

Facebook Will Now Ban Holocaust Denial, in a Major Shift

By Ben Sales, JTA

Facebook announced that it will now ban any posts that deny or distort the Holocaust, a landmark change from its previous policy.

For years, Facebook and its CEO, Mark Zuckerberg, had defended Holocaust denial as a misguided but legitimate form of expression. In 2018, regarding Holocaust denial, he said, "I don't believe that our platform should take that down because I think there are things that different people get wrong."

That approach garnered widespread outcry from scholars and anti-Semitism watchdogs.

On Monday, Zuckerberg wrote in a Facebook post that he now believes banning Holocaust denial "is the right balance."

"I've struggled with the tension between standing for free expression and the harm caused by minimizing or denying the horror of the Holocaust," he wrote. "My own thinking has evolved as I've seen data showing an increase in anti-Semitic violence, as have our wider policies on hate speech."

The change comes after months of activism by anti-discrimination groups pushing Facebook to change its policies on hate speech in general and Holocaust denial in particular. It also comes amid rising anti-Semitism in the United States and Europe, and weeks ahead of a presidential election that analysts and government agencies fear will spark violence from white supremacist groups.

This summer, the Anti-Defamation League, NAACP and other civil rights groups organized a boycott of Facebook in which 1,000 companies, including major corporations, paused advertising on the site for at least one month in protest of its lack of action against hate speech, including Holocaust denial. The Claims Conference, which coordinates restitution and reparations payments for Holocaust survivors, organized a campaign called #NoDenyingIt in which Holocaust survivors appealed directly to Zuckerberg via video to take action against Holocaust denial.

Other Jewish organizations



Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg

worked in consultation with Facebook to persuade the site to ban Holocaust denial. Facebook's statement credited the World Jewish Congress and American Jewish Committee with advising on the new policy.

It also cited a recent poll showing a lack of knowledge regarding the Holocaust among Americans younger than 40. The poll found that more than 10% of respondents believed Jews caused the Holocaust, while half of respondents said they had seen Holocaust denial online.

The World Jewish Congress has been speaking with Facebook about how to combat anti-Semitism since 2016 and has held daily meetings

leading up to this policy change, said Yfat Barak-Cheney, the group's director of international affairs.

She said her organization preferred engagement with Facebook rather than external activism because, through her meetings, she saw the social media giant gradually move toward banning Holocaust denial.

"We have flagged to them Holocaust denial, over and over, as an issue on the platform, as an issue in principle that needs to be recognized as anti-Semitism and hate speech," Barak-Cheney said. "Holocaust denial is not a studying and discussion about historical facts. It's a tool to spread hatred against Jews."

She added, "They've adapted and they've come to understand that by allowing Holocaust denial on their platform, and Holocaust distortion, they're actually allowing the spread of hatred."

In a statement, the Anti-Defamation League said it was "relieved" to see the ban on Holocaust denial and

continued on page 4



COMMUNITY OUTREACH: Through Bikur Cholim, the Jewish Federation of the Desert brought holiday meals and 'goodies' to Jews in assisted living/nursing facilities throughout the desert and to those living in Desert Hot Springs. Assisted by Jewish Men's Outreach Group of the Desert, boxes were made up and distributed by Rabbi Yankel Kreiman for Rosh Hashanah and again for Sukkot.



Ruth Bader Ginsburg to Get a Statue in her Native Brooklyn

(JTA) — The late Jewish Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is getting her own statue in her native Brooklyn. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo named the members of a commission that would oversee the installation of a statue honoring Ginsburg, who died last month.

Cuomo said in a statement that the statue would be somewhere in Brooklyn, the New York City borough where she grew up.

"Her legacy as a jurist, professor, lawyer and scholar will endure for generations and we are honored to erect a permanent statue in memory of Justice Ginsburg," Cuomo said. "Lord knows she deserves it."

The New York Times that there are a number of other initiatives to honor Ginsburg. New York City last month named a municipal building in Brooklyn for Ginsburg.

Among the 19 people Cuomo named to the commission are Ginsburg's daughter and two granddaughters; Irin Carmon, the Jewish journalist and Ginsburg biographer who helped make popular Ginsburg's late-in-life sobriquet, "Notorious RBG"; Nina Rotenberg, the Jewish NPR judiciary reporter who was a close friend of Ginsburg's; and a number of her former clerks.

Cuomo also named five honorary members of the commission, including Hillary Clinton, Ginsburg's colleague on the Supreme Court bench Sonia Sotomayor, and Gloria Steinem, the pioneering Jewish feminist.

2019-2020

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Bruce Landgarten

Jewish Federation
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I always look forward to Thanksgiving. And this year it could not arrive soon enough. At this divisive moment in our history, how desperately we need to connect with the oneness and unity of this special day. We are a divided country and we need to heal. Yet we cannot call ourselves pluralistic, diverse, and tolerant if we ignore voices in our community and refuse to engage with them in an inclusive dialogue.

The rise of hate in our society has reminded me that I am particularly grateful for a free and democratic society, one in which we are free to fully participate regardless of our religious beliefs. Thanksgiving is also an important time to reflect on those who came before us, whose sacrifices made our blessings possible.

This is a time that reminds me how much I enjoy the balancing act of living in the Jewish world and the secular world. As Jewish-Americans we actually multiply our opportunities to express our gratitude and connect with each other. We just celebrated the harvest festival of Sukkot with unique Jewish symbols — the lulav, the etrog, and the sukkah — as thanks for G-d's bounty and protection in a fragile world. Then we'll do the same with iconic American traditions — turkey, cranberry sauce, pumpkins and maybe even football.

How lucky we are to have two new year celebrations — Rosh Hashanah for self-reflection and gratitude; the



secular New Year for a fresh start and a bit of fun. Both are important ways to solidify our commitments to community, family, and self.

For myself, this is the perfect moment to express my thanks to all of you in our community who have given me input and wise counsel over the last 11 years. I am grateful to all who came before me as the builders of this remarkable Jewish community. I'm thankful to the Federation staff,



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 contact Kevin Giser at Kevin.giser@jfedps.org or 760-324-4737.

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our volunteers, our donors, the staff of our affiliate organizations, the leaders of our Temples and all of you who've engaged me in important conversations wherever I go in this community. The sheer number of hours you have spent listening to me and challenging me is humbling.

We are living in challenging times, but because we are a passionate, and philanthropic community, we are facing these challenges together. I am thankful to be part of it — and to live out my Jewish values and impact so many lives every day. I am humbled and proud that our Federation, with the help and involvement of our Jewish community, touches every

Jewish life.

This is a time for each of us to be thankful as too often we get caught up in our daily minutiae and miss out on the big picture — and those who provide so much meaning and joy in our lives. This is a day we should sit back and be thankful. I know I will.

On this Thanksgiving, please accept my gratitude for your support of our community and our Federation. May you have a joyous Thanksgiving filled with gratitude.

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called for the company to issue public reports about enforcing the policy.

"While we are relieved to learn this news, we also would note that platform decisions of this nature are only as good as the companies' enforcement," read the statement by ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt. "Facebook now needs to reassure the global community that it is taking meaningful and comprehensive steps to ensure that Holocaust deniers are no longer able to take advantage of Facebook's various platforms to spread antisemitism and hate."

Facebook's announcement of the new policy did not define what constitutes "content that denies or distorts the Holocaust." And the company said it "will take some time to train our reviewers and systems on enforcement," and that deletion of Holocaust denial "cannot happen overnight." The company told Bloomberg News that the policy applied only to Holocaust denial, not to denial of other genocides, like the Armenian or Rwandan genocides.

"Normally this process would be the other way around," with Facebook spelling out rules before announcing a new policy, Barak-Cheney said. "Here, because of the importance



of the issue and how prevalent it has been, they really decided to make the announcement, but they have a lot of hard work ahead of them on making those boundaries."

The new policy comes after Facebook tightened its restrictions on other forms of anti-Semitism and hate speech. In mid-October, Facebook announced that it was banning all groups and pages promoting QAnon, the anti-Semitic conspiracy theory. In August, Facebook banned posts about Jews controlling the world as well as other forms of hate speech.

The changes on Holocaust denial and other forms of discrimination reflect a larger shift in Facebook regarding how it deals with freedom of expression and combating hate speech. Zuckerberg, invoking the First Amendment, has consistently said that he favors allowing a broad array of speech regarding politics and other issues, even as a chorus of voices has asked him to do more to prohibit bigotry and disinformation.

In a speech last year at Georgetown

University, Zuckerberg said, "I'm proud that our values at Facebook are inspired by the American tradition, which is more supportive of free expression than anywhere else." During the George Floyd protests this year, Facebook allowed a post by President Donald Trump, who has personally courted Zuckerberg, that said, "When the looting starts, the shooting starts." Twitter flagged the post as glorifying violence.

"I know many people are upset that we've left the President's posts up, but our position is that we should enable as much expression as possible unless it will cause imminent risk of specific harms or dangers spelled out in clear policies," Zuckerberg wrote in a post defending the decision.

Reacting to the new policy, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum addressed the issue of freedom of expression, saying in a statement, "Freedom of speech is vital to our democracy, but it does not require any organization to host anti-Semitic speech that can potentially foment violence."

