



Jewish Community News

The Publication of the Jewish Federation of the Desert

www.jfedps.org

Kislev/Tevet 5780 - January 2020

Merkel Pledges \$66 Million Donation from Germany to Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation

By Jewish News Syndicate

Germany will donate \$66 million to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation, German Chancellor Angela Merkel announced on December 6, 2019, during her first-ever visit to the former Nazi concentration camp.

The funds, half to come from Germany's federal government and half from regional governments, will help the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation reach its goal of raising \$133 million.

Merkel's visit to Auschwitz included a stop at the museum's conservation laboratories, the site of a gas chamber and a crematorium,

and a moment of silence at the Death Wall, where around 20,000 people were shot to death.

She took a tour of the former death camp, where more than 1 million people—mostly Jewish men, women and children—were murdered, together with Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki and World Jewish Congress President Ronald S. Lauder.

Top of Form

Bottom of Form

Jan. 27 will mark the 75th anniversary of the camp's liberation by Soviet troops.

Merkel said "the fight against anti-



German Chancellor Angela Merkel visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau with Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki and World Jewish Congress President Ronald S. Lauder.

Semitism and against all forms of hate" is crucial to her government, and added, "Remembering the crimes ... is a responsibility which

never ends. It belongs inseparably to our country. To be aware of this responsibility is part of our national identity."

Christoph Heubner, deputy chairman of the Auschwitz International Committee, said Merkel's visit to Auschwitz "is a particularly important signal of attention and solidarity at a time when Auschwitz survivors are victims of anti-Semitic insults and hate-filled emails."

The last sitting German chancellor to visit Auschwitz was the late Helmut Kohl in 1995.

Lauder Declares \$25 Million Effort to Fight Anti-Semitism in American Politics

Jewish News Syndicate

Amid the rise of anti-Semitism in the United States, former U.S. Ambassador to Austria and philanthropist Ronald S. Lauder announced on December 9 the launch of the Anti-Semitism Accountability Project (ASAP), investing \$25 million in political campaigns against federal, state and local candidates who support or normalize anti-Semitism.

The group will focus on candidates from both parties who are on the ballot before or on Election Day in November 2020.

ASAP will produce and run television and digital advertisements,

opposition research, grassroots and grassroots outreach, on-campus organizing and rapid response to defeat candidates supporting anti-Semitic ideas.

"Anti-Semitism has become fashionable again and for too long, American Jews have been silent. It's time to make our voices heard. It's time to confront our haters, without fear or apology," said Lauder in a statement. "ASAP will finally add real teeth in the fight against anti-Semitism in American politics and culture. All candidates and American cultural leaders who traffic in hatred against Jews should



World Jewish Congress President Ronald S. Lauder

consider themselves on notice."

The launch of ASAP comes in response to a documented surge in anti-Semitism across America.

According to a poll commissioned by ASAP and conducted by Douglass Schoen of Schoen Consulting, anti-Semitism—as defined by the International

Holocaust Remembrance Alliance—has doubled over the past five years. Today, 14 percent of Americans hold anti-Semitic beliefs, as compared to 7 percent from a survey released by the Anti-Defamation League in 2014.

ASAP will partner with existing organizations working throughout the country to combat anti-Semitism. ASAP will also respond and take action against institutions and cultural figures who support anti-Semitism.

The ASAP campaign will be managed by Tusk Strategies, and its founder and CEO Bradley Tusk.



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An evening with
Eric D. Fingerhut

Jewish Federation
OF THE DESERT

Eric D. Fingerhut is the President and CEO of The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA). Prior to his appointment at JFNA, Mr. Fingerhut served as the President and CEO of Hillel International from 2013-19. At Hillel, he led the organization's Drive to Excellence, which resulted in doubling the number of students engaged by Hillel each year to over 130,000 and the total funds raised each year to nearly \$200M. His emphasis on recruiting, training and retaining top talent for the system, and on building a data and performance driven organization, have become models for the non-profit sector.

Mr. Fingerhut has also had a varied and distinguished career in public service and higher education. He served as Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents from early 2007 to 2011, leading Ohio's system of public universities and colleges; as Ohio state senator from 1997 to 2006; and represented Ohio's 19th congressional district in the U.S. Congress from 1993 to 1994. In 2004, he was the Democratic Party's candidate for U.S. Senate.

Mr. Fingerhut received a juris doctorate from Stanford University Law School and a bachelor's degree from Northwestern University. He and his wife Amy have two sons, Sam and Charlie, and beagles Pedro and Lulu.

When Less is Not More

From the CEO



Bruce Landgarten

Jewish Federation
Chief Executive
Officer

I attended a conference awhile back where the speaker discussed a concept he called “the diminishing thickness of Jewish peoplehood.”

It’s was a dire prophecy. American Jews are paying less and less to our institutions and our flagship programs. Fewer and fewer of us are paying to be synagogue members, belonging to JCCs or supporting Federations. The knowledge, belief, arts, morals, customs and habits – which always shaped us and our behavior – are no longer happening in ways we’re

only just beginning to understand. Societies and communities that face this “thinning out” eventually decline and disintegrate.

And yet an astonishing 94 percent of Jews in the United States say that they’re proud to be Jewish. Three-quarters of us have a “strong sense of belonging to the Jewish People.” We know that people in our Jewish community love what our Federation offers ... the challenge is how we show them what we do, and (more importantly) why we do it. A lot of what we do is hard to tell but easy to show. So, we need to do more showing — more missions, more storytelling, more face-to-face home gatherings, meetings and events.

Our outreach is designed to create an exciting and compelling narrative to speak meaningfully to everyone in the

community, allowing each individual to shape their sense of community for themselves. I believe that we’ve started to see some of these narratives come to the fore. And I’m optimistic because they represent real values and the “thickening” of identity.

Concurrently, anti-Semitic attacks are on the increase and 2019 has been a rough year. It is heartbreaking to see our children having to go through active shooter drills, or seniors scared by threats, and Jewish cemeteries desecrated. Now, more than ever, we need to strengthen and fortify our communities. And, guess what, no one builds community except Our collective “you.” No one will step forward if everyone waits for someone else to do it.....We all are the “someone else.”

So, go to one of our awesome

Temples or Houses of Worship this season. We have many in the desert – Temple Isaiah, Temple Sinai, Beth Shalom, Congregation Har El, Desert Outreach Synagogue, Sun City Jewish Services, Har HaShalom. They are rooted in our community, with programs and activities and events that give meaning to the words “Jewish community.”

Go. Start or renew your membership. Make a donation there in someone’s name. Join a class. Attend an event or program. Come to some awesome activities and programs offered by the congregations and Federation.

Communities thicken. They build resilience and fight terror by showing up. They thrive by not being intimidated.

They get stronger by teaching their kids what makes them proud. Blogs and social media, even the best of them, won’t build and strengthen community. But you can.

What Is Federation?



Roberta Nyman

Jewish Federation
Board Chair

What is Federation? Is it a building? Is it something you see? You feel? You understand?

A simple answer is that we are a group of like-minded individuals who believe morally and ethically that it is our responsibility to help others (Tzedakah and Tikkun Olam).

What is Federation’s mission? We promote the values and qualities of Jewish life, committed to fostering

the continuity of Judaism for future generations. We believe in strengthening the State of Israel, providing aid to Jews wherever they reside, and being a unifying force for the Jewish people worldwide.

