

Run | Hide | Fight

The actions implied in these three words saves lives. It was proven 16 months ago, when the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh was the site of the worst anti-Semitic attack on American soil. As horrible as the attack on that Shabbat morning was, the security training given the leadership and members of the Pittsburgh Jewish community in the preceding eighteen months unquestionably saved lives.

On January 15, 2020, our Jewish Federation, in partnership with Secure Community Network, hosted a session "Before and After the Tree of Life: Lessons Learned" with Brad Orsini. Orsini, a former FBI agent, was the Director of Jewish Community Security for the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, and had implemented security training protocols, beginning in 2017, for Pittsburgh's extensive Jewish institutions (synagogues, JCCs, schools, etc.) servicing the area's 50,000+ Jews.

The training made a difference.



Patrick Daly, SCN; Jewish Federation Board Chair Roberta Nyman, SCN's Brad Orsini, and Jewish Federation CEO Bruce Landgarten with three members of the Riverside Sheriff's Department.

As devastating as were the eleven deaths, it could have been far worse. The training given to Pittsburgh's Jewish community may have been prompted by rising anti-Semitism but it included basic survival techniques and the rethinking of priorities. The community learned that a moving target is much harder to hit, and on that horrible morning it was those were able to run that survived.

Before the training, the Rabbi

at Tree of Life Synagogue made a practice of not carrying his cell phone on Shabbat. Appreciating that without his phone he couldn't contact law enforcement in case of an emergency, he began carrying his phone ... and his call to 911 on October 27, 2018, was the first call to reach police.

It is a matter of record that Jewish institutions, Federations, synagogues, JCCs, camps and day schools have been the target of hatred, extremism,

terrorism and violent attack. While the Coachella Valley is not a large enough Jewish community to afford a full-time security director, our Jewish Federation is dedicated to helping agencies prepare, mitigate, and respond to a crisis as part of our (CSI), Communal Security Initiative. We are committed to the continuation of efforts to help train and educate in safety and security awareness.

Secure Community Network has become a proven, critical partner for Jewish Federation of the Desert, working with our Federation and in training with our local law enforcement agencies. Security Community Network has also become our "community insurance policy." When conflict in the Middle East heats up or the terrorism level rises in the United States, we rely upon SCN to keep us informed and assist us with taking the necessary measures and precautions to secure our facilities and people.

US Congress Debate Response to Rising Anti-Semitism, Domestic Terrorism

By *Algemeiner Staff*

Two separate hearings at the US Congress in mid-January have examined potential measures that legislators can take in response to the recent rise in anti-Semitic rhetoric and attacks across America.

On January 15, freshman Rep. Max Rose (D-NY) chaired a session of the Homeland Security Subcommittee

on Intelligence & Counterterrorism titled "Confronting the Rise in Anti-Semitic Domestic Terrorism."

"The horrific rise in anti-Semitic domestic terrorism is an issue that has deeply affected my district, my community, and the whole New York City area," Rose said in a statement. "Jewish people have

been coming to America since before it was even called America in order to freely practice their religion, escape persecution, and build a better life for their families. Yet now we are under assault by extremists, many of whom are emboldened to act and often encouraged by content on social

media platforms. The time for thoughts and prayers has passed — the time now is for action."

Experts addressing the hearing included Nathan Diament — the executive director of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America — who argued that the

continued on page 2



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Pages 23-28

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Table of Contents

Vol. 46 • No. 7

Community Calendar	13-14
Federation	1-3
Annual Report	16-17
Honor Roll	23-28
Lecture Series	118
Legacy	32
Women's Philanthropy	6, 20-21
Jewish Family Service	12
PJ Library	8
Schools/School Listing	9
Simchas & Classifieds	30
Temples Listing	13
Tributes	11

continued from page 1

recent spate of violent attacks on visibly Orthodox Jewish targets had been "amplified and accelerated by the broader surge in antisemitism we are experiencing in the United States."

John Miller — Deputy Commissioner of Intelligence and Counterterrorism for the New York Police Department (NYPD) — told the hearing that tougher law enforcement measures were not a substitute for education against prejudice and anti-Semitism.

"Anti-Semitism in all its forms... is steeped in ignorance and bred of muddled and incoherent conspiracy theories, and while this has been the case for quite some time, it is more easily spread and consumed these days

because of social media," Miller remarked. "For these reasons, a lasting solution to bigotry and hatred will never be grounded solely on law enforcement and heightened security. That will only be achieved when every citizen works collectively to educate each other and to reinforce our shared values of tolerance and unity."

The same day, Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ) — who sits on the House Financial Services Committee's Subcommittee on National Security, International Development and Monetary Policy — addressed the growing threat of the financing of domestic terrorism, extremism, white supremacists and anti-Semitism during a subcommittee hearing.

Gottheimer highlighted his

proposed legislation, the FASTER Act — the Freezing Assets of Suspected Terrorists and Enemy Recruits Act — currently being considered as a discussion draft within the committee.

The legislation would assist law enforcement agencies in freezing the assets of "ISIS-inspired, lone-wolf terrorists or other extremists on our soil, to prevent these funds from being used to carry out another attack by friends, family, or unknown accomplices operating in a small cell," Gottheimer said.

Gottheimer added that his bill "also calls for a National Homegrown Terrorism Incident Clearinghouse, for law enforcement to collect and share information on incidents to help investigate and thwart future attacks."

Addressing Hate

From the CEO



Bruce Landgarten

Jewish Federation
Chief Executive
Officer

As we begin the year 2020, issues that seemed to be a thing of the past are not only still a part of our world but growing in intensity. Jews are being targeted and attacked in cities around the world. The resurgence of assaults in greater New York in recent months is appalling and frightening.

The anti-Israel BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions) movement, which promotes hate against Israel and its people, is rampant on college campuses. Its anti-Semitic message has united anti-Zionists and anti-Semites into an aggressive, threatening presence and many Jewish college students feel a sense of fear and uncertainty as a result.

We must respond. Their words color attitudes and influence beliefs. They escalate into racism, bigotry, anti-Semitism, discrimination and, ultimately, violence. In the Jewish community, we've been witnessing an escalating number of anti-Semitic incidents—swastikas and hate graffiti drawn on buildings, schools and signs, among other rhetoric and images directed against Jews. What do we do to combat such hate?

What is frightening is that many of the proponents of BDS are basing their opinion on distorted facts. With violent anti-Semitism on the rise, it is critical that we get the facts known for the safety of our global Jewish community. In today's world,

ignorance is not bliss.

Education is one of the best tools we can have in our toolbox. While I don't see an end to anti-Semitism anytime in the near future, we can utilize resources like the ones that JFNA (Jewish Federations of North America), JCPA (Jewish Council on Public Affairs), IAN (Israel Action Network), ADL (Anti-Defamation League) and StandWithUS offers to help combat it.

We cannot dismiss any inappropriate statement or anti-Semitic behavior as childish pranks, or as no big deal. We must call it out every time we see it, whether that hatred is against Jews or other minorities. We have to demand that our lawmakers and leaders condemn it; we urge them to follow the example of Montana's governor, attorney general, U.S. senators and representative, who issued an open letter stating, "We stand firmly together to send a clear message that ignorance, hatred and threats of violence are unacceptable and have no place in the town of Whitefish, or in any other community in Montana or across this nation. We say to those few who seek to publicize anti-Semitic views that they shall find no safe haven here."

We must fight hate and use our words carefully... Words matter. Symbols matter. This is a pivotal role of Jewish Federation. We work with our community, organizations and congregations, coming together and using all of our voices to fight hate. And most of all, we educate. We educate through coalitions with members of other religious and racial groups, through teaching about the Holocaust and other genocides, and through explaining how words unchecked can lead to violence.

We educate by teaching our children about our own history, as well

and the histories of other persecuted and marginalized groups. We educate by teaching diversity, tolerance and empathy. We watch our own words. We choose them even more carefully. And we use them to lead, to defend, to challenge and to educate.

The common thread, sadly, in these atrocities is hate. Hate for certain religions, certain ethnicities, certain beliefs, certain world views. In the aftermath of Pittsburgh, one particular statement emerged – STRONGER THAN HATE. While it can be hard to wrap one's head around this statement in the harsh throes of grief, the response to the Pittsburgh shooting – and the other shootings – illustrates the power we possess as a collective community. Indeed, we ARE stronger than hate.

We pay homage to victims who tragically have lost their lives for no other reason than simply being who they were – Jewish. Evil always fills a void; it thrives on listlessness and chaos. The strongest answer is to be truer to ourselves, to delve deeper into our heritage and values, and to create a center of community where these can develop and thrive. When we adhere to our sacred principles, we succeed in defeating the forces set against us, even those that physically threaten us. We learn to stand up for each other, even when we disagree — from our sages, we learn how to disagree.

Actions speak louder than words.

We back up these sentiments by striving even harder to imbue our communities with our values of tzedakah and tikkun olam — of restoring balance to society by actively helping the needy, caring with compassion, and advancing the cause of repairing the world. This is the daily work of Federation. By continuing to build community through these principles, we play an essential role in creating a future we seek for ourselves and future generations.

This must be our response today. Not to tear each other down, but to stand stronger in the face of baseless hatred. We build community because there is no better guarantor of the future than a populace that sees itself as sharing a common destiny. We devote ourselves to helping those in need because, as a sacred responsibility, this defines who we are in a way that words cannot.

Organizations and leaders have different roles to play in this paradigm, and we must work together toward a unified rejection of hatred and prejudice. We need to be supportive of each other's efforts because each response is important. Shore each other up and lead with distinction. Now is the time to coalesce — despite our disagreements — for the sake of our future.

In the enduring words of our sage Hillel: "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? If not now, when?"

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 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.

2020 JEWISH FEDERATION DAY of the Coachella Valley

hosted by  TAMARISK

Tuesday, March 17th

For over 20 years, Tamarisk has held a charity golf tournament to benefit the Jewish Federation of the Desert. To date, we have raised over Three Million dollars for local Jewish agencies. We are proud to be changing the lives of many in the Desert Jewish Community.

This year we are excited to invite male and female golfers from all over the Coachella Valley to donate and participate in this event.

