

Jonathan Pollard, Cold War Spy Who Spent 30 Years in U.S. Prison, Arrives in Israel

The Times of Israel

Jonathan Pollard, the former U.S. Navy analyst who spent three decades in prison after pleading guilty to spying for the Israelis, has arrived in Israel a month after the U.S. Justice Department declined to extend his parole.

Pollard and his wife, Esther, landed early December 30 at Ben aGurion Airport, aboard a private jet owned by Sheldon Adelson, a major backer of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The couple stepped off the plane, got on their knees, and kissed the tarmac. Netanyahu met the Pollards at the airport, greeting them with the Jewish blessing Shehechyanu, praising God for the milestone, and another blessing praising God for freeing the imprisoned.

Esther — who is reportedly



Jonathan Pollard welcomed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at Ben Gurion Airport



Jonathan and Esther Pollard

undergoing chemotherapy for cancer — is seeking medical treatment in Israel, but the couple reportedly

plans to permanently emigrate to there.

“Finally in the country. Jonathan Pollard landed tonight in Israel,” read a headline in Israel Hayom.

Pollard, who is Jewish, was granted Israeli citizenship in 1995 while still incarcerated in the U.S. His lawyer, Eliot Lauer, told *The Times of Israel* that Pollard arriving in Israel «speaks for itself. A dream realized after 35 very difficult years.”

Pollard was arrested in 1985 and charged with espionage for Israel. He later pleaded guilty, but was still sentenced to life in prison. At the time, he claimed that he only stole secrets for a U.S. ally because “the American intelligence establishment collectively endangered Israel’s security by withholding crucial information.” The discovery of Pollard’s spying severely

strained U.S.-Israeli relations.

Although Israeli activists had repeatedly lobbied for a reduction in his sentence, U.S. officials, citing the damage they said Pollard did to American intelligence gathering, strongly objected.

At the time of his release from federal prison in Butner, N.C., in 2015, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: “As someone who raised Jonathan’s case for years with successive American presidents, I had long hoped this day would come.”

Last month, five years after his release, the Justice Department allowed Pollard’s parole to expire, freeing him to travel to Israel. The Justice Department’s move to end Pollard’s parole is widely seen as a parting gift from President Trump to Netanyahu.

Israel Begins 2021 with Hundreds of Jews Returning from Lost Tribes in India and Ethiopia

By Yakin Benzion, United with Israel

2021 kicked off with Aliyah by Jews from some of the lost tribes of Israel as a group of 300 new immigrants from Ethiopia landed at Ben Gurion Airport on New Year’s Eve, as well as a small group of Jews from India a few days later.

They are part of a 7,000-member community in northern India while some 4,000 Bnei Menashe already live in Israel. “It makes me happy to open the year 2021 in this way,” said



India’s Bnei Menashe arrive in Israel

Immigration and Absorption Minister Pnina Tamano Shata, who was on hand to greet the new immigrants.

Shata herself was born in the

Ethiopian province of Gondor, where a large part of the Jewish community was located. She arrived in Israel in 1984 as part of Operation Moses that brought thousands successfully to Israel but was cut short when Arab countries found out about it. Shata is the first black woman to be elected to the Knesset and be appointed a cabinet minister. Considered by some to be members of the lost biblical

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An evening with

Jason Alexander



Though best known for his award-winning nine year stint as the now iconic George Costanza of television's Seinfeld, Jason Alexander has achieved international recognition for a career noted for its extraordinary diversity from lauded performances on stage, screen and television to his extensive works as a writer, composer, director, producer and acting teacher.

Jason tours the country as a speaker, comedian and symphony artist. In his spare time he is also an award-winning magician, children's author, poker champion, and political and social activist.

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Federation Day at Tamarisk Country Club
Tuesday, March 16, 2021
 Women's Golf in the morning
 Men's Golf in the afternoon

Check out page 4 for details and entry form.

Approaching 2021 with Optimism and Hope



Bruce Landgarten

Jewish Federation
Chief Executive
Officer

In 2020 and 2021 Federation asked for your support and we are inspired by your response - our profound thanks to you all. Our Annual Campaign raises more than \$2.2 million dollars every year to provide the basic infrastructure that supports our local and global Jewish community. By the time you read this, we will be halfway there. It is important that each individual has a voice and be counted as a donor in the annual campaign. Your support is the difference between lives well lived and lives on the margin. Thank you for your individual and collective generosity over the years.

Every dollar, every donor counts!

We all recognize that this was not a rosy year. Far too many people have passed from or contracted the virus. We have been isolated; we've made significant changes to our daily routines.

Our priorities continue to be at the forefront of our efforts, and we will continue to address immediate needs and build a systemic response to poverty and economic insecurity, speaking up against anti-Semitism and ensuring our community's safety, while bringing the community together.

In what will be an eventful year, we are committed to supporting everyone in our community as we recover from a trying time. But just as we work to regain our balance from the shifts of the past, we will also be working proactively to build for a better future. The circumstances have combined to form a unique opportunity to reach

people and redefine Jewish engagement for a post-pandemic world. We are responding by creating a new normal and creating a new extraordinary.

Thank you to our Jewish Federation Board, Women's Leadership and all of our volunteers, especially our Board Chair, Roberta Nyman, and professionals for the work they have done throughout the year. I am fortunate to work with great people. I also have great admiration for the lay leadership and professionals in other Jewish organizations for their partnership and perseverance. It has not been easy at times with so many unknowns.

Through it all, everyone has kept their eye on the ball - the well-being of our entire Jewish community. I am proud of what we've all achieved, and I know we will accomplish even more in the year ahead -- with your support.

With the new year, we look forward

to even greater things. This includes a successful annual campaign year (again, thank you for those who have already made your commitment to our 2021 Campaign) and new initiatives to enrich our Jewish community.

Understanding that challenges remain, let us all approach 2021 with optimism and hope. Stay healthy, get vaccinated when available to you.

Responding to Need



Roberta Nyman

Jewish Federation
Board Chair

Thank you to Federation donors who are responding to our 2021 Campaign. During these difficult times the needs of the Jewish community locally and around the world have been significantly impacted, and with your support we are able to respond.

Due to COVID our Board meetings and events have relied on Zoom. Kudos to our staff who have continued to function effectively, efficiently responding to the many

requests coming their way.

Allan and I have stayed close to home as we await the vaccine. Although we look to the future and a return to normalcy, we also reflect on past participation with Jewish causes. During our trips to Israel, Allan and I have seen the impact that our community's contributions have accomplished. It is especially comforting to know that our allocations have been wisely chosen. Kudos to the due diligence of our Allocations Committee. I hope you took the time last month to look over our Annual Report, published in the Jewish Community News, which listed the agencies, organizations and projects that our Federation supports.

Yes, the need persists. I am especially proud of how our Tzedakah

Committee responds to local needs. Requests for emergency funds come from local Jews and are handled discreetly. Payments go directly for auto repairs, electric bills, medical bills, rent assistance, etc. What a great feeling that Federation is there for them.

Upon reflection, Allan and I realize that through Federation we have developed many lifelong friendships which have enriched our lives. Thank you for allowing us to serve our Jewish community here and around the world.

