

Why Ben Gurion Keeps Smiling – Palm Springs' Visionary Partnership with Ramat HaNegev

Eran Doron, Mayor-Ramat HaNegev



In 2048, Israel's 100th year, we are expecting that the population of the state of Israel will almost double itself and stand at 15 million people. Given the current situation in which the center of the country is extremely populated, this growth will not be possible without the development of the Negev – construction of housing units, development of commerce and the economy, creating work places, and the development of a high-quality education infrastructure of a new order of magnitude. It is our duty to ensure that this development is conducted in an informed manner that will on the one hand enables development, and protects environmental values and our precious desert, on the other hand.

If we want Israel of 2048 to look like the Zionist dream rather than Taiwan, we should invest in the Negev now. The good news is that we have some impressive leaders in the Negev, a clear vision and an excellent infrastructure to grow

from. Ramat Hanegev Regional Council constitutes 22% of the landmass of the State of Israel, but only 8,050 residents. In its five year plan, Ramat haNegev set a goal-from 8,000 residents to 40,000 residents by the 2048.

The long outstanding partnership between Ramat HaNegev and the Jewish Community of Palm Springs and Desert Area is based on mutual values shared by both our communities, namely, the promoting of quality education & Jewish life and ensuring its continuity for future generations, the unity of Jewish people worldwide and strengthening the State of Israel.

One who travels in our region, which is about 90 Km South of Beer-Sheva, in Southern Israel, will no doubt notice the huge impact that the Jewish community of Palm Springs has created in our lives in this remote periphery area of Israel, namely:

Kindergartens & daycare facilities in our different communities, servicing dozens of infants and toddlers.

Yearly grants which foster major educational year-long and summer activities for Nitzana region youth (Nitzana region with the only 5 Jewish communities located directly

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NINE ONLINE SESSIONS LED BY PALM SPRINGS AND DESERT RABBIS

Beginning August 6th, Jewish Federation of the Desert invites you to join a virtual platform for interactive learning, taking place via Zoom. This Beit Midrash (House of Learning) will offer immersive study with like-minded peers over a shared passion for intellectually engaged and spiritually rich study.

Although physically distant, you will have the opportunity to learn with our local Rabbis and engage in analyzing the book "Judaism's 10 Best Ideas" by Arthur Green.

You will be challenged to ask questions and be active participants in thought-provoking discussions.

All sessions are Tuesdays or Thursdays from 1:00 to 2:00 pm and each is based on a chapter in the book. Community members may attend as many sessions as you choose as each stands alone. No prior knowledge is necessary, just a willingness to learn.

Optional participation fee: \$18+.

To enrol, and to access the book, go to the Jewish Federation website jfedps.org or call the Jewish Federation at 760-324-4737. Alternatively, the book can be purchased on Amazon for approximately \$10.



(L-r) Rabbi Andrew Bentley (Desert Chaim), Rabbi Kenneth Emert (Sun City) Rabbi Jules King (Desert Outreach); Rabbi David Lazar (Or Hamidbar), Rabbi David Novak (Temple Sinai), Rabbi Stephen Rosenberg (Temple Isaiah) & Rabbi Richard Zions (Har-El)

Thursday, August 6	Rabbi David Lazar	Simcha - Joy
Thursday, August 20	Rabbi Kenneth Emert	Tzelem Elohim - Creation in God's Image
Thursday, September 3	Rabbi Richard Zions	Halacha - Walking the Path
Tuesday, September 15	Rabbi Andrew Bentley	Tikkun Olam - Repairing the World
Tuesday, October 6	Rabbi Steven Rosenberg	Getting Off the Treadmill
Thursday, November 5	Rabbi Andrew Bentley	Teshuvah - Returning
Thursday, November 19	Rabbi David Novak	Teach Them to Your Children
Thursday, December 3	Rabbi Jules King	L'Hayyim - To Life!
Tuesday, December 15	Rabbi David Lazar	Hear O Israel



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2019-2020

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Coming Together During Difficult Times



**Roberta
Nyman**

Jewish Federation
Board Chair

These have been unusual and difficult times. The members of our Jewish community have, for the most part, kept their distances and have been safe. We have lost a few people to COVID-19 and others have been very ill but are recovering, for which we are so very grateful. I am proud of how many of you stepped up and contributed to our fundraising requests, allowing our Federation to play an important role in helping feed the hungry of our desert community.

I am excited with how our Federation staff has spearheaded innovative programs to keep us engaged while we shelter at home. I am pleased with our partnership with the rabbis in our community to offer meaningful and substantive programming. Thank you to all who are participating in this special series.

I am proud of all of you as you deal with this new reality. It is encouraging to hear from our rabbis that more people are "attending" the online services and classes than did so when attendance meant getting in our cars and going to services, classes, and programs. You have adapted so well. Kudos for rising to the occasion.

And thank you to those of you

who can help and have stepped up to the plate. The needs in our community are real and the demands on our resources are significant and growing.

I would like to share a quote of Kobi Yamada that I feel describes our community:

"There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer. With it beats the spirit of service, generosity and compassion – and the health and wellbeing of our community, our country and our world."

Thank you for your service, generosity, and compassion.

Roberta Nyman
Chairman of the Board

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With Rabbi David Novak and Cantor Linda Ecker



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New Realities, New Strategies



Bruce Landgarten

Jewish Federation
Chief Executive
Officer

It is difficult to verbalize what our country and community has been through in the last several months. Looking back to the start of the pandemic, when our world was turned on its head, the climate was chaotic and filled with uncertainty. We have each been met with varying degrees of personal loss and disruption to daily life.

As the COVID-19 virus rapidly evolved, we were and are humbled by the generosity and responsiveness of our caring Jewish community. Our Emergency Response Fund has helped to address the most immediate and pressing community needs. I am proud of how our Federation has worked to help our low-income population and become a source of support and resources. We have fed and cared for our most vulnerable. We have helped the food insecure in our community through our support of FIND and its food market sites throughout our desert community. For our Jewish community isolating at home, we have provided weekly community wide healing and prayers in partnership with our Rabbis.

We have risen to the challenge. While there is still much to be determined, there is one thing that remains certain: Our Federation is here. We will always be here.

In the face of changes, a good deal of soul-searching is underway. Every institution and organization is scrambling to find a pathway through the crisis. There is huge pressure on boards and on funders, on foundations

and on Federation, on campaigns and on endowments. And let's face it—not every organization or institution can make it. Some were on shaky ground before COVID-19. At times, overbuilding was a result of diffuse community planning and an environment in which compelling ideas or notions found the support and interest required to bring those ideas to life, but having perhaps done so without an understanding of broader community needs and the community's durable capacity to meet them.

Back in 2008, during the Great Recession, the pressures on the Jewish community were compounded by huge losses in financial markets and radical reductions in valuations of communal endowment and foundation assets. Those pressures also undercut annual campaigns and crippled nearly every organization dependent upon fundraising and philanthropy. There was no safe harbor.

Twelve years later, the circumstances are markedly different. On March 1, 2020, the cumulative charitable assets and resources in the hands of the North American Jewish community may never have been larger. Foundation assets, endowment portfolios, and institutional reserves had enjoyed the benefits of a decade-long bull market and major stock indices seemed routinely to be hitting new highs. The pandemic has certainly made a dent but, to date, only a modest one. Those assets and resources so effectively managed and safeguarded over these years seem poised to provide the means to meet the strategic challenges of the rainy day no one saw coming.

We have infrastructure. We have resources. We have leaders who are dedicated, and extraordinary, both lay and professional. We have a common crisis. And we have a shared commitment to a better, stronger, more vibrant, more dynamic Jewish future.

So, what is missing?

At the moment it is the impetus to come together, to think and plan as a community, to consider how to create greater efficiency and alignment from our disparate, component parts. We need share-of-mind and attention from those who have the most to offer to the critical planning we must do. We need it to address the pivotal question: How can we join hands to assure that this community will have what it needs to provide for its Jewish future, when this crisis is finally behind us?

Partnership and collaboration. Shared resources—human, physical, and economic. The junction between ambition and expectation, between good intentions and sound business

practices. The acknowledgment that core infrastructure will be there for all of us and the assurance that valuable components of the communal landscape will not be sacrificed simply because, at this moment, for a particular institution, there appears to be insufficient, short-term financial wherewithal.

Hillel the Elder's most famous lesson, found in Pirkei Avot ("The Wisdom of Our Ancestors"), says "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? But if I am only for myself, what am I? And, if not now, when?" Now is a time to draw upon this wisdom, together, before market forces make our strategic decisions for us.



We are grateful that over 17,000 North American donors have committed over \$1 billion in legacy gifts through the collaboration with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation's LIFE & LEGACY Initiative.

Locally, dozens of donors have already committed a legacy gift to Jewish Federation of the Desert and other organizations that have shaped their lives. This is just the beginning of a community-wide effort to ensure a vibrant Jewish future in the Palm Springs and Desert area.