WOMEN' SHOTGUN:	8:30 am
WOMEN'S CARDS:	All Day
FEDERATION LUNCHEON:	12:00 pm

*Women will have lunch & awards following the morning shotgun
Men will have lunch prior to the afternoon shotgun*

MEN'S SHOTGUN:	1:30 pm
COCKTAIL PARTY:	5:00 pm

for the afternoon shotgun players

Golf Format: 4 Player Step-Aside Scramble

Minimum Contribution to participate:

\$300 for Women / \$550 for Men
(Includes Lunch)

For more information or to receive an official entry card, contact
Tamarisk Head Golf Professional - Kyle Kelly at (760) 324.6990 or
by email at kyle@tamariskcc.com

JEWISH COMMUNITY NEWS

A Publication of the
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EDITORIAL

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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.

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British Prime Minister Johnson Vows to 'Stamp Out the Resurgence of Anti-Semitism'

By Benjamin Kerstein, *The Algemeiner*

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson emphatically pledged on January 15 to "stamp out the resurgence of anti-Semitism."

Johnson — during Prime Minister's Questions at the House of Commons — was asked by Conservative Member of Parliament Andrew Percy whether, in light of the approaching International Holocaust Remembrance Day, he would "commit to more action to stamp out anti-Semitism and all intolerance in this country."

The prime minister replied, "We are in the government and in the House — I think across the House — wanting to do absolutely everything we can

to stamp out the resurgence of anti-Semitism."

"As someone who's now 55-years-old," he said, "I find it absolutely incredible that in the 21st century we have anti-Semitism rising again in this country."

"It is a disgrace and we must stamp it out," the prime minister emphasized.

On Tuesday, another statement rejecting anti-Semitism was made in the House of Lords.

The newly-installed Lord John



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson

Mann, a former Labour MP who was outspoken against anti-Semitism in the party under the rule of Jeremy Corbyn, said December's elections — in which Labour was resoundingly defeated — showed the "true face of this country."

Mann hailed the defeat of two virulently anti-Israel MPs, Christopher Williamson and George Galloway, both widely seen as anti-Semitic.

"The true story of the election is this: in Derby North, Christopher Williamson got 635 votes and lost his deposit," Mann said. "In West Bromwich East, George Galloway got 489 votes and lost his deposit."

"This is the innate decency of the

British people yet again," he stated.

"Across the entirety of the country, people are saying, very vocally and unequivocally, we reject the extremism of anti-Semitism," said Mann.

Mann also joked about being introduced by former Chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks and Lord Tony Clarke, saying, "The rabbi and the postman — how my parents would have smiled."

He vowed to continue his fight against anti-Semitism in Labour, saying, "I have a role now on anti-Semitism. I am rightly independent and, as ever, I shall work cross-party, but I will be no bystander in driving out the stench of intolerance from the party."

9TH ANNUAL

SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE WEEKEND

Friday & Saturday

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Ohr Shalom Synagogue, San Diego

Past President, San Diego Rabbinical Association

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FRIDAY SERVICES – 7:45 PM

"Jews and Christians in America:

How We Think About Each Other and Israel"

FOLLOWED BY ONEG SHABBAT DESSERT RECEPTION

SATURDAY SERVICES – 9:15 AM

"People We Meet on the Street: Chance Encounters with Remarkable Strangers in the Torah, Talmud, and Zohar"

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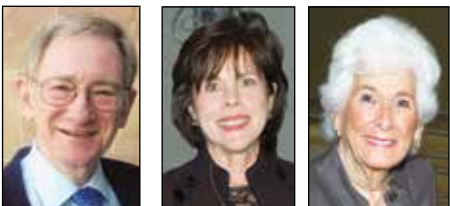
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Pearl Luncheon Features Dr. Ralph Nurnberger



Dr. Ralph Nurnberger **Jackie Cohen** **Joanne Hirschfield**

Women's Philanthropy's Pearl Luncheon is Monday, March 9, 2020 at 11:00 am at Desert Willow Golf Resort in Palm Desert. Chaired by Jackie Cohen with co-chair Joanne Hirschfield, this event is open to women making a commitment of \$365 to the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign. Couvert is \$50.

The event brings Dr. Ralph Nurnberger 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 exceptional presentations. His background includes having advised numerous Congressional, Senatorial and Presidential campaigns on foreign policy issues, especially those relating to the Middle East. He taught at Georgetown University for almost 40 years and is currently teaching at Florida Atlantic University. He also served on Capitol Hill for 8 years as a Legislative Liaison for AIPAC.



In response to queries about husbands and significant others being able to hear Dr. Nurnberger, the decision was made to welcome their attendance for the price of the couvert.

Invitations will be in the mail shortly. For more information and/or to RSVP, contact Leslie Pepper, Women's Philanthropy Coordinator, at 760-324-4737 or leslie.pepper@jfedps.org.

Lion of Judah a Special Celebration

Over 100 women who proudly wore their beautiful Lion of Judah pins joined in-town and out of town Lions at our Lion of Judah Brunch on Monday, January 13th at Tamarisk Country Club. Chaired by Carol Fragen with co-chair Fran Kaufman,

the morning included a Legacy presentation by Cora Ginsburg, Legacy co-chair, to the women who have endowed their Lion of Judah commitment.

The women were treated to a timely keynote speaker, Carly Gammil,

the Director of the Stand With Us Center for Combating Anti-Semitism. With anti-Semitism is on the rise in this country and around the world, the women were fascinated to hear about her work on campuses and in the courts. The women were treated to informal modeling from Insanity during Brunch.

Joining Carol Fragen and Fran Kaufman in the plans for this day were committee members Margie Kulp, Carol Luber and Marnie Miller. We thank them for all they did to make this a wonderful day for our community's Lions.

See pictures from Lion of Judah on pages 20 and 21.

The New Face of Women's Philanthropy

Welcome to 2020 and the new face of Women's Philanthropy. We are revitalizing Women's Philanthropy with a shift in focus from the event-planning model to committing to meaningful, more hands-on "doing tzedakah." We are taking our name and focusing on the "philanthropy," acting on our core values of caring for the vulnerable. And it will be in this model that we will be educating our current and future leadership.

We are hoping to attract increasing numbers of women in our community to become engaged in more hands-on

activities throughout the year. We will meet on a monthly basis (we're aiming for the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 am), although the activity options in which to get involved are not tied to this time frame.

Our February meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 19 at 10:00 am. Below is a list of areas that you may be interested in rolling up your sleeves to get involved with. Even if you can't make it to the meeting, please let me know what area(s) you are interested in helping with and I will get you involved in your area of interest. With your

involvement we can move Women's Philanthropy forward and make an

even greater impact on Jewish life in our Desert.

WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES:

- Find Food Bank/Dignity Project (collecting and distributing feminine hygiene needs)
- Desert Hot Spring Outreach with Rabbi Kreiman and Bikkur Cholim, 3-4 times a year
- Shalom (Welcome Wagon basket) to the Coachella Valley
- CAST Initiative (Combating Anti-Semitism)
- Israel Advocacy
- Adopting a school to help provide them with school and clothing needs
- Blanket and scarf making and collecting to donate to shelters (collaborating with local churches, Well in the Desert, Martha's Village, etc.)
- Mishabeirach Committee to make phone calls to those who have had illnesses or loss, have no family and little contact with the outside world and need a little checking in on.

Please contact Leslie Pepper at 760-324-4737 or leslie.pepper@jfedps.org with your areas of interest and how you can get involved.

Bill to Monitor Violence in Palestinian Textbooks Moves Forward in US Congress

By Shiri Moshe, The Algemeiner

The House Foreign Affairs Committee has approved a bill that would commit the US State Department to annually review educational materials used by the Palestinians which encourage violence or intolerance, putting it on track for a vote by the House of Representatives.

The bipartisan "Peace and Tolerance in Palestinian Education Act" was introduced with support from Reps. Brad Sherman (D-CA) and Lee Zeldin (R-NY), as well as Reps. David Trone (D-MD), Brian Mast (R-FL), Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ) and Randy Weber (R-TX).

It was first referred to the committee in April, and moved forward with revisions offered by Rep. Sherman, which included more specific examples of problematic content in the textbooks — such as "a specific math problem using the number of Palestinian casualties in the First and Second Intifadas," and "references to Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine."

Rep. Sherman's amendment also tweaked language in the draft bill that directed the blame for objectionable content at both the Palestinian Authority and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), focusing instead on the former while noting that "UNRWA schools use the textbooks of the host government."

UNRWA is the main UN agency responsible for Palestinian refugees of the 1948 Arab-Israeli war and their five million descendants and operates more than 700 schools in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria.

The bill would require the Secretary of State to issue several reports to Congress confirming whether the Palestinian curriculum included "content or passages encouraging violence or intolerance toward other countries or ethnic groups," and assessing what steps the Palestinian Authority had taken to reform the curriculum in line with United Nations standards.

The reports would also confirm whether US funding was being used to "directly or indirectly" fund the dissemination of the curriculum, how US assistance was being used to address problematic content, and what US diplomatic efforts were undertaken in the preceding five years to foster themes of peace and tolerance in Palestinian education.

"The US Congress has joined the United Nations, the European Union and leading European nations that fund the Palestinian Ministry of Education in stating that teaching antisemitism, hate and purposefully removing peacemaking from the textbooks will

no longer be tolerated," said IMPACT-se CEO Marcus Sheff.

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."



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Australia Rejects ICC Palestine Probe; Germany Warns Against Politicization

By Raphael Ahren, The Jerusalem Post

Australia rejected the effort by the International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor to launch an investigation into the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, arguing that the matter must be resolved by the two parties at the negotiating table.

Germany, in a more nuanced stance, said it had full trust in the court, was confident the ICC's judges would "address issues of admissibility," and cautioned against politicization.

"Australia is concerned by the ICC prosecutor's proposal to consider the situation in the Palestinian Territories, subject to a ruling by the court's pre-

trial chamber on the scope of the court's territorial jurisdiction in the matter," a spokesperson for Canberra's Foreign Ministry told Australian-Jewish news site, J-Wire.

"Australia's position is clear — we do not recognize a so-called 'State of Palestine' and we do not recognize that there is such a State Party to the ICC's Rome Statute," the spokesperson went on.

Israel's Foreign Minister Israel Katz praised Australia for the statement and called on other governments to follow suit. "Many thanks to the Australian government for taking the unequivocal

and principled stance against the ICC prosecutor's decision," he wrote on his Twitter account. "I urge other countries to take a similar stance and not allow the court to turn into a political weapon against Israel."

Germany weighed in on the ICC prosecutor's statement as well, reiterating Berlin's support for the court, while at the same time warning against a politicization of it.