"To make a difference is not a matter of casual occurrence of the tides. People choose to make a difference"

Maya Angelou



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
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2021 Tamarisk /Federation Golf Day

Tuesday, March 16th

All golfers are invited to donate and participate in this special, event-filled day. All proceeds support the Jewish Federation of the Desert's mission to provide critical resources for the most vulnerable members of our local Jewish community.

Over the past 20 years this event has raised over 2.5 million dollars, with last year's event raising well over \$100,000.

- Women's Golf in the morning
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- (Choose your own foursome or we will pair you up for golf)

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My Team _____ Pair me up _____

Questions? Contact Kyle Kelly at (760) 324.6990 or by email at kyle@tamariskcc.com



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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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Neo-Nazi Gunman Who Attacked German Synagogue on Yom Kippur Sentenced to Life Imprisonment

By Ben Cohen, *The Algemeiner*

The unrepentant neo-Nazi gunman who murdered two people during an attempted massacre at a synagogue in the central German city of Halle was sentenced to life imprisonment on Monday, following a harrowing four-month trial.

Stephan Balliet, 28, was convicted by the regional high court in Naumberg, Germany, for the attack on the synagogue in Halle on Oct. 9, 2019. As more than 50 worshipers were inside the sanctuary for services marking Yom Kippur, a heavily-armed Balliet tried repeatedly but failed to smash through the synagogue's security doors. He then shot dead a 40-year-old female passerby before driving to a nearby kebab restaurant, where he murdered a 20-year-old male customer on the assumption that the

victim was a Muslim.

Condemning Balliet's "cowardly attack," presiding judge Ursula Mertens handed him a life sentence as well as preventive detention and an acknowledgment of the gravity of the crime — in effect, ruling out an early release after 15 years in prison.

Throughout the proceedings, Balliet never once showed any remorse for the outrage, described by federal prosecutor Kai Lohse as an attack "on Jewish life in Germany as a whole" that was fueled by the gunman's "racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic ideology."

When the trial began on July 21, Balliet wore a "big grin" as prosecution lawyers replayed the same video that the neo-Nazi had livestreamed during the attack.

In testimony, he advanced the



Neo-Nazi gunman Stephan Balliet

conspiracy theory that "Jews were the organizers" of the massive influx of Syrian refugees into Germany in 2015.

Asked why he had chosen to attack a synagogue rather than a mosque, he replied: "There is a difference between fighting the symptoms and fighting the cause."

On another occasion, he emphasized that the attack on the Halle synagogue was "not a mistake, these are my enemies."

The Central Council of Jews in Germany called the verdict as a welcome signal in the fight against resurgent antisemitism.

"Today is an important day for Germany, because this verdict makes it clear that there is zero tolerance for the murderous hatred of Jews," Josef Schuster — president of the council — told reporters.

Felix Klein — the German federal government's anti-Semitism czar — said meanwhile that Balliet's conviction "gives us comfort, but we cannot rest."

While Balliet had acted alone, "he moved in an echo chamber where he found inspiration and confirmation, especially online, and was apparently able to radicalize himself further and further," Klein noted.

US Special Envoy on Anti-Semitism Elevated to Ambassadorship

Jewish News Syndicate

The Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act, which was one of the last bills to pass the 116th Congress, upgrades the status of the special envoy for monitoring and combating anti-Semitism, a position at the U.S. State Department, to an ambassadorship.

The bill was signed into law by President Donald Trump on January 13, 2021. President Joe Biden will be required to fill the position within 90 days.

Having been vacant at the start of the Trump administration, the special envoy was designated in February

2019 with the appointment of Iraq war veteran and attorney Elan Carr.

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, advocated for the passage of what is now law, and issued a statement that "Future ambassadors will surely benefit from today's action, which affords

the Office of the Special Envoy the tools, resources and gravitas necessary to apply much-needed pressure on foreign governments to address anti-Semitism as part of their relationships with the United States."

continued from page 1

tribe of Dan, Operation Solomon in 1991 brought another 14,000 more Ethiopian Jews to Israel in 1991, but roughly 7,000 more remained behind and the government has committed to bring them all out within the coming year with Shata saying another 2,000 are expected by the end of January.

The Bnei Menashe, sons of

Manasseh, claim descent from one of the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel who were sent into exile by the Assyrian Empire more than 27 centuries ago. Their ancestors wandered through Central Asia and the Far East for centuries before settling in what is now northeastern India, along the border with Burma and Bangladesh.

Even though they were exiled from biblical Israel, the Bnei Menashe



Ethiopian Jews arrive in Israel New Year's Eve

continued to practice Judaism including observing the Sabbath, keeping kosher, celebrating the

festivals and following the laws of family purity – all with the dream of eventually returning home to the land of Israel.

The aliyah of the Bnei Menashe is helped by the organization Shavei Yisrael – Returners of Israel – which has been working since 2002 to help the Bnei Menashe reconnect with Jewish practice and bring them to Israel.

More Than 20,000 Olim from 70 Countries Moved to Israel in 2020 Despite Pandemic

By Gadi Zaig, *The Jerusalem Post*

The Jewish Agency for Israel estimates that it will have assisted more than 20,000 olim (new immigrants) from 70 different countries make aliyah by the end of 2020, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Aliyah and Integration Ministry and the Interior Ministry helped in the effort, the Jewish Agency said.

Making aliyah has been a challenge for Jewish families worldwide, especially with limitations on mobility and international travel.

According to the Jewish Agency, during the January-November period this year, some 10,200 people arrived from the Commonwealth of Independent States, the former Soviet Union; 3,120 from Western Europe, including 2,220 from France; 2,850 from North America, including 2,550 from the US; 1,500 from Latin America; 280 from South Africa; and 90 from Australia and New Zealand. The total number of olim from Ethiopia in 2020 is expected to be 1,200, including 650 in December.

"A wonderful thing happened to us: Twenty thousand Jews immigrated to the State of Israel during this pandemic year," Jewish



Agency chairman Isaac Herzog said in a meeting with children who immigrated to Israel during the pandemic from all over the world. "Twenty thousand people who were ready to leave everything behind, in a challenging period of global turmoil, to come build a new life in Israel."

The aliyah numbers for the year coincided with a sharp increase in people interested in moving to Israel. Since the start of 2020, the Jewish Agency has received some 160,000 inquiries about immigration to Israel and has opened about 41,000 new aliyah application files, including 28,000 from Western countries, twice the number in 2019. There was also a 41% increase in files opened for young adults aged 18-35 from Western countries.

The Jewish Agency estimates that Israel can expect an influx of about 250,000 olim to Israel over the next three to five years, assuming that the government implements a national plan for such a large wave of immigration and absorption.

"These olim landed straight into two weeks of isolation in a new country, unknown to everyone," Herzog said. "There is nothing more

exciting than seeing these wonderful children who made aliyah during this difficult year. I hope COVID-19 will soon be over for them and their friends, that we will see the great wave of immigration that we are anticipating from all over the world and that all the new olim will have a smooth integration and be received with much love."

In accordance with health regulations, the olim went into quarantine immediately upon arrival in Israel, and thousands were housed in quarantine hotels set up for this purpose.

The Jewish Agency has been working to secure a vibrant Jewish future since 1929. Hundreds of Jewish Agency shlichim (emissaries) have served their host communities with a wide variety of virtual educational programming, as well as socially distant one-on-one meetings, and special projects to assist tens of thousands of families and young people. In the wake of the pandemic, the Jewish Agency has also instituted an emergency plan to breathe hope into Jewish communities worldwide, including immediate and interest-free loans totaling tens

of millions of shekels to dozens of Jewish organizations that provide essential services. The loan fund was created in partnership with the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA).