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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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With our normal community activities on hold due to the pandemic, the Jewish Federation has been arranging for many interesting, compelling programs to offer to our community online. As we sent out notices for these programs we realized that we do not have email addresses for about half of our JCN readership. We'd love to add you to our list. You will not be overrun with emails (about half a dozen a month) and you'll get information about some terrific programs.

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California Governor Vetoes Bill to Institute Ethnic Studies Curriculum Deemed Anti-Semitic

By Benjamin Kerstein, The Algemeiner

California Governor Gavin Newsom vetoed a bill that would have instituted an ethnic studies curriculum for public high schools that critics have slammed as being biased and anti-Semitic.

In his veto message, Newsom stated that he supported including ethnic studies as part of the required high school curriculum. However, he noted, the bill he vetoed "would require ethnic studies to be taught in high school at a time when there is much uncertainty about the appropriate K-12 model curriculum for ethnic students."

"Last year, I expressed concern that the initial draft of the model curriculum was insufficiently balanced and inclusive and needed to be substantially amended," he added. "In my opinion, the latest draft, which is currently out for review, still needs revision."

A letter to Newsom in late September by dozens of organizations that was spearheaded by the AMCHA Initiative called the curriculum politically biased, saying, "We are especially concerned that the anti-Jewish and anti-Zionist ideological orientation of Critical Ethnic Studies ... will foster a toxic climate for Jewish and pro-Israel students throughout the state, and foment harm against them."

As an example, the letter pointed to "a unit on 'Irish and Jewish Americans: Redefining White and American,' which requires students to write a paper 'detailing certain events in American history that have led to Jewish and Irish Americans gaining racial privilege' and asks students to 'think critically

about why and who is allowing this evolution in white identity.'"

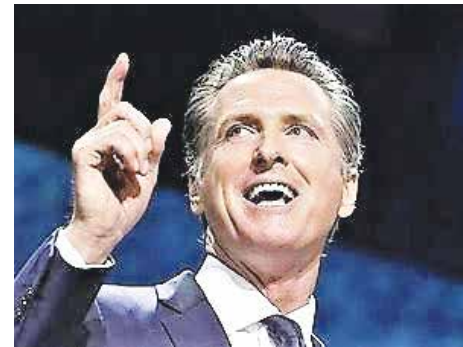
"At a time when anti-Jewish sentiment, hostility, and violence has reached truly alarming levels, indoctrinating students to view Jews as 'white' and 'racially privileged' is tantamount to putting an even larger target on the back of every Jewish student," the letter stated.

Tammi Rossman-Benjamin, Initiative Director of AMCHA, said of Newsom's veto, "We applaud Governor Newsom for keeping politics and antisemitism out of an educational curriculum."

"There is an important distinction between the broad and worthy field of ethnic studies, with its goal of understanding and celebrating the contributions of California's and our nation's diversity, and the narrow field of 'Critical Ethnic Studies' that the developing California curriculum is modeled after," she said. "The mission of this narrow understanding of ethnic studies is to promote political beliefs and political activism that are antithetical to the educational setting, inherently anti-Semitic, and pose a dangerous threat to Jewish students."

"We commend the governor for recognizing this important distinction, and we hope that moving forward, the state legislature will take steps to ensure that state-approved instructional materials and K-12 classrooms are free from political bias and not used to advance political causes," Rossman-Benjamin concluded.

Watchdog group CAMERA, which was heavily involved in



Governor Gavin Newsom

opposition to the bill, praised Newsom, with Senior Research Analyst Steven Stotsky, who monitors public school curricula, saying, "Governor Newsom demonstrated incisive leadership by vetoing the California bill that would have established the current flawed ethnic studies curriculum as a high school graduation requirement."

"Exposure of the curriculum's unconscionable anti-Israel advocacy and its deprecation of Jewish tenacity in overcoming discrimination in America played an important role" in convincing the governor, he asserted.

"Governor Newsom's firm action reinforces what we at CAMERA have been underscoring for the past ten years — namely, the critical role of the public in foiling schemes by academic radicals and compliant education officials to inculcate America's children with inaccurate, dishonest accounts of America's founding and culture," Stotsky concluded.

Ilan Sinelnikov, president and founder of Students Supporting Israel, which was also involved in the campaign against the bill, said, "After months of hard work, petitions, and letters to the legislators from a

large coalition of organizations, the Governor of California did the right thing."

"Students in high school should not be brainwashed by anti-Jewish and anti-Zionist propaganda," he asserted. "Now it is our time to keep increasing Zionist education, work with high school students even more, and make sure that our community is always ready to protect ourselves against hate."

The American Jewish Committee (AJC) welcomed the news of Newsom's veto, stating, "The veto enables the Department of Education to reconsider its ill-conceived plan to produce a divisive program of ethnic studies."

"AJC urges the Superintendent of Education continue efforts to improve the Ethnic Studies Model curriculum before its final adoption," it added.

The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) told The Algemeiner that it was "pleased" by the veto, pointing out, "The Governor correctly understood that there were serious problems with the model ethnic studies curriculum, which wasn't inclusive of all ethnic communities, including Jews."

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Thirty Jewish Organizations Call on 165 Colleges to Combat Anti-Semitism on Campus

"There are incidents of vandalism on campus, with mezuzahs being ripped off of students' doors in residence halls, and swastikas defacing property," according to a letter of concern.

Jewish News Syndicate

Thirty organizations, led by the Zionist Organization of America, have sent a letter to 165 colleges and university presidents across the United States, calling on them to address anti-Semitism

on their own campus.

"Many Jewish students are feeling harassed, afraid to express their Jewish identity—including their support for Israel—and afraid for their emotional

well-being and physical safety. Several of us wrote to you in September 2014 because we anticipated a frightening backlash against Jews on campus due to the Hamas war against Israel in the summer of 2014," stated the September 30 letter. "Back then, we urged you to take the necessary steps to protect your Jewish students, as you would surely do if any other vulnerable minority group on your campus was being targeted."

"Such steps were required under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act," continued the letter, alluding to the executive order signed by U.S. President Donald Trump last December that designated Judaism as a nationality under that law, which applies to institutions, including colleges

and universities, that receive federal funding.

"Anti-Semitism on our college campuses has been equally alarming, particularly because the anti-Semites are finding new ways to target and persecute Jews," stated the organizations. "There are still incidents of anti-Semitic vandalism on campus, with mezuzahs being ripped off of students' doors in their residence halls, and swastikas defacing campus property."

"In addition, Jewish students are under siege from anti-Semitism related to Israel and Zionism," they continued. "This form of anti-Semitism masquerades as legitimate political discourse, but in fact, it is yet another expression of Jew-hatred, causing Jewish students to feel harassed, threatened and even afraid for their safety."

The letter cites incidents of anti-Semitism in higher education and recommendations for how campuses can address hatred towards Jews, including, but not limited to, responding promptly to such incidents and mandate training on anti-Semitism for faculty and other staff.

Finally, the organizations state that while they "appreciate that college campuses should encourage free and open debate and the robust exchange of ideas" and "support these principles," no one "should tolerate a campus where students and student groups flagrantly disregard university rules and policies—supported by university funds, no less—without consequences."

"None of us should support faculty using their podiums to promote their personal, political anti-Israel agendas. None of us should tolerate a campus climate of fear or disrespect, which can seriously impair the physical and psychological health of students and create conditions that negatively affect their learning and their ability to achieve their full potential."

JEWISH FEDERATION PRESENTS NINE ONLINE SESSIONS WITH LOCAL 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
Thursday, August 16 Rabbi Kenneth Emert

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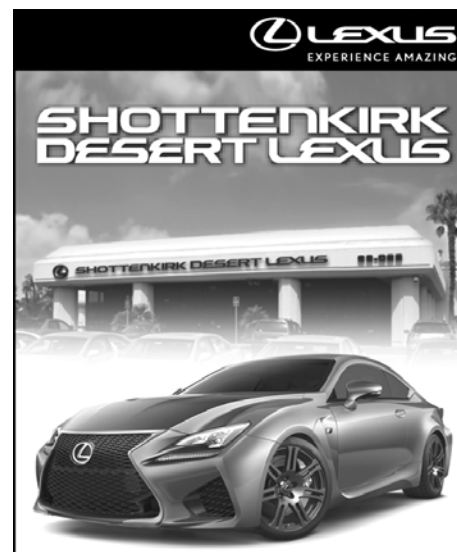
Thursday, September 3 Rabbi Richard Zions
Tuesday, September 11 Rabbi Andrew Bentley

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Petition Calls for Action Against Anti-Semitism in California School District

A petition has been launched calling for action against anti-Semitism in a California school district following social-media posts targeting students, including Jewish ones.

Critics have said this exemplifies an overall hostile culture against Jewish students at the Redwood High School in Larkspur, Calif., about a half-hour north of San Francisco.

An Instagram account was discovered with a bigoted caricature that read, "Redwood Students organized in anti semitism. Currently compiling a google doc of Jews in the district. Hit us up if you want to help! wehatej3ws dot com."

Stacy Friedman, senior rabbi at Congregation Rodef Shalom in San Rafael, Calif., told ABC San Francisco affiliate KGO-TV, "This is what happened in Nazi Germany, when they collected a list of Jewish names, targeted them for slaughter. Some of these students who were targeted,

this is how their grandparents and great grandparents were killed."

Friedman said that Jewish students have been targeted in schools in Marin County, where the high school is located. "Children have found swastikas on their lockers, on their books, their cars in the parking lots," she said. "These are things we've been hearing about the past few years."

