

RESPONDING TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Facing Realities and Taking Action

COVID-19 pandemic has shaken our community and our world. How we respond to it may be the defining moment of this generation. As leaders of the Jewish community, we are determined to ensure that our families and institutions are able to persevere. Just as we have in the past, we lead with the mindset that "people come first."

Through our deep and long-standing partnership, Jewish Federation and Jewish Family Service (JFS), are working together to provide for hunger relief and

for individuals and families facing financial strain from illness to the resources they need to survive this crisis.

JFS and its team of social workers provide our community members with access to case management and mental health services.

As much as we each desire, we cannot change the current state of the world — we can only control how we react. Our community has proven its ability to overcome obstacles, and we know we are stronger together. Your Federation and JFS will be here

for you every step of the way.

We have officially launched our 2021 Campaign. For over 50 years we have been the central fundraising organization for our Jewish community. And, as you can imagine, the needs today are greater than ever.

From the beginning of this pandemic, our Jewish Federation... your Jewish Federation... has led this Jewish community. We are making sure our most vulnerable are taken care of and our treasured Jewish institutions will get through this.

Jewish life is best lived together, and that is still true while we practice social distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19.

The stakes are high. The challenges are great. At times like this we need you. Our community needs all of us. We are in this together. We need your partnership. We need your support. Now, especially now, we need your generosity. Please say "yes" and make your gift today.



Israeli MKs Propose Giving Diaspora Jews a Formal Role in Israeli Affairs

By Larry Luxner, JTA

How much of a say, if any, should Diaspora Jews have in Israeli affairs?

This perennial question, debated often in op-eds and speeches as well as at Jewish conferences, always has been somewhat ephemeral.

But proposed Knesset legislation that would give Diaspora Jewish leaders a formal role in Israeli affairs may herald a new era in Israel-Diaspora relations.

The bill, which has been endorsed by Israel's Diaspora Affairs Ministry, would require the

Israeli government to consult world Jewish leaders on issues it deems crucial to the 8 million or so Jews who live outside of Israel. Knesset member Tehila Friedman of the Blue and White party sponsored the measure.

"This would potentially be one of the most significant events in Israeli-Diaspora relations in decades," said David Butler, chair of the Israel and Overseas Committee of the Jewish Federations of North America, the umbrella group for 146 Jewish federations and 300 independent

communities in North America.

The federations collectively send hundreds of millions of dollars each year to Israel in the form of grants to nonprofit organizations that work on behalf of Israelis from across the sectors of society, including the federations' two main overseas partners: the Jewish Agency for Israel and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. In late October, Jewish Federations hosted a panel discussion during its annual General Assembly, held online this year, on the subject of

"How much say should world Jewry have in internal Israeli affairs?"

"I believe Israelis, and the Israeli government, should want to hear from us, to learn and understand our perspectives," said Eric Fingerhut, a former member of Congress from Ohio who now heads the Jewish Federations network. "We don't want to try and tell the Israeli government what to do, but we do want them to hear our input on matters that impact our community."



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2019-2020

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OUR SPEAKER
Mayim Bialik

Mayim Bialik is most recently known for her award-winning role as Amy Farrah Fowler on the hit CBS comedy, *The Big Bang Theory*. During her 9-year run on the show, she received two Critics Choice Awards, four Emmy Award nominations and a SAG Award nomination. She will produce and star as the lead in the upcoming FOX Comedy Series *Call Me Kat* and is launching her podcast on mental health titled *Mayim Bialik's Breakdown*. From playing the young version of Bette Midler's character in *Beaches* to her turn as Blossom Russo in the iconic sitcom *Blossom*, Bialik has appeared in numerous beloved roles throughout her dynamic acting career.



An acclaimed author, Bialik has written two #1 New York Times best sellers, *Girling Up: How to Be Strong, Smart and Spectacular*, and *Boying Up: How to Be Brave, Bold and Brilliant*. She has also written a parenting book, *Beyond the Sling*, and a cookbook, *Mayim's Vegan Table*. Bialik is a frequent contributor to a variety of Jewish publications and is syndicated through the Jewish Telegraphic Agency and 70 Faces Media, writing and recording videos about all things Jewish.

Bialik earned a BS and PhD in Neuroscience from UCLA, with a minor in Hebrew & Jewish Studies. While at UCLA, Bialik was a dedicated student leader in UCLA Hillel, including conducting and writing music for UCLA's Jewish a cappella group. Bialik lives in Los Angeles with her tween and teenage sons and three adorable cats.



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Jewish Federation
OF THE DESERT



Chanukah: Rededicating to Traditions and Values



Bruce Landgarten

Jewish Federation
Chief Executive
Officer

This month we will celebrate Chanukah. We will light our menorahs, placing them in our windows for all to see. When you stand before your lit menorah, I hope you see the faces of those whose lives we touch. Each day, we have the opportunity to do something that potentially could be miraculous for someone else. There are those moments when we are in the right place at the right time and there are other times when we are there because it is the right thing to do. Both can be life altering moments.

The Chanukah story is about the miracle that happened long ago when a small cruse of oil burned for eight days. Though the history of the holiday and the miracle of the oil lasting eight days is interesting, what I find most important about this holiday is its message of rededication. When the Maccabees entered the recaptured temple, it had to be rededicated in order for G-d to return. Each year, Chanukah reminds me, and hopefully, you as well, to rededicate ourselves to our traditions and values as Jews.

It is this same rededication that we take very seriously at Federation. Nothing stays the same and in this

era of almost blinding technological advances, those organizations that are not prepared to shift, adjust and change, may not be around much longer. With this in mind, we are dedicated to our mission statement, to strengthen and engage a vibrant Jewish community while providing for Jews in need. Supporting our mission are pillars of impact: enriching senior lives, providing for Jews in need and building community.

Every day through our work, we are making the invisible, visible. They live among us, but we don't always see them. They are families that continue to struggle financially. They are frail elderly and homebound Holocaust survivors. We stand ready to help those who need us because that is an essential Federation value and commitment. We make miracles for families wanting to connect with their Jewish roots, for young couples searching for relevant and personal ways to connect to our community. Our Federation sees them — and we are committed to making their lives better and more "Jewish."

This is a time of great uncertainty. In the past, the Jewish community has always been able to count on the strength of our communal institutions. There has never been a greater time of urgency to support our Federation and the work we do.

As you reflect on your year-end giving, whether you have made a Federation gift or not, please be as generous as you can. Your gift makes it possible for us to do what is needed during this difficult time

as we ensure the Jewish future for generations to come. We cannot turn away — and I hope you won't either.

Thank you.



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.

**What Do You Want
YOUR Legacy To Be?**



Israel & Overseas Grant Recipients

Jewish Federation provides grants to the following organizations to support Jewish identity and peoplehood:

Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind: Supporting its mission to improve the quality of life of visually impaired Israelis

Jewish Agency For Israel: Supporting Jewish camps in the Former Soviet Union, and caring for the vulnerable, youth in Israel through mental health, job training, Jewish learning and coordinating military service

Joint Distribution Committee: A leading Jewish humanitarian organization, working in 70 countries to life lives and strengthen communities

Ramat HaNegev Regional Council: The Federation of the Desert's partner in the Negev, Israel, supporting the Center for Children with Special Needs and Children and Youth programming

ZAKA: An Israel's rescue and recovery volunteer organization, supporting High-impact Psychological Support for victims of terrorism, war and natural disasters

WISHING ALL A VERY HAPPY CHANUKAH!

OpEd- 2020 Election Could Transform the Future for Evangelical Americans

By Ryan Streeter, American Enterprise Institute

With the election in a contentious campaign season, the coronavirus pandemic, and after a summer of racial unrest, 54 percent of Americans believe that the nation's best days are yet to come, as Presidents Reagan and Obama both famously said years ago. Behind these numbers lies a peculiarity. While religious Americans are more optimistic about the future of the country than the average person, Trump's most loyal base of support, white evangelicals, are the only religious group in America to believe (by a majority) that America's best days are behind us, according to a recent American Enterprise Institute survey of more than 4,000 adults.

Sixty-six percent of Hispanic Catholics and 58 percent of Black Protestants believe America's best days are ahead, yet only 46 percent of white evangelicals think the same. The pessimism is starker among white evangelical women than men, and 28 percent of white evangelical women think the American dream is out of reach. By way of contrast, it is worth noting that 80 percent of religious Gen Zers consider America's best days to be ahead, compared to 60 percent of their nonreligious peers.

President Trump's rhetorical pugilism may galvanize the support of people who want a fighter on their side, but it has apparently done little to foster optimism. In a 2019 AEI survey of 3663 adults, only about a third (34 percent) of white evangelicals think people who grew up middle class are likely to move up the economic ladder, compared to 58 percent of Hispanic Catholics and 43 percent of Black Protestants. In a June 2020 survey of 3504 adults, 61 percent of white

evangelicals agreed that economic policy changes benefit some people at the expense of others, compared to just 39 percent of Black Protestants and 49 percent of Hispanic Catholics.

Evangelical gloom is in part a reaction to the sense of unsteadiness that social change creates. A plurality of white evangelicals and Black Protestants believe that their denominations should preserve their traditional beliefs and practices rather than adjust to new circumstances or adopt modern practices altogether. They are the only religious groups to do so.

However, the gap is much wider among white evangelicals: 73 percent favor preserving traditional beliefs over the 22 percent who favor making adjustments. Among Black Protestants, the split is 48 percent to 37 percent, and for all other religious groups, a plurality favors making adjustments. White evangelicals are the only religious group in which less than half believe America is successful because of its ability to change rather than because of its reliance on long-standing traditions. An average of 62 percent in all other groups say the same.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, then, evangelicals are more likely than other groups to think liberals exert more influence on American culture than conservatives. Forty-six percent of white evangelicals hold this view compared to 24 percent of white mainline Protestants and 35 percent of white Catholics. Only 16 percent of Black Protestants and 19 percent of Hispanic Catholics think liberals exert more influence. The majority of most religious Americans believe liberals

and conservatives influence the culture equally, but only 39 percent of white evangelicals agree.

One thing that attenuates evangelical gloom somewhat is one's level of religiosity. For instance, white evangelicals who attend church infrequently are twice as likely as the more devout to think the American Dream is out of reach. But overall, despite their generally locked vote for Trump, white evangelicals paradoxically show less confidence than others in keeping "America great."

