

## Landslide Vote: Senate Votes 97-3 Making U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem Permanent

The bi-partisan amendment was approved 97-3, with the only objectors being Democratic Senators Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Tom Carper.

By World Israel News

In a landslide vote February 4, 2021, the Senate approved a budget resolution amendment making the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem permanent, so that it could not be moved out of Israel's capital in the future.

"Pleased the Senate overwhelmingly passed the amendment Senator Hagerty and I introduced to make sure the U.S. Embassy to Israel remains located in Jerusalem, the capital of Israel," tweeted the bill's co-sponsor, Republican Senator Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma.

"I am proud to introduce legislation to protect the U.S. Embassy from relocation or being downgraded," Inhofe said "It was an honor to see the U.S. Embassy moved to its rightful

location in Jerusalem in 2018 after over 20 years of bipartisan effort and Sen. Hagerty and I are clear in our efforts to ensure it stays there. Israel is a true friend to the United States and I look forward to many more years of friendship."

The amendment, co-sponsored by 21 Republicans led by James Inhofe of Oklahoma, was added to the massive \$1.9 trillion budget bill the Senate passed as part of President Joe Biden's relief package. The bi-partisan amendment was approved 97-3, with the only objectors being Democratic Senators Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Tom Carper. During the election campaign Warren said that "if Israel takes steps counter to peace, I am prepared to freeze or reverse the limited



embassy functions that have moved to Jerusalem," and Sanders said he would "take into consideration" moving the embassy back to Tel Aviv.

The amendment sets aside funding to maintain the U.S. embassy in Jerusalem making it harder to reverse the move of the embassy from Tel Aviv. Biden had said he was not, in any case, going to move the embassy.

"The Trump Administration kept its promise to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, the eternal

and indivisible capital of the Jewish State of Israel, and it should remain there," said Hagerty. "As former U.S. Ambassador to Japan, I know how important it is to recognize the core concerns of our allies, and it was a travesty that our government ignored U.S. law and declined to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital for so many decades."

The Trump administration decision to move the embassy and recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital sparked wild predictions that violence would erupt across the region and set the quest for peace back by years.

However, not only did the embassy move shatter the myth that it would cause major conflict, but two years later, Israel signed peace treaties with five Muslim countries.

## New Israeli Drug Cured 29 of 30 Moderate/Serious COVID Cases in Days

By the Times of Israel Staff

A new coronavirus treatment being developed at Tel Aviv's Ichilov Medical Center has successfully completed phase 1 trials and appears to have helped numerous moderate-to-serious cases of COVID-19 quickly recover from the disease, the hospital said on February 5.

Hailing a "huge breakthrough," the hospital said Prof. Nadir Arber's EXO-CD24 substance had been administered to 30 patients whose conditions



Professor Nadir Arber

were moderate or worse, and all 30 recovered — 29 of them within three to five days.

The medicine fights the cytokine storm — a potentially lethal immune overreaction to the coronavirus infection that is believed to be responsible for much of the deaths associated with the disease.

It uses exosomes — tiny carrier sacs that shuttle materials between cells — to deliver a protein called CD24 to the lungs, which Arber has spent decades researching.

"This protein is located on the surface of cells and has a well known and important role in regulating the

*continued on page 2*



Warmest wishes for a joyful and safe Passover  
from the Jewish Federation of the Desert!



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**PASSOVER  
VIRTUAL COOKING  
DEMONSTRATION**

with James Beard Foundation  
Award-winning Chef  
**Michael Solomonov**

Tuesday, March 16th  
5pm

Email [info@jfedps.org](mailto:info@jfedps.org) or call  
760-324-4737 to register to  
receive your invitation code  
and recipes.

There is no charge for this  
program, although a donation  
to the Jewish Federation is  
always welcomed.

*continued from page 1*

immune system," said researcher Shiran Shapira of Arber's lab.

The protein helps calm down the immune system and curb the storm. The drug is designed to treat moderate and serious cases of the coronavirus and is given to patients via inhalation directly into the lungs. "The preparation is inhaled once a day for a few minutes, for five days," Arber said. "The preparation is directed straight to the heart of

the storm — the lungs — so unlike other formulas... which selectively restrain a certain cytokine, or operate widely but cause many serious side effects, EXO-CD24 is administered locally, works broadly and without side effects."

The medicine will now move on to further trial phases, but hospital officials were already hailing it as a possible game-changer in fighting serious COVID-19 illness.

Ichilov director Roni Gamzu,

the former coronavirus czar, said the research "is advanced and sophisticated and may save coronavirus patients. The results of the phase 1 trial are excellent and give us all confidence in the method [Arber] has been researching in his lab for many years."

He added: "I am proud that at Ichilov we are... possibly bringing a blue and white remedy to a terrible global pandemic."

**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 registration form.

## Return on Investment



**Bruce Landgarten**

Jewish Federation  
Chief Executive  
Officer

Dear Friends,

This has been an unsettled and unsettling time - a continuation of a season of unrest. We are divided on many levels and about many things. It seems, sometimes more often than not, that the forces of self or particular interest are likely to overpower the stickiness of communal good and cohesion. This is where Jewish Federation comes in - and why I am so proud of our work.

This past fall we began a process to better identify needs and priorities in our Jewish community and define where the Federation has a vital role to play. The bottom line is that the Jewish Federation is in the key position to help address some critical needs and challenges in our community.

Through a community survey, roundtables with community leaders, and discussions among our Federation

leadership, we have tightened the focus of our core priorities, ensuring that the philanthropic investments that we make - and the contributions of our donors and investors - can have the most impact.

Some of the outcomes of this process will be no surprise to anyone who knows us or values our commitment to a strong Jewish people and community in Greater Palm Springs and beyond. Other outcomes will reflect a slight shift in priorities - such as expanding our work in ensuring a secure Jewish community and countering anti-Semitism and hate in places where we can make a real difference.

Across the board there is a renewed focus on how we can ensure "Return on Investment" - a smart, strategic return on our philanthropic investment... so that our community knows that

supporting the Jewish Federation is one of the best ways to take care of the Jewish people locally and around the world.

What follows are highlights of our Federation "DNA" and priorities for the year ahead and into the future. You will be hearing more about these priorities from me and in our communications, especially in terms of how the Federation makes a critical difference in these impact areas, and they will be framing our upcoming Grants and Allocations... a process that will be taking place over the next few months.

Once again - I'm proud of our

work, and I'm grateful to the donors and supporters who make it possible for the Federation to impact our community in these vitally important ways.

If you are currently a contributor, THANK YOU. And if you haven't supported the Jewish Federation recently, or at all, I encourage you to learn more about what we are doing and the impact we...and you...can have.

Thank you.



Jewish Federation  
OF THE DESERT

### **With appreciation & an apology!**

We apologize for the following names being left off the Honor Roll listing in last month's Jewish Community News and, in one case, having the name listed in the wrong category. We are grateful for the generosity of everyone who contributes to our annual campaign, as together we perform *Tikkun Olam*, Repairing the World.

#### **\$1,000 - \$4,999**

Henry & Sandra Friedman  
Margot & Jerome Halperin  
Marilyn Malkin  
Jerome & Eunice Meister  
Joseph Noren  
Bob & Rita Philip  
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Jerrold & Lita Widran



## JAFI - Jewish Agency for Israel



Our Jewish Federation disburses funds in two major categories.

On one hand we address and respond to the needs and promote programs in our local community; and then, partnering with other Jewish Federations and Jewish organizations throughout the United States and around the world, we support projects in Israel and assist with the care of Jews in need throughout the world.

One of our longest affiliations is with the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), an organization established in 1929 to assist Jews worldwide.

Today it has an annual budget of almost \$400 million and its projects include caring for the frail aged and vulnerable youth in the Former Soviet Union, with mentally and physically handicapped youth in Israel, poverty intervention programs for struggling families and supporting IDF soldiers' transition back to civilian life.

JAFI's network of overnight summer camps in the FSU have navigated the health and safety concerns of the COVID-19 public health crisis, recognizing the importance they play in the Jewish education of the region. These programs foster Jewish values in overlooked and underserved populations, creating future Jewish leaders in Israel and in countries around the world.

