



# Jewish Community News

The Publication of the Jewish Federation of the Desert

www.jfedps.org

Av/Elul 5779 - September 2019

## Recoiling from Hate

We are deeply saddened and horrified by the recent hateful acts of violence: the tragic shootings that targeted innocents and violated the communities of Gilroy, Dayton, and El Paso. Our hearts have been broken again and again when community after community has been violated by severe acts of gun violence in schools, houses of worship, and in public places. Pittsburgh. Poway. Parkland. Orlando. Charleston. Close to home: San Bernardino. Thousand Oaks. So many. One is too many.

These attacks once again are another disturbing reminder that rising hate is the most serious threat that we have faced in so many years. We condemn anti-Semitism, racism, white nationalism, and other forms of hate. Enough is



enough. An attack on one community is an attack on all communities. We stand against hate of all kinds and demonstrate our commitment to creating a better world for all.

As a country, we cannot allow those who hate to define us. Instead, let us be defined by our humanity and by how we support each other in times of need. Jewish Federation strongly condemns tragic acts such as this violence and calls on our community to work together with others at building bridges across the country that heal the hate which threatens our society.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the innocent victims, their families and community. May the memory of the lives lost be for a blessing.

## A Wake-Up Call

By Bruce Landgarten, CEO

The dramatic increase in hate incidents and anti-Semitic harassment worldwide has left many in the Jewish community feeling threatened to a level not experienced since pre-War Europe.



At the recent Anti-Defamation League "Never is Now" anti-Semitism Summit, ADL shared that "Anti-Semitism is becoming normalized."

In Jewish communities large and small, the uptick in anti-Semitism is forcing Jewish organizations to reassess

the way it ensures the safety of community members, and Pittsburgh's Tree of Life massacre was a wake-up call that we are no longer immune to such heinous acts of violence.

The bottom line for our community and other communities like ours is that the world has changed, and we need to be better prepared for the worst. While we can't allow ourselves to be ripped apart by acts of hate, bigotry and violence, we have to be proactive and vigilant.

To this end, Jewish Federation is addressing safety and security through education, awareness, and preparedness.

### The Time is Now

Jewish Federation has been

**SAFERWORLD**  
PREVENTING VIOLENT CONFLICT. BUILDING SAFER LIVES

engaged in conversations with the Secure Community Network (SCN) and other like-sized communities to determine how best to secure our community.

Given the rising threat of terrorism, each synagogue and organization is a potential target. Within all of these institutions are people—some involving children—we need to protect. Thanks to Federation's Community Security Initiative, we can.

CSI was created to serve as a single point of contact for critical incident coordination, information and intelligence sharing, safety and

security training and resources for all of the Desert Area.

CSI offers the latest in safety and security training, and certification. All training is free and includes the following:

- Development of a strategic approach to community security, with the key objective to build confidence in our community's ability to ensure the safety of its organizations, members, and employees.
- Provide customized support and consultation to Jewish institutions including synagogues, Jewish day school, and other organizations.
- Establishing a system of community-wide collaboration, coordination and communication,

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# We've Come A Long Way



**ROBERTA  
NYMAN**

JEWISH  
FEDERATION  
BOARD CHAIR

As I begin my year as Board chair, I've been thinking about our Federation's past. Before 1970, Jewish community needs in the desert were handled as an offshoot of the activities of Temple Isaiah,

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with Rabbi Hurwitz raising funds as required to meet needs as they arose. Irving Winston was one of our first community leaders to see the need for an independent Jewish Federation here in the desert and served as the founding president from 1970 to 1972. Regardless, communal needs continued to be run, as Rabbi Hurwitz recalled, from the bottom drawer of his desk. It was almost ten years before a part-time director, Sam Rosenthal, was hired, and another three years before Nat Bent was hired as the first full time Executive Director, in July 1983.

Becoming an independent entity proved a wise choice. The success of the 1982-3 campaign made the Desert Sun, which reported \$1 million had been raised under the leadership of Federation's fifth president Jim Greenbaum.

In the intervening years, a total of 21 individuals have assumed the mantle of Federation President (now Chairman of the Board), including the two we honored at our Annual meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup>, Celia Norian and Allan Lehmann. Celia and Allan have

served with distinction, with their own special qualities and talents, and their strong commitment to Jewish life that is deep and proud. We thank them and are grateful for their many years of service.

In 1983 Federation had its offices in the Sun Center in Palm Springs, upstairs above a drug store, Jewish bakery and other small businesses. No sign was on the building. Later the Federation office was moved to El Cielo, hidden in a small business complex across the street from the Palm Springs airport. No sign was on the building. Next the Federation office was moved to offices upstairs in the Atrium in Rancho Mirage. Again, there was no sign on the building.

Now, since 2011, we are in our own building with our name boldly painted above our entrance. "Jewish Federation." Not hidden now; the community knows where we are.

But we are not just a building. What is most important are the people in Our building; our staff, our Board, our volunteers, our community who attend our programs. We all join together with like-minded people who share the same passions and goals. This is the place for people

who need help and know that they are welcome here. We must realize the important work that we do here and how our decisions affect many non-profits here in the desert, Israel, and over 70 countries throughout the world.

WHAT IF THERE WAS ONE PLACE to meet the needs of Jews and non-Jews, young and old, wherever they live? One place inspired by bold, often daring pursuits of social justice and human rights. By rich traditions of advocacy, education, responsibility and TZEDAKAH? What if there was one place where you could make the difference? Where you could help repair the world? One place where you could make the connection to Jewish values, Jewish people and Jewish communities all over the world. There is. FEDERATION. One place that belongs to us.

We are asking all of you to join together as we fulfill our obligation to our community.

Our Board and staff look forward to working with all of you to make 2019-2020 an extraordinary year. I thank you for your support as I take on the position of Board Chair of Jewish Federation of the Desert.

## California's Proposed Controversial Ethnic Studies Curriculum Scrapped

**Program contained serious anti-Semitic/anti-Israel bias**

The decision on August 12th by the California State Board of Education to scrap its proposed Ethnic Studies Curriculum was met with relief by Jewish organizations throughout the state. The anti-Semitic/anti-Israel proposal appeared to be yet another attempt by Jew haters to institutionalize their attacks on Jews and the Jewish state.

The California Department of

Education's proposed Ethnic Studies Curriculum was the latest example of the use of harmful Jewish stereotypes and the marginalization of Jews that is increasingly appearing in mainstream discourse, and particularly virulently prevalent on college campuses throughout the United States today.

The AMCHA Initiative, a nonprofit dedicated to fighting campus anti-Semitism, praised the decision in a

statement: "We are pleased the State Board of Education has recognized the severe problems with this curriculum and agreed to go back to the drawing board." However, AMCHA warned that the Board of Education "must establish overall safeguards" to ensure that future efforts don't repeat the failings of the most recent curriculum.

A week earlier, AMCHA wrote

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including regular security updates and resource sharing, as well as community-wide protocols for communication in an emergency.

- Implementation of a security training program including centralized, regionally-based and organization specific trainings.

We will continue to assess community needs, help develop security plans, advise and oversee matters of security and incident response for the Federation and partner organizations in the Jewish community, including:

- Establishing trusting relationships with key stakeholders, including CEOs, executive directors, clergy, community leaders, local law enforcement SCN (Secure Community Network), FBI and Department of Homeland Security.

- Provide consulting to organizations, which may include conducting facility assessments, review of security plans, developing recommendations on upgrades or improvements in security operations and procedures, and assisting with submissions for Department of Homeland Security grants.

- Establish a system of collaboration, coordination, and communication between organizations, which will create synergies and allow for resource sharing to leverage best practices.

- Develop and implement a

community-wide protocol and system for communications during an emergency.

- Design and coordinate a security training program with input from community organizations on needs and interests, offering centralized and organization specific programs. This might include disaster preparedness, proactive security measures, incident response, first aid and CPR.

- Review intelligence reports and information regarding security situations in the local community, Israel and around the world; advise agencies on responses to threats or relevant security situations and develop appropriate community-wide communications.

- Manage security approach for major Federation events, ensuring necessary security staffing and coordination with facility security and local law enforcement.

- Represent the Federation and the Jewish community in public forums, taskforces or meetings concerning security matters.

Security experts agree that simple, well-established, and consistently implemented safety measures are the most effective at minimizing harm: drills that teach rapid lockdown and evacuation strategies, doors that can be secured in seconds, and other low-cost equipment for communication.

Perhaps the greatest threat to the Jewish community is amnesia, when we forget about Pittsburgh and

Poway and are lured into a false sense of security. Time is critical – the time is now – to raise the funds necessary to address immediate security needs and to provide a trained professional to lead the efforts to ensure a more secure Jewish Desert Community.

We need your support ... today.

Our community can only remain secure if our institutions are safe spaces. Together, we can continue to ensure that our community is strong, resilient, and safe, even in

the face of those who seek to tear us apart. Please help us create a culture of security and preparedness. **Your support, separate from your gift to our Annual Campaign, will help underwrite security enhancements and organization-specific security training.** 100% of your gift will go towards supporting efforts to strengthen and heighten security for those institutions unable to fully fund these needs on their own.

## Funding Security:



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on "Security Fund."



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Call the Federation Office  
to make a contribution:  
760-324-4737.

continued from page 2

a letter, representing a coalition of 83 groups, to the board expressing their concern over the proposed curriculum. The letter observed that there was a "shocking omission of information about American Jews and anti-Semitism, its use of classic anti-Semitic stereotypes, and its blatant

anti-Israel bias" in the curriculum.

Last month members of the California Legislative Jewish Caucus wrote a letter to the state's board of education saying, "We cannot support a curriculum that erases the American Jewish experience, fails to discuss anti-Semitism, reinforces

negative stereotypes about Jews, singles out Israel for criticism and would institutionalize the teaching of anti-Semitic stereotypes in our public schools."