Many of you have experienced the positive impact that our local Federation has had in the community and overseas. We have reported on missions to Israel and around the world on which leadership of our community have participated, as Israel, Georgia and St. Petersburg in the former Soviet Union, Hungary, Moldova, Uzbekistan, Ethiopia and Argentina, and more.

Locally, our presence is felt in many ways as in Desert Hot Springs, where we provide services and home visits

through JFS. We support programs of the local temples, Chanukah celebrations for the community, educational opportunities, religious schools, food banks, ADL bullying programs, the Community Yom HaShoah Observance each April, Tzedakah Fund, Hillel, PJ Library, Angel View services, food programs at Senior Centers and many others.

We do not wait for a crisis to happen. We are pro-active in our thinking and planning.

Now my question to you ... Have you utilized our services when you are in crisis? And have you offered your services / financial support for your fellow Jews, both locally, in Israel and around the world, when they need help?



For a meaningful way to extend condolences, send wishes for recovery from illness or congratulations / thanks for a special occasion, there is no better way to than to purchase a Tzedakah card. Proceeds from the sale of the tribute cards benefit the TZEDAKAH FUND, which enables our Jewish Federation to respond to the emergency needs of Jews in our community. Call 760-324-4737 to order your cards, or go online to jfedps.org. Thank you.

In Surprise Change, 13 Countries Vote Against Pro-Palestine UN Resolution

States led by Germany change their voting pattern in favor of Israel, opposing Division of Palestinian Rights, although motion still passes by wide margin

By Raphael Ahren, *The Times of Israel*

On December 3rd, over a dozen countries abruptly changed their voting pattern at the United Nations in Israel's favor, opposing an annual resolution expressing support for a pro-Palestinian UN agency traditionally critical of the Jewish state.

Germany, the Czech Republic, Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Lithuania, Netherlands, Romania, Slovakia, Brazil and Colombia for the first time voted against the resolution regarding the Division of Palestinian Rights at the UN Secretariat.

In past years, these countries had abstained on the resolution.

"I am pleased that this significant group of countries has decided today to voice a clear moral stance against discrimination toward Israel at the UN," Foreign Minister Israel Katz said in a statement. "This represents an important step in the long struggle against the prejudiced bias toward Israel at the United Nations. Particularly noticeable is the shift in the stance of several member states of the European Union and I trust that the remaining EU members will adopt this position soon."

The UK, France and Spain abstained, as they do every year.

The resolution — co-sponsored by Comoros, Cuba, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, United Arab Emirates and Yemen — still passed with a comfortable majority, with 87 "yes" votes, 54 "no" votes and 23



UN General Assembly

abstentions.

Katz also thanked the United States, Canada, Australia, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Nauru and Kiribati who again voted against the resolution.

The New York-based Division for Palestinian Rights is notorious among Israeli officials and pro-Israel advocates for its harsh criticism of Israeli policies. It serves as the Secretariat of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and organizes international conferences that usually focus on bashing Israel. It is also responsible for the annual observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on November 27.

The resolution states that the Division for Palestinian Rights "continues to make a constructive and positive contribution to raising international awareness of the question of Palestine and of the urgency of a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine in all its aspects."

"This body represents the structural discrimination against Israel in the UN arena and uses UN manpower and budgetary resources

to promote a Palestinian narrative while simultaneously encouraging a distinctly anti-Israel agenda," Katz said.

According to Hillel Neuer, the executive director of Geneva-based UN Watch, the surprising change in the voting pattern of 11 EU states has to do with "an unprecedented focus" on Germany, whose Foreign Minister Heiko Mass earlier this year pledged to oppose the unfair treatment of Israel at the UN.

"I think Germany felt the need to modify some of its anti-Israel votes, and that this rare EU split at the GA allowed Netherlands, Austria and others to follow," Neuer told *The Times of Israel*. "We were disappointed that countries like the UK, France and Spain did not join this principled opposition."

"With its 'no' this year, Germany expresses its criticism on the disproportionately high number of resolutions that are critical of Israel," Germany's Foreign Ministry said in a statement. The ministry further said that there was no reason for the special status enjoyed by the Division for Palestinian Rights.

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EDITORIAL

Bruce Landgarten,

Chief Executive Officer

Miriam H. Bent, Editor

Bailey Communications,

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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.

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Jewish Federation Women's Philanthropy



5th Annual Card Day Celebrated

As we enter the season of giving and celebrate our Festival of Lights beginning on Sunday, December 22, 2019 we were thrilled to host 160 women who participated in our Card Day on Monday, December 16, 2019 at the Springs Country Club. The entire club was filled with our ladies who had a good time visiting with friends and enjoying the day. I want to give a mighty shout out to Chickie Steinberger who chaired this very successful day and to her predecessor, Lana Landaw who worked her magic on the Raffle portion of the day. Their hard work in getting our volunteers to participate with them was outstanding. We tip our hats to all those who gave their time, soliciting gifts from local vendors, helping with room logistics and lunch decisions, greeters the day of the event and to all of you who gave us their day to raise money

for our Jewish Federation's "Tzedakah Fund. These funds are for local Jews in need of financial assistance for temporary emergencies. We provide funds within certain limitations, for rent, utilities, food, prescription drugs, and medical costs, as well as funds for medical home improvements for user friendly daily living, including ramps, railings, elevated toilet seats, and more. This year we raised \$8,500.00 towards helping out our community with one time emergency grants because of the funds we raised at our Card Day. From all of us on Staff at the Jewish Federation we say "Todah Rabah", thank you so very much!



Women's Philanthropy Upcoming Events

The January 13 Lion of Judah event, chaired by Carol Fragen and Fran Kaufman, will feature Carly Gammill as keynote speaker. Carly serves as the Director of the StandWithUs Center for Combating Anti-Semitism. A seasoned constitutional litigator, she has been active in fighting anti-Semitism, including the anti-Israel, anti-Semitic BDS campaigns, on campuses, in court, and at the United Nations. Minimum gift for this event

is \$5,000. March 9 Pearl Society Luncheon, chaired by Jackie Cohen and Joann Hirschfield, brings Dr. Ralph Nurenberger back to the desert after many years' absence. Nurnberger is a widely acclaimed speaker who brings humor, current political insights and historical background to his presentations. Minimum gift for this event is \$360.



ABOVE: (l-r) Kevin Giser, Director of Community Impact; Lana Landa, Raffle chair; Leslie Pepper, Women's Philanthropy Coordinator, Chickie Steinberger, Women's Card Day Chair.





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Israel Defense Ministry: 57,277 IDF Veterans Recognized as Disabled

The ministry's rehabilitation department releases data on disabled IDF veterans in honor of the 5th annual Day of Appreciation for those wounded in Israel's wars and in terror attacks.

Israel's Defense Ministry published data revealing that it recognizes 57,277 disabled Israel Defense Forces veterans, including those with physical and mental disabilities. The data was released in honor of the 5th annual Day of Appreciation for those wounded in Israel's wars and terrorist attacks.

The number includes 5,000 veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) related to their service. According to the ministry, much focus has been placed in recent years on treating and reintegrating PTSD victims back into the workforce.

According to the published data, 591 of those being treated by the ministry's rehabilitation department are considered "highly disabled" and 817 were wounded during Israel's "Operation Protective Edge" in 2014. Of those injured during "Protective Edge," 516 have a disability rate of 20 percent or higher, making them eligible for individual, spousal and/or family psychological therapy.

