

Dec 10, 2007 13:09 | Updated May 14, 2008 11:32

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters in Issue 3, May 26, 2008 of The Jerusalem Report.
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The Luxury of Choice

From reading the various articles in your anniversary edition ("Israel @ 60," May 12), it is clear that Israelis and Diaspora Jews now have the luxury of choice. This is a situation that Jews have rarely faced in their history.

Adversity and hostility from outside forced a Jewish identity on us. Like the Jews of the Diaspora, Israelis face the choice to be Israeli or to live elsewhere. This is also true about aliya. People do not go to Israel just to escape persecution, but choose to live there.

Clearly, Israel must now be more than a sanctuary. It must be a true home and haven. Israelis must work to make their country a place where they and Diaspora Jews would want to live. Zionism must become a lifestyle choice and not only an ideology. All this will have to be done while Israel faces a war of attrition with the Iranian-dominated axis of Hamas, Hizballah and Syria.

Naim Peress

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The Solution Is Education

The article on organ donations in Israel ("Difficult Donations," April 28) quotes optimistic voices that the Schneller bill might have a positive impact. The bill, in fact, is nothing more than the Chief Rabbinate and the Ministry of Health finally agreeing to work together after 22 years of politics and personalities kept them apart.

The solution to the organ shortage in Israel is not legislation but education. Unfortunately this legislation does not allocate any significant funding to educate the public.

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