In announcing its decision to scrap the curriculum, the state's Board of Education stated, "A model

curriculum should be accurate, free of bias, appropriate for all learners in our diverse state, and align with Governor [Gavin] Newsom's vision of a California for all. The current draft model curriculum falls short and needs to be substantially redesigned."



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## **JEWISH COMMUNITY NEWS**

A Publication of the  
Jewish Federation of the Desert  
VOL. 46, No. 2

### **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**

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# German Anti-Semitism Tsar Endorses Probe Over Anti-Jewish Tweets

By *Algemeiner Staff*

Pressure has continued to pile on Christian Clages, Germany's official diplomatic representative to the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah, after an investigation by the newspaper *Bild* revealed that several anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist posts on Twitter had received "likes" from his verified account.

The German Foreign Office immediately launched a probe into the tweets, with some German parliamentarians and government officials expressing shock at the revelation that Clages' account had, among other offenses, liked a tweet posted by the former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke condemning "Jewish supremacists."

Among those who voiced support for the probe into Clages was Felix Klein, Germany's federal commissioner tasked



*German's representative to the PA Christian Clages (r) with UNRWA Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl.*

with combating anti-Semitism, who described the scandal as fundamentally a question of "trust."

"If German interests are to be effectively represented, it is necessary that the representative in Ramallah has good relations not only with Palestinians in the West Bank, but with Israelis too," Klein added.

A spokesperson from Germany's Foreign Ministry told *Bild* that it

distanced itself "emphatically" from the tweets that had been approved from Clages account, describing them as an "unacceptable" deviation from German government policy that "will not be tolerated."

The 64-year-old Clages has worked for the German diplomatic service since 1985, and has previously served as Germany's ambassador to Rwanda, Senegal and Lebanon.

One of the goals of the Foreign Ministry probe is to establish whether it was Clages himself who liked the tweets, or whether there was unauthorized access to the account, @GerRepRamallah. According to the magazine *Spiegel*, more than one person in the Ramallah office had access to the account. Clages has meanwhile distanced himself from

the tweets.

The tweets liked included a rant by Duke on April 10, in which the American neo-Nazi leader tweeted a lie popular on the far right and the extreme left: "On this day 71 years ago, Jewish supremacists invaded the Palestinian village of Deir Yassin, where they slaughtered men, women and children. Innocent Palestinians were mutilated, raped and paraded through Jewish neighborhoods before being summarily executed."

Other tweets liked by the German diplomat included one by an activist asking "when will Israel occupy the moon?" — a possible reference to Israel's recent "Beresheet" moon mission — while another claimed falsely that the Jewish state only "respects its own religious holidays."

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S'lichot Services Saturday, September 21 at 7:30 pm  
Erev Rosh Hashanah Sunday, September 29 at 7:30 pm  
First day Rosh Hashanah Monday, September 30 at 9:00 am  
Second day Rosh Hashanah Tuesday, October 1 at 9:00 am  
Kol Nidre Tuesday, October 8 at 7:00 pm  
Yom Kippur Morning Services October 9 at 9:00 am  
Mincha, Yizkor and Ne'ilah begins at 4:30 pm



# Eye-Catching Window Wonderland Opens in a Jerusalem Park

By Abigail Klein Leichman, ISRAEL 21C

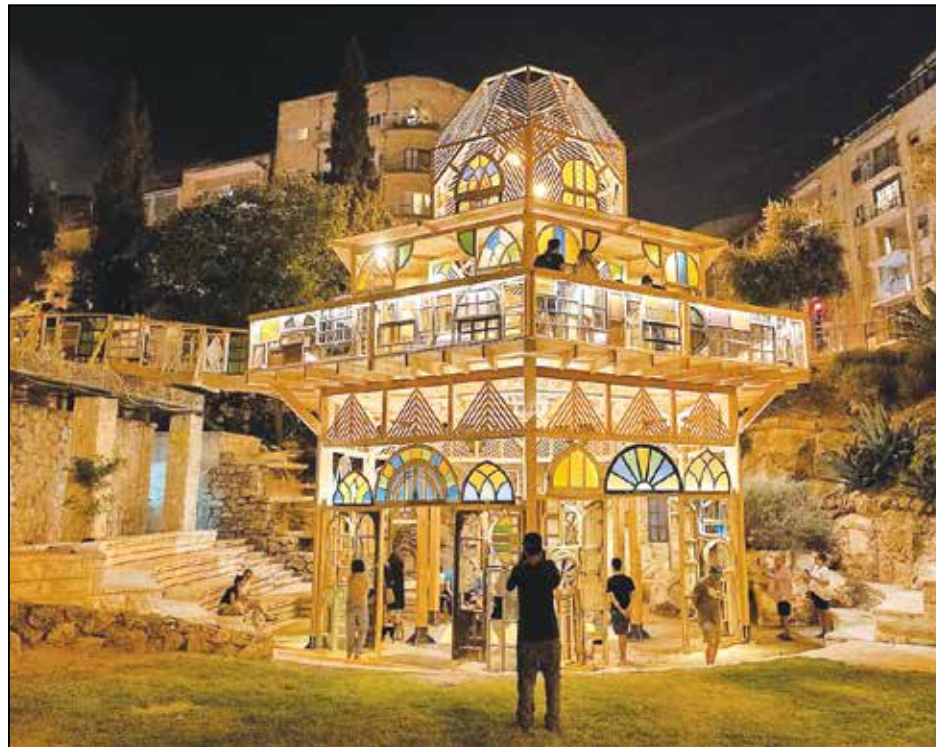
Jerusalem has never seen anything quite like this before.

"Window Stories," a towering installation made of 550 windows salvaged from across the city, in a variety of shapes and styles from different eras, is open free to the public through September 21 in Jerusalem's Gan HaSus (Horse Garden) on King George Street downtown.

This palace of windows was created by Yoram Amir, Itamar "Faluja" Paloge and Lior "Lili" Peleg in conjunction with the upcoming annual Mekudeshet cultural festival in the capital city.

There's a wooden English window alongside an Armenian hatch-window, an Ottoman decoration next to a Christian creation, a frame in the shape of a Star of David attached to an Arabic arch – and much more. There are even windows from the precursor to the Waldorf Astoria hotel and from market stalls.

As night descends, a spectacular set of lights transforms the window tower into a glittering lighthouse.



'Window Stories' is made of 550 windows salvaged from across the capital city

"On a night of languages, voices and cultures that do not always get along together, [we] will unite to form one house that has more open windows than hidden walls," the creators proclaimed.

The windows were collected and preserved for decades by the



Looking up through the Window Stories exhibition

late Yoram Amir, described as "an artist, activist, photographer, Don Quixote, prophet, and, more than anything, a lover of people and Jerusalem."

Amir salvaged the windows from abandoned buildings or buildings slated for demolition. Just before his death, he joined forces with Mekudeshet, the Jerusalem Municipality through Eden, the Jerusalem Center Development Company, and the artistic duo of Paloge and Peleg to construct this majestic exhibition unveiled July 7.

Visitors to Window Stories can listen to podcasts in Hebrew, Arabic and English, telling Yoram's story and the story of the window palace to children and adults. Each Wednesday, the site will host artistic and musical activities for the whole family.

Mekudeshet (formerly called the Sacred Music Festival in English) runs through September 21 and features music, art and unusual cultural events designed to provide a different perspective on Jerusalem.

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### Schedule of Services

#### SELIHOT

Saturday, September 21 Havdalah / Selihot 9:00 PM

#### ROSH HASHANAH

Sunday, September 29 Erev Rosh Hashanah 5:45 PM

Monday, September 30 First Day 9:00 AM

Tuesday, October 1 Second Day 9:00 AM

#### YOM KIPPUR

Tuesday, October 8 Kol Nidre 5:45 PM

Wednesday, October 9 Morning 9:00 AM

Yizkor 3:45 PM

Afternoon / Neilah 4:30 PM

Sounding the Shofar 7:00 PM



# CONGREGATION HAR-EL

member-elurj

CONGREGATION HAR-EL INVITES NON-MEMBERS  
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Har-El, Member, Union for Reform Judaism - P.O. Box 564, Palm Desert, CA 92261

# Notorious British Anti-Semite and Holocaust Denier Banned from France Until 2059

By Benjamin Kerstein, *The Algemeiner*

A notorious British anti-Semite and Holocaust denier has been banned from entering France for the next 40 years.

According to The Jewish Chronicle, Alison Chabloz was stopped from boarding a train to Paris on August 12<sup>th</sup>.

In a Twitter post, she claimed to have been "banned from entering France until 2059."

"My passport bleeped," she said. "Questioned first by gendarmes and then Met CTU [Counter Terrorism Unit] under Sec 7 at St Pancras," an apparent reference to an anti-terrorism law that permits officials to block entry to France by criminals and terrorists.

Chabloz was sentenced in June 2018 to 20 weeks' imprisonment, which was suspended for two years.

Using her YouTube channel, Chabloz produced content including speeches by Holocaust deniers and Palestinian solidarity videos, alongside a selection of openly anti-Semitic songs sung to the camera.

In one song, "(((Survivors)))", Chabloz mimicked a "Jewish" accent while singing lyrics that defamed the survivors of the Nazi death camps as liars motivated by

financial gain.

The judge, John Zani, said to Chabloz at the sentencing, "It appears to this court that no proper remorse is forthcoming from you."

"I don't know whether you want to be a martyr to your cause," he added. "Only time will tell. This sentence will test your resolve."

The Jewish advocacy group Campaign Against Anti-Semitism called Chabloz "a remorseless and repulsive anti-Semite who has spent years obsessively inciting others to hate Jews, principally by claiming that the Holocaust was a hoax perpetrated by Jews to defraud the world."

