

Jewish Community News

The Publication of the Jewish Federation of the Desert

www.jfedps.org

Shevat/Adar 5780 - March 2020

The Power of Women: Passion and Purpose

The Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy engages Jewish women in the fulfilling work of making the world a better place, building and supporting Jewish life for today and for generations to come. Our collective



Dr. Ralph Nurnberger

philanthropy enriches our own lives while improving the lives of others.

To celebrate the generosity and power of women in our community, Women's Philanthropy invites women to join us for our Pearl Society event, Monday, March 9, 2020, at 11:00 am at Desert Willows Golf Resort in Palm Desert, for a minimum gift of \$365 to Federation's Annual Campaign.

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. Reflecting his popularity and devoted following, the decision has been made to welcome husbands and significant others to attend for the price of the

luncheon couvert of \$50.

Pearl society event cochairs are Jackie Cohen and Joanne Hirshfield, joined by their committee: Fran Kaufman, Chicky Steinberger and Phyllis Eisenberg.

The \$50 per person couvert can be paid by going online to www.jfedps.org or by contacting Leslie Pepper at leslie.pepper@jfedps.org or 760-324-4737.

Former IDF Officer Speaks to Hundreds of California Students About Israel's Humanitarian Aid to Syrians

By *Algemeiner Staff*

A former Israel Defense Forces officer who led a humanitarian response to the bloody Syrian conflict recently spent a week touring university campuses in California, in a bid to counter misinformation and bolster student support for the Jewish state.

As part of Operation Good Neighbor, Lt. Col. (Res.) Eyal Dror established and led a unit that brought in more than 4,000 wounded Syrians to Israeli hospitals, secured treatment for hundreds of chronically-ill children, oversaw the evacuation of the White Helmets rescue group and delivered basic necessities including food, clothing and diesel fuel to

civilians.

The operation ended in 2018 when the Syrian government recaptured territory along the border with Israel in the Golan Heights, and Dror retired this past September after 24 years of service.

He has since dedicated time to educating international audiences on Israel's humanitarian efforts on behalf of Syrian civilians, along with its security challenges along the northern border.

In February 2020, Dror addressed some 250 students at California State Long Beach, University of San Diego, University of California San Diego, University of California Riverside,



Eyal Dror at UC Riverside February 5, 2020

Foothill College and San Jose State University, as well as at a Chabad for students at the University of California, Berkeley. It was his first speaking tour in the United States, following two stints in the United Kingdom.

Dror said his audience was "definitely" receptive to his message, especially at Berkeley, where the

students had a "very hard time that week" following a rancorous student council debate over whether to condemn anti-Zionist students for "glorifying" terrorism.

The anti-Zionist students had displayed photos of a Palestinian hijacker wielding an AK-47 assault rifle, as well as of two Palestinian women who planted bombs targeting Israeli civilians, one of whom managed to kill two university students. (The Berkeley student council ultimately voted not to censor the anti-Zionist group over the display.)

Rabbi Gil Leeds of Berkeley's Chabad center said in a statement

continued on page 2



Sunday, April 19, 2020 ■ 3-5 PM

Yom HaShoah Observance

Helene Galen Auditorium / Annenberg Health Sciences Building, Rancho Mirage

Guest Speaker:
EDWIN BLACK,
International
Investigative
Author



Thank You for Making an Impact



Roberta Nyman

Jewish Federation
Board Chair

The mission of Jewish Federation of the Desert is to strengthen Jewish life in our community, identify and provide for Jews in need, and promote Israel. We raise and distribute funds to support and enrich the lives of Jews locally, nationally, Israel and worldwide. While our local Jewish community is growing,

2019-2020 JEWISH FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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the opportunities and challenges to affect more Jews throughout our region are increasing rapidly.

To fulfill the promise of these opportunities, Federation is being asked to fund more - from both our community's current Jewish agencies and new organizations and initiatives that are launching every year. Over the past decade, Federation has increased the number of agencies and initiatives it funds. We do this through our Annual Campaign, through your gifts to Jewish Federation.

We have a devoted corps of volunteers who partner with Federation staff to provide our Jewish community with the resources we need to grow and thrive, and we need to express our gratitude for all they do. Our Campaign Cabinet is headed by Campaign Chair Lori Fritz, Vice Chair Arnie Gillman and joined by Stephanie Ross. Our successful Major Gifts event

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provided to *The Algemeiner* that Dror's presentation was "absolutely phenomenal" and "captivated" a crowd of more than 100 students. "Especially if you're on a campus like UC Berkeley where conversations about Israel can often become contentious and divisive, Eyal's presentation was one of the most uplifting, inspirational and unifying messages that I have ever heard," he added.

While largely well-received, Dror also attracted a limited protest by anti-Zionist students while speaking at UC Riverside on February 5. "When I walked to the stage, they immediately stood up, put some tape on their mouths, and walked away from the class," he recounted. The demonstration was relatively subdued and did not seek to derail the talk. Dror observed, "Unfortunately, they weren't interested hearing about saving the lives of Muslim civilians in Syria as part of the IDF operation



Lori Fritz



Arnie Gillman



Stephanie Ross



Libby Hoffman



Nancy Ditlove



Carol Fragen



Fran Kaufman



Jackie Cohen



Joanne Hirschfield

February 10 was chaired by Nancy Ditlove and Libby Hoffman. January's beautiful Lion of Judah Brunch was chaired by Carol Fragen and Fran Kaufman. Next month's Pearl Society luncheon is being chaired by Jackie Cohen and Joanne Hirschfield.

All their efforts would be for

naught if you, our community, didn't respond with your financial support. From modest contributions to very generous gifts, together we make a difference, and I'm grateful to you all.

"Nobody is ever impoverished through the give of charity." – Moses Maimonides

Good Neighbor."

"I am not a representative or ambassador of the State of Israel, I am speaking my personal story," Dror added. "Go and learn the story, go and learn the facts before protesting about Palestinians, who are not connected — this is Syria."

These protesters will "never know what it feels like for an 18-20 year old IDF soldier to risk his [life for neighbors who] run towards Israel to get their lives saved," he said in a separate statement.

Ilan Sinelnikov — the head of Students Supporting Israel (SSI), which organized Dror's tour in partnership with StandWithUs — noted in a statement to *The Algemeiner* that his group was able to bring the former IDF officer "for [the] first time to a tour in the United States," where he was able to teach students about Israel's work on the Syrian border.

"SSI will continue bringing speakers

on tour that make an impact," he added, indicating that Dror will be "coming back to our campuses this fall."

Rena Nasar First, StandWithUs executive director of campus affairs, said in a statement that she was "delighted that students of all backgrounds are able to hear from a true hero who helped organize the medical treatment of thousands of victims of the horrific Syrian Civil War."

"Eyal and his team of medics represent Israel's values, treating innocent people in need regardless of ongoing hostility towards Israel from the Syrian government," she continued.

As for Dror, he is looking forward to returning to the US, despite the difficulties. "It's a very hard journey, leaving my wife and kids at home, but I think it's very important and it's a mission," he said. "I can say now mission accomplished — for this time."

Turning Bystanders into First Responders

From the CEO



Bruce Landgarten

Jewish Federation
Chief Executive
Officer

You have surely noticed that in the last couple years so many of my articles center around security and safety for our community and Jewish institutions around the United States, in Israel and in countries around the globe. Sadly, it is a reflection of our times. We take our responsibility of security very seriously and this article is about another aspect of protecting our community.

Bruce Landgarten

In the spirit of our CSI (Communal

Security Initiative) we are exploring an opportunity to provide our local communal agencies with "Stop the Bleed Kits" and free hands on training with a local trauma surgeon and trauma team.



"Stop the Bleed" is a national awareness campaign and call-to-action that is intended to cultivate grassroots efforts that encourage bystanders to become trained, equipped and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives.

Uncontrolled bleeding is the number one cause of preventable death from trauma, and this public health initiative seeks to save lives

that would otherwise be lost by training the public on how to stop bleeding after an injury. The program was started in the wake of the Sandy Hook massacre, but the training can be utilized not only at the site of mass shootings and bombings, but also in the case of motor vehicle accidents or other injuries.

Twenty-five to thirty percent of mass casualties from the incidents in the last few years could be saved ... "Everyone can save a life!"

