

# Jewish Community News

The Publication of the Jewish Federation of the Desert

www.jfedps.org

Tevet/Shevat 5779 - January 2019

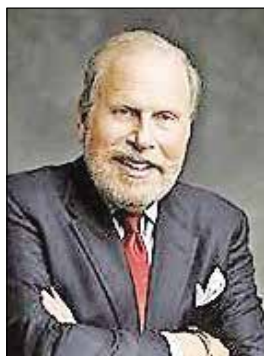


## JERUSALEM 2020 Beneath the Headlines



### “Jerusalem is the heart of our heart, the soul of our soul.” — Elie Wiesel

Jerusalem: it's a headline, a muse, a symbol and an actual city in which people work, celebrate, mourn, create, innovate, cry, pray and play. On Sunday, January 20, 2019, the Leichtag Foundation is bringing a unique perspective on Jerusalem to the Jewish Federation of the Desert. The program will be held at the Jewish Federation, beginning at 11:00 am. There is no charge, but reservations are required as space is limited.



as usual. People dropping their kids off at school, going to work, shopping in the market. Perhaps that is because Jerusalemites know a little secret: this city does not belong to one religion or nation. Instead, the Jerusalemites belong to her.

This interactive educational program will give participants an experience of Jerusalem through the lens of some of the city's most creative residents and its profound challenges. We'll also hear from keynote speaker Dr. Jeffrey Solomon, President of the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies (TBC) and luminary of Jewish philanthropy, about why he sees Jerusalem as an important philanthropic lab. Attendees will be challenged, delighted and surprised as they meet activists from across the spectrum of Jerusalem's multifaceted society and engage with thought leaders tackling



seemingly intractable dilemmas with bold new approaches.

Panel Speakers include Chaya Gilboa, Charlene Seidle and Dr. Marik Shtern.

Chaya Gilboa was born in Jerusalem to an ultra-Orthodox family. A social activist, she is committed to creating alternatives within the realm of religion and state, establishing Hashgacha Pratit, an alternative kashrut system and active in crafting egalitarian wedding ceremonies and other initiatives that combine feminism and Jewish identity.

Charlene Seidle is the Executive Vice President of the Leichtag Foundation, a private independent foundation committed to igniting and inspiring vibrant Jewish life,

advancing self-sufficiency and stimulating social entrepreneurship in coastal North San Diego County and Jerusalem.

Dr. Marik Shtern, an Urban Geographer, is a visiting lecturer at UC San Diego, and a researcher at the Jerusalem Institute for Policy Research. His fields of research are Geographies of Encounter, Urban Geopolitics and Jewish-Arab relations in Jerusalem. As a social activist, Marik also specializes in the sphere of community empowerment and strategic consulting for third sector organizations.

We hope you will join us for Jerusalem 2020: Beneath the Headlines for a peek into the world of social activists in Jerusalem working to make a difference in one of the most important cities in the world. We will also receive an up-to-date briefing on the recent Jerusalem Municipal Elections which are widely thought to be a preview of the trends that will be seen in national Israel elections to be held in early 2019.

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welcome mat out for you!**



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## Introducing Federation's Herzlian Dinners

By Bruce Landgarten Jewish Federation CEO

Herzlian Dinners are "Dinner Parties with a Twist." These photos are from our first evening, sponsored by Bernard and Janet Reiter, held mid-December, with special guests Michael Masters, National Director and CEO of Secure Community Network and his Deputy Director and COO Patrick Daly.

We are excited to bring this unique opportunity our Desert community. The Federation will be presenting the choice of an intimate dinners (10-12, maximum 14, people) in homes of community members. Each dinner will address a different topic of Jewish concern and will include among the guests a resource person on that topic. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in a lively conversation over a delicious meal. The events are designed to build a sense of community and partnership around a shared interest or theme.



Patrick Daly, Bruce Landgarten and Michael Masters.



Herzlian Dinners do not include campaign pitches or pledge requests. They are designed to enlist new allies and to focus on collaboration, feedback, and community building. They will help us create and disseminate ideas. Conversations around the table are meant to spark fresh thinking about important topics.

In other communities, Herzlian Dinners have generated interesting insights and

provoked worthwhile new initiatives. They have helped spread the word about Federations' work among those doing parallel work.

These events afford Federation opportunities to stay in touch with old friends, to meet new ones, and to get feedback and advice about potential new programs or changes in direction. For more information please contact Bruce Landgarten, CEO, at [bruce.langarten@jfedps.org](mailto:bruce.langarten@jfedps.org) or 760-324-4737.

**TUESDAY  
FEB 12  
7:00 PM**

**\$50  
ADMISSION  
RSVP REQUIRED  
Call 760-324-4737  
or buy tickets online on the  
Jewish Federation website:  
[www.jfedps.org](http://www.jfedps.org)**



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& Elon Gold**

**Miles Berger Master of Ceremonies**

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**Jewish Federation  
OF THE DESERT**

# Security in Troubling Times

From the CEO



**Bruce Landgarten**

Jewish Federation  
Chief Executive  
Officer

The tragedy at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh is still a raw reminder of our vulnerabilities when anti-Semites choose to act on their hate. In the week following the shooting, members of our community came together at Temples throughout the desert area to mourn and grieve the loss. I was deeply privileged to stand with my community when asked to speak on behalf of Jewish Federation, to stand firm against anti-Semitism and the cloud of hate that has attacked us.

That same week Federation got to work, contacting Law Enforcement, Secure Community Network and Departments of Homeland Security to arrange a briefing for our Rabbis, and Leadership. We remain committed to deepening our collaborations with all levels of law enforcement and we reiterate our deep appreciation for our local police and Sheriff's departments, who have increased their patrols and coordination with community agencies and buildings in light of the attack.

Federation has reached out to partner agencies and synagogues in the Palm Springs and Desert Area to address four key questions: Have you reached out this weekend to your local police department? Do you have a ready security plan and a security committee in place?

Have you reviewed that plan since Pittsburgh? Have you reached out to Federation's Security platform, and how can we help? We have begun to collect and analyze the responses and will work to enhance collaborations and to see how we can provide further assistance. We'll also start reaching out to our friends and partners in community agencies, even if they're not in our traditional network, because they too are part of our community.

In the coming months, we will likely propose doing a supplemental fundraising campaign to continue to improve the level of community safety and security. Thoughts and

prayers are necessary and important, but the reality is that training and action build a secure community. And although the money you give to the Annual Campaign has built the security programs and infrastructure that we have provided thus far—of which we are extremely proud—we are going to need everyone's help to raise our community's security to the levels we all want and deserve.

Know that we at Federation are completely committed to ensuring that the greater Palm Springs and Desert Area remains a community where we all feel welcome and safe to practice our Judaism as we wish. Shabbat was taken from the Jews of the Squirrel Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh by a hateful, anti-Semitic act of violence. Let's reclaim Shabbat and continue to

attend service without reservation.

Remember – we are a community, and we don't do these things alone. If your synagogue or agency has not (yet) reached out to your local police department for additional support, now is the time to do so. We are extremely grateful to every level of law enforcement, from the FBI and Homeland Security to our first responders and local police departments, who have provided invaluable support to our Jewish community.

Now is the time to stand together, unafraid, in support of our brothers and sisters in Pittsburgh and Jewish people everywhere – together against hate, together against fear, together against anti-Semitism. Together we can be strong.

# WE ARE ONE

STANDING TOGETHER · UNAFRAID

Join together as a Jewish /  
Interfaith Community Against Hate

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2019 - 5:30 PM

*Mark your calendars now!*

Keynote Speaker:

**Joanna  
Mendelson**

Senior Investigative  
Researcher ADL Center  
on Extremism



This program supported by



Jewish Federation  
of the Desert

# Planned Giving and Endowments

By Chuck Cohen

I'd like to introduce myself: I'm honored to be asked by the Jewish Federation of the Desert to assist in a Planned Giving & Endowment Campaign with co-chair Margie Kulp. Karen and I live in Indianapolis but have been coming to Rancho Mirage since 2001. Although the desert itself would have been an adequate attraction to us, our daughter, Danielle and her husband and two children live in Palm Springs.

I have been actively involved in the Indianapolis Federation for over 47 years, most importantly for purposes of this Campaign, as a leader of its long-term endowment effort. I am a retired

attorney who specialized in estate planning which naturally led me into philanthropic conversations with my clients. Being philanthropically minded myself, I encouraged my clients to make charitable provisions in their estate plans. Lori Fritz and I co-chaired the Jewish Federations of North America Planned Giving & Endowment Committee. I chair a Planned Giving subcommittee for Birthright Israel and am in the second year of chairing a Planned Giving & Endowment Campaign for the United Way of Central Indiana. I hope to be able to bring my experience and energy to the Desert Campaign.

One may ask, why should I consider establishing a permanent endowment? What about my family? Of course, we want to secure the future needs of our family. That's why this Campaign's primary emphasis will be on gifts that are completed after the deaths of both spouses and after making whatever provision is felt necessary for one's descendants. But



Chuck Cohen

do we also want to make a legacy gift to do what we can to assure that the causes we support during our lifetimes will continue to be supported after we're gone?

I'm an avid proponent of establishing permanent endowment funds. Karen and I believe that the things that are important to us while we are alive will be important after we are gone. Endowing a gift is a way we can expand our support beyond our own lives. We have made provisions to endow every single gift, large or small, that we make on a regular basis plus several other special purpose funds. Notably, we have endowed our annual campaign gifts to both the Indianapolis and the Desert Federations— LOJE (Lion of Judah Endowment) and PACE (Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment).

The primary emphasis of the upcoming Campaign will be on planned gifts to perpetuate the donor's annual contribution to the Federation— commitments made through provisions in Wills, Trusts, IRA beneficiaries, life insurance, or other estate planning documents. An endowment is forever. Let your name be remembered as a blessing.