For each patient, the department provides specialists and a social worker "in order to provide him with a comprehensive medical, social, employment and profit-



Israeli President Reuven Rivlin shakes hands with Idan Clayman, head of the IDF Organization for the Disabled, at an event in honor of Israeli soldiers disabled in the line of duty, at Beit Halochem in Tel Aviv on Dec. 15, 2019

related response."

According to Defense Ministry Deputy Director General Hezi Mishta, who is also head of the ministry's rehabilitation department, the Day of Appreciation was instituted four years ago to "pay tribute to those who paid a heavy price for state security."

"The rehabilitation division cherishes disabled IDF veterans every day and works to provide them with the best medical care, to give them the full rights granted by the law and to help reintegrate them to society, school and the workforce. This is our mission," he said.

In addition to the Day of Appreciation for wounded IDF veterans, the ministry's rehabilitation department collaborates with academia to publish and promote research about therapeutic treatments for PTSD.

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 in 1945.



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Steve Geiger lighting yahrzeit candles at Holocaust Memorial in the Palm Desert Civic Park

For further information email menschfoundation@yahoo.com or call 760-416-3685

HAPPY CHANUKAH

Man Held in Anti-Semitic Vandalism of Washington Synagogue

By The Times of Israel

US police have arrested a 28-year-old man in the defacing of the historic Sixth & I synagogue in Washington, DC.

The arrest of Luis Montsinos came on December 2nd, shortly after the synagogue announced the vandalism to the public. Montsinos, who has no address, was charged with defacement and destruction of

property, as well as resisting arrest.

The police report described the vandalism as a suspected hate crime, according to The Washington Post. It included swastikas and anti-Semitic language, the synagogue's communications manager, Michelle Eider, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

In an email to congregants, the



Sixth & I Synagogue in Washington, DC

synagogue's three rabbis said the damage was minimal and would be

quickly fixed.

"In these moments, it's important to remember that it is not a shame but an honor to be a Jew," said the email. "It is no small irony that it was our doors, symbols of welcoming and inclusivity, onto which someone spewed hatred and bigotry."

Significant Statistics

A recent study from Brandeis University reported that there are an estimated 7.5 million Jews in the US, a 10% increase from only 7 years ago. "The cynicism about American Judaism, and that we are a vanishing population, is incorrect," said Leonard

Saxe of Brandeis University.

Four key items from the study:

- There are 7.5 million Jews (1.6 million are children) in the United States – We are about 2% of the population, but it now makes the United States home to the largest

Jewish community in the world (Israel has 7.2 million Jews).

- More than one in 10 Jews is not white -- Among the 11% of American Jews who are not white, 2% are black, 5% are Hispanic and 4% are another ethnicity.

- Jewish Americans are disproportionately elderly -- In the United States, 21% of the population is 65 or older. Among Jews, the number is 26%.

- 91% of American Jews live in just 40 metropolitan areas.

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Norway Threatens Palestinian Aid Cut Over Racism, Violence in Textbooks

By *Algemeiner Staff*

The Norwegian parliament has called on the Palestinian Authority to remove violent, racist and anti-Semitic materials from its school curriculum, or else face a drop or cessation in funding.

A majority in the Storting's 16-member Standing Committee

on Foreign Affairs and Defense agreed that financial support to the Palestinian Authority should be cut or reduced "if they do not provide satisfactory improvements to the school materials," the *Aftenposten*, Norway's largest circulation newspaper, reported.

"We can no longer sit still and watch Norwegian money contribute to a teaching system that encourages children to violence and promotes racism and anti-Semitism," Hans Andreas Limi, parliamentary leader of the libertarian Progress Party, was quoted as saying.

The move follows a November report in *Aftenposten* that featured examples of incitement to violence and racial hate in Palestinian school materials, based on findings by the Jerusalem-based Institute for Monitoring Peace and Cultural Tolerance in School Education (IMPACT-se). R 6, 2019 6:04 AM

The article, as well as IMPACT-se briefings to legislators and other officials, "unleashed a major public debate in Norway about the country's funding of the extremist Palestinian Ministry of Education textbooks," the research group said December 5th.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Ine Eriksen Søreide weighed in, indicating that successive Norwegian governments broached the topic of the school curriculum with the Palestinian Authority, who have publicly said that some changes to the syllabus have taken place, but, in Arabic, they tell their own people, 'Over our dead bodies. It's not going to happen.' The question is which narrative is going to emerge victorious."

"Nobody wants to be taken for a chump," added Sheff. "Nobody wants their hard-earned tax money — which is supposed to be used for development and helping children — to instead radicalize children to commit violence and sacrifice themselves."

The Palestinian Authority has faced continued criticism over its educational curriculum, with a 2018 report by IMPACT-se noting that grade 1-12 textbooks routinely describe Israel as the "Zionist Occupation," refer to United Nations-recognized Israeli territory as Palestinian, and in some cases praise acts of Palestinian violence against civilians. A September review by the watchdog group of new educational materials used in the 2019–20 academic year found "a systematic insertion of violence, martyrdom and jihad across all grades and subjects."

In an unprecedented move in August, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination criticized the Palestinian Authority over "the existence of hate speech in ... school curricula and textbooks, which fuels hatred and may incite violence, particularly hate speech against Israelis, which at times also fuels anti-Semitism."

In her comments last month, Søreide said Norwegian support did not go to the development of school curriculum or textbook printing, but rather school construction and furnishing, student transportation and teacher training.

She pointed to the ongoing review of Palestinian textbooks being carried out by the Germany-based Georg Eckert Institute, with support from the European Union. "Norway has been actively involved in the preparation of the study and is participating in further follow-up," she said.

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Nikki Haley Says Canada Made 'Deal with the Devil' With Recent Turn Against Israel at UN

By Karys Rhea, *The Algemeiner*

Former US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley accused Canada on December 5 of making a "deal with the devil" by recently voting in favor of an anti-Israel General Assembly resolution.



Speaking at the annual UN Watch gala in New York City, Haley said Canada was "trading its integrity for a seat on the Security Council" with its turn against the Jewish state.

"Two weeks ago, Canada surprised Israel's friends by voting for a North Korean resolution that challenges the legitimacy of Israel," Haley noted. "This is a resolution that Canadian governments for years have voted against."

Haley — an ex-South Carolina governor and potential future Republican presidential candidate — also described a "culture of

bullies" at the UN, and said the global intergovernmental body was "time and again" failing to "live up to its charter."

She called the UN Security Council's regular meeting on the Middle East a "monthly Israel bashing session."

"If we want to talk about security in the Middle East, we should talk about Iran or Syria or Hezbollah or Hamas or ISIS or the famine in Yemen," Haley pointed out. "There are about ten major problems facing the Middle East, and Israel doesn't have anything to do with any of them."

She also criticized the UN Human Rights Council, where an array of human rights-violating nations — such as China, Cuba, Egypt, Qatar, Nigeria, Somalia, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia — currently hold sway, and a number of others — including Venezuela, Mauritania, Sudan and Libya — are set to join in January.

"Many encouraged us to remain on the council because the United States, they said, provided the last shred of credibility the Human Rights Council had," Haley recalled.

"And that was precisely why we decided to leave. The United States should not lend any credibility to this cesspool of political hypocrisy and corruption."