In an event trauma first aid is needed, each person should first ensure their own safety, as they would not be able to help another victim if they themselves become injured. Alerting 9-1-1 is always the next step after that. Then, locating the main source of the life-threatening bleeding is the next priority.

Finally, applying compression to the

wound while waiting for emergency personnel to arrive is critical. Training participants each got to try applying a tourniquet and simulating packing a wound. The key point was that, while there are a number of methods that can be used, they all have one thing in common—compressing a bleeding blood vessel in order to stop the bleeding.

Our proposed "Stop the Bleed" Initiative will aim to provide free trauma and bleeding prevention education to first responders, including police departments, schools and other community organizations. "Stop the Bleed control kits" designed for use in the event of a bleeding emergency. Equipped with items including tourniquets and special bleeding control dressings, "Stop the Bleed" control kits can serve as an important companion to standard first aid kits contain all of the necessary supplies and resources needed to effectively respond.

Major Gifts Annual Dinner

Jewish Federation Annual Major Gifts Dinner is held in support of the 2019-20 Annual Campaign. The impressive event took place February 10 at the Tamarisk Country Club and recognized men and women in the community who contribute at the highest levels to the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign.

This year's Annual Campaign

is chaired by Lori Fritz, with committee members Vice Chair, Arnie Gillman & Stephanie Ross and Major Gift Dinner co-chairs Libby Hoffman and Nancy Ditlove. Bruce Landgarten, CEO of Jewish Federation of the Desert observed, "Each year, at this dinner, we thank our highest-level donors for their Tzedakah (charity), helping to make the world a better place.

Their gifts feed the hungry, care for the young, as well as our seniors, fight anti-Semitism, promote Jewish culture, and support Jews locally, in Israel, and around the world.

"The 2019-2020 Campaign is more than just the dollars we raise – it's an affirmation that Federation is one community, united to achieve the goal of changing and improving lives. Similarly, our donor count is more than just a number – it's an expression of our community's

strength when we work together."

The evening's Keynote Speaker was Eric Fingerhut, President & CEO of the Jewish Federations of North America. (JFNA), the American Jewish umbrella organization representing 147 Jewish Federations and 300 independent Jewish communities across North America.

See pages 12 and 13 for pictures from the Major Gifts Dinner.

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



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OF THE DESERT

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JEWISH COMMUNITY NEWS

A Publication of the
Jewish Federation of the Desert
VOL. 46, No. 8

EDITORIAL

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

JCN STATEMENT

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

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

ARTICLES & ADVERTISING,

Miriam H. Bent, Editor
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The media industry is undergoing dramatic changes. Since 2004, more than 2,100 newspapers – large and small – have closed their doors. Hundreds more are expected to do so in 2020. The Jewish Community News is not exempt from these trends. To continue to serve the community with independent, trusted journalism, the Jewish Community News needs support from the community as it is getting increasingly more difficult to sustain itself.

We are appealing to you in support of the kind of independent, credible journalism that the Palm Springs and Desert Area Jewish community values ... and the Jewish Community News provides. **Please support JCN with your tax-deductible gift today**, by mailing your check or credit card information on the reply card below to 69-710 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270; or call us at 760-324-4737 or go online at www.jfedps.org. Thank you.

Jewish Community News

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Record High Anti-Semitic Incidents Recorded in UK in 2019

The annual report also recorded 157 incidents of physical assault in 2019, an increase of 27% from the 124 incidents of this type recorded in 2018, and represented the highest-ever number of assaults

By Jeremy Sharon, *The Jerusalem Post*



Jews and non-Jews gather in solidarity to protest against Anti-Semitism at Parliament Square in London on February 2

The UK witnessed an annual record for anti-Semitic incidents in 2019, making it the fourth consecutive year that the record has been broken, while incidents of anti-Semitic physical assault also surpassed previous records.

The Community Security Trust (CST), a Jewish community security organization that works in cooperation with the UK police, reported that there were 1,805 anti-Semitic incidents in Britain in 2019, the highest total ever recorded in a single calendar year.

This figure represents an almost 7% rise in anti-Semitic incidents over the 1,690 incidents in 2018, which itself was a 16% rise from the 1,420 incidents of anti-Semitism in 2017, while 2016 was also a record year.

The annual report also recorded 157 incidents of physical assault in 2019, an increase of 27% from the 124 incidents of this type recorded in 2018 and represented the highest-ever number of assaults in one year.

Incidents of damage and desecration to Jewish property also rose by 11%, to 88 incidents in 2019 from 79 in 2018.

Forty-five of these incidents involved damage to Jewish homes and vehicles, 12 to Jewish organizations or companies, 10 to synagogues, seven to Jewish schools and three to cemeteries. In 560 of the 1,805 anti-Semitic incidents reported, a description of the ethnic appearance of the perpetrators was provided.

Of these, 373 offenders, or 67%, were described as white; 73, or 13%, were

described as black; 50, or 9%, were described as South Asian (Pakistani, Bangladeshi or Indian) and 59, or 10%, were described as Arab or North African.

Additionally, CST recorded over 100 anti-Semitic incidents in every calendar month in 2019 for the second year in a row and the second year ever.

Since April 2016, more than 100 incidents have been reported in all but two months. This is unprecedented, since CST recorded monthly totals exceeding 100 incidents on only six occasions in the decade prior, from 2006 to 2015.

According to the CST's annual report, an increase in reports of online anti-Semitism, particularly on social media, was the largest single contributor to the tally of total incidents in 2019. The organization logged 697 instances of online anti-Semitism in 2019, constituting 39% of the annual total.

CST pointed to the ongoing anti-Semitism crisis in the Labour Party, which witnessed allegations of a Jewish conspiracy to defeat hard-left party leader Jeremy Corbyn in the general election last year, as one of the possible reasons for the high levels of anti-Semitic incidents witnessed in 2019, and since 2016 more generally.

The highest levels of anti-Semitism were witnessed in February and December. In February, several Labour MPs, including Jewish MP Luciana Berger, publicly and demonstratively quit Labour, citing anti-Semitism in its ranks as a major factor in their decision.

The general election was held in December.

Some 12% of all anti-Semitic incidents in 2019 were related to the Labour Party.

In addition, CST said the fierce debate in the country over the UK's withdrawal from the European Union has raised levels of hate crime more generally and was another context in which the rise in the number of anti-Semitic incidents must be seen.

Marie van der Zyl, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, described the findings as "profoundly depressing" and

said the anti-Semitism crisis in Labour was a contributing factor to the rise in incidents.

"No doubt the ongoing anti-Semitism crisis in the Labour Party has had an effect on the figures, and they will cause great anxiety to Jews in this country," said van der Zyl. "Overall it must be emphasized that

Britain remains a happy place for its Jewish community. However, we call on the country's political leaders – in all parties – to fight the evil of anti-Jewish racism and make this a just, safe and respectful society for everyone."

Temple Isaiah/JCC Seventh Annual

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2020 / 5780

MARCH 22-25, 2020

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Why I Endowed My Gift



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Celia Norian



Sandy and I moved to the desert in 1990. As we became involved in the Jewish community and realized all that it has to offer, we focused our energies into the Jewish Federation. We realized that it was the one

central place that touches just about every aspect of Jewish life and values.

On my 50th birthday, Sandy presented me with a Lion of Judah pin as he made my first Lion gift to this Federation. I was not only

totally surprised (he did this at a restaurant in Mishawaka, Indiana) but very touched by this act of philanthropy.

As I became more involved and aware of THIS Jewish

community, I came to realize that we do not have the strength of multi-generational philanthropists. Young families of today do not have the discretionary funds that we or our parents had. We have donors who understand the reasons to give to Jewish causes, but do we have the donor base to sustain us?

Since I do not have children, who will continue my Federation gift after



I am gone? How will the programs that I care about continue without the dollars to support them? I talked with Sandy and we felt that I should endow my gift to make this possible. I endowed my gift through the purchase of an insurance policy. By purchasing this policy and making the Federation the beneficiary I am assured that MY gift will be one of the first to kick off the annual campaign after I am no longer here.

An endowment assures that your legacy will be there to continue all the programs that you supported during your lifetime. An endowment can be made at any giving level. Please discuss it with your estate planner. You'll be surprised at how easily it can be done.

To my dear partner and friend,
Bruce Landgarten,
CEO at Jewish Federation
of Palm Springs and Desert Area,
Please accept my sincerest
condolences on the loss of
your dear father
Louis.