"We trust the independence of the International Criminal Court and are now confident that the court will resolve the issues raised. This will also address issues of admissibility that may be doubtful," the spokeswoman of Germany's foreign ministry, Maria Adebahr, said, during a press conference in response to a reporter's question.

"We as the federal government cannot comment on specific details of ongoing proceedings. But, as I said, we trust that all arguments will belong fairly in the further proceedings. We are, of course, also committed to making the court strict on the basis of the Rome Statute," she said.

"Basically, it applies to us that we naturally resist the fact that cases of any kind are used to politicize before the court. We are betting that admissibility will be checked and that the court will do it on the basis of the Rome Statute."

Germany is generally known as a staunch supporter of the court,



Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison



ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda

which is why officials in Jerusalem were positively surprised about Adebahr's statement about a possible politicization.

The ICC prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda announced in late December that at the end of her five-year preliminary examination, she has reached the conclusion that "there is a reasonable basis to initiate an investigation into the situation in Palestine." There are indications that both the Israeli army and Hamas and other Palestinian terror groups may have committed war crimes, she stated.

Israel vociferously rejects her statement, arguing that the court clearly does not have jurisdiction over the case, as there is no Palestinian state that has the mandate to transfer criminal jurisdiction over its territory to The Hague.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu went as far as calling Bensouda's statement "pure anti-Semitism," and vowed to fight for Israel's good name. He also sent letters to several leaders of countries considered friendly to Israel, including Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, asking them to speak out against the ICC probe into Israel/Palestine.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo issued a statement saying the administration remains "firmly" opposed to the ICC's supposed investigation into the matter, slamming it as an unfair attack on Israel. "As we made clear when the Palestinians purported to join the Rome Statute, we do not believe the Palestinians qualify as a sovereign state, and they therefore are not qualified to obtain full membership, or participate as a state in international organizations, entities, or conferences, including the ICC," Pompeo said.



Come celebrate Tu Bishvat,
the Birthday of the Trees!

Thursday,

February 19, 2020,

5:00-7:00 pm

Children's Discovery Museum

71701 Gerald Ford Drive, Rancho Mirage,

Free Admission for PJ Library enrolled Children

RSVP to Leslie Pepper 760.324.4737

leslie.pepper@jfedps.org

Parents and grandparents will have a \$5 entrance fee.

We will provide a lite snack (pizza, vegetables and dip, chips and bottled water)

Join us for PJ Storytime and projects centered on trees and ecology

Then the Museum is yours to explore.

(Museum stays open until 8:00pm)



Israel's Leviathan Field Begins Pumping/Exporting Gas

Arutz Sheva

Israel's offshore Leviathan field started pumping gas on December 31st in what the operating consortium called "a historic turning point in the history of the Israeli economy."

A joint statement from partners Noble Energy, Delek Drilling, and Ratio said that the start of production was expected to lead to an immediate reduction in domestic electricity prices and the start of exports. "For the first time in its history, Israel to become a significant natural gas exporter," it said.

On December 17, Israeli Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz announced approval of sales to Egypt from Leviathan and the smaller Tamar field. A spokesman for Israeli partner Delek said then that deliveries to Egypt were expected to begin on January 1.

Leviathan was discovered 130 kilometers (81 miles) west of the Mediterranean port city Haifa in 2010. It is estimated to hold 535 billion cubic meters (18.9 trillion cubic feet) of natural gas, along with 34.1 million



PM Netanyahu and Energy Minister Yugal Steinitz at Leviathan platform

barrels of condensate. Delek and US-based Noble struck a \$15 billion 10-year deal with Egypt's Dolphinus last year to supply 64 billion cubic meters (2.26 trillion cubic feet).

It will be the first time Egypt, which in 1979 became the first Arab country to sign a peace accord with Israel, imports gas from its neighbor. Israel had previously bought gas from Egypt, but land sections of the pipeline were targeted multiple times by Sinai jihadists in 2011 and 2012.

The Tamar and Leviathan gas will reach Egypt through the mainly undersea East Mediterranean Gas Company pipeline connecting the coastal city of Ashkelon with the northern Sinai peninsula.

Tamar, which began production in 2013, has estimated reserves of up to 238 billion cubic meters (8.4 trillion cubic feet).

Israel's neighbor to the east, Jordan, has been purchasing gas from Tamar on a small scale for nearly three years.

Besides bringing energy independence, Israel hopes its gas reserves will enable it to strengthen strategic ties in the region and help forge new ones, with an eye on the European market.

In late December the government of Greece said that it was about to sign an agreement for a huge pipeline project with Cyprus and Israel designed to pipe

gas from the eastern Mediterranean to Europe. Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis's office said the agreement for the EastMed pipeline would be inked in Athens on January 2 with Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades.

The 2,000-kilometer (1,200-mile) pipeline will be able to transfer between nine and 12 billion cubic meters a year from offshore gas reserves between Israel and Cyprus to Greece, and then on to Italy and southeastern Europe.

There are growing tensions with Turkey over its own activities in the area, particularly a contentious maritime deal with Libya expanding Ankara's claims over a large gas-rich area of the Mediterranean.

Community Schools

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A Project of Jewish Sunshine Circle
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73-550 Santa Rosa Way,
Palm Desert, CA 92260
alephacademy.org
760-413-4425

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Director: Dina Pinson
73-550 Santa Rosa Way, Palm Desert
Children 18 months through
Elementary School
Alephschoolhouse.org
347-721-8782

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Could a Vaccine Reduce the Rate of Alzheimer's? These Israelis Think So

Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) is the vaccine used to treat tuberculosis worldwide

By Maayan Jaffe-Hoffman, The Jerusalem Post

A team of researchers from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem have successfully associated the Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine with reducing the risk of Alzheimer's.

The disease affects one in 10 adults over the age of 65 – a number that is expected to triple by 2030, according to HU.

BCG is the vaccine used to treat tuberculosis worldwide. Though in the past it was administered routinely in the United States, it is today mainly used in developing countries or with high-risk populations in Western countries.

However, the vaccine has another use, according to Hervé Bercovier of HU's Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics. Bercovier, who led the BCG study with colleagues Charles

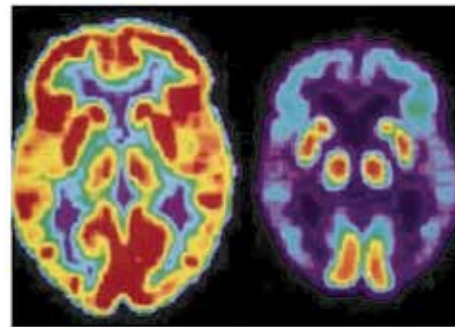
Greenblatt and Benjamin Klein, said that BCG is also used to treat and cure certain types of bladder cancer.

"People with bladder cancer tend to be 70 years or older," he explained to The Jerusalem Post, "so they are close to the population that has an increased risk for developing Alzheimer's."

Furthermore, Bercovier explained, BCG has been shown to lower general chronic inflammation. Patients with Alzheimer's suffer from chronic inflammation in the brain as a result of proteins that improperly unfold inside



Hebrew University
Professor Hervé
Bercovier



PET scans of (left) normal older adult's brain and (right) brain of older adult with Alzheimer's Disease.

and outside of the brain.

As such, the HU team followed 1,371 bladder cancer patients receiving treatment at HU's Hadassah-University Medical Center. During follow-up visits, 65 cancer patients had developed Alzheimer's, a

release explained. Those who had not received BCG as part of their treatment had a significantly higher risk of developing Alzheimer's than did BCG-treated patients: 8.9% (44 patients) as opposed to 2.4% (21).

Moreover, when compared with the general – non-bladder cancer – population, people who had never been treated with BCG had a four-fold higher risk for developing Alzheimer's than did those who were treated with BCG.

"There's data reaching back to the 1960's that shows that countries treating bladder cancer patients with the BCG vaccine had a lower prevalence of Alzheimer's disease, but it hadn't been properly analyzed," said Bercovier.

New Laser Beam System Developed to Take Down Drones, Burning Balloons

Dubbed "Light Blade" the laser beam system can take down targets over two kilometers away

By Anna Ahronheim, The Algemeineer

Israeli security forces have unveiled a new laser-beam system designed to take down incendiary aerial devices which have burned countless acres of land over the past two years as well as drones infiltrating into Israeli airspace.

The system, dubbed Light Blade, was developed by engineers in the private sector along with researchers from Ben Gurion University and technological departments belonging to the Israel Police and IDF.

According to a report on Channel 12, Light Blade has been designed to deal with threats as far away as two kilometers, both along the northern borders as well as the Gaza Strip. The portable system which can be installed on a moving vehicle can be operated both during the day and at night.

The system "provides a near conclusive response to everything relating to balloons and kites and delivers a safe and effective solution to the drone threat," Border Police chief

Kobi Shabtai told Channel 12.

Only one functioning system has been built and according to the report, costs around a million dollars.

The expensive device is aimed at the simpler devices, like kites, balloons and condoms carrying Molotov cocktails or

improvised explosive devices, which in the past have posed a major problem for Israel.

Since the beginning of the March of Return protests along the Gaza border fence began in March 2018, the devices have caused over 2,000

separate fires resulting in over 35,000 dunams (approximately 8,500 acres) being burnt. According to the IDF, this has included over 13,000 dunams (approximately 3,200 acres) of nature reserves, and over 11,000 dunams (approximately 2,700 acres) of forestry.



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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:

- **Sally Berger**, Belated birthday wishes and Happy New Year to you and Miles from Barbara Platt and Norm Lewis.
- **Sally Berger**, Congratulations on being honored by Eisenhower Hospital, by Helen Varon.
- **Alan and Susan Byron**, Thank you from Terry and Norm Dean.
- **Jackie and Eddie Cohen**, in your honor, from Diane Abelman Wattenberg.
- **Susan and Barry Feinberg**, Thank you from Barbara and Robert Paget. Patti and Larry.
- **Cora Ginsberg**, Thank you from Marilyn Flekman, Judy and Mel Hecktman, and Rella Rifkin.
- **Mr. and Mrs. Alan Greene**, Happy Anniversary from Loreen Jacobson.
- **Jerry Halperin**, in honor of your 90th birthday, from Murray Pitt.
- **Libby and Buddy Hoffman**, Wishing you a Happy Anniversary, from Nancy and Dennis Ditlove.
- **Bobbi Holland**, Thank you from Libby and Buddy Hoffman, Sherry and Howard Schor.
- **Lois Johnson**, Thank you from Marilyn Flekman, Judy and Mel Hecktman, and Rella Rifkin.
- **Vicki and Mural Josephson**, Thank you from Barbara and Robert Paget. Patti and Larry.
- **Sharon Kaufman**, Best birthday wishes from Dolly and Julian Levy, and Eunice Meister.
- **Paula Klein**, This birthday is a "really" happy birthday for you. Your Friends.
- **Paula Kline and Howard Shapiro**, Congratulations on your new home, from Barbara Platt and Norm Lewis.