At an appeal hearing in February of this year, the judge called Chabloz "manifestly anti-Semitic and obsessed with what she perceives to be the wrongdoing of Jews."

Welcome the New Year with us as we join together in inspirational prayer and introspection led by our Rabbi, David Lazar, and Joel Baker on the piano.

# HIGH HOLIDAYS

5780 / 2019

Erev Rosh Hashanah  
Sunday, September 29 at 6:30pm

Rosh Hashanah  
Monday, September 30 at 10:00am

Erev Yom Kippur / Kol Nidre  
Tuesday, October 8 at 6:30pm

Yom Kippur Wednesday, October 9  
Morning service at 10:00am  
Evening service at 6:00pm

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# Orthodox Female Students Develop Wireless Oxygen Monitor

An all-female hackathon for Jewish religious women in Jerusalem produces innovative medical products and services.

By Naama Barak, Israel 21c

Think of hackathons, and you'll probably conjure up images of young Mark Zuckerberg lookalikes, not daycare services for little babies.

But daycare services were all the rage in the Jerusalem College of Technology's second annual Hack@Tal, a 44-hour hackathon for 100 of the school's students, women from Jewish Orthodox background.

The June hackathon produced a number of projects. The winning team, comprised of five software engineering and computer science students, came up with a product that enables wireless monitoring



*The winning team of the Hack@Tal hackathon*

that attaches to infants' toes via a comfortable-to-wear-sock.

This solution is meant to monitor oxygen in infants' bloodstream, a process that usually involves an uncomfortable device that's clipped on to a finger and is

attached to wires.

"It was really amazing to be able to take this thing from zero, from just a challenge presented, and develop this tremendous product that can create real change and help a lot of people," says Hadass Wittow, a third-year computer science student who was part of the winning team.

"We slept about three hours out of the 44 hours we were taking part in this hackathon, but it was really special for us."

The team received a NIS 3,000 prize for their product, which provided a solution to a challenge posed by the Alyn

Hospital, a Jerusalem pediatric and adolescent rehabilitation facility, and the multinational Intel corporation.

Other challenges at the event were provided by IBM, Rafael Defense Systems, Magen David Adom and other organizations.

Second place went to a team that used machine learning to automatically detect the images of patients and then blur them, a solution that enables organizations and hospitals to protect the privacy of their patients.

And the daycare services? Let's just say they ran until 1 am.

**Selichot:**

**Saturday, September 21, 2019 - 7:00 pm**

**Erev Rosh Hashanah:**

**Sunday, September 29, 2019 - 7:00 pm**

**Rosh Hashanah:**

**Monday, September 30, 2019 - 10:00 am**

**Kol Nidre:**

**Tuesday, October 8, 2019 - 7:00 pm**

**Yom Kippur Day of Services:**

**Wednesday, October 9, 2019 - 10:00 am**

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## HIGH HOLIDAYS

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**Cantor Lori Reisman**



Join us for the High Holy Days

**S'lichot**

Saturday, September 21  
6:30 PM

**Erev Rosh Hashanah**

Sunday, September 29  
7:00 PM

**Rosh Hashanah—First Day**

Monday, September 30  
10:00 AM

Family T'fillah Service

10:00 AM

**Tashlich**

Outdoor Creative Service—Eisenhower Lake  
4:00 PM

**Erev Yom Kippur— Kol Nidre**

Tuesday, October 8  
7:00 PM

**Yom Kippur Day**

Wednesday, October 9  
10:00 AM

Family T'fillah Service

10:00 AM

Afternoon Study Session With Rabbi Bentley  
1:30—2:30

Afternoon T'fillah

3:30 PM

Yizkor

5:00 PM

Ne'ilah and Havdalah

5:30 PM

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## Pro-Israel Scholars Counter Move by Major US Academic Association to Boycott Israel

By David Gerstman, *The Algemeiner*

Pro-Israel professors are once again gearing up to prevent the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) campaign from hijacking an upcoming academic association conference.

The Academic Engagement Network (AEN) on August 15<sup>th</sup> sent a letter to Stephen Rathgeb Smith — executive director of the American Political Science Association (ASPA), which will be holding its annual meeting on August 31 — warning that BDS activists, who are “uninterested in debate or dialogue” could take over the meeting of the Foundations of Political Theory.

The AEN letter was signed by Mark Yudof, Chair of the Advisory Board, Miriam Elman, Executive Director, and Michael Atkins, the Deputy Executive Director of the organization.

Robyn Marasco, the chair of the meeting, acknowledged in an email obtained by *The Algemeiner* that while a pro-BDS resolution will be discussed at the meeting “there will be no vote on this resolution at APSA.” She explained that “votes on new policy can only take place at the Business meeting,” which was why she scheduled the discussion of BDS at an “Open Meeting.”

She also claimed that her reason for entertaining the discussion is “with the hope and expectation that political theorists can discuss controversial issues that impact our professional (and not just our political) lives.” She added that “I do not believe Foundations should be a partisan organization nor do I believe that I am promoting an agenda or that the organization has been ‘captured’ by activists.

However, in their letter, AEN

warned that “the resolution’s sponsors have already shown that they are uninterested in debate or dialogue with those opposed to academic boycotts in general, and of Israel’s academy in particular.”

The AEN recalled that last year, the same group now calling for a discussion of a BDS resolution organized a session that explicitly stated “we have no interest in giving another platform to BDS opponents” in its description.

The behavior of the pro-BDS group in the past raises concerns that this year’s political theory meeting could turn into a “lopsided discussion,” in which “only BDS proponents will be heard,” even if they are outnumbered by APSA members who oppose academic boycotts.

The AEN letter asked that Smith and Marasco “ensure that the discussion at the August 31 meeting is robust and even-handed.”

In recent years, pro-BDS activists have inserted themselves into academic associations to shut down debate and promote their agenda. Two years ago, the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law reported that emails discovered in the course of a lawsuit showed that pro-BDS activists took over key leadership positions in the American Studies Association prior to passing a resolution calling for an academic boycott of Israel in 2013.

Earlier this month, a pro-BDS resolution was narrowly defeated at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP). The motion failed by a vote of 37 to 34 in an association comprised of approximately 2,000 members.

# Israeli Robotics Team Wins First Place in China

Robotics team of Tichonet High School in Tel Aviv competed against 71 international teams.

By Shimon Cohen, Arutz Sheva

The robotics team of the Tichonet high school of Tel Aviv returned to Israel from China after winning first place in an international robotics competition, beating teams from 71 countries around the world.

Arutz Sheva spoke with the team's mentor, Raanan De Haas who said the structure of the competition in China dictated that after the preliminary stage, every four teams converged into one team that competed from the quarterfinals to the final itself. The Israeli team joined the New York, China and Hawaii teams and achieved first place.

"Every year there is a new mission, a new challenge to build a robot. This year, the goal was to



The winning robot

target discs in different places on the field," De Haas said, adding that each robot had to protect its own discs as well as attack the discs of the other robots. "For us, the defense was better than the attack," De Haas admitted.

"We learned a lot from the Chinese groups and part of our job was to teach," De Haas said. "Three days before the competition we adopted a new group from China

and passed on our knowledge to them," he said, adding that they spoke together in English with the help of hand gestures.

Preparations for the competition start months before. "We received the mission in January, built a robot in a month and a half, and then began entering competitions with it until the national finals. We qualified for the competition in the US and after our success there we were invited to the competition in China," said De Haas. He added that the robot cannot be replaced; the same robot must be used for all competitions. The competition in China was the fifth round of judging competing with the same robot.

# Fearing PR Blow, Hamas Asks Gaza Border Rioters Not to Fly Swastika Flag

By Benjamin Kerstein, Algemeiner



The founder of the alt-right website "The Daily Stormer" Andrew Anglin.

The Gaza Strip-ruling Palestinian terrorist group Hamas has told rioters on the border with Israel to not to fly the Nazi swastika flag after a photo of them doing so was tweeted by the IDF in early August..

The flag was flown on the border fence as part of the Hamas-orchestrated "March of Return" riots that have become a near-weekly occurrence since March 2018.

The IDF tweeted the image of the swastika flag sandwiched between two Palestinian flags, calling it "a symbol of murder and sheer hatred."

"In the face of this hatred," the army added, "stand IDF soldiers, alert and determined, ready to defend Israel."

In response, the Israeli news site Mako reported that Hamas issued a message to rioters, asking them not to fly the swastika, "so that the Israeli occupation cannot take advantage of it."

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Wednesday, October 9  
Noon-2:30 PM

YIZKOR & NEILA 5:45 PM  
BREAK FAST 6:58 PM

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# Jewish Federation Women's Philanthropy

## Women's Philanthropy 5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WOMEN'S CARD DAY

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2019  
10 AM - 4 PM

The Springs Country Club, Rancho Mirage

*Join us for a fabulous Ladies' Day Out!*

Whatever your game  
(Bridge, Canasta, Mah Jongg,  
Rummykub and more),  
come out for a day of fun!

**\$75 • Includes lunch**



Bring your own foursome, along  
with your mahj sets or cards.



New to the Desert and haven't established your own special  
foursome as yet? Call or email Leslie Pepper at 760-324-4737  
or email [Leslie.pepper@jfedps.org](mailto:Leslie.pepper@jfedps.org), let her know what you play  
and we will do our best to put together a game for you.

*Proceeds help to support our Jewish  
Federation's Special Tzedakah Fund.*

Chair: Chickie Steinberger • Auction Chair: Lana Landa

We would love to have you join us for the wonderful day  
of fun and friendship ... and it's a mitzvah too!

Tables must be reserved. To RSVP call  
the Federation Office: 760-324-4737.



## Ralph Nurnberger Headlines Pearl Event

Women's Philanthropy's Pearl luncheon will be held on Monday, March 9, 2020 at Desert Willow in Palm Desert, chaired by Jackie Cohen, and replaces the "Main Event" luncheon of March 2019. Dr. Ralph Nurnberger returns after eight years to be the keynote speaker at the event.