As the days and weeks pass,
may you continue to feel comforted
by the love and support of family
and friends in Palm Springs
and in Ramat HaNegev.

Eran Doron

Mayor



”המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי
ציון וירושלים ולא תוסיפו לדאבה עוד”

No-Sew Blankets a Community Service Project



Left to right: Women's Philanthropy members Joanne Hirshfield, Jackie Cohen, Stephanie Ross, Marnie Miller, Chickie Steinberger, Carol Fragen, Margie Kulp, Lainie Weil, Marcia Stein, Barbara Platt, Roberta Nyman and (seated) Carol Horwich Luber admire a "no-sew" blanket which will be a community service project they will undertake and donate to local recipient agencies for distribution.

All women are invited to join them on Monday, March 16 at 9:30 am, at the Jewish Federation Office, to help make these blankets, under the direction of Lainie Weil, a past chair of Women's Philanthropy. If you are interested please email Leslie Pepper at leslie.pepper@jfedps.org or call 760-324-4737.

Iran's Top Chess Player to Change Nationality to Play Against Israelis

Jewish News Syndicate



Iranian chess prodigy Alireza Firouzja

Iranian prodigy Alireza Firouzja, the No. 1 ranked player in Iran and currently the No. 2 ranked junior player in the world, may play under the U.S. or French flags, according to Iran's Chess Federation president.

Alireza Firouzja, Iran's top-ranked chess player, has decided to change his nationality in order to get around Tehran's ban on competing against Israelis, according to Iranian media reports.

In November, Germany granted refugee status to Iranian judoka

Saeid Mollaie, who was seeking asylum in the country after claiming Iranian officials earlier this year pressured him to withdraw from a competition in order to avoid fighting an Israeli opponent.

As a result, Iran was banned from participating in international judo events by the sport's world body until it allowed its athletes to face Israelis.

"Firouzja has made his decision and has told us that he wants to change his nationality," the president of Iran's Chess Federation, Mehrdad Pahlavanzadeh, told the semi-official news agency Tasnim, according to the report.

"Firouzja is currently living in France ... and may want to play under the French or U.S. flag," Pahlavanzadeh told the news agency ISNA.

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Call Miriam Bent at
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TZEDAKAH



FUND

For a meaningful way to say thank you for a special occasion, send wishes for recovery from illness or extend condolences, there is no better way to send your thoughts than to purchase a Tzedakah card from the Jewish Federation.

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.

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Welcoming Refugees & Asylum Seekers

Joe Goldman, HIAS Community Engagement Director, will describe treatment of refugees and asylum seekers today in light of earlier policies that welcomed - and prevented - these groups from reaching safe haven. HIAS (founded as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) stands for a world in which refugees - whoever and wherever they are - find welcome, safety, and freedom. HIAS.org

Presenting local perspective from the California-Mexico border will be the Jewish Family Service of San Diego (JFS). JFS and their partner, San Diego Rapid Response Network, quickly respond to critical needs of immigrants throughout their border region. jfssd.org

Sunday, March 8, 2020, 2:00-3:30 p.m. (PDT)
Palm Springs Cultural Center (Camelot Theaters)
2300 E. Baristo Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262

The event is FREE - Tickets are limited and will be required:
hias.eventbrite.com

Last Nazi Hunter Comes to Town



Dr. Efraim Zuroff

Director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center
Israel Office & Eastern European Affairs



Ruta Vanagaite

DISCOVERING LITHUANIA'S HIDDEN HOLOCAUST

Efraim Zuroff has accomplished much in his long career, but there's one thing he's particularly proud of: He's the most hated Jew in Lithuania.

His Lithuanian friend, journalist and noted author Ruta Vanagaite, agrees: She called him a "mammoth," a "boogeyman" and the "ruiner of reputations"—and that's just in the introduction to a book they co-authored; the book that has just been translated into English and has been banned in Lithuania.

**There's still much, much more to learn about
Jew hatred and the Holocaust in Europe.**

Yet, present day Europe still embarks upon its mad drive to import more anti-Semitism to the continent, without very much success in combating its own variant of irrational Jew hatred. There is a serious problem brewing.

A program you will not soon forget. Two opportunities:

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

- 2:00-3:00 PM - Tolerance Education Center
35-147 Landy Lane, Rancho Mirage
Book signing and reception to follow
- 7:00-8:00 PM - St. Margaret's Episcopal Church
47-535 Highway 74, Palm Desert
Book signing follows presentation

\$15 SUGGESTED DONATION

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Reserve a seat by emailing Steve Geiger at
menschfoundation@yahoo.com

Further information: 760-416-3685



Albanian President Thanks Soldiers for Aid After Deadly Earthquake

Jewish News Syndicate

While in Israel for the Fifth World Holocaust Forum, President of Albania Ilir Meta met with soldiers from the Israel Defense Forces on January 23 and thanked them for their help following November's deadly earthquake in his nation.

Meta visited the Ramla military base, where he embraced Israeli soldiers and awarded the "Golden Eagle Decoration" to the IDF's National Rescue Unit.

The 6.4-magnitude earthquake that struck on November 26 in Albania killed 51 people and injured more than 3,000. It also damaged more than 11,000 buildings, leaving as many as 13,000 people homeless. The natural disaster was the deadliest earthquake to hit the country since 1979.

Israeli military engineers were among the foreign volunteers who



President of Albania Ilir Meta thanks soldiers from the Israel Defense Forces for their help following November's deadly earthquake in his nation

worked on determining whether some buildings were safe in the aftermath of the earthquake.

"I want to express [to] you Albania's deep gratitude for the human solidarity and the inspirational compassion shown during the inspection, evaluation of earthquake-damaged buildings and dwellings, and in particular for calming down residents and for advising Albanian citizens affected by natural disaster, further consolidating the friendly and historical relations between our two nations and our countries," Meta told the IDF soldiers, according to the *Albanian Daily News*.

This is Meta's first official visit to Israel since being elected in 2017.

Community Schools

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Israeli Water Technology Inaugurated in Gaza to Offer Clean Drinking Source

The pilot project is a result of efforts between Watergen, Israel's Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, the Palestinian NGO Damour for Community Development and the Abasan al-Kabira municipality.

Jewish News Syndicate



A machine that produces safe, clean drinking water out of air—manufactured by the Israel-based company Watergen—was inaugurated on Wednesday in the neighborhood of Abasan al-Kabira in the Gaza Strip as part of a pilot project.

The “GEN-M” it is an atmospheric water generator (AWG) that weighs 780 kilograms and can make as much as 800 liters of water per day.

Gaza’s main source of water is its coastal aquifer; however, its water supply has been rapidly depleting over the last several decades due to overextraction. The reduced water levels have resulted in saline water seeping in, further polluting the water in the aquifer.

More than 90 percent of water from the aquifer is unfit for consumption; as a result, Gazans have been forced to turn to the more expensive option of purchasing desalinated water from local desalination plants.

Bottom of Form

The GEN-M will be connected to solar panels, providing the AWG with a source of power.

Watergen’s management said “responding in accordance with our belief that every human being, regardless of race, gender or religion has a fundamental right to clean drinking water, we are helping some of Israel’s next-door neighbors gain

access to freshwater—a resource lacking in Gaza. We hope that our provision of an AWG will help solve the water crisis and serve as a step forward towards mutual collaboration in the Middle East.”

The pilot project is a result of cooperative efforts between Watergen, Israel’s Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, the Palestinian NGO Damour for Community Development and the Abasan al-Kabira municipality. The Kennedy Leigh Foundation is funding the pilot as part of the Arava Institute’s Track II Environmental Forum.

The Coordination and Liaison Administration (CLA) to the Gaza Strip had overseen the transportation of the GEN-M into Gaza through the Kerem Shalom Crossing.

Head of the CLA, Maj. Gen. Iyyad Sarchan approved the shipment of the GEN-M as part of a policy that seeks to prevent any further deterioration to the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip associated with the enclave’s lack of fresh water.

Watergen’s patented, heat-exchange GENius technology contained in the GEN-M creates water by cooling collected air at its dew point. Subsequently, the water goes through physical, chemical and biological treatment, followed by a mineralization process to maintain its cleanliness, tastiness and healthy quality.

Each GEN-M unit contains an internal water treatment system and needs no infrastructure except a source of electricity in order to operate.