**everyone  
counts**  
can we count on you?

**DONATE**

**Jewish Federation  
Annual Campaign  
2021**

# 2021 Tamarisk /Federation Golf Day

Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>

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

Food will be available prior to golf and on the golf course

## THE FOLLOWING LEVELS OF SPONSORSHIP ARE AVAILABLE:

Women's Minimum Gift:	\$300	Men's Minimum Gift:	\$550
Women's Sponsor Level Gift:	\$500	Men's Sponsor Level Gift:	\$750
		Men's Platinum Level Gift:	\$1000

Lunch included for all Participants

Complete and return with your check to: Tamarisk Country Club, 70240 Frank Sinatra Drive, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270  
To pay by credit card, contact the Jewish Federation of the Desert to process payment by phone (760) 324.4737

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

___ Women's Minimum Gift:	\$300	___ Men's Minimum Gift:	\$550
___ Women's Sponsor Level Gift:	\$500	___ Men's Sponsor Level Gift:	\$750
		___ Men's Platinum Level Gift:	\$1000

\_\_\_ Golf      \_\_\_ Cards      \_\_\_ Tennis      \_\_\_ Pickle Ball

My Team \_\_\_\_\_ Pair me up \_\_\_\_\_

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



## JEWISH COMMUNITY NEWS

A Publication of the  
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### EDITORIAL

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

### JCN STATEMENT

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

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

### ARTICLES & ADVERTISING,

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### ADVERTISING

The JCN does not endorse the goods or services advertised in its pages and makes no representation as to the kashrut of food products and services in such advertising. The publisher shall not be liable for damages if, for any reason whatsoever, it fails to publish an advertisement or for any error in an advertisement. Acceptance of advertisers and of advertising copy is subject to the publisher's approval. The JCN is not responsible if ads violate applicable laws and the advertiser will indemnify, hold harmless and defend the JCN from all claims made by government agencies and consumers for any reason based on ads carried in the JCN.

# Bon Appetit Magazine Edits Hamantaschen Article

By Shiryn Chermeztian, *The Algemeiner*

As part of its "Archive Repair Project," *Bon Appetit* magazine changed the headline and content of a 2015 article about the Purim cookie hamantaschen and apologized for its "stereotypical characterizations of Jewish culture."

In an "editor's note" published at the start of the piece, the magazine said, "The original version of this article included language that was insensitive toward Jewish food traditions and does not align with our brand's standards ... We have edited the headline, dek and content to better convey the history of Purim and the goals of this particular recipe. We apologize for

the previous version's flippant tone and stereotypical characterizations of Jewish culture."

The article's original headline "How to Make Actually Good Hamantaschen" was changed to "5 Steps to Really Good Hamantaschen." *Bon Appetit* removed the sub-heading in which the article's non-Jewish writer said in "full disclosure" that because she attended "roughly three Bar or Bat Mitzvahs a weekend during 1992" and cooks professionally, she thought she could "at least weigh in on the Jewish cookie department."

Among other things changed

in the article's content was the description of the Jewish holiday of Purim. Writer Dawn Perry, who is also *Bon Appetit's* digital food editor, originally said "The story of Purim involves a bad guy, Haman, a nice Jewish lady, Esther, and her ultimate victory over his plot to destroy the Jewish people."

*Bon Appetit* also deleted six sentences about Perry's observation that Jews and non-Jews alike on the *BA* staff "could only call up childhood memories of dry and sandy hamantaschen that left your mouth coated with a weird film," and her desire to "convert the

haters ... To create a hamantaschen that we could all enjoy, regardless of religious upbringing or tainted Hebrew School memories."

The response seemed unnecessary to some Twitter users, who found nothing offensive in the article's original text or headline.

"What was supposed to offend me? I don't get it. I always liked the regular hamantaschen. I like the ones filled with poppy seeds," wrote one user.

"I am mostly confused," tweeted another. "... because every hamantaschen I have has been good?"

## Israel's Inovytec Ventilator Coming to California

By Abigail Klein Leichman, *Israel21c*

Israeli medical device firm Inovytec has signed a deal to deliver 1,500 advanced portable ventilators to Global Medical Supply, a distributor that works with the state of California.

The Ventway Sparrow breathing machines will be used to aid patients with respiratory illnesses during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond.

"When looking for a partner that could quickly supply us with the quality ventilators we needed, Inovytec answered the call. Its lightweight and durable ventilators give patients the flexibility needed to be transported between wards or hospitals seamlessly," said Edward Kim, a partner at Global Medical Supply.

"At the same time, Inovytec's ventilators are affordable, meaning we could care for more patients and the lack of constant maintenance allows us to keep them in storage if need be while knowing they will be ready when needed."

The Ventway Sparrow weighs only 1 kilogram (2.2 pounds) and



allows for invasive or noninvasive ventilation.

This ventilator is already being used in Covid-19 wards in Italy, Brazil and Israel. It is cleared for use in Canada, Australia and the United States under FDA Emergency Use Authorization.

Udi Kantor, co-founder and CEO of Inovytec, said ventilators have been an invaluable resource in recent months.

"Looking beyond the pandemic, our ventilators will enable paramedics and hospitals to safely and easily transfer patients, and we look forward to serving other medical facilities in California and other states."

Inovytec also makes the Sali first-aid

system for respiratory and cardiac emergencies; and the Lubo airway management and neck stabilization

system for emergency medical teams. The company was founded in 2011.

Temple Isaiah/JCC Eighth Annual  
**PALM SPRINGS JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL**  
April 18-21 (22!), 2021

**Temple Isaiah presents the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL**  
**8 FILMS + 8 SHORTS**  
+ Speakers, Interactive Conversations & more!  
**Sunday, April 18 - Wednesday, April 21**  
**PLATINUM PASS \$70**  
[Individual tix \$10]

**Stream all films at your convenience during the four days of the festival, with the exception of interactive conversations at scheduled times on Zoom.**

**Platinum Pass holders have an extra day to view all films (April 22!)**

*Films*  
Crescendo ☆ Asia ☆ Leona ☆ The Mover ☆ Kiss Me Kosh  
Tobacconist ☆ Sammy Davis Jr - I've Gotta Be Me  
Welcome to Kutsher's ☆ plus 8 Shorts

See film trailers & order you passes/tickets online at [www.psjff.com](http://www.psjff.com).  
Help support this online Palm Springs Jewish Film Festival during the Pandemic so that we remain alive and strong afterward!

TEMPLE ISAIAH JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER  
SUPPORTED BY Jewish Federation OF THE DESERT

# Biden UN Nominee Pledges to Combat Anti-Israel Bias, BDS, Iranian Threat

Jewish News Syndicate

U.S. President Joe Biden's nominee to be U.S. ambassador to the United Nations pledged to combat the anti-Israel bias at the United Nations.

"I look forward to standing with Israel, standing against the unfair targeting of Israel, the relentless resolutions proposed against Israel unfairly," said Linda Thomas-Greenfield at her nomination hearing in front of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "I look forward to working with Israel to develop a

strategy with them for engaging with countries that would appreciate having Israel's expertise to support their development efforts."

Thomas-Greenfield, a 35-year diplomat, expressed hope that those countries that have normalized ties with Israel under the Abraham Accords—the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco—"will also see some opportunities to be more cooperative at the U.N. and more supportive of Israel's presence there."

On Iran, Thomas-Greenfield assured that the Biden administration will work to prevent the regime from



Linda Thomas-Greenfield

getting a nuclear weapon.

"We've seen a tremendous amount of backtracking since" the United States withdrew from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, she said. The withdrawal in May 2018 was followed by reimposing sanctions lifted under it, along with enacting new sanctions as part of what the Trump administration called a "maximum pressure" campaign.

Thomas-Greenfield said America would work with its allies and other members of the U.N. Security Council to "ensure that we hold Iran accountable."

Additionally, she noted that the United States would rejoin the U.N. Human Rights Council and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, or UNESCO.

The United States withdrew from

the UNHRC in June 2018 after then-U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley cited the world body's "chronic" bias against Israel as one of the primary factors for the withdrawal.

The United States defunded UNRWA in September 2018, claiming that the refugee agency, which serves Palestinians, inflates the number of Palestinian refugees and furthers the Palestinian refugee problem. Critics have also said that UNRWA has inspired violence against Israel.