Friedman also noted that a Jewish student at Terra Linda High School was attacked on Zoom; another student said "all Jews and all Israelis deserve to go to hell."

According to KGO-TV, "recently, a photo of a young person holding a shell casing while wearing a helmet with a swastika, circulated on Snapchat among Marin students."

Central Marin Police is investigating the matter.

Redwood High School principal David Sondheim told the outlet that "the posts are reprehensible," and that



Redwood High School IN Larkspur, CA

the school is also looking into it. "The offenses committed are suspendable and expellable."

Meanwhile, a petition launched in late September calling on Tara Taupier—superintendent of the Tamalpais Union High School District in Marin that oversees Redwood—and district board members for action amid what it alleges is a "lack of action against the recent and ongoing acts of anti-Semitism by members of Redwood High School."

"Too often is anti-Semitism swept under the rug by Redwood and the Tam District as a whole," it continued. "This form of hatred is of the same

importance as racism, misogyny and bigotry, yet it is treated as inferior."

"Our safety is threatened by the list and the pictures posted by the student. The list of Jewish students paired with the image of the swastika and the bullet produces an uncanny resemblance to the use of lists during the Nazi Regime," added the petition. "The idea of going back to school with a student whose beliefs align with those of Nazis is inconceivable."

"We believe the 'action' taken thus far by the administration has done nothing to make us feel secure and safe. This student has gotten away with offensive behavior for far too long and this recent escalation is a direct result of the lack of attention given by the district."

The letter was signed by "Lindsay Felder, Samantha Glickman and the Redwood Student Body."

The petition has almost 5,780 signatures.

Danish Neo-Nazi Jailed for a Year for Desecrating Over 80 Jewish Graves

Accomplice yet to be sentenced for attack; pair also vandalized building adorned with two Stars of David, put stickers with logo of neo-Nazi group on rainbow-colored bench

The Times of Israel

A Danish court on October 16 sentenced a 39-year-old man with neo-Nazi sympathies to a year in prison for desecrating a Jewish cemetery in the western town of Randers.

The man and his 28-year-old accomplice were both found guilty of desecrating a graveyard and aggravated vandalism, but the latter's sentence has yet to be handed down.

In November 2019, 81 years after Kristallnacht when Nazis smashed Jewish-owned stores, buildings and synagogues in Germany, the pair desecrated more

than 80 tombstones, overturning some and covering others with graffiti.

The two were also found guilty of vandalism on two other occasions, for covering a building adorned with two Stars of David with paint and putting stickers with the logo of the neo-Nazi Nordic Resistance Movement (NMR) group on a rainbow-colored park bench.

These "actions were sending a message that was intended to threaten, insult or degrade certain groups because of their beliefs, ethnic origins or sexual



Tombstones vandalized at the Jewish cemetery in Randers, Denmark

orientation," police prosecutor Cathrine Brunsgaard Jacobsen said in a statement after the sentencing.

The 39-year-old, whose name was not disclosed, is a leading member of the Danish branch of NMR, according to the prosecutor.

NMR, which designates itself as

a "revolutionary national socialist" organization, was founded in Sweden in 1997 and is present in all of the Nordic countries.

Finland's Supreme Court banned the organization in September, ruling that it violated freedom of speech laws by spreading "hateful rhetoric about immigrants, sexual minorities and Jews."

In Denmark, the number of anti-Semitic acts rose by 50 percent from 2017 to 2018, the Jewish community said in 2019.

In February 2015, Copenhagen's synagogue was targeted in an attack that left one person dead.

Petition Against Rehiring of Holocaust-Denying High School Principal in Florida Passes 20,000 Signatures

By *Algemeiner Staff*

More than 20,000 people have signed a petition demanding that the Palm Beach County School Board in Florida desist from plans to rehire William Latson — a former high school principal who was terminated after he told a parent who enquired about Holocaust education that “not everyone believes the Holocaust happened.”

On October 7, the School Board voted 4-3 in favor of rehiring Latson, who was the principal of Spanish River High School when he was removed from his post in November 2019.

“This is a slap in the face to all Holocaust victims,” declared the online petition, which was launched by parents opposed to Latson’s continued presence as an official in the Florida education system. “We cannot allow anti-Semitism

and discrimination to take hold in the school system,” the petition stated.

The controversy involving Latson dates back to April 2018, when he told the mother of a student who sought to ensure that Holocaust education was “a priority” that “not everyone believes the Holocaust happened” in an email. “And you have your thoughts, but we are a public school, and not all of our parents have the same beliefs,” he scolded. Latson added that educators had “the role to be politically neutral but support all groups in the school.” “I can’t say the Holocaust is a factual, historical event because I am not in a position to do so as a school-district employee,” he



**William Latson,
Florida High
School principal**

wrote.

In an interview with the Palm Beach Post, Latson’s attorney, Thomas Elfers, revealed that his client would have been compelled to confront Holocaust-denying parents at Spanish River had he acknowledged the fact of the Nazi genocide.

“Two or three parents were Holocaust deniers; Dr. Latson was pressured by one mother to confront them, and he declined,” Elfers said. “Confronting parents about their beliefs was outside the scope of his duties.” Elfers then suggested that Latson’s stance on the Holocaust was in keeping with the need for educators to remain “neutral.”

However, Elfers’ version of events was disputed by the parent who first complained about Latson.

“In her emails to Latson, the

stunned parent only wanted him to clarify his unprompted claim about the Holocaust being a ‘belief,’ email records show,” the Palm Beach Post reported. “She made no request in the messages that he address other parents.”

One member of the School Board who voted in favor of Latson said that he should be required to publicly apologize. “I think that is the least he can do,” Debra Robinson said.

Robinson’s fellow School Board member, Karen Brill — who voted against Latson — told the Palm Beach Post that the chances of an apology were negligible in her opinion. “Good luck with that, though,” Brill said, “because I think that there is a level of arrogance that will prohibit that ever happening.”

Doctor Warns Covid-19 May Cause Male Infertility

A review of 40 studies on the effect of moderate or serious Covid cases shows sperm count and motility decline for at least a month afterward.

By *Abigail Klein Leichman, Israel 21C*

Men who had moderate or serious Covid-19 infections could find their fertility impaired for an unknown amount of time, says Israeli physician Dr. Dan Aderka.

Aderka, head of the GI Cancer Service and GI Cancer Biology and Immunotherapy Program at Sheba Medical Center, drew his conclusions after reviewing published literature on the connection between Covid-19 and sperm quality. He plans to conduct a study of his own.

Aderka said his analysis of more than 40 studies from various countries reveals that the number of sperm per milliliter, total

volume of ejaculate, and motility (movement) of sperm declined an average of 50 percent in men tested a month after diagnosis with moderate or serious Covid-19. (The fertility of men with mild cases generally was unaffected.)

“We don’t know yet if these effects of Covid-19 are reversible,” Aderka said. However, it is well known that other coronaviruses can cause male infertility. For example, mumps can cause testicular atrophy and a drop in sperm count in an estimated 1 in 10 men who get infected.

Testicular changes also have been reported. One study, done

in China on men who died from Covid-19, discovered damage to two types of cells in the testes directly involved in sperm production. Aderka said it is unknown how many men suffer physical harm to the testes from the coronavirus infection.

The literature Aderka analyzed further shows that the virus is found in the sperm of 13% of male patients in active stages of the disease, and in 8.6% of those recovering. These traces seem to be gone a month later. He does not believe Covid-19 can be transmitted sexually.

Aderka, who also is a professor at

Tel Aviv University, plans to send his analysis of the literature on the subject for peer review. He will be launching a prospective study on Israeli Covid-19 patients as well.

Because light cases don’t seem to affect fertility, Aderka urges men to wear facemasks. This way, even if they get sick, their immune systems will be dealing with a smaller viral load and consequently they’ll have a milder form of the disease.

For patients concerned about their fertility, Aderka advises that doctors should consider monitoring the sperm of recovered male patients for several months.

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Florida to Issue 'Florida Stands with Israel' License Plates

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Florida will now be issuing specialty "Florida Stands with Israel" license plates for those who wish to support the Jewish state throughout the Sunshine State.

Governor Ron DeSantis signed legislation (HB 1135) on September 18, hours before the start of Rosh Hashanah, which authorized the creation of the special license plate.

The Israeli-American Council (IAC) applauded the "heartwarming expression of solidarity," saying that it "affirms the strong bond between the State of Florida's citizens and the Jewish State of Israel."

"This kind of warmth is why Florida has always been a leading destination for Israeli-Americans," said IAC Board Member and IAC for Action Board Chairman Shawn Evenhaim. "This gesture celebrates a long and close

relationship. Florida and Israel share many ties, including bilateral trade, common values and leadership in cutting-edge fields that have a quality of life impact for all citizens," he said.

"Florida has been a leader over the years in the fight against anti-Jewish hatred and discrimination – for example, its groundbreaking anti-BDS law and codification this past year of the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism," Evenhaim said. "We applaud and sincerely appreciate this meaningful expression of solidarity and are pleased that the Israeli-American community can play a part in support of these efforts. Thank you, Governor DeSantis and the Florida Legislature. Shana Tova U'Metuka [a good and sweet year].»

The design of the license plate is still up for debate, however, and Florida

will host a 30-day design contest which will receive submissions by the general public. The contest itself is sponsored by the IAC and coordinated by Artists for Israel.