For more information on this, contact Kevin Giser at Kevin.giser@jfedps.org or 760-324-4737

What Do You Want YOUR Legacy To Be?

alongside the 200 Km of the border with Egypt).

Yearly grants which foster emotional treatments and programs at the Regional Center for Children with Special Needs – a major life changer and time saver service for parents and children who otherwise would need to travel long distances to get similar emotional treatments for their children. Servicing 280 children up to 18 years old every year.

Faced with facts of economic and demographic changes, the Council of Ramat HaNegev, under the leadership of Mayor Eran Doron, has created a five-year development program, with a long term range view for needs in the areas of Education, Social, Engineering, construction of housing, Tourism, Beduin Community, legal regulation and economy. Our reality is complexed and the challenges we

are facing are not simple, but this forces us to become more creative, more precise, and focused.

The title of the 5-year development program is “Ramat HaNegev – where the Personal & National Meets” which expresses the connection between what is happening in Ramat HaNegev on the local level, to what is happening on the Israeli National level - considering the future population growth.

By now it is already a known fact that to move forward and plan the future needs of Israel, the government must take into immediate consideration the needed steps to expedite the development of the Negev, i.e.: the building of housing, commercial & economic development, creating employment opportunities and developing quality educational infrastructure for a new volume of population. In the same token,

we must make sure that future development will be done rationally, allowing the developments needed but keeping the environmental values of our beloved desert – the Negev.

Ramat HaNegev Regional Council and its residents are very grateful and proud to continue the partnership with the members of the Jewish Community and its visionary leaders, who for so many years already understood the importance of the Negev region to the future and security of Israel, and are actively committed to strengthening our communities and we look forward to many more years of partnership and cooperation between our communities, although geographically apart, indeed fulfilling another declaration of David Ben Gurion and which is: “... It is in the Negev, that the Jewish people will be tested...”

JEWISH COMMUNITY NEWS

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EDITORIAL

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JCN STATEMENT

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

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About Ramat HaNegev:



Our beautiful council is located in the heart of the desert, covering approx. 22% of the total area of the State of Israel. The council is home to 15 diverse communities, and about 8,000 residents, that together live here and realize, in practice, David Ben-Gurion's vision of settling and developing the Negev.

Some of the most advanced and impressive enterprises in Israel were established and operate here, in one of Israel's most remote areas: innovative agri-tech, Institutes for

Desert Research, International agriculture training center, one of the world's most advanced renewable energy facility, and an innovative education lab.

Our communities are constantly developing and growing thanks to the high quality of life, the quality of the people, and the privilege of continuing the Zionist work of making the Negev bloom and thus strengthen the home of the Jewish people.

New Israeli Spy Satellite Set to Provide Intelligence Edge Over Adversaries

By Yaakov Lappin, Jewish News Syndicate

The "Ofek 16" satellite, launched by the Ministry of Defense and Israel Aerospace Industries, will significantly upgrade Israel's ability to monitor the activities of the Iranian-Shi'ite axis throughout the Middle East.

The "Ofek 16" spy satellite significantly upgrades Israel's ability to monitor the dangerous activities of its adversaries throughout the Middle East, foremost among them Iran.

The satellite was launched successfully by the Defense Ministry and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) following years of research and development, and a working schedule that in recent months had to be adapted to restrictions created by the coronavirus pandemic.

IAI officials said they viewed the satellite's launch as a top priority. This is due to the fact that "Ofek 16" is designed to provide the Israeli defense establishment with a higher than ever resolution camera in space.

Amnon Harari, head of the Ministry's Space and Satellite Administration, noted on Monday that the latest spy satellite joins a series of similar ones in orbit, including the "Ofek 5," launched in 2002, which remains operational to this day. The first of the "Ofek" (the Hebrew word for "horizon") series was launched in 1988.



Israel's "Ofek 16" reconnaissance satellite is launched from a site in central Israel on July 6, 2020.

"The group of satellites are being used to monitor any threats to the State of Israel, which as you know are sometimes far away and immediate, so they require constant monitoring," he said.

According to IAI's Space Division chief, Shlomi Sudri, "Ofek 16" has an advanced electro-optical (camera) sensing system that will "enhance the strategic intelligence capability of the State of Israel."

While no further details were provided about that system, it's worth noting that on previous Israeli satellites, an advanced camera system called "Jupiter," made by Elbit Systems, had been installed.

According to Elbit's website, the camera enables investigations of "very high-value targets," and it provides higher definition images of small and discrete vehicles, objects and structure. It also can be used for "more detailed operational planning" and "more enhanced battle damage assessment," meaning looking at the damage caused to enemy targets.

It doesn't seem to be a stretch of the imagination to conclude that such a satellite will help Israel track Iran's nuclear program with new technology, as well as monitor Iran's malign activity throughout the Middle East—particularly the trafficking of weapons to Iran's proxies like Hezbollah—and activities in Syria.

'At the forefront of technological capabilities'

The "Ofek 16" satellite represents remarkable cooperation among various defense companies. IAI is the prime contractor and responsible for the Shavit space launcher, while Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Tomer, a government-owned company, built the launch engines. The Defense Ministry's Space Administration led the development and production.

Defense Minister Benny Gantz paid tribute to the "people who have been investing in these systems and advancing breakthrough capabilities over the years. We will continue to strengthen and maintain Israel's capabilities on every front, in every place."

In 2016, Israel launched its "Ofek 11" satellite, which overcame early technical problems to become fully operational. Two years earlier, in 2014, Israel launched the "Ofek 10" satellite, which uses a radar

system rather than a camera to monitor events of interest. Its SAR (Synthetic aperture radar) payload has advanced day and night photography capabilities, and works in all weather conditions.

Once the "Ofek 16" is deemed fully operational, the Defense Ministry will hand over the satellite's controls to the Israel Defense Forces' 9990 visual intelligence Unit.

Israel invests hundreds of millions of shekels per year in its space and satellite industries, which in turn fuels new technology.

The Jewish state belongs to a small club of 13 countries in the world that is able to build and launch its own satellites—one that includes the United States, Russia, China, Iran, France, the United Kingdom and Ukraine.

According to the Defense Ministry, "the investment of the State of Israel in space technology is considered essential and strategic for intelligence purposes. This is a multi-year investment, which requires a multitude of resources, consistency and professionalism. The goal is to ensure that the Israeli satellite program will remain at the forefront of technological capabilities and will continue to produce advanced satellites, which will maintain Israel's intelligence and technological superiority."

The Modern Jewish Experience ~ A Reform Approach

CONGREGATION HAR-EL, MEMBER URJ, is excited to offer distance learning and Services. You are invited to complimentary High Holy Day Services, Friday Night Services with a Social before the 5:00 pm Shabbat Services and chat groups with clergy after services. Torah Study every Saturday at 11:00 am. Classes are running year around with a variety of presenters and topics. Email harelurjpd@gmail.com and request a ZOOM invitation. Join over 350 households that have registered! Be part of the Modern Jewish Experience with Rabbi Richard A. Zions, Ph.D. and Cantor Joseph Gole, D.Mus..





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Introducing Pacesetters

Have you recently moved to the area? Have you attended a Jewish Federation Women's event? Or been to our Cocktails and Culture group and listened to a stimulating program on Jewish cultures around the world? Have you been to our semi-annual newcomers' brunch and met new friends? We invite you to join Pacesetters, the social group of women with school age children, and participate in our fun activities, such as wine tasting, candle making, cooking and painting classes.

Or join our women's Shalom Desert Welcome Committee and virtually get together over a cup of coffee to meet new friends. Our newcomers' program is designed to encourage

you to try out various opportunities, hosted by the Jewish Federation and/or with local Jewish agencies.

Whether you participate in an event, take on a role with our Women's Committee, jump in and chair a program, or serve as a volunteer to support Federation's Annual Campaign, we are always excited to have women like YOU become a part of our thriving community of volunteers and philanthropists.

For more information and to RSVP, contact Leslie Pepper, Women's Philanthropy Coordinator of the Jewish Federation, at 760-324-4737 or email her at Leslie.pepper@jfedps.org.

Danish Bible Society Omits References to Israel in New Testament

The translators of the new edition defended their decision by saying the land of Israel in biblical times is not identical to present-day Israel.

Jewish News Syndicate

The Danish Bible Society removed the word "Israel" from its new edition of the New Testament, the Danish news website *24NYT* reported on Sunday.

The "Bible 2020" edition that the group released instead refers to "the people of Israel" and the "Land of Israel" as "Jews" or "land of the Jews," respectively.

Jan Frost, a supporter of Israel from Denmark who read the new

edition, said in a YouTube video that he counted 59 omissions out of 60 references to Israel.

The translators of the new edition defended their decision by explaining that the land of Israel in biblical times is not identical to present-day Israel. At the same time, in the Old Testament translation released as part of the Bible 2020 project, direct references to the land of Israel

and its kings remained, *i24News* reported.

The publication also cited a Danish Christian newspaper that discovered a mistranslation in the New Testament edition that mixed up the Hebrew "friend" or "kinsman" and "enemy." The mistake was later fixed in the book's electronic edition.