Dr. Nurnberger is a widely acclaimed speaker who brings humor, current political insights and historical background to his presentations. He has appeared on radio and television programs as an analyst on political and international issues. He taught at Georgetown University for 38 years and currently teaches at Florida Atlantic University.

In addition to his academic career, Dr. Nurnberger has advised numerous Congressional, Senatorial and Presidential campaigns on foreign policy issues, especially those related to the Middle East. He has served on Capitol Hill, in the Executive Branch and has also spent over thirty-five years in the field of government relations. His experience on Capitol Hill includes serving as Foreign Policy

Assistant to former Kansas Senator James B. Pearson (R-KS) and then as a professional staff member on the Senate Foreign Relations

Committee. In the Executive Branch, he served as Special Assistant to the Administrator of the General Services Administration (GSA) and later as Director of Congressional Relations for the Bureau of Export Administration (BXA) within the Department of Commerce.

He served for over eight years as a Legislative Liaison for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), which is widely regarded as one of the finest foreign policy-oriented government relations organizations in Washington DC. In this capacity, he had direct contact with dozens of Senators and Members of Congress on issues related to the Middle East.

Minimum gift to the Jewish Federation 2020 campaign is \$360 to attend this event.



## CTeen U

This Fall, CTeen International and Yeshiva University of NY will launch **CTeen U**: a college course for Jewish high school students and available here in the Desert. Yeshiva University is the world's premier Jewish institution for higher education. It is home to a network of undergraduate and graduate programs. The undergraduate programs offer a unique dual curriculum comprising Jewish studies and liberal arts,

sciences, and business courses.

CTeen, the Chabad Teen Network, is the fastest growing network of Jewish teens, with over 500 chapters in 37 countries and 6 continents. Yeshiva University and CTeen have carefully curated a course that will appeal to Jewish high school students from any background. No previous Judaic knowledge is required.

Students taking the course will earn 2 private college credits. But more

importantly, they will learn the basic tenets of Jewish thought, covering such ideas as, how do we ascertain that the Torah is true? And, what does it mean to believe in G-d?

We know how busy teens are preparing for college—this is an opportunity to advance a teenager's resume and college career while studying the Torah's timeless wisdom!

Students at CTeen U will be encouraged to ask questions and

make their knowledge personal, the course is available to 10th, 11th, and 12th graders. Classes will be held once a week for 14 weeks with orientation starting in September 2019.

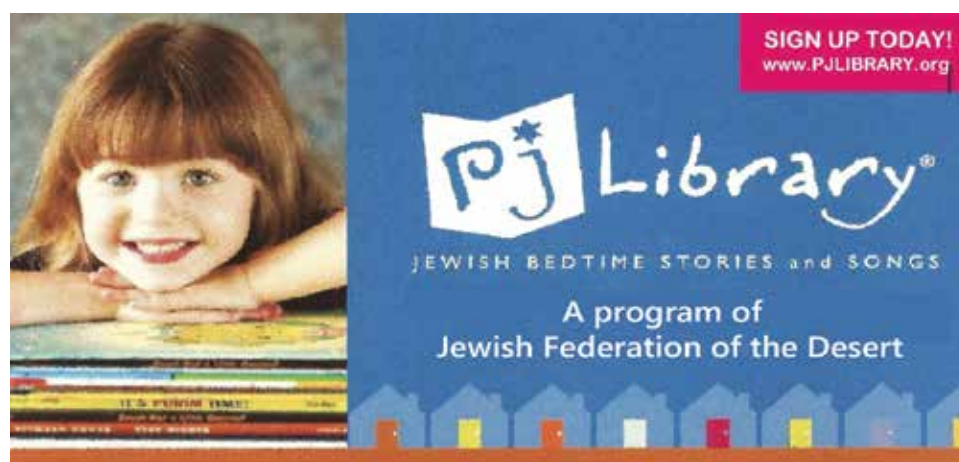
To register or for more information visit [www.cteenu.com](http://www.cteenu.com) Scholarships available. For more info contact Chaya Posner 760-272-1923.



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**HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES**

Chabad of Rancho Mirage  
invites you to join us for the  
High Holidays

**ROSH HASHANAH**  
Services held at Chabad  
72-295 Via Marta, Rancho Mirage

**YOM KIPPUR**  
Services held at Westin  
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availability. Call  
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reference YK2019.

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[office@chabadrm.com](mailto:office@chabadrm.com)  
[www.ChabadRM.com](http://www.ChabadRM.com)

### HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- ROSH HASHANAH:** • Sunday, September 29: Services at 6:45 pm  
Followed by Community Dinner (by reservation only)
- Monday, September 30: 9:30 am | Shofar 11:30 am | light refreshments after services | Afternoon services: 5:45 pm | Tashlich at private lake 6:00 pm | Evening services 7:15 pm
  - Tuesday, October 1: 9:30 am. Afternoon services 6:10 pm
- YOM KIPPUR:** • Tuesday, October 8 | Candle lighting 5:38 pm  
Kol Nidre 5:45 pm
- Wednesday, October 9: Morning services 9:30 am. Yizkor 12:30 pm  
Mincha 4:45 pm; Neilah (closing service) 5:45 pm. Fast ends 6:57 pm  
Break Fast Buffet service following.

# Your Money At Work

Jewish Federation the Desert is a vibrant, forward-thinking, mission, impact and results driven organization – and Jewish to our core. We identify, assess and address both the most pressing challenges and greatest opportunities in order to support and sustain Jewish to many today and ensure a rich Jewish community accessible to everyone for generations.

The result? We touch every Jewish life in the Desert, Israel in the world – starting with yours.

When you give to Jewish Federation, your money goes to work strengthening Jewish community and helping people in need through a variety of programs, services, and

grants. For our 2019 allocations we are pleased to share our local funding to recipient agencies.

These monies represent 54 percent of the 2019 allocations. Eight overseas projects plus our support of Birthright Israel funding through the Jewish Federation of North America constitutes the remaining 46 percent of Federation funds allocated.

Pictured with agency representatives were Roberta Nyman, Jewish Federation Board Chair; Bruce Landgarten, Chief Executive Officer; and Kevin Giser, Director of Community Impact.



### Angel View \$15,000

Kevin Giser, Director of Development James Lindquist, Executive Director Patti Park, Manager Catherine Rips and Bruce Landgarten.



### Beth Shalom \$7,000

Kevin Giser, Roberta Nyman, President David Baellow, Spiritual Leader Ken Hailpern and Bruce Landgarten.



### Bikur Cholim \$120,000

Bruce Landgarten, Rabbi Yankel Kreiman, Rabbi Mendy Kreiman, Rebbetzin Chaya Kreiman, Rebbetzin Rochel Kreiman, Roberta Nyman and Kevin Giser, joined by Mendy and Chaya's three beautiful children.



### Boys & Girls Club \$2,000

Kevin Giser, Palm Springs Police Chief Bryan Reyes, Board Chair Adam Gilbert, CEO Andrea Madrigal and Bruce Landgarten.



### Congregation Har-El \$3,200

Kevin Giser, Roberta Nyman, Rabbi Richard A. Zions, President Sherry Schor and Bruce Landgarten.



### Hillel (Inland Empire & Desert): \$80,000

Roberta Nyman, Kevin Giser, Hillel Executive Director Eran Vaisben, UCR Seniors Eli Smeke and Leor Habet, Chair of IDHC Raymond Russell, and Bruce Landgarten.



### Jewish Family Service \$150,000

Kevin Giser, Roberta Nyman, Assistant Executive Director Kraig Johnson and Bruce Landgarten



### Joslyn Center \$8,500

Kevin Giser, Roberta Nyman, Executive Director Jack Newby, Board member Eileen Packer and Bruce Landgarten



### Mizell Center \$15,000

Kevin Giser, Roberta Nyman, Executive Director Wes Winter, Director of Development Harriet Baron and Bruce Landgarten



### Temple Isaiah \$18,000

Kevin Giser, Roberta Nyman, President Mitchel Karp and Bruce Landgarten



### Temple Sinai \$57,000

Bruce Landgarten, Rabbi Andrew Bentley and Kevin Giser.

### ADDITIONAL GRANTS

- Stand With Us: \$10,000
- Jewish Federation Projects and Programs: \$159,000
- Special Tzedakah Fund
- Desert Hot Springs programming
- Herzlian Dinners
- JCN Newspaper

- Security for Federation and local agencies
- Active Threat Training Workshop
- Full scale exercises drill
- Jewish Community Action
- PJ Library
- Local schools' trips to visit Museum of Tolerance in LA
- Yom Ha'atzmaut Children's Community Concert

The Jewish Federation of the Desert is now a registered nonprofit with Amazon Smile!



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4. Bookmark the [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) page and don't forget to only shop through this link! We earn .5% of each purchase.

Purchases made through regular amazon.com will NOT lead to charitable contributions.





# 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 760-324-4737.

## Honorarium Tributes In Appreciation For:

- **Barbara and Ronald Borden**, Congratulations on your 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, from Jackie and Eddie Cohen.
- **Rabbi Yonason and Sussie Denebeim**, Mazel tov on your children's weddings, from Barbara Platt.
- **Deana Hapip**, In celebration of your 75<sup>th</sup> birthday from Diane and Arnie Simon.
- **Marvin Helfgot**, In honor of your special birthday, from Phyllis Eisenberg.
- **Bobbi Holland**, Looking forward to a lovely day, from Peggy Greenbaum.
- **Margie Kulp**, Thank you from Jane Sherman.
- **Bertel Lewis**, In honor of your 39<sup>th</sup> birthday, from Mark Krasne and Stephen G. Rieman.
- **Bertel Lewis**, Happy belated birthday from Sherry and Howard Schor.
- **Norm Lewis**, Happy birthday from Jim Miringoff.
- **Celia Norian**, Happy special birthday, from Janet Demint.
- **Jerry Weinstein**, Happy birthday from Esther and Richard Sirinsky.