As anyone like myself who grew up within evangelicalism understands, evangelicals have long viewed the future with a kind of wariness due to a mix of eschatological (or end of times) theology and an awareness of cultural forces opposed to them. That could certainly be at play here. But more evident in the survey data is a sense of darkness consistent with fires that Trump himself has stoked. White evangelicals are much more likely than other religious groups to think immigration is bad for their local economy, discrimination against whites is a problem, and Confederate monuments are symbols of southern pride. Swayed by Trump's rhetoric, white evangelicals have now become stark outliers to other religious Americans on some of America's most divisive issues.

If Trump loses on election day, many white evangelicals will continue to view the world through a lens he has shaped for them, but it would also create an opening for new evangelical leadership to step up and offer a vision of the future that is more consistent with the positive social engagement that has also characterized its past.

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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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Joe Biden and Israel

Joe Biden is a true friend of the Jewish state, friends and even political adversaries of the emerging president-elect agree.

"He has a deep feeling for Israel," said Michael Oren, who served as Israel's ambassador to the US when Biden was vice president. Oren opposed almost all the Middle East policies championed by Biden and his boss, Barack Obama, especially on Iran and the Israeli-Palestinian question. Still, he annually attended Biden's Rosh Hashanah party, and asserts that Joe Biden is genuinely concerned about Israel's well-being.

"Biden is from a generation that remembers 1967 and 1973," Oren said, referring to the Six Day War and the Yom Kippur War, respectively. "He has Israel in his heart. He actually gets it. He gets Israel!"

A native of Scranton, Pennsylvania, Biden was raised by Catholic parents who were staunchly supportive of Israel and imbued in him a great respect for the Jewish state.

"You were blessed with one of the greatest generations of founding fathers and mothers of any nation in the history of the world — David Ben-Gurion, Golda Meir, Menachem Begin, Ariel Sharon, Yitzhak Rabin, Shimon Peres. They all fashioned Israel into a vibrant democracy," Biden said in 2015. "And in the process, you built one of the most innovative societies on Earth. In the process, you defended your homeland and became the most powerful military in the entire region. And all these years later, things have changed, but the danger still exists," he added. "And just to be an Israeli — it still demands uncommon courage."

Biden has known every Israeli prime minister since Golda Meir. He has retold many times the story of his



Biden with PM Netanyahu

meeting with Meir in the summer of 1973, during his first overseas trip as a young senator: The Israeli premier showed him maps and told him about the militarily precarious situation her country found itself in. Biden looked depressed, but Meir cheered him up, telling him that Israelis have a secret weapon against the Arabs: They have nowhere else to go.

During his decades in politics Biden — who has Jewish grandchildren, as two of his three children married Jews — met countless world leaders. But he still describes his interaction with Golda Meir as "one of the most consequential meetings I've ever had in my life."

No apologies for supporting Israel

Biden has been one of Washington's most outspoken advocates for US aid to Israel. "It's about time we stop apologizing for our support for Israel. There's no apology to be made, none," he said in the Senate in June 1986. "It is the best \$3 billion investment we make. If there weren't an Israel, the United States of America would have to invent an Israel to protect her interests in the region."

During the 2020 campaign, Biden was one of the few Democratic

candidates who said that they would not use American aid to Israel as a means of pressuring Israel for concessions. (Another one was his eventual running mate, California Senator Kamala Harris).

Biden's warm feelings and staunch support for the Jewish state has not meant he was not at times bitterly critical of some of its policies, especially on the Palestinian question.

In a 2016 address he stated, "I firmly believe that the actions that Israel's government has taken over the past several years — the steady and systematic expansion of settlements, the legalization of outposts, land seizures — are moving Israel in the wrong direction. They are moving us toward a one-state reality, and

that reality is dangerous. We have an obligation to push them as hard as we can toward what they know in their gut is the only ultimate solution — a two-state solution."

Biden's opposition to the settlements has led him to oppose Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's intended unilateral annexation of parts of the West Bank. The plan has since been suspended to allow for the normalization agreement with the United Arab Emirates, but Biden made plain that he would not allow it to happen under his watch.

According to his campaign website, Biden "will urge Israel's government and the Palestinian Authority to take steps to keep the prospect of a negotiated two-state outcome alive and avoid actions, such as unilateral annexation of territory and settlement activity, or support for incitement and violence, that undercut prospects for peace between the parties."

At the same time, he has vowed to push the PA toward ending its policy of paying stipends to individuals imprisoned for acts of terrorism. He also promised to "urge Arab states to move beyond quiet talks and take bolder steps toward normalization with Israel."

While he was not in favor of moving the US Embassy to Jerusalem, he said he would not relocate it back to Tel Aviv.

FINAL TWO SESSIONS OF RABBIS' SERIES

Since August, local Rabbis have led study sessions from the book "Judaism's 10 Best Ideas" by Arthur Green. The final two, with Rabbi Jules King and Rabbi David Lazar, take place in December 3 and 15, from 1:00-3:00 PM. For those not enrolled in the earlier sessions, go to the Jewish Federation website jfedps.org or call the Federation at 760-324-4737.



Rabbi Jules King will lead the session on Thursday, December 3rd, entitled *L'Hayyim - To Life*.



Rabbi Lazar will lead the final session, *Hear O Israel* on Tuesday afternoon, December 15.

Jewish Federation Women's Philanthropy

Introducing Dr. Sherri Wise

If Dr. Sherri Wise is right, everything happens for a reason, and we are all born lucky—if we can find a way to turn what happens to us into something good. She did. Twenty-one years ago, a simple choice to have lunch at a restaurant in Jerusalem changed her life when she became the victim of a triple suicide bombing in Jerusalem. One of the explosions occurred only steps away from where she was sitting. Wise had just switched seats with a friend. That small decision may have saved her life.

Over 25 people were murdered that day, and 196 wounded—including Wise. It took six months of medical care, and many more months of healing after that, before she could resume her life and return to her career in dentistry. Some of the physical and emotional damage has been permanent. And of course, the haunting question remains: why did she survive while so many others did not? Wise has spent the past twenty-one years answering that very question.

When the Canadian Coalition Against Terror contacted her to help pass the Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act, she embraced the project. Seven years later, the bill became law. Wise went on to win the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal of Honor for her achievement, an emotional moment for her as it symbolized how a positive contribution could come



out of a terrible experience.

She now speaks about the power of choosing forgiveness over anger, blame or hatred. It is her fervent belief that the terrorists who were involved in the suicide bombing were not born with hatred in their hearts. They were victims of hatred, just as she was. This belief has empowered her to move forward after the tragedy, rather than allowing it to define her life.

Instead, Wise is defined by gratitude—so many people helped in her recovery, and she now has the opportunity to give back. Her belief that she was spared for a reason fuels a desire to share her story with others who might be struggling with difficult things that happened in their past.

Ladies, New to the Desert?
**Jewish Federation
Women's Philanthropy
has its welcome mat
out for you!**



**Planning a
move to the Desert?
We have useful information for you.**
**Call Leslie Pepper, WP Coordinator
760-324-4737**
email: leslie.pepper@jfedps.org
or check our website www.jfedps.org.

Women's Philanthropy 6th ANNUAL WOMEN'S (VIRTUAL) CARD DAY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020

Join Our Virtual Ladies' Day Out!

Entry Fee: \$54 per person

Our annual card day has a new "look" this year. As with our past years' Women's Card Days, your entry fee supports Federation's **Special Tzedakah Fund and Annual Campaign**. We cannot play cards/mahj or enjoy lunch together, but you will be part of our season's kickoff event, a fascinating presentation by Dr. Sherri Wise at 4:30 pm.



You don't need to be a foursome to participate

but if you are, please ask your card/mahj mates to join us and hear our outstanding speaker ... then play when you regularly play.

Of course you do not need to be a card/mahj player to "attend" this special program. We'd love to have everyone join us.

Call Leslie Pepper, Women's Philanthropy Coordinator, at 760-324-4737 or email leslie.pepper@jfedps.org, to register for this exciting program; or mail your check, payable to "Jewish Federation" to 69-710 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270.



Why the UAE is Looking to Israel to Secure its Food Supplies

Myriad deals between the two countries run the gamut from health tech to diamonds, though food tech and agritech are also top priorities.

By Abigail Klein Leichman, *ISRAEL21c*

Food security is emerging as a key area in which the United Arab Emirates is eager for Israeli expertise, investors in each country tell *ISRAEL21c*.

The Gulf states import more than 90 percent of their food. This has long been a concern, but the issue intensified when pandemic-related transportation stoppages disrupted supply for several months. The UAE now has a food security minister and Food Security Council.

The Abraham Accords announced between Israel and the UAE on August 13—and with Bahrain a month later—give these countries access to promising food-supply solutions from the ground up.

“The Gulf states see how we produce vegetables in the desert and are very impressed. This is essential to them and they seek companies that can deploy technologies tomorrow,” says Edouard Cukierman, chairman of Cukierman Investment House and managing partner at Catalyst Fund.

He and senior partners of his Tel Aviv-based firm recently met with Hamed Ahmed Ali, CEO of Nasdaq Dubai and the local stock exchange, to discuss opportunities for Israeli businesses.

“One topic that came up again and again is food security,” Cukierman tells *ISRAEL21c*. “They are ready to allocate a lot of funds to assuring their food supply.”

Established Israeli companies in fields such as precision agriculture and irrigation, seed treatment, desalination and solar energy can step swiftly into the welcoming UAE landscape and perhaps even partner with UAE ag-tech startups.

“We have identified 200 companies that we think fit the food-security sector and we’ll choose about 20 that have a major opportunity to deploy in the UAE,” says Cukierman.

He plans to introduce them at the first UAE version of his firm’s GoforIsrael investment conferences, which normally happen in Tel Aviv, China and European countries such as Switzerland.

Abu Dhabi-based investor Ahmed Nasser Al Nowais confirms that producing food locally is a top priority. His country hopes to incorporate Israeli methods to do so economically and sustainably in a semiarid climate.

“In our part of the world, they are not focusing on agritech enough.

I heard Israel has the best startup ecosystem and agri-tech is a big part of that,” says Al Nowais.

Cukierman learned that it’s not only human food security at stake. The UAE’s multimillion-dollar camel racing industry requires a million tons of ultra-premium feed annually.