Imam Mohammad Tawhidi, an Iranian-born Shi'ite cleric and

former radical who now preaches about peace, censured the omission.

He wrote on Twitter, "Danish Bible Society has published a new Bible that does not include the word 'Israel' whether it refers to the Holy Land or to the Israelites. 'Israel' has been replaced with 'Jews' or erased altogether. The agenda is to present Jews as stateless. It's false and against God."

Temple Sinai Welcomes New Rabbi

As he describes his arrival in our community, Temple Sinai's new spiritual leader, Rabbi David Novak, sees himself as "hitting the ground running as a force for congregational stability and growth." Having begun on July 1st, he is looking forward to making an impact in our desert, noting, "As Jews who wandered the desert for 40 years, I look forward to propelling Temple Sinai's and the desert Jewish community's journey forward." Temple Sinai's president, Bob Glast, notes that Rabbi Novak was the unanimous choice of the search committee and the board of directors.

Judaism—and Jewish life—are central to how he defines his life.

"My vision is to be a leader in our community by appealing to all Jews—no matter their gender or sexual orientation—to create vibrant worship, meaningful adult education, compassionate pastoral care, inspired Torah learning, and a strong presence within and outside of the synagogue's Palm Desert walls."

Rabbi Novak comes to Temple Sinai after serving two Florida congregations as an interim rabbi. Previously, he led Israel



Congregation of Manchester, Vermont, for a decade after his 2007 ordination.

His journey to becoming a rabbi began in 2001, after the attacks on our country. At 38, with a thriving career in communications, he heard an emeritus rabbi ask from the bimah what he would do with his life with a do-over. This catalyzed him to make the jump and apply to begin studies to become a rabbi. As he explains, he was accepted in January 2002 and moved to Jerusalem in June for the first year of studies at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, choosing HUC-JIR for their leadership in accepting people to

the rabbinic school who are openly gay.

In Israel David met his partner, now husband, Yuval Sela, a Jewish special educator and beekeeper. They have been together since 2002 and married on Manchester's Israel Congregation bimah in 2014, in front of family, friends, and the congregation.

A resident of Sun City Palm Desert, Rabbi David is delighted to be back in Southern California. He is already creating the next links in our people's story with Temple Sinai's congregants and the Coachella Valley's large and diverse Jewish population.

Outrage in Ukraine Re: Demand For 'List of Jews'

By Ben Cohen, *The Algemeiner*

A demand by a senior police officer in western Ukraine for a list of the names, addresses and phone numbers of local Jewish community members has been roundly condemned by Jewish leaders as reminiscent of the Nazi occupation of the former Soviet republic.

The demand — from the Department of Strategic Investigations of the Ukrainian national police, which combats organized crime — was received by Yakov Zalischiker, the head of the Jewish community in the city of Kolomyia, on February 11. As quoted by local news outlet Kolomyia Today, Zalischker explained that he had initially interpreted the letter as a prank, as most of the members of his community were elderly.

The letter was eventually revealed mid-May by Eduard Dolinsky, head of the Ukrainian Jewish Committee, who published it on his Facebook page.

Signed by Mykhailo Bank, a senior police official in the Ivano-Frankivsk region of Ukraine, the letter demanded a copy of the

community's charter, together with "a list of community members with addresses and mobile phones" and "a list of Jewish students in universities of Kolomyia and Ivano-Frankivsk."

Bank explained that he required the information because his department was "engaged in the fight against transnational and ethnic organized groups and criminal organizations."

A response from the community dated February 25 informed Bank that its charter was available in the state registry, adding a reminder that "religious communities are separate from the state" and pointing out that "personal data of community members can be provided only in the case of registered criminal cases."

Dolinsky condemned the police letter as echoing the roundup of Ukrainian Jews by the Nazis and local collaborators following the German military invasion of June 1941.

"Interestingly, in 1941, the Nazis and the Ukrainian auxiliary police also demanded a list of all Jews," Dolinsky wrote.

One Ukrainian parliamentarian announced that he would seek an investigation into Bank's letter, charging that the Ukrainian police demand was itself a "violation of the law."

The parliamentarian, Igor Fris, told the local WestNews agency that he had also spoken with Volodymyr Holubosh — the regional head of Ukraine's Interior Ministry — who "apologized on behalf of the leadership and staff to the entire Jewish community for the situation."

While acknowledging Holubosh's apology, Fris asserted that the police letter had been dangerously inflammatory.

"I believe that the leadership of the Ministry of Internal Affairs should evaluate the actions of its subordinates, which not only tarnish police uniforms, but also inflame ethnic conflict where it has never been in modern Ukraine," he was quoted as saying.

Another parliamentarian urged the immediate dismissal of Bank from the

Ukrainian police force.

"A policeman who decides to conduct a census of the Jews of Ivano-Frankivsk must and will be fired," Oleksander Dubinsky declared on his Facebook page.

The letter was also condemned by the Israeli ambassador in Kiev, Joel Lion.

Settled by Jews from the early part of the sixteenth century, the present size of the community in Kolomyia is less than 1,000. During World War II, most of the city's Jews were deported to the Belzec concentration camp.

The region continues to be a flashpoint of concern regarding ultranationalist and far-right activism. In April, local Jews expressed outrage when a 95-year-old veteran of the "Halychyna" division of the Waffen SS was honored in the neighboring city of Kalush. Vasyl Nakonechny was pictured giving a Nazi salute as he received the title of "Honorary Citizen of Kalush" at the ceremony on April 20.

Proof Found That Czech Communist Regime Used Looted Jewish Gravestones to Pave Prague City Square

By Benjamin Kerstein, *The Algemeiner*

The Prague Jewish community has finally found proof that the Czech Republic's former communist regime looted Jewish cemeteries to build one of its iconic tourist sites.

The Guardian reported that, at the request of the Jewish community, during renovations at Wenceslas Square workers searched for and found dozens of tombstones taken from the city's Jewish cemeteries that had been broken into paving stones.

Although only surviving in fragments with the names of the dead rendered illegible, the paving stones still revealed Hebrew writing, Jewish symbols and dates of birth and death.

Prague's Jews had long suspected that their cemeteries had been desecrated for building materials when the square was renovated in the



1980s but had no proof until now.

Rabbi Chaim Kocí of the city's rabbinate, who supervised the retrieval of the stones, said, "We feel this is a victory for us because until now this was just a rumor. Maybe there were Jewish stones here, but nobody knew. It's important because it's a matter of truth," he stated. "We are making something right for the historical record."

"These are stones from the graves of people who were dead for maybe

Tombstones at the Old Jewish Cemetery in Prague, Czech Republic



100 years and now they are lying here, in W e n c e s l a s Square. It's not nice," he added.

The Czech communist regime, like its counterparts in Russia and Eastern Europe, was hostile to religion in general and toward Judaism and

Jews in particular, propagating anti-Semitism until it fell in 1989.

František Bányai, chairman of Prague's Jewish community, commented, "More Jewish synagogues were destroyed in the area of the current Czech Republic during communist times than under the Nazis, because of the communists' 'special approach to religion.'"

"Anti-Judaism was official policy and all the Jewish committees were supervised and managed by control of the secret police," Bányai explained. "To be Jewish was negative from any point of view — but it was the same for the Christian church."

The Jewish community is planning to move the recovered stones to a special memorial at Prague's old Jewish cemetery, which was itself desecrated by the communist regime.

Let's Have Fun!

Let's Make a Date!

Let's Come to Learn!

FOUR OPPORTUNITIES WITH SIX PRESENTERS

You have a ticket to attend Lectures and a Play/Film/Discussions

- **Wednesday, August 12th - 3:30 PM. "JEWS IN JAZZ"**
Presenter: Professor David Moyer

Back by popular demand! Don't miss this fascinating stand alone course. David Moyer is the Director of Jazz Studies at El Camino College.

- **Thursday, September 3rd - 1:00-2:00 PM "Halacha - Walking the Path."** **Presenter: Rabbi Richard Zionts, Ph.D.**

Program offered in conjunction with Jewish Federation's series with community's rabbis. Based on book "Judaism's Ten Best Ideas" by Arthur Green. RSVP for this program by contacting the Jewish Federation (www.jfedps.org).

- **Wednesday, August 26th - 3:30 PM "Themes from Fiddler on the Roof"**
Presenters: Judy Wallis & Mitzi Webber. MUSIC: Cantor Joseph Gole

Although most of us have seen the stage production and/or the film "Fiddler On The Roof", it would be worthwhile and pleasurable to view it prior to the course. We will have a discussion on the major themes of the film. Cantor Joseph Gole will favor us with comments on the composer and lyricist with a performance of selections from the magnificent "Fiddler on the Roof."

- **Wednesday, September 9th - 3:30 PM** **Presenter: Rosa Weinstein**
"The Plagues and Epidemics that Transformed our Human Society"
Suggested reading but not required: "Justinian's Flea" by William Rosen.