ADL's Annual Lecture



December 3, 2019 at Temple Isaiah: ADL's Annual Helene and Melvin Berman Lecture with Susan Heller Pinto, ADL's Associate Director of Middle Eastern Affairs: "Global Trends in Anti-Semitism." (l-r) Rabbi Steven Rosenberg, Temple Isaiah; Roberta Nyman, Jewish Federation Board Chair; Bruce Landgarten, Jewish Federation CEO; Susan Pinto, Ed Cohen, and Matt Friedman, Senior Associate Regional Director, Los Angeles.

MEGA CHALLAH Bake 4

ב'ה

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2020

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Registration begins: 12:15 PM ♦ Program: 1:00-3:00 PM

\$25 per person ♦ Girls 10-17 welcome @ \$18

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DEADLINE: January 17, 2020 ♦ NO WALK-INS

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Join Jewish women from across the Coachella Valley for a day of inspiration and sisterhood. Everyone will go home with challah to bake and a goody bag.



Shabbat Schedule - January 2020

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 11: "Recognition Shabbat," Service and Kiddush Lunch honoring Beth Shalom **Founders and Pioneers.**

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 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.chabadm.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

**CHABAD OF SUN CITY
PALM DESERT**
Rabbi Yonason Denebeim.
Weekly Shabbat services in homes.
For information on location call
760-848-8250.
Most Fridays: Shabbat Dinner with
the Denebeims. Call to reserve
760-848-8250.

CONGREGATION HAR-EL
(Member, Union for Reform
Judaism)
Rabbi Richard Zions; Cantor Joseph
Gole harelurjpd@gmail.com
760-779-1691. Mailing address: P.O.
Box 564, Palm Desert, CA 92261.
Shabbat services in January: January
3, 10, 17, 24 - at 5:00 pm, followed
by oneg at 5:30 pm. January 3,
2020: Music Shabbat with guest
Rabbi Cantor Alison Wissot, singing
German synagogue music, with
presentation by Chief Archivist
of Berlin Jewish Museum, Aubrey
Pomerantz.

**CONGREGATION SHALOM
BAYIT** (Reform)
Rabbi Kenneth Milhander, 1320 W.
Williams Ave., Banning, CA 92220.
Contact 951-392-5380.
Shabbat Service 3rd Friday/
Havdallah 1st Saturday evening.

DESERT HOT SPRINGS
Monthly Shabbat evening service
with Rabbi Faith Tessler October-
May at Mission Lakes Country Club
at 7:00 pm. Call Jewish Federation for
service schedule.

**DESERT OUTREACH
SYNAGOGUE**
Rabbi Jules King; Cantor Lori Reisman
Patterson. 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; 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 at 9:30 am.
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: 7:30 pm Shabbat Services,
followed by oneg. Last Friday:
Shabbat services around the dinner
table, at 6:30 pm, followed by dairy
potluck dinner. RSVP please.
Saturday morning: 9:00 am "Nosh
and Drash" torah study followed by
services at 10:00 am. Kiddush follows
services. "Jewish University" from 1-3
PM. Call synagogue for current topic.

TEMPLE SINAI (Reform)
Rabbi Andrew Bentley
73-251 Hovley Lane West, Palm
Desert, CA 92260.
www.templeainaipd.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
(Community Outreach) www.
BikurCholimPS.com
Rabbi Yankel Kreiman - 760-325-
8076, and Rabbi Mendy Kreiman -
760-567-6726.



Community Calendar - January 2020

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

Sundays

Chabad of Palm Springs: 8:45 am: **Sunday Breakfast Club.** Start off the Week with the ancient Jewish tradition of Bagels, Lox - and Tefillin! 250 E Palm Canyon, Palm Springs. RSVP 760-550-5793.

Chabad Rancho Mirage Children's programs: **CTeen** Global Teen network offering social educational and humanitarian program.

CTeen Jr. for 6-8 graders: Educational and social programming.

C Kids ages 3-12. Meets Sundays 10 am to 12:30 pm. Trips, art, cooking, teaching life skills. Check website: www.chabadrm.com/kids; or all 760-272-1923 or email 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. RSVP 760-636-2897 or rabbibenny@chabadrm.com.

7:00 pm Chabad of Palm Springs **Monday Journey with the Prophets.** 250 E Palm Canyon, Palm Springs. Weekly Lessons for Life and Judaism Today. Presenter: Boz Werdiger, 760-550-5793 .

7:00-8:00 pm Chabad Palm Springs program: text based study

on **Maimonide's Fundamentals of Judaism**, led by Rabbi Moishe Witkes. For location call or text 760-412-1005.

Tuesdays:

10:00-11:45 am Temple Sinai **Yiddish Club.** All welcome. No need to be fluent!

Wednesdays:

3:00 pm Or Hamidbar **Torah Teachings** with Rabbi David Lazar at a private residence. Address provided with reservation. RSVP to info@orhamidbar.org.

Saturdays, 1:00-3:00 pm Temple Isaiah **Jewish University.** Series of Saturday afternoon study programs led by Rabbi Steven Rosenberg. Call 760-325-2281 for details and enrollment.

Tuesday, January 7

1:00 pm Tolerance Education Center Lecture: Anthropologist Rosa Weinstein: **"The Amish People."**

Thursday, January 9

6:30 pm Sabra Hadassah meeting. Speaker: Jane France Cook **"From Kabul with Love"** (What's a Nice Jewish Girl from Beverly Hills Doing in a Place Like this"). Dessert served. \$18. RSVP/information call 760-289-7987.

Wednesday, January 15

11:00 am Tolerance Education

Center Lecture: Law Professor Eric Gertner: **"Holocaust Impact on Jewish Athletes."**

4:00 pm Beth Shalom **Book Club Discussion** "The Last Watchman of Old Cairo" by Michael David Lukas. Discussion led by **Maxine & Robert Greenstein** at a private residence. Address provided with reservation. RSVP to 760-200-3636.

Sunday, January 19

3:00 pm Beth Shalom **Sunday @ the Movies** "The Women's Balcony" Hebrew with subtitles. Members: \$5 per person, Non-members: \$10 per person. Lite refreshments served. Information: 760-200-3636. See ad page 21.

Sunday, January 19

3:00-5:00 pm Temple Isaiah Twice Blessed cabaret performance: **"You Make Me Laugh - A Love Song to Gilda Radner"** with Francesca Amari, accompanied by Wayne Abravanel. \$25 members; \$30 non-members. Call 760-325-2281 or purchase tickets online at www.templeisiahps.com.

Wednesday, January 22

11:00 am Mensch International Book Talk and Signing by author Aimee Ginsberg Bikel at Tolerance Education Center. Includes lunch: \$15. See ad page 21.

Friday, January 24

11:00 am Tolerance Education Center Lecture: Anthropologist Rosa Weinstein: **"Jewish US Soldiers During WWII."**

Sunday, January 26

1:00-3:00 pm (registration opens 12:15 pm) **MegaChallah Bake.** See ad page 11.

Monday, January 27

11:30 am Sabra Hadassah **"Woman of Valor" Luncheon.** Honoree: Phyllis Pepper. Vue Restaurant, Indian Wells. Couvert \$75. Rservations and information call Janet Gindrin, 435-442-4668.

Monday, January 27

1:00 pm Mensch International Observance of 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz. Palm Desert Civic Park Amphitheatrer. See ad page 8.

Wednesday, January 29

1:00 pm Tolerance Education Center Book Signing: **"Mouth of Truth"** by Child Holocaust Survivor Lillian Nemetz.