“They are looking for technology to help with that, and the head of our life-sciences division, Dr. Laurent Choppe, happens to be a veterinarian,” relates Cukierman.

Power in Collaboration

Ahmed Nasser Al Nowais tells *ISRAEL21c* that the Emiratis are “maybe even more excited than you guys” about the normalization agreement with Israel.

“You have more excellent ideas than I ever saw from one country,” he says.

Coming from an investment family office, Al Nowais has been an entrepreneur since age 16 and founded Annex Investments in 2017. His broad interests encompass sectors from automotive to fitness, tourism and telecom. Annex has worked with VCs in Germany, India and the Silicon Valley.

In addition to Israeli agricultural

technologies, he is also looking at health tech, ed tech, cyber security and machine learning.

Al Nowais chairs the events committee of the new nonprofit, government-supported Emirates Angels Investors Association, which signed a partnership deal with Tel Aviv Capital investment bank and co-hosted an online investor summit on September 22 with Jerusalem-based OurCrowd.

“We’re excited about this historic moment for the region, and to expand a community of peaceful coexistence and, most importantly, build a powerful engine of economic and cultural exchange,” Emirates Angels Chairman Masaood Al Masaood told the multinational audience of about 1,000.

About 2,000 people registered for a follow-up event, “UAE Tech Investment Landscape: Introduction for the Israeli Ecosystem,” broadcast from Abu Dhabi on October 13.

Emirati investors and entrepreneurs talked about opportunities for collaboration in what Sabah al-Binali, OurCrowd’s new venture partner and head of Gulf Region, called the

continued on next page

HAR-EL, MEMBER URJ, THE MODERN JEWISH EXPERIENCE - A REFORM CONGREGATION

Wednesday, December 9, 2020 • 3:30 PM Zoom Presentation

PROFESSOR STEVEN WINDMUELLER, Ph.D.

Past Director of HUC School of Jewish Communal Studies & Past Dean, HUC Rabbinical School, Los Angeles; and has taught in Hungary, Mexico, Israel and Germany.

TOPIC: “What’s Next?”

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"friendly business environment" of the UAE.

Collaboration is power

Al Nowais tells *ISRAEL21c*: "The three main objectives of the Emirates Angels Investors Association are to educate angel investors on opportunities and risks; collaborate with incubators and accelerators in the UAE and around the world; and to provide [vetted] startups to these angel investors. In a year or two, we want to be a safe place for angel investors to come to the UAE."

He says mentoring and professional networking are just as vital for startups as financing.

"It's important to get people to meet and share knowledge and experience. I believe in connecting and collaborating," says Al Nowais. He expects this will be easy to accomplish with Israelis.

"I think you have the best ecosystem because you collaborate together, even if you have differences. I think this is the power."

Building gadgets and bridges together

Last February, just before Covid hit the Middle East—and well before the Abraham Accords—Jerusalem-based serial entrepreneur and PICO Venture Partners co-founder and managing partner Elie Wurtman visited the UAE and Bahrain.

UAE investor Ibrahim Ajami had publicly invited Israelis to invest in his country and spurred similar invitations from leaders in other Gulf states.

On October 18, Wurtman flew to the UAE on a historic direct flight from Tel Aviv with a delegation led by U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Steve Mnuchin. (A second group,

led by Israel National Security Council head Meir Ben-Shabbat, flew directly to Bahrain to sign a joint communique and eight MoUs regarding future cooperation.)

Wurtman wrote in an English-language Dubai newspaper that he was impressed by the UAE government's Ministry of Possibilities founded in 2019, and sees many opportunities for Israeli water, desert agriculture and solar technologies, among others.

More than that, he tells *ISRAEL21c*, "I am most passionate about collaborating around education and creating an exchange between Israeli and Emirati youth to engage in the world of possibilities, innovation and creating a better future for all in the region."

Next year, Wurtman plans to bring 20 young ambassadors from his PICO Kids initiative—founded in 2012 to provide informal education in STEEM (science, technology, engineering, entrepreneurship and math) to multi-ethnic Jerusalem fourth- to ninth-graders—to meet the next generation of entrepreneurs in the UAE.

"They will build gadgets—and bridges—together. They will meet courageous investors like Ibrahim Ajami, eat hummus together, play backgammon or X-Box, and collectively work to solve some of the region's most pressing problems."

Robo-taxis, security doors, COVID-19 fighters

News of joint UAE-Israeli projects and investments has been swirling. Deals already happening under the radar were revealed, and many new collaborations announced.

An online platform, the UAE-Israel List, was created "to enable like-minded companies and organizations

networking and build friendship, peace and understanding through the advancement of business."

And it's not only business; it's also research and culture. This far from comprehensive list demonstrates the diversity of activity, not counting the area of food security already mentioned:

Israel's Mobileye signed a partnership with UAE-based Al Habtoor Group to deploy a fleet of self-driving robo-taxis in Dubai by the end of 2022.

Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, Israel Aerospace Industries and TeraGroup signed agreements with UAE companies concerning Covid-19 research and solution development.

The diamond exchanges in Israel and Dubai will open offices in one another's countries to promote mutual trade.

APEX National Investment (UAE) and Sheba Medical Center (Israel) signed a strategic partnership regarding research, technology and medical tourism.

Israel's Mul-T-Lock Group is opening a Dubai subsidiary.

The Weizmann Institute of Science (Israel) and Mohamed bin Zayed University (UAE) will collaborate on artificial intelligence research.

Dubai-based private equity fund KEN Investments and Barker and Booth Commercial Agency each made their first Israeli investments—KEN in Salaryo and B&B in Fintica, both fintech startups.

Arab-Israeli soccer player Dia Saba signed a three-year contract with Dubai-based soccer club Al-Nasr SC.

Dr. Uri Pollak from Hadassah University Medical Center in Jerusalem and Dr. Kesava Ramakrishnan from Sheikh Khalifa

Medical City in Abu Dhabi co-hosted "The Future of Pediatric Cardiac Critical Care" webinar for 400 physicians and nurses from 35 countries on Oct. 1.

The UAE's Etihad Airways launched a Hebrew-language website for customers interested in the direct Tel Aviv-Abu Dhabi route.

The Israel Export Institute signed a joint agreement with the Dubai World Trade Centre Authority to facilitate the participation of Israeli exhibitors in large-scale exhibitions by year-end.

The Abu Dhabi Film Commission and the Israel Film Fund will establish joint training and development programs for Emirati and Israeli filmmakers in partnership with the Jerusalem Sam Spiegel Film & Television School.

URE Universal of Ramat Gan partnered with the UAE's Hamad Bin Khalifa Department of Projects to launch an IoT home health-care kit, HBKiCare, for the UAE and Middle East regional markets.

OurCrowd signed a memorandum of understanding with UAE-based Phoenix business-development company and appointed Emirati investor Sabah al-Binalias as its venture partner for the Gulf region.

Edouard Cukierman notes that the UAE is a business hub for the Gulf countries, like Singapore is for Asia. The Emirates has advanced education and healthcare systems, and women are active in the business community.

"This trip to the UAE was the most impressive business trip I've ever made," says Cukierman. "Not only for the magnitude of opportunity but also because we have much in common in our culture, climate and regional geography."

Jewish Community News
The Publication of the Jewish Federation of the Desert
www.jfedps.com

Swastika Incident in Palm Springs Must Be a Call to Action Against Hate

On a Saturday morning in late October, Palm Springs police responded to a report of a swastika spray-painted on the side of a building. The swastika is the all-purpose hate symbol, and its use is a clear and present danger to the Jewish community. The swastika is the all-purpose hate symbol, and its use is a clear and present danger to the Jewish community. The swastika is the all-purpose hate symbol, and its use is a clear and present danger to the Jewish community.

Jerusalem is the heart of our hearts

Jerusalem is the heart of our hearts. It is the city where the Jewish people have lived for thousands of years. It is the city where the Jewish people have lived for thousands of years. It is the city where the Jewish people have lived for thousands of years.

US Congress Debate Respo

The House of Representatives is debating a bill that would require the federal government to disclose the names of all individuals who have been granted asylum in the United States. The bill is part of a larger effort to reform the asylum process and to ensure that only those who are truly in need of protection are granted asylum.

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Remembering Kristallnacht

On November 9, 1938, a wave of violence swept across Europe. It was a day of terror and destruction. It was a day of terror and destruction. It was a day of terror and destruction.

75th Anniversary - Denmark's Daring Rescue of Their Jews

In September 1943, Denmark defied the Nazis and saved the lives of its Jewish citizens. It was a brave and heroic act. It was a brave and heroic act. It was a brave and heroic act.

The JCN, published by Jewish Federation of the Desert, has grown over the years. With a hard copy distribution of 10,000 copies and an online edition, thousands of readers living in Coachella Valley keep up-to-date on all things Jewish happening. It is important to our Federation's mission that we provide this paper free of charge to everyone in our community. But the newspaper is not inexpensive to produce.

Paper and production costs have increased greatly over the past few years.

We welcome donations to help offset our expenses. With your generosity, we can continue to offer such a top-notch paper to our Jewish community for many years to come. Thank you!



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Friedman: Palestinian Narrative of Victimization 'Coming to an End'

By Israel Kasnett, JNS

An astonishing level of criticism from Arab commentators, intellectuals and journalists has been leveled at the Palestinian leadership in recent weeks in response to its condemnations against countries such as the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Sudan, which have just signed normalization agreements with Israel.

Five years ago, it seemed that the Palestinians could never fall out of grace with Americans, the Arab world or even the Europeans. These days, all this seems to have changed.

Uzi Rabi, head of the Moshe Dayan Center at Tel Aviv University, sat down for a discussion with U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman to discuss the peace agreements and the future of the Middle East on the impact of the recent agreements.

Friedman said he believes the normalization agreements have proven that "the sky's the limit."

He expressed hope that "in our lifetimes, God willing, we will see an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict as we've traditionally thought of it—the notion of a 22-member Arab League that is united in their opposition to Israel. I think it will come to an end."

"It doesn't mean all 22 Arab League nations will come on board," he added. "It will be incremental. But I have no doubt it will grow five, 10,

maybe more countries over time. And we are having discussions with many of them now. Each one has their own issues, their own population dynamics. It's not a one-size-fits-all type of arrangement. I'm enormously optimistic."