The Jewish Agency has also been involved with the establishment of Global Roundtables, in partnership with the Diaspora Affairs Ministry, consisting of leaders of 30 global and regional Jewish organizations, who are mapping out the needs of Jewish communities.

The Jewish Agency also does work in Israel, being able to aid vulnerable populations in Israel throughout the coronavirus crisis through caring for 7,000 elderly residents of Amigour senior housing, most of whom are Holocaust survivors and new immigrants, as well as daily assistance for the 6,000 new immigrants residing in absorption centers during the height of the pandemic, and a special aid campaign for Lone Immigrant Soldiers in the IDF.

It also provides support for thousands of children and their parents in Israel's social and geographic peripheries (totaling around 12,000 Israelis at-risk) who participate in the Youth Futures program, whose staff help the children build confidence and skills in their academic and social lives, while establishing emotional resilience and distributing thousands of computer tablets to needy children to fully participate in distance learning.

The Jewish Agency continues to be the Jewish world's first responder, prepared to address emergencies in Israel and to rescue Jews from countries where they are at risk.



Congress Votes to Maintain Security Assistance to Israel

By JNS.org

The US Congress passed a \$741 billion National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for the 2021 fiscal year in early December that includes the continuation of American assistance to Israel for missile defense programs and other initiatives.

The Pentagon blueprint, which will need an appropriations bill to fund it, passed the US House of Representatives by a vote of 335-78, while the Senate passed it by a tally of 84-13.

The NDAA allocates \$500 million towards missile defense systems in Israel, such as the Iron Dome, David's Sling and Arrow 3, in accordance with the 2016 Memorandum of Understanding, or MOU, between the United States and Israel worth \$38 billion over a decade.

Additionally, it extends authorization for the US War Reserve Stockpile in Israel through

the 2025 fiscal year and authorizes an additional \$200 million annually in stocks.

The NDAA also lifts current limitations on the transfer of precision-guided munitions (PGMs) to Israel in an emergency and authorizes the president to exceed the current limitation of \$200 million on the transfer of PGMs in a non-emergency setting under certain conditions.

Moreover, it authorizes the secretary of defense to establish a directed energy program with Israel.

The Pentagon blueprint also authorizes a total of \$14 million for US-Israel cooperation in energy, water, agriculture, cyber and alternative-fuel technologies.

The NDAA also authorizes \$6 million over the next three years to finance cooperative projects among the United States, Israel and developing countries.

Furthermore, it authorizes \$12 million over the next three years for an initiative to enhance partnerships between US and Israeli companies to develop innovative medical projects primarily aimed at detecting, treating and curing COVID-19.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and Christians United for Israel (CUFI) applauded the passage of the NDAA as it pertains to US assistance to Israel.

In a statement, AIPAC commended Congress "for including significant pro-Israel provisions" that "will help Israel protect itself against continuing security threats."

"The final NDAA is a product of bipartisan cooperation and a wide range of groups coming together to advance common goals and enhance American national

security interests. It is refreshing to see Congress set aside its partisan differences to advance this vital legislation. We strongly support this bill being signed into law," said Sandra Parker, chairwoman of CUFI Action Fund, CUFI's political arm, in a statement.

US President Donald Trump has threatened to veto the NDAA over renaming US military installations commemorating Confederate figures, in addition to the lack of a repeal of liability protections for social media giants and tech firms, known as Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act. However, the tallies of the passage in the House and Senate would be sufficient to get the two-thirds majority needed to override presidential vetoes.

Agency Spotlight: Supporting Agencies Overseas

Our Jewish Federation's process has allowed us to help fund agencies doing vital work for Jews in need in Israel and around the world. The selection process is arduous, involving vetting of each organization and the hard decisions of whom to support. The process enables members of our community to work in direct partnership with



JDC at work in Odessa, Ukraine

Israeli and international Jewish organizations around the globe.

Among the organizations our allocations enable us to support are JDC (Joint Distribution Committee), whose work includes such efforts as providing medicine to elderly Holocaust survivors in the former Soviet Union and helping meet the daily needs of some 5,000 Jews in the Caracas, Venezuela area (medicine, food, water and Jewish ritual items for holiday celebrations and Shabbat); and Lekat Israel, a program that feeds the hungry in Israel through a food rescue program.



Temple Isaiah Sisterhood
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Sunday, February 21
from 1:00 – 3:00 PM

In the parking lot of Temple Isaiah,
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Join us for Purim Bingo, music, raffle prizes,
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but to hear the "WHOLE MEGILLAH" join us Thursday evening,
February 25th....online at 7:00 PM

Please respect social distancing; face coverings required.

Register on www.templeisaiahps.com
or call the Temple office at 760-325-2281.

Dutch Government Announces Creation of Anti-Semitism Tsar to Combat

Rising Jew-Hatred

By Algemeiner Staff

The Dutch government has announced the creation of a new post for a national coordinator to combat anti-Semitism in the Netherlands. Ferd Grapperhaus — the Dutch justice minister — said the new post was part of an overall strengthening of the government's official approach toward dealing with threats, discrimination and intimidation.

"This is not a battle we should leave to the Jewish community alone," Grapperhaus declared during a speech to the Dutch Maccabi network.

Grapperhaus observed that social media had made anti-Semitism more visible and increased its reach. The coronavirus crisis and its economic

impact had also provided a feeding ground for conspiracy theories about the Jewish community, he added.

Dutch and European Jewish leaders welcomed the announcement of the new post, whose inaugural incumbent will be named in early 2021.

"Just this weekend my synagogue and the Liberal synagogue in Utrecht were daubed with swastika symbols," Ellen Van Praagh — chair of the Inter Provincial Chief Rabbinate for the Netherlands (IPOR) — said in a statement. "It appears that the attacker had mental health issues, but it is abundantly clear to us that the pandemic has brought out the worst in people."



Dutch Protesters in The Hague Rallying Against Anti-Semitism

Rabbi Binyomin Jacobs — chief rabbi of the Netherlands — asserted that it was "indicative of the predicament facing Dutch Jews that the government has decided to appoint a national coordinator to tackle anti-Semitism."

Continued Jacobs: "Whilst we welcome such an appointment, it is with a heavy heart that this position is even necessary in a country such as the Netherlands, whose very name

is associated with tolerance and plurality. Nevertheless, as attacks increase, the national coordinator will find their inbox heaving with suggestions from Jews in Holland who want nothing more than to live in peace and practice their faith unhindered."

Anti-Semitism has been growing in the Netherlands in recent years. A report in February 2020 from CIDI — a Dutch Jewish NGO — disclosed that 182 anti-Semitic incidents were reported in 2019, marking a 35-percent increase from 2018. Incidents of verbal abuse and violent physical assaults against Jews more than doubled, from 27 cases in 2018 to 61 in 2019.

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First American Woman Completes IAF Pilot Course

By JNS.org

A "lone soldier" from the United States made history on December 23, 2020, when she became the first American woman to complete the Israeli Air Force's prestigious pilot course, the US-based NGO Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF) announced ahead of the graduation ceremony at the Hatzetim Airbase in the Negev.