## JEWISH COMMUNITY NEWS

A Publication of the  
Jewish Federation of the Desert  
VOL. 45, No. 6

### EDITORIAL

**Bruce Landgarten**,  
Chief Executive Officer  
**Miriam H. Bent**, Editor  
**Bailey Communications**,  
Layout & Design

### JCN STATEMENT

The Jewish Community News seeks to provide news and feature material of special interest to its readership, and to create a heightened sense of Jewish identity through the dissemination of information about people, events and issues at home and abroad. The JCN seeks to serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas and opinions in the Jewish community.

The JCN is published monthly, ten months a year by the Jewish Federation of the Desert, 69-710 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270, 760-324-4737, fax 760-324-3154.

### ARTICLES & ADVERTISING,

**Miriam H. Bent**, Editor  
760-323-0255  
e-mail: mhbentjcn@earthlink.net

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As of November 15, 2018)

**Helene Galen & Jamie Kabler**  
Laugh Out Loud

**Fremont Foundation:**  
**Barbara Fremont**  
Comic Relief

**Bernard A. Reiter**  
Comic Relief

**Nancy & Dennis Ditlove**  
Punch Line

**Peggy & Jim Greenbaum**  
Punch Line

**The Malkin Family**  
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**Phyllis & Gary Schahet**  
Punch Line

**Libby & Burt Hoffman**  
Tickle My Funny Bone

**Edmund Ayoub, Jr. M.D.**  
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**Stephen & Marjorie Kulp**  
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**SOMETHING THAT**  
**YOU TRULY LOVE,**  
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**MEANING."**

*Palm Beach Arts Paper*

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SHOW TIMES: - Feb. 6 thru 10: Wed. 3 & 8 pm; Fri. 8 pm; Sat. 3 & 8 pm; Sun. 7 pm  
- Feb. 14 thru Mar. 10: Thu. 3 & 8 pm; Fri. 8 pm; Sat. 3 & 8 pm; Sun. 3 pm

# Women's Philanthropy

## Activist Social Entrepreneur Highlights Main Event

Main Event co-chairs Jackie Cohen and Paula Klein promise a fascinating afternoon for this year's Women's Philanthropy "Main Event" attendees. Keynote speaker will be Erin Schrode, an activist, social entrepreneur and writer, who is a leading voice on sustainability, social impact and millennials. She is a vocal advocate for environmental action, public health and equal justice, and has been described as "a dynamic, passionate and ambitious young woman committed to creating big change everywhere she goes."

Assisting Jackie and Paula

in the plans for this special afternoon are committee members Fran Kaufman, Annette Novack and Chickie Steinberger. The Main Event luncheon is Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM, and is returning to Desert Willow Country Club, located at 38-995 Desert Willow Drive, Palm Desert.

To attend requires a minimum gift of \$180 to the 2019 Jewish



Jackie Cohen

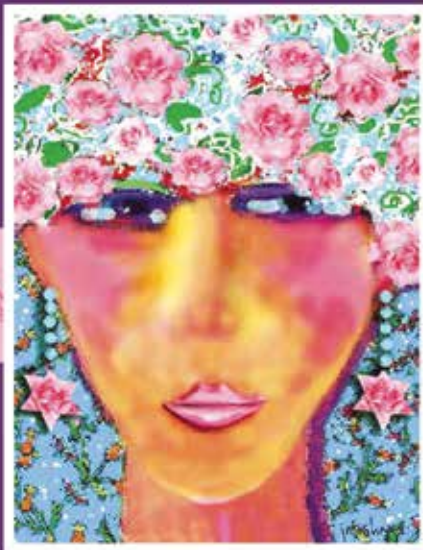


Paula Klein




Erin Schrode

Federation Annual Campaign. Luncheon couvert is \$45. Invitations will be mailed in the next few weeks. However, women are welcome to RSVP directly by calling Linn Menne at the Jewish Federation Office, 760-324-4737.



*The Main Event*  
FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup> 2019 - 11 AM

 Jewish Federation OF THE DESERT | Women's Philanthropy

## Mansour Addresses Lions

Hussein Aboubakr Mansour, a political refugee from Egypt and currently a researcher of Jewish and Middle Eastern history and Hebrew literature at the Monterey Institute for International Studies, will share his fascinating story at the January 28 Lion of Judah Brunch. Chair Marnie Miller urges Lions to mail in their reservations or call Linn Menne at 760-324-4737.



Marnie Miller



Hussein Aboubakr Mansour



## Lion of Judah Brunch

JANUARY 28, 2019  
10:00 am  
TAMARISK GOLF &  
COUNTRY CLUB

*This by-invitation-only event is open to all women giving to the 2019 Annual Campaign at the Lion of Judah level and above.*

Couvert: \$75 per person

For more information, please contact Women's Philanthropy at (760) 324-4737 or [linn.menne@jfedps.org](mailto:linn.menne@jfedps.org)



### LION COMMITTEE

Marnie Miller ~ Chair

- Carol Fragen
- Renee Mayer
- Chickie Steinberger
- Lainie Weil

# Saving/Building Jewish Life Around the World: Reintroducing the JDC

The **JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE (JDC)** has been in existence for 114 years. Established to save the approximately 59,000 Jews living in Palestine under Ottoman rule from starvation during World War I, today it is active in more than 70 countries and in Israel, offering aid to the many Jewish populations around the world through a network of social and community assistance programs. Last year our Jewish Federation allocated \$175,000 to the JDC, supporting its core funding of programs rescuing and sustaining Jews around the world.

JDC fulfills its mission on four fronts. It rescues Jews at risk, working with local partner agencies to address immediate needs. It provides relief for Jews in need. In addition to emergency aid, JDC support builds the capacity of local agencies to sustain and enhance quality of life for struggling communities. It is committed to the renewal of Jewish community life and provides programs in diaspora communities where none exist. And, finally, in Israel JDC works in partnership with the Israeli government and other local organizations to improve the lives of the elderly, immigrants, children at risk, the disabled, and the chronically unemployed.

At the last Jewish Federations of North America's General Assembly in Tel Aviv in October, JDC's CEO David Schizer was given the opportunity to address the delegates. He observed that as Israel's economy races ahead, too many have been left behind, and JDC needs help in caring for children at risk, the unemployed, elderly



and Israelis with disabilities. He stated that Israel's most vulnerable citizens deserve to live with hope and dignity and JDC needs help in providing effective social services.

Schizer also spoke of its work around the world. JDC is in Venezuela, where the inflation rate this year is one million percent, the average citizen has lost 24 pounds from hunger. Although thousands of Jews have left, there are still 5,500 Jews in Venezuela and the JDC is there to ensure their basic needs are met.

Jewish poverty is also acute in the former Soviet Union. Elderly Jews there are the poorest Jews in the world. They struggle to get by on pensions as low as two dollars per day. JDC is helping almost 100,000 elderly Jews, giving them food, medicine, and homecare. An elderly client in Ukraine recently called JDC "the sunshine in her window."

The JDC doesn't just save Jewish lives; it also builds Jewish life. Jewish communities once thrived in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. But the Holocaust and decades of communist rule nearly extinguished the spark of Jewish life there. JDC is lighting the torch again. For example, it runs a summer camp in Hungary, the Lauder-JDC International Youth Camp at Szarvas. Over the past

three decades, Szarvas has inspired over 30,000 children to reconnect with Judaism.

In asking for continued and increased support from delegates representing the many Jewish federations at the JFNA General Assembly, Schizer concluded:

"From Bobruisk to Beer Sheva there is much more for your federation and JDC to do together. Wherever Jews yearn for comfort, we are there. Wherever Jews long for community, we are there. Our sacred mission will never change." Working together, "we will not fail."



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**ENTIRE COMMUNITY INVITED**

**Friday – Sunday, February 15 – 17, 2019**

**Rabbi Zoë Klein Miles**

Senior Rabbi  
Temple Isaiah, Los Angeles

- ✦ Rabbi
- ✦ Novelist
- ✦ Poet
- ✦ Commentator



**"EXPLORING THE HIDDEN BEAUTY OF JUDAISM"**

THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY IS WELCOME AT ALL SERVICES AND SESSIONS

**Friday services – 7:45 PM: "Making Time"**  
(PRECEDED BY SHABBAT DINNER AT 6:00 PM — PREPAID RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR DINNER)

**Saturday services – 9:15 AM: "Judaism: A Spectrum of Theologies"**  
(FOLLOWED BY KIDDUSH LUNCH GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY HEIDI & NOAM ARZT — ALL WELCOME)

**Sunday session – 10:30 AM: "Judaism and the Power of Story"**  
(FOLLOWED BY BRUNCH — PREPAID RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR BRUNCH)

**RESERVATIONS FOR ALL MEALS REQUIRED BY FEBRUARY 7, 2019**

Friday Dinner \$36	Sunday Brunch \$25	Weekend Meal Package \$55
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**For information and reservations call the Beth Shalom office 760-200-3636**  
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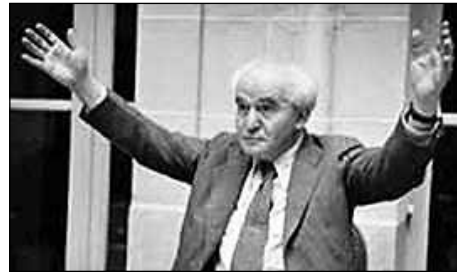
# Memories of a WWII and Israel Independence Veteran

Part-time Rancho Mirage Resident Leonard Sherman fought in World War II then went to Palestine and fought for Israel's independence

By Leonard Sherman

In Basel, Switzerland on August the 29, 1897, Theodor Herzl assembled the world's first conference of the Zionist movement. At that meeting, Herzl stated and prophesied that in 50 years there would be a State of Israel in the Jewish homeland.

