

Kolbo



Not after Chomsky, we presume

Noam was the most popular name for Israeli babies born in 2008.

The name was given to 1,970 boys and 515 girls, according to Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics, which released the data in advance of Universal Children's Day, Nov. 20.

The other most popular names for Jewish Israeli boys in 2008 were Itai, Ori, Daniel, Yehonatan, David, Ido, Moshe, Yosef, and Yonatan.

The other most popular names for Jewish Israeli girls in 2008 were Noa, Shira, Yael, Tamar, Maya, Talia, Sara, Hila, Michal, and Adi.

One-quarter of Muslim Israeli boys born in Israel in 2008 were given names derived from the name of the prophet Mohammed, including Mohammed, Ahmed, and Mahmoud.

Some 156,900 babies were born in Israel in 2008. — JTA

Training wheels



Lessons on tracks

Photo courtesy Hebrew University

Here's an idea for getting something useful done during your commute: Hebrew University and Israel Railways are teaming up to offer scientific lectures during train rides.

Hebrew U. scientists will be featured on various train routes over the coming year. Hanoch Gutfreund, the university's former president, got things, um, rolling on Nov. 4 with a lecture on Einstein's Love Letters during a Modi'in-to-Tel Aviv run.

Appropriately enough, Einstein wrote to his second wife, Elsa, almost every day when he was traveling away from home. The letters "convey his impression of the places he visited, from people he met to events that occurred around him," explained Gutfreund.

Woman of the year

Glamour magazine has named Maplewood pediatrician Jane Aronson one of its Women of the Year.

Aronson was cited for giving orphans around the globe a better life through her Worldwide Orphans Foundation (See *NJN*, March 26, 2009). Her 12-year-old organization has provided AIDS drugs for HIV-positive children in Ethiopia and Vietnam, sent volunteers to work in Third World orphanages, and built a school in Ethiopia. Aronson also counsels fellow adopting parents — including Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt — on the medical and emotional aspects of the process.

"Aronson is determined to show the world's orphans that she will always look out for them," writes *Glamour*.

Other honorees include singer Rihanna, designer Stella McCartney, and First Lady Michelle Obama.



Dr. Jane Aronson

UOTABLE

"One half of you is really proud, and you think that it's amazing your son feels so connected to Israel that he wants to give back at this level. On the other hand, I'm not going to lie — you're scared to death."

— Renee Fine of Saratoga, Calif., whose three American-born sons — Jacob, Ari, and Elliot — served or are serving in Israel's military. Jacob completed his service in 2006; Ari and Elliot are currently in the IDF.

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