## Refuah Shleimah Get Well Wishes To:

- **Ginger Smerling**, Wishing you a complete and speedy recovery, from Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.

## Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:

- **Dr. Irving Becker**, In memory of your beloved wife Muriel from Phyllis Eisenberg, Phil and Ellen Glass.
- **Family of Herb Borovsky**, In memory of Herb Borovsky, from Phyllis Eisenberg.
- **Benjamin (Buddy) Cohen**, In memory of your beloved wife Bernice, from Phyllis Eisenberg.
- **Linda Cukier and Alexa**, In memory of Arthur Zuckerman, from Ron and Dani Cukier.
- **Joseph Erman**, In memory of beloved son Mark, from Marnie Miller.
- **Bobbi Federman**, In memory of your beloved husband Jerry, from Susie and Bob Diamond.
- **Deanna Fox**, In memory of your beloved husband Shayle, from Susie and Bob Diamond.
- **Cora Ginsberg**, In memory of your beloved sister Dede, from Barbara Fremont, Peggy and Jim Greenbaum, Libby and Burton Hoffman, Loreen Jacobson, Bertel Lewis, Renee Mayer, Sherry and Howard Schor.
- **Hess Kline**, My thoughts are with you, from Lois Johnson.
- **Renee Mayer**, in memory of your beloved husband Fred, from Susie and Joel Cohen, Phyllis Eisenberg, Cora Ginsberg, Phil and Ellen Glass, Sanford and Rosemary Hertz, Libby and Burton Hoffman, Bertel Lewis, Eunice and Jerry Meister, Paul and Stephanie Ross, Gail and Bob Scadron, Sherry and Howard Schor, Lainie and Tom Weil.
- **Family of Neil Mogilner**, My thoughts are with you, from Lois Johnson.
- **Molinas Family**, In loving memory of Jackie Molinas, from Phyllis Eisenberg.
- **Bobbi and Sharon Rosenberg**, In memory of Robert Rosenberg, from Frances Rosenberg and Allison Meyerson.
- **Michael Scoby**, In memory of your beloved sister, from Phyllis Eisenberg.
- **Arlene Simon**, In memory of your beloved Fred, from Phyllis Eisenberg.
- **Fern Steinfeld and Family**, In memory of Manfred Steinfeld, from Dr. and Mrs. Jerrold Widran.



Attention parents and grandparents with young children! Save SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2019 from 3:00-4:30 PM at the Jewish Federation Building, for a special PJ Library program celebrating Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur & Sukkot. Not on our mailing list as yet? Call or e-mail Leslie Pepper at [leslie.pepper@jfedps.org](mailto:leslie.pepper@jfedps.org) or 760-324-4737.



# 104-Year-Old Holocaust Survivor Celebrates Birthday at Western Wall With 400 Descendants

By Benjamin Kerstein, *Algemeiner*

A 104-year-old Holocaust survivor celebrated her birthday last week by gathering over 400 children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and other relatives at the Western Wall in Jerusalem.

The Israeli news site [Walla](#) reported that Shoshana Ovitz requested that all her "children, grandchildren, and descendants to come together at the Western Wall," and her children and grandchildren worked hard to realize her dream.

"We do not have an exact number, but there are probably 400 grandchildren and descendants," said Shoshana's oldest granddaughter, Panini Friedman.



**400 descendants of Holocaust survivor Shoshana Ovitz gather at the Western Wall to celebrate her 104th birthday.**

Even 400 people, however, did not cover everyone, as Friedman says "we're missing about 10 percent of them."

"It wasn't a simple thing to organize this rare event," she added, saying

relatives used email, phone calls, and SMS messages to bring everyone together.

Shoshana, says Panini, "asked us to make her a list of all the grandchildren and great-grandchildren so she

could pray for them, but it was too complicated."

Instead, Shoshana said she would pray that "everyone gets everything they need."

Only when everyone was gathered together, says Panini, did she realize the size of the gathering.

"Everyone was there with tears in their eyes," she said. "It was very emotional."

Shoshana Ovitz survived the Holocaust and met her husband while searching for surviving family members. They lived in a transit camp in Austria and then moved to Haifa. She has two sons and two daughters.

## Israeli Company Announces Successful Trial of Radiation Vaccine

By *Algemeiner Staff*

On July 31 an Israeli company announced that it had developed a highly-effective vaccine against radiation poisoning.

The Israeli news site Mako reported that the Haifa-based company Pluristem Therapeutics made the announcement together with the US Department of Defense.

The company said that the vaccine showed extremely-improved survival rates among animals subjected to high levels of radiation.

Use of the vaccine increased survival rates by 74 percent, the company stated, compared to only four percent in the control group.

The vaccine, called PLX-R18, involves the injection of placental cells into the subjects 24 hours before radiation exposure and 72 hours after.

After the treatment, subjects showed strong improvement in the

amount of platelets and white blood cells, as well as bone marrow, all of which are severely damaged by exposure to high levels of radiation.

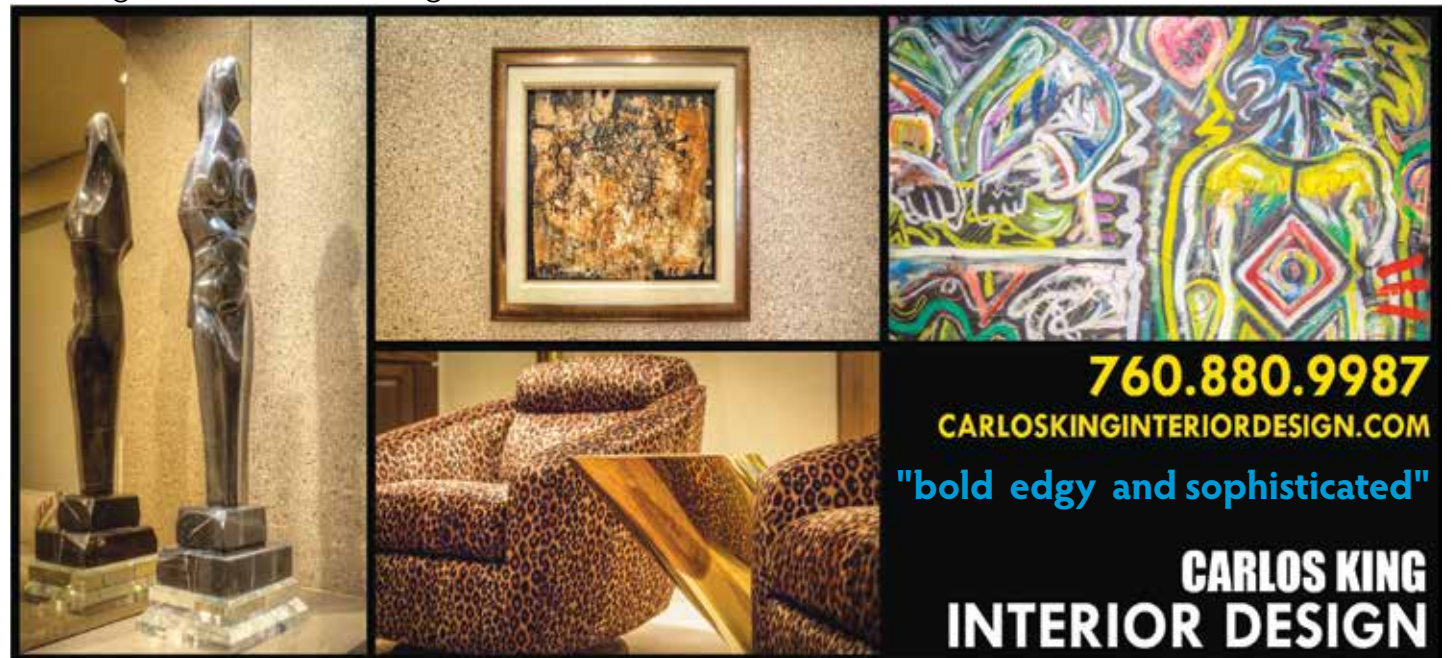
The vaccine has already been given preliminary approval by the US Food and Drug Administration, meaning it

can be used to treat victims following an emergency nuclear event. It has yet to receive full marketing approval.

President and CEO of Pluristem Yaky Yanay said, "We are very pleased with the positive results from the trials, which show that PLX-R18 can

be used as a preventive treatment before exposure to radiation."

"These results make a significant contribution to the protection of rescue and security forces that need to enter radiation-contaminated areas," he added.



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# Shabbat Schedule - September 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, Sept. 21: Selihot Service:  
9:00 pm, preceded by Dessert Buffet  
at 7:30 pm and "Cuba's Forgotten  
Jewels; A Haven in Havana" at  
8:15 pm.

**CENTRO CULTURAL HEBREO DE  
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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 Avenida 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. Shabbat service at 5:00 pm,  
followed by oneg at 5:30 pm. For  
information contact Har-El by email  
or phone.

**CONGREGATION SHALOM  
BAYIT** (Reform)  
Rabbi Kenneth Milhander, 1320 W.  
Williams Ave., Banning, CA 92220.  
Contact 951-392-5380.  
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. Services on hiatus until  
High Holidays.

**DESERT OUTREACH  
SYNAGOGUE**  
Rabbi Jules King. Meet at UC  
Riverside/Palm Desert Campus  
auditorium, 75080 Frank Sinatra  
Drive (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.