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

HAPPY CHANUKAH

\$48K Raised for Police Officer Slain in Jersey City

JNS.org – A fund set up by a group of Orthodox Jewish leaders from the Flatbush section of Brooklyn, NY, to benefit the family of Det. Joseph Seals, who was killed in the line of duty on December 10 in Jersey City, NJ, raised more than \$48,000 in less than 24 hours. Originally, organizers were hoping to raise \$25,000 from members of the Jewish community to show their appreciation to the officer who gave his life to save others.

Seals was killed by two attackers at the Bayview Cemetery in Jersey City. The suspects, a man and a woman, then drove approximately one mile to the JC Kosher Supermarket in the city's Greenville section, home to a significant population of religious Jews.

The two stormed the store and fired round after round of bullets as they engaged police during an hours-long standoff. When police entered the market, they discovered the bodies of Leah Mindel Ferencz, 33, who owned the store with her husband, Moshe Dovid Ferencz; Moshe Deutsch, 24, of the Williamsburg neighborhood in Brooklyn, NY; and Miguel Douglas, 49, who worked at the store. Ferencz's husband had left the store just moments before the attack to attend afternoon prayer services at a synagogue next door.

"There is an extremely massive outpouring of grief and outrage at the attack that occurred in Jersey City," said Jewish community leader Chaskel Bennett, a co-founder of the civic and political group Flatbush Jewish Community Coalition (FJCC), who spearheaded the fundraising campaign with fellow Flatbush community leaders Leon Goldenberg and Moshe Wulliger. "Obviously, when an event of this magnitude happens and we see the victims that are identifiably Orthodox Jews, automatically it hits home a little bit harder."

In situations like this, continued Bennett, "we as a

community need to take a moment and recognize the sacrifices that law-enforcement professionals

are making all across the country to secure our shuls, our synagogues, our JCCs, our yeshivahs, our day schools. . . . These are human beings with families; and in this case, Detective Seals has a wife and five children."

The response to the fundraising campaign was swift. More than 1,400 donations were raised; the campaign is now closed. Gifts ranged from just \$2 to \$200, with many less than \$50. A number of those who contributed also left messages on the campaign web page.

"RIP, thank you for all you have done. May god bless your family and all the men in blue."

"We can never repay you for all the lives you saved, RIP. Strength to your wife and kids and loved ones."

Donating to the Seals family, said Bennett, shows that "Orthodox Jews care deeply about the people who stand on the front lines protecting us," adding that this "small act" allows the "community to take our anguish and transform it into tangible action."

The response also shows that "the anguish is real," he added.

"The fear Jews now feel didn't begin with this terrible incident. The antisemitic attacks against our community have been escalating for a while now, and we have been sounding the alarm," explained Bennett. However, "the response by people to donate more than \$48,000 in 18 hours speaks to the overwhelming desire for people to be part of something positive in the midst of such pain. From the depths of our sorrow, the very best of our people shines through."



Det. Joseph Seals



Prof. Amir Shapiro

Director, Robotics and Control Laboratory
Department of Mechanical Engineering
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

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Jewish Federation
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Part of the UCR Jewish Studies Lecture Series 2020

NEXT LECTURE: THURSDAY, MARCH 26

Professor Dan Blumberg

Vice President of Regional Development; Director, Homeland Security Institute
Head, Earth and Planetary Image Facility - Ben Gurion University of the Negev

'START-UP NEGEV: ISRAEL'S HIGH-TECH & CYBER SECURITY HUB'

Israel Signs Deal to Provide Czech Republic with Missile Defense Technology

By Benjamin Kerstein, *The Algemeiner*

The Israeli and Czech Defense Ministries have signed an agreement that will see Israel provide the Czech Republic with state-of-the-art aerial defense technology, it was announced on Thursday.

The Israeli news site Mako reported that the deal — amounting to over NIS 400 million (approximately \$115 million) in value — was officially inked at a ceremony held at the Czech Defense Ministry headquarters in Prague.

Under the terms of the arrangement, Israel will provide the Czechs with eight of its multi-mission radar (MMR) systems, which are an integral part of the Jewish state's multi-layered missile defense network, which includes the famous Iron Dome.

The radar system, which detects incoming airborne threats, was developed by ELTA, a subsidiary of Israel Aerospace Industries, and will be supplied to the Czech Republic starting in 2021.

The Israeli Defense Ministry said the systems were compatible with NATO defense technology and would also be integrated into US military command-and-control systems in Europe.

The radar systems themselves will be manufactured in the Czech Republic by local defense contractors using Israeli parts and technological knowledge.

The head of the IDF's Defense Sales



An Iron Dome battery fires an interceptor

Administration, Brig. Gen. Yair Coles, noted that the Czechs provided crucial military support to Israel during its War of Independence in 1948, saying, "Today, Israel and the Czech Republic close a historic circle. The Czech Republic, which stood by us and provided us with weapons upon the establishment of the state, has acquired the most advanced air defense capability in the world."

"The agreement signed today will further strengthen companies and security relations between Israel and the Czech Republic," he added. "It is an expression of confidence in the capabilities of the Israeli security system, our excellent industries and their technological capabilities to address the threats that are plaguing the entire world."

"We hope this agreement opens the door for further cooperation with the Czech Republic and other NATO countries," Coles concluded.

The Czech Republic's minister of defense, Lubomír Metnar, called the deal "one of the major modernization projects of the Czech military and especially our air defense forces."

"I am very pleased that when the agreement is signed, we begin the process of ending dependency on outdated Russian systems and at the same time equipping a modern system with proven operational experience," he continued.

Metnar called Israel a "long-term strategic partner," and noted, "I also welcome the opportunities the agreement creates for Czech security companies."

ELTA CEO Yoav Turgeman commented, "Israel Aerospace Industries is proud to provide the Czech Republic with the best radar

system, which will advance the capabilities of the Czech Air Force and enable it to deal with a variety of aerial threats."



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The PJ Library program offers the gift of free high-quality Jewish books and music each month the children ages 6 months through 8 years. PJ Library books celebrate important aspects of Jewish culture, values and tradition and become cherished bedtime stories. Sign up online at www.pjlibrary.org today. For more information about PJ Library programs in our community contact Leslie Pepper at 760-324-4737 or email leslie.pepper@jfedps.org.

**Advertise in the Jewish Community News,
Call Miriam Bent at
760-323-0255**



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:

- **Susan Duman**, Our love and best wishes on your special birthday. Gail & Bob Scadron.
- **Mrs. Cora Ginsberg**, Thank you. Love, Sherry Schor.
- **Cora Ginsberg**, Thank you from Barbara Fromm, Frances Horwich, Margie Kulp, Carol Luber, Barbara Platt, Mary Jo Pomerantz, Cass Graff-Radford, Gail Scadron, Gloria Scoby, and Debbie Star.
- **Cora Ginsberg, Lois Johnson and Gail Richards**, Thank you from Toni Garmisa.
- **Cass Graff-Radford**, Happy, healthy birthday! With love, Frances Horwich.
- **Mrs. Lois Johnson**, Thank you. Love, Sherry Schor.
- **Pearle Levey**, Happy special birthday, from Loreen Jacobson.
- **Lois Johnson**, Thanking you from Barbara Fromm, (Donation to Fromm Fund) Cass Graff-Radford, Frances Horwich, Margie Kulp, Carol Luber, Gail Scadron, Gloria Scoby, Barbara Platt, Mary Jo Pomerantz and Debbie Star.
- **Margie Kulp**, Thank you from Gloria & Michael Scoby.