Boston native Lt. O., 21—a member of a small group of women who have completed the course in

the past 25 years—is one of only two women out of a total of 39 current graduates who did so this week.

Lt. O., whose father had been a fighter jet navigator in the IAF, enlisted in the IDF with no immediate family in Israel. She arrived in the country and took the IAF's qualifying exams after a post-high school gap year that she spent backpacking through Central America.

FIDF (Friends of the Israel Defense Forces) New England Executive

Director Luba Loewenberg commented, "In addition to making history, it's important to remember that Lt. O. was not obligated to serve in the IDF but chose to become a 'lone soldier' in order to protect Israel. Lt. O. demonstrates how one person can secure a future for the broader Jewish community. From all of us in Boston, Mazel Tov and thank you—we are so proud!"

FIDF describes itself as an organization that "provides guidance and support to 'lone soldiers' from all over the world, including flights to visit family and friends in their countries of origin; a 24-hour call center for soldiers and their parents; grants and financial assistance." According to FIDF, there are currently about 1,000 "lone soldiers" from the United States serving in the Israeli military.



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Live-fire Intercept Tests of David's Sling Weapon System Successfully Completed

Defense Minister Benny Gantz: "Development of a multilayered air defense system secures us from threats near and far."

Arutz Sheva Staff

The Israel Missile Defense Organization (IMDO) of the Directorate for Defense R&D in the Ministry of Defense, together with the U.S. Missile Defense Agency (MDA), have successfully completed a series of live-fire intercept tests of the David's Sling weapon system, against threat-representative cruise and ballistic missiles. The tests conducted were led by Rafael Advanced Systems from a testing site in central Israel, with the participation of the Israel Air Force and Navy. This successful series is a critical milestone in the augmentation of Israel's operational capabilities in defending itself against current and future threats.

The series tested the capabilities of a new and advanced version of the David's Sling weapon system and included a number of scenarios simulating future threats. The results of this test will enable IMDO and industry engineers to evaluate and upgrade the system's capabilities.

In the framework of the series, the IMDO and Rafael also successfully demonstrated the capabilities of the Iron Dome in intercepting a

variety of threats including UAVs and cruise missiles. The test also demonstrated the interoperability of the multilayered air defense mechanism (Arrow, David's Sling, and Iron Dome). This indicates that the systems will be capable of intercepting threats simultaneously during conflict.

Representatives of the MDA and Israeli defense industries, as well as IAF soldiers participated in the test. Rafael is the main contractor for the development of the David's Sling weapon system, in cooperation with the American Raytheon company. IAI's Elta division developed the MMR radar and Elbit Systems developed the Golden Almond BMC.

David's Sling is a significant component of Israel's multi-layered air defense mechanism. The development of this mechanism is led by the IMDO and consists of four layers: Iron Dome, David's Sling, Arrow-2 and Arrow-3. These are all operational in the Israel Air Force.

Commenting on the achievement, Defense Minister



David's Sling in action

Benny Gantz stated: "I commend the successful test, which for the first time, assessed the combined interception capabilities of the multilayered air defense system of the State of Israel. This is one of the most advanced air defense mechanisms in the world and it protects the state from threats near and far. These systems have been developed in a fantastic manner by the Directorate of Defense Research and Development in the Ministry of Defense and by Rafael. The systems in this multilayered mechanism provide Israel with a top tier strategic capability, enabling us to operate effectively in every scenario. I would also like to thank our partners in the U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Missile Defense

Agency, U.S. government, and U.S. Congress, which support the State of Israel in the development of these systems and aid us in ensuring Israel's security and operational superiority."

The head of the Israel Missile Defense Organization in the Ministry of Defense, Moshe Patel, added: "In the last few weeks, the defense establishment, together with the defense industries, conducted a series of tests that were unprecedented in their complexity. Through these tests, we demonstrated that the State of Israel has a robust, multilayered capability to face a variety of threats – cruise missiles, UAVs and ballistic threats. For the first time, we have demonstrated a multi-layered approach to dealing with threats – an approach that employs the Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow weapon systems. Using this approach, a variety of threats may be identified and intercepted via full coordination and interoperability between the systems."

Appeals Court Overturns Ruling that Forced Fordham U to Recognize SJP Chapter

Jewish News Syndicate

The New York State Supreme Court Appellate Division on December 17 overturned an earlier ruling requiring Fordham University to recognize a Students for Justice in Palestine student club on campus, on the grounds that the 1st Judicial District Supreme Court, which handed down the original ruling, did not have standing to hear the case.

The decision is the latest stage of a legal battle between SJP and the university that began in 2016,

when Fordham refused to recognize an SJP chapter on its campus as a university-approved club. Members of the SJP chapter took the matter to court in 2017, and three years later Justice Nancy Bannon ruled that the university must recognize the SJP chapter.

In addition to finding that Bannon's court had not had standing to hear the original petition, the appeals court stated: "Even if we had found that standing exists and therefore



Fordham University in the Bronx

had considered the merits of the petition, we would have concluded that the petition should not have been granted."

Fordham, the court said, had

followed its approval procedure and acted "in the exercise of its honest discretion." It added that the university's "conclusion that the proposed club, which would have been affiliated with a national organization reported to have engaged in disruptive and coercive actions on other campuses, would work against, rather than enhance, [the] respondent's commitment to open dialogue and mutual learning and understanding, was not 'wit.

Specialty 'Florida Stands with Israel' License Plate Revealed After Public Design Contest

By Shiryn Ghermezian, *The Algemeiner*

The design for a new specialty license plate in Florida that shows solidarity with Israel has been selected following a public contest and will soon go into production.

The victor was graphic designer Daniel Ackerman from Boca Raton, Florida. His artwork won the free public design contest for the "Florida Stands with Israel" specialty license plate, a competition sponsored by the Israeli-American Council (IAC) and coordinated by the co-sponsor organization Artists 4 Israel.

Over 100 designs were submitted, including those created in crayon by school children and highly-technical

designs made by professional artists.

The specialty license plate will go into production once 3,000 have been pre-sold and a portion of the sales will benefit Hatzalah of Miami-Dade.

Ackerman explained his design, saying, "The concept focuses on Florida's state flower — the orange blossom. The beauty of this flower contrasted against the Star of David in the form of a tropical leaf, represents the Florida-Israel relationship and the fruit this partnership bears, ultimately benefiting both states. The symbol interacts with the two waves on top and bottom giving nod to the Israeli flag, Florida's sandy tourist destinations, and Israel's deserts in bloom."

"The community came together to participate in this design contest, to celebrate the Florida-Israel relationship and to demonstrate



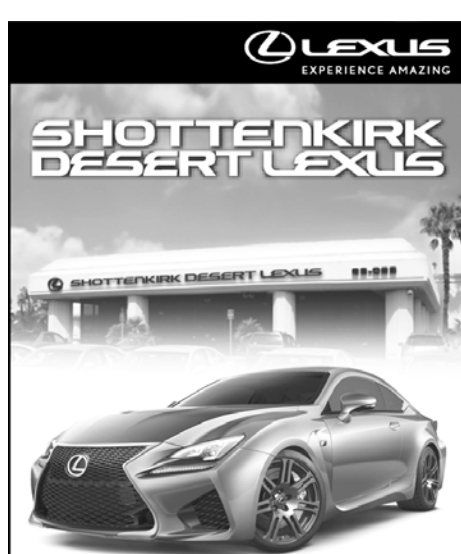
their pride in their Israeli heritage. Thank you to everyone who contributed designs, and congratulations, Daniel Ackerman, on your winning design," said Israeli-American Council Cofounder and CEO Shoham Nicolet and IAC Board Member and IAC for Action Board Chairman Shawn Evenhaim in a released statement.