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Hadassah Treats COVID-19 Patient with New Concentrated Passive Vaccine

The antibody (immunoglobulin or IgG) concentrate was developed using plasma that Hadassah harvested from recovered corona patients.

By Maayan Jaffe-Hoffman, The Jerusalem Post

Hadassah Medical Center has treated its first COVID-19 patient with a new "passive vaccine" that the hospital developed in conjunction with Israeli biopharmaceutical firm Kamada. According to Hadassah head Zeev Rotstein, "the patient reacted positively."

He said: "She started to improve hemodynamically... We have our fingers crossed for the successful treatment of this patient."

Though he could not share details about the patient, he described her as a young woman suffering from several underlying medical conditions. She has been hospitalized for weeks and is intubated. He said other treatments have not shown any results.

The antibody (immunoglobulin or IgG) concentrate was developed using plasma that Hadassah harvested from recovered corona patients: those who had the disease and now test negative for the virus.

Those who develop any virus, including the novel coronavirus, develop special antiviral proteins or antibodies in their plasma, which could therefore help sick patients cope with the disease. According to webmd.com, plasma is the yellow, liquid portion of blood that



Testing at Hadassah Hospital

carries important proteins, minerals, nutrients and hormones to the right places in your body and makes up more than half of the blood.

Passive immunization is when you are given antibodies formed by another patient who got the disease and developed them. An active vaccine, in contrast, is when you are injected with a dead or weakened version of a virus that tricks your immune system into thinking that you've had the disease, and your immune system creates antibodies to protect you.

Hadassah was able to collect 40 liters of plasma – enough to produce serum for as many as 70 patients – by working together with Jerusalem's Beit Din Tzedek (Jewish court), which encouraged members of the haredi (ultra-Orthodox) community to donate their plasma after recovery. During the first coronavirus peak, Jerusalem's haredi



Hadassah Medical Center

neighborhoods had some of the highest numbers of sick people.

Rotstein said that the vaccine, which could also be called a medicine, will likely be targeted toward COVID-19 patients whose situation is worsening and need a booster to fight the disease. However, it may also be used prophylactically in cases where a high-risk patient contracts coronavirus and the hospital wants to stop the disease's progression.

In an interview with The Jerusalem Post earlier this year, Kamada CEO Amir London said that he believes his company is the first one globally to complete manufacturing of a plasma-derived IgG product for the treatment of COVID-19.

The company has two FDA-approved products already, including an anti-rabies treatment

that is sold worldwide. And it is the sole supplier of anti-snake venom to the Health Ministry.

Although this is the first antibody concentrate administered to a patient, several Israeli patients have been treated with frozen plasma via transfusion. Back in April, a 29-year-old haredi coronavirus patient, who was in serious condition and being treated at Samson Assuta Ashdod University Hospital, reportedly stabilized after receiving multiple doses of plasma from a donor who recovered from coronavirus, a spokesperson for the hospital told the Post.

Patients were also treated at other hospitals, including Yitzhak Shamir Medical Center in Be'er Ya'acov.

MDA has been collecting plasma for more than 30 years. Plasma with antibodies was used to treat patients with SARS during the outbreak in 2002. In addition, Israel offered similar treatment to patients with West Nile fever.

Before being able to donate plasma, a patient must wait 14 days from the time he or she was confirmed as being negative for coronavirus via two separate swab tests.



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Justice Dept Files Lawsuit Regarding Anti-Semitic Conduct

By Algemeiner Staff

A New Jersey township was the focus of a new Justice Department lawsuit that charged its planning board with “religious discrimination” and “antisemitic conduct” toward Orthodox Jewish residents.

The lawsuit against Jackson Township alleges that the town’s planning board implemented two zoning ordinances that intentionally restricted the operation of religious schools.

Both ordinances expressly prohibited dormitories throughout Jackson, making it impossible to establish yeshivot and other religious schools.

Although Jackson passed these ordinances to prevent dormitories anywhere in its vicinity, the planning board has since approved, without requiring a variance, the plans for two nonreligious projects with dormitory-type housing.

The complaint also alleges that

the township and planning board enacted the ordinances with respect to religious dormitories against a backdrop of extreme animus by Jackson residents and township decision makers toward the Orthodox Jewish community.

“Religious discrimination has no place in our society and runs counter to the founding principles of our nation,” US Attorney Craig Carpenito said. “No religious community should ever face unlawful barriers or be singled out for inferior treatment. This complaint reflects our continued commitment to combat discrimination and unequal treatment.”

Eric Dreiband — assistant attorney general for the Civil Rights Division — affirmed that using zoning laws “to target Orthodox Jewish individuals for intentional discrimination and exclude them from a community is illegal and utterly incompatible with this Nation’s values.”

New Israeli Initiative Uses Public Refrigerators to Feed Poor and Prevent Waste

By Algemeiner Staff



A public refrigerator in Jerusalem

A new Israeli initiative to distribute food to the poor and prevent waste has taken hold in Jerusalem. Spearheaded by young residents of Jerusalem, the project — called The Fridge — involves public refrigerators stocked by local vendors who donate unsold produce the end of each day which is then placed in fridges throughout Israeli cities.

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BDS Movement Dealt a Blow at Lawyers Guild

By Benjamin Ryberg, Chief Operating Officer/Director of research at The Lawfare Project / JNS.org

After nearly four years of litigation, the National Lawyers Guild — a non-profit organization that purports to be a storied network of human-rights activists — succumbed to pressure to settle a lawsuit that, ironically, stemmed from the Guild's flagrant violation of long-existing human rights laws. The settlement is a watershed moment for Israeli and Jewish civil and human rights. It represents a harsh blow to the BDS campaign designed to economically isolate Israelis and the Jewish state (i.e., to discriminate in commercial activities based on national origin).

The Guild has long been a staunch adherent of the hateful BDS campaign. It specifically cited its support for BDS, which outwardly calls for violations of

human rights and anti-discrimination law, in the very organizational policy that resulted in legal action. The lawsuit was filed by David Abrams, executive director of the Zionist Advocacy Center, represented pro bono by the Lawfare Project.

The lawsuit arose in 2016, after Bibliotechnical Athenaeum, an Israeli company, sought to purchase ad space in the Guild's annual gala "dinner journal," an offering that was open to the public at large without restriction. Shortly after paying the \$200 fee, Bibliotechnical received an email, signed by the Guild's National Office, informing them that the sale would not be completed because the Guild had an organizational resolution barring it from accepting

funds from Israelis. In other words, this self-proclaimed champion of human rights refused to do business with another party purely because of the latter's national origin.

Such a refusal is explicitly forbidden under New York state's Human Rights Law (and a nearly identical New York City law), enacted in 1976 in response to boycotts of Jewish businesses related to the Arab League Boycott of Israel. Under these laws, it is unlawful to boycott, refuse to buy from, sell to, or otherwise discriminate against anyone based on national origin, just as it would be illegal to discriminate against anyone based on race, religion, or other protected statuses.

In a major victory for Israelis and the American Jewish community, the

Guild committed itself — in the legally binding settlement to the lawsuit — to refrain from this discrimination in any of its activities. It also affirmed that no existing or future organizational resolutions are to be interpreted as to require discrimination against Israelis.

Moreover, as a demonstration of its newfound dedication to compliance with the applicable laws, the Guild agreed to break its own boycott by selling ad space to Bibliotechnical in its next dinner journal or equivalent publication. While the Guild and its members are entitled to freedom of speech, they can never again act in furtherance of this unlawful boycott, lest they find themselves back in court.

Jewish Family in Texas Converts Kipahs to Face Masks for Homeless

Jewish News Syndicate

A Jewish family in Houston is turning kipahs into face masks for their town's homeless population to wear during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Jason family has already collected nearly 700 from donations and has dubbed their campaign "Kipahs to the Rescue."

The family has collected many yarmulkes, as they are also called, from various events over the years. "We decided to put them to good



Member of Jason family showing off his protective gear

use," said teenager Matthew Jason, the youngest of three brothers. He and his brother Jeremy were already volunteering every Friday in downtown Houston with the

organization Food Not Bombs, a nonprofit that feeds the hungry, before they started their new effort.

The family's synagogue, Congregation Brith Shalom, is helping to collect kipahs and set up a drive-through collection box at the temple so congregants could drop off unwanted ones.

To make the face masks, the family has been sewing six-inch elastic strips to both sides of a kipah to anchor it around the ears. They later

switched to clipping the bands since it is faster and just as sturdy. Food Not Bombs is helping hand out the masks to those in need.

"My parents, brothers and I worked very hard to sew elastic bands on them. It was so great to see how I was able to help out, and people were so appreciative," said Matthew. "There's a lot of people out there that really need help and anything can help even in the smallest way."