- **Mr. & Mrs. Larry Novack**, Wishing you good luck and good health in your new home. Fondly, Barbara Platt & Norm Lewis.
- **Roberta & Allan Nyman**, Wishing you good luck and good health in your new home. Fondly, Barbara Platt & Norm Lewis.
- **Gail Richards**, Thanking you from Barbara Fromm (Fromm Fund), Frances Horwich, Margie Kulp, Cass Graff-Radford, Carol Luber, Barbara Platt, Mary Jo Pomerantz, Gail Scadron, Gloria Scoby and Debbie Star.
- **Gail Richards**, Thank you. Love, Sherry Schor.
- **Stephanie Ross**, Mazel Tov on joining the ranks of the Bne'i Mitzvah, from Orly & Alan Klugman.
- **Roni Spetalnick**, Mazel tov on your recent election as Sabra Hadassah of the Desert President, from Rita & Eddie Kroll.
- **Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Winick**, Happy 65th wedding anniversary, from Loreen Jacobson.

Refuah Shleimah Get Well Wishes To:

- **Celia Norian**, May you have an easy recovery from Mary Levine & Alan Goldstein.

Memorial Tributes Condolences Sent To:

- **Myron Crespin**, In loving memory of your beloved wife, Regina, from Stuart Goldfine.
- **Marilyn Eager**, In memory of Allen Eager, from Phil & Ellen Glass.
- **Cindy Farber**, Condolences on the passing of your beloved cousin, Patty, from Cass & Adrian.
- **Glesby Family**, In memory of Morrie Glesby, from Cora Ginsberg and Loreen Jacobson.
- **Mrs. Susan Finkelstein & Family**, In memory of Lenore Slatkin, from Janet Ball.
- **Carol Marx**, In memory of Mel Marx, from Lois Johnson.
- **Celia Norian**, In loving memory of your beloved husband Sandy, from Judy & Elliott Bernstein, Sheila Coon, Phil & Ellen Glass, Stuart Goldfine, Cathy & Larry Pitts, Debra & Mickey Star, Marvin Mandleman & Karel Roberts.
- **Olivia Rothstein**, In loving memory of your son, from Lois Johnson.
- **Mr. & Mrs. Richard Sapkin**, Condolences on the passing of your beloved cousin, Patty from Cass Graff-Radford & Adrian.

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Thousands of Brazilians Take Part in Israeli Social Music Initiative

By Shiryn Ghermezian, *The Algemeiner*

Thousands of Brazilians gathered on December 1st at Sao Paulo's Estaiada Bridge to take part in a popular Israeli social musical initiative held for the first time in Latin America.

The Koolulam project centers around mass singing events in which large groups of non-professionals come together "from all walks of life to do one thing: stop everything for a few hours and just sing," according to its Facebook page.

The group in Brazil, comprised of Jews and non-Jews, sang "Tempos Modernos," or "Modern Times,"

a famous Brazilian song from the 1980s composed and sung by Lulu Santos, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported.

The show included a rehearsal of one song led by a conductor and performed by the audience members, who are given music sheets with the lyrics and divided into different voices. The final performance is filmed, edited and posted online.

Conductor Ben Yaffet said about the experience, "Participants go through a creative process surrounded by a sense of unity and

belonging rarely achieved in our daily lives."

Producer Jussara Gontow added, "Koolulam's main goal is to bring together strangers who have no singing experience and provoke an innovative, creative, sensory and

unforgettable musical moment. Children, youth, adults and the elderly become artists."

Koolulam, established in 2017, has been performed in Israel, the United States, Canada and South Africa.

Jerusalem Chief Rabbi Attends Interfaith Event in Bahrain



Sephardic Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem Shlomo Amar (front, center)

Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem Shlomo Amar, who previously served as the Sephardic chief rabbi of Israel, met Bahraini King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa on December 9, during a rare visit to the Persian Gulf state.

Amar, who before becoming chief rabbi of Jerusalem served as Sephardic chief rabbi of Israel, was invited to Bahrain by the king to participate in an interfaith event, alongside clerics from Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Egypt, India, Jordan, and other Arab and Islamic countries.

"The people of the Middle East want peace with Israel and for the

leadership to promote it. The Jewish faith includes the value of peace that we all want," said Amar during his visit, according to a report by *Arutz Sheva*.

He conveyed to king "a blessing from Jerusalem that will lead to a solid relationship with the State of Israel," *The Times of Israel* reported.

Even though Israel does not have official relations with Bahrain, connections exist between the two countries. This past summer, for example, Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz and Bahraini Foreign Minister Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa met publicly in Washington, D.C.

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Desert Leader's Granddaughter Is a Jewish Rock Radio 2019 Grand Prize "Jewish Star Talent Search" Winner

Jewish Rock Radio's (JRR) of St. Louis, Missouri, has unveiled the 3 teen (ages 14-18) and 3 young adult (ages 19-26) Grand Prize Winners of Season 2 of its Jewish Star Talent Search, a competition designed to identify emerging talent in the North American Jewish community who have a passion and desire to impact the Jewish world. The public cast tens of thousands of votes for the Top 12 finalists and JRR is proud to announce the six Grand Prize winners included Stephanie Sussman, 15, from Encino, California, who is the granddaughter of Barbara Platt of Ranch Mirage, daughter of Karen Platt and Scott Sussman. The other two teen winners were from Deerfield, Illinois and Springfield, New Jersey. The "young adult" winners were from Memphis, Tennessee, Miami Beach and St. Louis, Missouri.

The 6 Jewish Star winners will receive a prize package designed to help support their Jewish music journeys, including:

- Private mentorship from a nationally recognized Jewish celebrity recording artist.

- A professional studio recording session to record an original composition or a cover song from a pre-approved list of Jewish music artists.

- International exposure highlighting winner artists on an exclusive Jewish Rock Radio show broadcasting the songs recorded by prize winners.

- An all-expenses-paid trip to attend the 2020 (SLBC) Songleader Bootcamp National Conference for immersive coaching and skills training in February 2020. Prize winners will also be featured and perform live at SLBC.

Contestants submitted homemade music videos singing a Jewish song along with a written vision statement about impacting the Jewish community through music. A panel of national celebrity music artists judged the applications to select the finalists based on their vocal, instrumental, overall performance skills, and passion for impacting the Jewish world. Celebrity judges include Noam Katz, Rick Recht, Naomi Less, Joe Buchanan, Peri Smilow, and Josh Warshawsky.