They added: "The Florida-Israel relationship is a special one that ranges from trade to culture and contributes to quality of life for all Floridians. The two countries share many ties, including bilateral trade, common values, and leadership in cutting edge fields. Florida has been a leader over the years

in the fight against anti-Jewish hatred and discrimination, and we sincerely appreciate this meaningful expression of solidarity."

On September 18, the eve of Rosh Hashanah, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed HB 1135, authorizing the creation of the "Florida Stands with Israel" specialty auto tag. It was passed by both the Florida House and Senate unanimously. The specialty tag included in HB 1135 was originally submitted to the House in a separate bill.

The panel of judges for the 45-day contest consisted of the lead legislative sponsors of the bill — Sen. Aaron Bean, Sen. Lauren Book, Rep. JW Grant, Florida House Minority Leader Kionne McGhee and Rep. Scott Plakon — as well as Bal Harbour Mayor and community leader Gabe Groisman.



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Hamas Chief Haniyeh: We Won't Fight with Arab States Over Normalization

by *Algemeiner Staff*

Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh declared that the normalization accords reached by several Arab nations with Israel in recent months were a "political sin," but added that his group would not fight them over this.

"We reject normalization between any Arab country and the Israeli occupation," Haniyeh said in remarks at a virtual conference, according to the Hamas website. "Hamas will not deviate its compass to get into a conflict with any Arab state even though we consider normalization a political sin."



Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh

The Gaza Strip-ruling Islamist terrorist organization has harshly denounced the recent normalization deals. Last month, in response to such criticism, a United Arab Emirates official referred to both Hamas and the Palestinian Authority as "corrupt" and "murderer[s]."

Haniyeh, who has led Hamas' political bureau since 2017, also indicated that the group would benefit from the upcoming transfer of power in the US from Donald Trump to Biden.

"We don't bet on successive US administrations, but we [realize] that changes might be in favor of our cause," Haniyeh stated.

Haniyeh's longtime predecessor, Khaled Mashaal, celebrated the result of the US in November. "An evil has distanced itself from us with the end of the Trump administration," he asserted.

Israel Is Aiming to Vaccinate Holocaust Survivors Around the World

By Lior Zaltzman, Kveller

Israel is doing a pretty extraordinary job administering the coronavirus vaccine to its citizens. More than 2 million Israelis have already been vaccinated, and the country seems to be on track to vaccinate most of its citizens by March. It is currently one of the leading countries in the world when it comes to successful vaccine distribution.

And now, Israel's Ministry of Diaspora Affairs is hoping to bring these successful vaccination efforts to a population around that is very much in need, and whose lives and legacies need to be preserved: Holocaust survivors.

Israel's Diaspora Minister, Omer Yankelevitch of the Blue and White Party, is spearheading efforts to get

Holocaust survivors across the world vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus. "80 years ago, the pandemic of anti-Semitism threatened to destroy the Jewish people," she wrote on Twitter. "That pandemic didn't have a vaccine."

"Today, we have the privilege to repay, even a little, those who survived that tragedy and to provide them with protection against the coronavirus epidemic," she continued. "This is the moral imperative that every Jew carries in their heart: to show Holocaust survivors that they will never march alone."

Yankelevitch has ordered the Shalom Corps — a global volunteer organization that the ministry



Omer Yankelevitch, Israel's Diaspora Minister

helped establish — to take charge of the logistical aspects of this huge undertaking. According to *Israel Hayom*, the Corps are currently in touch with medical shipping companies as well as with Israel's Ministry of Health, which, according to the Diaspora Ministry, will work with Moderna and Pfizer to assist in vaccine procurement effort.

The vaccines will be given at

designated centers in each country where survivors reside, and those who cannot travel to the centers due to health concerns will have medical professionals come to their homes and administer the vaccines there.

The ministry hopes to secure funding from Jewish philanthropists for the effort and to purchase the vaccines, which will not come from the allotment of vaccines currently designated for Israeli citizens.

This highly ambitious plan has been met with criticism, however. According to a piece published today in the *Forward*, "the project is widely expected to run into a variety of financial, logistical and diplomatic hurdles."

In Support of Israel

JTA

A new Republican congresswoman from Florida said she will place an Israeli flag outside her office



Kat Cammack (R-Fla)

adjacent to that of Rashida Tlaib, a Michigan Democrat who supports boycotting the Jewish state.

Elected in November, Representative Kat Cammack, who is not Jewish, wrote January 8 on Twitter that Tlaib, a Palestinian American, "has some strong opinions about Israel that 100% I disagree with, so I've made a pledge to plant Israel's flag outside my door right next to the American flag. I think it'll be very helpful as she walks past both every day."

A spokesperson from Tlaib's office called the move a "publicity stunt" in a statement to *The Times of Israel*.

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Jewish Federation Women's Philanthropy

Women Continue Community Service Despite Pandemic

The women of our Federation are continuing their commitment to *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) by taking on the project of donating warm blankets and gently used clothing to Well in the Desert, an organization working with the homeless of our community, to make our Coachella Valley a little better, one coat or blanket at a time. If you have any donations please contact Leslie Pepper, Women's Philanthropy Coordinator, at



Federation's Kevin Giser and Leslie Pepper bring a car load of handmade blankets and other warm items to Well in the Desert.



lpepper@jfedps.org or call 760-324-4737. In addition, along with Federation's Jewish Men's Outreach Group of the Desert, our women have

participated in two food drives, and we will soon launch Baby Pantry, a project together with JFS Desert.

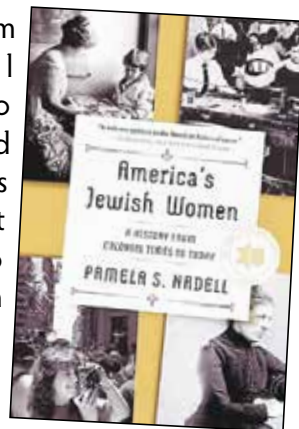
Three Part Virtual Program Honoring Jewish Women

The Jewish Federation's Women's Cultural Alliance is hosting a 3-part virtual learning event honoring Jewish women from Biblical times through Ruth Bader Ginsburg and the

Jewish women who showed up and changed our world. All sessions will be held virtually. There is no charge for the series, but contributions to our Federation's Tzedakah Fund to help the most vulnerable in our community will be welcomed.

Discussion will focus on Jewish Women in Biblical Times. Additionally, a special feature of the evening will be honoring local women who are unsung heroines of our Jewish community.

History from Colonial Times to Today," and explores what it means to be a Jewish woman in America. The book



can be purchased on Amazon (\$22.66) or your favorite bookstore. The book review will be led by co-chairs Jackie Cohen and Arlene Morse and Leslie Pepper, Women's Philanthropy Co-ordinator.