David Lehrer, director of the Arava Institute, said “the introduction of

Watergen into Gaza is not only a proof of concept for a cutting-edge technology, but proof that Palestinians and Israelis can do more than launch

attacks at each other. We can instead work together to improve lives, solve humanitarian problems, build trust and restore hope.”

World-renowned blues pianist
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March 15, 2020

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or visit us online at www.jfsdesert.org

Finally, a Pill That Could Fix the Root Cause of Diabetes

By Abigail Klein Leichman, ISRAEL 21C

Of the 463 million people in the world with diabetes, up to 95 percent have type 2 (T2D). In T2D, peripheral tissues – mostly muscles — are resistant to insulin, a hormone made by the pancreas to stabilize blood-sugar levels and enable the body to use and store sugar.

Medications available today treat the symptoms and complications of T2D but do not solve the core problem of insulin resistance.

Zygosid-50, a drug under development in Israel, could be the first to restore near-normal cellular sensitivity to insulin, without side effects.

Concenter BioPharma in Jerusalem is raising funds for clinical trials approved by the FDA based on evidence from earlier testing in animal models for T2D.

In December, Concenter BioPharma cofounder and CSO Prof. Mottie (Mordechai) Chevion won first place at the 17th Annual World Congress on Insulin Resistance, Diabetes and Cardiovascular Diseases.

"The World Congress attracts the top researchers and clinicians, who understand the problem and the limited solutions available — which aren't really solutions at all," says Concenter BioPharma cofounder and

CEO Dror Chevion, Mottie's son.

"To receive the award — out of 80 submitted abstracts and six chosen for presentation — is a real vote of confidence in our science and our achievements," Dror Chevion tells ISRAEL21c. "The people sitting in that conference will be the ones prescribing our drug to patients."

Mottie Chevion developed the nonsteroidal, anti-inflammatory Zygosid family of drugs in his lab at Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem.

"Zygosids work by robustly reducing insulin resistance and normalizing all diabetes-associated parameters to the normal range," says the professor. "On the molecular level, Zygosid-50 is a potent anti-inflammatory drug that forces an intra-cellular exchange — removal of 'bad' free iron with zinc, depositing the zinc ion within the cells."

In 2015, some of the lab staff and their families successfully tried using Zygosid molecules topically for skin conditions including diabetic foot ulcers and psoriasis. They experienced no negative side effects.

"My father felt it was inhumane not to try to bring these drugs from the lab to patients. He asked me to join him and take this initiative forward," says Dror Chevion.

The intellectual property was licensed to the inventors through the university and hospital tech-transfer companies. Silkim Pharma was set up as a holding company for the IP. Concenter BioPharma was founded as a subsidiary in 2019 to further develop and commercialize Zygosid-50 for treating and preventing T2D.

Israel while finalizing a pill formulation and completing preclinical toxicity studies.

"One in three people in the world is diabetic or prediabetic," says Dror Chevion. "The number is expected to reach 700 million by 2045. In the United States, 31 million people suffer from diabetes and 90 million are prediabetic. And the age of people contracting type 2 diabetes is getting younger and younger."

In animal trials, Zygosid-50 restored insulin sensitivity by better than 90%, bringing blood sugar into balance and lowering chronic and systemic inflammation levels. The drug also replenished zinc deficiency.

The FDA responded to Concenter's investigational new drug (IND) application with a request for additional preclinical toxicity studies and more information on the drug's manufacturing process.

"This is a great achievement for a small company," notes Dror Chevion.

"We are working on accommodating those requests and making the final formulation of the drug as a pill. We plan to perform clinical studies here in Israel. Then we will submit another IND application to go to phase 2b, by the end of 2020. We are currently raising funds to do all of that."

Concenter was self-funded until six months ago. The company will launch a \$5 million round for its T2D activities during 2020.

Concenter BioPharma's scientific advisory board includes three globally recognized diabetes experts: Dr. Peter Nawroth of Germany, Dr. Ralph DeFronzo from the United States, and Dr. Itamar Raz, chairman of the Israeli Council on Diabetes and the National Diabetes Prevention and Care Plan.

"Diabetes is a global epidemic and is expected to grow," says Dror Chevion. "The estimated cost of treating diabetes per year is over \$850 billion. More than 150 companies are developing diagnostics or applications for diabetes, but there are no drugs to treat the actual problem of insulin resistance without side effects. This is what we are doing."

JUDAISM FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Five Programs Presented by Temple Isaiah in Partnership with Jewish Federation

WENDY HAMMERS
Wednesday, March 11
7:00 PM actress/comedienne
(Seinfeld, Sopranos) "Curing Cancer with Chutzpah."

DR. SHUBHA KERKAR
Thursday, March 19, 5 PM
Infectious Disease Specialist
"Hepatitis C - the Silent Killer."

SAN DIEGO JEWISH MEN'S CHOIR
Sunday, March 29, 3 PM
Choir committed to preserving and promoting Jewish choral music.

KLAUS ZWILSKY
Monday, April 20, 5 PM
Survivor's Story: "Surviving the Holocaust in Plain Sight... in a Jewish Hospital in Berlin."

KARMEL MELAMED
Sunday, May 3, 4 PM
"Anti-Semitism of the Iranian Regime & How it is Promoting Neo-Naziism in the U.S."

ALL PROGRAMS HELD AT TEMPLE ISAIAH/JCC
332 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262
TICKETS: \$15 or Package of All Five Programs: \$50

Purchase tickets online at www.templeisaiahps.com
or call the office at 760-325-2281. Tickets also available at the door.

1 in 3 people has diabetes or prediabetes

Concenter's US regulatory consultant, Dr. Susan Alpert, arranged meetings with the FDA in 2017 and 2018 to help determine which indication to focus on. The conclusion was to start with T2D and conduct clinical phase 1 and phase 2a trials in

Tel Aviv Professor Becomes First Woman to Receive Israel Prize in Talmudic Studies

Professor Vered Noam, head of the Chaim Rosenberg School of Jewish Studies and Archaeology at Tel Aviv University, has become the first woman to be awarded the annual Israel Prize for Talmudic studies.

The prize jury, headed by Rabbi Daniel Sperber, a professor of Talmud at Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan, described Noam as “an internationally renowned scholar.”

He added, “the importance of her research is widely recognized. In particular, she is a role model for her contribution to the scientific community and the public in general, for making rabbinic and Talmudic



Professor Vered Noam

literature accessible to all students in Israel.”

Born in Jerusalem to children’s author Rivka Elitzur and Bible scholar Professor Yehuda Elitzur, Noam earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees in Talmud from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She has been

working in the Talmud department of Tel Aviv University since 1999, and since 2017 has headed the School of Jewish Studies and Archaeology.

She was a visiting professor at Yale University and also headed the beit midrash (Jewish study hall) at Midreshet Lindenbaum in Jerusalem—one of the first Orthodox Jewish-study programs for women.

The prize jury added: “She was and continues to be a source of inspiration for an entire generation of women who study Torah in academia and in the world of midrashot [advanced Torah academies] for women in Israel and the world.”

Noam said that “in our world, Jewish women have a right and a duty to be part of the multigenerational conversation of the Jewish people, and to belong to study and Torah.”

The awards ceremony will take place on April 29, Israel’s Independence Day.



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READ TO YOUR CHILDREN

A message brought to you by



Powered by Jewish Federation of the Desert



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

Come celebrate the Festival of Freedom with Temple Isaiah & Temple Sinai

COMMUNITY SEDER

HELD AT TEMPLE ISAIAH ON THE FIRST NIGHT OF PASSOVER

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2020 ~ 6:00 PM

Led by Rabbi Steven Rosenberg & Cantorial Soloist Gerry Noriega



Join us for a joyous evening of friendship, lively participation & a delicious Seder meal.

	Temple Isaiah & Temple Sinai members	Non-members
Adults:	\$75	\$85
Children 4-12:	\$35	\$45

Limited number of Glatt Kosher l'Pesach and vegetarian dinners available. MUST be ordered at the time of your reservations.