Finally, Thomas-Greenfield expressed opposition to the BDS movement against Israel, saying that it is "unacceptable" and "verges on anti-Semitic," and "it's important that they not be allowed to have a voice at the U.N., and I intend to work against that."



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](mailto:Kevin.giser@jfedps.org) or 760-324-4737.

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

## To Battle Holocaust Denial, Facebook Announces Tool to Connect Users with Facts

Jewish News Syndicate

In an effort to contend with Holocaust denial on its platform, Facebook announced that it will begin to connect users to a site with facts about the 20th-century atrocity that killed 11 million people, including 6 million Jews.

"We honor the memories of the victims and recognize the role we can play to help fulfill the promise 'Never Again.' We will begin to connect people with authoritative information about the Holocaust," said Facebook in a statement. "Anyone who searches on Facebook for terms associated with either the Holocaust or Holocaust denial will see a message from Facebook encouraging them to connect with credible information about the Holocaust off Facebook."



The Facebook tool connecting users to a website with facts about the Holocaust will first be available in English-speaking countries, including Australia, New Zealand, Canada, United Kingdom, Ireland and the United States. It will be available in more languages and countries over the coming months, according to the social-media platform.

That website to connect users with factual information is [aboutholocaust.org](http://aboutholocaust.org), which was created by the World Jewish Congress with the support of

the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, or UNESCO.

"Holocaust denial, Holocaust distortion and the spreading of conspiracy myths about the Holocaust generally have become cornerstones in the vicious incitement of anti-Semitic hatred on the part of white supremacists, neo-Nazis and other extremist forces," said WJC president Ronald S. Lauder in the Facebook statement.

In October 2020, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced that the platform would be banning posts that deny or distort the Holocaust and would redirect users from posts that deny or distort the Holocaust to "authoritative sources to get accurate information."

# Compassionate Conversations

**Congregation Beth Shalom Annual Scholars Program, Sundays, March 7 and March 14, 2021**

Beth Shalom's Annual Scholar-in-Residence Weekend has been a popular and engaging event in our Jewish community for the past nine years. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the synagogue leadership has reimagined and restructured this year's program into an exceptional experience that will bring multiple scholars from across the country into the homes of Coachella Valley's Jewish community and beyond. We invite the community to join us online and take advantage of this exceptional learning experience. Ken Hailpern, Spiritual Leader, Congregation Beth Shalom.

Rabbi J.B. Sacks will conduct "Compassionate Conversations" with four of our nation's distinguished leaders in Jewish healing and wellness at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholars Program, held in two webinar segments: March 7 and March 14 via Zoom. This initiative of Congregation Beth Shalom is made possible by a grant from Jewish Federation of the Desert.

These conversations will focus on healing, spiritual care, the Book of Psalms, and current challenges, including the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. On March 7, Rabbi Sacks will speak with Rabbi Richard



Rabbi Dr. J.B. Sacks



Rabbi Dr. Richard Address



Rabbi Dr. Shira Stern BCC



Rabbi Dayle Friedman BCC



Cantor Dr. Rhoda Harrison

Address (Philadelphia, PA) and Rabbi Shira Stern (Marlboro, NJ). On March 14, he will engage with Rabbi Dayle Friedman (Philadelphia, PA) and Cantor Dr. Rhoda Harrison (Cherry Hill, NJ). Both hour-long conversations will begin at 11:00 AM (Pacific time).

Rabbi Richard Address directs SacredJewishAging, a website which offers resources for congregations. He also hosts a weekly podcast, Seekers of Meaning, which is devoted to issues of aging and spirituality as they impact families and congregations.

Rabbi Shira Stern has served as a pulpit rabbi, hospital, hospice and disaster spiritual care chaplain. She is the Director of both the Joint Chaplaincy Program of Greater Middlesex County and the Jewish Institute for Pastoral Care (NYC).

Rabbi Dayle Friedman has served and advocated for seniors and has trained rabbis and chaplains. She authored Jewish Wisdom for Growing Older and coedited the forthcoming Jewish End-of-Life

Care in a Virtual Age. She directs the Growing Older website.

Cantor Rhoda Harrison serves Congregation M'kor Shalom (Cherry Hill, NJ). Also a rabbi, she focuses on her role as interpreter of liturgical prayer. She is also a Pastoral Care intern at Jefferson University Hospital. Cantor Harrison earned a Ph.D. in Jewish Studies at Towson University.

Rabbi Sacks is the spiritual leader of Congregation Am HaYam (Ventura, CA) and serves as Education Specialist for the Stories

of Music project at UCLA's Herb Alpert School of Music. He resides locally and is a Beth Shalom member.

These four eminent scholars and Rabbi Sacks are all contributors to the forthcoming volume Psalms in the Key of Healing by Rabbi H. Rafael Goldstein, who died in December. The book offers a method for glean meaning, inspiration, hope and healing from the biblical Book of Psalms, which is scheduled for release this month.

These programs are free of charge and the entire community is welcome. Advanced registration is required. LINK to registration, detailed information and sponsorship opportunities are available on the website: [www.CongregationBethShalom.net](http://www.CongregationBethShalom.net) or by calling (760) 200-3636.

## SHARED LEGACIES

The African American–Jewish Civil Rights Alliance



In these divisive times, when political rhetoric has led to a rise in anti-Semitism and hate crimes, director Shari Rogers reminds us of what can be achieved when people come together.



Focusing on the coalition between the African and Jewish American communities during the Civil Rights era, Rogers' documentary explores how shared experiences of discrimination can foster bonds of unity.

SHARED LEGACIES  
The African American–Jewish Civil Rights Alliance

Courtney Small, Point of View Magazine, Oct. 23, 2020  
USA Documentary Film, 97 Minutes

**Can Be Viewed Between March 15, 9 am & March 18, 9 am**

**Follow-up Discussion Date/Time To be Announced**

**To Reserve go to: [havurahofthedesert.org](http://havurahofthedesert.org) and click RSVP Online**



Free Film Screening Sponsored by Havurah of the Desert



For a meaningful way to extend condolences, send wishes for recovery from illness or congratulations / thanks for a special occasion, there is no better way than to purchase a Tzedakah card.

Proceeds from the sale of the tribute cards benefit the TZEDAKAH FUND, which enables our Jewish Federation to respond to the emergency needs of Jews in our community. Call 760-324-4737 to order your cards, or go online to [jfedps.org](http://jfedps.org). Thank you.

## Ramat HaNegev Update

The Jewish Federation of the Desert has been instrumental in providing facilities and programs that have enhanced life in Israel's "desert frontier," the Ramat HaNegev Regional Council, which is the governing entity over more than 20% of Israel's land mass, in the south. Our recent projects have focused on children and youth programs. Two years ago we supported the building of their outdoor classroom, and this year's allocation is supporting their Center for Children with Special Needs and Pitchat Nitzana's children and youth programs.

In their recent communications they indicated the losses in international tourism to Ramat HaNegev, due to COVID 19, have been countered by Israelis coming to the Negev as a desired tourist location, attracted to the breathtaking desert views and open spaces. This is also translating into families starting to move to the region, as detailed in the following update;

As we navigate such uncertain times, we have placed emotional and physical health at the forefront of our efforts. Showcasing a high level of flexibility and ability to quickly respond to the dynamic reality. The council has addressed



Amazing tomato crop

the need for economic assistance and support for all group ages, with initiatives such as online lectures, tours, virtual education, workshops, a joy-mobile, and more.

Aside from the hard-hit to Israel's economy, a significant concern has been the dramatic effects on children, many of which have been confined to their homes for months on end. We are proud of our innovative educators who have found incredibly inspiring online solutions providing personal support for each child. While important decisions were made early on, adapting various programs, some have managed to continue operating throughout the past year. Such as the Center for Children with Special Needs, which remained active for most of the year, and continued to provide the much-needed support for our children.



The Center for Children with Special Needs

This Center was established by our partners at the Jewish Federation of the Desert and continues to operate thanks to their heartwarming, continued, generous support. During the past year, the Center has provided children with occupational therapy, Animal-assisted therapy, yoga therapy, and learning strategies, offering professional support during school hours, and focusing on emotional wellbeing, personal growth, and social advancement. During the quarantines, the Center offered learning strategies via zoom and advanced the collaboration and knowledge exchange with the parents.