- **Margie and Stephen Kulp**, Thank you from Cora Ginsberg, Ruth and Mal Kaufman, Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Marnie Miller**, Mazel tov on your new granddaughter Julia, from Dolly and Julian Levy.
- **Marnie Miller and Joe Noren**, Mazel tov on your new granddaughter Julia, from Chickie and Claude Steinberger.
- **Gail Richards**, Thank you from Marilyn Flekman, Judy and Mel Hecktman, and Rella Rifkin.
- **Stephanie Ross**, Congratulations and Mazel tov on your Bat Mitzvah, from Michelle Coneybeare, The Jewish Federation Staff, Fran Kaufman, Dolly Levy, Leslie Pepper and Jordana, Elana and Asher.
- **Bobbie Stern**, Thank you from Sherry and Howard Schor.
- **Eileen Wingard**, In honor of your 90th birthday, from Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.

Refuah Shleimah Get Well Wishes To:

- **Ellen Glass**, Best wishes for a speedy recovery, from Gail and Bob Scadron, and Helen Varon.
- **Ben Rinkey**, Best wishes for a speedy recovery, from Margot and Jerry Halperin, Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Shelly Rosenberg**, Best wishes for a speedy recovery, from Barbara Platt.
- **Joan Stemple**, Best wishes for a speedy recovery, from Margot and Jerry Halperin.

Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:

- **In memory of all the victims of hatred**, from Evan Burket.
- **Marilyn Eager and Family**, In memory of your beloved husband Allen, from Libby and Buddy Hoffman. Ruth and Mal Kaufman.

- **Joel Fishman**, In memory of your beloved wife Sherry, from Jeff and Suzanne Feder, Cora Ginsberg, Margie and Stephen Kulp, Sherry and Howard Schor.
- **The Jesser Family**, in memory of Marty Jesser, from Mr. and Mrs. Max Ralph.
- **Mark Kozlen and Family**, In memory of your beloved father Vern, from Cora Ginsberg, Margie and Stephen Kulp, Sherry and Howard Schor.
- **The Lane Family**, In memory of Charles Lane, from David and Evelyn Simon.
- **Learner Family**, In memory of your beloved mother and grandmother from Marnie Miller.
- **Mrs. Alan Levinson**, In memory of your beloved husband Alan, from Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.
- **Mr. and Mrs. Terry Max and family**, In memory of your beloved mother Sandy, from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Mrs. Jack Melamed**, In memory of your beloved husband Jack, from Marnie Miller.
- **Celia Norian**, In memory of your beloved husband Sandy, from Shelley and Barry Mantell, Jerry and Hannah Solomon, Susan Stefanoski, Chuck and Susan Weisbart.
- **Howard Schor**, In memory of your beloved sister from Barbara and Bernie Fromm (contribution to Fromm Youth Fund), and Cora Ginsberg.
- **Myra Taxman and Family**, In memory of your beloved husband Royal, from Mark Krasne and Stephen G. Rieman.
- **The Zirn Family** in memory of your beloved mother Marilyn, from Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.

Beth Shalom Celebrates its 25th Anniversary at Scholar-in-Residence Weekend February 28-29, 2020

Congregation Beth Shalom will celebrate its 25th Anniversary at its 9th annual Scholar-in-Residence Weekend, February 28-29, 2020, made possible by a grant from Jewish Federation of the Desert. Following two years observing the High Holy Days at Palm Desert Community Presbyterian Church, with borrowed prayer books and

bibles, an enthusiastic, hard-driving group founded Congregation Beth Shalom in 1995, to create a Center for Jewish Life in the East Coachella Valley. After brief periods in four different locations in Indian Wells and Palm Desert, the synagogue located to its current home at 79733 Country Club Drive in Bermuda Dunes. Today, the Coachella Valley's Conservative Synagogue draws its membership from as far west as Palm Springs and as far east as Blythe, with snowbird members and visitors from across North America, who are drawn to its Shabbat and holiday services and Jewish educational and cultural programs throughout the year.

insight into "Jews and Christians in America: How We Think About Each Other and Israel." An Oneg Shabbat dessert reception follows. During Saturday morning services, the rabbi will explore "People We Meet on the Street: Chance Encounters with Remarkable Strangers in the Torah, Talmud, and Zohar." Services begin at 9:15 am. The rabbi's presentation will take place sometime after 10:30 am. A festive Kiddush lunch follows. Friday and Saturday services are open to the entire community.

A gala celebration of Beth Shalom's 25th Anniversary will culminate the weekend on Saturday at 7:00 pm, featuring the Klezmer sounds of gifted clarinetist Gary Gould and his fellow musicians. An array of scrumptious hors d'oeuvres and tantalizing desserts is being specially prepared for the occasion. Gala tickets are \$60 per person. Donor packages of \$180 (includes 2 gala tickets) and \$360 (includes 4 gala tickets) are available. Donors receive preferred seating, commemorative gifts, and acknowledgment in the weekend booklet. Paid reservations for the Saturday evening gala must be made by Thursday, February 20, by calling (760) 200-3636. The entire community is invited to participate and celebrate this milestone event for Congregation Beth Shalom and the Jewish community in the desert.

The entire community is invited to participate in the Scholar-in-Residence Weekend featuring Rabbi Scott Meltzer, who serves as rabbi of the historic Ohr Shalom Synagogue in San Diego.

Rabbi Meltzer, who is a past President of the San Diego Rabbinical Association, received his Rabbinic Ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Master's Degree in Religion and Social Ethics from the University of Southern California, and a B.A. with honors in chemistry from Harvard University.

Theme of the weekend is "The People in Our Neighborhood."

Friday night services begin at 7:45 pm, where Rabbi Meltzer will provide

Learn More About Daryl Davis at the "Event Before the Event" by Viewing the PBS Documentary "Accidental Courtesy"

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February 24, 2020 • 11:00 am

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SHOW TIME 6:00 PM
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Wednesday, February 12 • 3:30-5 PM

Prof. David Moyer, DMA, Director of Jazz Studies, El Camino College
No fee. Location advised with RSVP 760-779-1691 • harelurjpd@gmail.com

HAR-EL
A member of the Reform Union for Reform Judaism



Shabbat Schedule - February 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.
Scholar-in-Residence Weekend
February 28/29.
Friday, February 28, 7:45 pm: Shabbat
services with Rabbi Scott Meltzer.
Oneg dessert reception follows.
Community welcome. Saturday,
February 29, 9:15 am: Services with
Rabbi Scott Meltzer. Festive Kiddush
lunch follows. Community welcome.
See ad page 5 for sermon information.

CENTRO CULTURAL HEBREO DE MEXICALI (Conservative)

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

CHABAD OF PALM SPRINGS & DESERT COMMUNITIES

Rabbi Yonason Denebeim &
Rabbi Arik Denebeim
425 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

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 February: February
7, 14, 21 - at 5:00 pm, followed by
oneg at 5:30 pm. February 7, 2020:
Music Shabbat, followed by Tu
B'Shvat Seder (see ad page 18).

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:
6:30 pm Pre-service Happy Hour.
7:30 pm Shabbat Services, followed
by oneg. 4th Friday: Shabbat services
around the dinner table at 6:30 pm,
followed by dairy potluck dinner. (This
month February 28). 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)

73-251 Hovley Lane West, Palm
Desert, CA 92260.
www.templeisinaipd.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 - February 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 Moische 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.

Monday, February 3

11:00 am Tolerance Education Center Lecture: Anthropologist Rosa Weinstein: Lecture on **"Black History Month."**

Wednesday, February 5

11:00 am Tolerance Education Center Lecture: Law Professor Eric Gertner. Lecture: **"Holocaust Rescuers."**

Wednesday, February 5

Noon-2 pm Jewish National Fund **Annual Planned Giving Luncheon.** Omni Las Palmas. Speakers: Ambassador Danny Ayalon, JNF's Matt

Bernstein and Cynthia Hizami. No cost but reservations required. Deadline 1-31-20. Call Susan at 760-864-6208 ext.932.

Wednesday, February 5

4:00 pm Ben Gurion University, UC Riverside and the Jewish Federation Lecture: **"The Future of Homeland Security Relies on Robots"** at Palm Valley School. See ad page 18.

Thursday, February 6

9:30 am Sabra Hadassah. Program: **Robin Shorr**, Writer, Comedian, Actress. Continental breakfast. \$18. Mendocito Clubhouse, Capistrano Room, Sun City Shadow Hills. Information: call 760-289-7987.

Monday, February 10

1:00 pm Tolerance Education Center Lecture: Bernard Epps, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, CSSB.

Monday, February 10

Jewish Federation of the Desert **MAJOR GIFTS DINNER.** See page 2.

Wednesday, February 12

3:30-5:00 pm Har-El Galen Course; **Jews in Jazz** with Prof. David Moyer, Director of Jazz Studies, El Camino College. No fee. RSVP required. Location advised when reserving. See ad page 12.

Sunday, February 16

1:00-4:00 pm Temple Isaiah Modernism Week Fashion Show "Through the Looking Glass." See ad page 15.

Tuesday, February 18

2:00 pm Tolerance Education Center **"Forever Goldie"** Celebrating Our Own Goldie Jacoby.

Thursday, February 19

5:00-7:00 pm PJ Library: Celebrate Tu B'shvat at the Children's Discovery Museum. See ad page 8.

Thursday, February 20

4:00 pm Beth Shalom **Book Club Discussion** "The Lost Girls of Paris" by Pam Jenoff. Discussion led by **Sheila Eglash** at a private residence. Address provided with reservation. RSVP to 760-200-3636.

Thursday, February 27

6:00 pm Desert Outreach Synagogue **Silent & Live Auction.** See classified ad page 30 for details.