Reservation deadline: March 31, 2020



For further information call 760-325-2281 or email temple@templeisaiahps.com
332 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262



Major Gifts



1. Allan* & Roberta* Nyman; 2. Bruce Landgarten & Barbara Fremont; 3. Jewish Federation CEO Bruce Landgarten, Campaign Chair Lori Fritz, Keynote Speaker Eric Fingerhut, Campaign co-chairs Stephanie Ross & Arnie Gillman;

4. Jamie Kabler & Helene Galen; 5. Dennis Ditlove & Dinner co-chair Nancy Ditlove; 6. Buddy Hoffman and Dinner co-chair Libby Hoffman; 7. Bill* & Joanne Chunowitz; 8. Phil & Ellen Glass; 9. Sherwyn Turbow & Marilyn Miller; 10. Lois Johnson, Lori Fritz & Shelley

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Shabbat Schedule - March 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.

Wednesday, March 9: 7:00 pm Megillah Reading & Purim Celebration followed by Hamantashen and desserts
Non-members and guests welcome!

Friday, March 20: 6:30 pm Community Shabbat Dinner - Members \$30; Non-members \$36
Paid reservations required by Thursday, March 12. Information: 760-200-3636

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.chabadpalm Springs.com
760-325-0774

Shabbat services Friday/Saturday; daily morning and evening minyan.

CHABAD OF PALM DESERT

Rabbi Mendy Friedman
Services in a private home. Call for information: 760-651-2424.

www.chabadpd.com
760-969-2153 / 760-969-2158

CHABAD OF RANCHO MIRAGE

Rabbi Shimon Posner
72295 Via Marta, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
www.chabadm.com
760-770-7785

Shabbat services Friday: check website for service times. Saturday 10 am; children's program/service 11:15 am. Daily morning and evening minyan. M-F 7:00 am; Sundays 8:00 am. See website for Purim activities.

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 March:

March 6, 13, 20 - at 5:00 pm, followed by oneg at 5:30 pm.
March 6, 2020: Music Shabbat, followed by Dr. Harold Linstone Lecture: Prof. Penny Rivin: "How Do the Latest Issues in the Middle East Affect Our Future?" followed by Purim Reception. All welcome. No couvert. (see ad page 17).

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

פּוּרִים שְׂמַח!

PURIM IS MARCH 9/10, 2020

Go online or call Temples for service times & special programs

Happy Purim!

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. 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 1:30-3 PM. Call synagogue for current topic.

TEMPLE SINAI (Reform)

73-251 Hovley Lane West, Palm Desert, CA 92260.

www.templeisaiapd.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 - March 2020

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

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 call 760-272-1923 or email Chaya@chabadrm.com for information about the groups and meeting dates.

Mondays

6:30 pm Chabad of Rancho Mirage **Men's Talmud class**, given by Rabbi Benny Lew. RSVP 760-636-2897 or rabbibenny@chabadrm.com.

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

7:00-8:00 pm Chabad Palm Springs program: text based study on **Maimonide's Fundamentals of Judaism**, led by Rabbi Moishe Witkes. For location call or text 760-412-1005.

Tuesdays:

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

Wednesdays:

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

Saturdays, 1:30-3:00 pm Temple Isaiah **Jewish University.** Series of Saturday afternoon study programs led by Rabbi Steven Rosenberg. Call 760-325-2281 for current topic and enrollment.

Sunday, March 1

3:00 pm Sabra Hadassah **Afternoon of Song** with Lesley Wolman. At Temple Sinai. \$50 & \$75. Tickets: 4760-345-7647. See ad page 7.

Thursday, March 5

Tolerance Education Center **Exhibit Opening: "Double Exposure"** Boo2Bullying.

Thursday, March 5

5:00-7:00 pm Tolerance Education Center: Boo2Bullying. TEC & community at large.

Friday, March 6

1:00 pm Tolerance Education Center Lecture: **Rabbi Malka Drucker** "Portraits of Moral Courage During the Holocaust."

Sunday, March 8

11:00 am-3:00 pm Temple Sinai **Queen Esther Festival** in celebration of Purim. (Megillah read 10:00 am).

Sunday, March 8

2:00 pm Havurah of the Desert & PS Cultural Center **"HIAS: Welcoming Refugees & Asylum Seekers."** Includes presentation from JFS of San Diego. No charge but limited seating. See ad page 7.

Monday, March 9

11:00 am Jewish Federation Women's Philanthropy **Pearl Society Luncheon.** See article page 1.

Wednesday, March 11

3:30 pm Har-El Galen TRIMESTER COURSE: **"How Did the Jews in the Early American Republic Help**

Shape Our Country?" Presenter: **Rabbi Richard A. Zions, Ph.D.** No fee. Registration required. Location advised when registering. E-mail harelurjpd@gmail.com or call 760-779-1691. See classified ad page 22.

Wednesday, March 11

7:00 pm Temple Isaiah Judaism for the 21st Century Program: Actress/Comedienne **Wendy Hammers** in a humorous and heart opening presentation of **"Curing Cancer with Chutzpah."** \$15. See ad page 10.

Sunday, March 15

11:30 am Jewish National Fund **Love of Israel Brunch.** Speaker: The new **Consul General of Israel to the South West Region, Hillel Newman.** Omni Rancho Mirage. \$36. Reservation deadline: March 7. Call 760-864-6208 ext. 932.

Sunday, March 15

4:00 pm JFS of the Desert Reception; **6:00 pm: Daryl Davis: An Evening of "Accidental Courtesy."** Tickets **\$75 & \$200.** See ad page 9.

Tuesday, March 17

All day (beginning 8:30 am) Jewish Federation Day at **Tamarisk.** Golf, Cards, Lunch, cocktail party. See ad page 18.

Tuesday, March 17

2:00 pm & 7:00 pm Mensch International Foundation **Dr. Efraim Zuroff "Last Nazi Hunter Comes to Town."** 2 pm: Tolerance Education Center; 7:00 pm St. Margaret's Episcopal Church. See ad page 8.

Thursday, March 19

5:00 pm Temple Isaiah Judaism for the 21st Century Program: **Dr. Shubha Kerkar**, Infectious Disease Specialist **"Hepatitis C - the Silent Killer"** and **Infectious Disease Update.** \$15. See ad page 10.

Sunday, March 22 - Wednesday, March 25

Temple Isaiah presents the Seventh Annual **Jewish Film Festival.** Sunday: High School & College film makers contest plus opening film held at Temple Isaiah. Monday-Wednesday films at Camelot Theatres. See ad page 5.

Tuesday, March 24

1:00 pm Tolerance Education Center Lecture: **Bernard Epps, MFA,** "Lecture: Cultural Assault During the Holocaust (art theft)"

Wednesday, March 25

6:30 pm Chabad of Rancho Mirage Women's Rosh Chodesh Society: **"The Dawning of an Era: The Essence of the Feminine Role."** Call 760-272-1923 or email Chaya@chabadrm.com

Thursday, March 26

4:00 pm Ben Gurion University, UC Riverside and Jewish Federation Lecture Series: **Israel's High Tech and Cyber Security Hub.** Held at Jewish Federation Office. See ad page 19.

Thursday, March 26

4:00 pm Beth Shalom Book Club Discussion **"Kaddish"** by Nathan Englander. Discussion led by Darrell Dozen at a private resident. Address provided with reservation. Call 760-200-3636.

Friday, March 27

1:00 pm Tolerance Education Center Lecture: **Dr. Richard A. Koenigsberg,** "The Psychology of Genocide."

Sunday, March 29

3:00 pm Temple Isaiah Judaism for the 21st Century Program: **San Diego Jewish Men's Choir** \$15. See ad page 10.



Tribute Card Donations

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

All contributions received by the Jewish Federation for Tribute Cards are placed in our special Tzedakah Fund, which provides direct monetary intervention for needy Jews living in the Coachella Valley. Call 760-324-4737.

Honorarium Tributes In Appreciation For:

- **Barbara and Ron Borden**, In honor of your birthdays, from Edward and Jacqueline Cohen.
- **Joy Bratter**, Happy birthday wishes from Lois and George Friedman.
- **Bernie Fromm**, In honor of your special birthday, from Debbie Goodman and John Moyer, Ellen and Jim Labes.
- **Raymond Galante**, Happy birthday wishes from Cora Ginsberg.
- **Jerome Halperin**, Happy 90th birthday wishes from Penny and Harold Blumenstein, Linda and Tom Klein.
- **Harriet Karmin**, In honor of your big birthday, from Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.
- **Joan Kerns**, Happy birthday wishes from Margot and Jerry Halperin.
- **Ted and Annette Lerner**, Congratulations for the Washington Nationals' victory in the 2019 World Series, from Ed and Jackie Cohen.
- **Marilyn and Buddy Marker**, Enjoyed being with you, from Suzanne and Jeff Feder.
- **Larry and Jane Sherman**, Thank you from Eunice and Jerry Meister.
- **Carole and Dick Sukman**, Happy anniversary from Cora Ginsberg.