The judging panel will include lead sponsors of the legislation: senators Aaron Bean and Lauren Book, representatives JW Grant, Kionne McGhee and Scott Plakon, and Bal Harbour Mayor Gabe Groisman.

Following the selection of the design, the IAC will lead a marketing campaign to pre-sell the 3,000 plates necessary in order to continue into production. A portion of the sales goes to Hatzalah of Miami Dade County.

"This is an incredible gesture of friendship following Governor DeSantis's highly successful 2019 trade mission to Israel and signing of a tough

anti-Semitism law in Jerusalem," said IAC co-founder and CEO Shoham Nicolet.

"When considering the special Florida-Israel relationship, it is critical to examine the cutting-edge nature of the bilateral trade and exchange taking place. Trade with Israel encompasses many of the state's most vital sectors, such as agriculture, water desalinization, health sciences, disaster relief, avionics, and essential technology research and development," he said.

"The Florida-Israel relationship has a beneficial quality of life impact around the world. We applaud the efforts of the sponsoring legislators who made this happen," Nicolet noted. "We also thank our friends at Artists 4 Israel and

Honduras to Relocate Embassy to Jerusalem by Year's End

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hails the "authentic friendship and steadfast support" that Jerusalem has received from Tegucigalpa.

Israel and Honduras will open embassies in each other's capital cities before the end of this year. The joint announcement came following a conversation between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández. During their talk, the two leaders reaffirmed the close ties between Jerusalem and Tegucigalpa, and Hernández

also congratulated Netanyahu on the historic agreements with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, known as the Abraham Accords.

"Today, with their flags flying over each other's capital cities, Israel and Honduras wish to announce the intention to complete the plan of action, before the end of this year, with the reciprocal opening and inauguration of their embassies in



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President of Honduras Juan Orlando Hernández

the national capitals, Tegucigalpa and Jerusalem," said the statement. Bottom of Form

Following a trilateral meeting in Brazil in 2019 between Netanyahu, Hernández and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, the three countries agreed to strengthen their political ties and to coordinate cooperation on development in Honduras, and also to "pursue a plan of action, which includes meetings in their three respective

capitals, to advance the process of the decision to open embassies in both Tegucigalpa and Jerusalem."

In March 2019, Honduras recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and a month later opened its commercial office in the city. Israel reciprocated on August 20, 2020, opening its trade and cooperation office in Tegucigalpa.

In his conversation with the Honduran leader, Netanyahu expressed his appreciation for the "authentic friendship and steadfast support" that Israel has received from Honduras, and reiterated Israel's commitment to strengthening this partnership through development, cooperation, tourism, investment, technology, agriculture, education and trade.

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Columbia U Faculty Members Support Columbia President for Denouncing Pro-BDS Referendum

By Algemeiner Staff

Faculty members at Columbia University have issued an open letter supporting the school's president for opposing a pro-BDS referendum approved by undergraduate students at the New York City institution.

In a statement released after Columbia College's student government demanded the school divest from companies that "profit from the State of Israel's apartheid system and military occupation," President Lee Bollinger said that doing so "would contradict a long-held understanding that the University should not change its investment policies on the basis of particular views about a complex policy issue, especially when there is no consensus across the University community about that

issue."

"Furthermore, in my view, as I have expressed many times over the years, it is unfair and inaccurate to single out this specific dispute for this purpose when there are so many other, comparably deeply entrenched conflicts around the world," he added.

In an apparent reference to the problem of campus antisemitism, Bollinger said, "I have also raised concerns about how this debate over BDS has adversely affected the campus climate for many undergraduate students in our community."



**Columbia U
President Lee
Bollinger**

In the open letter, published last week, the faculty signatories said they "stand with President Bollinger in opposing this referendum."

"The BDS referendum and its recommendation that the University should divest from a number of international companies that do business in Israel is unwise, analytically flawed, and violates a sense of fairness and proportionality," they noted.

They also pointed to the antisemitic nature of such initiatives,

saying, "We are concerned that this resolution will adversely affect the campus climate for many Jewish students who support Israel!"

"We stand ready to work with President Bollinger and others in the Columbia senior leadership to improve the campus climate for all students, including Jewish students," they added. "We encourage President Bollinger to implement a remedial action plan for the campus, with concrete and measurable goals."

DESERT HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL



The Desert Holocaust Memorial is located in the Palm Desert Civic Center Park at San Pablo Avenue & Fred Waring Drive. Residents and visitors are encouraged to visit this moving memorial, a place of remembrance and monument of hope.



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Jewish Federation Women's Philanthropy

Women's Philanthropy has a wonderful opportunity to raise funds for our Tzedakah Fund with this bracelet sale going on in the month of November. We are partnering with several other Jewish Federations including Las Vegas, San Diego & Western Massachusetts, with the proceeds going into our Tzedakah Fund. As the pandemic continues, the most vulnerable in our community are turning to this critical fund in ever increasing numbers. This is a special way you can help.



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*It is all about community!
Looking out for one another!*

To purchase bracelets, contact Leslie Pepper, Women's Philanthropy Coordinator at 760-324-4737.

Israel's Gal Gadot Ranked 2020's 3rd Highest-Paid Actress

By i24 News

Israeli star Gal Gadot is the third highest-paid actress in the world in 2020, according to a ranking published on October 2nd by US business magazine Forbes.

The Israeli actress earned a total of \$31.5 million, including \$20 million from her participation in the film "Red Notice," which will be released

on the Netflix streaming platform in 2021.

The rest of her fortune was accrued with the highly anticipated "Wonder Woman 1984," which was initially scheduled



Gal Gadot

for June 5 but was postponed to December 25 due to the coronavirus crisis.

"Modern Family" star Sofia Vergara tops the Forbes chart, with \$43 million earned in 2020. Actress Angelina Jolie came in second with \$35 million collected.

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Human Chain Formed Around German Synagogue in Message of Solidarity to Jewish Community

By Algemeiner Staff

Residents of the German town of Bad Neuheim formed a human chain around their local synagogue on Friday night October 9, in a gesture of solidarity with the Jewish community.

Around 80 people participated in the event, which took place as Jews worshiping inside the synagogue marked the arrival of both the Sabbath and the final days of the Sukkot holiday.

Initiated by the Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation Wetterau (GCJZ), the chain included local politicians and church representatives.

Those present were addressed by the Mayor of Bad Neuheim — a town of 30,000 people north of the city of Frankfurt — Karl Kress, who warned against the “shadow of anti-Semitism.”

“We stand together against anti-

Semitism and discrimination,” the mayor declared. “Above all we stand together for our values of tolerance and openness, freedom of opinion and belief.”

Volkhard Guth, dean of the Protestant Church in Bad Neuheim, referred to the first anniversary of the attack on a synagogue in the city of Halle by a neo-Nazi gunman in

which two people were killed.

“As Christians we have to say: ‘Anti-Semitism is a sin against God!’” Guth told the crowd. “The Halle victims remind us that anti-Semitism is always a crime against humanity.”

The crowd was also addressed by Manfred De Vries of the Jewish community in Bad Neuheim, who praised the turnout.

“What would have happened in 1938 if a similar action had taken place in front of the synagogues? I think it would have made a difference,” De Vries remarked. “These are different times. Today’s Germany is a democratic country and that is worth fighting for.”

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“GOODBYE COLUMBUS” May be viewed prior to presentation on Amazon Prime. Panel Discussion with Questions Answered by Larry Pearce, Director of “Goodbye Columbus.”

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For Zoom invitation contact harelurjpd@gmail.com

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החכם THE SAGE When did Jewish Book Month start?




[760-779-1691 • harelurjpd@gmail.com](mailto:harelurjpd@gmail.com)

In 1925 Fannie Goldstein, a Boston Public Librarian, arranged an exhibit of Jewish books to encourage their reading. It grew to be a National observance every November.



Let’s go to Har-El Book ‘MINI’ reviews of three books on Wednesday, November 11th from 3:30-5:00 PM



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Czech Republic Chooses Israeli Anti-aircraft System to Defend its Skies

Czech Republic to get four batteries of the SPYDER system made by Rafael, the company that produces Iron Dome.

By Paul Shindman, World Israel News

The Czech Ministry of Defense has decided to buy an Israeli-made anti-aircraft missile system in a deal worth an estimated \$450 million, Israel's Foreign Ministry announced in late September.

The purchase includes four batteries of the SPYDER anti-aircraft system that incorporates the PYTHON-5 missile and the I-DERBY active radar. The missile system is designed to knock out aircraft including helicopters and UAVs (drones). Each battery has its own 3D radar, fire command and control system, and four launchers.

The deal has an estimated value

of 370 million Euros (\$430 million) with contract negotiations expected to finish by the beginning of 2021, and the first deliveries coming in 2023.

"One of the key modernization projects of our army is the anti-aircraft missile system," Czech Defense Minister Lubomír Metnar tweeted. "It is high time to replace the more than 40-year-old Soviet 2K12 KUB system," he wrote, adding that he wanted the "modern and proven SPYDER system."

The Czech government approved procurement negotiations in the framework of a government-to-



SPYDER anti-aircraft system

government (GTG) agreement between the two countries with Israel as the sole supplier for the project.

Rafael says SPYDER "provides effective protection of valuable

assets, as well as first-class defense for maneuvering forces located in combat areas."