In May 1997, one hundred years almost to the date of the



David Ben Gurion

first Zionist conference, I was the Chairman of a Technion mission

to Basel, bringing over 120 American Jews to celebrate that historical event. We stayed at the Four Kings Hotel, the same hotel in which Herzl stayed. There is



Leonard Sherman

a famous picture of Herzl on the balcony of his room overlooking the Rhine River, and every participant on the mission, in the same room that Herzl occupied, had their picture taken on the same balcony overlooking the Rhine River. The conference took place in the city's Casino (a meeting hall not a gambling casino). Local actors in full costumes of that period were engaged in a performance for us in the very same meeting hall where the angry debate occurred as to whether a Jewish homeland should be reestablished in Palestine or in Uganda. The experience was so moving that each person that day felt that they were there when Jewish history occurred.

Herzl forecast that in 50 years there would once again be a Jewish State of Israel. On November 29, 1947, three months and 50 years to the date of Herzl's prediction, it happened. On that date the United Nations Assembly voted for the partition of Palestine. After two thousand years we had our homeland back once again.

On the night of November 29, 1947, I stood all night in the courtyard of the Jewish Agency building in Jerusalem with hundreds of my fellow Jews, waiting for the word of the vote from the United Nations in New York. Suddenly floodlights were turned on. On the second floor of the building there is a balcony. The doors opened up and David Ben Gurion took hold of a microphone and announced to us and the entire Jewish world that, once again, we had a Jewish homeland. Never again would there be a homeless Jew or a defenseless Jew.

We Celebrated! AM ISRAEL CHAI!

More than a decade ago, the United Nations General Assembly designated International Holocaust Remembrance Day as an annual day set aside to remember the Holocaust's many victims, celebrate those who survived, and remind the world to never forget what happened. The official date, January 27, coincides with the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp.

**Gerald Ford Chapter of Mensch International Foundation**  
**10<sup>th</sup> Annual International Holocaust Remembrance Day Observance**  
**Monday, January 28, 2019 1:00 PM**  
**Palm Desert Civic Center Park Amphitheater**

### Program Participants



Henry Friedman  
Holocaust Survivor  
& Author



Shandy Friedman  
Chabad  
Palm Desert



Sabby Jonathan  
Councilman  
Palm Desert



Rick Stein  
Investment  
Advisor



Kathrin Steinbrenner  
Deputy German  
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Susan Marie Weber  
Mayor  
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Singing by Rabbi Ben Zion Lew,  
Chabad of Rancho Mirage

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# Senator Rand Paul Blocking US Military Aid to Israel

The Times of Israel

Republican Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky is blocking US military aid to Israel.

Paul, who has previously called to cut defense assistance to Israel, recently put a hold on the US-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2018, which codifies into law the \$38 billion defense aid package for Israel over 10 years that was negotiated in the final days of the Obama administration.

A hold is a parliamentary procedure that allows senators to prevent a motion from reaching a floor vote.

The Senate passed the act in early August; the House of Representatives followed suit the following month. Now the Senate

must pass a final version in line with the bill passed by the House.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee, or AIPAC, has bought advertisements on Facebook identifying Paul as the main force blocking the act, the Washington Free Beacon reported, citing what it called sources close to the effort.

Meanwhile, Christians United for Israel, or CUFI, sent out an Action Alert email blast on Monday to its supporters calling on them to flood Paul's office



Senator Rand Paul (R-KY)

with calls and letters encouraging him to support the legislation. CUFI also invested heavily in ads in Kentucky to target the senator's constituents directly on the issue, the Free Beacon reported.

Paul's office did not immediately return a request for comment.

Paul, a presidential candidate in 2016, alienated pro-Israel Republicans almost as soon as he became a senator in 2011, when he embraced his congressman father's longtime call to cut defense assistance to Israel. The younger Paul later backtracked, saying he regarded Israel as a close ally, and would cut assistance only

once it was clear the country was self-sufficient in its defense needs.

The hold comes as Israel faces major immediate threats from Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon and Syria, and Iran.

The \$38 billion deal negotiated in 2016 is the most generous ever to Israel. The act also expands a stockpile of weapons that the United States keeps in Israel, which may access the stockpile in wartime. It also enhances Israel's qualitative military edge and urges space research cooperation between Israel and the United States.



## Jewish National Fund Invites You to Attend Our ANNUAL PLANNED GIVING LUNCHEON

FEATURING GUEST SPEAKERS

**Alon Ben-Gurion**  
Grandson of  
David Ben-Gurion

**Matt Bernstein**  
JNF's Chief Planned  
Giving Officer

**Cynthia Hizami, Esq.**  
JNF's Director of Planned  
Giving, West Coast

**Thursday, February 7, 2019**  
12:00 - 1:30 pm

**Ritz-Carlton Rancho Mirage**

**RSVP by January 30, 2019 at [jnf.org/PSPGLuncheon2019](http://jnf.org/PSPGLuncheon2019)**

MORE INFORMATION

Contact Dan Reback at [dreback@jnf.org](mailto:dreback@jnf.org) or 760-864-6208 x954

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# Impact

By Nanette Davis-Kirchhevel, Teacher, Palm Desert Charter Middle School

Impact! A single word that can mean so many different things in our culture today. Let's be more specific- a positive impact. Yet, where can students in our culture find such an impact today? Where can an event or events create a positive impact that will leave a lasting legacy and mark on a person's life? That rare but incredible positive impact came to me in 2000, during my first year as a teacher at Palm Desert Charter Middle School. That year I had the rare and fantastic opportunity to work with the Jewish Federation of Palm Springs. That first meeting over 18 years ago has turned into over 20,000 lives receiving a positive impact due to the Federation's support.

It was the winter of 2000. I was still getting my feet wet as a first-year teacher at PDCMS when a colleague mentioned that we should contact the Jewish Federation. She mentioned that the Federation would coordinate a Holocaust survivor to speak to our 8th-grade students. As a history major, I was more than excited to meet a survivor after years of studying this horrific



*PDCMS Eighth grade students at the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles*

event. That year, Earl Grief came to our school. I will never forget Earl: his story of survival, his legacy, but most importantly, his passion for young people and his hope for a future where tolerance would prevail. Earl continued to come to speak and spread his message of tolerance each year to the youth at



*Holocaust Survivor Goldie Jacoby with teacher Nan Davis-Kirchhevel*

our school, along with others like Goldie and George Jacoby. As a staff, we made it a priority for our students to hear from a survivor each year, and we continue to have Goldie Jacoby come every year. To date, over 20,000 students have heard a Holocaust survivor at PDCMS and we will continue to do so.

Years later, the Federation contacted me about the opportunity for our students to travel to the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles. They didn't just want a few of our students or a select group of students to attend, but the entire 8th grade class of over 400 students. This was a task that would take time, effort and of course, money. The Federation was and continues to be generous

in giving our school funding to offset costs that the students and school cannot provide. To date, our school has never turned a student away from attending the Museum of Tolerance annual trip that now takes almost 500 students each year. This is possible because of the continued support from the Federation.

Without the Jewish Federation of the Desert, the positive impact on over 20,000 students and 20,000+ more to come, would not be possible. Each year in June, the teachers at PDCMS ask our current 8th graders to write a letter to incoming 8th graders about what will impact them their 8th-grade year. In almost every letter we read the students write about the positive impact Goldie Jacoby has made on their life and how they will never forget their experience at the Museum of Tolerance. Impact! A simple word with the power to change individuals for the better. Because of the Jewish Federation of the Desert, every year students receive a positive impact that changes their lives and our world for the better.

## Pompeo: Hezbollah Terror Tunnels 'Violate the Basic Premise of Sovereignty'

The Israel Defense Forces launched "Operation Northern Shield" to eliminate tunnels dug by Hezbollah from Lebanon into Israel.

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that Hezbollah tunnels from Lebanon to infiltrate and attack Israel "violate the most basic premise of sovereignty."

"The United States fully supports Israel's right [to defend themselves

from Iranian aggression], and we do our best to support their capability to defend themselves from Iranian aggression,"

Pompeo told conservative radio-talk show host Hugh Hewitt.



*US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo*

"These tunnels are Iranian-connected Lebanese Hezbollah efforts to violate the most basic premise of sovereignty, of national sovereignty—that is, digging tunnels onto someone's terrain."

The Israel Defense Forces launched "Operation Northern Shield" last month to discover and eliminate underground tunnels constructed by Hezbollah from

Lebanon to Israel.

"We support Israel's right to defend itself, including the exercises on the Israeli side of the border that they now are calling 'Northern Shield,'" said Pompeo, who met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Brussels regarding the Iranian threat and other issues.

## UCR Jewish Studies

### First Lecture:

Thursday, December 6, 2018  
Dr. Peter Curtis: Guitar Concert

### "A Very Jewish Christmas: Holiday Music of American Jews"



*Dr. Michael Alexander, UCR Chair of Jewish Studies; Dr. Peter Curtis, Presenter; Bruce Landgarten, Jewish Federation CEO*



UCR Jewish Studies and Jewish Federation of the Desert present

## 2018-2019 LECTURE SERIES



This four-part series is presented by UCR Jewish Studies and Jewish Federation of the Desert. Each free lecture is open to the public. RSVP at Jewish Federation of the Desert by calling 760-324-4737.

