Mature Living Section
See Pages 10-13

Cooking
The three essential ingredients.
See Page 18

Movies
Socalled’s eclectic, eccentric mix.
See Page 21

THE JEWISH ADVOCATE
Established 1902

Vol. 201 No. 44 ■ 21 Cheshvan 5771 — OCTOBER 29, 2010 ■ www.TheJewishAdvocate.com ■ $1.50

oston cleric stirs storm over Israel
Greek Melkite archbishop disputes ‘promised land’

By Leah Burrows
Special to the Advocate

A Boston archbishop from the Greek Melkite Catholic Church ignited a controversy between the Catholic and Jewish communities when he told a Vatican press conference that the “concept of the promised land cannot be used as a base for the justification of the return of Jews to Israel and the displacement of Palestinians.”

Cyril Salim Bustros spoke last weekend at the end of a two-week Vatican synod addressing the status of Christians in the Middle East. It was attended mostly by bishops from the Middle East. Bustros said that “sacred scripture should not be used to justify the occupation by Israel of Palestine,” and went on to say that the Jewish covenant with God was nullified by Christ and that “there is no longer a chosen people.”

His remarks angered Israeli officials and many in the American Jewish community.

“We express our disappointment that this important synod has become a forum for political attacks against Israel, in the best tradition of Arab propaganda,” said Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon in a statement released by the ministry.

The Anti-Defamation League was one of several Jewish organizations that called on the Vatican...
1,500 sites have been sold.

"It became more and more apparent to the rabbis that we had a problem," Kaplan said. "There was nothing more alienating for Jewish families than not being able to be buried in a Jewish cemetery, when they were bringing up their children Jewish and living a Jewish life."

Situated on what had been construction of Beit Olam East. Group last fall embarked on demand, the Sudbury Design

The new cemetery is surrounded by trees and features 10-acre cemetery. Beit Olam East cost $3.5 million and construction another $3.5 million. Before the original Beit Olam, the last Jewish cemetery opened in the state was Sharon Memorial Park in 1948. Beit Olam and East Beit Olam are the only two cemeteries that have been built by JCAM. The nonprofit took over many of the state’s Jewish cemeteries when it was founded 26 years ago. It now owns and operates 106 cemeteries, about half the Jewish burial grounds in the state. The contrast between JCAM’s oldest and newest cemeteries reflects changes in the Jewish community over the past 150 years. Ohabei Shalom, which opened in East Boston in 1844, is the resting place of immigrants who settled in the Mystic River Jewish communities. As funeral homes were uncommon back then, the cemetery was built with a chapel. Often, a husband and wife would be buried on opposite sides of the cemetery, as it was not until after World War II that family plots became nearly universal. Monuments tended to be large, unlike the more modest monuments at Beit Olam.

State treasurer candidate Steve Grossman, who is co-chairing the campaign to restore the chapel at Ohabei Shalom Cemetery, will give the keynote address at the dedication of Beit Olam East. A half dozen rabbis and cantors will conduct the service. They will then lead a walk around the perimeter of the cemetery, stopping seven times along the way to read blessings as a way to mark the land as holy.

Kaplan predicted that up to 1,000 people would attend the dedication. After the ceremony, plot owners will be able to explore the cemetery and pick their burial spots.

The Beit Olam East dedication service will be held Nov. 7 at noon. For more information, call 617-244-6509 or visit jcam.org

The Beit Olam East dedication ceremony was held on November 7, 2010.

The Beit Olam East dedication ceremony was held on November 7, 2010.