Saturday, February 29

7:00 pm Beth Shalom **25th Anniversary Gala Celebration** featuring the **Klezmer Sounds of Gary Gould.** Hors d'oeuvres, desserts, champagne toast. \$60 per person. Deadline February 20. Information: 760-200-3636. See ad page 5.

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

It couldn't be easier to register: 1. Go to smile.amazon.com 2. Register Jewish Federation of the Desert as your favorite charity 3. Shop! 4. Bookmark the smile.amazon.com page and don't forget to only shop through this link! We earn .5% of each purchase.

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Jewish Federation
OF THE DESERT

We appreciate your support!

US Education Department investigating UCLA Over Anti-Semitism Complaint

UCLA senior Shayna Lavi said during anthropology class, guest speaker San Francisco State University Professor Rabab Abdulhadi described the State of Israel as a racist endeavor, denied its right to exist and labeled Zionists as white supremacists.

Jewish News Syndicate

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) notified StandWithUs (SWU) on January 3 that it has accepted its complaint alleging that UCLA violated Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and has opened the matter for full investigation on the merits.

SWU alleged that the UCLA administration repeatedly failed to prevent a hostile campus environment for its Jewish campus community in direct violation of the school's Title VI obligations.

The SWU Saldoff Legal Department and the SWU Center for Combating Antisemitism, together with UCLA senior Shayna Lavi, filed a complaint with OCR alleging that UCLA violated Title VI based on a May 2019 lecture in Lavi's anthropology class. The guest speaker, San Francisco State University Professor Rabab Abdulhadi, described the State of Israel as a racist endeavor, denied its right to exist and labeled Zionists as white supremacists.

After Lavi challenged Abdulhadi during class, she was verbally harassed by her and, in subsequent class sessions, by another professor, Kyeyoung Park, who invited the guest lecturer. Lavi informed UCLA administration, which allegedly failed to respond adequately or effectively, according to SWU.

"Students should never be subjected to discrimination, harassment or retaliation by their professors after standing up for themselves, their identity and their community," said SWU co-founder and CEO Roz Rothstein. "For Shayna, as for many Jews, Zionism is an integral part of her Jewish identity, and university administrators should be in the business of protecting



UCLA Royce Hall

students against conduct that marginalizes and demonizes them, not giving such hate a free pass."

The statements made during the guest lecture may qualify under the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism. As part of the Dec. 11, 2019, Executive Order on Combating

Anti-Semitism, OCR must consider the IHRA definition and accompanying examples of anti-Semitism when determining whether a Title VI violation has occurred.

"We are encouraged by this latest development, as it brings Jewish students and faculty at UCLA

one step closer to regaining the confidence that they will be able to participate in all aspects of campus life without fear of being targeted for negative treatment because of how they express their Jewish identities," said Carly Gammill, director of SWU's Center for Combating Antisemitism.

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Dear Friends,

On behalf of Jewish Federation and our lay leaders and professional staff, we thank you for your generous support.

In recent years, Federation has made great strides in advancing our mission of building and supporting a vibrant Jewish community. Growing Jewish philanthropy, engaging more Jewish individuals and fostering a powerful sense of Jewish identity are essential for the health and vitality of our community, now and in the future.

We collaborate with our organizational partners and dedicated leaders and donors to create the most strategic, meaningful, and inspiring work possible. This report offers information into the local and global impact on Jewish life that we have made together — and continue to make.

Working with an impressive roster of partner agencies, Federation is here to help. Federation works to take care of needs throughout the Desert as the central fundraiser, planner and convener of the community. While there is much more to be done, we are deeply proud of what we accomplished.

For over 60 years, we've worked with our supporters and partners to identify and address the most pressing issues in our community. We care for Jews in need now and strengthen the next generations to ensure our Jewish future. Always with strategy. With innovation. With an eye on the horizon.

Together, we are changing and saving the lives of those who need our help most — locally and globally. We never forget that we are responsible for the welfare of those in need, including individuals with special needs, families in crisis, our frail seniors, the underemployed and other vulnerable members of the community. Even in the best of times, there are those who struggle to lead healthy, secure lives.

This important work is only possible through the commitment and generosity of our donors and volunteers, whose passion and commitment fuel our efforts. We are grateful for your long-standing support and partnership in our efforts to utilize the power of community to yield the greatest results.

Today's world is complicated, but with the support of passionate and committed individuals uniting as one, we have the capacity to mobilize and accomplish great things. That is the power of community.

Roberta Nyman *Bruce A. Landgarten*

Roberta Nyman
Chairman of the Board

Bruce Landgarten
Chief Executive Officer

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Angel View	
- Retrofit Lift Chairs for two Jewish Care Homes	\$15,000
Bikur Cholim - Community Mission & Programs	\$120,000
Friends of AKIM USA, Inc.	
- Helping People & Families with Intellectual Disabilities	\$10,000
Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind - Guide Dog Training	\$2,000
Jewish Family Service of the Desert - Let's Do Lunch	\$5,000
Jewish Family Service of the Desert	
- Mental Health Outpatient Treatment	\$40,000
Jewish Family Service of the Desert	
- Ner Tamid (Eternal Light)	\$35,000
Jewish Family Service of the Desert	
Senior Care Management	\$70,000
Jewish Federation of the Desert - Special Tzedakah Fund	\$15,000
Mizell Senior Center - Meals on Wheels	\$15,000
Temple Sinai - Palm Desert - Mitzvah Food Delivery Project	\$15,000
The Joslyn Center - Let's Do Lunch	\$6,000
The Joslyn Center - Meals on Wheels	\$2,500
Caring for the Vulnerable	\$350,500
Boys & Girls Club of Palm Springs - Culture Club	\$2,000
Congregation Har-El - Interfaith Passover Seder	\$1,200
Jewish Federation of the Desert - Jewish Holiday Provisions	\$5,000
Jewish Federation of the Desert - Jewish Community Outreach	\$25,000
Jewish Federation of the Desert - Herzlian Dinners	\$5,000
Jewish Federation of the Desert - JCN Newspaper	\$40,000
Jewish Federation of the Desert	
- Yom Ha'atzmaut Children's Concert for the Community	\$4,000
Temple Isaiah - Palm Springs - Palm Springs Jewish Film Festival	\$10,000
Temple Isaiah - Palm Springs - Twice Blessed - LGBTQ Initiative	\$4,000
Community Inclusion & Engagement	\$96,200

Congregation Beth Shalom - Scholar In Residence Program	\$7,000
Congregation Har-El	
- Visiting Scholar with International Recognition	\$1,000
Inland and Desert Hillel Council - Core Funding	\$70,000
Inland and Desert Hillel Council - Special Programs	\$10,000
Jewish Federation of the Desert	
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Jewish Federation of the Desert	
- JFED & SCN - Full Scale Exercise/Drill	\$20,000
Jewish Federation of the Desert	
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Jewish Federation of the Desert	
- PJ Library - Free Books for Children & Family Programs	\$10,000
Jewish Federation of the Desert	
- Security for JFED & local agencies	\$15,000
Onward Israel - Scholarships for Local Students	\$10,000
Stand With Us - Lectures & Programs	\$10,000
Temple Isaiah - Palm Springs	
- Lecture Series "Judaism for the 21st Century"	\$4,000
Temple Sinai - Palm Desert - Hebrew School Scholarships	\$30,000
Temple Sinai - Palm Desert - Madrichim (Teacher Assistants)	\$7,000
Temple Sinai - Palm Desert - Youth Shabbaton	\$5,000

Jewish Education & Identity \$219,000

Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) - Core Funding	\$150,000
Jewish Federations of North America - Birthright Israel	\$10,000
Jewish Federations of North America - Annual Contribution	\$80,000
Leket Israel - Meal Rescue Project	\$15,000
Ramat HaNegev Regional Council - Agricultural Lab	\$84,000
Ramat HaNegev Regional Council	
- Center for Children with Special Needs (CCSN)	\$80,000
Ramat HaNegev Regional Council	
- Pithat Nitzana - Children & Youth Programs	\$36,000
Jewish Agency for Israel	
- Former Soviet Union (FSU) Camps	\$12,500
Jewish Agency for Israel - Ofek Mechinot	\$12,500
Jewish Agency for Israel - Youth Futures, Eilat	\$25,000
ZAKA - Search & Rescue - "You Belong!" K9 Search & Rescue	\$10,000
ZAKA - Search & Rescue - High-Impact Psychological Support	\$25,000
ZAKA - Search & Rescue	
- Resilience Training for Odessa Jewish Community	\$5,000

Israel, Overseas & World Jewry \$545,000

Total Allocations \$1,210,700

Financial Overview

Fiscal Year Ending 06/30/19

Where our Dollars Come From	
Regular Campaign	\$1,736,430
Men's & Women's Tamarisk Tournaments	\$129,750
Contributions & Other	\$160,547
Income from Endowments	\$100,000
Special Events	\$93,936
*Net Investment Income Operating Funds	\$68,869
*Net Investment Income Endowment Funds	(\$51,361)
*Net Investment Income Donor Advised Funds	\$945
*Net Investment Income Board Designated Funds	\$34,356

Total Support & Revenues \$2,273,472

Where our Dollars Go	
Local Allocations - Caring for the Vulnerable	\$350,500
Local Allocations - Community Inclusion & Engagement	\$96,200
Local Allocations - Jewish Education & Identity	\$219,000
Overseas Allocations - Israel & World Jewry	\$545,000
Donor Directed Grants	\$36,016
Administration Cost	\$328,732
Fundraising Cost	\$322,785
Programs Cost	\$33,203
Depreciation Expense	\$58,497

Total Allocations & Expenses \$1,989,933

Net Increase in Unrestricted Funds	\$299,599
Net Increase in Temporarily Restricted Funds	(\$16,060)
Total Net Increase in Funds	\$283,539

*Investment Income includes interest, realized and unrealized gains or losses and investment expenses.

Balance Sheet

Assets	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$2,683,636
Donor Advised Fund	\$117,553
Endowments	\$2,401,466
Board Designated	\$1,215,978
Other Assets	\$587,060
Federation Building & Property Net	\$1,545,518

Total Assets \$8,551,221

Liabilities & Net Assets	
Allocations Payable	\$1,346,505
Current Liabilities	\$64,442
Fund Balances	\$435,228

Total Liabilities \$1,846,176

Unrestricted	\$4,350,008
Temporarily Restricted	\$746,933
Permanently Restricted	\$1,608,094

Total Net Assets \$6,705,035

Total Liabilities & Net Assets \$8,551,211

Spanish Court Strikes Down Another 'Discriminatory' Municipal BDS Pledge

By Algemeiner Staff

A Spanish court has ruled against a boycott agreement targeting companies with ties to Israel that was previously adopted by the City Council of Santa Cruz de Bezana, the Madrid-based pro-Israel organization ACOM said on January 15th.

