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American pride

Two Jewish-American figure skaters have done their country proud by capturing bronze medals at this year's Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia.

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No class

Rafael Medoff writes that Mahmoud Abbas' reasons for not recognizing Israel as a Jewish state indicate that he flunked his history class.

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So smug

Ben Cohen says there's a smug sense of "I told you so" about much of the recent commentary concerning the challenge Israel faces from the BDS movement.

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Street-smart

Brookline's Rabbi Andy Vogel, writing about Parashat Ki Tisa, touches upon the walk down "Judaism Street" that every devout Jew must take.

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A lot of care

Jeannette Sheehan of ABC Home Healthcare Professionals in Wakefield writes about caregivers' need to care for themselves.

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A 'Hard' time

Ilan Thal previews Israeli Stage's upcoming production of Motti Lerner's "Hard Love" at the Goethe-Institut in Boston's Back Bay area.

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Wish granted

Maimonides School in Brookline is one of six institutions to receive a Ruderman Family Foundation grant for a program that teaches about disabilities.

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No more 'pigging out' at Brandeis

Students debate the removal of pork and shrimp from menu at university

By Julie Masis

Special to *The Advocate*

Pork and shrimp were quietly taken off the menu at Brandeis University's non-kosher dining hall at the start of this school year, a decision that has upset some non-Jewish students.

Ham, bacon, shrimp and scallops vanished after a new company took over the traditionally Jewish university's meal service, according to Brandeis Student Union Vice President Charlotte Franco.

"There is a portion of students who'd like the university to serve pork products on campus," she said. "If you consider how much students are paying for a meal plan, and then being told they can't eat certain things, there's an equity-and-fairness issue with that."

Last year, according to Franco, scallops and shrimp were occasionally served at Usdan, the university's non-kosher dining hall. Eggs and bacon were avail-



Pork and shrimp were recently taken off the menu again at Brandeis University (above).

able during weekend brunches, and a Quiznos restaurant had bacon in the sandwiches. This year, the Quiznos was replaced with a kosher deli named Louis', which is named after Louis Brandeis (for whom the university is also named) and is open to the general public.

Franco said many students are required to buy a meal plan – which can cost as much as \$6,000 from September to May and can only be used for food purchased on campus. She added that while some students

simply like the taste of pork and shrimp, others are defending the principle of inclusiveness.

"Our university is very active in social justice," she said. "It says we're here to foster the diversity of the greater community. We want to see that this aspect of inclusiveness is being seen through every aspect of [life on] campus."

But Brandeis University spokeswoman Ellen de Graffenreid said no changes were made to the food policy at the start of the current school year.

"The students always complain about food and they're sort of making an issue where none exists," said de Graffenreid. "We've had a long-standing policy that we don't serve pork or shellfish."

She suggested that perhaps the pork that students thought they were eating last year was actually turkey-bacon or turkey-pepperoni, and added that real pork is now available at the Dunkin' Donuts restaurant that recently opened on campus. Shellfish is not available anywhere on campus.

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Jewish candidates eye treasurer's office

Finegold, Goldberg among contenders to replace Grossman

By Alexandra Lapkin

Advocate Staff

Now that Steve Grossman is running for governor, two of his fellow Jews are among those vying to replace him as state treasurer.

The two candidates, Barry Finegold and Deborah Goldberg, are both Democrats. Others in the race include another Democratic contender, Tom Conroy, along with Republican Mike Heffernan and Green-Rainbow Party candidate Ian T. Jackson.

Finegold is a second-term state senator representing the Second Essex and Middlesex District, which includes Andover, Dracut, Lawrence and Tewksbury. Goldberg, whose family founded Stop & Shop Supermarket Co., is a former chairwoman of the Brookline Board of Selectmen and currently serves on the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee. Finegold and Goldberg's interviews with *The Jewish Advocate* follow in alphabetical order.