Refuah Shleimah Get Well Wishes To:

- **Leenie Kaplan**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Jo Ann Kocen**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Rick and Marcia Stein.
- **Bonnie Mandell**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Myra Sanderman**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Bob Scadron**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Sheri and Jim Borax.
- **Phyllis Schahet**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Ruth and Mal Kaufman, Gail and Bob Scadron.

Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:

- **Joel Fishman**, In memory of your beloved wife Sherry, from Libby and Buddy Hoffman, Ruth and Mal Kaufman, Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Bruce Landgarten and Family**, In memory of your beloved father Louis, from the Benavides Family and The Fountain, Nat and Miriam Bent, Sheri and James Borax, Robert and Sandra Borns, Kim and Emily Campbell, Ed and Jackie Cohen,

Nancy and Dennis Ditlove, Marla M. Feldman, Robert and Cheryl Fey, Lori and Brad Fritz, Arnie and Sue Gillman, Cora Ginsberg, Ken Hailpern, Libby and Buddy Hoffman, Fran Kaufman, Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman, Linn Menne and Family, Douglas Morton, Celia Norian, Roberta and Allan Nyman, Leslie Pepper, Barbara Platt and Norm Lewis, Bruce Radler and Stewart Fleishman, Stephanie and Paul Ross, Sherry and Howard Schor, Rick and Marcia Stein, and Chickie and Claude Steinberger.


- **Alan May**, In memory of your beloved Arlene, from Gloria Zhodak.
- **Irv Narter**, In memory of your beloved wife Marcia, from Joanie Lehr, Diane and Arnie Simon, Toby and Neil Stepner.
- **Celia Norian**, In memory of your beloved husband Sandy, from Richard and Sharon Granowitz, Lon Mendelsohn, and Don Stein.
- **Gail Siegel and the Shagrin Family**, In memory of your beloved Don, from Edward and Jackie Cohen, Nancy and Dennis Ditlove, Cora Ginsberg, Libby and Buddy Hoffman, Margie and Stephen Kulp, Gail and Bob Scadron, Sherry and Howard Schor.
- **The Wolfson Family**, In memory of your beloved husband, father and grandfather, Bob, from Marnie Miller.

Apple Corrects Siri Answer Calling Israeli President Rivlin "President of the Zionist occupation state"

Apple's virtual assistant app Siri ran into controversy January 20 when it began responding to the question of who is president of Israel with the answer "Reuven Rivlin is the president of the Zionist occupation state." The tech giant quickly corrected the problem, with Siri now responding,

"Reuven Rivlin is the President of Israel!"

According to *Business Insider*, users began posting screenshots of the "Zionist occupation" answer on social media late Saturday night, with many of them expressing astonishment and outrage.



Reuven Rivlin is the
President of the Zionist
occupation state.

One of the users, Michelle Sindyukov, said, "I was honestly

shocked because Siri's response is so offensive, so I felt like I had to share it with others and tag Apple, so they correct the mistake."

Business Insider, posits that the likely explanation is vandalism on Rivlin's Wikipedia page, from which Apple often sources its information.

In a First, Israel Starts Exporting Natural Gas to Egypt

'The flow of gas brings with it benefits to our economies after over 40 years of peaceful relations,' Israeli president writes to his counterpart.

By Abigail Klein Leichman, Israel 21c

January 15 marked a historic day for Israel and Egypt, as Israel began exporting liquified natural gas to its former enemy nation.

The gas comes mainly from Leviathan, one of two major natural gas fields discovered in Israel over the past decade. The exported gas can be used in the local market or re-exported from Egypt.

"For the first time in its history, Israel is becoming an energy exporter. This is the most important economic cooperation between Israel and Egypt since the 1979 peace agreement between the countries," said Minister of National Infrastructure, Energy, and Water Resources Yuval Steinitz.

Israel also began exporting gas to Jordan and signed an historic agreement to run a gas pipeline from Israel to Europe via Cyprus and Greece.

"For all the years of its existence, Israel imported energy, and this has been overturned," said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on January 5. "The significance of this



Israeli Leviathan gas field gas processing rig seen from Dor Habonim Beach Nature Reserve

project is that we are turning Israel into a major energy power."

Israeli President Reuven Rivlin wrote to Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi: "Today is a day to celebrate in the history of the relations between our two countries. As I write to you, natural gas has begun flowing from the Israeli Leviathan gas field to Egypt, linking our two countries and our two peoples. The flow of gas brings with it benefits to our economies and deepens the connection between Egypt and Israel after over 40 years of peaceful relations."

Rivlin said he hopes the arrangement heralds increasing entrepreneurial cooperation between the two countries for

everyone's benefit. "By looking for ways to connect our peoples, we can ensure that the values of peace that our courageous leaders bequeathed us in the historic peace treaty become part of today's relations between the next generations of Israelis and Egyptians."

Last week, the energy ministers of Israel, Egypt, Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority met in Cairo for the Middle East Gas Forum, a new framework for regional cooperation in the field of gas in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

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WOMEN' SHOTGUN:	8:30 am
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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

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Egypt to Reopen Historic Synagogue in Alexandria



The interior of the Eliyahu HaNavi synagogue in Alexandria, Egypt.

The Egyptian government confirmed that it will reopen a historic synagogue in the city of Alexandria in January 2020.

The Eliyahu HaNavi synagogue in the Mediterranean port city, that was home to a Jewish community of more than 20,000 in the mid-20th century, has been undergoing a restoration process for the last three years.

A statement from Egypt's minister of Antiquities, Khaled al-Anani, explained that the renovation work included "the structural reinforcement of the building, architectural and precise restoration of the main facades and the decorative walls, as well as wooden and copper elements in the temple."

Eliyahu HaNavi is one of the two remaining synagogues in Alexandria. It was built in the 1850s but closed at the end of 2012 due to security concerns.

The temple was included in the 2018 Archeology List of the World Monuments Fund for Endangered Monuments.

According to its website, it is a "symbol of Egypt's historical pluralism, when diverse national and religious communities lived together in a spirit of coexistence and religious freedom."

Israel's Leading Hospital Provides Health Services via WhatsApp

By Zachary Keyser, The Jerusalem Post



Sheba Hospital

Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer in Ramat Gan, the largest hospital in Israel, now provides health services through the popular messaging application WhatsApp – and will be the first major public hospital in the country to offer this type of communication alternative to their patients.

The ability to communicate via WhatsApp was integrated into the medical center's already existing SimpleChat structure by Tel Aviv-based Elad Software Systems, which created the initial chat system. It concentrates all forms of referrals, whether by email, phone, SMS, online messenger or WhatsApp, into one easily accessible database.

"Installing WhatsApp in the

hospital's service system will allow us to route up to 50% of the calls currently received by digital channels to allow patients to receive documents and provide information over the course of one easy phone call," Shimi Ernst, CIO and digital transformation manager at Sheba Medical Center said.

"We deal with about 3,000 telephone inquiries every day, so improvements to service and efficiency are significantly beneficial" for patients and medical staff, he said. Installing WhatsApp on the system allows us to significantly improve the customer experience and helps us strengthen our relationship with our patients."

Sheba Medical - ranked the tenth best hospital in the world, according to a report by Newsweek - allows those seeking outpatient medical services to coordinate their hospital visit through a live or automated customer support representative, depending on preference, via WhatsApp - significantly shortening

wait times for all center services.

In addition, the WhatsApp service makes it possible for patients to request and receive information 24 hours a day as well as facilitate secure document transfer – all in one phone call.

The service underwent a soft-

launch in early September, and since that pilot, the amount of WhatsApp referrals has steadily risen every week. Now the Sheba's medical call center are placed through WhatsApp, demonstrating that the hospital's patients are quickly adopting the new communication protocols.