The city hall, located in Spain's northern Cantabria region, adopted the "Space Free of Israeli Apartheid" pledge — a part of the controversial Palestinian-led boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) campaign — on Aug. 11, 2017, after it was presented by the far-left Unidas Podemos alliance.

The motion was supported by the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, the United Left communist party, and the Regionalist Party of Cantabria, according to ACOM. It was opposed by the centrist Citizens party, while the conservative People's Party abstained.

In its ruling, the Contentious Administrative Court number 1 of Santander said the agreement contained discriminatory elements, exceeded the city council's "local competency," and "affects the right to equality reflected in Article 14 of the Spanish Constitution," ACOM said.

The judgement imposes legal costs that will be shouldered by the city.

This past July, a counselor with the right-wing Vox party — which did not have representation during the 2017 vote — called for the motion's revocation, saying it displayed an "extremist ideological position" that verged on anti-Semitism and would be responsible for "unnecessary economic damage."

The ruling marks the 55th time a BDS agreement has been revoked following an intervention by ACOM, the group said. "The annulment of an agreement that diminishes the image of Santa Cruz de Bezana did not prosper through political channels, but now thanks to the courts the town in Cantabria is out of the list of places that boycott Jews," it added.

A similar boycott pledge enacted by the city hall of Camargo, also in Cantabria, was recently struck down by the same administrative court, which called the boycott "a clear violation of the fundamental rights to equality."

ACOM has spearheaded efforts to fight the BDS campaign, which seeks to isolate Israel internationally, in Spain through the country's legal system. A recent event held by the group in Madrid was disrupted by BDS activists who reportedly attempted to physically attack participants.



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Israeli Tech Catches Medical Mistakes Before They Happen

Harvard researchers find significant clinical impact and cost savings with MedAware's Patient Safety Platform.

By Abigail Klein Leichman, Israel 21c

A machine learning-based patient safety solution from Israel's MedAware flagged 10,668 potential errors and adverse drug events in the records of 373,992 patients treated in the outpatient clinics of Massachusetts General and Brigham and Women's Hospitals.

The retrospective study was published in *The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety*.

Looking at a random sample of 300 warnings generated by Medaware, the research team found that 92% of the warnings were accurate based on data available; 79.7% of the warnings were clinically valid; and 68.2% of MedAware's warnings would not have been flagged by existing decision support systems.

If the Medaware system had been operational, the estimated direct cost savings of the avoidable adverse events would have been more than \$1.3 million when extrapolating the study's findings to

the full patient population.

The Israeli technology crowdsources physician practice to identify and prevent medication errors, opioid dependency, evolving adverse drug events and contraindications, and other medication-related risks.

"This study shows that MedAware's system performed well in identifying important medication-related errors in the ambulatory setting, and that implementing it could result in substantial cost savings," said co-author Dr. David Bates, a professor at Harvard Medical School and director of the Center for Patient Safety Research & Practice at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

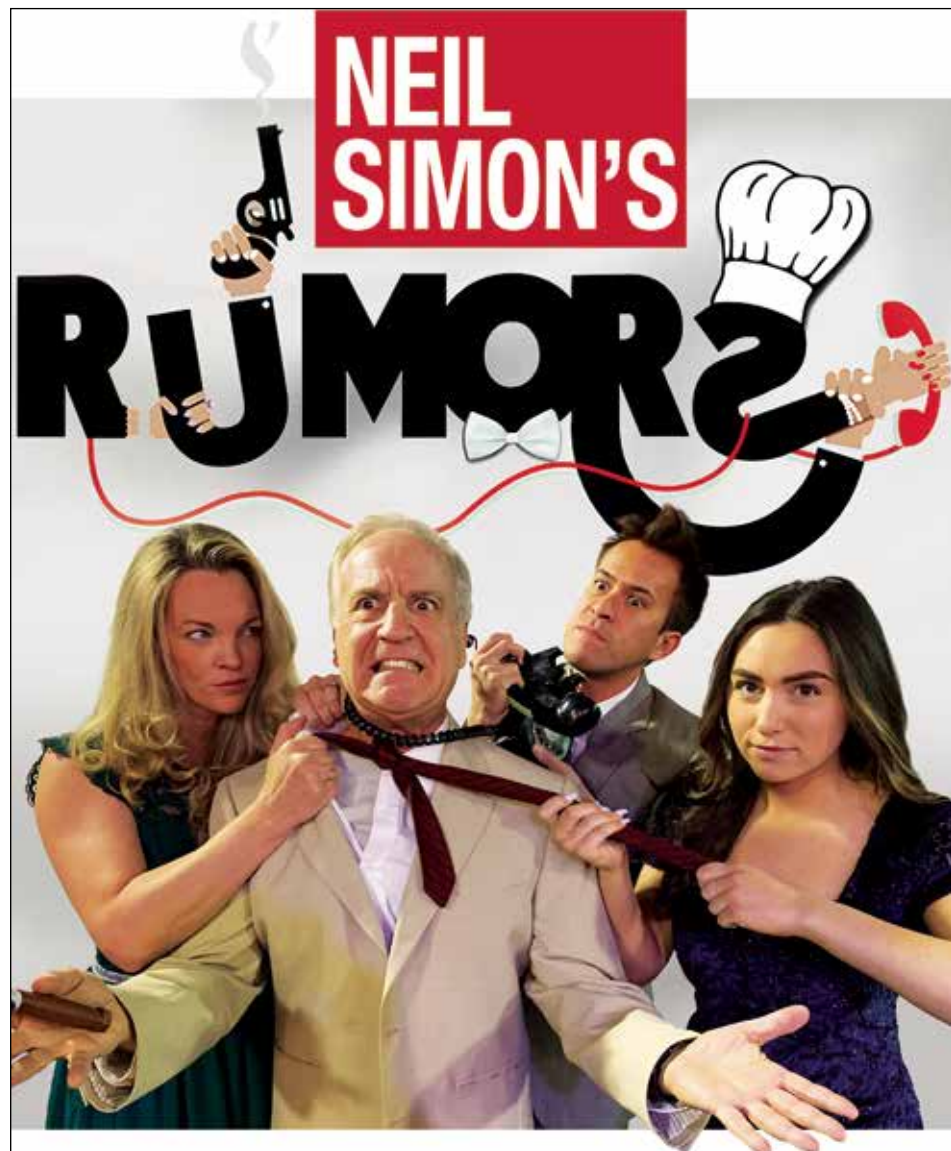
"MedAware's application enables systems to catch errors they didn't know they had and which would not have been caught using existing systems," Bates said. "These can be very serious and have major consequences."

Aside from the cost in human

terms, prescription drug errors result in healthcare costs estimated at more than \$20 billion annually in the United States, according to study authors.

Lead author Ronen Rozenblum, an assistant professor at Harvard Medical School, said "MedAware

offers both measurable improvement in patient safety and significant potential cost savings to hospitals at a time when healthcare systems must find every opportunity to drive efficiencies from a financial perspective."



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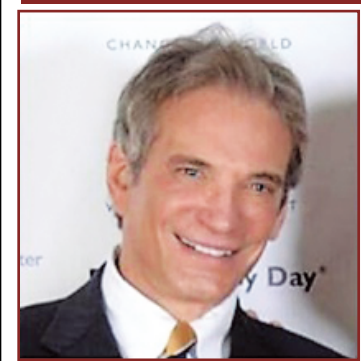
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Men in Philanthropy

The publication 'Desert Charities News' features different segments of the non-profit world in their quarterly magazine, and the current issue highlights "Men in Philanthropy." We are honored that Bruce Landgarten, Jewish Federation CEO, was one of the men featured. Mazel tov!



DESERT CHARITIES NEWS



Bruce C. Landgarten
Jewish Federation of the Desert
Chief Executive Officer

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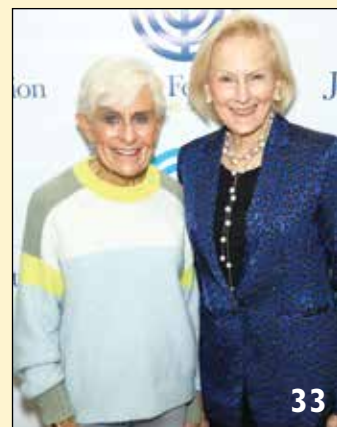
Importance of Philanthropy

Philanthropy is not about money, it's about feeling the pain of others and caring enough about their needs to help.



Lion of Judah Brunch





1. Susie Diamond, Nancy Ditlove, Lori Fritz
 2. Susan S. Duman, Jewish Federation CEO
 Bruce Landgarten, Jewish Federation
 Board Chair Roberta Nyman
 3. LOJ Co-chair Fran Kaufman, Keynote
 speaker Carly Gammil, CEO Bruce
 Landgarten, LOJ Chair Carol Fragen

4. Barbara Fremont & Bruce Landgarten
 5. Eileen Zoll, Frances Horwich
 6. Aviva Snow, Joanne Chunowitz,
 Renee Mayer
 7. Stephanie Ross, Jewish Federation
 Women's Philanthropy Coordinator
 Leslie Pepper

8. Carol Horwich Luber
 9. Tammi Birnberg, Carol Parsow
 10. Maxine Kirshenbaum,
 Gail Richards
 11. Marjorie Kulp, Carol Fragen
 12. Harriet Bernstein,
 Michelle Coneybeare
 13. Rose Grossinger,
 Gail Richards
 14. Libby Hoffman, Nora
 Kaufman, Nancy Ditlove
 15. Gail K. Siegel, Annette Lerner,
 Debra Star
 16. Marcia Berk, Fefe Passer,
 Susan Langus
 17. Barbara Platt, Gail Scadron,
 Roberta Holland, Joyce Freund
 18. Nancy Siwak, Cora Ginsberg,
 Fran Kaufman, Annette Novack
 19. Nancy Noddle, Linda Noddle,
 Marnie Miller, Lainie Weil, Joan Lehr
 20. //, Ellen Glass, Rita Philip, Gayle

Romain, Carolyn Ausman
 21. Renee Mayer, Diane Gershowitz,
 Aviva Snow
 22. Lois Johnson, Elaine Blitz,
 Ruth Kaufman, Celia Norian
 23. Lana Landa, Barbara Fromm,
 Rochelle Goodman, Toby Berman
 24. Susie Diamond, Barbara Fremont,
 Nora Spak
 25. Peggy Greenbaum, Jewish Federation
 Director of Community Impact Kevin
 Giser, Phyllis Eisenberg
 26. Kim Shwachman, Sheri Borax,
 Audrey Bernstein
 27. Michelle Coneybeare, Leslie Pepper
 28. Pat Hubbard, Roberta Holland
 29. Gail Stone, Michelle Carafiol
 30. Joanne Mintz, Helen Greene
 31. Lois Zoller, Susan Karsen
 32. Marion Cowle, Fran Kaufman
 33. Sherry Schor, Joyce Freund

More Than 30 Corrections Workers, Cadets Fired in West Virginia for Nazi Salute

Jewish News Syndicate

More than 30 West Virginia corrections' workers and cadets have been fired after a photo surfaced of them performing a Nazi salute.