### 4 TO 6 P.M. TUES, JAN. 15

Friend or Foe? Exploring the  
Artificial Intelligence Revolution  
Speaker: Dr. Ya'akov "Kobi" Gal

### 4 TO 6 P.M. SUN, FEB. 17

From Desert to Oasis: What Israel  
Can Teach the World About Water  
Renewal. Speaker: Dr. Edo Bar-Zeev

### 4 TO 6 P.M. TUES, APRIL 9

Jews of African Descent in America.  
Speaker: Dr. Bruce Haynes  
This event will be held at Jewish Federation  
of the Desert, 69710 Hwy. 111, Rancho Mirage,  
(760) 324-4737

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# Shabbat Schedule - January 2019

Check the websites or call the synagogues for a full schedule of services.

## **BETH SHALOM** (Member, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism)

Ken Hailpern, Spiritual Leader  
79-733 Country Club Drive,  
Bermuda Dunes, CA 92203  
www.congregationbethshalom.net  
760-200-3636  
9:30 am Saturday Shabbat morning services, followed by sit down Kiddush lunch.  
Saturday, January 12: "Recognition Shabbat" honoring volunteer Louise Fischer  
Call for more information.

## **CENTRO CULTURAL HEBREO DE MEXICALI** (Conservative)

Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico  
Contact: Ron Cohen  
www.judiosdemexicali.com  
760-960-3392 US (686) 216-7152 Mexico

## **CHABAD OF PALM SPRINGS & DESERT COMMUNITIES**

Rabbi Yonason Denebeim & Rabbi Arik Denebeim  
425 Ortega, Palm Springs, CA 92264  
www.chabadpalmsprings.com  
760-325-0774  
Shabbat services Friday/Saturday; daily morning and evening minyan.

## **CHABAD OF PALM DESERT**

Rabbi Mendy Friedman  
Services in a private home.  
Call for information:  
760-651-2424.  
www.chabadpd.com  
760-969-2153 / 760-969-2158

## **CHABAD OF RANCHO MIRAGE**

Rabbi Shimon Posner  
72295 Via Marta, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270  
www.chabadrm.com  
760-770-7785  
Shabbat services Friday: check website for service times. Saturday 10 am; children's program/service 11:15 am. Daily morning and evening minyan. M-F 7:00 am; Sundays 8:00 am/check website for mincha/maariv times.

## **CHABAD OF SUN CITY PALM DESERT**

Rabbi Yonason Denebeim.  
For information on services call 760-848-8250.

## **CONGREGATION HAR-EL** (Member, Union for Reform Judaism)

Rabbi Richard Zions; Cantor Joseph Gole www.harelurj.org / harelurj@gmail.com  
760-779-1691.  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 564, Palm Desert, CA 92261. For information about Shabbat services contact Har-El by email or phone. Friday evening Shabbat services 6:00 pm, preceded at 5:30 pm by a pre-service social. First Friday of each month is a Music Shabbat, although not January, due to Cantors' Concert two days later.

## **CONGREGATION SHALOM BAYIT** (Reform)

Rabbi Kenneth Milhander, 1320

W. Williams Ave.,  
Banning, CA 92220.  
Contact 951-769-3678/769-7514  
Shabbat Service 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday/  
Havdallah 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday evening.

## **DESERT HOT SPRINGS**

Monthly Shabbat evening service with Rabbi Faith Tessler October-May at Mission Lakes Country Club at 7:00 pm. Confirm January date by calling Jewish Federation, 760-324-4737.

## **DESERT OUTREACH SYNAGOGUE**

Rabbi Jules King. Note new location: Meet at UC Riverside/ Palm Desert Campus, 75080 Frank Sinatra (at Cook), Palm Desert the second Friday of each month at 7:00 pm. Musical Shabbat service, followed by wine/light nosh oneg. Complimentary valet parking in Lot B. 760-449-0111. Mailing address: P.O. Box 982, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270. www.Desert-Outreach-Synagogue.com.

## **SUN CITY JEWISH SERVICES**

Rabbi Kenneth Emert and Cantor Alan Scott.  
Services held at Sun City Del Webb, Palm Desert/Sunset View Clubhouse/Speakers Hall, First and third Friday evenings at 7:15 pm.

## **TEMPLE HAR SHALOM, Idyllwild**

Rabbi Malka Drucker.  
(951) 468-0004.  
www.templeharshalomidyllwild.org

Email:templeharshalomofidyllwild@gmail.com.

Friday night services once a month and study with Rabbi the following Saturday morning. January weekend: January 25 & 26. Services held at St. Hugh of Lincoln Episcopal Church, 25525 Taquitz Drive, Idyllwild, CA.

## **TEMPLE ISAIAH**

Rabbi David J. Lazar.  
332 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262, 760-325-2281. www.templeisaiahps.com. Shabbat evening: 6:30 pm; morning services 10:00 am.

## **TEMPLE SINAI** (Reform)

Rabbi Andrew Bentley  
73-251 Hovley Lane West, Palm Desert, CA 92260.  
www.templeisinaipd.org  
760-568-9699.  
Friday evening services: Temple Sinai is trying out 5:30 pm services for month of January. Friday, January 25 – Shabbat service in Celebration of Women, presented by the Women of Temple Sinai. Saturdays: 8:45 am Torah study; 10 am Shabbat services.

## **BIKUR CHOLIM**

A project of Chabad of Palm Springs & Desert Communities (Community Outreach) www.BikurCholimPS.com  
Rabbi Yankel Kreiman - 760-325-8076, and  
Rabbi Mendy Kreiman – 760-567-6726.



# Community Calendar - January 2019

Email (preferred) Miriam Bent at [mhbentjcn@earthlink.net](mailto:mhbentjcn@earthlink.net) or call 760-323-0255 to have your events included in the community calendar.

## Sundays

Chabad Rancho Mirage Children's Programs  
C Teen Global Teen network offering social, educational & humanitarian programming.  
C Teen Jr. for 7-8 graders. Educational and social programming.  
C Kids ages 4-11. Meets Sundays 10:30-noon. Trips. Art. Cooking. Teaching Life Skills.  
Call 760-272-1923 or email [Chaya@chabardrm.com](mailto:Chaya@chabardrm.com) for information about the groups and meeting dates.

## Mondays

6:30 pm Chabad of Rancho Mirage **Men's Talmud class**, given by Rabbi Benny Lew at Chabad of Rancho Mirage. RSVP 760-636-2897 or [Rabbibenny@chabardrm.com](mailto:Rabbibenny@chabardrm.com).

## Tuesdays

**10 am** Temple Sinai **Yiddish Club**  
**Noon** Temple Sinai **Introduction to Judaism**. Facilitator: Arava Talve.  
**1:15 pm** Temple Sinai **Ten Paths to God**. Presenter: Rabbi Andrew Bentley  
5-7 pm Chabad of Rancho Mirage **Weekly BBQ**. Affordable, fun and kosher. Reservations not required but helpful: 760-770-7785.  
**7:00-8:00 pm** Chabad of Sun City **Women's Torah Study**. Contact [sussiedenebeim@gmail.com](mailto:sussiedenebeim@gmail.com).

## Wednesdays

**3:00 pm** Temple Isaiah **ExploraTorah** with Rabbi David Lazar.  
**4:00 pm** Temple Sinai Mah Jongg

## Thursdays

**1:00 pm** Temple Sinai Mah Jongg  
**Sunday, January 6**  
**12:30 pm MegaChallah Bake**. \$25. Sun City Palm Desert. Deadline for reservations December 31. No walk ins. Information: 424-256-8613.

## Sunday, January 6

**5:00 pm Har-El Cantors' Concert**. St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Palm Desert. \$36 Tickets available online or at the door. See ad on page 14-15 and classified ad on page 26.

## Wednesdays, January 9

**3:30-5:00 pm** Har-El One Session Galen Trimester Course: **Rabbi Karen Fox, DD**, Adjunct Faculty, HUC-LA. "On Civil Discourse: Critique and Rebuke." To register call 760-779-1691 or email [harelurj@gmail.com](mailto:harelurj@gmail.com).

## Thursday, January 10

**5:30 pm** Temple Sinai **Brotherhood Dinner and Movie**: Call 760-568-9699 for information and reservations

## Monday, January 14

**10:30 am** Har-El Galen **Book Course**. Call for book title. Fee for non-members. Information/registration: Call 760-779-1691 or email [harelurj@gmail.com](mailto:harelurj@gmail.com).

## Tuesday, January 15

**11:30 am** Temple Sinai Women of Sinai **Fashion Show, Luncheon and Raffle**. \$25 members; \$30 non-members. Reservations due by January 8.

## Tuesday, January 15

**3:00 pm** Temple Isaiah **Book Club: "A Late Divorce"** by A.B. Yehoshua. For information contact Marc Becker at [mbecker4985@gmail.com](mailto:mbecker4985@gmail.com).

## Sunday, January 20

**10:30 am-4:30 pm** Brandeis and Hadassah **Game Day** at Sun City Shadow Hills Montecito Clubhouse. \$65 for beverages, lunch, snacks and door prizes. See classified ad page 26 for contact information.

## Thursday, January 24

**4:00 pm** Beth Shalom **Book Club Discussion** "The Tattooist of Auschwitz" by Heather Morris. Discussion led by: **Maxine & Robert Greenstein**. New members and guests welcome! Information: 760-200-3636

## Saturday, January 26

**6:30 pm** Temple Sinai **"JewChella" Concert** with Rabbi Andrew Bentley

and Friends.

Temple Sinai for information: 760-568-9699.

## Sunday, January 27

**9:30 am** Har-El Women's Circle **Annual Retreat**. Presenter: Rosa Weinstein "It's All About You." \$38. Reservation deadline: January 18. See ad page 15.

## Sunday, January 27

**2:00 pm** Beth Shalom **Matinee Theatre Party** "Brighton Beach Memoirs" at Indio Performing Arts Center - \$30 per person with advanced reservations. Non-members welcome! Information: 760-200-3636

## Monday, January 28

**1:00 pm** Mensch International's Holocaust Remembrance Observance. See ad page 8.

SUNDAY, MARCH 24 - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2019

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Tickets may also be ordered by calling Temple Isaiah at 760-325-2281.