The new relationships are impacting the activities of Iran. Compared to just a few months ago, Israel now has the UAE and Bahrain as allies right on the Straits of Hormuz, and "in that region, there will be more," said Friedman. "What the Iranians are seeing are two things. They see their situation is deteriorating. Internally, they have enormous challenges. But they also see those opting for a path towards peace with Israel and strengthening their relationship with America."

"Some of us in Washington have looked at it simply as: The Iranians hate the agreements with the Emirates, Bahrain and others, and if they hate it so much, it must be good for the world and the region, and I think it is," he said.

As for the Palestinians, Rabi pointed out that they "feel as if they were neglected and left behind."

"Some say this Palestinian leadership is unable to move forward," he said and questioned whether there are alternative or younger Palestinian leaders who can take the lead and move towards normalization with Israel.

Friedman disagreed with the notion that the Palestinians have been neglected by the Arab world, saying he "would say just the opposite."

According to Friedman, the Palestinians "have been indulged by the Arab world, by the European Union, by others. People have made excuses for their malign activity for generations."



U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman

He said the Palestinians have received "enormous amounts of money," although he acknowledged the United States was a major contributor.

"We spent an enormous amount of money trying to build up Palestinian society," he said, but "no one has anything to show for it. The leadership has put a lot of money in their pocket. [Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas] is wealthy. His friends are wealthy. The prime minister of Israel travels on a chartered El Al flight. [He] flies on a \$75 million Boeing business jet wherever he wants all around the world when he has a GDP per capita 1/20th the size of Israel."

Friedman blamed the Palestinian leadership for being concerned only for "their own personal interests against the will of the Palestinian people."

"They failed. And to a certain extent the world has enabled that failure," he said.

He also noted that when he first began serving as ambassador, he noticed that the Palestinian leadership "repeatedly rejected economic opportunity in the West Bank because they felt it would hurt their narrative of victimization."

"So they would prefer their people suffer and remain angry than get the benefits of economic aid—real economic aid," he said. "I don't mean handouts. I mean real investments in the West Bank. It's been on the table

for three years. They don't want it. They don't want to normalize until they get everything they want."

'The reality is there is no leadership'

Friedman said the Palestinian leadership's policy of holding its population hostage "is terrific if you are the leader, and you're wealthy and you live in a palace and you have everything you want. It's a terrible policy for the 2.5 million people living in Judea and Samaria who can live better."

"Who is the leadership?" Friedman asked regarding the Palestinians. "The reality is there is no leadership. You couldn't shake hands with anybody today with any sense of assurance that tomorrow we'd move forward on an agreement because no one can deliver the Palestinian people because they have thrived on conflict."

So where will this lead?

"We put a plan on the table, and it may not be everything they like," said Friedman, "but it presented a realistic solution that would have also resulted in a highly favorable economic boom to the region. Again, investment and infrastructure—not charity. The leadership ran to the U.N. General Assembly and ripped it all up publicly."

Friedman said that countries in the region "are starting to realize that if they hold their own progress back in order to facilitate the Palestinians, they could be waiting forever."

"If the Palestinians are reading the tea leaves correctly, they need to engage," he advised. "They need to stop relying upon the narrative of victimization. It served them well for a couple of generations, but I think that time is coming to an end."

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Report: Israel in Top Four Out of 47 Nations Fighting International Bribery

Israel Hayom

Transparency International, a watchdog group fighting corruption worldwide, named Israel in its top category for enforcement against corruption in international transactions, financial daily *Globes* reported in mid October. This is the second successive year in which Israel has gotten top marks for combating this type of corruption.

The United States, the United Kingdom and Switzerland were also given top marks among the 47

countries surveyed, according to the report.

Transparency International operates in over 100 countries and its Israeli office is headed by the former president of the National Labor Court Judge Nili Arad.

Recognizing the efforts that Israel has invested in enforcing laws designed to eliminate corruption from international deals, the report said that between 2016 and 2019, local law-enforcement agencies have launched 10 investigations

into such cases. One criminal indictment was filed and three cases concluded with imposing sanctions on the suspected parties.

According to *Globes*, the report made note of directives issued by the State Attorney's Office in October 2019, outlining policy with regard to indicting corporations and the relevant penalties under the law. Investigations of foreign bribery cases are carried out by the Israel Police's National Fraud Unit and are supervised by the

Lahav 433 Major Crimes Unit. Some involve the Israel Securities Authority and Tax Authority.

A statement by the Justice Ministry said, "Israel sees effective enforcement of the prohibition against bribery of a foreign official as an important element in the campaign to create an international climate free of corruption that also contributes to the strengthening of the maintenance of honest practices within Israel."

White Supremacist Jailed Over Plot to Bomb Las Vegas Synagogue, ADL

By Ken Ritter and Michael Kunzelman, AP

A white supremacist who told an undercover FBI agent about his plans to firebomb a synagogue or attack a Las Vegas bar catering to LGBTQ customers was sentenced November 13 to two years in prison. As member of offshoot of neo-Nazi group Atomwaffen Division, Conor Climo expressed hatred of Jews, African Americans and gay people; was found collecting bomb-making materials

Conor Climo, 24, apologized before US District Judge James Mahan sentenced him to prison followed by six months of home confinement with electronic monitoring. Prosecutors recommended a 30-month prison sentence. "I was truly wrong for all of this," Climo said. "I even have come to really regret everything, everything that I was involved with."

Defense attorney Paul Riddle said his client is grateful that FBI agents arrested him when they did because he knows that he was on a "very dark path."

"But he's not on that path anymore,

and he's the not same person that was arrested," Riddle said.

The FBI said it began investigating Climo in April 2019 after learning of his encrypted internet chats with members of Feuerkrieg Division, an international offshoot of a US-based neo-Nazi group called Atomwaffen Division. Climo told FBI agents that he joined Feuerkrieg Division but left because he "became bored with the group and their inaction," according to a court filing.

Climo, in pleading guilty to a firearm charge, acknowledged that he discussed attacking a synagogue or other targets during his online communications with an undercover FBI agent and an informant. Agents who searched Climo's Las Vegas home found bomb components and two rifles.

Climo was "not just talking about what he believes and intends to do, but rather is planning, and has engaged in actions," a federal magistrate judge wrote after Climo's arrest.

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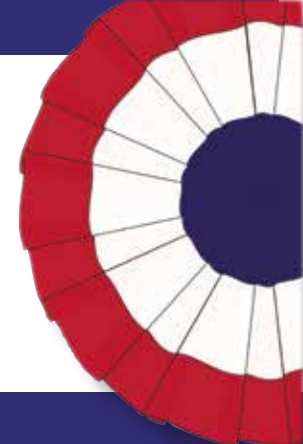
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36 Jews Will Serve in 117th Congress

Possible tenth senator if Ossoff successful in Georgia Senatorial bid

By Miriam H. Bent

According to the 2010 census, Jews comprise 1.76 percent of the United States population but represent nine percent of the Senate and will represent 6.2 percent of the House of Representatives in the upcoming 117th Congress. None of the nine senators, eight Democrats and one Independent, were up for reelection.



Jon Ossoff (D-GA)

Georgia is holding runoff elections for both Senatorial seats on January 5, 2021. If Democrat Jon Ossoff is successful in his bid, he would be the tenth Jew in the Senate and the first from Georgia.

Of the 37 Jews serving in the 116th House of Representatives, Eliot Engel (D-NY) lost in the primary elections and two Representatives, Nita Lowey (D-NY) and Susan Davis (D-CA) retired. Of the remaining members, only Max Rose (D-NY) failed to be reelected.

Three new Jews were elected, all Democrats. Jake Auchincloss, a former Marine Captain, was elected in Massachusetts. Kathy Manning, active in Jewish communal life including serving as the only woman to head

Representatives



Jake Auchincloss (D-MA) Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) David Cicilline (D-RI) Steve Cohen (D-TN) Ted Deutch (D-FL) Lois Frankel (D-FL) Sara Jacobs (D-CA) Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ)



David Kustoff (R-TN) Andy Levin (D-MI) Mike Levin (D-CA) Alan Lowenthal (D-CA) Elaine Luria (D-VA) Kathy Manning (D-NC) Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) Dean Phillips (D-MN)



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the Jewish Federations of North America, was elected in North Carolina. The third, Sara Jacobs, was elected to the San Diego seat vacated by Susan Davis when she retired. As a result, California continues to have the most Jewish representation, with Senator Diane Feinstein

and five members of the House: Adam Schiff, Mike Levin, Alan Lowenthal, Brad Sherman, and now Sara Jacobs. Next closest is Florida with three House members. Lee Zeldin (R-NY) and David Kustoff (R-TN) are the only two Republicans.



Susan Wild (D-PA) John Yarmuth (D-KY) Lee Zeldin (R-NY)



European Jewish Population at Lowest Share for a Millennium and Declining

By Cnaan Liphshiz, JTA

Jews' share of the population of Europe is as low now as it was 1,000 years ago and is declining even further, according to a landmark new demographic study.

The study published October 21 by the London-based Institute for Jewish Policy Research found 1.3 million people who describe themselves as Jewish in continental

Europe, the United Kingdom, Turkey and Russia.

That figure has declined by nearly 60% since 1970, when there were 3.2 million Jews in the same area, wrote the report's authors, Daniel Staetsky and Sergio DellaPergola.

That decline, which follows the death of about 6 million European Jews in the Holocaust, owes mostly

to the emigration of more than 1.5 million people following the collapse of the Iron Curtain, their data shows.

But Western Europe, too, has lost 8.5% of its Jewish population since 1970. It is home to just over a million Jews today compared to 1,112,000 in 1970.

In particular, the Jewish community of Germany is in a "terminal" state

because more than 40% of its 118,000 Jews are above the age of 65, whereas less than 10% are under 15, the study says. This reality, which exists also in Russia and Ukraine, "foreshadows high death rates and unavoidable future population decline," according to the study.

Fundraiser Extended Until the End of December

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

Jonathan Sacks, Former UK Chief Rabbi and Jewish 'Intellectual Giant,' Dies at 72

By Ben Harris, Cnaan Liphshiz and Gabe Friedman, JTA

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, the former chief rabbi of the United Kingdom whose extensive writings and frequent media appearances commanded a global following among Jews and non-Jews alike, has died at age 72. He was in the midst of a third bout of cancer, which he had announced in October.