We asked the children and staff



Enhancing the Children's Center

to address what the Center means to them. Here are some of their answers: "It calms me down and lets me learn new things" (one of the children); "the professional help has advanced the children with their motoric skills. Which are so important for their advancement" (a therapist); "thanks to the center we learn about the children, understand their world, in a way, we can't in the classroom" (a teacher). "we appreciate the support so much as it enables us to help the growing need and demand of the children, provide professional and emotional support" (a staff member).

*"... The Height of the Wings is the Height of the dream..." Shlomit Cohen Asif.*

## 17,000 Israeli Holocaust Survivors Died in 2020, at Least 900 From COVID-19

By i24 News

Nearly 17,000 Holocaust survivors died in 2020, with 900 of the fatalities being attributed directly to the coronavirus pandemic, according to a new report released by Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics in late January. The annual report is traditionally

published on the eve of International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

According to the bureau, the death rate stands at 17%, while nearly 5,300 survivors have been infected by COVID-19, a percentage similar to that of the general population in the

same age group (16%). In women, the percentage of deaths from contracting the disease was lower than in men — 15% versus 21%.

According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, at the end of 2020, there were around 180,000 people living

in Israel recognized by the Authority for the Rights of Holocaust Survivors.

Among them, 850 Holocaust survivors have reached the age of 100 and over, it was said. The average age of a Holocaust survivor in Israel is 85.



# While Skies Officially Shut, Exception Made for 300 Ethiopian Jewish Immigrants

Newcomers taken from Ben Gurion Airport to 14-day quarantine period, but 6-year-old passenger in need of emergency heart surgery whisked to hospital

By Cnaan Liphshiz, JTA

Ben Gurion Airport reopened briefly on February 12 for 302 new immigrants from Ethiopia, including a 6-year-old boy in need of emergency heart surgery.

The newcomers were taken to a 14-day quarantine period, but the boy was quickly moved to a local hospital.

The Ethiopians, among about 8,000 with Jewish ancestry awaiting immigration to Israel, had been tested for COVID-19 in Gondar prior to arriving, according to a statement by the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, or ICEJ, an evangelical group that sponsored



A girl smiles upon arriving from Ethiopia as her mother kisses the ground at Israel's Ben Gurion Airport in Israel on February 12, 2021.

their arrival and chartered the plane that brought them.

From Gondar, the immigrants traveled on buses for 12 hours to Addis Ababa before the four-hour

flight to Israel.

"Now their dreams have come true of finally reuniting with their families in the Promised Land," ICEJ President Jürgen Bühler said in a statement. "We also have many Christians worldwide to thank for making this flight possible."

The airport has been shuttered since January 26 as part of the government's attempts to curb the spread of the coronavirus. They are slated to remain closed until at least February 20.

The Ethiopians, known as Falash Mura, are widely believed to have converted to Christianity under

duress while adhering to some Jewish traditions.

Israel completed the airlifting of another group of Ethiopian Jews known as Beta Israel in the 1990s.

The Israeli government has allowed the Falash Mura to immigrate under the country's Law of Return for Jews and their relatives.

## Auschwitz Vaccine Poster Puts Corbyn's Brother in Jail

By United with Israel Staff

Former United Kingdom Labour Party head Jeremy Corbyn's brother Piers was arrested in late January for posters bearing his name that criticize vaccines using an image of the Auschwitz death camp, where the Nazis slaughtered close to a million Jews during the Holocaust.

Piers' brother, Jeremy Corbyn, was forced to step down from his post as head of Labour after getting trounced in national elections following an anti-Semitism scandal that rocked the very core of his far-left faction.

Piers Corbyn is an anti-vaccination activist and "came up with the 'concept idea' for the poster which depicts Auschwitz but changes its infamous phrase at its gate from 'Arbeit Macht Frei', meaning 'work sets you free', to 'vaccines are safe path to freedom,'" Jewish News reported.

"Police confirmed 'officers investigating reports of malicious



Piers Corbyn and 'Auschwitz' poster

material in the form of a leaflet being circulated in south London in late January have made two arrests," Jewish News added, referring to the Corbyn arrest.

The report continued, "The leaflet contained material that appeared to compare the Covid-19 vaccination program with the Holocaust."

Another member of the Labour party, Neil Coyle, reported the leaflet to the police, commenting he was "absolutely sickened by anti-vax conspiracy theory crackpot leaflets put through some doors in SE17 today."

Under Jeremy Corbyn's stewardship, the Labour party committed "unlawful harassment"

against Jews, according to a 130-page report by the UK's Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHCR). Corbyn flat out denied the EHRC's findings and blamed a "political conspiracy" for the investigation, prompting his suspension from the party, though he was reinstated in short order.

The anti-Semitism that festered on Corbyn's watch did not evade reproach from some of the biggest leaders in the Jewish community. In a 2018 interview with The New Statesman, the late Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, who served as the Chief Rabbi of Great Britain for 22 years, warned that Corbyn gives "support to racists, terrorists and dealers of hate, who want to kill Jews and remove Israel from the map," adding that the Labour leader uses "the language of classic pre-war European anti-Semitism."

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# ICC Chief Justice Says His Colleagues Were Wrong About Israel Ruling

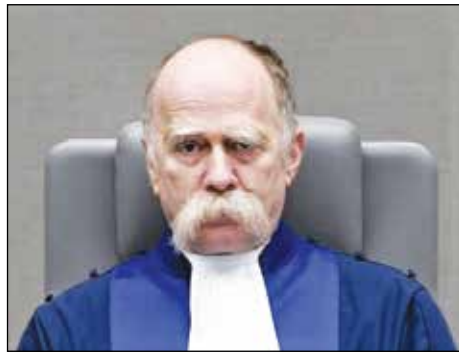
Judge Peter Kovacs says judges who ruled against Israel were wrong and jumped to conclusions not based in law.

By Paul Shindman, World Israel News

The senior judge at the International Criminal Court said his colleagues were wrong about the Palestinians and Israel, issuing a dissenting opinion February 7 detailing the mistakes they made.

Judge Peter Kovacs wrote that the majority of his colleagues had erred repeatedly in their interpretation of the law when they ruled that the ICC has jurisdiction in the Palestinian territories, even though the Palestinians are not a state member of the ICC and Israel does not belong to the court at all.

"I find neither the Majority's approach nor its reasoning



ICC Chief Justice Peter Kovacs

appropriate in answering the question before this Chamber, and in my view, they have no legal basis in the Rome Statute and even less so in public international law," Kovacs wrote in his dissension.

Kovacs also criticized his colleagues for jumping to conclusions, saying they were wrong to assume that there was such a thing as a state called "Palestine."

"These formulas ('early realization' — in French: 'en vue de la réalisation rapide' — and 'in preparation for independence') can hardly be interpreted as referring to an already existing, independent and

sovereign State," the judge wrote.

"I agree neither with the conclusion, nor with the Majority's reasoning and analysis in reaching such a conclusion," he said.

The Palestinians and other anti-Israel groups had petitioned the court to charge Israel with war crimes over not only military action taken in Gaza following Hamas rocket attacks on Israel, but they also claim that Israeli housing in Judea and Samaria is a "war crime."

The court ruling could pave the way for the court to prosecute members of the IDF for actions the Palestinians claim were against international law. While the court hinted it might also look at actions of the Hamas terror group, its arbitrary decision to consider the Palestinians as an existing nation, even though their only status is that of "observer-state" at the UN, angered both Israeli politicians and the IDF.

Kovacs says the other judges failed to take into account

numerous statutes and agreements and had only considered "pre-1967 borders' type formulas" that he said do not stand alone and should have been read alongside the Oslo and other agreements signed in 1993 and later.

"Had we referred to the Oslo Accords... this would have provided us with a more nuanced and, in my view, far more solid basis for the decision," Kovacs gave as one example.

"We find ourselves in an ambiguous and delicate situation," Kovacs wrote, noting in one section that the large number of countries treating the Palestinians as a country did not legally turn it into a nation member of the ICC.