**OR HAMIDBAR**  
Rabbi David Lazar  
Kabbalat Shabbat services first,  
second and fourth Fridays of the  
month at 6:30 pm  
at the United Methodist Church  
of Palm Springs, 1555 E Alejo Rd.  
Shabbat Morning Study and Prayer  
every second and fourth Saturday  
at a private residence. Address  
provided on RSVP to  
info@orhamidbar.org.

**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.

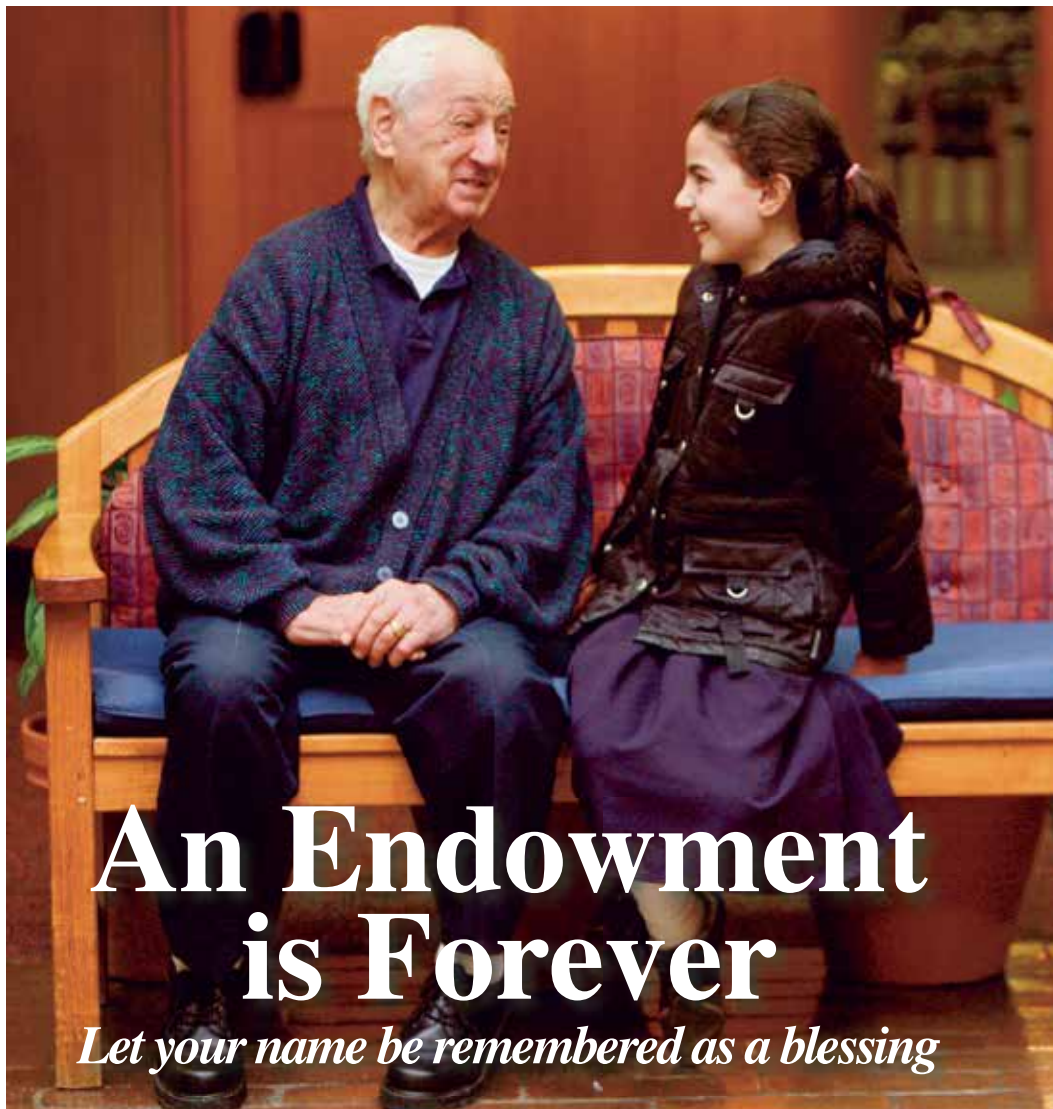
**TEMPLE HAR SHALOM, Idyllwild**  
Rabbi Malka Drucker.  
(951) 468-0004. www.  
templeharshalomidyllwild.org Email:  
templeharshalomofidyllwild@gmail.  
com.  
Friday night services once a month  
and study with Rabbi the following  
Saturday morning. September's

Shabbat service: Friday, September  
20 at 6:00 pm. Torah study  
September 21 at 9:30 pm. Services  
held at St. Hugh of Lincoln Episcopal  
Church, 25525 Taquitz Drive,  
Idyllwild, CA.

**TEMPLE ISAIAH**  
Rabbi Steven Rosenberg. Cantorial  
Soloist Gerry Noriega.  
332 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs,  
CA 92262, 760-325-2281. www.  
templeisaiahps.com. Shabbat  
evening: 6:30 pm wine and cheese  
reception. 7:30 pm Shabbat  
Services, followed by oneg.  
Saturday morning: 9:00 am "Nosh  
and Drash" torah study followed  
by services at 10:00 am. Kiddush  
follows services.  
S'lichot services Saturday,  
September 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:30 pm,  
preceded by a reception.  
Call for details.

**TEMPLE SINAI** (Reform)  
Rabbi Andrew Bentley  
73-251 Hovley Lane West,  
Palm Desert, CA 92260.  
www.temple sinaipd.org  
760-568-9699.  
Friday evening services: 5:30 pm.  
Saturdays: 8:45 am Torah study;  
10 am Shabbat services.

**BIKUR CHOLIM**  
A project of Chabad of Palm Springs  
& Desert Communities  
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For more information and to explore options, please contact Kevin Giser, Director of Community Impact, Jewish Federation of the Desert, at [kevin.giser@jfedps.org](mailto:kevin.giser@jfedps.org) or 760-324-4737.



## Community Calendar - September 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 kick-off September 22<sup>nd</sup>.  
C Teen Global Teen network offering social, educational & humanitarian programming.  
C Teen Jr. for 6-8 graders.  
Educational and social programming.  
C Kids ages 3-12. Meets Sundays 10 am-12:30 pm. Trips. Art. Cooking. Teaching Life Skills. Check the website [www.chabadrm.com/ckids](http://www.chabadrm.com/ckids), call 760-272-1923 or email [Chaya@chabadrm.com](mailto:Chaya@chabadrm.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@chabadrm.com](mailto:Rabbibenny@chabadrm.com).

**7:30-8:30 pm** Chabad Palm Springs Program: **'A Journey Through the Era of the Prophets'**: A class exploring the Prophets, beginning with Joshua. Held at home of Rabbi Arik and Chaya Denenbeim 410 Avenida Ortega, Palm Springs. Instructor: Rabbi Boz Werdiger, Email: [bozwerdiger@goOGLEmail.com](mailto:bozwerdiger@goOGLEmail.com).

### Tuesdays

**7:00-8:00 pm** Chabad Palm Springs Program: Text-based Study on **Maimonides's Fundamentals of Judaism**. Instructor: Rabbi Moishe Witkes. For location, call or text 760-412-1005.

### Wednesdays

**3:00 pm** Or Hamidbar **Torah Teachings** with Rabbi David Lazar. T a private residence. Address provided on RSVP to [info@orhamidbar.org](mailto:info@orhamidbar.org)

### Sunday, September 8

**10:30 am-12:30 pm** Temple Sinai **Open House**. See ad page 4.

### Thursday, September 26

**7:00 pm** **Sabra Hadassah** meeting at Sun City Palm Desert/Sunset View Clubhouse-Oasis Room. Program: Sunshine Repertory Theatre: "The Many Faces of Love and Marriage." \$18. Information/RSVP: 760-360-8465.

*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.*



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

## Embracing Community

*Rabbi Steven Rosenberg is the spiritual leader of Temple Isaiah in Palm Springs. Nationally acclaimed for his innovative and inclusive approach to outreach, engagement and programming, Rabbi Steven Rosenberg comes to Temple Isaiah with nearly thirty years of experience as a compassionate spiritual leader, hospice chaplain as well as a dynamic speaker and educator.*



**Rabbi Steven Rosenberg**

**"Let them make Me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them..."**

(Ex. 25:8) These are the words that are found near the beginning of Parashat Terumah, the commandment to create a holy place where the Children of Israel could commune with G-d. The Torah teaches us that those whose "heart so moved them" gave Terumah (gifts) to be used in the construction of the Mishkan.

All across this wonderful country, a unique Jewish story is retold in countless Temples and synagogues in slightly different ways: A group of founding families, inspired by those words from the book of Exodus, also were moved by their hearts and came together as a community to build what would become their present day congregation. Today, we all stand on the shoulders of those who came before us, in a new century and inheriting their legacy. We, who

now live in this era, are entrusted with the stewardship of Judaism for this generation, which includes the responsibility of keeping our diverse and beautiful tradition, vibrant and relevant for our children and the generations yet to be.

However, what would those various founding families say to us today? How would they judge our present generation on the way we have embarked on perpetuating their legacy? Would they see our present-day synagogues having the same zeal, enthusiasm and unanimity as they did, or would their gaze detect a less than cohesive congregational collaboration, with respect to participation and commitment? Would our progenitors see congregations that are moved by the same words of scripture that served as the impetus and guide for constructing the holy precincts

that we now enjoy? Or perhaps, would they see a community that is still engaged in trying to understand who the word "them" refers to in the biblical phrase, "Let them make Me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them.."

Would they see a congregation that understands that G-d dwells in the spaces between people, which is found in the relationships we have with each other.

The Rabbis teach us that the Ner Tamid, was to be always lit to show G-d's continual presence. It has also come to symbolize the flame of the Jewish people that must never be extinguished. It is our obligation to make sure we maintain that flame of Judaism, thus insuring it is passed on to the next generation. That legacy was given to us to maintain and nurture. Simply put, it is not ours to extinguish.