Sacks was among the world's leading exponents of Orthodox Judaism for a global audience. In his 22 years as chief rabbi, he emerged as the most visible Jewish leader in the United Kingdom and one of the European continent's leading Jewish voices, offering Jewish wisdom to the masses through a regular segment he produced for the BBC. He had a close relationship with former British Prime

Minister Tony Blair, who called Sacks "an intellectual giant" and presented him with a lifetime achievement award in 2018.

Sacks was also an immensely prolific author, addressing pressing social and political issues in a succession of well received books.

"When anger erupts in a body politic, there is quite often a justified cause. But then the political domain has got to take that anger and deal with it very fast," he told JTA's opinion editor Laura Adkins. "Because anger exposes the problem but never delivers the solution."

But he did take public stances on two topics that were often ensnared with European politics: Israel and anti-



Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Semitism.

Sacks spoke out publicly as Britain's Labour Party was engulfed in an anti-Semitism scandal under its previous leader Jeremy Corbyn, calling Corbyn an anti-Semite.

"We have an anti-Semite as the leader of the Labour Party and her majesty's opposition. That is why Jews feel so threatened by Mr. Corbyn and those

who support him," Sacks said in 2018 during an interview with the New Statesman.

That judgement paved the way for the current British Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis to harshly condemn the Labour Party, a precedent-setting event in British Jewish life.

Corbyn was replaced in April by centrist Keir Starmer, who has apologized for how anti-Semitism was allowed to flourish in Labour's ranks under Corbyn. Starmer, who is married to a Jewish woman, expressed his condolences to "the entire Jewish world." Sacks "was a towering intellect whose eloquence, insights and kindness reached well beyond the Jewish community. I have no doubt that his legacy will live on for many generations."

Sacks was also vocal in his opposition to the forces that lead to anti-Semitism on the far left and the far right. "Anti-Semitism has little to do with Jews — they are its object, not its cause — and everything to do with dysfunction in the communities that harbor it."

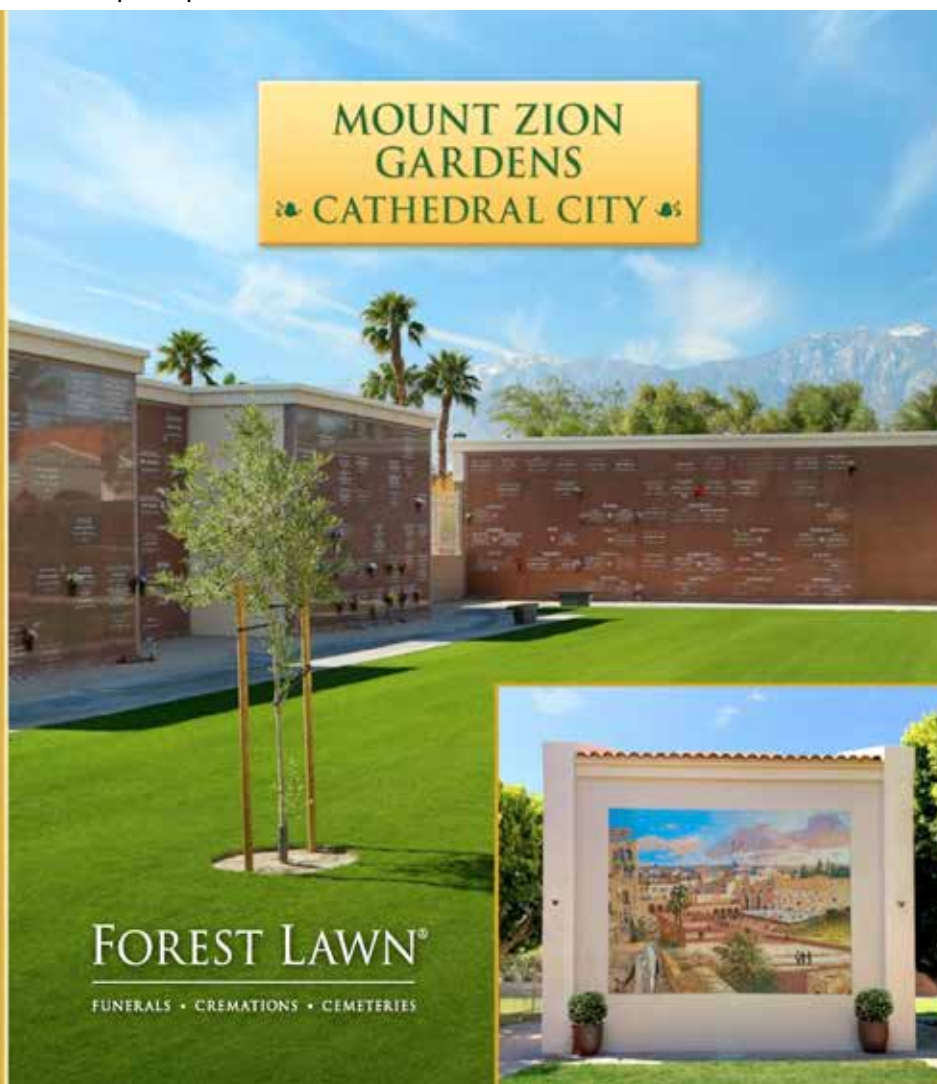
Sacks is survived by his wife Elaine, three children and several grandchildren.

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Honorarium Tributes In Appreciation For:

- **Bobbie Block**, Belated birthday wishes and a healthy year ahead, from Barbara Platt.
- **Joanne Hirshfield**, Belated birthday wishes and a healthy year ahead, from Barbara Platt.
- **Jewish Federation of the Desert**, Thank you for the Sukkot Goodie Box, from Elaine Kravitz.
- **Barbara Fremont**, To our dear friend on her special birthday, from Eunice and Jerry Meister and Joan and Pat Kerns.
- **Loreen Jacobson**, Happy 90th birthday, from Lois Davidson, Myra L. Gordon and Norm J. Lewis, Sanford B. and Rosemary E. Hertz, Patty Jacobson, Ruth and Mal Kaufman, Pearle and Mark Levey, Rella and Monty Rifkin.
- **Jeanne Levitt**, Happy birthday wishes from Loreen Jacobson.
- **Roberta Nyman**, Belated birthday wishes and a healthy year ahead, from Barbara Platt.
- **Jordana Pepper**, Mazel tov! Mazel tov for your achievement, from Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman.
- **Barbara Platt**, Happy birthday Mom. Love, Karen Platt.

• **Monroe Rifkin**, Belated happy birthday greetings from Loreen Jacobson.

• **Rabbi Faith Tessler**, In your honor, from Steven S. Sadd.

Refuah Shleimah Get Well Wishes To:

• **Bruce Landgarten**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman.

• **Annette Pluss**, In hopes for your complete and speedy recovery, from Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.

• **Debra Star**, To a successful recovery, from Ellen and Phil Glass.

Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:

• **Karen Cohen**, In memory of your beloved husband Chuck, from Eddie and Jackie Cohen, Cora Ginsberg, Stuart Goldfine, Margie Kulp, Celia Norian, Barbara Platt and Dr. Paul and Stephanie Ross.

• **Mrs. Keith Comrie**, In memory of your beloved husband Keith, from Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.

• **Edith Familian**, In memory of your beloved husband, Arnold, from Larry and Cathy Pitts.

• **Martin Matsoff**, In memory of our dear friend Randee Matsoff, from Claude and Chickie Steinberger.

• **Bobbie Nagel**, With deepest sympathies on the loss of your beloved grandson Ross, from Gail and Bob Scadron.

• **Mr. and Mrs. Selwin Price**, Our deepest sympathy for the loss of your daughter-in-law Donna, from Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.

• **Bobbie Rosenberg**, In memory of your beloved husband Shelly, from Barbara Platt and Dr. Paul and Stephanie Ross.

• **Elaine Sacks**, In memory of your beloved husband, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, an inspiration to the Jewish world, from Dr. Paul and Stephanie Ross.

• **Peter Williams and Family**, In memory of your brothers, from Ann and Paul Fishman.

• **Roz Woloshin and Family**, In memory of your beloved husband Billy, from Eunice and Jerry Meister.

• **Brenda Zaidman and Family**, With deepest sympathies on the loss of your beloved nephew Ross, from Gail and Bob Scadron.

• **The Zessar Family**, In memory of your beloved Sandy, from Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.

Ron Klain to Serve as Biden's Chief of Staff

President-elect Joe Biden has announced that Ron Klain, 59, will serve as his chief of staff, a position he held for Biden within the Obama administration from 2009 to 2011. "Ron has been invaluable to me over the many years that we have worked together, including as we rescued the American economy from one of the worst downturns

in our history in 2009 and later overcame a daunting public health emergency in 2014," Biden said in a statement. "His deep, varied experience and capacity to work with people all across the political spectrum is precisely what I need in a White House chief of staff as we confront this moment of crisis and bring our country together again."



Ron Klain

As White House chief of staff, Klain, who is Jewish, will play an

instrumental role in crafting and executing the Biden administration's policy goals, including its efforts to combat the coronavirus pandemic. Former President Barack Obama tasked Klain to lead government response to the Ebola outbreak from 2014 to 2015.

December 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.

BETH SHALOM (Member, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism)
Ken Hailpern, Spiritual Leader
79-733 Country Club Drive, Bermuda Dunes, CA 92203 760-200-3636
www.congregationbethshalom.net
Virtual Shabbat Morning Services:
10:00 am, Zoom link on website:
CongregationBethShalom.net
For information, email
BethShalom18@gmail.com or call
760-200-3636.

CHABAD OF PALM SPRINGS & DESERT COMMUNITIES

Rabbi Yonason Denebeim & Rabbi Arik Denebeim
425 Avenida Ortega, Palm Springs, CA 92264 www.chabadpalmsprings.com 760-325-0774
5:30 pm: Pre-Shabbat services offered online Friday afternoons. Check website for information.

CHABAD OF PALM DESERT

Rabbi Mendy Friedman
Call for information: 760-651-2424.
www.chabadpd.com 760-969-2153 / 760-969-2158

CHABAD OF RANCHO MIRAGE

Rabbi Shimon Posner
72295 Via Marta, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270. www.chabadrm.com
760-770-7785 "Taste of Shul" available Fridays on Zoom and Facebook live. Check website or call for additional services and classes being offered.