"We are very proud to have been selected to provide SPYDER systems to the Czech Republic," said Rafael's VP of marketing and business development, Ariel Karo. "The decision... is a significant vote of confidence in our proven air defense capabilities demonstrated over the years through a variety of solutions that span from Iron Dome, David's Sling, and the SPYDER air defense system, in service and combat-proven in different countries around the world."

Defense Minister Benny Gantz thanked the Czech government for the decision to equip their military with Israeli air defense systems.

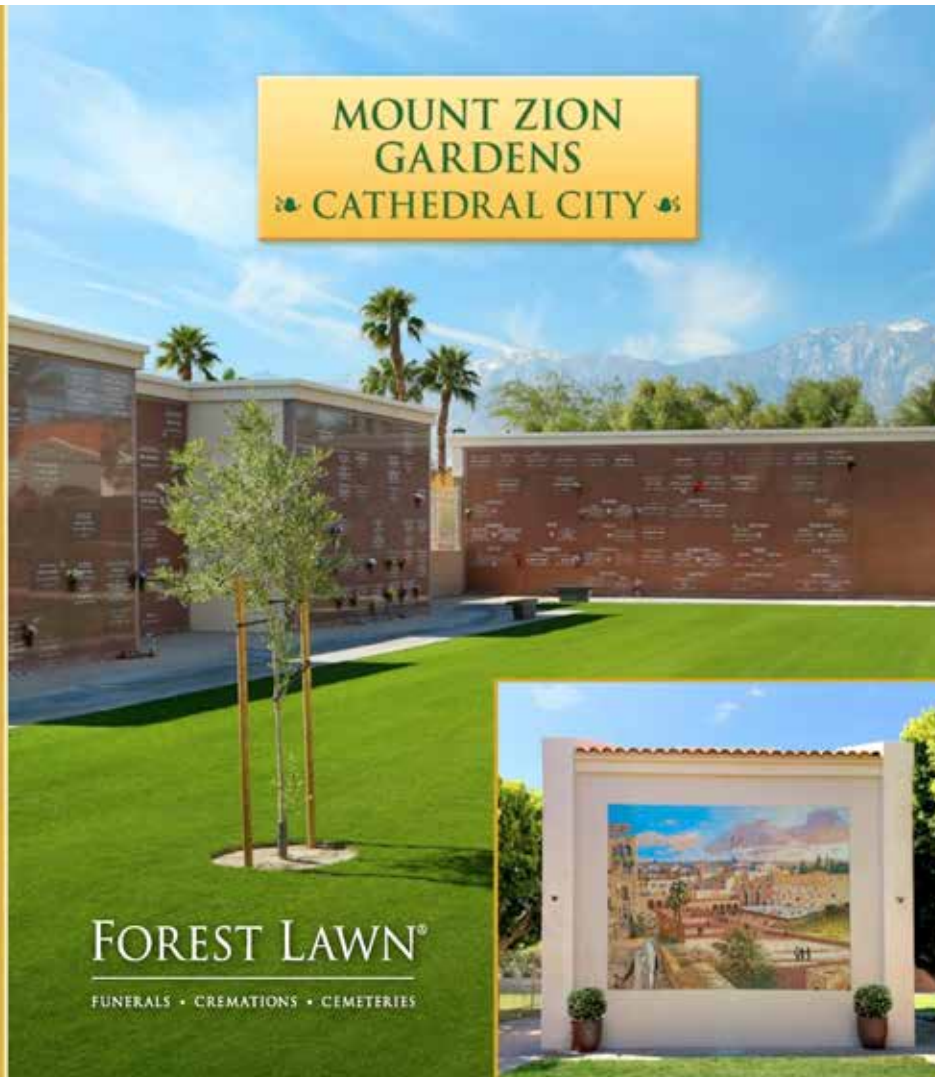
"This is another significant step in strengthening security relations between our two countries," Gantz said. "It is also great news for Israeli defense industries during such a complex period."

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- **Kevin Giser and Emma Rees**, Congratulations on your upcoming wedding, from Cora Ginsberg.
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- **Jo Ann Kocen**, Happy Birthday from Esther and Richard Sirinsky.
- **Rabbi Faith Tessler**, In your honor, from

Jennifer Cline and Family, Jill Gover, Julie Hart and Gloria Rubin.

Refuah Shleimah Get Well Wishes To:

- **Bruce Landgarten**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Sheri and Jim Borax, and Cora Ginsberg.

Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:

- **Mrs. G. Bodner and Family**, In memory of your dear husband, from Elaine and Claude Steinberger.
- **Sara Chereskin**, In memory of your beloved mother Susan Chereskin, from Cora Ginsberg.
- **Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Feder and Family**, In memory of your beloved brother, from Harold and Mimi Paley, Sherry and Howard Schor, and Chickie and Claude Steinberger.
- **Carol Fragen**, In memory of your beloved husband, Ron, from Susie and Bob Diamond.
- **Roberta Holleb and Family**, In memory of your beloved husband, Bob, from Susie and Bob Diamond.

- **Family of Rabbi Joseph Hurwitz**, In memory of our beloved rabbi and dear friend. May his memory be a blessing, from Mark Krasne and Stephen G. Rieman.
- **In memory of Ezra Litwak**, from Harry Schoenfeld.
- **Seth London**, In memory of your beloved father, Edward London, from Lita and Jerrold Widran.
- **Janet and Bernard Reiter**, in memory of your beloved father, Tommy P. Kain, from Dr. Paul and Stephanie Ross.
- **Gayle Rosenbaum and Family**, In memory of Neil Godfray and Gene Faierman, from Roz and George Goldstein.
- **Jan Sachs and Family**, In memory of your beloved husband Irv Sachs, from Bob and Carol Friedman, Jerrold and Lita Widran.
- **Snell Family**, In memory of Eileen Popkin, from Lee and Harold Weinstein.
- **Susie Stern**, In memory of your beloved mother Carrol Kahn, from Cora Ginsberg.

In first, Israeli and Emirati Singers Release Duet

“Hello, friend,” featuring Israel’s Elkana Martziano and the UAE’s Walid Aljassim conveys a message of peace between the two countries. Israel Hayom

In another sign of the warming ties between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, following the Sept. 15 signing of the Abraham Accords, singers from both countries came together for a first-of-its-kind duet.

Appropriately titled “Hello, friend,” the duet—featuring Israel’s Elkana Martziano and the UAE’s Walid Aljassim—was the brainchild of the two singers’ musical managers

and was released on Wednesday.

Martziano is the winner of the third season of the Israeli version of “The Voice.” Aljassim has a huge following in the UAE, where he sings many of the country’s most beloved musical numbers.

The song, written by Israeli hit-makers Doron Medalie and Henree, includes Hebrew, Arabic and English lyrics, and seeks to convey a



UAE’s Walid Aljassim and Israel’s Elkana Martziano

message of peace between the two countries.

The video, directed by Uzi George, was filmed partially in Israel and partially in Dubai.

Below is the link to the Youtube video:

<https://jewishwebsite.com/featured/in-first-israeli-and-emirati-singers-release-duet/61181/>



November Shabbat Schedule

Due to the uncertainties from the Covid Pandemic, we urge you to check online or call any temple or shul you are interested in attending to find out what is currently being offered.

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CHABAD OF PALM SPRINGS & DESERT COMMUNITIES
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Rabbi Arik Denebeim
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www.chabadpalmsprings.com
5:30 pm: Pre-Shabbat services offered
online Friday afternoons. Check
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www.chabadpd.com 760-969-2153
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CHABAD OF RANCHO MIRAGE
Rabbi Shimon Posner
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CHABAD OF SUN CITY PALM DESERT

Rabbi Yonason Denebeim.
info@chabadsuncity.com.
See Chabad of Palm Springs.

CONGREGATION HAR-EL (Member, Union for Reform Judaism)

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760-779-1691. New website:
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Har-El's Shabbat services are Friday
evenings at 5:00 pm, provided
as virtual services open to the
community. Saturdays at 11:00 am:
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offered online. See ad on page 13.

CONGREGATION SHALOM BAYIT (Reform)

Rabbi Kenneth Milhandler, 1320 W.
Williams Ave., Banning, CA 92220.
Contact 951-392-5380.

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Mailing address: P.O. Box 982,
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For link and password contact rabbi
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Susan Katzman, 760-641-0411 or
email SusanK92253gmail.com.

OR HAMIDBAR

Rabbi David Lazar rabbi@
orhamidbar.org. Virtual Kabbalat
Services Fridays at 6:30 pm and
Shabbat morning services at 10:30
am. For information email info@
orhamidbar.org.

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Erev Shabbat Services via Zoom
the third Friday of each month
with Rabbi David Lazar. This
month's service November 20
at 6:00 pm. Every other Friday
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Lighting with Rabbi Emerita Malka
Drucker at 5:45 pm Check
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Community Calendar of Online Programs - November 2020

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

JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE DESERT:

Nine Online Sessions with local Rabbis - November Sessions:
Tuesday, November 5: 1:00 pm with Rabbi Andrew Bentley: "Teshuvah – Returning"" Tuesday, November 19: 1:00 pm with Rabbi David Novak: "Teach Them to Your Children." See page 6 for contact information.

JEWISH FEDERATION - WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY:

Sunday, November 8 and November 15; 5:00-7:00 pm: Screening of "Exodus" with Paul Newman. RSVP to Leslie Pepper – 760-324-4737.

