

# THE JEWISH STAR

VOL 11, NO 5 ■ FEBRUARY 3, 2012 / 10 SHEVET, 5772

WWW.THEJEWISHSTAR.COM

## Gingrich's kosher meal tactic leaves a bad taste

By Juda Engelmayer

Did it matter to Floridian voters that Republican candidate Mitt Romney, former Massachusetts governor, may have cut funding for kosher meals in nursing homes? Whether or not it made a difference is less important than the fact that former House Speaker Newt Gingrich felt the Jewish vote was so important that he needed to find some polarizing issue to throw at his opponent.

This begs the question, is the Jewish community so petty that wider domestic issues and looming foreign matters are less important than whether kosher meals for seniors are funded by the public?



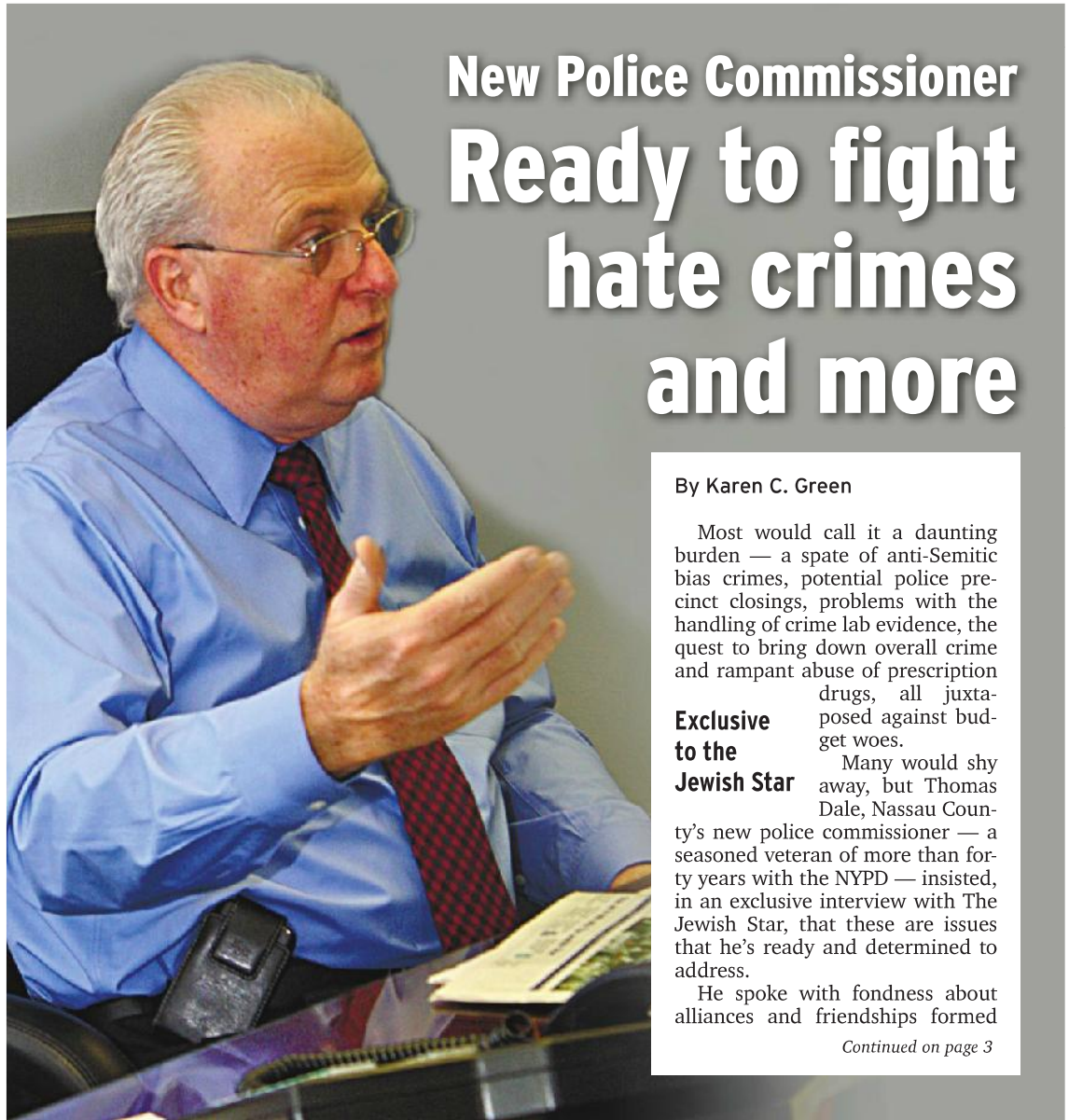
Juda Engelmayer

Putting the facts into perspective, the bulk of the Jewish seniors whom Mr. Gingrich was targeting with his robo-call this week are registered Democrats and had little say in the Republican primary. He knew that though, as does any candidate who does the right research and homework before allocating precious time and limited resources in a presidential race. So why do it at all?