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## Tribute Card Donations

Sending tributes and memorials is a meaningful way to honor loved ones.

All contributions received by the Jewish Federation for Tribute Cards are placed in our special Tzedakah Fund, which provides direct monetary intervention for needy Jews living in the Coachella Valley. Call 760-324-4734.

### Honorarium Tributes In Appreciation For:

- **Cass Graff-Radford**, Happy birthday from Margie Kulp.
- **Rosee and Sandy Hertz**, Happy Hanukkah, from Margot and Jerry Halperin.
- **Ruth and Mal Kaufman**, Mazel tov on the birth of your great granddaughter, from Eunice and Jerry Meister.
- **Celia Norian**, Thank you from Maureen Schrader.
- **Celia and Sandy Norian**, Thank you from Terry and Norm Dean.
- **Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Pernikoff**, Mazel tov on the birth of your granddaughter, from Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.
- **Jane and Larry Sherman**, Thank you from Margie and Stephen Kulp.
- **Gail Weisler**, Happy birthday from Tobye and Harvey Rubin.

### Refuah Shleimah Get Well Wishes To:

- **Howard Schor**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Cora Ginsberg, Libby and Buddy Hoffman.

### Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:

- **Judy Appelbaum**, In memory of your beloved husband Bob, from Harriet Bernstein, Edith and Arnold Familian, Toni and Bobby Garmisa, Loreen Jacobson, Eunice and Jerry Meister.
- **Audrey Bernstein**, In memory of your beloved husband Joe, from Muriel and Irv Becker, Harriet Bernstein, Arnold and Edith Familian, Barbara and Bernie Fromm (Fromm Foundation), Cora Ginsberg, Margot and Jerry Halperin, Sanford and Rosemary Hertz, Libby and Buddy Hoffman, Board and Staff of JFS of the Desert, Marnie Miller and Joe Noren, Mimi and Harold Paley, Sherry and Howard Schor.
- **Muriel and Irv Becker**, In memory of your beloved sister, from Mimi and Harold Paley.
- **Burry Family**, In memory of Sherman Burry, from Sanford and Rosemary Hertz.
- **Dodie Cadiff**, In memory of your beloved husband Danny, from Bob and Sandra Borns, Judy Cohn, Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.
- **Sharon Goldsle**, In memory of Bette Rudick, from Miles and Jan Gordon.
- **Mr. and Mrs. Howard Hyman**, In memory of your beloved father Irving, from Ros and Stan Hack.
- **Cydney Osterman**, In memory of your beloved husband Bill, from Audrey Bernstein, Bob and Sandra Borns, Reesa and Jerry Niznick.
- **Mimi and Harold Paley**, In memory of Mimi's beloved sister Leah, from Muriel and Irv Becker, Judy Cohn, Marnie Miller and Joe Noren, Chickie and Claude Steinberger.
- **Mr. and Mrs. Howard Penner**, In memory of your beloved brother Steve, from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Myra Rowe**, In memory of your beloved husband Ted, from Harriet Bernstein, Cora Ginsberg, Loreen Jacobson, Eunice and Jerry Meister, Marnie Miller and Joe Noren, Harold and Mimi Paley, Sherry and Howard Schor.
- **Jerry Steinberg and Family**, In memory of your beloved Fern, from Barbara and Bernie Fromm (Fromm Foundation).
- **Leah Steuer**, In memory of your beloved David, from Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.
- **Family of Samuel Weiss**, in memory of Samuel Weiss from Geraldine Tepper.
- **Shelly Zucker**, In memory of your beloved husband Stephen, from Audrey Bernstein, Margot and Jerry Halperin, Sanford and Rosemary Hertz, Libby and Buddy Hoffman, Ruth and Mal Kaufman, Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.

## ADL/ Federation Event

On November 27th, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) brought Dr. Peter Simi, Associate Professor at Chapman University, to the desert for the annual ADL Helene and Melvin Berman Lecture Series. Dr. Simi's topic: "Behind the Hate: An Expose of Extremists and their Beliefs." Pictured (l-r): Jewish Federation CEO Bruce Landgarten, guest speaker Dr. Peter Simi, ADL Senior Associate Regional Director Matt Friedman, and Federation Director of Community Impact Kevin Giser.



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**"Off the Pulpit" is a monthly column featuring articles on community or Israel, written by our community's Rabbis.**

## Rabbi Zionts, Har-El

*Rabbi Richard Zions is a graduate of Hebrew Union College and has a Ph.D. from Penn State University. He and his wife, Lynda, moved to Palm Springs in 1996, leaving behind very cold Pennsylvania winters and to be near to their recently born first grandchild. Their plans were for him to teach at Cal Poly, Pomona, and College of the Desert, but upon learning that Temple Sinai was in need of an interim rabbi during their search for a new spiritual leader, Rabbi Zions added rabbinical responsibilities to his plate, serving at Temple Sinai for fifteen months while teaching at the two colleges. He taught at Cal Poly until 2009 and continues to teach at COD, now in his 22<sup>nd</sup> year. In 2004, in concert with Union for Reform Judaism colleagues, he began Congregation Har-El, where he is its Founding and Senior Rabbi.*



**Rabbi Richard Zions**

Dear Friends,

In mid-December I had the opportunity to attend a special meeting on synagogue security at the Jewish Federation of the Desert.

While at the meeting, I received a text on my cell phone from a minister of a prominent church here in our community. The minister, a good

friend, alerted me of a bomb threat that had been e-mailed to his church and let me know that law enforcement was on its way. Later, he texted again, informing me that the church had been evacuated and, after a thorough sweep through the building, no threat was found.

I was relieved and also struck by

the irony of the situation. Here I was, receiving a text message about an emergency from a member of the clergy in our own local community while participating in a meeting, learning how we might best prepare for and cope with violence against synagogues and other Jewish institutions.

I was also filled with concern about our society in America today.

Entering the New Year 2019, we are well aware of the climate of hate and violence which is erupting throughout our country. Most all of us believed that we, as Americans, had been making progress in inter-faith, inter-racial and inter-ethnic relationships. We are taken aback and saddened by recent events.

One option is to throw up our hands, sit back and do nothing. The other option is for all the people of our community to take unified action and do something.

Among our current synagogue Torah readings, we read in Exodus 14 of the people of Israel and their journey out of Egyptian slavery. Suddenly, they see Pharaoh and his army in the distance, going after them in hot pursuit.

According to the Midrash, groups

began to form. One was ready to surrender and go back to slavery. Others were confused and torn. But one group, led by Nachshon ben Amminadav, decided to take action. Nachshon leaped into the waters of the sea and soon others followed. It was then and only then, according to the Midrash, that the waters of the sea began to recede and part, thus enabling the Israelites to cross over to dry land and freedom.

The lesson of the Midrash is clear—When confronting danger on the horizon, it is we who must take the first steps and do something.

This is now the time for our synagogues, united as a community, to join in cooperation with our local Jewish Federation. This is now the time to raise consciousness through a community-wide program to be held on February 7th, not allowing the eleven victims of the shooting in Pittsburgh and others to be buried and forgotten.

This is the time for more inter-faith, inter-racial educational programs in our schools and community, to help serve as an antidote to the toxic atmosphere which is beginning to spread throughout our country.

## "Active Shooter" Workshop at Federation Offices

In response to the 60% increase in anti-Semitic incidents throughout the United States, and particularly in response to the tragic murders at Tree of Life Temple in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and the increased anti-Semitic incidents in its wake, the Jewish Federation held a second "Active Shooter" Workshop for community institutions (temples and community agencies) in less than ten months. Michael Masters, CEO of Secure Community Network, the



**Patrick Daly, Bruce Landgarten, Michael Masters and Don Isaacs**

national homeland security initiative of the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) and Conference

of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and his Deputy Director Patrick Daly, came



**Bruce Landgarten**



**Michael Masters**

from New York to participate in the program. Training was led by Don Isaacs from the Rancho Mirage Police Department. Also thanks to Captain Jason Huskey, Police Chief, Lt Michael Manning and Sergeant Frank Schiavone for their support.

# Trump's Pick for Saudi Ambassador is Expert on Hezbollah and Iran

By Seth J. Frantzman, *The Jerusalem Post*

US President Donald Trump has nominated John Abizaid as ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

The retired general has opposed the Iranian nuclear program but also urged Israeli restraint in confronting it.

As an observer for the UN in 1985, Abizaid saw some of Hezbollah's first terrorist attacks, and has spoken about the threat of terrorism in the region.

His nomination comes at a crucial juncture for US-Saudi relations and also Riyadh's role in the region. Abizaid will fill a spot that has been open for several years.

A former US Central Command commander, Abizaid has a long background in the Middle East and its wars.

Abizaid is of Lebanese descent and a fluent Arabic speaker.

Retiring from the US military in 2007, he was the longest serving commander of the United States Central Command (CENTCOM) at a time when the US was embroiled in a variety of wars in the region. This gives him an unprecedented view into the current US role, including the fight against ISIS in Iraq and Syria, areas that Saudi Arabia also has an interest in. However, much



**US Army General John Abizaid testifying on Iraq before Senate Armed Services Committee**

has changed in the last decade, and Abizaid is coming to Riyadh at a unique time.

He has viewed Iran's nuclear program as a danger to the region, but also said in 2007 that the US could learn to "live with a nuclear Iran."

In comments to the Center for Strategic and International Studies that year, he noted that the US had learned to deal with a nuclear China and Russia.

"The Israelis have the capability to make a lasting impression on the Iranian nuclear program with their military capabilities," he told a US Marine Corps Conference in 2008.