Polish Children Wear Nazi Uniforms, Reenact Auschwitz Gassing in Show

By Shiryn Ghermezian, The Algemeiner

Students at a primary school in Labunie, Poland, recently staged an Auschwitz-themed performance in which some schoolchildren wore Nazi uniforms, while others reenacted the gassing of prisoners at the German-run concentration camp during World War II, *i24 News* reported in late December.

The show — organized under the supervision of teachers — was intended to commemorate the thousands of Polish children deported and killed under Nazi

occupation in the World War II-era.

A video of the performance was shared on social media.

The Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum condemned the Labunie performance, saying on Twitter, "The idea of dressing up students this age in SS uniforms and staging death scenes with them is simply bad. Adults who organized this lack [the] elementary sensitivity needed to educate children with such a tragic and challenging history."



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Israeli Researcher Develops Molecule to Block Lupus

Israeli, American scientists discover way to prevent the leakage of DNA and proteins associated with autoimmune diseases.

By Naama Barak, ISRAEL 21C

Israeli researchers and stateside colleagues have recently discovered a way to prevent the release of DNA associated with the development of lupus, an autoimmune disease affecting 5 million people around the world.

The researchers identified the pathway through which “pro-cell death proteins” and mitochondrial DNA exit cells – a process that triggers autoimmune diseases – and created a molecule to block this route.

The molecule, called VBIT-4, was created by Prof. Varda Shoshan-Barmatz of Ben-Gurion University



Prof. Varda Shoshan-Barmatz.

and the National Institute for Biotechnology in the Negev.

She tested the discovery on mouse models of lupus with Dr. Jay Chung from the US National Institutes of Health. Their research was recently published in the *Science Journal*.

The pathway that the researchers

identified is called mitochondrial protein voltage-dependent anion channel (VDAC1). In some autoimmune diseases VDAC1 is over-expressed, meaning that a large pore composed of several VDAC1 units is formed, allowing the release of pro-cell death factors and mitochondrial DNA.

The researchers used VBIT-4 to prevent the formation of this large pore and the subsequent release of pro-cell death factors associated with diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, as well as the mitochondrial DNA associated with lupus.

“Our breakthrough is identifying a new pathway for the exit of mitochondrial DNA that we can either trigger under controlled conditions or inhibit using our novel molecule that we specifically developed to prevent the formation of this pathway,” said Shoshan-Barmatz.

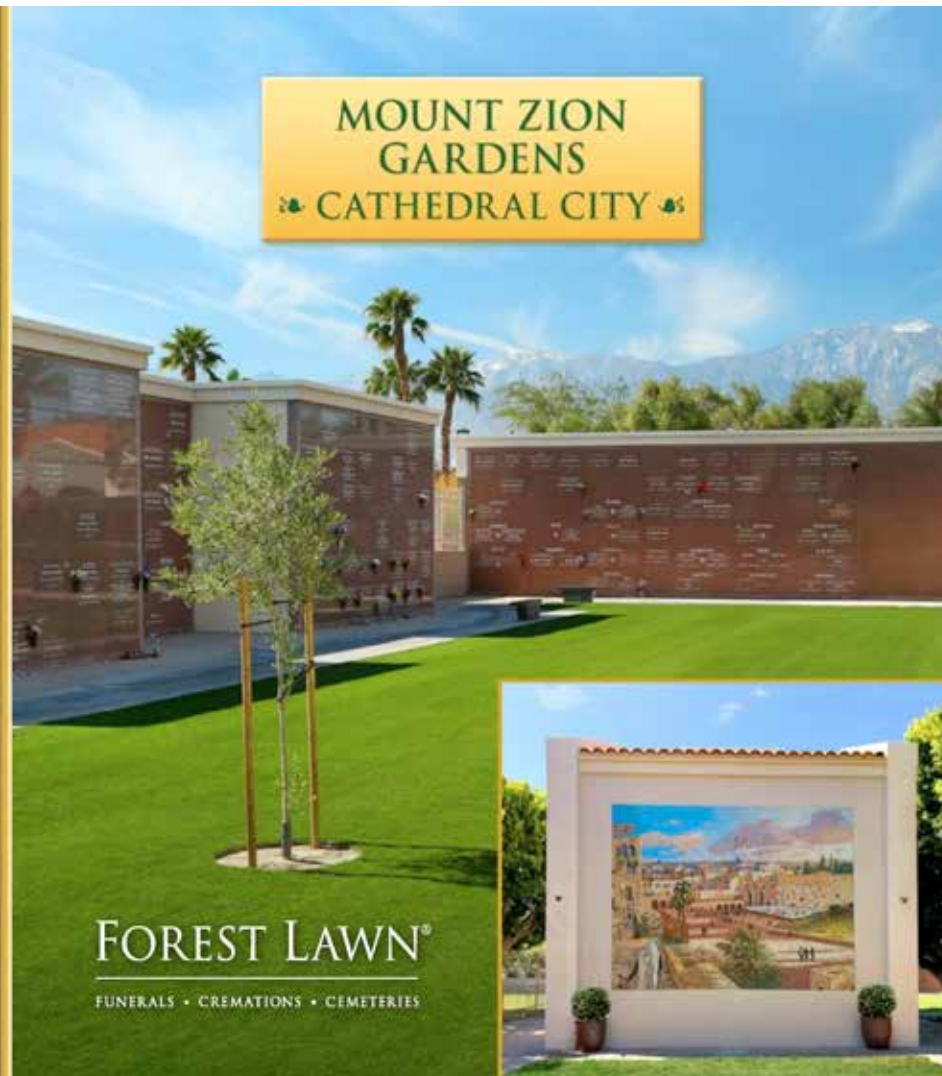
“Since the results thus far with lupus have been so promising, we believe that the molecule will be beneficial with regard to other diseases such as Alzheimer's, Crohn's and ulcerative colitis – as our preliminary results already support,” she added.

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75th Anniversary of Liberation of Auschwitz Observed January 27, 2020



Germany's President Walter Steinmeier and wife Elke at International Monument at Auschwitz-Birkenau.



Israeli President Reuven Rivlin and Polish President Andrzej Duda



World leaders gathered at World Holocaust Forum at Yad Vashem, Jerusalem



Survivors bringing wreaths to Auschwitz-Birkenau



Survivors entering Auschwitz-Birkenau



Senior Saudi religious leaders lead Muslim delegation with Jewish leaders entering Auschwitz-Birkenau



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Memorial at Buchenwald

Anti-Semitic Incidents in South Africa Fall to 15-Year Low

Jewish News Syndicate

The number of anti-Semitic incidents in South Africa fell to a 15-year low, according to the country's Jewish umbrella organization.

A total of 36 anti-Semitic incidents were recorded in 2019, compared to 62 the previous year, according to the South African Jewish Board

of Deputies. Only one incident consisted of physical assault, and no cases of desecration to Jewish property was recorded.

Some 75,000 Jews live in South Africa, most of them in Johannesburg, with the next largest Jewish community in Cape Town.

"We can be proud that at a time when attacks

against Jews are everywhere growing both in number and severity, our country has consistently bucked



the trend," said Shaun Zagnoe, the Jewish board's national chairman, in a statement. "As a result, South Africa continues to be a country where Jews can fully identify with and practice their religion without fear."



Simchas

Mazel tov to **Rabbi Benny** and **Chani Lew** on the birth of their daughter, **Sarah Nechama** on February 9 ... **Phyllis Pepper** is still glowing from being honored by Hadassah as their "Woman of Valor" at a beautiful luncheon on January 27... Eight local Chabad **C-Teens** are on their way

to the annual International C-Teen Shabbaton in New York City, where they will be joining 2,000 teens from all over the world for an experience of a lifetime. We're looking forward to including pictures in next month's JCN! *Share your Simchas with us. Email or call Miriam Bent at mhbentjcn@earthlink.net or 760-323-0255.*



Candle Lighting Times

Friday, March 6	Shabbat Tetzaveh	5:04 pm
Friday, March 13	Shabbag Ki Tisa	6:09 pm
Friday, March 20	Shabbat Vayakhel-Pekudei	6:15 pm
Friday, March 27	Shabbat Vayikra	6:20 pm

Daylight savings time begins March 8



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We Mourn the Passing of...

Lillian Fox, Louis Landgarten, Teri Lester, Elizabeth Levy, and Seymour "Buzz" Zendle. Our sincerest apologies to Gail Siegel and the Shagrin family for spelling Don's last name wrong in last month's JCN. *Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing.*

The Board of Directors and Staff of the
Jewish Federation of the Desert
and his many friends and supporters
in our desert community,
extend heartfelt condolences to
Bruce Landgarten
on the death of his beloved father,
Louis Landgarten.