CHABAD OF SUN CITY PALM DESERT

Rabbi Yonason Denebeim.
See Chabad of Palm Springs.

CONGREGATION HAR-EL

(Member, Union for Reform Judaism)
Rabbi Richard Zions; Cantor Joseph Gole. harelurjpd@gmail.com
760-779-1691.

New website: www.harelurjpd.org.
Zoom Shabbat Evening Services
5 pm with Rabbi Richard Zions, Ph.D., Cantor Joseph Gole, D.Mus. and a Guest Cantor. Discussion with attendees before and after the Shabbat Services.

Saturday 11 am—Zoom Torah Study with Discussion conducted by Rabbi Zions.

Friday, December 11th at 5 pm:
Service for Shabbat of Hanukkah and New Members Shabbat. Everyone is encouraged to set up their Hanukkah menorah and light Hanukkah candles led by Rabbi Richard Zions, PhD and Hanukkah songs led by Cantor Gole, D.Mus. For Zoom invite email harelurjpd@gmail.com.

CONGREGATION SHALOM BAYIT

(Reform)
Rabbi Kenneth Milhander, 1320 W. Williams Ave., Banning, CA 92220.
Contact 951-392-5380.

DESERT OUTREACH SYNAGOGUE

Rabbi Jules King; Cantor Lori Reisman Patterson. 760-449-0111. Mailing address: P.O. Box 982, Rancho

Mirage, CA 92270. www.Desert-Outreach-Synagogue.com. Virtual services held the second and fourth Fridays at 7:00 pm on Zoom. For link and password contact rabbi@desert-outreach-synagogue.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.

SUN CITY JEWISH SERVICES

Rabbi Kenneth Emert; Cantor Alan Scott. Virtual Services held the first and third Fridays at 7:15 pm. Information: Contact Susan Katzman, 760-641-0411 or email SusanK92253gmail.com.

TEMPLE HAR SHALOM, Idyllwild

(951) 468-0004.
www.templeharshalomidyllwild.org
Email: templeharshalomofidyllwild@gmail.com. Erev Shabbat Services via Zoom the third Friday of each month with Rabbi David Lazar. This month's service December 18 at 6:00 pm. Every other Friday of the month: Shabbat Candle Lighting with Rabbi Emerita Malka Drucker at 5:45 pm Check templeharshalomofidyllwild@gmail.com for Zoom Address. Saturday morning November 21 at 9:30 am : Shabbat study. Contact templeharshalomofidyllwild@gmail.com for Zoom Address.

TEMPLE ISAIAH

Rabbi Steven Rosenberg
332 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262, 760-325-2281. www.templeisaiahps.com.

To access any activity, go to Temple Isaiah's website and click on link to desired service or program. Friday evening services accessed, as above, on website or directly on Facebook 'Temple Isaiah Palm Springs' at 7:30 pm. Twice a month we offer Shabbat Under the Stars from our outside bima. Check website to confirm which weeks each month. Outside service also available on Facebook Live. Shabbat morning Nosh and Drash Virtual Torah Study Saturdays at 10:00 am via Zoom. "Jewish University" from 1:30-3 PM also on Zoom. No charge. RSVP requested.

TEMPLE SINAI (Reform)

Rabbi David Novak
73-251 Hovley Lane West, Palm Desert, CA 92260. www.templeisinaipd.org 760-568-9699. All services offered via Zoom. Connection: https://zoom.us/j/5653101739?pwd=Rm5Na1hieERvR3BqUVJwYWQvR0hxUT09. Friday evening services 5:30 pm. Saturday morning Torah study 8:45 am; Shabbat morning services 10 am.

BIKUR CHOLIM

A project of Chabad of Palm Springs & Desert Communities (Community Outreach) www.BikurCholimPS.com Rabbi Yankel Kreiman - 760-325-8076, and Rabbi Mendy Kreiman - 760-567-6726.

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

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Jewish Federation
OF THE DESERT

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Community Calendar of Online Programs - December 2020

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

Community Calendar of Online Programs for December Jewish Federation of the Desert:

Last two online sessions with local Rabbis - Thursday, December 3: 1:00 pm with Rabbi Jules King: "L'Hayyim - To Life!" and Tuesday, December 15: 1:00 pm with Rabbi David Lazar: "Hear O Israel" See page 5 for contact information.

Jewish Federation - Women's Philanthropy:

Tuesday December 1

Giving Tuesday (Bracelets for Special Tzedakah Fund) Note: Fundraiser extended through December. See page 13.

Wednesday, December 2

5:00 pm Solomonov Chanukah Cooking Zoom Class - See ad page 2

Wednesday, December 9

11:00 am Discussion on "Am I a Jewish American or an American Jew?" Facilitated by Leslie Pepper

Wednesday, December 16

4:30 pm 6th Annual (Virtual) Card Day Featuring Keynote speaker Dr. Sheri Wise - See ad page 6.

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.



CHANUKAH 2020 - 5781

First candle: Evening of December 10th

Wednesdays:

1:00 pm - Temple Isaiah Virtual "Coffee with the Rabbi" with Rabbi Steven Rosenberg. Go to website: templeisaihps.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.

Sunday, December 6

11:00 am (Pacific time) ISRAEL PHILHARMONIC PRE-HANUKKAH GLOBAL CELEBRATION, a virtual, multi-disciplinary program of instrumental performances, behind-the-

scenes interviews, and powerful songs and messages of hope. No fee. See classified ad (page 23) for details.

Monday, December 7

5-7 pm Jewish Family Service 18th Annual Patron Party (Virtual event). See ad page 11

Wednesday, December 9

3:30 pm Har-El virtual lecture: Professor Steven Windmueller, PhD. Topic: "What's Next?" See ad page 7.

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

Israel Signs COVID Vaccine Deal Days After Netanyahu Noted How Pfizer CEO is 'Proud' of his Jewish Heritage

By Ben Sales, JTA

Israel's government has signed an agreement with the Pfizer pharmaceutical company to acquire 8 million doses of its vaccine.

"This is a great day for the State of Israel and a great day on the way to our victory over the coronavirus," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement November 13, adding that he is working "to ensure that we will receive the vaccine together with the leading countries around the world and that we will not get pushed back in line."

The announcement came days after Netanyahu said in a video address that Israel would be able to sign a deal with

Pfizer in part because the company's CEO, Albert Bourla, told Netanyahu he is proud to be Jewish.

"Albert Bourla is very proud of his Greek heritage and of his Jewish heritage, from Thessaloniki," Netanyahu said. "After this conversation, which was very productive and very practical, I'm convinced we will complete the contract with Pfizer."

Pfizer announced on November 9 that late-stage trials of its vaccine were more than 90% effective. The pharmaceutical giant is now the leader among several companies working to develop a vaccine for COVID-19. Its

vaccine still needs to be approved by the Food and Drug Administration, along with Israel's equivalent agency.

After keeping its COVID-19 cases to a minimum this spring, Israel began experiencing record-high numbers of cases in the summer and fall. While the numbers have since gone down, Netanyahu's government has been criticized for inconsistency in its lockdown policies, and for providing



Pfizer CEO
Albert Bourla

exceptions to Israel's haredi Orthodox population, which has experienced particularly high case numbers.

"We must all continue to keep the directives and the rules until the arrival of the vaccines, and even afterwards," Netanyahu said. "If we continue to work together with the same caution, responsibility and unity, we will be among the first in the world to successfully exit the coronavirus crisis."

Netanyahu said that the vaccine should begin arriving in the country in January.

UAE Ambassador 'Excited and Optimistic' about Israel Ties

UAE Ambassador to the US Yousef Al Otaiba says Middle East divided into extremist and pragmatist camps.

By Arutz Sheva Staff

United Arab Emirates Ambassador to the United States Yousef Al Otaiba spoke about the Abraham Accords and the changing political makeup of the Middle East in an address to the online session of the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) on November 11.

Addressing the growing relationship between Israel and the UAE, Ambassador Otaiba said: "We are optimistic and enthusiastic about this relationship. I hope Israelis are equally excited to get to know our people, heritage and values - not just our shiny buildings and nice airports."

"Having trade, investment, research, a joint space program - it's good for our two countries. As for me, I promised a good friend of mine we'll visit Israel when the time is right, as soon as Covid is a little more under control & things look somewhat more normal," he said,

"We still believe the 2 state solution is the only game in town. You need to move forward with this. The Palestinians are not going away. At the end of the day - all we can do is create the space. We're going to have tough conversations with the Israeli government about the Palestinians and the Palestinian state.



UAE Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba

This requires diplomacy and more importantly willingness and political courage from the leaders to make compromises and resolve this issue.

He said that he was proud that the UAE was the first Gulf State to normalize ties with Israel. "What

we did with Israel kind of broke the ice and broke the taboo. This is no longer impossible. Bahrain and Sudan followed right after, this is not one or two countries doing something unconventional. This is a trend, a pattern."

"I was talking to a young gentleman from the Economic Department in Abu Dhabi and he said they're overwhelmed by the number of Israeli companies that want to set up businesses in Abu Dhabi. I took that as a very good sign.

Addressing the political make-up of the Middle East, Otaiba said that "our part of the world is divided into 2 camps: (1) Turkey, Iran and Qatar that promote radicalization and inject religion into any debate; (2) UAE, Bahrain, Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia - who are more focused on a pragmatic approach and their future."

"This is the big fault line in the middle east today, the defining conflict of ideologies. We think our approach is better for us, for our societies and for our kids. There are other countries who just prefer to look backwards and focus on religion and extremism."

FEDERATION VIRTUAL PROGRAMS & OUTREACH



WOMEN'S EVENTS



UPCOMING PROGRAMS FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY

- ◆ **Tuesday December 1, 2020**
Giving Tuesday (Bracelets for Special Tzedakah Fund)
- ◆ **Wednesday, December 2, 2020 - 5:00 PM**
Solomonov Chanukah Cooking Zoom Class
- ◆ **Wednesday, December 9, 2020 - 11:00 AM**
Discussion on "Am I a Jewish American or an American Jew?" Facilitated by Leslie Pepper
- ◆ **Wednesday, December 16, 2020 - 4:30 PM**
6th Annual (Virtual) Card Day
Featuring Keynote speaker Dr. Sheri Wise
- ◆ **Tuesday, January 5, 2021 - 4:00 PM**
Ralph Nurenberger
Holocaust Hero Presentation
- ◆ **Tuesday, January 12, 2021 - 4:30 PM**
Lion of Judah/Pomegranate Event
Featuring Mayim Bialik



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Dutch Senate Calls to Affirm Jewish Ties to Temple Mount

By Lahav Harkov, The Jerusalem Post

On November 10 the Dutch Senate passed a motion calling for the Netherlands to vote against UN resolutions that use only the Arabic name for the Temple Mount, thus denying Judaism's connection to its holiest site.