Wednesday, November 11 – 11:00 am. Discussion: "Am I an American Jew or a Jewish American. RSVP to Leslie Pepper – 760-324-4737.

TEMPLE ISAIAH: JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

Sunday, November 1 through Wednesday, November 4: "Drive-In" screening of 8 films
Sunday, November 1 through Saturday, November 7: The 17` Film Festival films available online. See ad page 2.

Sundays:

11:00 am - Chabad of Palm Springs: Virtual Women's Coffee and Conversation with Chaya Denebeim.

Mondays:

2:00 pm - Chabad of Palm Springs/Sun City: Virtual class: The Prayerbook, with Sussie Denebeim
7:30 pm - Chabad of Palm Springs/Sun City: Virtual class: "The Prophets: Stories that shaped our history" with Rabbi Baruch (Boz) Werdiger.

Tuesdays:

7:00 pm – Chabad of Palm Springs/Sun City: Virtual class:

"Insights for Daily Living, from the Torah" with Sussie Denebeim.

Wednesdays:

1:00 pm – Temple Isaiah Virtual "Coffee with the Rabbi" with Rabbi Steven Rosenberg. Go to website: templeisaiahps.com and click on link.

Thursdays:

3:30 pm – Chabad of Palm Springs - Virtual class: "The Mystical Parsha" with Rabbi Baruch (Boz) Werdiger. RSVP to Boz Werdiger, boz@chabadps.com, or 760-550-5793

7:00 pm – Chabad of Palm Springs/Sun City: Virtual "Ask the Rabbi" with Rabbi Yonason Denebeim.

Wednesday, October 28:

3:30 pm Har-El. Virtual discussion on movie "Jo Jo Rabbit" led by Rabbi Richard Zions. See ad page 13 for contact information.

Tuesday, November 3 through December 8

7:00-8:30 pm Chabad of Rancho Mirage. Jewish Learning Institute Lecture Series "**Secrets of the Book.**" \$99 fee for the 8 sessions. Includes book.. RSVP 760-770-7785.

Thursday, November 5

4:00-5:00 pm Sabra Hadassah Virtual Meeting. Program: Barbara Sassower, Dietician, Eisenhower Health. "Diet Pitfalls." \$18. Details call 760-289-7987.

Wednesday, November 11:

3:30 pm Har-El. Virtual discussion for November "Jewish Book Month Event." See ad page 13 for contact information.

Wednesday, November 18:

3:30 pm Har-El. Virtual discussion on movie "Goodbye Columbus" led by Rabbi Richard Zions. See ad page 13 for contact information.

Following Facebook, Twitter Will Now Ban Posts That Deny Holocaust

Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Bloomberg News reported that a Twitter spokesperson said posts that "deny or distort" violent events including the Holocaust would be banned.

Twitter is the second major social media network to ban Holocaust denial. Facebook announced on October 14 that it would ban posts that deny or distort the Holocaust, two years after Mark Zuckerberg said Holocaust denial should be allowed in the name of free speech.

"We strongly condemn anti-

Semitism, and hateful conduct has absolutely no place on our service," the Twitter spokesperson said in a statement. "We also have a robust 'glorification of violence' policy in place and take action against content that glorifies or praises historical acts of violence and genocide, including the Holocaust."

The moves come as social media networks make a series of moves to crack down on hateful content ahead of the presidential election, and as activists have called on social



media companies to do more to combat hate and misinformation. Facebook also recently banned content related to the QAnon conspiracy theory, as well as a range of hateful posts including those that say Jews control the world. YouTube

likewise banned QAnon content, and Twitter removed thousands of QAnon accounts this summer.

Twitter has taken an especially tough stance on disinformation recently, appending warnings to tweets by President Trump sharing false information, violent content or conspiracy theories. The network also recently blocked an unsubstantiated article about Joe Biden from the New York Post, before saying similar content would be allowed with a warning attached.

Landmark Jerusalem Building to House New Museum Celebrating Jewish Heritage

By Abigail Klein Leichman, ISRAEL21C

For a dozen years, Jerusalem's landmark Schneller Compound on Malchei Yisrael Street has lain dormant and abandoned. Now, the 19th-century cluster of edifices is undergoing a massive renovation to become Beit HaKehillot (House of the Communities), an interactive Jewish heritage museum and cultural center.

"This isn't going to be another boring museum filled with artifacts you forget about after 10 minutes. It will be a celebration of Jewish culture that will leave visitors feeling excited about being a part of the Jewish nation," says Hanan Benayahu, director of Kehillot Yisrael Institute.

He tells ISRAEL21c that the future museum aims to bring to life inspiring historical events, stories and folklore representing "the radical ideas and core values that Jews brought to the world throughout the diaspora" and how those ideas and values united and strengthened the widespread



Concept for a room in the Beit HaKehillot Jewish heritage museum in Jerusalem.

communities.

"Their culture wasn't just gefilte fish and cholent," says Benayahu. "For 2,000 years, they connected to each other and influenced one another, and came up with ways to handle all kinds of situations, not just anti-Semitism but also issues like encroaching modernity."

For the past 50 years, Kehillot Yisrael has been collecting what Benayahu says is the largest private archive of original Jewish manuscripts, letters, books, songs and stories. The institute has digitally documented 1.8 million pages, certificates and historical documents, and published more than 700 books.

"We all have roots from different communities, but do we have any idea how to connect to those roots? Being able to experience the richness of each community—its customs, literature, poetry art, music, liturgy and folktales—will create a sense of connection, no matter where your family came from."

A time capsule of history

German Protestant missionary Johann Ludwig Schneller built the first building in the Schneller Compound in 1860 by to care for Syrian orphans. The campus gradually was expanded to include a school for the blind, several factories, a printing press, pottery workshops, dormitories, stables and more.

In 1940, British forces deported all German personnel and turned the compound into a closed military camp containing the largest ammunition

stockpile in the Middle East. The building changed hands again in 1948 after the British abandoned the camp.

The Haganah—the precursor to the Israel Defense Forces—used it as a base of operations during Israel's War of Independence. The Schneller Compound continued to serve as an IDF base until 2008.

Meanwhile, a bathhouse, winery and other structures dating from the Second Temple and early Roman period have been discovered around the compound. And the restoration and excavation work inside the compound has revealed evidence of a Turkish bathhouse and several ancient wells.

"The Schneller Compound is a virtual time capsule of a 150-year period in Jerusalem's history," said Moshe Shapiro, lead architect for the project.

"It contains the story of the Jewish people, from the time of the destruction of Jerusalem to pre-state, British, the underground, and more. This new project, housed in what was formerly a non-Jewish building, honors Jewish heritage and culture and closes the circle."

The construction project is expected to take approximately two years.

Skimmers, swimmers, deep divers

The museum is being designed by Berenbaum Jacobs Associates (BJA), which creates digital-media installations, original video content

and advanced AR+VR experiences for museums, special exhibitions, visitor attractions and memorials across the globe. The firm has offices in Israel, New Jersey and California.

BJA partner and project designer Edward Jacobs tells ISRAEL21c that the design will focus on engaging school-aged visitors "who want to understand why a museum of Jewish heritage is relevant to their lives. Cutting-edge technology is just one part of that."

He wants all types of museum patrons—he calls them "skimmers, swimmers and deep divers—to go through together and experience the various elements at the level each one desires.

Beit HaKehillot will offer augmented reality glasses rather than VR headsets, Jacobs says. "I hate headsets because they take away the exceedingly important social element of experiencing the space together."

He envisions the journey beginning with a ride in "a crazy huge elevator with walls of liquid crystal" leading down into an ancient water cistern where a film will introduce "all the 'radical' ideals first promulgated by the Jews, like human equality and environmental awareness."

Complementary museums

Benayahu says Beit HaKehillot will complement, not compete with, Beit Hatfutsot-The Museum of the Jewish People (formerly called the Diaspora Museum) on the campus of Tel Aviv University, which opened in 1978 as "the National Center for Jewish communities in Israel and around the world."

Another project in the works is World's Jewish Museum, expected to open in 2023 to highlight major Jewish achievements in modern history.

Designed by world-renowned Jewish architect Frank Gehry, World's Jewish Museum proposes to become a starting point for a Tel Aviv "Avenue of the Museums" like Museum Mile in New York City. It will encompass the Eretz Yisrael Museum, the Rabin Center, the Palmach Museum, Beit Hatfutsot and the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History.

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French Jews Rally to Aid Town of Saint-Martin-Vésubie, WWII Haven for Refugees, After Storm Alex Devastation

By Ben Cohen, *The Algemeiner*

French Jews have rallied to the aid of a small town on the border with Italy that was devastated from flash flooding caused by Storm Alex, which has left a trail of destruction across the south of France and north of Italy in mid-October.

The town of Saint-Martin-Vésubie — with a population of under 1,500 — was at the epicenter of the storm, suffering widespread structural damage and losing its electricity and water supply for several days. Four people died during the storm, while a further eight residents of the town remain unaccounted for.

The role played by the people of Saint-Martin-Vésubie in saving Jews from Nazi persecution during World War II is solemnly remembered by many French Jews, who are raising funds for relief efforts in the storm's wake.

In an email to supporters, the BNVCA — a Paris-based organization that represents victims of anti-Semitic harassment and violence — asked for donations to a special fund it has created for the town, in recognition of its status during part of the war as a safe haven for more than 1,000 Jewish refugees, as well as other rescue efforts undertaken by its residents.