At the age of 42, Finegold has been in public service for almost half his life. When he was 24, he began serving on



Barry Finegold

the Board of Selectmen in Andover. A year later, he became the youngest member of his freshman class when he was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives. After having served as a representative for 11 years, Finegold twice has successfully run for the Senate.

"In 1992, I went to the Democratic National Convention, and I saw this young governor from Arkansas," Finegold recalled, "and I said, 'That sounds pretty cool – public service.'" Although



Deborah Goldberg

he initially wanted to work in Washington, D.C., Finegold decided to stay in Massachusetts, in order to make a greater impact in his own community.

"I knew that if I really wanted to serve, if I wanted to help people, that I should come back home," he said.

Finegold is deeply rooted in Massachusetts. Having grown up in the Georgetowne apartment complex in Hyde Park, his family moved to Merrimack Valley, when Fine-

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150 years of caring support

Boston's JF&CS marks truly major milestone

By Alexandra Lapkin

Advocate Staff

The idea of immigrant women being paid to sew clothing and blankets for communities in need is a concept that sounds quite modern in its emphasis on locally made goods, entrepreneurship, grassroots philanthropy, and female economic empowerment.

But in fact, the Hebrew Ladies Sewing Circle was founded by Lina Hecht in Boston more than 100 years ago, in order to help the newly arrived Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe. And this year, the Jewish Family and Children's Service (JF&CS), which grew out of the United Hebrew Benevolent Association – to

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No more 'pigging out' will be allowed at Brandeis

Continued from Page 1

But students said there is no question that what they were eating really did come from pigs.

Joseph Lanoie, 21, a non-Jewish student who is allergic to several food products, said he used to buy pork in the cafeteria last year – and he is sure it was the real thing because he double-checked what kind of meat it was to avoid an allergic reaction. Now the pork has been replaced with turkey-bacon, which he said doesn't taste as good and is made with unhealthy chemicals.

"Brandeis has a big kosher community and that's great, but the thing is there are a lot of people here who don't keep kosher. They're neglecting the people who don't keep kosher," he said. "It's like a parent telling a child, 'Your sister is allergic to nuts, so we're not going to give you a peanut butter sandwich.'"

Brandeis University, which was founded in 1948, has had a long debate about pork in the kitchen.

In September 1987, Evelyn Handler – the university's first and only female president – changed the school's longstanding policy by introducing pork and shellfish to campus meals in order to encourage more Asian students to come to Brandeis, according to a New York Times story from that year. The Times reported that clam chowder quickly became one of the most popular dishes in the cafeteria.

The decision created an outrage among the school's Jewish students and donors. They staged protests, built mock houses for the Three Little Pigs and told The New York Times that Jews, throughout history, have chosen to die rather than be forced to eat pork.

Handler resigned in 1991, and the next university president took pork and shellfish off the menu in the early 1990s, according to the Times.

At some point, however, the non-kosher animals made a comeback. By 2006, The Boston Globe reported that pork was once again available at the Brandeis dining hall "upon request."

Jonathan Sarna, Brandeis professor of American Jewish history, suggested that pork snuck back into the non-kosher cafeteria because no one paid attention.

"I think this policy was never changed, but was simply not communicated or forgotten, and with the coming of the new [meal service] provider, suddenly it became known," he said.

He added that he keeps kosher and has no problem with what is being served in the non-kosher cafeteria.

"I don't think kosher food needs to be imposed," he said. "It seems to me it's simply good manners – just as I'm grateful when people go out of their way to have kosher food available, we should also accommodate other cultures."

While the university does not collect statistics on its students' religions, it is estimated that about half of those who attend Brandeis are Jewish. It is not clear how many of the Jewish students keep kosher.

Back in the 1980s, about two-thirds of Brandeis students were Jewish, according to The New York Times.

The university's Jewish chaplain, Rabbi Elyse Winick, said Brandeis does not serve pork or shellfish out of respect for its Jewish heritage.