In another discussion in 2008 at the Pacific Council, Abizaid said that deterrence would work with Iran. "It is a country of many different power

centers that are competing."

He said Iran was likely not interested in starting a nuclear war.

Coming to Israel's concerns, he noted "they can take care of themselves up to a point."

However, "we and the Israelis are going to have to have a very clear conversation about what we will do if the Iranians develop and field weapons. Over the next 20 years the relationship will have to go from a defacto alliance to one of unmistakable alliance."

That would appear to imply a treaty guaranteeing Israel defense in case of Iran deploying a weapon.

The issue was never elaborated on because Iran didn't develop a nuclear weapon and the Iran Deal changed the conversation.

Abizaid has also been outspoken on the threat of extremism and the need for US presence in the region.

In 2007, he told a gathering at Carnegie Mellon University that "Over time, we will have to shift the burden of the military fight from our forces directly to regional forces, and we will have to play an indirect role."

However, the US shouldn't assume that its military power can just come

home and relax, he said "The strategic situation in the region doesn't seem to show that is possible."

This "long war" doctrine has been borne out by the current US posture in the region and throughout parts of Africa and Asia where US special forces and advisers are aiding in numerous conflicts against different groups connected to Al Qaeda, ISIS or their allies.

Abizaid warned in 2016 that the US was losing ground in this battle against "extremism."

Abizaid is deeply familiar with Lebanon, where he served with the UN in 1985. According to Gregg Jaffe and David Cloud's account in *The Fourth Star*, he saw some of the first suicide bombings and attacks carried out by Hezbollah and its allies. This included a March 1985 suicide truck bombing targeting the IDF in South Lebanon on the road to Metulla.

His family lived in Israel when he was with the UN, during a time when Shi'ite extremists fired Katyushas from Lebanon.

"There was no shortage of willing martyrs," he wrote about those joining the terrorists.

## Anti-Semitic Vandalism Painted Outside Jewish Homes in Seattle

Residents of West Seattle neighborhood say they have never had problems with neighbors or previously received any threats

Anti-Semitic vandalism was discovered outside the homes of Jewish residents of West Seattle.

The red spray-painted words were discovered on Monday. Residents believe it was painted there overnight, the West Seattle Blog reported.

The word "JEW" was spray painted on a garage and "F\*\*\* JEW THIEVE" on the pavement.

The residents of the affected homes told the blog that they are



**Anti-Semitic graffiti discovered outside the homes of Jewish residents of West Seattle, November 26, 2018.**

Jewish but said that they have not had any problems with neighbors or received any threats.

The Seattle Police Department told the blog that they are investigating the incident.

In comments on the blog post, readers wrote: "Deplorable is not a strong enough word to describe the 'people' who did this!" and "This is chillingly personal and targeted. We stand together against hate, and

those who seek to intimidate should know that we are always vigilant against their effort to divide us."

"This is horrifying. To the family that suffered this, I am so sorry. Please know that the rest of your neighbors in West Seattle support you and do NOT condone or accept this treatment. I really hope the criminals are caught soon," read another response.

# Somali-born Man Charged in Attempted Car-ramming Outside Los Angeles Synagogue

Mohamed Abdi Mohamed, 32, arrested after allegedly attempting to run over two Jewish worshipers on Nov. 23, faces two counts of assault with a deadly weapon, hate crime charge

*Times of Israel*

A Somali-born man was charged November 27th with a hate crime for allegedly trying to run over two men leaving a Los Angeles synagogue and spewing anti-Semitic insults.

Mohamed Abdi Mohamed, 32, who was arrested shortly after the incident on November 23, faces two felony counts of assault with a deadly weapon — his vehicle — as well as a hate crime allegation.

Authorities said the two victims — who were not harmed — had just left a synagogue in Hancock Park and were walking on a sidewalk when Mohamed tried to run them over while yelling anti-Semitic remarks.

"He's yelling out hateful remarks regarding Jewish heritage and regarding these people of faith," Los Angeles police chief Michel Moore told reporters. "They watch him as he then turns his vehicle directly at them."

Mohamed was arrested by police shortly after he fled the scene, and then crashed his vehicle into another car.

Prosecutors said Mohamed, a US citizen, lived in the western state of Washington and had been in the Los Angeles area for a short time. It is believed he acted alone and was not connected to a group.

He faces nearly nine years in prison, if convicted of the charges.

The attack comes amid increased concerns about anti-Semitic violence across the United States.

# Tennis Season Starts at Tamarisk



*Tennis at Tamarisk has officially begun .... Many of our Federation donors participate in tennis at Tamarisk Country Club. They offer a true balance of social and competitive play.*

*Save the Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2019*

## 2019 MEN'S TAMARISK/FEDERATION DAY

Hosted by Tamarisk Country Club Men's Golf Committee



Tamarisk Country Club is hosting a fundraiser for the Jewish Federation of the Desert on March 20, 2019. It will be open to all male golfers and tennis players in the Coachella Valley who would like to contribute and participate in the event.

There will be morning and afternoon shotguns and tennis. All players are invited to attend the luncheon either before or after play. More information to follow.



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# IsraAID Comes to California Following Wildfires

IsraAID's emergency response team provides help building resilience and recovery in communities hard hit by the deadly blazes.

By Nicky Blackburn Israel21c

Israeli NGO, IsraAID, is sending an emergency response team to California to help communities affected by the unprecedented fires that have killed 80 and destroyed over 13,000 homes and buildings. More than 1,300 people are still listed as missing.

The two blazes broke out 10 days ago in both north and south California and quickly spiraled out of control. The Camp Fire wildfire, which wiped out the town of Paradise in Butte county (population 27,000), is already the deadliest and most destructive fire in California history, torching an area the size of Chicago.

The Woolsey fire has burned over 98,362 acres in southern California near the border of Ventura and Los Angeles counties.

After a request from local communities, IsraAID is to conduct a needs assessment of the population in affected areas, promote community



An IsraAID worker helps sort clothing donations

resilience and recovery, and distribute relief items to families currently staying in temporary accommodation after losing their homes in the fires.

Yotam Polizer, the co-CEO of IsraAID, told ISRAEL21c that a team of four Israelis have already flown out to California, and plan to set up operations in Chico, where many evacuees are now living in tent cities, shelters and even sleeping in their cars.

"We've seen a lot of disaster

zones over the years, but this is a whole different level of devastation. Everything has been burned to the ground, and there are so many people still missing," said Polizer, who has just returned from California.

"The search and rescue teams aren't looking for survivors, they are looking for remains. From a psychological perspective it's on a whole different scale.

"When we talk to local people we see they are getting support,

but there's very little psycho-social support there. That's where we are planning to focus our efforts."

IsraAID's team will include Israeli and US-based mental health specialists, who will work with partner organizations on-the-ground to support affected communities as they recover and promote community resilience.

"We were devastated by the tragedy of these fires in California," said Polizer. "It's a place very close to our hearts. We have an office there, lots of staff members and volunteers. A lot of local people asked that we come and help. We are planning to be there to support the people as long as we are needed."

This is not the first time that IsraAID has sent aid in the wake of deadly fires in California. In October last year, a team of seven aid workers – including Polizer – helped out in evacuation centers in Napa Valley, after a series of wildfires swept the state killing 44, causing \$14.5 billion in damages, and forcing 90,000 people to evacuate.

The Israeli team were stationed in Santa Rosa, California, and helped coordinate and provide relief supplies and stress management to the affected community.

Even today, IsraAID continues to work with the community there to help them build resilience.

IsraAID has extensive experience responding to disasters in the US and all over the world. This year alone, the organization provided aid to victims in Florida in the wake of Hurricane Michael, North Carolina, after Hurricane Florence, to the Philippines, Indonesia, India, Kenya, and to Guatemala after the volcano.



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# South Korea Buys Israeli Radar Tech, Likely to Counter North's Missiles

Seoul purchases two advanced Green Pine arrays, each reportedly with a range of hundreds of miles, from state-owned ELTA Systems

By Judah Ari Gross, Times of Israel

On November 27<sup>th</sup>, South Korea announced that it was purchasing two advanced radar systems from Israel that are meant to improve its ability to detect incoming missiles, like those that could be launched by North Korea.

The two Green Pine radar detectors will be provided by the ELTA Systems Ltd., a subsidiary of the state-owned IAI Israel Aerospace Industries

The purchase came despite ongoing efforts between South and North Korea to end the war that the two countries have officially been waging since 1950.

In its announcement, Seoul said the systems could "spot and track ballistic missiles from a long distance at an early stage." North Korea was not explicitly mentioned.

Analysts in South Korea said the new Green Pine radar systems could act as a deterrent against North Korea, potentially preventing Pyongyang from launching missiles in the first place.

South Korea already possesses earlier versions of the Green Pine system. The new variant Seoul announced it was purchasing on Tuesday — the third iteration, known



**The Green Pine radar system, manufactured by ELTA Systems Ltd., a subsidiary of the state-owned Israel Aerospace Industries. (ELTA Systems Ltd.)**

as the Block C — is designed to both provide an early warning about an attack and work in tandem with a missile defense system to intercept the incoming projectile.

In 2009, when Seoul purchased its first pair of Green Pine radar arrays, South Korean officials said it would use them in tandem with American-made

Patriot interceptor missiles.

The new model of the Green Pine radar system is believed to have an improved operational range and be able to track multiple projectiles in the air simultaneously. It is an improvement over South Korea's current systems, which are said to have a range of approximately 800 kilometers (500 miles).

The decision to purchase the additional radar systems was made by South Korea's Defense Acquisition Program Administration.

Under dovish South Korean President Moon Jae-in, Seoul has pursued a policy of engagement with its isolated, nuclear-armed neighbor to the north.