Reporter Eylon Levy noted that Judge Kovacs' intricately detailed 163-page dissension is worth reading because the criticism of the other judges' ruling comes from a recognized legal expert who is not connected to Israel at all.

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## Coronavirus: El Al Becomes World's First Airline to Vaccinate Entire Staff

By Gadi Zaig, The Times of Israel

In a sign that we one day might return to normalcy, El Al Israel Airlines has announced that all employees that come into contact with passengers have been vaccinated, *Israel Hayom* reported February 12.

With this announcement, El Al has made history for being the world's first airline to have all of its relevant staff, including attendants, security personnel, pilots, and other service

personnel, inoculated against the virus.

In a statement, El Al's local competitor, Israir, said 95% of its pilots had had received the dose of the vaccine.

Another airline, Arkia Israeli Airlines, announced around 70% of its employees had been vaccinated against COVID-19.

On February 8 it was reported that El Al is to operate direct emergency

flights to New York and Dubai, after winning a bid by Israel's Civil Aviation Authority.

However, it was reported on Friday that Ben-Gurion Airport will be shut down at least until February 21 in an effort to lower the COVID-19 infection.

The shutdown of Ben-Gurion airport may be extended.

# Analysis: BDS Proponents End Up Achieving Opposite Outcome

By Bassam Eid, Jewish News Syndicate

Despite all evidence to the contrary, detractors of Israel continue to make the case that forcing colleges and universities to divest from Jewish-owned businesses in Israel can somehow better the lives of Palestinians. Brown University has become the latest U.S. campus targeted by the BDS movement, and, as a Palestinian, I urge the Brown community not to fall for it.

Under the banner of "Brown Divest," and spearheaded by the radical Students for Justice in Palestine, anti-Israel campus activists are pushing for the Corporation of Brown University, the institution's governing body, to divest from what SJP calls "Israeli settler colonialism and apartheid" in a vote to take place this week.

Israeli "apartheid" is nothing more than a political slogan that has nothing to do with reality, however I will be the first to acknowledge that conditions between Israel and the Palestinians are not perfect, but demonizing our Jewish neighbors is not the answer.

Far from having any measurable impact on Israeli policies, the most frequent outcome of BDS campaigns—wherever they appear—is to spark anti-Semitism and create hostile environments for

Jews. They do nothing to improve conditions for Palestinians. On the contrary, they often have the opposite effect.

For all of the divisive rhetoric spurred by outside groups, Palestinians and Israelis are interdependent, particularly when it comes to economic matters. Attempting to punish Israelis for their supposed sins against Palestinians with divestment and sanctions actually harms Palestinians, tens of thousands of whom are employed in Israel and work for Israel-based companies.

By boycotting Israeli-owned businesses, BDS is actually jeopardizing the livelihoods of

all Palestinians who rely on Israel for work. Take, for example, the hundreds of Palestinians who were laid off when the manufacturing company SodaStream was targeted by anti-Israel boycotts.

In 2015, under pressure from BDS activists, SodaStream closed its factory in the West Bank and moved to a new facility in the Negev desert. What did this accomplish other than 500 Palestinian workers losing their jobs?

SodaStream continues to grow and expand its product offerings around the world, while 500 Palestinian families lost their income. I challenge anyone to explain how, exactly, my people benefit from

boycotting local businesses that provide good-paying jobs in our communities.

BDS exploits Palestinians, using us as a prop to demonize Israel and the Jewish people for the benefit of a political agenda that has nothing to do with us. If BDS were to become official policy for Brown University, it would go to show that it has fallen prey to BDS propaganda—not a good look for an Ivy League institution. The Corporation of Brown University must ignore Brown Divest's demands and reject BDS.

Bassem Eid is a Palestinian human-rights activist, political analyst and journalist.

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# Jewish Federation Women's Philanthropy

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 Ginsberg and the Jewish women who showed up and changed our world in the 60's, 70's and 80's through now. All sessions will be held virtually.

The first session was February 8<sup>th</sup>, facilitated by local Rebbitzin Sussie Denebeim, with Jackie Cohen and Arlene Morse, Co-chairs of this three part series.

The second part of this series will be a book review of "American Jewish Women- A History from Colonial Times to Today" by Dr. Pamela Nadell. This book can be purchased



Jackie Cohen

on Amazon 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 and will take place virtually on Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

In addition, Pam Nadell is lecturing online about her book on Monday, March 15, as part of Temple Emanu-El in New York's education series. It is free to attend online and to facilitate our local participants



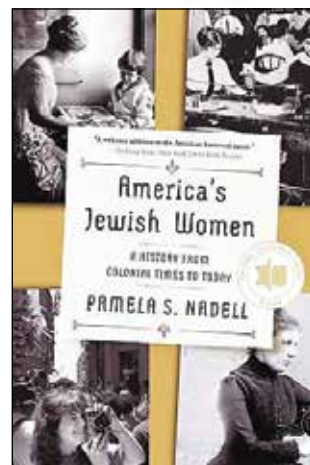
Arlene Morse



Leslie Pepper

joining that program, when you RSVP for our local program we will register you for the New York lecture as well.

The third part of this Women's series will take place on



Monday, April 12 and will honor Jewish women from RBG through the Jewish activists in the 60's, 70's and until today. That program will be facilitated by Julie Bornstein.



Dr. Pamela Nadell

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



individuals and families in need in our community. Todah Rabah - thank you - to all who made this possible.

This past November-December our Dee Berkley bracelet promotion raised \$975 for our Federation's Tzedakah Fund. Thank you to all who purchased bracelets. Your generosity has contributed to the efforts of our Jewish Federation to provide emergency assistance to the growing number of Jewish



## An Afternoon with a Remarkable Lady

There has been an underlying theme in the activities and programs of Women's Philanthropy/Cultural Alliance this past year, despite the pandemic; that of celebrating women's achievements. The program being offered on March 14 introduces us to another remarkable, extraordinarily accomplished woman. Suzy Weiss-Fischmann was born in Hungary, the daughter of Holocaust survivors, and came to the United States as a teenager. Fast forward to 1987, when



Suzi Weiss-Fischmann

she created OPI Nail Lacquers which subsequently was sold to COTY for close to 1 billion dollars!

Married with two children, Suzy and her husband's Fischmann Family Foundation focuses on education. As she has observed, "I strongly believe that education is one the most important things we can provide our children. No one can take away from you what you learn, and with education comes so many other opportunities." Suzy is a great advocate for women and her program promises to be a fascinating afternoon.

All women who have contributed a minimum of \$180 to this year's Jewish Federation campaign are invited to participate. For women who have not had an opportunity to make their

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Jewish mother, author, co-founder and national brand ambassador of OPI Nail Lacquer

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commitment this year, Leslie Pepper, Women's Philanthropy Coordinator, looks forward to speaking with you. Call her at 760-324-4737.

# Marvel Comics Apologizes, Wipes Anti-Semitic Image from Latest Issue of 'Immortal Hulk'

By Allgemeiner Staff

Stung by widespread condemnation, Marvel Comics this week removed anti-Semitic imagery from the latest issue of its Immortal Hulk comic.

The issue, published in early February, was slammed after some readers noticed that one panel featured the character Joe Fixit, in control of Bruce Banner's body, stepping into a jewelry store.

The name of the shop – "Cronenberg Jewery" – is seen in reverse on the window above a Star of David. The site ComicsXF said: "[The] only conceivable

interpretation, to put it frankly, is that this is a visual play on the old and anti-Semitic trope of Jews running the diamond business." It described the panel as "an incredibly overt anti-Semitic dogwhistle."

The issue's artist, Joe Bennett, subsequently apologized on Facebook, writing that he had been including references to famous horror movie directors throughout the series, and that he had intended to feature a nod to David Cronenberg in issue 43. The misspellings of jewelry and Cronenberg, he said, were "an



The offending panel from Marvel's 'Immortal Hulk' comic was removed after widespread condemnation.

honest but terrible mistake" because he was writing backwards, but he added that he had "no excuse" for the inclusion of the Star of David.