In Thanks

The first session will be on Monday evening, February 8th, at 6:30 pm, facilitated by Rebbitzin Sussie Denebeim, along with Jackie Cohen and Arlene Morse, the co-chairs of this three-part series.



Community Schools

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American Jewish Women

The second session will be Monday, March 8th at 6:30 pm and will be a book review of Dr. Pamela S. Nadell's book "American Jewish Women- A

Honoring Jewish Women Activists

The third part of this Women's series will take place in April and will honor Jewish women from RBG through the Jewish activists from the 1960's through to today.

For further information on these three events please contact Leslie.pepper@jfedps.org or at 760-324-4737.

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.
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 email: leslie.pepper@jfedps.org
 or check our website www.jfedps.org.

Innovative Treatment for Irregular Heartbeat at Hadassah Hospital

By Tzvi Joffre, The Jerusalem Post

For the first time in Israel, Hadassah-University Medical Center in Ein Karem conducted an innovative ablation treatment for irregular heartbeat through the thorax to areas in the heart that had been difficult or impossible to access until NOW.

Ablation is a procedure used to treat an irregular heartbeat triggered by areas

of abnormal heart tissue that negatively affect the electrical system of the heart, according to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada.

The procedure is often conducted with catheters through a non-surgical procedure that inserts thin, flexible tubes into the heart through the blood vessels using a fluoroscope to



Prof. David Luria, director of the Arrhythmia Unit at Hadassah

identify where the problematic tissue is located, and then a

special ablation catheter to destroy the abnormal tissue with high-frequency electrical energy, making it incapable of initiating the electrical signal that caused the arrhythmia (irregular heartbeat).

"For many years we have been performing the ablation procedures and getting better at them all the time," said Prof. David Luria, director of the Arrhythmia Unit in the Department of Cardiology. "There are cases where we need to reach injured areas that are in the outer layer of the heart that cannot be reached through the blood vessels, so we perform the procedure by direct puncture through the chest."

While the atrium is thin enough for doctors to perform ablation through the blood vessels, there are cases when there are areas with problematic access, including the anterior wall of the left atrium, explained Luria.

"If in this area there is a cycle of arrhythmia (atrial fibrillation), as happens in half of the cases of left atrial fibrillation, the wall thickness can prevent effective ablation and thereby obstruct the procedure," he said.

Patients whose procedure failed due to this difficulty have continued to suffer from heart palpitations and heart failure and were significantly limited in their day-to-day activity. These patients had to undergo repeated and sometimes unsuccessful procedures, receive powerful drug treatments and eventually end up needing a pacemaker.

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Discussion led by Judy Wallis and Mitzi Webber.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021
3:30 pm "GUT SHABBOS VIETNAM"

A documentary in which a young Israeli couple go to Ho Chi Minh City to establish a Chabad community. Review and discussion led by Rebbetzin Sussie Denebeim.



It is recommended that the films be seen as soon as possible due to limited showing of films. TESTAMENT & GUT SHABBOS VIETNAM are both available on Amazon Prime.

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A look at how today's hostility to Jews manifests itself, who is behind it, what drives them and what can be done to restrain such hatred. Email for ZOOM invite to attend.



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Saudis Reportedly Remove Anti-Semitic, Anti-Zionist Content from Textbooks

By Shahar Klaiman, Israel Hayom

Saudi authorities have been removing anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist content from the country's textbooks for the coming school year, a report by the Institute for Monitoring Peace and Cultural Tolerance in School Education has found.

The report came amid growing speculation of a potential rapprochement between the Jewish state and the Arab Gulf power. Saudi Arabia's neighbors the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain normalized ties with Israel in September in a deal brokered by the United States.

The Jerusalem-based monitoring group said that while it "did not find that new tolerant material had been

injected into the curriculum, a substantial amount of offensive material had been removed."

The report said that many of the books no longer include the prediction of a religious war in which Muslims would annihilate all Jews. Furthermore, the classic anti-Semitic trope saying that "Zionist forces" use nefarious methods to control the world has been dropped.

"Examining the trendline of our 2002, 2008 and even 2019 reports of the Saudi curriculum, it is clear that these new 2020 textbooks represent an institutional effort to modernize the Kingdom's curriculum," said IMPACT-se CEO, Marcus Sheff.



Saudi Arabia's King Salman

"The Saudi authorities have begun a process of rooting out anti-Jewish hate."

Attitudes towards Israel are becoming "more balanced and tolerant," the institute said, giving as an example the removal of an entire chapter that was titled "the Zionist danger" that delegitimized Israel's right to exist.

More generally, the majority of references to jihad have been removed, whereas a decade ago the focus of the curriculum was to prepare students for martyrdom, the group found.

"This being said, anti-Israel content does still remain in the curriculum," IMPACT-se noted.

Hatred of Jews is still present, including "a decontextualized and ambiguous" story about Jewish "wrongdoers," who are described as monkeys.

Despite this progress, the report found that Israel is still not shown on maps of the region, while Zionism is depicted as a racist political movement and in many places, the name "Israel" is replaced with "Zionist enemy."

The report noted that "There is clearly still work to be done. However, the changes made thus far show promise for a moderate and tolerant curriculum. Further improvements need to be made. But the overriding impression is of a willingness to engage, to participate in dialogue regarding curriculum content and finally move towards textbook reform."

Responding to the findings, a US State Department official told Time Magazine that Washington is «encouraged by the report that finds positive changes in influential textbooks used throughout Saudi Arabia.»

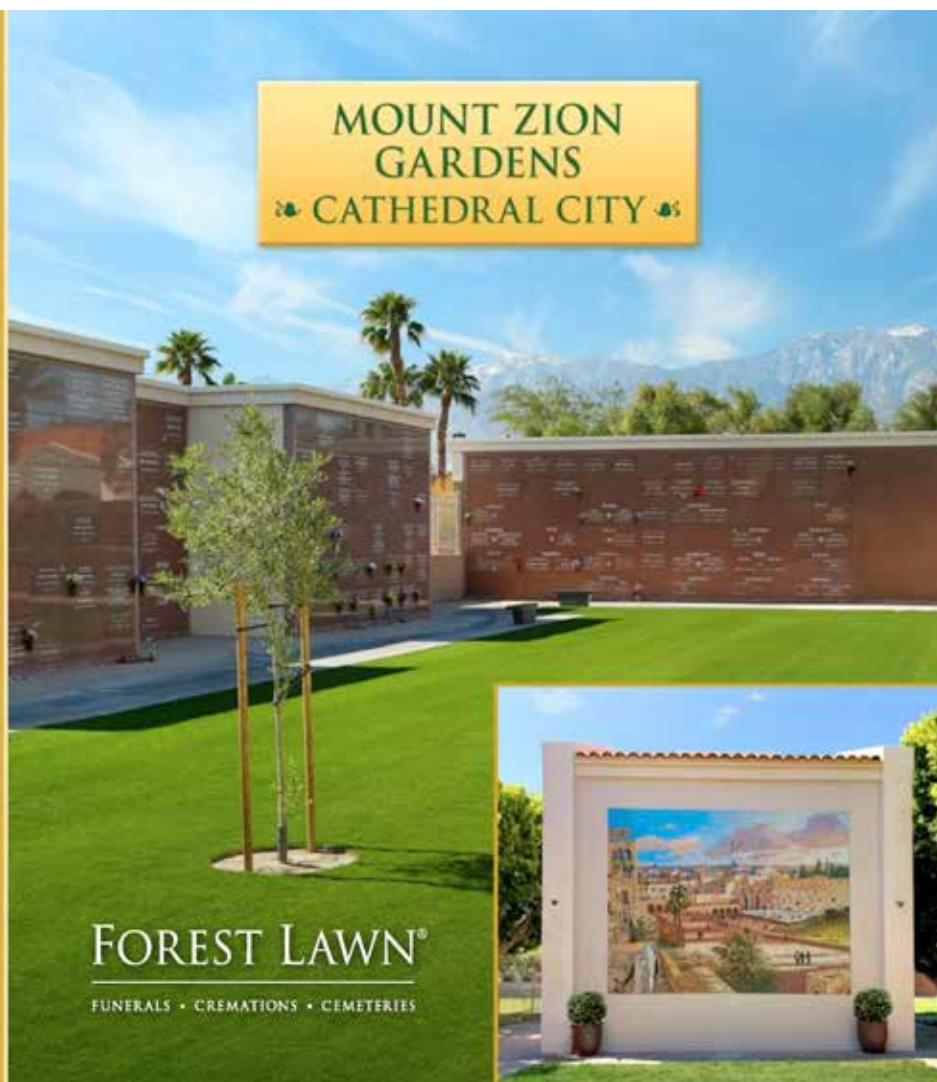
The magazine quoted Fahad Nazer, spokesperson for the Saudi Embassy in Washington, as saying that the kingdom is making "a very concerted effort to remove all [offensive material] from the entire curriculum."