In September, Moon and North

Korean dictator Kim Jong Un agreed on a broad plan to ease tensions along the border during their third summit in Pyongyang.

The two nations technically remain at war after the 1950-53 Korean War, which sealed the division of the peninsula and ended with a ceasefire instead of a peace treaty.

But ties improved markedly this year as Moon and Kim took a series of reconciliatory gestures.

Kim and US President Donald Trump also held a historic summit in June in Singapore and signed a vaguely-worded deal on denuclearization, but little progress has been made since then, with the two countries sparring over the exact meaning of the agreement.

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# Denver Riggleman: New Republican Pro-Israel Congressman from Virginia

"For me, it's a natural fit—to support Israel in just about everything. I believe that they're so important in that region."

By Jackson Richman, Jewish News Service

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, Republican Denver Riggleman won the race in Virginia's 5th congressional district to replace the retiring Republican Tom Garrett, defeating anti-Israel Democrat Leslie Cockburn, who "galvanized the pro-Israel community to raise around \$1 million for the Riggleman campaign." This was significant because he fundraised a little more than \$1.4 million overall, while his opponent raised about \$2.7 million.

According to a New York Times review, Cockburn and her husband Andrew's book, *Dangerous Liaisons: The Inside Story of the U.S.-Israeli Covert Relationship*, "is largely dedicated to Israel-bashing for its own sake. Its first message is that, win or lose,

smart or dumb, right or wrong, suave or boorish, Israelis are a menace. The second is that the Israeli-American connection is somewhere behind just about everything that ails us."

The Republican Jewish Coalition played a major role in the funds raised, with the Riggleman campaign being one of the largest recipients from the RJC Board of Directors and Leadership Committee. Between \$500,000 and \$600,000 was raised for Riggleman by a "loose functional of pro-Israel donors."

In a phone interview with Riggleman,



Congressman-Elect  
Denver Riggleman  
(R-VA)

The Jewish News Service asked, "You won the race against someone who wrote a book demonizing the relationship between the United States and Israel. Additionally, the pro-Israel community stepped up in a big way for your campaign especially in terms of fundraising. What's your overall stance on the U.S.-Israel relationship?" Riggleman responded, "It's actually unbelievable the support I had from the pro-Israel, pro-Jewish community. I think a lot of it had to do with my background. I was in Israel during the bus bombings in 1996. I was Air Force enlisted, at the age of 26. When I saw the strength of the Jewish people there, when I saw what they were going through, it gave me a new appreciation for some of the challenges in that area. When I went into Air Force intelligence, it was sort of immediate that there was that support for Israel based on my background in military technologies and in foreign policy.

For me, it's a natural fit—to support Israel in just about everything. I believe that they're so important in that region."

Regarding the continuation of military support for Israel, Riggleman responded, "The assistance has to be comparable to what we do with Israel, so it's something that I support, to continue funding for Israel with at least the current levels." And, regarding funding the Palestinian Authority, he observed, "The Palestinian Authority has some issues and challenges that we need to address. But as far as funding for them, that's not something I would support.

Riggleman was asked, "Do you have any specific plans in Congress regarding the U.S.-Israel relationship? For example, the Anti-Semitism Awareness Act would require

the Department of Education to adopt the State Department's definition of anti-Semitism in evaluating such incidents on college campuses and at other educational institutions. He responded, "If we need to change those definitions to ensure that people understand what anti-Semitism is, I'm all for it. I just find it amazing that kind of behavior is in the U.S., and anything we can do to stomp that out, we need to do. And that goes for all religious groups. It's something that's near and dear to my heart based on what I've done in my military career. What I've fought for here in the U.S. and what I've fought for in other countries, I think we need to have that same type of tolerance for everyone.

For example, I came out with an op-ed in response to what happened in Charlottesville, VA., last year. The alt-right is not a big fan of me based on my positions. It's something we need to stomp out. But any type of activity, whether it's white supremacy or this sort of white nationalist movement is something that we need to keep an eye on. I believe the alt-right is the scum of the earth."

Asked what he wants readers to know about him, Riggleman responded, "I own a distillery in Virginia, and I am also just leaving being a senior consultant at the Pentagon for electronic warfare and counter-measures, so I have a lot of experience in not only building businesses, but also in supporting the military. Hopefully, I can use my background in what I've done with my life and living the American dream to be a great congressman for the fifth district, and to thank the Jewish community and the pro-Israel community for all the assistance because I would not be here without them. And that is the truth."

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# Two Israeli Baby Items Make TIME's 2018 Best Inventions List

Nanobébé bottle and Nanit Plus monitor are included in the compilation of 50 inventions 'making the world better, smarter and even a little more fun.'

By Abigail Klein Leichman ISRAEL 21C

Israel is renowned as a child-centered society, so it's no surprise that the two Israeli items named to TIME magazine's 2018 Best Inventions list are both geared to baby care.

Nanit Plus smart baby monitor is described by TIME as a "sleep coach" for babies because it serves double duty as a live app-based video monitor and a tracking device that collects environmental info and makes relevant



Israeli company Nanobébé redesigned bottles for breastmilk

suggestions – such as adjusting the temperature or darkening the room to help baby fall asleep. The company has locations in Tel Aviv

and New York.

Nanobébé breast-milk bottle is said to be the first baby bottle designed to preserve essential breastmilk nutrients by enabling rapid heating and cooling through an innovative geometric shape that resembles an actual breast and is topple-proof.

The made-in-Israel bottles are complemented by a full line of infant-care products.

The TIME list encompasses

"50 innovations making the world better, smarter and even a little more fun."

Nominations were solicited across a variety of categories from TIME editors and correspondents around the world, as well as through an online application process. Then TIME evaluated each contender based on factors including originality, creativity, influence, ambition and effectiveness.

# CNN Fires Marc Lamont Hill Over Controversial Anti-Israel Comments

By Algemeiner Staff

CNN fired contributor Marc Lamont Hill on November 29th amid a swirling controversy over anti-Israel comments he made the previous day at a United Nations event.

The cable news channel's firing of the 39-year-old Hill — who is professor of media studies and urban education at Temple University — was first reported by the Mediaite news site.

"Marc Lamont Hill is no longer under contract with CNN," Mediaite quoted a CNN spokesperson as saying.

Temple University told The Algemeiner in a statement, "Marc Lamont Hill has been quoted extensively over the last 24 hours. Marc Lamont Hill does not represent Temple University and his views are his own. However, we acknowledge that he has a constitutionally protected right to express his opinion as a private citizen."

Israel's Consul General in New York, Ambassador Dani Dayan,



Marc Lamont Hill

welcomed the news of Hill's dismissal. "I welcome CNN's decision today to end Marc Lamont Hill's association with their network," he said in a statement. He also called for "Americans to stand strong against the dangerous anti-Semitic idea that Jews cannot legitimately live as a free people in their homeland. Anti-Semitism and dangerous political extremism cannot be allowed to become mainstream."

In his remarks on November 28th, Hill called for a "free Palestine from the river to the sea" — implying the elimination of Israel. Hill also endorsed the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel, and said, "We must promote nonviolence

at every opportunity, but cannot endorse narrow politics that shames Palestinians for resisting, for refusing to do nothing in ethnic cleansing."

With a long history of anti-Israel statements, Hill most recently drew condemnation from Jewish groups over his continued support of anti-Semitic Nation of Islam leader Louis

Farrakhan.

Two years ago, as reported by The Algemeiner, Hill urged his Twitter followers to support the crowdfunding campaign of a Palestinian terrorist who carried out a bombing in Jerusalem nearly five decades ago.

Joan Wine, an involved and active member of our desert community, learned about Marc Lamont Hill's comments at the November 28 UN event, googled his name, learned about his years of virulent anti-Semitic rhetoric and was moved to call Temple University, urging that he be fired. She describes the call: "My call was taken by a staff member. She asked my name and number and



Joan Wine

said they have been flooded by phone calls on this issue. All calls are being sent to the president of the University and she assured me that every caller will be phoned back."

In his column last month, Federation CEO Bruce Landgarten shared a quote by Elie Wiesel:

"I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented."

# Israeli Device Lets Wheelchair-bound Groom Stand Under Chuppah

'You made our night as close as possible to perfection,' writes newlywed to makers of the UPnRIDE smart wheelchair, soon to go on the market.

By Abigail Klein Lechman, Israel 21C

Forty days before his marriage, a wheelchair-bound Israeli man named Adir wrote to **UPnRIDE Robotics** sharing his dream to stand under the chuppah (wedding canopy) with his bride, Liat.

CEO Oren Tamari invited Adir to company headquarters in Yokne'am Illit to try the UPnRIDE 1.1 mobility device, now in transition from research-and-development to market.

"We saw he managed well with it, and we arranged for him to use the device during his wedding" on November 12, Tamari tells ISRAEL21c.

The next day, Adir posted on UPnRIDE's Facebook page: "Thank you all for [the] wonderful experience and magnificent night. Our chuppa was so amazing, people cried when [they] saw me standing and praying. My wife and I just want to say that you made our night as close as possible to perfection!!!"

UPnRIDE was invented by Amit Goffer, whose revolutionary ReWalk robotic exoskeleton allows paraplegics to stand, walk, navigate steps and even run marathons.

Goffer, who has a PhD in electrical



Adir under the wedding canopy with his bride, Liat

and computer engineering, could not use ReWalk himself because he is a quadriplegic, paralyzed from the neck down.

So he and Tamari formed a new company to develop an upright mobility solution enabling any wheelchair-bound person – quadriplegics, paraplegics, people with multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, ALS and traumatic brain injury – to recline, stand and navigate indoors and outdoors.