Roberta Nyman, Board Chair

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Har-El Galen TRIMESTER COURSE: "How Did the Jews in the Early American Republic Help Shape Our Country?" One Session: Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 3:30-5:00 PM. Presenter: **Rabbi Richard A. Zionts, Ph.D.** No fee. Registration required. Location advised when registering. E-mail harelurjpd@gmail.com or call 760-779-1691.

"Never Again Education Act" Overwhelmingly Passes House of Representatives

In an overwhelming 393-5 vote, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Never Again Education Act, legislation which would provide assistance for Holocaust education and other programs promoting the importance of preventing hatred and bigotry. The bill, whose lead sponsors were Reps. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and Elise Stefanik (R-NY), was passed on International Holocaust Remembrance Day, and won wide bipartisan support.

"Raising the level of Holocaust awareness within United States, and particularly among our young people, is the call of the hour," according to Rabbi Abba Cohen, Vice President for Government Affairs and Washington Director of Agudath Israel of America. "The pattern of hate crimes that have targeted American Jews of late, and the shocking level of ignorance about the Holocaust as demonstrated in recent polls, make Holocaust education an important weapon in the battle to combat this hate."

Under the bill, \$10 million will be allocated over a five year period to expand the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's educational programming across the country and to develop new resources, including a centralized website, that will trace Holocaust history as well as post-Holocaust patterns of racist behavior.

Of particular importance, the funding will also expand support for resources and curricular material for educators. Teachers who integrate lessons of the Holocaust

within their respective curricula may be eligible for funding. The bill's assistance may also be channeled towards professional development programs, allowing for a greater number of local, regional, and national workshops. Ultimately, the hope is that the Museum will be able to offer joint programs of teacher training, thereby enhancing the discipline of Holocaust education throughout the nation – perhaps throughout the world.

Jewish Federations of North America, Hadassah and Agudath Israel of America were instrumental in moving the legislation forward.

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Have A Nosh With Miriam



Purim is March 9/10 this year. As always, the pastry for the hamantashen is my beloved mother-in-law Goldie Rittberg's recipe because it is, simply, the best! The fillings as easy to make and offer a delicious variety. Happy Purim! MHB



GOLDIE'S HONEY DOUGH

1/3 cup Crisco
1/2 cup sugar
1/4 cup honey
2 eggs, beaten
2-1/2 cups flour

2-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 Tablespoon lemon juice
1/2 teaspoon grated lemon rind

Preheat oven to 350°. Thoroughly cream the Crisco and sugar together. Add honey. Beat in eggs, lemon juice and lemon rind. Sift together the flour, baking powder and salt, then stir into the egg mixture and form into a soft dough. Toss lightly on a floured board. Roll out to 1/4 inch thickness and cut into circles. Fill with desired filling, pinch into triangles and bake for 18 to 20 minutes at 350° F. until golden brown.

DEEP CHOCOLATE MOCHA FILLING (Pareve)

1 cup cocoa
1 cup sugar

1 cup coffee
1-3 Tbsp. amaretto

Mix cocoa, sugar and coffee in a medium sized bowl until well blended. If mixture is dry, add amaretto one tablespoon at a time, until it becomes looser than fudge but thicker than frosting.

RUM WALNUT FILLING (Milchig)

5 oz. minced walnuts
5 oz. sugar
1 cup milk

1 Tbsp. butter
Rind from one lemon
1 Tbsp. rum

Boil the milk with the sugar and walnuts until it thickens. Let it cool, then stir in the remaining ingredients.

APRICOT-ORANGE FILLING (Pareve)

2 cups finely chopped dried
apricots
1-1/3 cups orange juice

2/3 cup honey
Zest of 1/2 orange

Bring to boil in saucepan. Reduce heat and simmer 15 minutes until soft and liquid is absorbed (Add water if needed). Cool before filling pastry.

FIG WALNUT FILLING (Pareve)

9 ounces dried Mission figs, stems
discarded
1/2 cup raisins
3/4 cup honey

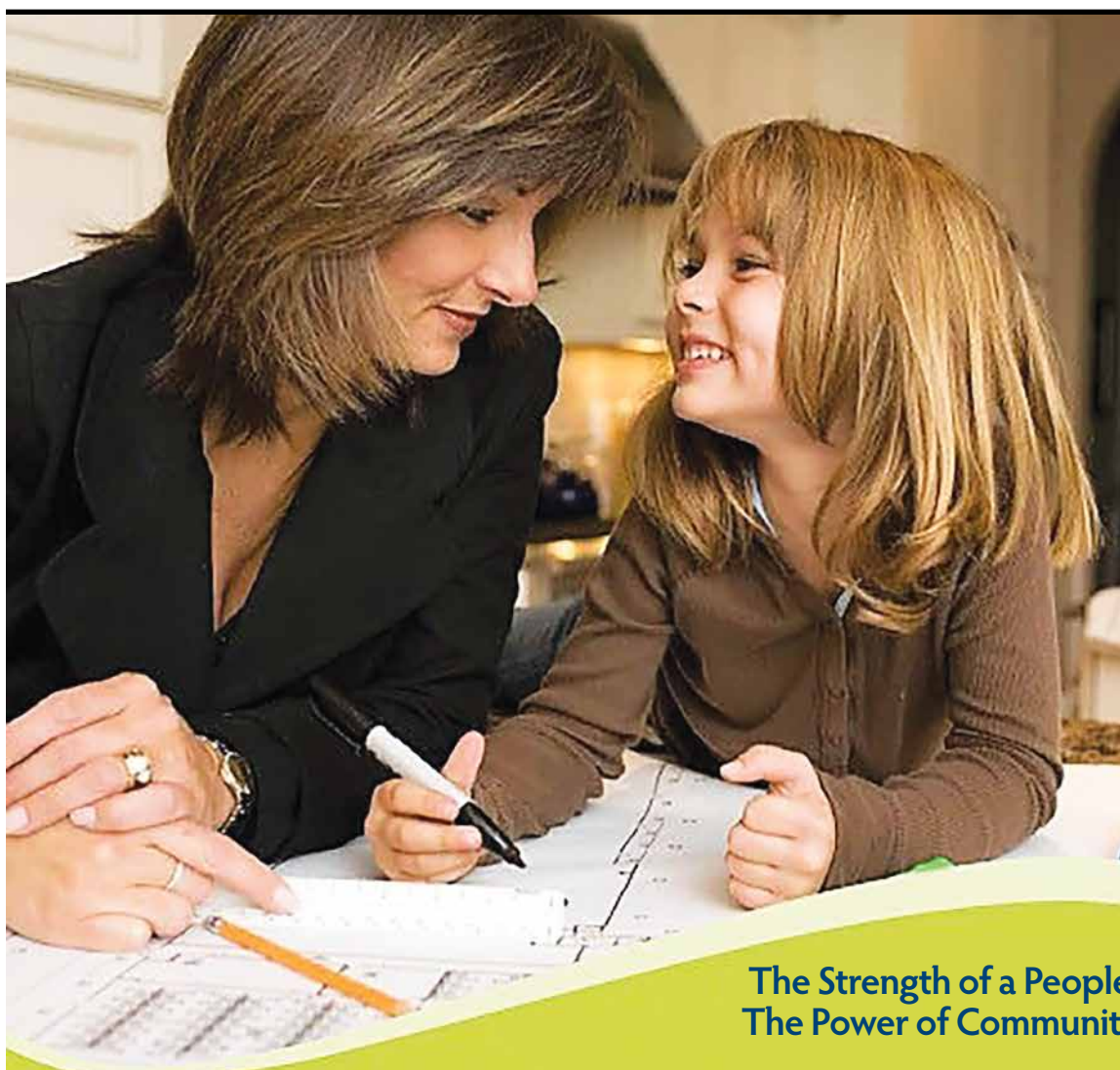
1/3 cup orange juice
1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon grated lemon zest
1 cup walnuts, chopped

Finely chop the figs and raisins in a food processor. Add the honey, orange juice, cinnamon, and lemon zest, and pulse just to blend. Scrape the fig mixture into a medium bowl. Stir in the walnuts.

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