The motion, by Sen. Peter Schalk of the Christian SGP faction, asked the government "to vote as much as possible against UN resolutions referring to the Temple Mount using only the Arabic name 'al-Haram al-Sharif' and to encourage other European Union countries to do the same."

The Senate approved the motion with 50 in favor and 25 opposed.

The vote came after the Netherlands voted in favor of six out of seven annual UN resolutions concerning Israel in early November, including "Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem," which refers to the Temple Mount, Judaism's holiest site, only as al-Haram al-Sharif.

This is not the first time that lawmakers in The Hague called on their government to vote with Israel at the UN. In 2017, the Dutch parliament called on the government to come out against the disproportionate focus on Israel at UN institutions. That motion was an initiative of Kees van der Staaij,

also of SGP.

In the ensuing years, there have been numerous parliamentary questions and calls for the government of the Netherlands to act on the motion, but it has not done so.

That the Senate, which rarely tables motions on foreign affairs, adopted a motion calling on the government to change its UN votes can be seen as a reprimand to the executive for ignoring a motion from parliament.

Ambassador to the Netherlands Naor Gilon applauded the motion, which he said "fights the continuing discrimination towards Israel in the UN.

"This is a clear message against

attempts by different factors to erase the historic connection of over 3,000 years between the Jewish people and Jerusalem," Gilon stated.

Hague-based Israel advocacy group CIDI welcomed the motion, as well, saying that "the Dutch government should respect [the 2017 motion] and act against disproportionate scheduling of Israel at UN institutions. All members of the UN should receive the same, equal treatment.

"The motion adopted now by the Senate should be a wake-up call for the Dutch ministry of foreign affairs that it has to truly start working on implementing the parliamentary adopted motion [by] van der Staaij," CIDI's statement read.



Are you looking for some virtual programming to add to your Chanukah line-up?

Chef/chocolatier (and proud PJ uncle) T is doing three Instagram LIVE cooking demos with us to show families how to make fun confections and snacks at home. He'll even show off a few decorations he's made for his Manischewitz Chanukah House.

Everything he's creating is with an eye towards kids in the kitchen and things families can do together with items they already have around the house. Unfortunately the first session occurred before we in the Desert learned of the program. The remaining 2 are:

Wednesday, December 2: 3 pm Eastern - Noon Pacific

Wednesday, December 9: 3 pm Eastern - Noon Pacific

(all at [instagram.com/pjlibrary](https://www.instagram.com/pjlibrary))

We will save the videos and share them as "IGTV" videos afterwards as well.



+



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Chef T Lawrence-Simon is a dessert and pastry chef in Somerville, Massachusetts. In addition to baking, he works full-time as an aerial circus performer and is the Senior Coach at Esh Circus Arts. Starting as a home baker, T found a love for pastry, specifically studying the French Patisserie methods. After being scouted and cast on Food Network Canada's *Great Chocolate Showdown*, T competed his way to the finals, proving himself as a talented and creative dessert maker. T has also graduated from and become a Certified Chocolatier through EcoleChocolat's Professional Chocolatier Program. Cirque du Soufflé combines his love for the creative and daring aspects of circus performance with the precision and delicious capabilities of desserts.

German Think-Tank Survey: Palestinians Prefer Binational State with Jordan if No Statehood Possible

By Cody Levine, *The Jerusalem Post*

A new extensive multi-country survey released by the German think-tank Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung on November 11 assessed attitudes from multiple countries on a wide arrange of topics related to the Middle East, Abraham Accords and Israeli-Palestinian relations, which was covered in part here.

Citizens from multiple countries participated in the survey, hailing from Israel, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, the Palestinian Authority, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Morocco, United States and Germany, focusing numerous topics such as Israel's status as a Jewish state, a future Palestinian state and views on the US election.

On the question of a future Palestinian state, a clear majority of citizens of the UAE (81%), Bahrain (72%), Palestinian

Authority (84%), Saudi Arabia (88%), Morocco (90%) and Qatar (85%) support the creation of such state, in contrast to a plurality of Germans (47%) and Americans (45%) who support the idea. Likewise, a majority of Israelis (58%) said they are opposed to the creation of the Palestinian state, while 35% support the idea.

Under the assumption that a Palestinian state is not possible, respondents were asked alternative options. A plurality of respondents in Bahrain (50%), Palestinian Authority (47%), Saudi Arabia (37%), Morocco (47%), Germany (42%) and the US (44%) said they are unsure. Interestingly, the second most preferred option among the Palestinians, Moroccans, Qataris and Saudis was a binational Palestinian-Jordan state, while the second most

preferred for Germans was an Israeli-Palestinian federation. For citizens of the UAE, the most preferred option was an Israeli-Palestinian federation.

Among Israelis, the same question was posed. A slim plurality of Israelis (26%) said they would prefer a Palestinian-Jordanian binational state, followed by Palestinian remaining under Israeli rule, without being given citizenship (24%), the same amount of whom said they are unsure, an Israeli-Palestinian binational state (17%) and Israeli-Palestinian federation (9%).

A question of importance to Israelis, survey respondents were asked whether Israel has the "right to exist," and the "right to exist" as the "Nation-State of the Jewish people." As expected, a vast of majority of Israelis (81%), in addition to Emiratis (61%), Americans (69%) and a

plurality of Germans (46%) agreed that Israel has the "right to exist" as the "Nation-State of the Jewish people." A plurality of Bahrainis asked said they are unsure, while the vast majority of Palestinians (76%), Saudis (63%) and Moroccans (61%) disagreed that Israel has the "right to exist" as the "Nation-State of the Jewish people." A plurality of Qataris also disagreed.

When rephrased as simply a "right to exist," the results remain largely unchanged, with clear majorities in the UAE, US and Germany agreeing, and the majority of citizens of the Palestinian Authority, Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Qatar disagreeing, with a slight rise in support in each country in favor of Israel's "right to exist."

Morocco Warmly Praised for National School Curriculum Teaching Judaism

By *Algemeiner Staff*

Morocco has introduced a component covering its storied Jewish community into the national curriculum for school students, earning praise from Jewish leaders for the North African nation's positive approach to pluralism.

A statement in early November from the Association Mimouna — a Moroccan NGO that promotes awareness of the country's Jewish culture — explained that the curriculum for primary school students focuses "on the Hebraic/Jewish cultural component enshrined in the constitution, the historical royal visit to Bayt Dhakira and a short glimpse of the history of Moroccan Jews."

Inaugurated last January, Bayt

Dhakira is described as a "spiritual and heritage space" for Moroccan Judaism that is based in the historic Jewish quarter in the city of Essaouria.

"After almost 14 years of hard work, determination and perseverance, Moroccan Judaism has finally made it to the Moroccan educational system," the Association Mimouna said.

On November 5, two US Jewish leaders warmly praised King Mohammed VI of Morocco for his commitment "to perpetuate the Judeo-Moroccan legacy as an integral part of the Moroccan identity."

In a joint statement, Jason Guberman of the American



The Moroccan city of Essaouria was home to a historic Jewish community

Sephardi Federation and Malcolm Hoenlein of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations emphasized that the curriculum had been "released without outside prompting or fanfare in the Western press, a testament to this development being a genuine expression of Moroccan values."

"Ensuring Moroccan students learn about the totality of their

proud history of tolerance, including Morocco's philosemitism, is an inoculation against extremism," the statement remarked. "We hope other countries take note and emulate the Kingdom's exceptional example."

Morocco has taken several steps in recent years to embrace its Jewish culture and history into school studies, including a course on the Nazi Holocaust that was incorporated in 2018.

Almost 500,000 Jews of Moroccan origin — the vast majority — presently live in Israel. The size of the community in Morocco is currently estimated at 2,500.

Israel's Navy to Receive First German-made Sa'ar 6 Ship

One of four Sa'ar 6 ships currently being made for the IDF will be arriving in Israel in early December.

By Tamar Beer, The Jerusalem Post

The first of the new missile ships set to defend Israel's shores and strategic sites will arrive in early December, after it was handed over to the Navy from the Thyssenkrupp Marine shipyards in Germany.

The first of four new Sa'ar 6 ships, built in Germany by ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems in conjunction with the needs of the IDF, will be named "INS Magen," and is intended to protect the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in Israel's Mediterranean Sea. It is also intended to be capable of facing asymmetric battle methods facing the Navy from land, having been "tailor-made" for the threats facing the country.

Command over the ship was officially transferred on October 29 from Germany to Israel. In the first few weeks after the Navy receives the ships, they will perform numerous exercise cruises intended to allow the teams to practice on the new equipment. It will anchor in several ports along the way in order to replenish supplies.

The Sa'ar 6-class corvette is a class of warships initially ordered for Israel's Navy in 2015. Similar to the German Braunschweig-class corvette, the Sa'ar 6 can accommodate an array of Israeli sensors and missiles such as the Iron Dome defense system and a handful of Electronic Warfare (EW) devices by Israel's Elbit Systems.

The ship will arrive from Germany to Israel without these defense supplies and will be equipped upon arriving in the country. The IDF will need to make the ship fully operational within a year and a half.

Despite there being numerous underwater and otherwise difficult threats that are not on land, the threats on land are currently the most critical

and therefore the Navy decided to go forth first and foremost with the Sa'ar 6.

Part of the need for the ship is due to threats to Israel's natural gas reservoirs along its border. Approximately 70% of Israel's electricity today is produced from natural gas and is expected to grow overtime, so its continued accessibility is crucial.

However, the gas rigs are a strategic target for the country's enemies. Assault ships such as the Sa'ar 6 are ideal for defense of these strategic spots.

Just north of the border, Hezbollah has an estimated arsenal of 130,000-150,000 missiles and rockets, the majority of them facing Israel's civilian home front and strategic infrastructure.

One such missile, the advanced anti-ship Russian-made Yakhont (P-800 Oniks), represents a serious threat and can endanger both Israeli commercial vessels in Israeli shipping lanes and Israel's gas rigs. Also at risk are the navy ships that operate in the area.