Governor Jim Justice, who said earlier in December that such behavior wouldn't be tolerated, announced that following a review of a report on the matter by the state's Department of Military Affairs



and Public Safety, he approved the department's recommendations that those in the photo and staff who knew about it be terminated.

"As I said from the beginning,

I condemn the photo of Basic Training Class 18 in the strongest possible terms," said Justice.

The photo blurred the faces of the participants of the class, which took place from October 21 to November 27. Names of the employees were not identified.

A caption on the photo reads "Hail Byrd!" DMAPS spokesperson Lawrence Messina advised Byrd is a

training instructor.

"We have a lot of good people in our Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety. But this incident was completely unacceptable," said Justice. "Now, we must continue to move forward and work diligently to make sure nothing like this ever happens again."

Israel's Eurovision Show Voted Best of Decade

European Broadcasting Union poll of viewers puts the 2019 Tel Aviv production ahead of all others in the 2010s.

By Abigail Klein Leichman, Israel 21c

Eurovision fans voted "Dare to Dream," the 64th Eurovision Song Contest in Tel Aviv, the best Eurovision production of the

decade.

Israel had won the privilege of hosting the 2019 Eurovision contest by virtue of Netta Barzilai winning

the 2018 contest held in Lisbon.

An estimated 182 million people watched the three-day production last May, produced by Israeli public



Netta Barzilai rehearsing for the Grand Finals of the 2019 Eurovision Song Contest in Tel Aviv on May 17, 2019.

broadcasting company Kan. It was broadcast live from Tel Aviv to the 41 participating countries and across the rest of the world via YouTube.

The European Broadcasting Union, operator of the contest, asked social-media followers to vote for their favorite Eurovision show of the 2010s based on four categories: stage, songs, voting sequence and overall production value.

The result helps take the sting out of the fact that Israel's contestant, Kobi Marimi, placed a disappointing 23rd in the 2019 contest. The winner was Duncan Laurence of The Netherlands. Accordingly, the 65th contest will take place next May in Rotterdam.

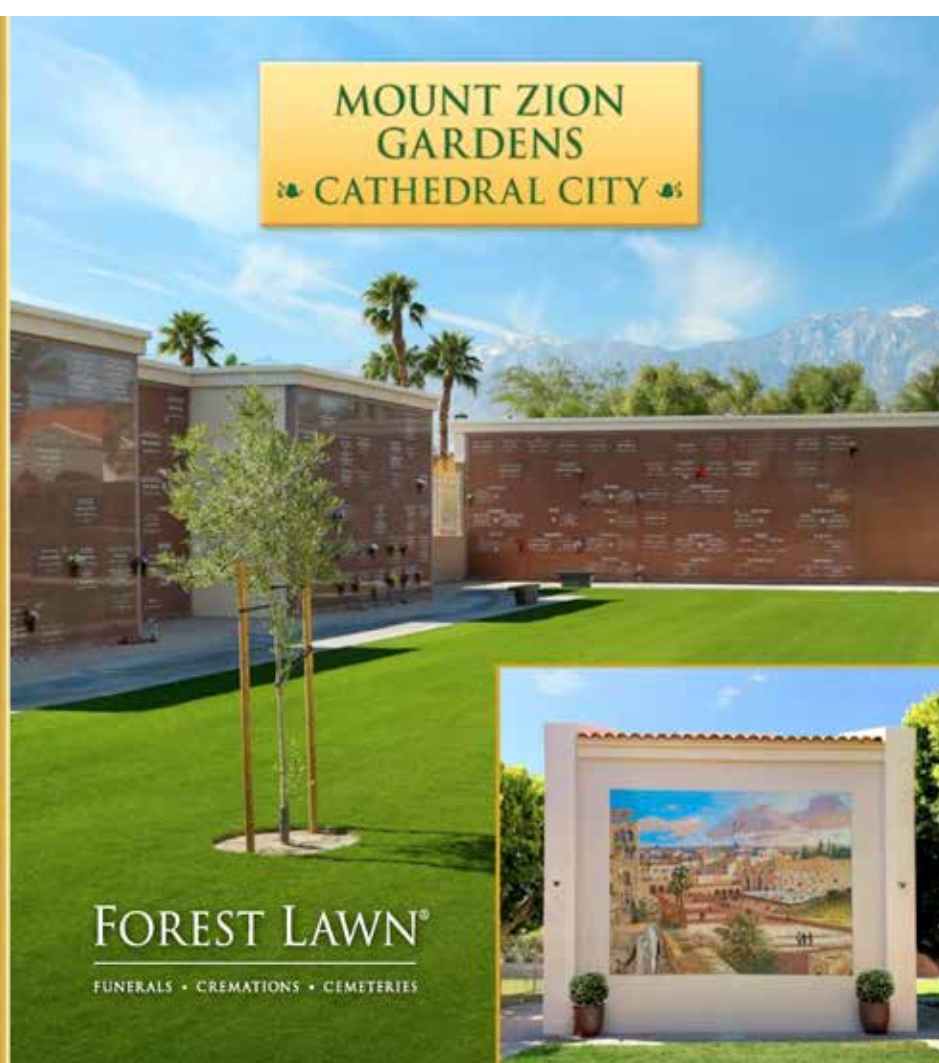
Over 64 years, the Eurovision Song Contest has grown to become the world's biggest live music event. Israel has participated 41 times, won first place four times (1978, 1979, 1998, 2018) and hosted the contest three times (1979, 1999 and 2019).

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gap as our community's needs expand and our needy grow in number.

From Pre-school, Religious school and camp scholarships to providing care, food and services to seniors, from aid to the unemployed to social services for the most vulnerable, the Federation Campaign changes lives. Jews in need

at home, in Israel and all over the world are counting on us. Thank you for making a difference in Jewish lives.

To everyone who contributed to our Annual Campaign, thank you. Your generosity has breathed life into the words that define and guide our efforts: "The Strength of a People. The

Power of Community"

We have endeavored to honor every special request that we received including those individuals who wish not to be listed on the Honor Roll, and apologize in advance for any mistakes.

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Ed and Jackie Cohen

Continued on next page

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A Day on Patrol in Crown Heights with the Guardian Angels

Blood was on everyone's mind on Sunday in Crown Heights as I met up with Curtis Sliwa and two dozen members of New York's legendary Guardian Angels wearing their trademark red jackets and berets.

We were outside 770, the world headquarters of the Chabad-Lubavitch Hasidic movement, where Kingston Avenue intersects Eastern Parkway, one of the great arteries through Brooklyn.

On Saturday night, Grafton E. Thomas reportedly rushed into a rabbi's home in Monsey, New York, with a machete and started slashing people during a Hanukkah celebration, wounding five. Thomas was



Guardian Angels in Crown Heights

later apprehended in Harlem and his bail was set at \$5 million, with New York Governor Andrew Cuomo describing the incident as an act of "domestic terror."

Sliwa, a hard-talking AM radio host who tries to project a larger-than-life figure and

succeeds, founded the Guardian Angels in the very different New York of 1979. His organization is, depending on whom you ask, a crime-fighting and -detering neighborhood watch group or a bunch of vigilantes.

When I joined their patrol across from the Jewish Children's Museum, Sliwa and the Guardian Angels were being greeted with a bit of curiosity and a lot of nostalgic warmth. As I approached, a mother on her way into the museum with her kids greeted the Guardian Angels and turned to her kids beaming, explaining that "these are good guys."

"We need you guys in Europe!" she said.

Several groups of young people came up sheepishly to ask for selfies, and the Angels happily obliged.

Along with the Guardian Angels, there was an NYPD mobile command center, and two Jewish neighborhood patrols' own command center vehicles. If it is a good thing that all this protection is available, it is certainly no good thing that this is what feels necessary for Jews in Brooklyn to live their lives in peace.

The Guardian Angels can look like a sort of throwback to a different time, but in this community they are a reassuring presence during a period of fear. I watch dozens

continued on the next page

of people spontaneously approach the Angels, some greeting Sliwa on a first-name basis, some just recognizing the uniform, to thank them for being there. The Jews of Crown Heights are scared, and they feel they need protection right now. And they feel they can rely on the Guardian Angels to provide it.

I counted at least a half dozen offers of donuts, coffee, burgers and other snacks from grateful Jews anxious to give back to the Angels for being there (they are politely declined, though two boxes of donuts did make it through). Most but not all of the recognition and affirmation seemed to be coming from older Jewish residents of the neighborhood, who Sliwa says remember the Guardian Angels' presence during the 1991 Crown Heights riots, when the cops largely let rampant violence against Jews go unanswered.

Sliwa told me that he has developed strong relationships with the various Jewish communities in the area, near where he grew up, since then. He said he started getting calls asking for a Guardian Angels presence to return as soon as the Monsey stabbing was reported.

We set off on patrol down Kingston with Sliwa in the lead, greeted often by friendly honks and people who want pictures or to share stories from the Guardian Angels' time set up down the block for several months in 1991.

One now-former Crown Heights resident stopped the phalanx to tell the Angels that they were what made the neighborhood feel safe enough to live in. "We moved here because you guys protected us, not because the police were there," he said.

Some of the honking came from Chabad cars with menorahs on top and a Jewish ambulance, and a number of black residents of the neighborhood greeted Sliwa too.

I hung back with Casey, one of the shorter Guardian Angels and by the look of it among the youngest, though not someone I would like to mess with.