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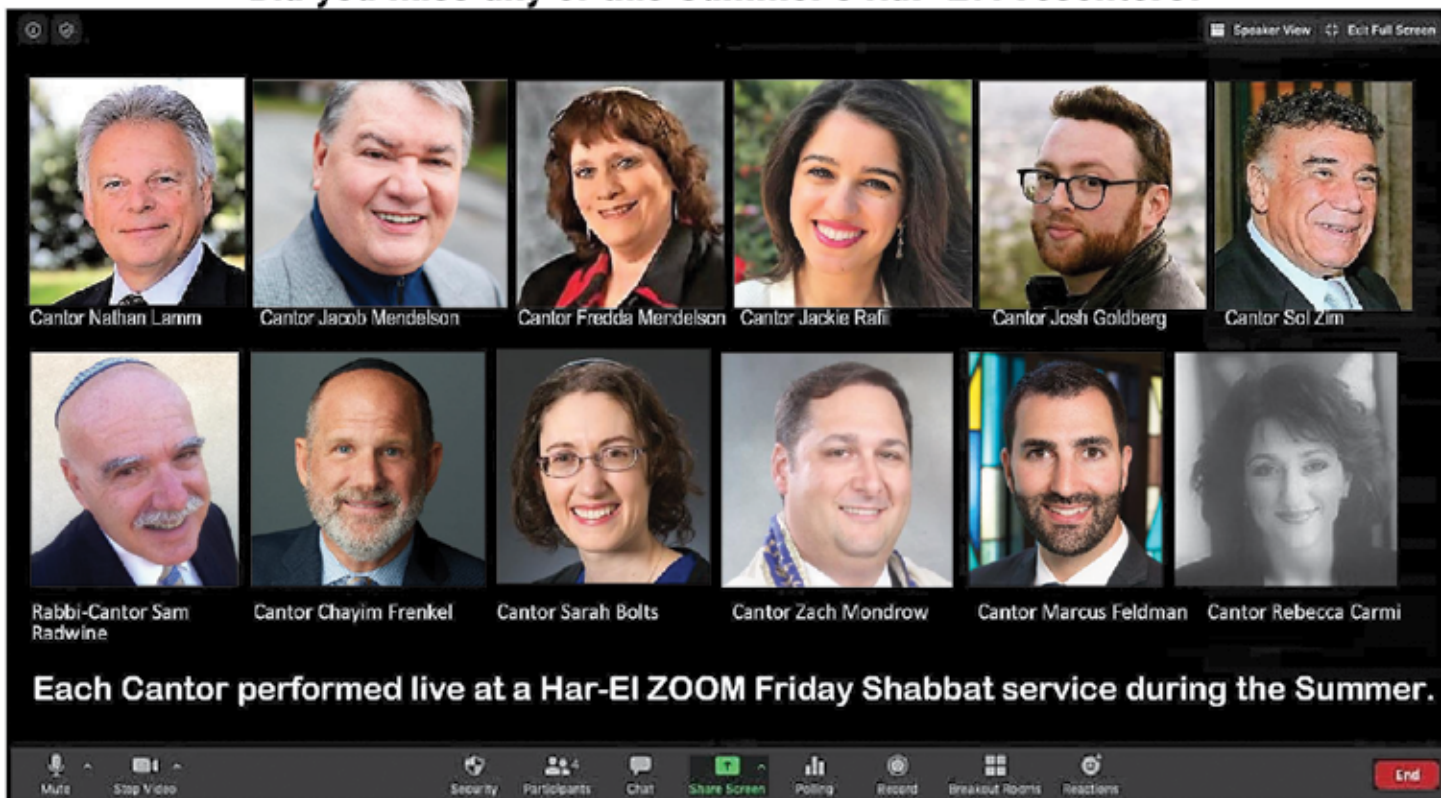
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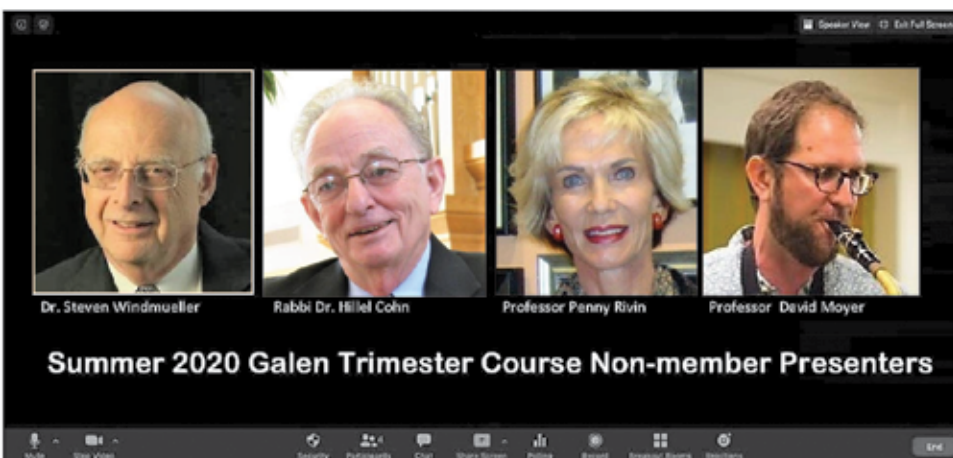
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Lawsuit: Qatar Secretly Gave Funding for Terror Attacks That Killed Americans, Israelis

As part of an alleged scheme, Qatari charities used the U.S. system to illegally transfer funds to Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Jewish News Syndicate

Qatar secretly provided funding for several terror attacks that killed Americans and Israelis, according to a lawsuit filed in New York on June 10 seeking reparations for the families of the dead.

As part of an alleged funding scheme, Qatari charities utilized the U.S. financial system to

illegally transfer funds to the U.S.-designated terrorist groups Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), both of which have waged numerous attacks killing Americans and Israelis, according to the lawsuit, which was filed in accordance with the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA), which allows U.S. persons injured in an international terrorist attack or the estate of those killed by terrorism to sue for damages in U.S. district court.

"Qatar coopted several institutions that it dominates and controls to funnel coveted U.S. dollars (the chosen currency of Middle East terrorist networks) to Hamas and PIJ under the false guise of charitable donations," according to the lawsuit,

whose plaintiffs include Stuart Force, whose son, Taylor, a West Point graduate who was stabbed to death in 2016 in a Palestinian terrorist attack in Tel Aviv.

A law to defund U.S. assistance to the Palestinian Authority, the Taylor Force Act, was enacted in 2018, in response to the Palestinian Authority's program of rewarding terrorists and their families.

Three institutions named as defendants in the lawsuit include Qatar Charity, Masraf Al Rayan bank and Qatar National Bank. Masraf Al Rayan is currently under investigation in the United Kingdom for allegedly assisting Qatar Charity send funds to PIJ and Hamas.

"Qatar Charity solicited donations in Qatar and around the world and then transferred those funds to its account at Masraf Al Rayan bank in Doha, Qatar. Masraf Al Rayan bank then transferred those funds denominated in U.S. dollars through a correspondent bank in New York. Subsequently, those funds were transferred to Qatar Charity's accounts at either the Bank of Palestine, or to the Islamic Bank in Ramallah," according to the lawsuit.

"Finally, Qatar Charity's local branches would distribute the funds in U.S. dollars from those local accounts to Hamas, PIJ and their affiliates to finance acts of terrorism in Israel."

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Police Have a White Nationalist Problem -- and Have for at Least 15 Years

By Aiden Pink, *The Forward*

Experts are concerned that white nationalists have infiltrated some of the protests flaring in cities across the country in the aftermath of George Floyd's death — but they know for certain that white nationalists have infiltrated the police.

And they have known it for at least 15 years, which is how long federal officials and media investigations have been sounding the alarm about growing white nationalist recruitment among police officers.

"There are scores of officers facing inquiries over their connection to online bias and/or being in bigoted social media pages," said Prof. Brian Levin, the director of the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino. "So it's probable that we're just getting the tip of the iceberg."

Amid the recent rise in anti-Semitism, Jewish community leaders have grown increasingly reliant on local police for protection and security consultation. Some in the Jewish community are calling to reexamine this relationship, citing racism in law enforcement and the discomfort Jews of color might feel around police as a result. Levin, who is Jewish,

argued that Jews could leverage the historic relationships with both the police and with African-Americans for the betterment of society.

"It gives us a unique opportunity to try to serve as a bridge with many others to address the horrible issue of racism which Jews in particular have a strong moral imperative to address," he said.

Officials have known about white nationalists in police force since at least 2006, when the FBI published an internal document warning that white nationalists were "infiltrating law enforcement communities or recruiting law enforcement personnel."

The document warned of officers wearing "ghost skins," white supremacist parlance for people who, in the FBI's description, "avoid overt displays of their beliefs to blend into society and covertly advance white supremacist causes."

The problem appeared not to have improved by 2015, when a classified FBI counterterrorism guide, acquired by the Intercept, noted that many suspected domestic terrorist investigations focused on extremists who "often have identified active links to local law enforcement

officers."

By 2019, an investigation by the Center for Investigative Reporting found hundreds of active-duty and retired law enforcement officers who had made racist posts or were members of neo-Confederate Facebook groups.