"The Jewish Star talent search will not only attract and identify new, young, Jewish talent," said Rick Recht,

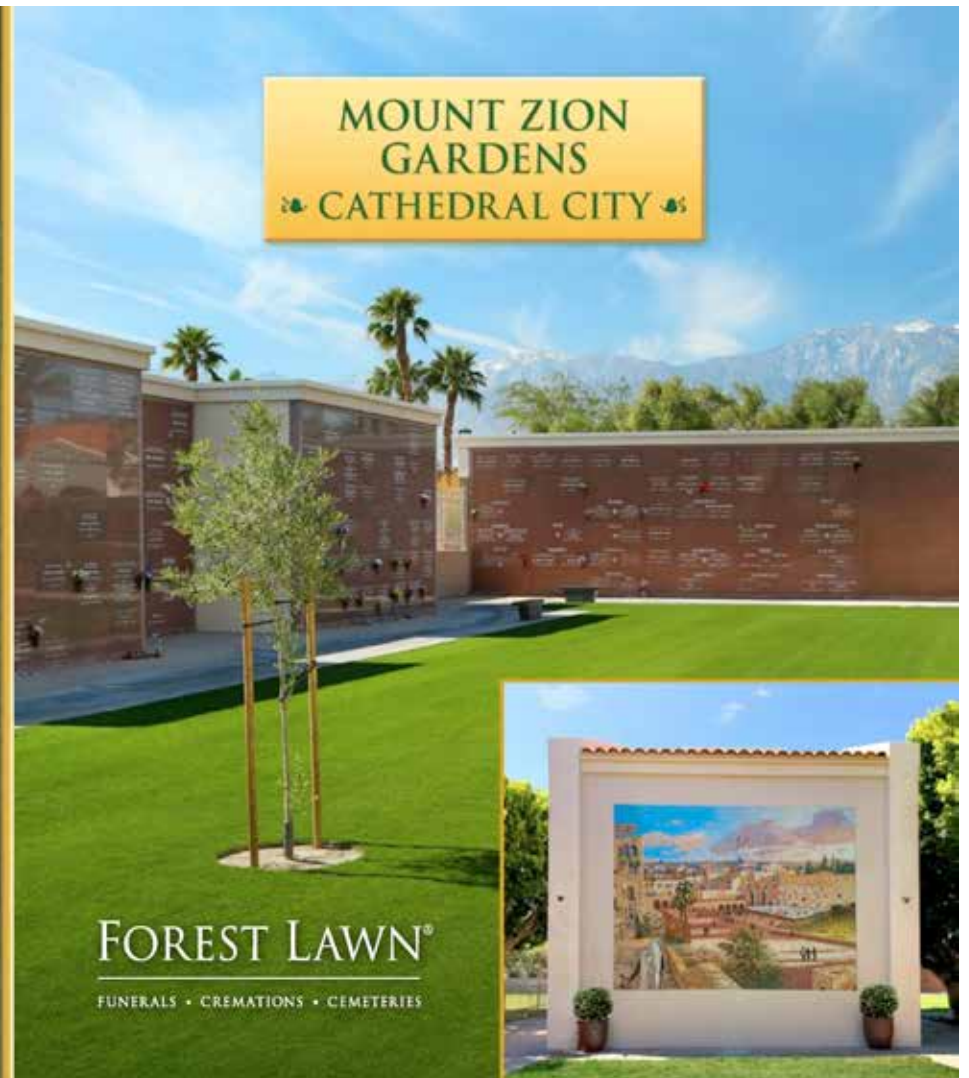
Founder and Executive Director of Jewish Rock Radio, "but will help to educate the masses about the impact of Jewish artists on Jewish identity and give established Jewish artists the opportunity to step up and support future generations of Jewish artists who will inspire the Jewish world for many years to come! I'm also proud that the Jewish Star prizes truly support and elevate these talented young individuals who are interested and willing to sharing their talents and make an impact in the Jewish world!"

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UK Election Result 'Divinely Inspired,' Says Senior UK Rabbi

Rabbi Joseph Dweck, a member of the Conference of European Rabbis, says he's 'grateful for results.'

By Ilanit Cherenick, JPost

"I believe that it was a divinely inspired result," said Rabbi Joseph Dweck, senior rabbi of Britain's Sephardi Jewish community, describing Thursday's landslide defeat of Jeremy Corbyn's Labour Party in the UK election.

A member of the Conference of European Rabbis, Dweck told The Jerusalem Post that he was "grateful for the results. I believe that there is a renewed confidence that the Jewish community has both in Britain and the British people. We know now that we have a fast friend of the Jewish community at 10 Downing Street [Prime Minister Boris Johnson], who has, throughout his political career — especially during his time as mayor of London — proven his care, attention and protection of the Jews of Britain."

Asked how Johnson should continue dealing with anti-Semitism in the UK, Dweck said he believes that "he should continue as he



Rabbi Joseph Dweck

has: denouncing antisemitism, and to work with his government to eradicate any and all expressions of it in the country."

Dweck said he is "deeply concerned" about rising anti-Semitism, but made it clear that he is as "concerned about it here in Europe as I am about it in America. We have seen a great upsurge of anti-Semitic crimes occurring in the States, and the antisemitic rhetoric that is rampant in many American universities is profoundly worrying. It will not be long at all until those students hold government office."

Asked why we are seeing a surge in anti-Semitism, he said that he

believes there are many reasons.

"To think that the existence of the State of Israel has no part to play in worldwide anti-Semitism is, in my opinion, quite naive," Dweck explained. "But there is an old and underlying culture of anti-Semitism that has laid its shadow for many centuries over the European continent, and it seems that when any laxity occurs in its vehement opposition, its waves gain strength."

He said that this is what we are now seeing today, and that European governments must not be afraid to see what is happening and to call it what it is.

"They must do all they can not only to fight against it, but also to prevent it," he said. "Both with legislation and with education."

However, he said, the problem is "the severity and threat is often downplayed, and that leaves room for greater antisemitic acts and sentiment."

With the memory of the Holocaust fading, Dweck said that "education is paramount" to encourage the next generation to learn and remember the horrors of the Holocaust.

"The more we educate all people as to the possibilities of atrocity and evil that can easily breach the delicate walls of civilization, the greater are our chances of fighting it," he said.

Dweck concluded by citing "the powerful and true words of Will Durant: 'For barbarism is always around civilization, amid it and beneath it, ready to engulf it by arms, or mass migration, or unchecked fertility. Barbarism is like the jungle; it never admits its defeat; it waits patiently for centuries to recover the territory it has lost.'"

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Israel to UN: Jews Forced Out of Arab, Muslim Lands Should Be Seen as Refugees

Ambassador Danny Danon to introduce General Assembly resolution on behalf of 850,000 'forgotten' Jews who fled Iraq, Iran, Egypt, Morocco, to counter one-sided focus on Palestinian refugees

Times of Israel Staff

Israel wants the United Nations to recognize as refugees hundreds of thousands of Jews who fled Arab and Muslim countries in the last century, its UN envoy said in early December.

Ambassador Danny Danon told the UN General Assembly that he plans to propose a resolution about what he called "the 'forgotten' Jewish refugees" to counter what Israel sees as a one-sided focus on Palestinian refugees.

"We don't hear the international community speak of them when they discuss the refugees of the conflict, perhaps because it doesn't serve the Palestinian narrative," Danon said.

He didn't detail his planned resolution, except to say that it would "acknowledge the wrong done" to the Jews in question and "make right the injustice that they suffered."

There was no immediate response from the Palestinian Authority mission to his remarks. Earlier that day PA Ambassador Riyad Mansour reiterated appeals for humanitarian aid for Palestinian refugees and their descendants.

Danon's remarks came as the assembly weighed a draft resolution reiterating a roster of longstanding positions on the Israeli-Palestinian issue. The proposed measure includes calls for continued humanitarian and economic aid to the Palestinians and a stop to Israeli settlement of areas it captured in

the 1967 Six Day War — a stance given new resonance by the recent US announcement that it no longer believes the settlements violate international law.

Danon said an estimated 850,000 Jews were forced out of Iraq, Egypt, Morocco, Iran, and many other countries during the 20th century after enduring violence and persecution. Many fled to the new State of Israel after the war surrounding its creation in 1948.

