed in full Western regalia, including leather riding chinks and cuffs, riding boots with spurs, and a felt hat, Griffin and his various horses have drawn attention from Times Square to the Champs-Élysées. A sense of that adventure is captured in Griffin's website (ridingforisrael.com).

Among those fascinated by the sight of a cowboy in Jerusalem were 5-year-old twins Adam and Danny Carmeli visiting from Bangkok, Thailand.

"I give all glory to the Lord. We live in a world today where there is a denial of the existence of God," Griffin said.

More pragmatically, Griffin has been serving as a self-styled ambassador to Israel promoting tourism to the Holy Land during Israel's 60th anniversary year.



MONUMENT TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION — The Atlit Illegal Immigration Camp, a national monument south of Haifa, now has a 230-ton fishing boat to remind visitors of the type of small craft used by European Jews from 1939-48 as they tried to reach Palestine and evade the British blockade. The boat, a 40-year-old vessel purchased from Latvia, was hoisted into place on November 5 (above).

This trip is his fifth to Israel, he beamed.

"It's a blessing to come and pray alongside the

Jews. We believe in the promises of God, and the existence of [the state of] Israel," Griffin said. □

Pariah

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Although Wisse does not explicitly reproach Jews for their strategy during centuries of exile, she insists that by the end of the nineteenth century it was clear they needed an alternative strategy.

Ideologically this alternative was Zionism, which even the sour Hannah Arendt called "the only political answer Jews have ever found to antisemitism and the only ideology in which they have ever taken seriously a hostility that would place them in the center of world events."

The "Return to Zion" broke with the old politics of adaptation but also continued it; it recognized the need for self-defense but perpetuated the Jews' inability to see themselves through the eyes of their enemies; it rescued the Jews from

their status as a pariah people only to discover that the pariah people has become the pariah nation.

"Not until Jabotinsky thought of organizing Jewish military units in the British army did Zionist leadership begin to consider ... a Jewish armed force that would fight under its own flag."

Again the repudiation of "Yiddish" wisdom was required to see the obvious.

Jabotinsky wrote that "this very normal idea [self-defense] would have occurred ... to any normal person,"

which is rendered in Jewish colloquial usage by the Yiddish expression *goyishe kop*. Jabotinsky was saying that he wishes Jews could become as simple-minded as Gentiles.

But even those Zionist leaders who managed to acquire something of a *goyishe kop* could not foresee that the Arab and Muslim countries would make anti-Zionism into a way of life, and Palestinian Arabs into a kind of anti-nation deriving their meaning and purpose from the goal of destroying Israel.

Nor did they foresee that the Diaspora strategy of accommodation could take its deadliest form in Zion itself, in the Chelm-like strategy of yielding contiguous territory to enemies dedicated to Israel's destruction, financing and arming their forces in the hope of conciliating them and gaining security.

No *goyishe kop* in the history of nations had ever come up with such a clever idea, the ultimate expression of "moral solipsism."

Obviously, the creation of Israel has not solved the problem of the Jews' relation to political power. Truly to be moral, Wisse argues, modern Jews, who are largely without faith in God's power, must themselves supply the missing dimension of power; otherwise, they are signing a suicide pact with each new enemy.

Wisse concludes by returning to the question of why Jews have figured — and still figure — so prominently in the politics of regimes that also threaten the rest of the world: Nazi Germany, the Soviet Union, Iran, and the multitudinous troops of Islamic fascism.

Although this is more bad news, it does have a positive dimension: namely, that the Jews' new political status, achieved by the existence of a Jewish state, has given them a new role as an ally, with something to offer America and the other democracies.

Wisse believes that America, at least, is learning the lesson that "Thugs who get away with harassing Jewish citizens go on to torch the rest of the citizenry."

Jews and Power is a powerful salvo in the war of ideas over the Jewish state, a war that Israel has been losing almost as steadily as she has (until recently) been winning on the battlefield. □



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