

What's up?

BACK TO SCHOOL



Everything you need as kids head for class. **Inside this issue**

FASHION



Actress Mayim Bialik tells how religion influences her style. **Page 7**

BOOKMATES



Rhonda Shevrin to coordinate literacy program. **Page 11**

FOOD



Debi Epstein issues a culinary wake-up call. **Page 23**

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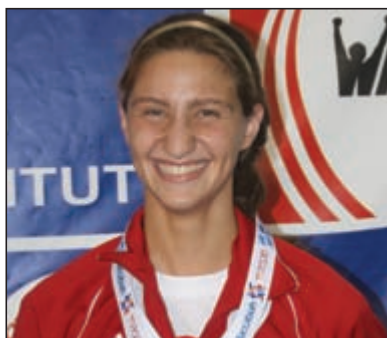
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18th World Maccabiah:

South Jersey athletes return with medals & memories from Israel

By GERRI RUDNER
For the Voice

Hometown athletes contributed to the United States count of 146 gold, silver and bronze medals awarded at the 18th World Maccabiah Games in Israel. The host country topped the medal count with a grand total of 367. Israel scored 138 gold. The U.S. earned 44, and Russia came in third with 34 first place medals. Billie Hirsh, Max Ettore, Ethan Harel, Marlee Ehrlich, Sam Slutsky, Jesse



MARLEE EHRLICH...won two silver medals (200 backstroke & 800 free relay) and one bronze medal (400 freestyle) in swimming.

Gold, Yael Einhorn, Danielle Altersitz and Elana Molotsky competed on the field of play, but they were more effusive in their praise of the overall experience of bonding with their peers in the glorious setting of Israel. Nate Mulberg, a baseball player who made the team, was unable to attend the games due to illness.

“Visiting the Western Wall with my (volleyball) team was an emotional experience for me. I heard and read

about it in school, but never imagined that I would be praying and putting a note into that monument,” said 17-year-old Billie Hirsh. The Shawnee High School senior said the Maccabiah experience was the best in her lifetime, and she hopes to be involved in the organization in the future. As she deplaned, Hirsh was already

on her computer to new friends in California, Texas and Florida.

Three years on the



ELANA MOLOTSKY...the young gymnast from Mount Laurel took home a silver medal.

Shawnee varsity volleyball team in Medford prepared Hirsh for her stint in Israel. Her strength in blocking,

however, didn't allow for the U.S. team to get past Israel when they were defeated 3-0. “We came in fourth place (women's division), but there is always room for improvement...we have to keep pushing,” said the determined student who is waiting to hear from Columbia or Cornell, where she hopes to attend after graduation.

Yael Einhorn of Cherry Hill, part of the girl's volleyball division was still in Israel visiting family during interviews for this article, but her U.S. team took home the silver medal, as they lost to Israel in the final

Maccabiah/Page 10

Israel's gay community reels in wake of shooting attack

By JOSHUA MITNICK
JTA

TEL AVIV (NEW YORK JEWISH WEEK)— Amid beefed-up security outside a gay community center where two young Israelis were shot and killed, the shock that greeted the attack was replaced by sobriety—and even a sense of opportunity.

Gay Israelis said the murders, in which a masked gunman not only killed two but wounded about a dozen others before fleeing—robbed them of a sense of security in Tel Aviv's otherwise gay-friendly cocoon.

It also has stoked anger at fervently Orthodox groups in Israel accused of inciting

hatred against gays.

Etai Pinkas, the founder and chairman of the gay community center, said that the tragedy, which some have cited as the worst hate crime in Israel's history, has given Israel's gay community a “teaching moment.”

“We received some focus, unfortunately,” Pinkas said. “And the focus is that we don't have equal rights. Maybe something will start because of this.”

A day after the shooting, hundreds of gay Israelis marched through central Tel Aviv. Some pointed fingers at the Orthodox Shas Party, whose leader, Eli Yishai, has referred to homosexuals as “sick people.”

Gay/Page 5

Fun at Summer MusicFest



The Marrache family was among the hundreds of people who enjoyed picnic dinners and an evening of Jewish musical entertainment at the Second Annual Summer MusicFest at the Katz JCC. The event was a joint program of the JCC and the Jewish Federation's Young Adult Division (YAD). Additional photos on Pgs. 4 & 9.

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