The problems can be found in cities big and small; there are around 700,000 police officers and sheriff's deputies in America. In 2014, three of the 13 officers in Fruitland Park, Fla. (population 4,078) were found to be members of the Ku Klux Klan. And last year, 72 officers in Philadelphia were fired or suspended after an investigation into offensive social media posts.

While most prejudiced police misconduct is directed against African-Americans and Latinos, it has also affected Jews as well — a Howard County, Md. sheriff resigned in 2016 after investigators revealed he described black colleagues with the N-word and called a Jewish politician a "little Jew-boy," and two Jewish cops in Philadelphia sued the department in 2018 alleging anti-Semitic discrimination by their coworkers, including etching Nazi symbols on one of their lockers.

"American policing is at a

crossroads, where standards relating to equity and professionalism have to ferret out the minority of officers that engage in this dangerous subculture," said Levin, a former NYPD officer.

Studies have shown that allegations of officer misconduct are not evenly distributed — that is, someone already accused of one complaint of excessive force is likelier than the average officer to have a second complaint, or more. For example, Derek Chauvin, the Minneapolis police officer charged with murder in the death of George Floyd, had 18 previous complaints against him over 19 years, which policing experts say is excessive.

There is no evidence that Chauvin is in any way tied to white nationalist groups. But Levin said that a pattern of complaints could be a tipoff for where internal investigators should look when trying to discover white nationalist sympathies.

"What we often find is that in many but not all of these cases, there are clues on the table that haven't been acted upon: Statements around coworkers, statements on social media, or a pattern of complaints that indicates a systemic problem with particular officers," he said.

Anti-Semitic Vandals Hang Sheet Spray-Painted With 'Vulgar Insults' Over Holocaust Memorial in Nashville

By *Algemeiner Staff*

A memorial to the Holocaust at the Jewish Community Center in Nashville, Tennessee, was defaced on June 12-13, 2020, with white supremacist symbols and anti-Semitic insults.

Local media reported that the memorial at the Gordon Jewish Community Center in west Nashville had been covered with a white bedsheet spray-painted with what witnesses described as "vulgar insults



The memorial to the Holocaust in Nashville, Tennessee

in a message of hate."

"We condemn such bigotry and violence, which has no place in Nashville or anywhere in America," the community center's leadership

declared in a statement.

The statement expressed confidence in the current security arrangements for the center.

"We are fortunate to have an excellent security team in place to protect us," the statement said. "They work hand in hand with local and national authorities to keep us and our campus safe. At a time when our nation is confronting racism and anti-Semitic attacks are rising, our

JCC community continues to stand united with those who condemn discrimination in all its forms."

The goal of the Holocaust Memorial is to teach the history of the Nazi genocide of the Jews "through the personal stories of the Nashvillians who are represented there," according to its website. "The name of each European hometown of the survivors is presented at the pathway leading up to the memorial."



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- **Celia Norian**, In your honor for all your good deeds, from Phyllis Eisenberg.
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- **Vicki Josephson**, Best wishes for a speedy recovery from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Gloria Scoby**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Sandy and Paul Epstein, Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.
- **Barbara Weisberg**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Phyllis Eisenberg.

Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:

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- **Family of Morris Belzberg**, In memory of Morris Belzberg, from Sherry and Howard Schor.
- **Ricki Butwinick and Family**, In memory of your beloved husband, Conrad 'Connie' from Eunice and Jerry Meister and Gail and Bob Scadron.
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- **Carol Fragen and Family**, In memory of your beloved husband Ron, from Judy and Barbara Appelbaum, Harriet Bernstein, Sheri and Jim

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Pius XII Chose Not to Tell US About the Holocaust, Buried Document Shows

The document does not only shed light on the behavior maintained by Pius XII and his collaborators, but also on the ones by Church representatives later on.

By Rossella Tercatin, The Jerusalem Post

A group of German historians uncovered a document confirming how much Pope Pius XII knew about what was happening during the Holocaust, proving that he failed to share this information with US authorities following their direct inquiry. Years after the inquiry, the aforementioned document was buried by Jesuit historians instructed to collect papers about the controversial papacy.

The Vatican Archives on Pius XII were opened to scholars at the beginning of March 2020 after years of requests and disputes. Only few days later, the facility was forced to shut down because of the coronavirus pandemic. However, that limited amount of time was enough for a group of researchers from the University of Münster to bring to light some important findings, as Prof. Hubert Wolf told The Jerusalem Post via email.

"First of all, the Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation financially supports our research," Wolf explained. "Moreover, you must keep in mind that my staff and I have been working in the Vatican Archives for over twenty years. We are therefore acquainted with the archival filing practice and knew which relevant series we had to look in. Furthermore, we, a team of seven researchers, had prepared our stay in the archives in a very differentiated manner and proceeded according to precise plans."

After only two days, Dr Sascha Hinkel identified a previously

unknown internal memo, or "Appunto" redacted by Angelo dell'Acqua, a close collaborator of Cardinal Secretary of State Luigi Maglione in the Roman Secretariat of State, an organ that was responsible for politics.

A series of documents known as The "Actes et Documents du Saint Siège relatifs à la Seconde Guerre Mondiale" commissioned by Pope Paul VI to four Jesuit historians and published in the 1960s and 1970s had already revealed that Maglione prepared a response to a 1942-inquiry by the American authorities, and specifically by envoy Myron Taylor, about whether the pope had information regarding the fact that hundreds of thousands of Jews were being murdered in Poland and Ukraine. The information had been conveyed to the US by the Jewish Agency for Palestine and Taylor wanted to know if the Vatican could confirm it.

"The Vatican had already been informed about this by two separate and independent sources: on the one hand, by the Italian Count Malvezzi, and on the other by the Ruthenian Catholic Archbishop of Lviv, Andrej Szeptyckyj," Wolf pointed out. "In the newly discovered Appunto, Dell'Acqua principally questioned the credibility of Jews and Oriental Catholics alike by resorting to a



Pope Pius XII

well-known antisemitic stereotype. He attested Jews a penchant for exaggeration and Eastern Catholics a lack of sincerity. Thereby, he also intended to devalue their concurring statements about the Holocaust. With this assessment Dell'Acqua also influenced Pius' XII decision to give an evasive answer to the American inquiry."

The document does not only shed light on the behavior maintained by Pius XII and his collaborators, but also on the ones by Church representatives later on.

"What makes this Appunto particularly charged is that the editors of the Actes et Documents clearly had it in their hands, for on the lower side of the sheet there is a handwritten note which they included into their edition, while they deliberately withheld the upper three quarters of the sheet with the typewritten Appunto by dell'Acqua," the professor told the Post.

Pius XII, whose civil name was Eugenio Pacelli, served as pope from 1939 to 1958. His attitude and role vis-à-vis the Nazi and fascist regimes, and the murder of Jews, have been at the center of many controversies over the years, also in consideration of the strenuous defense of Pius XII by the Church itself, with a canonization process that has been initiated and advanced throughout the decades. His defenders state that the Pope did its best to silently help Jews escaping persecutions.

Wolf, who besides for a respected

Church historian is also an ordained priest, highlighted that the decision to open the archives about his papacy is a positive step that will ultimately allow to find clearer answers.

"It is indeed a very good thing; finally, we can try to answer all the open questions about Pius' XII stance towards the Holocaust based on the sources," he said. "The time of apologetics and polemics should at last be over. It will, however, take years to evaluate the vast number of documents contained in about 400,000 archival units. Afterwards, we will be able to say whether the Jewish religious philosopher Pinchas Lapidé was right when he called Pius XII the 'greatest benefactor of the Jewish people,' or whether it was John Cornwall, who simply called Pius XII 'Hitler's pope' – or whether the historical truth is much more differentiated."

Asked about the canonization process, the historian said that it would probably be better to put it on hold until more light is shed on the issue.

"Pope Francis finally made these sources accessible, saying that the Church does not fear the truth coming from history. Therefore, the Vatican should await the results of the elaborate historical work before handing down a final verdict on Pius XII. Therefore, in my opinion, the beatification process should be suspended for the time being," he pointed out.

Anti-Semitic Incidents in Canada Reach Record High for Fourth Year in a Row

The audit noted that assaults became more blatant and violent in 2019, with several of them taking place in broad daylight and some directly in front of eyewitnesses.

Jewish News Syndicate

The number of anti-Semitic incidents in Canada hit a record high in 2019 for a fourth consecutive year, according to an audit published in late April 2020.

The 2019 Annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents by B'nai Brith Canada's advocacy arm, the League for Human Rights, recorded 2,207 incidents of anti-Semitism in Canada last year—an increase of more than 8 percent from 2018 and an average of more than six incidents per day.

The greatest increase occurred in Ontario and Quebec, home to Canada's largest Jewish communities, where there were 62.8 percent



and 12.3 percent more incidents, respectively, than in 2018.

The audit noted that assaults became more blatant and violent in 2019, with several of them taking place in broad daylight and some directly in front of eyewitnesses. There was also an increase of more than 11 percent in anonymous online harassment.