"I failed to understand this troubling and offensive stereotype, and after listening to you all, I now understand my mistake," he

wrote. "This was wrong, offensive, and hurtful in many ways. This is a mistake I must own, and I am sorry to everyone who I hurt by this. I am working with Marvel to correct this, and I am using this lesson to reflect on how I approach my stories and my work."

Marvel said that it "fully acknowledged this mistake was missed on our side as well." The legendary comic book publisher has now wiped the Star of David and the writing from the store window in the digital edition and is reprinting the issue.

## Swastikas Painted in Front of Cal Poly's SLO Campus' Jewish Fraternity House

JTA

Police in California are investigating after a Jewish fraternity at the California Polytechnic State University reported finding swastikas and other anti-Semitic graffiti painted outside its house.

The symbols were scrawled in front of the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity house in California's San Luis Obispo County on Friday night, campus authorities said.

"We awoke to multiple swastikas and antisemitic statements spray-painted on and in front of our house," the fraternity wrote in an Instagram post on Saturday.

University President Jeffrey Armstrong and other officials Saturday evening said in a statement that the incident was reported to the San Luis Obispo Police Department and an investigation is underway, according to The Tribune of San Luis Obispo County, which is located about halfway between San

Francisco and Los Angeles.

"Let us be perfectly clear: behavior that promotes any form of hate and seeks to make members of our community feel unsafe and unwelcome – especially in their own home – has absolutely no place in our community," the university president's message said.

In 2018, Cal Poly made the news because of a push to increase funding to all student groups except those with a "Zionist ideology."

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**Wednesday, March 24th at 3:30 pm**

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Dr. Judah Cohen is the Director of the Robert and Sandra Borns Jewish Studies Program at Indiana University; and Director of the Lou and Sybil Mervis Chair in the Study of Jewish Culture. He also serves as Professor of Jewish Studies and Musicology and directs the Jewish Sacred Music Program at Indiana University.

Dr. Cohen's topic for the March 24 lecture is:

**"Musical Theater & Holocaust Memory:  
Understanding a Complex History."**

Cantor Joseph Gole, D.Mus., will serve as contributor and moderator of the discussion. Cantor Gole's rich background in Jewish liturgy and music complements the presentation.



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# Bipartisan Bill, Backed by Jewish Vets in Congress, Would Join US and Israel in PTSD Research

JTA

A slate of Democrats and Republicans, including two Jewish military veterans, introduced a bill that would join U.S. and Israeli researchers seeking to treat PTSD.

The bill introduced Thursday would establish a grant program for American universities and nonprofits to team up with Israeli counterparts to research post-traumatic stress disorder.

Its sponsors in the U.S. House of Representatives are Democrats Elaine Luria of Virginia and Chrissy Houlahan of Pennsylvania and

Republicans Michael Waltz of Florida and Lee Zeldin of New York. Luria and Zeldin are Jewish and Houlahan's father is Jewish; all three are military veterans.

In the Senate, the sponsors are Robert Menendez, a New Jersey Democrat, and Jerry Moran, a Kansas Republican.

"Too many of our bravest men and women come home with



Rep. Lee Zeldin  
(R-NY)

invisible wounds from the trauma they experienced while fighting for our country," Luria said in a release. "Congress can uphold its end of the promise by facilitating groundbreaking research to find treatments for post-traumatic stress disorder."

Zeldin, the lead spokesman on Israel issues for Republicans, said in the same release, "It's estimated that 20 US veterans per day take their own life, oftentimes due to the invisible wounds of war and we cannot afford to waste any

time. Inspiring further research collaboration between our two nations will establish an international brain trust invaluable to the servicemembers of both our great countries."

Waltz and Luria advanced a similar bill last year, but it went nowhere. Now the measure has Senate backing and is getting off the ground early, suggesting it has a better chance of becoming law.

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- **Roberta Holland**, With best wishes for a happy, healthy birthday, from Richard and Barbara Rosenfield.
- **Don and Reva Levy**, In honor of your 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Mazel tov! Aviva and Ron Snow.
- **Bob Scadron**, In honor of your special birthday, from Leslie and Barry Usow
- **Lainie Weil**, In honor of your special birthday, from Leslie and Barry Usow.

## Refuah Shleimah Get Well Wishes To:

- **Jack Goldner**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Libby and Buddy Hoffman.
- **Helen and Jim Lewis**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Sanford and Rosemary Hertz.

## Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:

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- **John Goldenberg**, In memory of your beloved father Arnold Goldenberg, from Cora Ginsberg.
- **Gus Hambas and Family**, In memory of your beloved wife Bernie, from Shirley Brown, Estelle Rich and Eileen Snyder.
- **Hammel Family**, Donation made to Fromm Youth Enrichment Fund in memory of Ernestine, from Barbara and Bernie Fromm.
- **Dr. and Mrs. Leonard Kaplan**, In memory of your beloved father Eddie, from Eunice and Jerry Meister.
- **Joan Kramer**, in memory of Harold Kramer, from Larry and Cathy Pitts.
- **Karen Lee and Family**, in memory of Daniel Lee, from Barbara and Robert Paget.

- **Dr. Gary and Jo Ellen Leifer**, In memory of your beloved mother Maurine, from Cora Ginsberg, Margot and Jerry Halperin, and Sherry and Howard Schor.
- **Family of Richard Levin**, In memory of Richard, beloved husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather, from Jerry and Lita Widran.
- **Norman Libman and Family**, In memory of your beloved wife Doris, from Cora Ginsberg, Margot and Jerry Halperin, Sanford and Rosemary Hertz, Ruth and Mal Kaufman, Eunice and Jerry Meister, Gail and Bob Scadron, and Sherry and Howard Schor.
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- **Ted and Elaine Stein**, In memory of your beloved mother Maurine, from Bobby and Toni Garmisa, Cora Ginsberg, Libby and Buddy Hoffman, Eunice and Jerry Meister, Sherry and Howard Schor, Nora and Jay Spak.
- **Robin Torodor**, in memory of your beloved mother Judy, from Jackie and Eddie Cohen, and Chickie and Claude Steinberger.
- **Emily Weiss**, In memory of your beloved father Arnold Goldenberg, from Cora Ginsberg.



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## March Shabbat Schedule

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Saturday 11 am—Zoom Torah Study with Discussion conducted by Rabbi Zions. For Zoom invite email harelurjpd@gmail.com.

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**OR HAMIDBAR**  
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**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.  
Every other Friday of the month: Shabbat Candle Lighting with Rabbi Emerita Malka Drucker at 5:45 pm. Contact templeharshalomofidyllwild@gmail.com for Zoom link to services.

**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..



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

Email us your email to: info@jfedps.org





# Community Calendar of Online Programs - March 2021

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

## **Mondays:**

2:00 pm - Chabad of Palm Springs/Sun City: Virtual class: The Prayerbook, with **Sussie Denebeim**

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

## **Tuesdays:**

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

## **Wednesdays:**

7:00 pm - Temple Isaiah Virtual "Dynamic Discussions" with **Rabbi Steven Rosenberg**. Attend by going to website: [templeisiahps.com](http://templeisiahps.com) and click on link. Offered twice a month. Check website for dates and discussion topics/guests.

## **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](mailto:boz@chabadps.com), or 760-550-5793

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

## **Saturdays:**

**7:00 pm** Havurah of the Desert: **Havdalah** followed by film and webinar discussions. For information and Zoom link: [info@havurahofthedesert.org](mailto:info@havurahofthedesert.org).

## **Wednesday, March 3**

**7:00 pm** Temple Isaiah "Dynamic Discussions" **Twice Blessed** (LGBTQ)

program: **Rabbi Steven Rosenberg** and DAP-PrEP's **Andy Ansell** invite community to join their online discussion on 'HIV 101'. See details in classified ad on page 22.

## **Thursday, March 4**

**7:00 pm** Sabra Hadassah of the Desert virtual meeting. Program: **Lorna Landvik**, author, actress and comedienne. It is suggested that those attending read her book "Oh My Stars" as she will be featuring it at the meeting. \$20. RSVP to Treasurer Nancy Singer: 760-345-7647.