"What do you do?" asked one young man in a heavily Yiddish-inflected accent.

"We're a safety patrol," replied Casey, a Bronx native who tells me she got involved after seeing her mom assaulted

and robbed as a kid, once thrown down a flight of stairs and stripped of her paycheck and house keys. Casey's family was locked out of her home that night.

Casey told me that, in the age of social media, "people think pulling out a camera is getting involved. We're more hands on." The Angels do not want to fight, but they are ready to.

The Guardian Angels' MO is, as they described it to me, mostly about "visual deterrence" — just being there to show that they will stop any crime if it occurs. Several of them are certified to teach the rest basic martial arts, and some carry handcuffs. If they do intervene in a crime, they are trained to make a citizen's arrest by detaining the perpetrator and calling the cops.

On our way up and down the street, everyone's eyes were up. But the closest thing to a noteworthy incident that I saw was a three-second period when a mother unloading her car lost sight of her daughter, and the Guardian Angels passing by helpfully pointed out she was around a corner.

There was also considerable excitement when we took some pictures with a golden retriever belonging to the head of a Jewish neighborhood watch group which has worked alongside the Guardian Angels before.

Back on Eastern Parkway, the Angels divided into groups to watch over several corners and hand out cards with their number as people begin to congregate for services in 770. Squads periodically headed back out to walk patrols. People kept coming up and thanking the Angels and telling them they remember what they did during the 1991 riots.

I asked Sliwa about the differences between Brooklyn today and when he founded the group. Back then, he said, "the Jews understood they had to fight back."

"They couldn't depend on anyone," he recalled. "They started organizing their own patrols. Then it got lax, lethargic. Depend on government, depend on the police, depend on the gentiles. Mistake. You have to employ self-defense. You have to fight back. It's the only way. Or other communities will come in and take advantage of them. And then they're victims. You benefit not by being a victim.

You have to be strong. You have to fight back."

One man cut in to talk to Sliwa about how he saw the tensions that have set community members on edge — he felt that the subset of anti-Semitic violence coming from their black neighbors got brushed under the rug by media outlets and politicians.

"You gotta get to the core of the problem," he said. "There's really big antisemitism problems. It's really escalating. You know what gets me really upset? And I'm like a, you can see, ponytail."

He gestures at a ponytail poking out of the back of his baseball cap, as if to show his credentials as a member of liberal and secular society in good standing.

"If that was a white Jewish person doing the crime, all the media would say 'white Jewish, white Jewish!' They're just saying 'individual.' They're afraid to say black, African American. It's an outrage," he declared.

Another man, sporting a black beard, came up to share the pessimistic take on the situation: "You know, you were here for the riots, the Crown Heights Riots. I was a small boy. People say a lot has changed. I don't know. You guys are back. A lot has changed?"

Maybe a lot has, or maybe it has not. Whether anti-Semitism has returned or never left, the Guardian Angels are back on patrol in Crown Heights, and the Jewish community here is happy to have them. They are a legend, dating back to a time when all of New York was defined by crime and violence.

The threat of violent Jew-hatred, this

community seems to feel, is not merely at the doorstep, as the mayor claimed earlier this month on the occasion of an anti-Semitic mass shooting in New Jersey. It long ago crossed the threshold, and it is not some aberration that can be understood to exist elsewhere. It is part of their understanding of daily life here, now. You can feel it.

And now dozens of them have called some old friends in red berets, who split off as the temperature dropped to patrol Williamsburg and Borough Park as well.

Luckily, when I checked in the following morning, the Angels said they had run into no violent incidents. "But," Sliwa told me, "New Year's Eve and New Year's will be a real challenge."

With revelers out on the street and drunk, plenty "might be looking to mess with people they see as Jews," he noted.

Unfortunately, the crime statistics just from December show he was likely right. Brooklyn's Jews have friends, though, in the Guardian Angels. They say they will be here around the clock, for anyone who calls.

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Simchas

Last month we ran an article on **Barbara Platt's** sixteen year old granddaughter **Stephanie Sussman**, who was one of six winners nationwide of Jewish Rock Radio's "Jewish Star Talent Search." In Jewish Rock Radio's latest press release they included a picture of Stephanie, which we are sharing with



Stephanie Sussman

you. Proud grandma Barbara says of Stephanie that she "is inspired and

inspiring" ... Mazel tov to **Mitch Karp** on his reelection as president of Temple Isaiah ... Congratulations to **Congregation Beth Shalom**, celebrating their 25th anniversary as a congregation. And did you notice they're celebrating with Klezmer at their gala February 29th!



Mitch Karp



In last month's issue we ran a photo of toys collected for Chanukah and failed to name the group who worked so diligently to see that we had what we needed. Thank you to **JEWISH MEN'S OUTREACH OF THE DESERT** for their generous efforts.

... Share your Simchas with us. Email mhbentjcn@earthlink.net or call Miriam Bent at 760-323-0255.



Candle Lighting Times

Friday, February 7	Shabbat Beshalach	4:39 pm
Friday, February 14	Shabbat Yitro	4:46 pm
Friday, February 21	Shabbat Mishpatim	4:52 pm
Friday, February 28	Shabbat Terumah	4:58 pm



We Mourn the Passing of...

Mae Amram, Estelle Baer, Dorothy Farer, Sherry Fishman, Barry Freeman, Rosalie Goldner, Joseph Karol, Vern Kozlen, Marcia Narter, Allan Edwin Schulman, Simon Segal, Don Shragin, David Slobodien and Joan Snyder. *Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing.*



Classifieds

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE SUPPORTERS welcomed. JFS has rewarding **volunteer opportunities** in its community programs and is now accepting applications for several positions. **Tribute cards** provide a unique way to celebrate a special occasion or honor a loved one, all while supporting JFS programs. If you're interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities or supporting JFS through the purchase of tribute cards, please contact 760-325-4088 ext. 101.

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE Swedish, deep tissue, and foot reflexology modalities. Treat yourself or someone you love to a wonderful therapeutic massage. Jewish Massage Therapist with over 30 years experience; nine in the desert. Will come to your home or at my location. Call Leora at 760-778-0068.

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Temple Isaiah invites you to

HOLD YOUR EVENT HERE! We can accommodate 10 for a meeting or 300 for a party. Quinceaneras; birthdays; anniversaries; concerts; wedding venue/chapel to ballroom; classes, seminars, speakers, non-denominational life-cycle events and more. Come see our landmark building in the heart of Palm Springs. Plenty of parking. Call 760-325-2281 for details and inquiries.

Desert Outreach Synagogue

will be celebrating our **SILENT AND LIVE AUCTION**. Our evening of fun starts at 6:00 pm., Thursday, February 27th at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert, 72425 Via Vail, Rancho Mirage, CA. Be sure to attend. You won't want to miss the festivities! For additional information call 760.449.0111.

Mark Your Calendar for presentation by **LA director of HIAS (Hebrew Immigration Aid Society)**, March 8 at 2pm. More information in next month's JCN.

Chanukah at Desert Hot Springs

The Jewish Federation staff, current and former Federation Board members Stephanie and Dr. Paul Ross and Bikur Cholim/Rabbi Yankel Kreiman once again brought Chanukah to Desert Hot Springs, with a delicious Kosher dinner, face painting by Bebsabe Morrison and gifts galore.



Social Media Video Shows Iranian University Students Refusing to Trample American, Israeli Flags

By Benjamin Kerstein, The Algemeiner

Video emerged on January 12, 2020, of students at Beheshti University of Tehran refusing to trample on American and Israeli flags as mass protests over the weekend threatened the stability of the ruling Iranian regime.



Iranian university students refusing to trample American and Israeli flags. Photo: Twitter screenshot.

Trampling or burning US or Israeli flags is a common method of incitement used by the Islamic Republic. The students' refusal to do so is in keeping with recent demonstrations, which have called for the resignation of Iran's supreme leader, among other demands and grievances.

In a tweet by popular social media activist and dissident @mamlekate, the clip was shown with the text: "Today, the crowd in an Iranian university refused to trample US and Israel flag #LoveBeyondFlags. These IR ideologies, like forced hijab, are falling one by one."

An Evening In The Catskills With Jokes, Skits, Song & Dance! THE HIT NEW YORK COMEDY

From the Producer of MY SON THE WAITER... and MY MOTHER'S ITALIAN, MY FATHER'S JEWISH & I'M IN THERAPY!

An outrageous evening of jokes, skits, songs, one-liners, double-entendres, and hysterical routines that pays tribute to & reinvents classic jokes of the past & present. Like rye bread, kosher pickles & bagels, this show is for everyone! You'll laugh 'til you plotz.

"Hilarious! ... Magnificent, Enduring Rhythm of Jewish Humor!"

- New York Times

"Chock Full of Laughs!"

- Mel Brooks

"Big Laughs!"

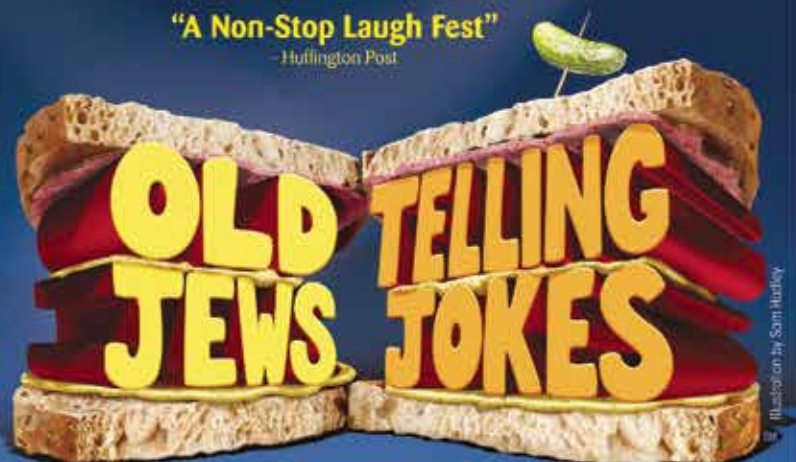
- CBS TV, Chicago

"The Laughs-Per-Minute Average Is As High As Anything You'll Find On Stage!"

- The New Yorker



"A Non-Stop Laugh Fest"
-Huffington Post



By Daniel Okrent & Peter Gethers

February 6 - March 15, 2020

WARNING:
Adult (Bawdy) Humor!
For Audiences 18+

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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 or 760-324-4737.

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