The uprooted Jews were absorbed in Israel, where their descendants now make up about half the country's Jewish population.

Meanwhile, an estimated 700,000 Palestinians fled or were forced from their homes during the war. A UN agency still exists to assist them and their descendants — all told, about 5.5 million people — in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

The Palestinians and the UN see its Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) as a lifeline for impoverished people with no state of their own. International support for it is "an indispensable source of hope and stability until a just solution for the Palestine refugees is realized," Mansour told the General Assembly.

Israel and the United States, however, have lambasted UNRWA as anti-Israel and badly run, accusing it of perpetuating the conflict by not resettling refugees in other countries and recognizing all descendants of refugees as refugees, causing their



Plane filled with Iraqi Jews arrive at Lod Airport in early 1951

number to swell. The US cut its funding for the agency from \$360 million in 2017 to \$60 million in 2018 and nothing this year, calling the agency "irredeemably flawed."

Recognizing the uprooted Jews as refugees may be largely a symbolic gesture, but it reflects Israel's determination to highlight what it considers to be years of pro-Palestinian bias at the UN.

The Israeli request came as the General Assembly considered a resolution reiterating a roster of longstanding positions on the Israeli-Palestinian issue, including the need for "an immediate halt to all settlement activities."

Hundreds of thousands of Jews live in West Bank settlements and

East Jerusalem neighborhoods built since the 1967 war, areas that Israel captured from Jordan in 1967 and that the Palestinians claim for their future state.

The UN and the Palestinians say the settlements are illegal and undermine hopes for the long-discussed two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In 2016, a UN Security Council resolution called the settlements "a flagrant violation under international law."

Israel, however, maintains that the West Bank is not an occupied territory but rather disputed land that was captured from Jordan in a defensive war in 1967, after 19 years in which Amman did not annex the territory but also didn't hand it to the Palestinians.

The US announcement last month upended a four-decade-old State Department legal opinion and subsequent years of carefully calibrated US opposition to settlement construction.

Israeli leaders welcomed the US decision. Palestinians bitterly protested it.



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Former Priest Who Called Jews a 'Cancer' Arrested by Polish Authorities

The Algemeiner



A former Catholic priest has been detained by the authorities in Poland for publishing an anti-Semitic manifesto that prosecutors say violates the country's penal code proscribing activities that promote "fascism," "totalitarian state systems" and "hatred."

Jacek Miedlar — who enjoys a high profile on the Polish far right — was arrested at his home December 13 by officers from the ABW, Poland's domestic security agency.

According to Stanislaw Zaryn, a spokesperson for the ABW, the former priest was being charged with incitement after he published a manifesto online with the title "Poland in the Shadow of Jewry."

The screed accuses Jews of conspiring against Polish independence over the course of a century, labeling them as Poland's "most vicious enemy" whose goal is to "mutilate and enslave Poland."

The news of Miedlar's arrest was announced on Friday morning by Grzegorz Braun, an MP from the far-right Confederation (Konfederacja) Party, who told reporters that the ABW officers had cited Article 256 of the Polish Penal Code, which punishes the promotion of "totalitarian" ideologies and national, religious or ethnic hatred with up to two years in prison.

Speaking on Monday, Miedlar accused the Polish authorities of behaving like the former communist regime in the country.

"They treated me like a common criminal," Miedlar complained, adding that ABW officers had spent six hours

carrying out "various activities" in his home. Officers confiscated neo-Nazi T-shirts as well as two computers and a number of cell phones.

"They did not leave with drugs, explosives or guns, because I don't have any," Miedlar said.

Ordained as a Catholic priest in 2015, Miedlar rapidly established himself in ultranationalist circles as a hardline ideologue, railing against "Talmudic Jews" at a far-right rally in Warsaw the same year.

In April 2016, he delivered a sermon at the cathedral in the city of Bialystock in which he ranted about the "Jewish mob [who] want to bring you to your knees, to grind, swallow, digest and in the end spit you out." He then declared that "uncompromising national-Catholic radicalism" was the best "chemotherapy" for Poland's "cancer."

Miedlar's ravings made national news in Poland again last March, when he defended the massacre of 50 worshipers at a mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand by an armed neo-Nazi.

Praising Brenton Tarrant, the Christchurch assailant, for the "truly noble statements" he expressed in a rambling hate manifesto posted online before the attack, Miedlar said the atrocity in New Zealand had posed the question, "What does it mean to stand up for white Europe?"

Referring to the shooter by his first name, Miedlar opined that "Brenton" had "some right to do what he did, because he saw the direction in which this so-called civilized world is heading."

The Catholic Church suspended Miedlar from his priestly duties in 2016 in response to his attacks on Jews. Miedlar has also twice been refused entry to the United Kingdom, where he was invited to speak at rallies organized by the far-right "Britain First" group.

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CNN Reveals: Anti-Semitic French Website Hosted by US Company

From: www.israelnationalnews.com Arutz Sheva

Earlier this month, 107 graves in a Jewish cemetery in the village of Westhoffen near Strasbourg, France were defaced with Nazi swastikas and anti-Semitic graffiti. In February, 96 graves at a Jewish cemetery in the French village of Quatzenheim were also defaced.

Both cemeteries are located in the Alsace region of France which has had an alarmingly increasing amount of anti-Semitic attacks over the past 18 months - 42 to be precise, according to *CNN*. And although French authorities have opened an investigation and are dedicating much time and resources to it, the culprits have not been caught.

CNN decided to conduct its own global investigation based on information they received from a source close to the local French investigation - who believes that the local culprits have been influenced to commit the anti-Semitic attacks by global websites - and found a trail that led them "from Alsace, through the Bahamas and Panama, and on to the United States."

CNN found two anti-Semitic French-language websites with photographs of the anti-Semitic vandalism in Alsace and articles praising the attacks. The sites were hosted in the Bahamas and Panama, unfettered by France's anti-hate speech laws.

Both sites use the US-based internet infrastructure company Cloudflare. According to *CNN*, Cloudflare discontinued its service to *8chan* in the summer following the discovery that a user thought to be the shooter in the El Paso mass shooting posted a rant on it. Cloudflare also said that following



Defaced graves in Alsace Region

the white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia in 2017, it discontinued its service to the US neo-Nazi blog *Daily Stormer*.

CNN asked Cloudflare why it was not removing the French websites with similar hate speech, albeit in French, but did not receive a reply.

The investigation also found that Facebook posts from the French sites were not taken down immediately, although according to Facebook, *Daily Stormer* posts are blocked from being shared at all. *CNN* said that when they inquired about Facebook's policy, the company began blocking the French posts as well.

CNN also reached out to Twitter which currently allows posts from both *Daily Stormer* and the French sites to be shared. Twitter responded that it will start blocking certain content in the future.

As part of the investigation, *CNN* interviewed France's Interior Minister, Christophe Castaner, asking him if the US is doing enough to prevent hate speech.

"No. And my answer is clear," said

Castaner, "because there is a clear difference of culture."

"It is not about opposing French or European culture to American culture, but clearly on these subjects there is a belief in the freedom to say anything and everything. I believe that there is no freedom when it is us and our fundamental values that are being attacked."

After the latest incident in the Jewish cemetery in Westhoffen, Castaner announced that a national task force was being formed to fight and investigate crimes.

Jewish leaders observed that it is sorely needed. The number of anti-Semitic attacks in France, which hosts Europe's largest Jewish community of 550,000 members, rose by 75% in 2018.

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