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Honorarium Tributes In Appreciation For:

- **Barbara Fremont**, In honor of your special birthday, from Susie and Bob Diamond.
- **Lisa and Bob Hamer**, Mazel tov on the birth of beautiful Aiden, from Toni and Bobby Garmisa.
- **Margie and Steve Kulp**, In honor of your 30th anniversary and Margie's 70th birthday, from Susie and Bob Diamond.
- **Margie Kulp**, In honor of your special birthday, from Cass, Barbara, Lily, Robin, Leslie, Trudy and Jane; and from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Bertel Lewis**, Thank you from Cora Ginsberg.
- **Steve Markman**, Happy birthday from Roslyn Markman.
- **Roberta and Allan Nyman**, In honor of all your hard work and dedication to the Jewish Federation, from Leslie and Steve Kurtz.

Refuah Shleimah Get Well Wishes To:

- **Robin and Bob Berman**, Wishing you a

speedy and full recovery, from Joanne and Bill Chunowitz, Susie and Bob Diamond,

- **Bruce Landgarten**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Libby and Buddy Hoffman, Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman, Roberta and Allan Nyman, Barbara Platt and Norm Lewis

Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:

- **Borovsky Family c/o Ellen Carmell**, In memory of Bobbe, from Sherry and Howard Schor.
- **Loren Friend**, In memory of your dear sister, Linda Sher, from Barbara and Robert Paget.
- **Kraig Johnson**, In memory of your brother David Keith, from Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman.
- **Fran Kaufman**, In memory of your beloved husband Mark, from Ana Landau, Robert Lazar, Roberta and Allan Nyman, Bruce and Laurie Wilcox.
- **Phyllis Levin and Family**, In memory of Mike Levin, from Barbara and Robert Paget.
- **Susan Mardell**, In memory of your beloved

husband Fred, from Marnie Miller and Joe Noren, Barbara and Robert Paget, Gail and Bob Scadron, Sherry and Howard Schor.

- **In memory of Sherry Markowitz**, by Jay Markowitz.
- **Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Miller**, In memory of your beloved brother-in-law Sonny, from Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.
- **Trudy and Dan Pekarsky**, In memory of Sharon and Bobby Cairns, from Carlyn and Paul Blum.
- **Drs. Peter and Vicki Reissmann**, In memory of our beloved aunt, your mother Lenore Chazin, from Dr. Paul and Stephanie Ross.
- **The Schoenberg Family**, In memory of your beloved mother, Florence Schoenberg, from Myra and Hilly Spira.
- **Ken Schoenfeld**, In memory of your beloved wife Beverly, from Joanne and Bill Chunowitz, Susie and Bob Diamond, Ruth and Mal Kaufman.
- **Albert and Cecille Silverman**, In memory of your beloved brother Jerry, from Susie and Bob Diamond, Loreen Jacobson, Sherry and Howard Schor.

Report: Israel and UAE Working on Plan to Shutter UN Palestinian Refugee Agency

By Algemeiner Staff

The United Arab Emirates and Israel are reportedly formulating a plan to phase out the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), the UN organization dedicated to dealing with, and some say perpetuating, the Palestinian refugee problem.

According to leading French daily *Le Monde*, both the UAE and Israel would like to eventually see the controversial agency shuttered.

The publication's Middle East correspondent, Benjamin Barthe,

said on Twitter that the plan being worked on by officials seeks to gradually end the UN organization in a manner that will not be contingent on solving the issue of Palestinian refugees.

Barthe also pointed out that the UAE has been one of UNRWA's major funding sources since US President Donald Trump cut off the flow of dollars to the organization. The UAE stepped in along with Qatar and Saudi Arabia to fill the funding gap. But in 2020 the UAE also effectively turned off the



United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) building in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip

spigot, giving only token amounts to UNRWA.

UNRWA has long been controversial, with critics saying that it keeps the refugees in a state of continuing poverty and discontent,

discourages their settlement in other countries, collaborates with terrorism, and engages in constant anti-Israel incitement. As recently as 2014, an UNRWA school was found to be harboring weapons used by the Hamas terror group in Gaza.

In particular, critics point to the fact that UNRWA considers the descendants of the original refugees from the 1948 Arab-Israeli war to be refugees as well; something that is not the case with any other refugee population in the world.



February 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)
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5781 Purim 2021

Evening of February 25 & day of February 26

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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. For Zoom invite email harelurjpd@gmail.com.

CONGREGATION

SHALOM BAYIT (Reform)
Rabbi Kenneth Milhandler,
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 January 15 at 6:00 pm. Every other Friday of the month: Shabbat Candle Lighting with Rabbi Emerita Malka Drucker at 5:45 pm. Saturday morning January 16 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 (Member, Union for Reform Judaism)

Rabbi David Novak
73-251 Hovley Lane West,
Palm Desert, CA 92260. www.temple sinaipd.org 760-568-9699.
Go to templesinaipd.org for access information. 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..

Community Calendar of Online Programs - February 2021

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 February

Mondays:

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

Tuesdays:

7:00 pm - Chabad of Palm Springs/Sun City: Virtual class: "Insights for Daily Living, from the Torah" with **Sussie Denebeim**.

Wednesdays:

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

Tuesday, February 2

4:00 pm Jewish Federation: Third program in Virtual series with **Rabbi Mark Borovitz of Beit T'Shuvah**. Call Federation Office for link to participate: 760-324-4737.

Thursday, February 4

4:00 pm Sabra Hadassah of the Desert, with Hadassah Long Beach/Orange County present a two-part virtual speaker series featuring **Professor Emeritus Steven Windmueller HUC/JIR**. First presentation: **The Pandemic and Anti-Semitism**. \$36 for series or \$20 per session. Information: call 760-345-7647.