"The record numbers of incidents we have documented in recent years have become the new baseline for anti-Semitism in Canada—and they are alarming," said B'nai Brith Canada CEO Michael Mostyn in a statement. "These figures, and the brazenness of the incidents we are seeing, would have been unthinkable just a few short years ago. Instead, they have become a loathsome reality in this country. It is not only Jewish people who must be appalled by this pattern. It's any law-abiding, decent human being."

Mostyn added that B'nai Brith is urging government officials "to

promptly adopt the steps outlined in our Eight-Point Plan to Tackle Anti-Semitism in order to put an end to this abhorrent trend.

Businesses Cut Ties, Politicians Condemn Toronto Restaurant That Said 'Zionists Not Welcome'

By Benjamin Kerstein, The Algemeiner

The fallout from an ongoing antisemitism scandal in which a local Toronto restaurant declared that "Zionists" were not welcome has resulted in delivery services cutting ties and local and national politicians slamming the establishment.

The Foodbenders eatery had already aroused controversy after it put up a sign saying "f—k the police," when a post in early July on its Instagram account announced that it was now open to "non-racist shoppers," adding the hashtags "freepalestine" and "zionistsnotwelcome."

Toronto resident Jamie Gutfreund slammed the restaurant in a direct response, saying she was "shocked and surprised to see a local Toronto company @foodbenders openly promote their racism and Jew hatred," setting off a firestorm of controversy. It was quickly discovered that the

restaurant's social media pages were replete with anti-Israel and anti-Semitic material.

On July 7, food delivery service DoorDash stated, "We have removed Foodbenders from our platform for their failure to follow the community guidelines and our partner code of conduct, as we do not tolerate malicious, discriminatory or hateful behavior."

Delivery services Uber Eats, Ritual, and SkipTheDishes have also cut ties with Foodbenders, as have local businesses such as Blue Heaven Café and Ambrosia Naturally.

Major political figures have also weighed in on the matter.

Doug Ford — the premier of Ontario — said, "Language and actions like this are disgusting and will not be tolerated here in Ontario. Our government stands with the

Jewish community in condemning this kind of behavior here at home, and across the globe."

Toronto Mayor John Tory commented, "There is no place for this type of hate or discrimination in our city or anywhere else in Canada. I stand with Toronto's Jewish community in condemning this type of hate and intolerance and commit to continuing to build up our city as a place that is inclusive of everyone."

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Deputy Anti-Semitism Envoy - Coronavirus Conspiracy Theories a Modern-Day Blood Libel

"It is not being spread by the usual bad actors on the dark web or elsewhere," she said, "but by government officials spreading the lies from Turkey, the Palestinian Authority and Iran."

By Faygie Holt, Jewish News Syndicate

U.S. deputy anti-Semitism envoy Ellie Cohanim warned of a new form of anti-Semitism emerging during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and urged Jewish leaders that it is time the U.S. Jewish community focused on proactive steps to erase hate.

The "coronavirus conspiracy theory [is] a modern-day blood libel, where Jews or the State of Israel is blamed for the pandemic," she told Jewish leaders in late June. She said these theories suggest that the Jews and/or Israel either created the virus; that it is being used to dominate the world

and control the Palestinians; or that the Jews and/or the State of Israel will profit from the disease.

"It is not being spread by the usual bad actors on the dark web or elsewhere," she said, "but by government officials spreading the lies—from Turkey, the Palestinian Authority and Iran."

Cohanim, who was tapped as the U.S. deputy envoy on anti-Semitism in December 2019, shared her thoughts on the global rise of anti-Semitism. She also noted some positive overtures coming out of the Arab world during a Zoom meeting on June 29 sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York.

"To win the war on anti-Semitism, we have to take an offensive posture, and this is why I'm turning to you," she said. "It's time for the Jewish community to really take pride in our heritage and our history."

In introducing Cohanim, Gideon Taylor—a member of the executive committee at the JCRC-NY—noted that the "dramatic rise in anti-Semitic incidents in the United States and around the world" has left many "shocked and pained to see things we would never have imagined we would see, and that makes it even more important" to have leaders who will speak up and advocate for the Jewish community.

Shifts in relationships bode well for seeking a lasting peace

During her talk, Cohanim said the



U.S. deputy anti-Semitism Envoy Ellie Cohanim

United States focuses on fighting three sources of anti-Semitism around the world: classical far-right, neo-Nazi extremism; radical left-wing fringe groups; and radical Islam, with resources allocated to fight each of these threats.

While speaking about Iran, the "No. 1 state sponsor of terrorism," Cohanim, who fled Iran with her family during the 1979 revolution, said she had learned two lessons from her family's experience: that even societies welcoming or hospitable to Jews, like Iran was under the Shah, "can suddenly flip overnight"; and that Jews can "never underestimate the threat of anti-Semitism."

The briefing wasn't all bad news, however.

Cohanim addressed some positive developments coming out of the Arab world, particularly the warming relations between Arab countries, including Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates, with Israel. Among those developments was the playing of the Israeli national anthem "Hatikvah" during a Judo competition in Bahrain, in addition to a tour by a 25-member delegation of Muslim world leaders, including a leading religious leader from Saudi Arabia, to Auschwitz.

Shifts in relationships are taking place, she said, and these "new realities" bode well for seeking a lasting peace in the region.

Stepping into 'anti-Zionism territory'

Cohanim responded to a question about the possible extension of sovereignty by Israel of the Jordan Valley, and parts of Judea and Samaria (widely referred to as the

West Bank) with concerns that many U.S. Jewish groups have that it may lead to increases in anti-Semitism and anti-Israel attitudes in the media.

"Just the fact that American Jewry is nervous about this shows that we have been conditioned to feel the anti-Semitism in our bones," she said, noting that no other country is subjected to the same kind of scrutiny when they make decisions for their populace. Such singling out of Israel's actions as a "sovereign nation" show that there remains underlying anti-Semitism in the world.

And as far as the notion that one can be anti-Zionist and not anti-Semitic, Cohanim said the U.S. policy is that "anti-Zionism is anti-Semitism. Full stop."

In many cases, though, the red line for crossing over into anti-Semitism comes when the existence of Israel is up for debate.

When people criticize other countries for action they have taken, that does not lead to a discussion about the country's right to exist. "That's not an argument people make other than [with] the State of Israel, and that's why it's clear that this notion that you can be anti-Zionist and not be anti-Semitic is a slight of hand. It's become the polite way to be anti-Semitic today."

As she said, "at a dinner party, you may not be able to get away with being anti-Semitic." What can be gotten away with, she explained, is stepping into "anti-Zionism territory" by saying, "I'm not against the Jews, but against the Jewish entity, the State of Israel."

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British Educational Publisher Withdraws Textbook Following Complaints of Anti-Israel Bias

British educational publisher Hodder Education has withdrawn a secondary-education textbook following complaints of anti-Israel bias.

According to Britain's The JC newspaper, a report by UK Lawyers for Israel (UKLFI) said there was "misleading and confusing content" in the textbook, written by Steve Waugh and John Wright, and titled "Conflict in the Middle East 1945-95."

Issues of concern included calling early 20th-century Jewish immigrants

"settlers," despite them entering legally and living on legally purchased land.

The source also refers to ancient Israel "Palestine," which was not its name until the Roman conquered it in the first century BCE.

UKLFI stated it was informed by Hodder that the publisher had "decided to remove the book from sale and will reconsider its future" after UKLFI claimed that the book "frequently refers to Jewish terrorists when their actions were against

military targets."

"It is very important that children learning about this complex subject are taught in a balanced and accurate manner," UKLFI director Caroline Turner told The JC. "We are pleased that another misleading and inaccurate school textbook, purporting to teach about Middle East history, is being

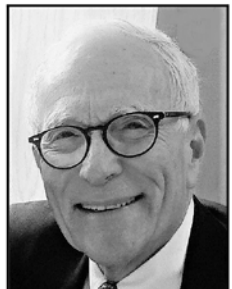
withdrawn and reconsidered."

This follows the withdrawal in February of another Hodder Education title, "Understanding History: Key Stage 3: Britain in the Wider World, Roman Times–Present," which suggested that Israel may have been a "long-term cause" of the 9/11 attacks.

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Simchas

Although he has been "at the helm" for three months already, this is our first opportunity to extend congratulations to **Kraig Johnson** on his promotion to Executive Director of JFS of the Desert, a position he assumed May 1st... Congratulations to **Alexis Ginsberg**, daughter of **Lynda** and **Trevor Bailey**, and **Warren Engdahl** on their June 7 wedding in Minnesota. COVID-19 meant a traditional wedding was not possible, but family and friends were able to witness the lovely nuptials via



Kraig Johnson



Alexis and Warren Engdahl

Zoom ...Mazel tov to **Rabbi Shimon** and **Chaya Posner** on the birth of their grandson, **Sholom Dovber Kesselman**, son of **Musie** and **Leibel Kesselman**, brother to **Mendel, Gita** and **Risya**, on April 28 in Greenville South Carolina ... Mazel tov to **Rabbi Yonason** and **Sussie Denebeim** on the birth of their grandson, **Yehudah Aryeh Denebeim**, born to **Shalom** and **Faigy Denebeim** on July 2nd...