Clearly the impression the media — and many Jewish pundits and advocates — have made on the public and the candidates, including the President himself, is that the Jewish vote and Jewish opinion will matter enough to impact election results. What's ignored is the historic fact that the "Jewish community" largely votes Democrat and that when Jews lean to the right, it is generally over issues such as tougher policies in the Middle East and not kosher meals in senior centers.

The point that Mr. Gingrich was evident-

*Continued on page 2*



## New Police Commissioner Ready to fight hate crimes and more

By Karen C. Green

Most would call it a daunting burden — a spate of anti-Semitic bias crimes, potential police precinct closings, problems with the handling of crime lab evidence, the quest to bring down overall crime and rampant abuse of prescription drugs, all juxtaposed against budget woes.

**Exclusive to the Jewish Star**

Many would shy away, but Thomas Dale, Nassau County's new police commissioner — a seasoned veteran of more than forty years with the NYPD — insisted, in an exclusive interview with The Jewish Star, that these are issues that he's ready and determined to address.

He spoke with fondness about alliances and friendships formed

*Continued on page 3*

NCPD Commissioner Thomas Dale stressed the importance of community relations in his interview with the Jewish Star. Photo by Penny Frondelli

Shabbat Candlelighting: 4:56 p.m. Shabbat ends 5:58 p.m. 72 minute zman 6:26 p.m. Torah Reading Parshat Beshalach This Shabbos is Shabbat Shirah

## Stay up to date with The Jewish Star

Visit us on the web at [www.thejewishstar.com](http://www.thejewishstar.com)

Receive our weekly newsletter. Sign up at [newsroom@thejewishstar.com](mailto:newsroom@thejewishstar.com)

Like us on Facebook The Jewish Star newspaper (Long Island, NY)



Follow us on Twitter [www.twitter.com/JewishStarNY](http://www.twitter.com/JewishStarNY)



PERMIT NO 301  
11530  
GARDEN CITY, NY  
US POSTAGE PAID  
POST STD



## Inside THE JEWISH STAR

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Ask Aviva                   | 13 |
| Classified Ads              | 13 |
| From the Heart of Jerusalem | 15 |
| Hebrew Only Please!         | 6  |
| Kosher Bookworm             | 5  |
| On the Calendar             | 11 |
| Parsha                      | 6  |
| Politico to Go              | 4  |
| Who's in the kitchen        | 10 |

### How to reach us:

Our offices at 2 Endo Blvd., Garden City, NY 11530 are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday, with early closing as necessary on Erev Shabbat. Contact us via e-mail or telephone as listed below.

Advertising  
newsroom@thejewishstar.com

Nassau County  
hparsons@thejewishstar.com  
516-569-4000 extension 290

Manhattan & Queens  
rglickman@thejewishstar.com  
516-569-4000 extension 250

Classified  
ereynolds@thejewishstar.com

Community Calendar items  
jsclendar@thejewishstar.com

Letters to the Editor  
letters@thejewishstar.com

News and Sports items  
newsroom@thejewishstar.com

Press Releases  
pressreleases@thejewishstar.com

Publisher and Editor in Chief  
kgreen@thejewishstar.com  
516-632-5205 extension 4

### Facsimile:

The Star prefers e-mail, but we are equipped to accept your letters, releases, etc. by FAX. Please dial 516-569-4942.

### To subscribe:

*The Star* is available free of charge in many kosher food establishments, other stores, synagogues and street-side news boxes in Nassau County and New York City. To have *The Star* mailed to your home or office each week call our circulation department at 516-622-7461, extension 7. You may charge your subscription to VISA, Mastercard or American Express. Subscriptions in Nassau County or Far Rockaway are \$9 per quarter, charged to your credit card, or \$48 per year by cash or check. Elsewhere in New York, New Jersey or around the United States, they are \$15 per quarter on your credit card or \$72 per year. Please allow four weeks to begin delivery.

### To place a display ad:

Reservations, art and copy for display advertising in the general news sections of *The Star* must be in our office by Tuesday at 1 p.m. for publication that week. An advertising representative will gladly assist you in preparing your message. Please e-mail or call for an appointment.

### To place a classified ad:

Please call 516-622-7461 during regular business hours and ask for *The Star* classified department. All classified ads are payable in advance. We accept all major credit cards.

### News and Calendar Items:

News releases of general interest must be in our office by Friday at noon to be considered for publication the following week. Releases for our On the Calendar section must be in our office by Wednesday at 5 p.m. to be considered for publication the following week. To report a breaking news story or for further information call 516-622-7461 ext. 291 or e-mail newsroom@thejewishstar.com.