Jointed braces and harnessing straps

provide support, while advanced motion technology and real-time computing ensure automatic balancing and stability on uneven terrain. Goffer says other types of standing wheelchairs can't be used outdoors because of the danger of tipping over.

UPnRIDE is now raising funds, working toward FDA clearance and doing usability studies with all kinds of wheelchair users.

A major study has begun at the US Veteran Administration's Center of



UPnRIDE CTO and President Amit Goffer with his family at the July 2018 wedding of his youngest daughter

Excellence in New York to determine the health benefits for UPnRIDE users. Many health problems are associated with long-term wheelchair sitting, from muscle atrophy to cardiovascular disease.

Goffer, CTO and president of the company, doesn't yet have his own UPnRIDE because the sample models are for testing. He borrows one on weekends and for special events – such as his daughter's wedding last July.

Like Adir, he was able to stand under the chuppah and with his family for photos.

"My son and middle daughter were already married years ago," he tells ISRAEL21c, "and it was a very different feeling at the wedding of my 'baby' because I was standing like the rest of the family. I was also able to mingle with guests as never before."

Eventually, Goffer expects UPnRIDE to become his everyday wheelchair.

"I enjoy it because I can stand and sit easily whenever I want; I don't have to be moved and lifted by someone else. It can recline, too, so it's better for napping or receiving medical treatment."

The smart wheelchairs are to be manufactured in a northern Israel factory run by Sanmina, an American electronics manufacturing services provider.

Tamari says the company plans to use proceeds from the current funding round for marketing, establishing mass production and developing advanced and new models.



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For more information contact Bruce Landgarten, CEO: [bruce.landgarten@jfedps.org](mailto:bruce.landgarten@jfedps.org) or 760-324-4737.



# Famous Paris Synagogue Joins Dramatic Visual Protest for Religious Freedom Around World

By Algemeiner Staff

The world-famous Great Synagogue in Paris was among the French capital's iconic religious symbols to be lit up entirely in red on November 22<sup>nd</sup> in a show of solidarity with the 60 percent of the world's inhabitants who live without religious freedom.

Alongside the Sacré-Cœur Cathedral, the Russian Orthodox Cathedral and the Paris Great Mosque, the "Grande Synagogue," on the Rue de la Victoire, was bathed in red light on Thursday evening to mark the publication of the 2018 report on global religious freedom by Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), a Rome-based Catholic organization.

Thursday's display of red light in Paris — symbolizing the color of the



The interior of the famous "Grande Synagogue" in Paris.

blood that is shared by followers of every religious faith, organizers explained — was repeated at other famous European churches, including Westminster Cathedral in London and the Sagrada Familia Cathedral in

Barcelona.

The ACN report, which surveyed 196 countries, noted major violations of religious freedom in 38 of them — home to 60 percent of the world's population. Among their number are

some 500 million Christians who have experienced persecution and violence in Iraq, Egypt, Turkey, Iran and many other Muslim nations.

"Sadly, there are more and more infringements of this basic human right of religious freedom, which affect all religions," said George Marlin, chairman of ACN's American branch, in a statement supporting the report. "Though, by far, most of the victims of religious persecution are Christians."

Continued Marlin: "We are therefore inviting people throughout the world to stand up together with ACN in defense of religious freedom and make a visible gesture of solidarity."

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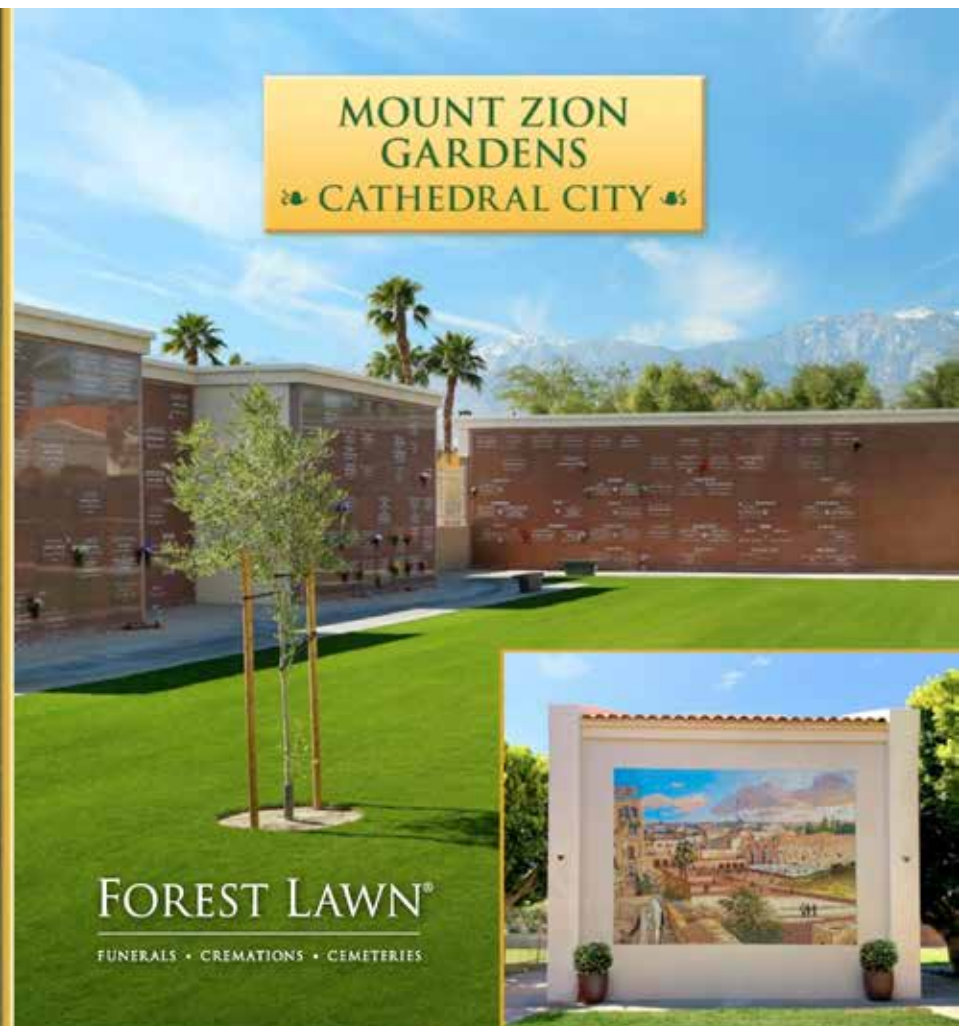
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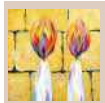
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## Candle Lighting Times

Friday, January 4	Shabbat Vaerah	4:07 pm
Friday, January 11	Shabbat Bo	4:13 pm
Friday, January 18	Shabbat Beshalach	4:20 pm
Friday, January 25	Shabbat Yitro	4:27 pm



## We Mourn the Passing of...

**Joseph M. Bernstein, Daniel L. Cadiff, Robert (Bob) Feinberg, Charlotte Quint, Leah Rosenberg, Ted Rowe, Steven Zucker and Ivan Zwelling.** *Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing.*



## Simchas

The six women from our community who have been given the prestigious Lion of Judah Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award in the past, standing from left: **Cora Ginsberg** (2008), **Nancy Ditlove** (2016), **Celia Norian** (2010), **Libby Hoffman** (2014), **Barbara Platt** (2004) and **Roberta Nyman** (2012) feted **Stephanie Ross** (seated), this year's honored recipient, at lunch before she travels to Hollywood,



Florida for the International Lion of Judah Conference January 13-15,

where she will be presented the award ... Thank you to **Fran Lubens** for sharing the lovely news that her daughter, **Pauline Lubens**, just received her Ph.D. in Public Health from the University of California Irvine. Pauline is currently a professor of Public Health at the University of Santa Clara. Share your Simchas with us. Email or call **Miriam Bent** at [mhbentjcn@earthlink.net](mailto:mhbentjcn@earthlink.net) or 760-323-0255.



*Dr. Pauline Lubens*

## Chanukah at Desert Hot Springs

In a program underwritten by the Jewish Federation, Rabbi Yankel and Rebbitzin Rochel Kreiman brought Chanukah to Desert Hot Springs. With singing, face-painting for the children, noshing and take-home goodie bags, it was a full house of participants and a fun afternoon. Pictured (photo left) Jewish Federation CEO Bruce Landgarten, Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman and their son, Rabbi Moshe.



### Charlotte Quint

*Remembered by Celia Norian and Barbara Platt*

Charlotte Quint passed away at a "young 98," having lived an involved, positive life despite being profoundly hard of hearing since her 20's. Barbara remembers Charlotte on a Palm Springs'

Federation Mission to Israel. "She was a little older than most of the travelers, but she was a force. She was bright and articulate and was interested in every dimension of this trip. She had an acute hearing problem, so she sat in the front of the bus. She and we made sure that she did not miss a word; it was important to her to participate."

Celia met Charlotte at a program where she was the speaker. Their friendship grew and after Charlotte moved into an assisted living facility, Celia visited her regularly. Charlotte remained interested in Jewish

news items and what was going on in Israel. After a stroke left her aphasic, she struggled to complete sentences, but her need to stay up on the latest remained. Charlotte's smile and positive attitude despite her disabilities were admired by all who came in contact with her. She was proud of being Jewish and was a generous supporter of the Jewish Federation and many other Jewish organizations. She was an Endowed Lion of Judah, which means her significant gift will continue to provide funds to our Jewish community in the years to come. Her memory will truly be a blessing.

## DESERT HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL



The Desert Holocaust Memorial is located in the Palm Desert Civic Center Park at San Pablo Avenue & Fred Waring Drive. Residents and visitors are encouraged to visit this moving memorial, a place of remembrance and monument of hope.

**JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE DESERT**

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

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