Congratulations to **Linn Menne** on becoming a grandmother again. Daughter **Maddie** gave birth to a son, **Alcide Vicente Aspericueta**, this past week. Proud dad is **Saul Aspericueta** and Linn is over the moon with delight ... *Share your simchas with us. Call (760-323-0255) or email Miriam Bent (mhbentjcn@earthlink.net).*



Alcide Vicente



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August 21	Shabbat Shoftim	6:41 pm
August 28	Shabbat Ki Teitzei	6:33 pm



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Hebrew University Professor wins Abel Prize - the 'Nobel of Math'

By Donna Rachel Edmunds, *The Times of Israel*

Hebrew University of Jerusalem professor Hillel Furstenberg has become the first Israeli to win the Abel Prize, known as the Nobel Prize of mathematics. He was named as the winner of the prestigious award Wednesday by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters and will share the prize with Grigory Margulis of Yale University "for pioneering the use of methods from probability and dynamics in group theory, number theory and combinatorics."

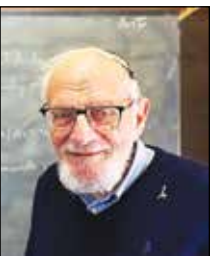
The Abel Prize, established by the government of Norway in 2001 "to give the mathematicians their own equivalent of a Nobel Prize," carries with it a cash award of 7.5 million Norwegian kroner (\$834,000).

Furstenberg and Margulis invented random walk techniques, a central branch of probability theory. A random walk is a path consisting of a succession of random steps. These techniques were used to investigate mathematical objects and introduced probabilistic methods to solve many open problems in group theory, number theory, combinatorics and graph theory.

"Furstenberg and Margulis stunned the mathematical world by their ingenious use of probabilistic methods and random walks to solve deep problems in diverse areas of mathematics," said Hans

Munthe-Kaas, chair of the Abel committee. "They brought down the traditional wall between pure and applied mathematics," he continued, "and opened up a wealth of new results...with applications to communication technology and computer science."

Furstenberg, 84, a Kristallnacht survivor, was born in Berlin in 1935. His family fled Nazi Germany in 1939 and settled in the United States. Already as an undergraduate, Furstenberg began to develop a reputation as a promising mathematician. When he published



Professor Hillel Furstenberg

one of his earliest academic papers, rumors began to circulate that "Furstenberg" wasn't an individual but rather a pseudonym for a group of mathematicians. How could it be that one person could pull ideas from so many different areas?

After teaching at several leading American universities, including Princeton, MIT and the University of Minnesota, Furstenberg moved to Israel in 1965 to join the Hebrew University's Einstein Institute of Mathematics. The move helped establish Israel as a world center for mathematics, and Furstenberg went on to win the Israel Prize in 1993 and the Wolf Prize in 2007.

Like Furstenberg, Russian-born Margulis was also heralded as a leading mathematician from a young

age. However, being Jewish in the Soviet Union meant Margulis was unable to secure a job at Moscow University and he ultimately emigrated to the United States and began working at Yale University. Due to the ten years' age difference between him and Furstenberg, and due to travel restrictions in the Soviet Union, the two laureates did not formally collaborate, though they did influence each other's work.

Margulis is also a winner of the Wolf Prize in 2005 and the Fields Medal in 1978.

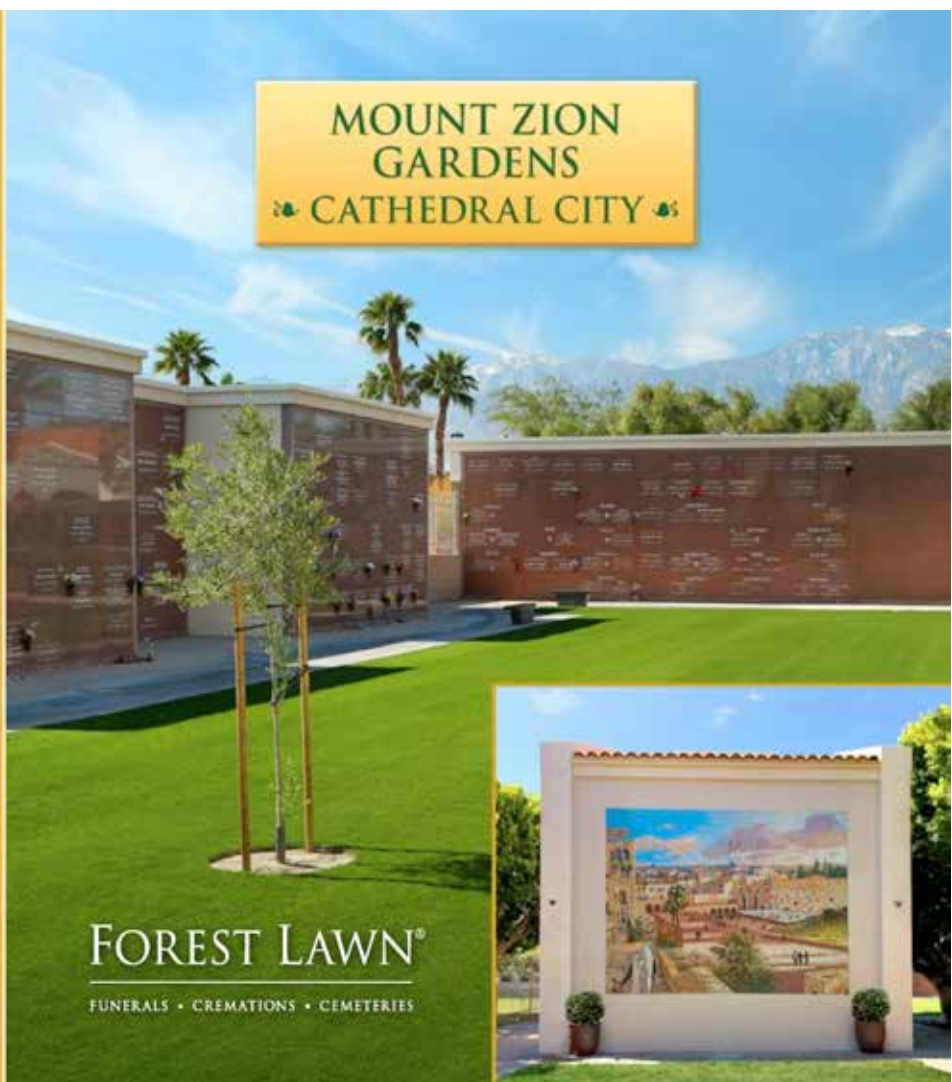
This year's Abel Prize award ceremony, when King Harald V of Norway will present the prize to the laureates, had been scheduled for May 19, but has been postponed due to the coronavirus outbreak.

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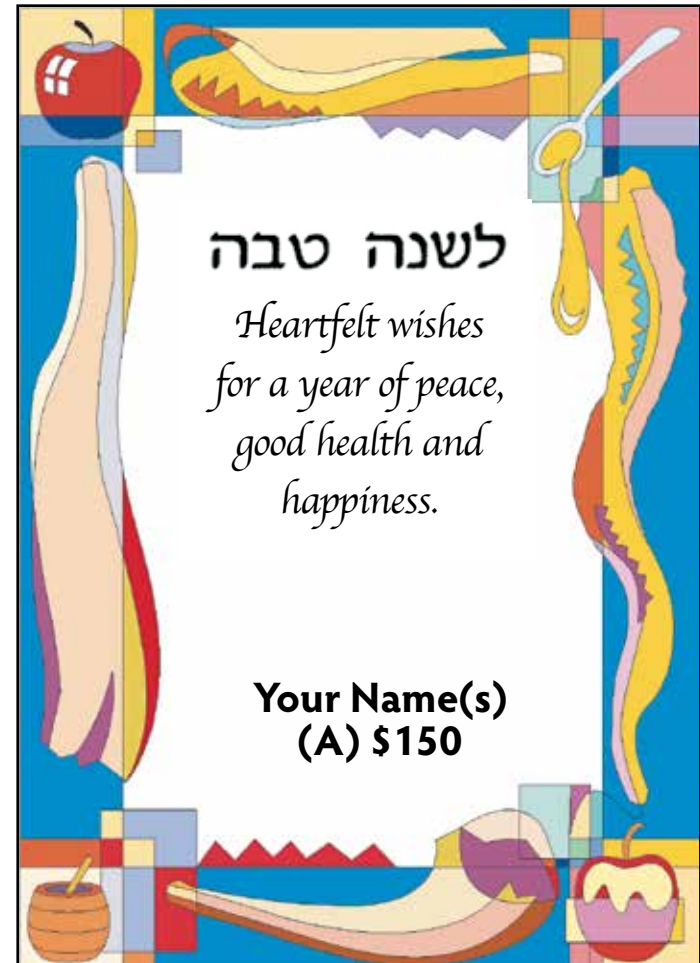


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