### Letters to the editor:

*The Star* provides an open forum for opinions and welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be e-mailed, must be signed, and should be accompanied by an address and daytime phone number for verification. You may offer longer submissions for inclusion on our Opinion pages. Letters and Opinion articles must be in our office by noon Friday to be considered for publication the following week. They are subject to editing for length and clarity.

## Kosher meal tactic leaves a bad taste

*Continued from page 1*

ly trying to make was that those who want to focus on Mitt Romney should know that Romney's agenda is more in tune to what Jewish Democrats pay attention to and not what right-leaning Conservatives want to talk about. Betting that the media would give that cheap shot the attention it should not have deserved, Mr. Gingrich was painting his primary opponent as less of a Republican than he was. That's the argument that Mr. Gingrich is hoping to win on — that he is the true Conservative. The former Speaker knew well when that robo-call went out that Florida would fall to Mr. Romney, but he used it to garner national attention.

He used Jews as a tool. He used the hype that the Jewish vote is so critical that the mere mention of kosher food would stir his coverage. He was right, but it does Jewish citizens no good to be targeted this way.

The national Jewish community stands for so many great things, from major philanthropic works to caring human services to, yes, financial success. Jews are on the right and left — George Soros supports President Obama and Sheldon Adelson supports Mr. Gingrich. Both are philanthropic and both express support for Israel — yet with different views on Israel policy.

When the Jewish label is used for a campaign pitch, as it was in Florida this week, it not only cheapens the value of the true Jewish contribution to the country, but borders on leveling an old anti-Semitic charge: Jews are cheap.

Notwithstanding that Jews have been, and remain, some of the biggest charitable donors around the world and that political candidates often seek campaign funds through Jewish channels and supporters, the ancient cheapskate joke is still told over and over again. There are still places in this country where the stereotype resonates, and when Mr. Gingrich makes what became a national issue out of whether Jewish senior citizens want their kosher meals subsidized, it only furthers the belief in this myth.

Mr. Gingrich's campaign robo-call also invoked the unthinkable, the Holocaust. The recording intoned, "...Holocaust survivors, who for the first time were forced to eat non-kosher, because Romney thought five dollars was too much to pay for our grandparents to eat kosher."

Not only did the candidate invoke the image of miserly Jews, he made a blatant attempt to tug at Jewish heart strings on the eve of United Nations International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27. The memory of the worst human catastrophe to befall Jews was used as a cheap campaign plug, aimed at a group who were not likely voters in this primary, and for a race he knew he was not going to win.

Is that the way the Jewish community wants to be called on for public service? Are the social, human, legal, governmental and financial contributions made by Jews to the country as a whole and to individual political parties so marginal that the community can easily be trivialized and its population be taken in vain, as it was?

Jewish Americans have helped make the issues that matter to them very important to all Americans. On matters that come before legislators and judges — foreign policies, fiscal issues, social issues — Jewish opinions and activism have impacted what the United States stands for to the world and to our fellow Americans. Shameful stunts that make Jews seem almost clownish should bring the community together in disapproval, across both sides of the political aisle.

## PLAZA PAL AUTO LEASING

718-975-9000

2730 Nostrand Ave. Between Ave M&N Brooklyn, NY 11210  
WE SELL, LEASE & FINANCE  
ALL MAKES & MODELS

**If you don't have  
this on the back  
of your car, you  
probably paid  
too much.**

### Did you know?

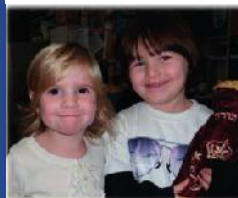
IF YOU'VE GOT LESS THAN 14 MONTHS LEFT ON  
YOUR CURRENT LEASE WE MAY BE ABLE TO GET  
YOU INTO A NEW CAR WITH LOWER PAYMENTS!

**FOR GUARANTEED  
LOWEST PRICES**  
CALL 718-975-9000  
OR VISIT  
WWW.PLAZAAUTOLEASING.COM



## Happily Ever HAFTR

**We're not your typical Yeshiva.**



**HAFTR**  
HEBREW ACADEMY  
of the  
Five Towns & Rockaway  
ישיבת חוף דרום  
**Early Childhood & Lower School**

## UPCOMING DATES:

### Early Childhood & Lower School Tours

**Wednesday, February 8th - 9:30 am**

**Thursday, February 16th - 9:30 am**

**Wednesday, February 29th - 9:30 am**

**Thursday, March 15th - 9:30 am**

To RSVP, please call Leslie Gang  
Director of Admissions &  
Communications  
516-569-3370 ext. 504  
legang@haftr.org