"The BNVCA does not forget the courage and solidarity which allowed hundreds of Jewish refugees to be saved during the war in St Martin de Vésubie," the organization said. "We want to show our gratitude by calling for a powerful and quick mobilization to come to the aid of a town that has been struck by misfortune."

Occupied by the Italian Army in November 1942, Saint-Martin-

Vésubie rapidly became a haven for persecuted Jews thanks to the sympathetic attitude of the local Italian authorities. For nearly a year, around 1,200 Jews were able "to live, and to be housed and fed by a close network of cooperation between the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), Jewish leaders, the scouts, the [Jewish charity] ORT and the extraordinary population of St Martin de Vésubie," the BNVCA explained.

"The local population, deeply impoverished by the war, was able to develop solidarity and even an exceptional friendship with these foreigners, a large majority of whom spoke only Yiddish," the group recalled.

When the Germans took control of the region in September 1943 after the Italian armistice, an alert was sent to each house in the town. Within days, arrangements were made for the Jewish refugees in Saint-Martin-Vésubie to embark on the long trek over the mountainous border to safety in Italy. While hundreds of elderly and infirm refugees perished along the walk, or remained behind where they were captured by the Germans, more than 600 of the Jews of Saint-Martin-Vésubie survived the war as a result.

Four of Saint-Martin-Vésubie's residents have been honored by Yad Vashem, Israel's national memorial to the Holocaust, as "righteous among the nations."

Landry Mangon, the town's police chief, and his wife Adrienne saved a one-year-old Jewish boy — Jean-Claude Dreymann — by presenting him to the Gestapo as their own son during a round-up of Jews. The

infant's five-year-old sister, Cecile, was similarly saved by one of Mangon's colleagues, police officer Joseph Fougere and his wife Yvonne.



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Israel Has the Makings of a Cyber Superpower'

In the wake of the Abraham Accords, "the potential vis-à-vis the UAE is endless," says Israel's National Cyber Directorate head Yigal Unna.

By Yoav Limor, Israel Hayom (from reprint in Jewish News Syndicate)

Walking into the Tel Aviv office of Israel National Cyber Directorate head Yigal Unna, you immediately notice a very specific memento—a very weighty plaque he was awarded by his counterparts in the United Arab Emirates. Unna was part of the historic delegation that traveled to Abu Dhabi in September after the landmark peace deal between Israel and the UAE was announced, and the plaque sheds light on the deep cyber and technological ties between the two countries.

"The potential vis-à-vis the UAE is endless," he told Israel Hayom. "We have the knowledge, tools and capabilities that can offer the solutions they're dealing with the best in the world. In terms of cybersecurity, Israel is one of the most protected countries in the world. We want them to be as protected as we are," he said.

According to Unna, until now Israeli companies pursued only defense deals in the Gulf. Now that the Abraham Accords are in place, trade can expand to include economic and industrial ventures.

"There are many overtures by Israeli and Gulf companies that want to get started. The cyber sphere connects people and Israel is a powerhouse in this arena—one considerably larger than its physical size or the size of its economy. We have something for every actor in the region, and they all face similar threats as Israel," he said.

For Israel, a high volume of cyberattacks is a matter of routine. This is the price highly technologically advanced countries must pay when dealing with their enemies, be they traditional or

more amorphous, such as criminal organizations or countries on the other side of the world, like North Korea.

Unna, 49, is Israel's cyber gatekeeper and his agency guards every entity in the public and private sector—from critical state infrastructure and state-owned corporations to every last member of the public.

A veteran of the intelligence community, Unna has spent most of his professional life in the shadows; this is the first time he has ever given a press interview.

Born in Jerusalem, Unna currently lives in Givatayim. He is married and the father of three teenage sons. He skipped a grade in school and enlisted in the Israel Defense Forces at the age of 17, where he was assigned to Unit 8200, Military Intelligence's elite division, which is responsible for collecting signals intelligence and code decryption. He later underwent officer training as a cyber-intelligence officer, rising to the rank of captain before leaving the military.

Unna had his eye on becoming a Mossad officer, but the Arabic he studied while in uniform led him to Israel's domestic security service, the Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet), where his experience in the cyber sphere was put to use in the agency's operational directorate. He went on to spend his years in the Shin Bet in technology-oriented positions, mostly in the offensive sphere. In 2013, Unna was named head of the agency's technology division, and in 2018 was tapped as head of its cyber division.

"It's the type of role that doesn't



Israel National Cyber Directorate Head Yigal Unna

let you sleep at night," he said. "You can't revel in yesterday's achievements because every day brings new battles and the smallest breach can cause significant damage."

The National Cyber Directorate was effectively established in the 1970s and has undergone several reincarnations since its inception.

Originally, defending the nation's computer infrastructure was entrusted to a small unit in the Shin Bet, but it wasn't until 2002 that the government officially asked the agency to protect critical infrastructure, bringing about the formation of the Information Security Directorate.

A few years later, it became clear that the Shin Bet was unable to fully meet the wide range of threats lurking in the cyber sphere, and that even non-essential state infrastructure faces challenges that must be met.

"It happened when we noticed cyberattacks on states, like Estonia and later in Georgia, and even the mishap that happened to the centrifuges in Iran," said Unna, referring to the 2007 Stuxnet computer virus attack that crippled the Islamic republic's nuclear program in an operation largely attributed to the United States and Israel.

"This process made us acutely aware of the fact that it [cyber] had the potential of becoming a battlefield."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu asked IDF Maj. Gen. (ret.) Professor Isaac Ben-Israel, formerly head of the Defense Ministry's Administration for the Development of Weapons and Technological Infrastructure, to head the "National Cyber Initiative."

The latter outlined Israel's cyber-defense doctrine, which led to the inception of the National Cyber Bureau in the Prime Minister's Office, the task of which was to plan Israel's cyber strategy. A sister agency, the National Cyber Security Authority, was tasked with the operational aspects of putting the strategy into action, and three years ago, the two were united under the National Cyber Directorate.

Like the Mossad, Shin Bet and the Atomic Energy Commission, the National Cyber Directorate reports directly to the prime minister. It employs just under 400 people, from National Service recruits to PhDs. Over half of its workforce comprises women, and about two-thirds are in cyber.

"We don't target the enemy, we target ourselves, to make sure we are protected. We specialize in defending the 'blue zone,' or Israel," he explained.

Q: But in order to protect the "blue zone" you need to be in the enemy's "red zone."

A: Israel should also be in the "red zone" and there are other elements in the defense establishment that

continued on next page

do that [mainly Unit 8200, the Shin Bet and the Mossad]. We work together with full cooperation."

Q: How good are Israel's enemies?

A: Every actor in this theater has to be treated with respect because in cyber, even a small "David" can surprise you, and we really don't want to be the "Goliath" on the other end of the attack. Someone without the backing of a major power could come up and inflict serious damage.

Q: Do you recognize such potential in our adversaries?

A: The cyber arms race exists all over the world, and certainly in our region.

Q: Does the average Israeli need to be concerned?

A: You can't stop technology, but you have to be aware of dangers. The average Israeli doesn't know how dominant this threat is, how present it is everywhere. Like they say on [the hit TV show] Game of Thrones, "Winter is Coming," and cyberattacks on Israel are only expected to become stronger. This is likely to reach massive proportions—that's something that has become evident since the onset of the coronavirus outbreak because everyone is working from home using digital platforms.

The National Cyber Directorate has two homes: it is headquartered in Tel Aviv but its war room—from where every cyberattack against Israel is monitored—is in Beersheba.

Unna oversees four departments. The first deals with the daily protection of Israel's critical infrastructure and directs nonessential bodies, such as commercial banks and insurance companies, with regard to their

protection via directives that come down through the relevant government ministries. Its Beersheba operational response center also addresses concerns relevant to every Israeli.

Data published here for the first time show that in the first half of 2020, the NCD's response center received 7,164 reports concerning cyberattacks of various levels.

The second department deals with early detection of ongoing cyberattacks, repairing breaches and, if need be, damage control. The third deals with both proprietary and acquired technology, and the fourth deals with the cyber ecosystem—strategy, external relations and promoting Israeli cyber exports.

"Many countries are not willing to deal with the Israeli industry sans state backing. I'm authorized by the government to provide this backing," he explained. "Since I took office, we have already signed 15 such agreements, with India and many other countries, including some that do not maintain official ties with Israel.

"The cyber defense field has opened many doors for Israel around the world. In Chad, for example, the very inception of ties with them—the fundamental of peace—was through cyber. The first [Israeli] delegation there included one of our guys, who was there to help them conduct a national risk assessment.

"In South America, for example, we have an agreement with the Development Bank of Latin America. They currently have two cyber experts—bank employees, Spanish-speaking Israelis—who were appointed on our recommendation. Their job

is to promote and improve cyber defenses in 22 countries in South and Central America."

The National Cyber Directorate has operational cooperation agreements with 90 countries, with future deals in the works.

"It's an information exchange that operates around the clock," Unna said. "If something happens in South America at night—say, for example, an attack on a bank there—they report it to me immediately and by morning we are ready to go with all the information necessary to protect our banks."

Cyber experts tend to rank Israel among the top five cyber superpowers in the world, alongside the United States, China, Russia and the United Kingdom. According to Unna, a cyber superpower "is a country that has world-class abilities and force that stands up to other absolute powers."