Thursday, February 4

Jewish Federation **Major Gifts Event**, featuring **Jason Alexander**. See ad page 2.

Monday, February 8

6:30 pm The Jewish Federation's Women's Cultural Alliance is hosting a 3 part virtual learning event **Honoring Jewish Women**. First session will be facilitated by Rebbitzin Sussie Denebeim with series' coordinators Jackie Cohen and Arlene Morse.
For details see article page 12.

Wednesday, February 10

3:30 pm Har-El virtual Film Discussion of the Israeli film "**The Testament**," led by Judy Wallis and Mitzi Webber. See ad page 13.

Thursday, February 11

Temple Sinai presents **Dr. Conrado Barzaga**, CEO of the Desert Healthcare District, who will speak on the impact of COVID-19 on Coachella Valley medical capacity. Check the Temple Sinai website at templesinaipd.org for time and the Zoom information.

Thursday, February 18

5:00 pm Temple Sinai presents Riverside's Temple Beth El **Rabbi Suzanne Singer** who will speak about the "**War Between Vashti and Esther**." Check the Temple Sinai website at templesinaipd.org for the Zoom information.

Thursday, February 18

7:00 pm Sabra Hadassah of the Desert, with Hadassah Long Beach/Orange County: Second of two-part virtual speaker series featuring **Professor Emeritus Steven Windmueller HUC/JIR**. Second presentation: **COVID-19 and its Impact on the American Jewish Community**. \$36 for series or \$20 per session. Information: call 760-345-7647.

Sunday, February 21

1:00-3:00 pm Temple Isaiah invites the community to a parking lot social distanced/mask wearing Purim Party. See ad page 7.

Wednesday, February 24

3:30 pm Har-El Sandra & Robert Borns Har-El Lecture Series program: **Professor Alvin H. Rosenfeld**, Indiana University, "**Anti-Semitism: A Clear and Present Danger**." See ad page 13.

Sunday, February 28

4:00 pm Temple Isaiah "**In Conversation**" series begins with **Rabbi Steven Rosenberg** in conversation with **Dr. Alan Abrams** on an interactive health talk: "**It's Preventable ... Colon Cancer**." Zoom access given when registering. Call 760-325-2281 or go to Temple website: www.templesiaiahps.com.

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

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

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Thank you for your gift to the Jewish Federation of the Desert!



The Jewish Federation of the Desert and its beneficiary agencies thank our devoted and loyal donors who gave so generously to the 2020 Annual Campaign. Together we raised over \$2.2 million dollars for our community, despite the challenges of this exceedingly difficult year. Thank you for helping to

secure the present and fortify the future with your support of our Campaign.

Federation's Annual Campaign fills a gap as our community's needs expand and our needy grow in number. We take seriously our responsibility to ensure that needs are met, to create a stronger, more vibrant Jewish community and to foster

and strengthen our connection with Jews in Israel and around the world. Thank you for making a measurable impact with immeasurable heart. Your generosity has breathed life into the words that define and guide our efforts: "The Strength of a People. The Power of Community." On behalf of those who cannot say thank you

themselves, thank you.

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



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Have A Nosh With Miriam

Purim is February 25/26 this year. As always, the pastry for the hamantashen is my beloved mother-in-law Goldie Rittberg's recipe because it is, simply, the best! This year my first filling is more of a traditional combination of poppy seeds, raisins and dates. The other two have a



"modern" twist: the first is a sweet pecan pie filling and the second is a delicious, somewhat tarter cranberry, orange and white chocolate combination.

The pandemic has meant we are not getting together with family and friends this year but that is not a reason to skip baking ... and the plus side is there will be more hamantashen for us to eat!

Happy baking! Happy Purim! MHB

GOLDIE'S HONEY DOUGH

1/3 cup Crisco	2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 cup sugar	1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup honey	1 Tablespoon lemon juice
2 eggs, beaten	1/2 teaspoon grated lemon rind
2 1/2 cups flour	

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

POPPY SEED FILLING WITH RAISINS AND DATES (Milchig)

1 cup poppy seeds	1/3 cup raisins
1/2 cup milk	1/4 cup chopped nuts
1/4 cup honey	1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/3 cup chopped dates	1/2 teaspoon nutmeg

Cook all ingredients over low heat and stir occasionally until almost all liquid is evaporated. Yields 2 1/2 cups.

"PECAN PIE" FILLING (Parve)

6 tablespoons margarine	1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
3/4 cup (3 oz) powdered sugar	1 1/2 teaspoons bourbon
4 1/2 tablespoons corn syrup	1 cup plus 2 tablespoons (4.5 oz) finely chopped pecans
pinch salt (omit if using salted margarine)	

Place the margarine a small saucepan and melt over medium-high heat. Once the margarine is melted strain in the powdered sugar, corn syrup, and salt. Bring to a rolling boil and remove from the heat. Stir in the vanilla, bourbon and pecans and chill until firm.

CRANBERRY/ORANGE/WHITE CHOCOLATE FILLING (Parve)

1 (12-ounce) bag cranberries, fresh or frozen	6 tablespoons sugar
1/2 cup orange juice	4 ounces white chocolate chips

Place cranberries, orange juice and sugar in a medium saucepan. Bring to a boil and then reduce the heat and simmer, stirring frequently, until all the cranberries have popped. Remove from heat and add chocolate chips. Stir until melted. Let the filling cool to room temperature



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		Rosella Weissman*



Simchas

With just about all events happening virtually, there simply are fewer simchas to write about these days. Although he, too, has had to curtail most of his "in-person" activities, **Rabbi Yankel Kreiman** of Bikur Cholim finds ways to deliver holiday treats, as evidenced by these photos of Chanukah goodies being assembled by the Kreimans and Jewish Federation, and then

distributed throughout our community. Please share your simchas with us. Email *Miriam Bent* at *mhbentjcn@earthlink.net* or call her at 760-323-0255.



Candle Lighting Times

Friday, February 5	Shabbat Yitro	4:38 pm
Friday, February 12	Shabbat Mishpatim	4:45 pm
Friday, February 19	Shabbat Terumah	4:51 pm
Friday, February 26	Shabbat Tetzaveh	4:57 pm



We Mourn the Passing of...

Auroraleigh Cohen, Cindy Kiernicki, Hal (Hershel) Kramer, Irwin Rubinsky, Shirley Waterman and Pearl White. Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing.



Classifieds

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE SUPPORTERS wel comed. 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.

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Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem Announces Construction of Permanent US Embassy

The city of Jerusalem has approved plans to build the permanent U.S. embassy in Jerusalem, in addition to an extension of the current temporary embassy, announced the city's deputy mayor on January 13th.

Fleur Hassan-Nahoum tweeted, "The Jerusalem Municipal Building and Planning Committee has just approved the plans for the new #US Embassy which will be built on Derech Hebron in #Jerusalem, as well as the extension of the current temporary embassy in Arnona."

Jerusalem Mayor Moshe Lion said, "This is a historic and moving moment taking place amid the diplomatic change we are



Temporary U.S. embassy in Jerusalem's Arnona neighborhood

experiencing in these days with the blessed peace agreements."

"I believe that the additional step of strengthening the embassy complexes in Jerusalem, and continuing to transfer them to the capital, is the first step for additional missions to move to the capital."

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With our 2021 campaign underway, we ask that you give generously. The needs are great. The time is now.



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