"It's one of a number of ways it honors its unique heritage," she wrote in a Facebook message. "The university dining halls are an expression of the university."

A representative from Brandeis Hillel has suggested, in the student newspaper, that pork should not be available even at the non-kosher cafeteria because some Jewish students who do not keep strictly kosher might prefer to avoid it. Rabbi David Pardo, who made that statement, could not be reached for comment.

But Brandeis Chabad Rabbi Peretz Chein, who is not employed by the university, said he also has no problem with pork at the non-kosher cafeteria. The religious prohibition against mixing milk and meat is actually stronger than against eating pork, he said.

"I understand Brandeis' desire to project its Jewish character in the food served in the university cafeterias. Nonetheless it's unfair to impose



on non-Jewish students the biblical prohibition against certain foods. Or at least [it should] be consistent and also ban cheeseburgers," he wrote in an e-mail.

Brandeis Orthodox Organization President Noam Cohen said he also has no objections to pork at the non-kosher cafeteria, since he wouldn't eat there anyway. Rather, he added, what he and other observant Jewish students want is more options for everyone on campus – both kosher and non-kosher.

Cohen said he is very happy about the new kosher deli that opened in January. The deli offers matzo-ball soup and sandwiches – and each day saves him three 10-minute walks to the other side of campus, where the kosher cafeteria is located. The kosher cafeteria's all-you-can-eat format allows for takeout, which is another benefit, he said.

"It's just nice to go somewhere else to eat," he said. "If you don't like the food that's being served [at the kosher cafeteria] – or if you don't have enough time to sit down and eat – you can get a sandwich to go."

Ever since the kosher deli replaced the Quiznos that served sandwiches with bacon, some of the students who keep kosher have already eaten there dozens of times, according to Cohen.

It is worth noting that there are other Jewish universities in the United States that do not offer non-kosher meats.

Touro College in New York, which has both Jewish and non-Jewish students, does not sell pork or shellfish at any of the school's campuses, according to spokes-

woman Hedy Shulman. New York's Yeshiva University, where all of the undergraduate students are Jewish, keeps all of its cafeterias kosher, said Director of Media Relations Matt Yaniv. The same is also true for the American Jewish University in California, according to receptionist and student Michelle Yates.

So should a historically Jewish university be serving pork even if many of the students aren't Jewish?

Local Jewish organizations would not voice their opinion on the subject.

"At this time we are going to decline commenting on this story," Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP) spokeswoman Liz Goodwin wrote in an e-mail.

The American Jewish Committee (AJC) Boston Office also chose not to comment, Assistant Director and Chief of Staff Rebecca Keys said via e-mail.

Brandeis University President Fred Lawrence was not available for an interview.

Representatives of Sodexo, the French multinational company that manages the food service at Brandeis, did not reply to e-mails and phone calls. Sodexo has food service contracts in many countries, including Israel, according to its website.

While the university has no plans to change its no-pork and no-shellfish policy, students might put some pressure on the school. Before the end of the school year, the Brandeis Student Union plans to conduct a survey to find out what percentage of students eats pork and shellfish, and to submit a petition to the administration.

"[We want] to see if we can have a compromise to have pork and shellfish be served to some degree, to see if there are some spots on campus to have non-kosher food be treated as we treat allergens," said Franco.

The Jewish Advocate's monthly poll asks you to weigh in on this issue. See Page 2.

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HOORAY FOR CHALLAH



More than 450 women participated in the recent Mega Challah Bake held at Congregation Mishkan Tefila in Chestnut Hill. The event was coordinated by four Chabad houses and sponsored by numerous Jewish organizations.

Correction

A story in last week's issue incorrectly stated that a parental complaint about the Newton Public Schools' curriculum specifically mentioned "using pro-Muslim materials" and "an excessive amount of time on Islam, while presenting anti-Israel, anti-Semitic, racist, and false information." The complaint did, however, express concerns about "inaccurate, biased, and/or otherwise inappropriate class material."