In May of last year, during a violent round that saw Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad launch 690 rockets and mortars toward Israel over the span of less than 48 hours, Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz ordered the suspension of natural gas supplies from the Tamar field, over concerns that it could be targeted.

Hezbollah's secretary-general Hassan Nasrallah has made it clear that the gas rigs are targets for the group should another war with Israel break out, and according to Harel, "when Hezbollah has nothing left to lose, and they have their back against the wall, they will try to hit the Karish."

The Sa'ar 6 has a handful of



Israel Navy's new Sa'ar 6-class corvette warship

unique capabilities intended to handle such threats. It has numerous communications systems operated by the IDF in order to communicate with a handful of units and branches of the army, as well as an Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) system and radar-based steep-shot shooting interception. The goal of these is to defend the country's maritime borders from Tactical Missile Systems (TMS) which the country's enemies apparently possess.

"It's a larger vessel with advanced and hi-tech systems along with long-range missiles, air-to-air, surface, and sea-to-air missiles. The radar is bigger and more advanced than what is on the Sa'ar 5. With a further range, you can operate the Sa'ar 6 in open seas and in rough sea conditions," said Rear Admiral Eyal Harel, the head of IDF naval operations.

The Sa'ar 6 will be fitted with two naval Iron Dome short-range defense missile launchers with 20 Tamir missiles for each launcher, 32 vertical launch cells for the Barak-8 long-range surface-to-air missile naval defense system, and 16 anti-ship missiles.

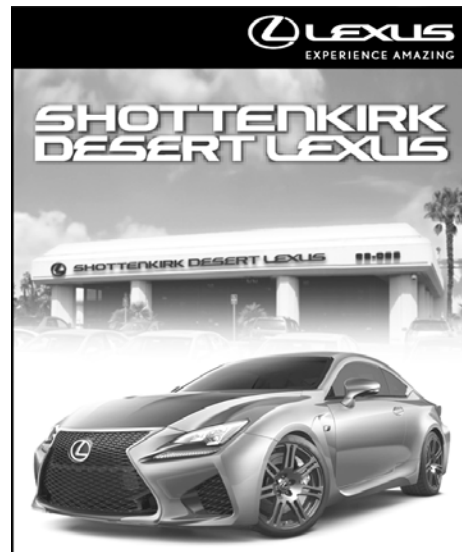
The ships, in addition to having interception missile defense systems, will also have 16 anti-ship missiles, one 76-mm. Oto Melara Super Rapid main gun, two Typhoon 25-mm. remote weapon stations and two 324-mm. torpedo launchers for Mark 54 Lightweight Torpedoes. Each ship will also be outfitted with

cyber and electronic warfare systems and ELTA's EL/M-2248 MF-STAR active electronically scanned array radar capable of tracking both air and surface targets.

As the EEZ spans over a far larger space than the land of Israel as a whole, the Sa'ar 6 allows the Navy to dominate a larger space and provide a protective shield around Israel's borders. In addition, the ship is capable of staying out at sea for an extended period of time in order to provide a more extensive period of protection in the more vulnerable regions of the EEZ.

The ships will additionally be armed with the means for detecting aerial and field targets, allowing the Sa'ar 6 to face a wide range of threats. It can also carry a Sea-Hawk helicopter.

Anna Ahronheim contributed to this report.



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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.



Have A Nosh With Miriam

Chanukah begins the evening of December 10th, and a great excuse to pull out the large frying pan and make latkes. The traditional recipe is always a winner, but the other two remind us of the many creative and delicious options possible. Wishing you a happy Chanukah! M.H.B.



CRISPY TRADITIONAL POTATO LATKES

2 lbs. Russet or Yukon Gold potatoes
1 medium onion
½ cup chopped scallions (green onions)
2 large eggs, beaten
Salt & pepper to taste
Vegetable oil for frying

Peel potatoes and drop in cold water until all are peeled. Using a grater or food processor, coarsely grate the potatoes and onion. Place together in a fine-mesh strainer and press out all the water over a bowl. The potato starch will settle to the bottom. Carefully pour off the water and retain the potato starch, adding it to the potato/onion mixture in a bowl. Add the scallions, eggs, salt and pepper. Mix well.

Heat a thin film of oil in a non-stick frying pan. Use about 2 tablespoons of the potato mixture per latke and add to pan, flattening the mixture out with the back of the spoon or spatula. Fry until golden then flip and brown second side. Drain on paper towels. Serve immediately, traditionally with sour cream or applesauce. Makes 24-28 latkes.

YAM & CRYSTALLIZED GINGER LATKES

1 egg
½ teaspoon fresh lemon juice
½ teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
2 Tablespoons minced crystallized ginger
1½ Tablespoons honey
1 garlic clove, minced
2 medium yams (about 1 lb.),
peeled & grated
1 small onion, grated
1½ teaspoons flour
1/4 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 to 1/3 cup vegetable oil
1/3 cup sour cream or chunky applesauce

In a large bowl, combine egg, lemon juice, salt and pepper and beat until well blended. Add ginger, honey and garlic and mix well. Stir in grated yams and onion. Sprinkle flour and baking powder over yam mixture, mixing well.

In a large frying pan, over medium heat, add 2 tablespoons oil. Drop tablespoons of mixture into the hot oil and flatten with back of a spoon. Cook, turning once, until golden on both sides, about 5 minutes total. Drain on paper towels and keep warm in a low oven until all batter has been made into latkes. Serve warm, with sour cream and/or applesauce. May be made ahead and refrigerated up to two days. To heat, place in a single layer on a cookie sheet in a 450° oven for five minutes, or until heated through. Makes 24-30 mini latkes.

APPETIZER CORN CAKE LATKES WITH GUACAMOLE

1½ cups corn kernels, preferably fresh
½ cup cornmeal
½ cup milk
½ cup flour
4 Tbsp. melted unsalted butter
2 eggs
2 egg yolks
2 Tbsp. chives
½ teaspoon each salt & pepper
1 Tbsp. oil
½ cup clarified unsalted butter
¾ cup of your favorite guacamole recipe

Roughly chop the corn kernels by hand or with a few quick bursts in food processor until a chunky but creamy consistency is reached. Place in a large bowl and whisk in the cornmeal, milk and flour until no lumps remain. In a separate bowl combine the 4 Tbsp. melted butter, eggs and egg yolks. Stir in the corn mixture, add the chives and season with salt and pepper. Heat a large saucepan to medium high heat. Pour in the oil and half cup clarified butter. Using a ladle, make dollar size corn latkes, frying them approximately 2 minutes per side. Keep hot in a warm oven. Serve with a dollop of guacamole on top. Makes about 20 appetizer size latkes.



Simchas

Mazel tov to **Rabbi Shimon** and **Chaya Posner** on the Bar Mitzvah of their youngest son, **Shlomo Aharon**, on Shabbat Vayishlach December 5 ... We now have the name of **Chana'le** (nee Posner) and **Dovber Dechter's** daughter - **Risya** - and the happy news for the Posners is that the Dechters will be moving to downtown Phoenix in the next few weeks to start a new Chabad Center there; bringing them much closer than their current home in New York ...Mazel tov to **Aliza** and **Mendy Denebeim** on the birth of their son **Sholom** (named for his

great grandfather on whose birthday he was born!) in Palm Springs on October 30. Delighted grandparents are **Rabbi Yonason** and **Sussie Denebeim** and **Arkie** and **Chaya Engle ...** Our apologies to **Jordana Pepper** for using the wrong word to describe her recent accomplishment towards her doctorate in Forensic Clinical Psychology. We erroneously referred to her defending her "thesis" (which implies a Masters' Degree), not "dissertation" (Ph.D.). After the years of work she deserves our listing the correct accomplishment. *Share your simchas with us. Call (760-323-0255) or email Miriam Bent: mhbentjcn@earthlink.net.*



We Mourn the Passing of...

Chuck Cohen, Paula Koster, Shelly Rosenberg and **Garrett 'Yossele' Stern.** *Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing.*



Classifieds

PERSONAL ASSISTANT: Light office work, helping in kitchen, driving, running errands. Approximately 3-4 days; amounting to 12 to 15 hours a week. Must have references. Submit resume to Bruce Landgarten, Jewish Federation CEO at bruce.landgarten@jfedps.org.

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Candle Lighting Times

Friday, December 4	Shabbat Vayishlach	3:54 pm
Friday, December 11	Shabbat Vayeshev	3:55 pm
Friday, December 18	Shabbat Miketz	3:57 pm
Friday, December 25	Shabbat Vayigash	4:01 pm

Blessing For The Mitzvah Of Putting On A Mask

Baruch ata, Adonai Eloheinu, בְּרוּךְ 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.

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.

THE ISRAEL PHILHARMONIC PRE-HANUKKAH GLOBAL CELEBRATION December 6, 2020 / 11 AM PST / 2 PM EST / 9 PM IST. You're invited to a virtual, multi-disciplinary program of instrumental performances, behind-the-scenes interviews, and powerful songs and messages of hope. Featuring Academy Award-winning composer Hans Zimmer, Israel Philharmonic Music Director Lahav Shani and orchestra musicians, and special celebrity guests. The event is accessible to all and completely **free of charge**. *RSVP today at www.AFIPO.org*

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.

Congregation Har-El offers a week-day program, Monday through Thursday, **"ASK THE RABBI."** Over 450 people read, comment and submit questions. Your participation is welcome. To ask a questions or to request to be on the email list, email harelurjpd@gmail.com. In the last 6 months, over 136 questions have been answered by Rabbi Richard Zions, Ph.D. **NO FEE.**

Sisterhood of Temple Isaiah BIG CLEARANCE SALE of Judaica from Jewel of the Desert Gift Shop. Up to 40% off selected items. Shop staffed Tuesday and Thursday from 2-4 PM, or call Melanie Garver for an appointment, 817-422-2547.

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LONGER
NEED**

... and are looking for a way to avoid owing capital gains tax, consider making a gift of your stock to help further Federation's mission. Your gift could have a significant impact on our work!

Benefits to you:

- Avoid capital gains taxes of 20% or more
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- Make a meaningful gift with no cash out-of-pocket
- Capture the value of your stock and end the worrying about market ups and downs



**The Strength of a People.
The Power of Community.**

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