Today, as the new year approaches, Let us embrace our richly diverse Jewish communities, with many different backgrounds, ideologies and circumstances. Whether straight or LGBTQ; Jews by birth or by choice, the unaffiliated and the intermarried; Our priority must be to work together and be incredibly welcoming, inspired by the words of the Prophet: "My house shall be a house for all people."

As we build for the future, let us not forget that it was the gathering of community and Ahavat Yisrael (the love of Judaism), which helped

to create many of this country's synagogues and it will be the same love for community and Judaism that will sustain us in the future. Indeed, our vision should be to build a house of worship where kindness prevails over criticism and tolerance is always a virtue. Let us rededicate our congregational homes where cliquishness is shunned and a continuous effort is made to welcome all. A place where Torah is studied passionately, and all of our diverse Jewish backgrounds and levels of observance are embraced and respected—from the liberal to the traditional. Together, we can infuse our own synagogues with a new level of understanding, where we can worship as a kehilla, expressing our joys, tears and wonder, a place to sing and open our hearts, where we find G-d not just as an idea but as a felt presence, resonating through our prayer, learning and fellowship.

Let us always remember that we truly stand on the shoulders of the ones who came before us. For those who laid down the foundation and showed us the way to create a congregation, it is surely their legacy that we now must build upon, in structure and in spirit.

It is now up our generation to continue to provide a holy place that we, and those who come after us, can congregate together and in community, dwell with G-d.

May we, in this new year, begin building our future together.

## Have you registered the Jewish Federation of the Desert with Amazon Smile as your nonprofit?



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# Israelis Develop Haptic Vests for Rescue and Service Dogs

Painless vibrating vest created at Ben-Gurion University enables delivery of remote commands to four-legged assistants.

By Naama Barak ISRAEL 21C



**Six-year-old Tai learns to respond to commands delivered by haptics technology**

Search-and-rescue dogs and service dogs do absolutely amazing work, saving lives and assisting those in need on a daily basis by command. But what if their handlers are unable to deliver verbal commands, either because of their surroundings or disabilities they may have?

Step in the haptic dog vest, which emits painless vibrations that dogs are trained to recognize as various commands. It was developed by an interdisciplinary research team from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and is set to be presented at the World Haptics Conference in Tokyo this month.

Haptics technology, which simulates the senses of touch and motion, can be helpful in delivering remote commands to dogs for use in search-and-rescue operations, in assisting disabled handlers and in other service-animal applications.

The commercially available mesh canine vest contains four small vibrating motors positioned over a dog's back and sides that can be used to train or direct dogs to respond to different, painless vibrations sent via wireless remote control. The handler can elicit different commands by controlling the site and duration of vibrations.

In a demonstration video released by the research team, Tai, a six-year-

old Labrador retriever-German shepherd crossbreed, responds to several distinct commands such as "Spin," "Down," "To me," and "Backpedal."

"Our research results showed that dogs responded to these vibrotactile cues as well or even better than vocal commands," said Prof. Amir Shapiro, director of BGU's Robotics Laboratory. "Our current proof-of-concept study shows promising results that open the way toward the use of haptics for human-canine communication."

Future research is planned to test the haptic vest on dogs of different breeds, ages and training

experience, and will integrate more advanced devices into search and rescue, military work dog and service-dog programs.



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# Human Rights Experts Hail Challenge to Palestinian Authority Anti-Semitism at UN Committee Session

By David Gerstman, *The Algemeiner*

On August 15<sup>th</sup>, human rights experts praised a United Nations' committee for its pointed questioning of the Palestinian Authority over its anti-Semitic incitement.

The UN's Committee to End Racial Discrimination (CERD) grilled the PA's delegation in Geneva earlier this week over its official incitement, including in schools. The PA was subject to the review, having signed on to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD).

Prior to the review by the UN's

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), a number of pro-Israel NGOs submitted documentation of Palestinian violations of the convention, prompting searching questioning of the Palestinian delegation.

The Palestinian delegation seemed to be surprised by the adversarial tone of many of the questions and insisted that "96 percent of the Palestinian curriculum is in with UN and international standards."

"Palestinian officials have a standard set of phrases and accusations about

Israel, which they repeated in the first round. They almost never have to respond to detailed criticism, particularly in the UN. So, in this case, they were obviously surprised when the committee asked real questions," Gerald Steinberg, president of Israeli research institute NGO Monitor, explained to *The Algemeiner*. He added: "To respond, they could only invent ridiculous claims that had no factual support to defend themselves. The Palestinians and their allies, including the committee chair from Algeria, clearly lost this round. The question is whether the

final report will reflect this outcome."

In his statement to the CERD, Steinberg noted that the Palestinians in their submission used the term "apartheid" 32 times. Given that an apartheid state has no right to exist, Steinberg said, "It is a call for the elimination of a member state of the United Nations. It is a form of racism itself."

"Any society exposed to the levels of hatred and violence present in the PA and Hamas controlled territories cannot be expected to seek peace," Hillel Neuer and Dina Rovner, respectively the executive director and the legal advisor to UN Watch, wrote in their submission to CERD. "The only way future generations of Palestinians will be able to pursue peace with Israel is if they are educated with messages of peace and tolerance rather than hatred. We hope the Committee will address these important issues in its review."

Marcus Sheff — CEO of IMPACT-SE, a non-profit organization that monitors the content of school textbooks — told *The Algemeiner* that an informal meeting with the UN committee members was decisive. During that meeting, Sheff showed them textbooks with examples of the anti-Semitism that is rife in the Palestinian educational system.

In particular, he noted that the South Korean committee member, Chinsung Chung, was prompted to ask the Palestinian delegation about the official anti-Semitism after viewing the books. Chung also delivered a rebuke to the Palestinians saying, "The Palestinian Authority should undertake serious reforms in its political system."

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# Major Study Shows Gut Microbes May Impact Course of ALS

The findings suggest that in the future, various means of altering the microbiome may be harnessed for developing new therapeutic options for ALS.

By Abigail Klein Leichman ISRAEL 21C

A trailblazing study by Israeli researchers suggests that intestinal microbes may have a direct effect on the course of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), the incurable, fatal neurodegenerative disease also known as Lou Gehrig's disease that affected physicist Stephen Hawking.

Published today in *Nature*, the study by researchers at the Weizmann Institute of Science revealed that the progression of an ALS-like disease in lab mice was slowed after the mice received certain strains of gut microbes or substances known to be secreted by these microbes.

Mounting evidence of the gut microbiome's effect on brain function and disease is what prompted the Weizmann study. Further research must be done to determine whether regulating the gut microbiome might have the same effect in humans with ALS as it did with the mice.

"Our long-standing scientific and medical goal is to elucidate the impact of the microbiome on human health and disease, with the brain being a fascinating new frontier," said Prof. Eran Elinav of the Weizmann's immunology department.

Scientists in Elinav's lab, working with colleagues in the lab of Prof. Eran Segal of the computer science and applied mathematics department, first demonstrated that the symptoms of an ALS-like disease in engineered mice worsened after

these mice were given antibiotics to wipe out a substantial portion of their microbiome.

In addition, the scientists found that ALS-prone mice had a hard time surviving when grown in germ-free conditions where they cannot develop a gut microbiome at all.

Using advanced computational methods, the scientists identified 11 microbial strains that became altered in ALS-prone mice as the disease progressed or even before the mice developed overt symptoms.

The scientists isolated these microbial strains and gave them one by one to the ALS-prone mice, following antibiotic treatment to wipe out their microbiome. One particular strain, *Akkermansia muciniphila*, significantly slowed disease progression in the mice and prolonged their survival.

To reveal the mechanism by which *Akkermansia* may be producing its effect, the scientists examined thousands of small molecules secreted by the gut microbes. They zeroed in on one molecule called nicotinamide (NAM) and found that its levels in the blood and in the cerebrospinal fluid of ALS-prone mice were reduced following antibiotic treatment and increased after these mice were supplemented with *Akkermansia*, which can secrete nicotinamide.

To confirm that nicotinamide was indeed a microbiome-secreted molecule that could hinder the

course of ALS, the scientists continuously infused the ALS-prone mice with nicotinamide. The clinical condition of these mice improved significantly. Brain studies showed that the substance seems to have improved the functioning of their motor neurons.

## How this relates to human ALS patients

Then came a step that shows the most promise in relation to human ALS patients.

The researchers examined the microbiome and metabolite profiles of 37 people with ALS and compared them to those of family members sharing the same household.

And not only did they find that the gut microbiomes of ALS patients were distinct from healthy family members in composition and functional features, but they also found that microbial genes involved in the synthesis of nicotinamide were significantly suppressed in ALS patients.

An analysis of thousands of small molecules in the blood also revealed a distinct pattern in ALS patients as compared to controls. Here too, many of the intermediary molecules involved in nicotinamide synthesis were altered in the blood of ALS patients.

The researchers also found the levels of nicotinamide itself to be significantly reduced in both

the blood and the brain of 60 human ALS patients as compared to controls. Moreover, there was a correlation between reduced nicotinamide levels and the degree of muscle weakness in the patients.

"These findings are only a first step toward achieving a comprehensive understanding of the potential impact of the microbiome on ALS," Elinav said, "but they suggest that in the future, various means of altering the microbiome may be harnessed for developing new therapeutic options for ALS."

The study was led by postdoctoral fellows Eran Blacher and Stavros Bashiardes, and by staff scientist Hagit Shapiro from Elinav's lab. They collaborated with postdoctoral fellow Daphna Rothschild from Segal's lab and with Dr. Marc Gotkine, head of the Motor Neuron Disease Clinic at Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center, as well as with other scientists from Weizmann, Hebrew University, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, the University of Gothenburg in Sweden.