"The list of the 'hottest' cyber companies comprises 150 firms, of which 113 are American, 18 are Israeli and seven British," he said, "and that's without counting 10 other Israeli companies that are registered in the United States for tax purposes."

Asked how he explained this, Unna said, "Israel relies much more than other countries on information and information technologies due to the lack of other resources. There is tremendous power here.

When you add defense aspects to that and the fact that we are more threatened than others and are therefore required to defend ourselves, along with the Israeli character, which is inherently less restrained—the result is a cyber 'cake' to be proud of."

NCD data shows that in the first half of 2020, the Israeli cyber industry, despite the global coronavirus pandemic, raised \$1.2 billion in 43 transactions. This period also saw the birth of two Israeli "unicorns"—an industry term for companies valued at more than \$1 billion—namely SentinelOne and Snyk.

Overall, between 20 and 25 percent of all cyber "unicorns" are Israeli.

According to Unna, about 29 percent of the world's cyber investments are made in Israel. There are currently 540 cyber firms in Israel, compared to 250 companies 10 years ago. Israeli exports in the field of cyber defense stood at \$6.5 billion in 2019—a 600 percent increase since 2011.

It is estimated that along with the cyber-offense field, Israel's exports of cyber technologies amount to some \$10 billion a year—more than all classic defense exports combined.

All these things combined, Unna says, "are the making of a superpower."



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Five Jewish Nobel Prize Winners in 2020

A poet, an economist, and three scientists with Jewish backgrounds were among the winners of this year's Nobel Prizes.

The substantial 2020 haul adds to a remarkable string of achievement that, by a count maintained by the Jewish Virtual Library, has at least 208 Jewish Nobel winners of the 900+ total recipients in the overall history of the awards.

Roughly 20 percent representation among Nobel winners is far disproportionate to the distribution of Jews in the world population, which is closer to 0.2 percent. If the prizes were randomly distributed throughout the population, in other words, there would be only one or

two Jewish winners over the about 120 years the prizes have been given.

The Jewish Nobel presence was physically symbolized this year by a viral video distributed by Stanford University. Captured by a doorbell porch camera, it featured one Nobel winner in economics trying to wake up the other in the middle of the night to share the good news.

"The best part of this fantastic video is the mezuzah on the doorpost," tweeted Avi Mayer, the global communications director of the American Jewish Committee (AJC).

While the Nobel may have been discredited in some circles by the



Nobel Prize medallion, Dr. Harvey Alter (Physiology), Andrea Ghez (Physics), Paul Milgrom (Economics), Sir Roger Penrose (Physics) and Louise Glück (Literature)

peace prize to Yasser Arafat, it remains something about which Jews feel a certain group pride.

"Congratulations to the 2020 Jewish Nobel Laureates!" exulted an email from National Museum of American Jewish History, asserting, "The stories of these brilliant individuals are the kind of 'Only in America' stories our Museum uniquely exists to tell — the stories of the Dreamers and Doers who, through imagination, aspiration, and hard work, make the world a better

place for all."

In addition to the economist with the mezuzah, Paul Milgrom, this year's group of laureates included poet Louise Glück, who won the literature prize. Harvey Alter was among the winners in the medicine category for his work on Hepatitis C. Andrea Ghez and Sir Roger Penrose, two scientists with Jewish heritage, were among the three winners of the physics prize for work on black holes.

A Jewish Poet of Survival, Louise Glück is an Incredibly Timely Nobel Choice

By Ayiya Kushner, *The Forward*

The poet Louise Glück, who just won the Nobel Prize in Literature, has been very apprehensive about using the word "poet" — especially in relation to herself. In her lone collection of essays, "Proofs and Theories," she describes her vocation in "Education of a Poet" — originally a 1989 lecture at the Guggenheim Museum — by repeatedly using the word "writer" instead of "poet."

"I use the word 'writer' deliberately," Glück writes. "'Poet' must be used cautiously; it names an aspiration, not an occupation. In other words: not a noun for a passport."

That phrase — "not a noun for a passport" — has always struck me as a very Jewish way of understanding the world. It hints at internalizing the possible need to flee and imagines that a person might need to come up with a legitimate reason why she deserves to survive.

But all of Glück's work, both the

poetry and the prose, addresses survival.

It's this engagement with the question of how to survive — and the searing honesty of admitting it is a problem we all face — that often makes Glück readers extremely passionate in their admiration. In the late 90's, for instance, a Cambridge bookstore had a huge sign in the window with the words of Louise Glück's famous poem "The Wild Iris" taking up the entire display case.

That poem begins with these unforgettable lines:

*At the end of my suffering
there was a door.*

That was the title poem of "The Wild Iris," a collection that won the Pulitzer Prize in 1993; the collection addresses the pain of depression and the recovery from it, and the poems are written in the voices of flowers. Each Glück collection is its own world; each has been structured in a unique shape, with a clarity and



Louise Glück, Nobel Laureate

purpose to its order.

"Vita Nova," or "New Life," published in 2001, takes on the tradition of Virgil and Dante, and the challenges of following a master, but also directly addresses survival once again. Its first line reads:

"You saved me, you should remember me."

But Glück also had a very particular poetic challenge in each book — something she faced down herself as she wrote. As she writes in "Education of a Poet":

"Each book I've written has culminated in a conscious diagnostic act, a swearing off. After 'Firstborn,' the task was to make latinate

suspended sentences, and to figure out a way to end a poem without sealing it shut."

For other books, she tells us, "I wanted to learn a longer breath. And to write without the nouns central to that second book; I had done about as much as I could with moon and pond. What I wanted, after 'Descending Figure,' was a poem less perfect, less stately; I wanted a present tense that referred to something more fluent than the archetypal present."

For new readers and longtime readers, one of the great pleasures of Glück's work is following her progression as a poet and seeing her continue to create new challenges for herself, decades into a major career, and then conquer them completely. At this moment in time when all of us are thinking about survival, Glück's body of work seems especially essential — and her selection as Nobel Laureate is a ray of truth.



Simchas

Mazel tov to **Rabbi Shimon** and **Chaya Posner** on the birth of their newest granddaughter, born in New York on October 13 to **Chana'le** and **Dovber Dechter** ... Just learned of the wonderful news that **Jordana Simone Pepper**, daughter of our Women's Division Coordinator **Leslie Pepper** and of **Lenny Pepper**, and granddaughter of **Phyllis Pepper**, successfully defended her Ph.D. thesis in Forensic Clinical Psychology

from Nova South Eastern University in Florida and has begun her doctoral internship at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Los Angeles. Her family is justifiably proud of her achievement and, of course, happy she is back on the west coast, closer to home. *Share your simchas with us. Call (760-323-0255) or email Miriam Bent: mhbentjcn@earthlink.net.*



Jordana Pepper



We Mourn the Passing of...

Ruth Kaplan, Dr. Gerald H. Leshgold, Nelly B. Pontious and Lois Seder.
Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing.



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PERSONAL ASSISTANT/ PERSONAL AFFAIRS MANAGER Excellent local references. Bill paying, reconcile bank statement, run errands, drive to appointment. Computer help: MS Office, QuickBooks, emails. Notary. 2 hours minimum. Trustworthy, discreet, dependable. 760-408-5260.

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

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

ADVERTISE IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY NEWS.

Call Miriam Bent (760) 323-0255



Candle Lighting Times

Friday, November 6	Shabbat Va'yeirah	4:08 pm
Friday, November 13	Shabbat Chayei Sarah	4:03 PM
Friday, November 20	Shabbat Toldot	3:59 PM
Friday, November 27	Shabbat Va'yeitzi	3:57 PM

Note: Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, November 1, 2020.

Blessing For The Mitzvah Of Putting On A Mask

Baruch ata, Adonai Eloheinu, בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ
 Melech ha-olam, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
 asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו
 v'tzivanu al shmirat hanefesh. וְצִוָּנוּ עַל שְׁמִירַת הַנֶּפֶשׁ.

Blessed are You, Eternal our God,
 Sovereign of the world,
 who has sanctified us with commandments,
 and commanded us to protect life.

Are you new to the Desert or planning a move?



JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE DESERT has its welcome mat out for you!
CALL 760-324-4737

EMAIL: jewishfederationps@jfedps.org
 WEBSITE: www.jfedps.org

JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE DESERT

69-710 Highway 111
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
(760) 324-4737

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An Endowment is Forever

Let your name be remembered as a blessing



Everyone leaves footprints.

Our prints are made by the impression of our lives on this earth. A person is remembered for the weight of his or her character, for marks of accomplishment, kindness, generosity, personal warmth and values.

Thoughtful estate planning is one means we have to leave our imprint. The simplest way to make a charitable gift in your estate plan is by a bequest in your will. This can be done when writing or updating your will or revocable trust. A simple statement is all that is needed. For example: "I give, devise and bequeath to the Jewish Federation of Palm Springs..."

There are many options available for charitable giving when you do your estate planning. Some can provide you tax savings and income for the rest of your life.

For more information and to explore options, please contact Kevin Giser, Director of Community Impact, Jewish Federation of the Desert, at kevin.giser@jfedps.org or 760-324-4737.

A gift to the Jewish Community today will allow you to be there for your family, your community and the Jewish people - whenever help is needed in the future.



The Strength of a People. The Power of Community.

69-710 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
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