

...her instructor, Greater New Haven Jewish Community Center Sunday.

Arnold Gold/Register

# help refugees fit in

**"Most of you know more about the history of America than most Americans I know."**

Teacher Roya Hakakian

Iosif and his wife were among 112 Jewish refugees from the former Soviet Union, mostly in their 60s and 70s, who were recognized Sunday for becoming U.S. citizens.

For the last two years, the couple and the other students in their "graduating class" have been attending Hakakian's class twice a week, for an hour and a half for U.S. History, English and civics lessons. They are scheduled to take their oath of citizenship on March 12.

At first, Hakakian concentrated on the 100 questions the immigrants could expect to appear on the citizenship exam. But her pupils were hungry for more. The class had a 100 percent passing rate.

*Please see Jewish, Page A5*

with his own family two years earlier in 1991, said his parents have been determined since they arrived to not only speak the language, but to participate in the government of the country that they now call their home.

"They want to vote," he said after a ceremony in their honor at the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven Sunday. "They were pushing me to vote," he said with a laugh.

# Ban on cigarette vending machines headed to trial

## Town of Orange trying to keep kids from lighting up

By James Kane  
Register Staff

**NEW HAVEN** — Nearly everyone agrees cigarettes should be kept out of the hands of teenagers, but lawyers in Superior Court here this week will argue over just how far a town can go to keep kids from striking up the harmful habit.

At issue is whether the Orange Board of Selectmen was justified last year when it banned cigarette vending machines within town limits. Modern Cigarettes Inc. of New Haven filed suit, claiming the ordinance is illegal and is asking the court to overturn the decree.

Orange leaders strongly defend the law, saying the vending machine ban is one of the best ways to keep kids from getting hooked on a deadly hab-

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Details, Page A2



it, while opponents say Orange is going too far in curbing underage smoking.

Officials in other municipalities who want to approve laws similar to Orange's are eagerly awaiting the outcome of the trial, scheduled to begin on Thursday before Judge Jonathan Silbert.

"The basic point is whether Orange has a reasonable public policy, and it clearly does," said Richard Blumenthal, the Connecticut attorney general who, fresh off leveraging a national, multibillion-dollar settlement with the tobacco industry, is assisting Orange in defense of

*Please see Vending, Page A5*

# change 'bow-vows' in perfect pooch fashion

bark their assent to love, honor and share a lifetime of "kibbles and bits."

"I haven't checked this out with the city clerk's office but I now pronounce you dog and dog," he said.

Flanked by a row of bridesmaids and attendants accented with white carnations, Shannon and B.J. strutted happily down the aisle afterward, clearly unaware that the day designed for them was more than a little different.

Both, though, appeared equally interested in Dudley, a Maltese, who acted as best man.

"We wanted to bring joy to the lives of people here, to give them a day of fun," said city Animal Control Officer Judy Rettig, who acted as matchmaker. "Just to hear residents here laugh, it was all worth it."

The event, funded through donations by city merchants, drew more than 100

*Please see Dogs, Page A2*



Erin Kiernan/Register

Dogs Shannon Roy, left, held by Rosemary Gorry, and groom B.J. Gorry, held by Judy Rettig, are 'married' as Alva Keens toasts.

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