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# Revolutionary Blood Test Will Detect Stage 1 Lung Cancer

Israel's Savicell says its test measures the metabolic 'signatures' of immune cells circulating in the blood in response to disease.

By Brian Blum ISRAEL 21C

Of all cancers, lung cancer is the deadliest, largely because it is so difficult to diagnose early on. With very few nerve endings in the lungs, this type of cancer doesn't cause painful symptoms until a tumor has grown quite large – and by that time, it's often too late.

"If the cancer is detected at stage 1, the survival rate is 80 percent," explains Giora Davidovits, CEO of Israeli startup Savicell, which is developing a new blood test to diagnose lung cancer.

Davidovits explains that most lung cancers found early are usually the result of a patient undergoing radiological imaging for an entirely different issue.

"If the cancer is not detected until stage 2, the survival rate drops to 13-14%," he adds. "By stage 4, it's down to just 4 percent."

When a physician suspects lung cancer, a CT scan is done. If a lump (nodule) is found, a biopsy is the only way to really know what's going on. However, since 95% of nodules are benign, and since the biopsy is a risky, highly invasive procedure, doctors prefer to wait and see if the CT finds changes over time. If it does – and it is cancer – the final diagnosis can be at a tragically late stage.

Savicell's alternative, a simple blood test that can detect lung cancer, is part of a fast-growing specialization known as "liquid biopsy" – a market worth some \$1.2 billion in 2018, according to *Zion Market Research*.

Most liquid biopsies are based on sequencing a patient's genetic material (such as DNA and RNA) to



search for any cancerous material that a tumor secretes. That can be hard to find.

"These kinds of tests are very good at defining disease and showing which genetic segments have been impacted," Davidovits explains. "But they have difficulties when it comes to early detection at stages 1 and 2."

## Immunometabolism

Savicell takes an entirely different approach. Rather than gene sequencing, Savicell measures the metabolic state of immune cells circulating in the blood – that is, how energy is used by the cell.

This new field – known as immunometabolism – has revealed that immune cells take on specific metabolic "signatures" when they encounter different diseases.

Savicell has developed a diagnostic kit with 384 "wells," each containing one of 16 chemical stimulants in increasing concentrations. When immune cells drawn from a patient's blood come in contact with the stimulants, they use energy (i.e. their metabolism is activated) differently.

If the pattern matches, Savicell's Well-Shield platform can identify lung cancer "with 91 percent sensitivity," Davidovits says.

Savicell is not the only company looking at immunometabolism, but other companies focus on activating immune cells as part of the therapeutic process. Savicell is unique in using immunometabolism for diagnosis.

## Diagnose lung cancer in hours

Savicell can diagnose lung cancer in a matter of hours, rather than the days or even weeks required for gene-sequenced liquid biopsies, says Davidovits.

That naturally raises comparisons with Theranos, the Silicon Valley blood-testing startup that raised over a billion dollars in what turned out to be the largest biomedical fraud in US history. Theranos also promised results from its in-pharmacy diagnostic machine in hours.

Davidovits dismisses any superficial similarities with Theranos. "They weren't scientific," he tells ISRAEL21c. "They never published."

While Theranos eventually did publish a single paper in 2017 – some 14 years after the company was founded – the results from Savicell's research with 200 patients in Israel appeared in the medical journal *Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy* in 2018.

Giora Davidovits started Savicell with his brother Eyal in 2013. Giora received his BA in biochemistry from Brandeis and an MBA from Cornell. He has worked in the healthcare industry for 25 years, including management stints at Procter & Gamble and Johnson & Johnson.

Eyal, Savicell's COO, worked for many years in finance and marketing positions for Intel and has a BS in manufacturing engineering and business studies.

The technology behind Savicell was initially developed by Tel Aviv University Prof. Fernando Patolsky, who doubles as the company's principal investigator. When Savicell took on commercialization of Patolsky's research, it was already at a clinical stage with a working proof of concept.

It is not yet commercially available; development and clinical studies are continuing. For a non-invasive diagnostic test, however, the time to market can be relatively short.

Savicell has raised \$9 million and has R&D labs in Haifa, headed by Eyal, with a US office in Boston headed by Giora.

Among other players in the liquid biopsy space is an Israeli firm, Nucleix, which uses DNA sequencing to detect cancer cells. The company was founded in 2008 and has raised \$11.4 million. Nucleix's Lung EpiCheck can detect non-small cell lung carcinomas, the most common type of lung cancer, with 83% accuracy at stage 4 but only 59% at stage 1.

Savicell is focused today on lung cancer, but the same immunometabolism approach should work with other types of cancer, as well as autoimmune conditions. The company has already done preliminary research on developing a diagnostic kit to identify breast cancer via blood test.

# Court Orders Neo-Nazi Website Founder to Pay \$14 Million for Inciting Violence

By Jewish News Syndicate

The founder of the alt-right website The Daily Stormer was ordered by court on August 8 to pay a Jewish real estate agent \$14 million for inciting his readers to harass her family, The Associated Press reported.

U.S. District Judge Dana Christensen entered Tanya Gersh a default judgment after Andrew Anglin did not appear for a scheduled deposition in the civil lawsuit case. Anglin is ordered to pay Gersh more than \$4 million in compensatory damages and \$10

million in punitive damages. He is also required to permanently remove all posts, comments and images about Gersh and her family.

Anglin accused Gersh of trying to run the mother of white nationalist Richard Spencer out of town in 2016. He published her family's personal information on his neo-Nazi website and asked his readers, "Are y'all ready for an old fashioned troll storm?"

Gersh said she and her family received threatening and anti-Semitic messages for months.



A Nazi swastika flag raised on the Israel-Gaza Strip border, Friday, August 2, 2019

Anglin does not live in the United States, but Gersh's attorney, David Dinielli of the Southern Poverty Law Center, said that he "will go to the ends of the earth to collect the

judgment ... whether it's cash, assets or intellectual property."

This is the second multimillion-dollar award against Anglin recently, according to The Associated Press. In June, a federal judge in Ohio awarded a Muslim radio host \$4.1 million after Anglin falsely accused him of terrorism.

Anglin's lawyers, who argued that his writings were protected by the First Amendment, dropped their client when he failed to appear for his deposition in April.

## Immigration Officer who Drove into Rhode Island Jewish Protesters Put on Leave

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement official who drove a pickup truck into a row of Jewish protesters in Rhode Island has been placed on leave, and police have announced that they will investigate the incident.

Five of the protesters were hospitalized, according to Tal Frieden, an organizer of the protest. The incident occurred at a protest in front of an ICE detention center in Central Falls, a Providence suburb.

The protest, organized by the new Jewish group Never Again Action, ended after an ICE official named Thomas Woodworth drove the pickup into a row of protesters who were blocking the entrance to the detention facility's parking lot.

"Donald W. Wyatt Detention Facility Warden Daniel Martin is also conducting a top to bottom review

of the incident, Wyatt correctional officers' response, and the Wyatt's protocols regarding protest activities outside of the facility," a statement from the detention center said. "The Wyatt supports the First Amendment right of citizens to peacefully protest on public property surrounding the facility, and the First Amendment right of journalists to report on the facility."

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## Simchas

**Fran Lubens** wrote us with exciting news to share ... her fifth great grandchild, Mico Ori, was born June 20<sup>th</sup> to **Rebecca Lubens and Matt Melamed** of Oakland, California. Five weeks later her grandson

**Micah Lubens** and **Cara Baldari** were married. Micah and Cara met when teaching Sunday School in Washington, D.C.. Micah is a marketing manager and Cara is a lawyer with a children's advocacy organization ... *Share your Simchas with us. Email or call Miriam Bent at [mhbentjcn@earthlink.net](mailto:mhbentjcn@earthlink.net) or 760-323-0255.*



## Candle Lighting Times

Friday, September 6	Shabbat Shoftim	6:22 pm
Friday, September 13	Shabbat Ke Teitzei	6:12 pm
Friday, September 20	Shabbat Ki Tavo	6:02 pm
Friday, September 27	Shabbat Nitzavim	5:53 pm
Sunday, September 29	Erev Rosh Hashanah	5:50 pm
Monday, September 30	2 <sup>nd</sup> night Rosh Hashanah	After 7:08 pm



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## We Mourn the Passing of...

**Abraham Lieberman, Barbara Marx and Hal Solomon.** *Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing*

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**Congregation Har-El, Member URJ, welcomes Phillip Allen Smith,** M.Mus. as Organist for the High Holy Days and Monthly First Friday Music Shabbatot. Mr. Smith was Organ Conservator, Walt Disney Concert Hall, 2004-19. In addition, he served Stephen S. Wise Temple as well as Temple Israel of Hollywood. **We invite non-members to be our guests for the High Holy Days.** See ad page 7.

## DID YOU KNOW?

All monies received from Tribute Card purchases go into our **SPECIAL MITZVAH FUND**, which enables the Jewish Federation of the Desert to respond to emergency needs of Jews living in our community.

Sending Tribute Cards is a wonderful way to thank, extend good wishes, offer condolences or recognize a special occasion.



To send a Tribute Card, call the Jewish Federation: 760-324-4737.

## Never Forget a Baby or Pet in a Hot Car.

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The eClip features proprietary technology which will trigger a reminder to the Smart phone if a child is left in the vehicle. The eClip can be easily clipped to a diaper bag, infants clothing or seat carrier and once the connection is separated by around 25 feet, that notification will be sent.

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The eClip is also able to deliver temperature alerts to the parent or caregiver of the temperatures in the back seat of the car. Genius, at \$59.99.

## 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.

## ROSH HASHANA GREETINGS

### Greetings Selection On Next Page!



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Complete form and mail to:

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The Jewish Federation of Palm Springs and Desert Area

*Connecting, Supporting, and Uniting  
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For more information, or to make a donation, please contact the Jewish Federation at 760-324-4737.

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