## **Sundays, March 7 and March 14**

**11:00 am** Beth Shalom 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholar Program. **Compassionate Conversations:** Thought-provoking Dialogue Between Rabbi Dr. J.B. Sacks and four of the national's leaders in spiritual healing. March 7: **Rabbi Dr. Richard Address** (Philadelphia, PA) and **Rabbi Dr. Shira Stern, BCC** (Marlboro, NJ). See article on page 7 and ad on page 11.

## **Monday, March 8**

**6:30 pm** The Jewish Federation's Women's Cultural Alliance second session of 3 part virtual learning event **Honoring Jewish Women:** Review of Dr. Pamela S. Nachell's book "American Jewish Women, A History from Colonial Times to Today" by Jackie Cohen, Arlene Morse and Leslie Pepper. (Note: Pam Nadell is lecturing about the book on Monday, March 15, part of Temple Emanu-El in New York's education series. It's free to register and with your rsvp for our March 8 event we will register you for this lecture). Contact the Jewish Federation

to register: [info@jfedps.org](mailto:info@jfedps.org) or 760-324-4737. See article page 12.

## **Wednesday, March 10**

**3:30 pm** Har-El virtual film discussion of "**Gut Shabbos Vietnam**," a documentary film of a young Israeli couple going to Ho Chi Minh City to establish a Chabad community there. Review and discussion led by **Rebbetzin Sussie Denebeim** of Chabad of Palm Springs & Sun City. E-mail [harelurjpd@gmail.com](mailto:harelurjpd@gmail.com) for ZOOM invite.

## **Sunday, March 14**

**11:00 am** Beth Shalom 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholar Program. **Compassionate Conversations / Part 2:** Rabbi J.B. Sacks in dialogue with **Rabbi Dayle Friedman, BCC** (Philadelphia, PA) and **Cantor Dr. Rhoda Harrison** (Cherry Hill, NJ). See article on page 7 and ad on page 11.

## **Sunday, March 14**

**2:00 pm** Jewish Federation Women's Philanthropy program for women contributing a minimum of \$180 to the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign. Online program features one of the most dynamic, exciting Jewish women on the national scene today, **Suzy Weiss-Frischmann**. See ad page 12.

## **Monday, March 15 through**

## **Thursday, March 18**

**Beginning 9:00 am** Havurah of the Desert program "**Shared Legacies**" The African American-Jewish Civil Rights Alliance. Free film screening available for three days, with follow-up discussion

date/time to be announced. Go to [havurahofthedesert.org](http://havurahofthedesert.org) and click on RSVP online. See ad page 7.

## **Tuesday, March 16**

**All Day** Federation Day at Tamarisk Country Club. Women's golf in the morning; men's golf in the afternoon. See ad page 2 and registration form on page 4.

## **Tuesday, March 16**

**5:00 pm** In anticipation of Pesach, Jewish Federation is again offering our community a free online holiday cooking program: **Chef Michael Solomonov's Passover Cooking demonstration**. Contact the Jewish Federation to receive your link for the program: [info@jfedps.org](mailto:info@jfedps.org) or 760-324-4737. See ad page 2.

## **Sunday, March 21**

**11:00 am** Temple Har Shalom/Idyllwild pre-Passover Workshop presented online by **Rabbi David Lazar** who will show and teach from the Gross Family collection Judaica: "**Suffering and Liberation in Haggadah Illustrations**." RSVP: [templeharshalomofidyllwild@gmail.com](mailto:templeharshalomofidyllwild@gmail.com)

## **Wednesday, March 24**

**3:30 pm** Har-El: Sandra & Robert Borns Lecture Series/Third program: **Dr. Judah Cohen**, Director of the Jewish Sacred Music program at Indiana University: "Musical Theater and Holocaust Memory: Understanding a Complex History." Contributions by Cantor Joseph Gole. E-mail [harelurjpd@gmail.com](mailto:harelurjpd@gmail.com) for ZOOM Invite See ad page 13.

# Social Media Superstar Launches Campaign to 50 Million Followers Against Anti-Semitism

**Martin: 'As a girl of Jewish and Hispanic descent, I have received my fair share of hate on social media over the years.'**

*By Sergio Garcia, Arutz Sheva*

Social media superstar Baby Ariel has launched a new campaign, calling on her tens of millions of followers to spread awareness about anti-Semitism and hatred. In a message across her social media platforms, Baby Ariel reflected on the abuse she has received as a Jewish-Hispanic woman and detailed how such hate, if left unchallenged, can culminate in Nazism and white supremacy. In just three days, more than one million of her followers have engaged in the campaign.

Baby Ariel, whose real name is Ariel Martin, is an American social media star, singer and actress. She currently has 35 million Tik Tok followers, 9 million Instagram followers, 1 million Twitter followers and her YouTube channel has 3 million subscribers. Baby Ariel released the first of several singles in 2017 and has written and produced new music coming out in the summer. She has starred in a number of TV and movie roles, most notably in Disney Channel's "Zombies 2" and an upcoming starring role in the thriller "Oracle". Since her rise to fame aged 15, Ariel has always

spoken out against racism, bullying and has been a champion for the underdog. Her self-directed and produced music video Wildside, pays homage to the trans community. She won the Teen Choice Award for "Choice Muser" in 2016 and 2017 and has been cited as a top influencer by Forbes, People and USA Today.

In a video message, published across her social media accounts, Baby Ariel revealed her own personal experience of hatred, saying "As a girl of Jewish and Hispanic descent, I have received my fair share of hate on social media over the years and trust me, it always hurts to get hate because of who you are."

She then warned about a "hate that kills" and asked viewers to "Imagine getting targeted, arrested and killed because of your religion or skin color, your sexuality or because of your disability." Baby Ariel then described how "the Nazis murdered six million Jews and another six million Catholics, Jehovah's Witnesses, gay men and women and children with disabilities."

In the video, she goes on to warn "that same kind of hate is riding



*Ariel "Baby Ariel" Martin*

again in too many places around the world... We need to speak up now and do something about it, because it is spreading and it can happen again."

Emphasizing Martin Luther King Jr's quote that "Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that," Baby Ariel concludes by saying "let's spread awareness, light and love to drive out the hate," urging her followers to "Share your story of how you have received and overcome hate with the hashtag #smashhate and #neveragain".

The campaign aims to increase awareness among young people regarding the dangers of anti-Semitism, racism and hatred, encouraging them to speak out and take action against it. It is being coordinated in partnership with the Combat Anti-Semitism Movement.

Baby Ariel will join the discussion as a representative of her generation at the Combat Anti-Semitism Movement's Annual Summit, taking place online on March 1st.

Since Baby Ariel posted the video on January 27th, it has been liked, commented on or shared by more than one million people across Tik Tok, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube. In just a matter of days, the campaign has succeeded in bringing a message of tolerance and hope to a wide audience.

Sacha Roytman Dratwa, Executive Director, Combat Anti-Semitism Movement said, "We are delighted that Baby Ariel is taking this important step to engage young people in the fight against anti-Semitism and hatred. She is one of the most influential global voices for a new generation. Sadly, social media is too often filled with bigotry and intolerance and history shows us that such words are soon followed by acts of hate. Baby Ariel is amplifying the voices of tolerance and respect, spreading the hope which will ultimately defeat hate."

## Senior Iranian Cleric Calls for End to Hostilities with Israel

**"It's time for the Iranian regime to cease inventing enemies that do not exist," says opposition figure Abdol-Hamid Masoumi-Tehrani.**

*By i24NEWS and Israel Hayom Staff*

A former senior Iranian cleric spoke with Israeli media for the first time from Tehran, calling for an end to hostilities between the two countries and saying that the Islamic Republic's frequent talks about their intention to destroy Israel are "serious."

In an unprecedented interview, Ayatollah Abdol-Hamid Masoumi-Tehrani, a current opposition figure

whose "ayatollah" title was revoked by Tehran due to disagreements with the regime, told Israel's Channel 12 News that he has «no problem» with the Jewish state.

"It is time for the Iranian regime to stop inventing enemies that don't exist," he asserted. "The Iranians and the Jews have many years of friendship, I have not met any Iranians who had a negative opinion

of Israel."

The ex-religious figure confessed that his longtime wish has been to travel to Jerusalem and "pray at the Western Wall."

Tehrani also added that since the 1980s, Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei has been trying to "ruin



*Ayatollah Abdol-Hamid Masoumi-Tehrani*

the country.

According to the opposition figure, the Islamic Republic is a "dictatorship that stifles dissenting opinions and freedom of expression."

"With God's help, if I stay alive, I would like to see the day when the illogical hostility between Iran and Israel will end," he concluded.



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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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# Itzhak Perlman, Rep. Jamie Raskin and a Blind Rabbi Highlight the Need for Disability Advocacy

By Larry Luxner, JTA

When Israeli-American violinist Itzhak Perlman debuted at Carnegie Hall in 1963, he performed while seated — a consequence of the polio that left him unable to walk without leg braces or crutches since age 4.

"I got a standing ovation, but The New York Times reviewer wasn't sure if that was because of the way I played or because of the fact I was sitting down while playing," recalled Perlman, now 75. "That thing followed me for two or three years. Then people got used to me and they stopped talking about it."

The renowned musician and conductor — the winner of 16 Grammy Awards, four Emmys and the Presidential Medal of Freedom — spoke of his experience at a

recent online panel organized as part of Jewish Disability Advocacy Month.

Perlman was joined by a young synagogue pianist from New Jersey with autism, a Chicago elementary school teacher who has multiple sclerosis, a blind rabbi and three influential members of Congress, among others.

The event was organized by the Jewish Federations of North America as a kickoff for 50 planned online events in February to highlight disability awareness and advocacy ranging from "Israel's Disability Trailblazers" to "Making the World More Accessible During COVID."

"One in four adults in this country has a disability. That means inclusive

communities aren't just something that would be nice to have, they're essential to ensuring the future of our Jewish community," Mark Wilf, chair of the Jewish Federations' board of trustees, said at the February 3 event. "Given how few in number we are as a people, we need to make sure that we're pursuing every avenue available to engage as many Jews as possible."

One of those Jews is Rabbi Lauren Tuchman, 35, who was ordained in 2018 by the Conservative movement's Jewish Theological Seminary as the world's first blind female rabbi. A resident of the Washington, D.C., area, she speaks often about disability inclusion.

"The Torah teaches us that we all stood outside Sinai collectively and received the Ten Commandments. This is one of the most important — if not the most important — foundational events in our collective experience as a Jewish people," Tuchman said.

She began reading at age 2, used a Braille embosser in rabbinical school, and today employs a variety of software apps to help her read and study.

"Though we still live in a world with many barriers," Tuchman said, "with a lot of discrimination and challenges — particularly in this past year of unparalleled challenge — ours is a tradition that commands us to always make sure we are including everyone, and that we're doing all we can to break down those barriers that preclude us from creating a society in which all of us can thrive."

Shayla Rosen, 35, is a first-grade

teacher at Chicago's Oriole Park School and a cabinet member of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. In 2009, doctors diagnosed her with multiple sclerosis — a debilitating disease that's not always apparent to outsiders.

"I've always said I have an invisible illness," she said at the event. "There are times when things are a struggle, and I've learned to hide it well."

Perlman explained how it's often the person with disabilities who is treated as invisible.

"I used to go to the airport in a wheelchair. Right now, I'm in a scooter because I don't walk quite as I used to," Perlman said. "But people still look at you sitting in a chair, and for some reason they stop talking to you, and instead they talk to the person with you. For example, at the airport, the person behind the counter would ask, 'Where is he going?' It's always the case."

Last year marked the 30th anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act, or ADA, a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, transportation and all places open to the general public.

Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Md., the House majority leader who sponsored passage of the ADA in 1990, described the landmark legislation during the event last week as "a grand instrument of tikkun olam," repairing the world, because it changed the way Americans viewed their neighbors

*continued on page 21*

## 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.





## Simchas

Congratulations to **Kevin Giser** on his recent promotion to **Associate Director** of our Jewish Federation... Hopefully many of you will remember **Susan Cohn**, who wrote a genealogy column in our paper for a few years some 18-20 years ago. She recently wrote a book, "The Art of the Mentor" and the Jewish Community News is mentioned in it! She relates that two of her



Kevin Giser



Susan Cohn

cousins were in Lithuania on a roots research trip. Their search took them to a clerk in a small town who, when asked about the family, pulled out Susan's column from our paper in which the searched-for relatives were mentioned! It is a small world! ... We listed **Hy Cohen's** passing (below) but did you know he had a brief stint as a pitcher with the Chicago Cubs in 1955? He later became a high school teacher and coach in Van Nuys and was inducted into the Southern California Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in 1996. *Share your Simchas with us. Email or call Miriam Bent at mh bentjcn@earthlink.net or 760-323-0255.*



## Classifieds

**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.

**MegaChallah WILL BE VIRTUAL THIS YEAR** but you will make a real challah for Shabbat! Ladies, save Thursday, May 20 at 6:30 PM to join a sisterhood of women making challah in our own homes! Information? Call 760-848-8250.

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

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

**Temple Isaiah's TWICE BLESSED (LGBTQ)** brings the first "Dynamic Discussion" of Rabbi Steven Rosenberg as he invites Andy Ansell



## Candle Lighting Times

Friday, March 5	Shabbat Ki Tisa	5:03 pm
Friday, March 12	Shabbat Vayakhel-Pekudei	5:08 pm
Friday, March 19	Shabbat Vaykra	6:14 pm
<b>(Note: Daylight savings time begins Sunday, March 14)</b>		
Friday, March 26	Shabbat Hagadol	6:19 pm
Saturday, March 27	First Seder	After 7:40 pm
Sunday, March 28	Second Seder	After 7:41 pm



## We Mourn the Passing of...

**Hyman (Hy) Cohen, Marvin Helfgott, Rhoda Katz, Isabel Lutrin, Charles Nevil, Peter Palmer, Barbara Jean Roberts, Lisa Rudlin, Buddy Shapiro, Phyllis Silver, Jill Mincer-Singer, Judy Torodor and Pearl Upton.** *Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing.*



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WEBSITE: [www.jfedps.org](http://www.jfedps.org)

of DAP to discuss **PreP/PEP, STIs and Co-morbidities** Wednesday, March 3 at 7:00 pm. Everyone welcome to attend virtual program. Questions

and conversation with all participants welcomed. No charge. Get Zoom link at [www.templeisaiahps.com](http://www.templeisaiahps.com) or call 760-325-2281.

# 5781~PESACH~2021

## Celebrating Pesach

First Seder	Saturday, March 27, 2021
Second Seder	Sunday, March 28, 2021
8 <sup>th</sup> day /Yizkor	Sunday, April 4, 2021

The Rabbis of our community were invited to share what was being offered by their congregations for Pesach. The information of those who responded is listed below. Recognizing that in-person community seders would not be possible this year, a variety of options are being offered to honor the "community" component. Yizkor services will be observed by Reform/Liberal Rabbis on the seventh day of Pesach; the traditional eighth day observed by the other congregations.

• **BETH SHALOM:** (Ken Hailpern) Seder and all services are virtual on Zoom. Link available at [CongregationBethShalom.net](http://CongregationBethShalom.net). Information: 760-200-3636. Virtual Community Seder: Sunday, March 28: Second night, 5:00 pm: led by Rabbi J.B. Sacks and in conjunction with Congregation Am HaYam of Ventura.

Services: First Day: Sunday, March 28/10 am, led by Ken Hailpern. Second Day: Monday, March 29/10 am, led by Rabbi J.B. Sacks with Congregation Am HaYam. Seventh day: Saturday, April 3/10 am, led by Ken Hailpern. Eighth day: Sunday, April 4/10 am, including Yizkor, led by Ken Hailpern.

• **CONGREGATION HAR-EL:** (Rabbi Richard Zions) Email: [harelurjpd@gmail.com](mailto:harelurjpd@gmail.com). 760-779-1691.

Virtual Community Seder: Saturday, March 27: First night, 5:30 pm. Conducted by Rabbi Richard Zions and Cantor Joseph Gole. Non-members: Please request Zoom invitation prior to March 22.

• **CONGREGATION HAR SHALOM** (Idyllwild): (Rabbi Emerita Malka Drucker) RSVP:

[templeharshalomofidyllwild@gmail.com](mailto:templeharshalomofidyllwild@gmail.com)

Virtual Community Seder: Sunday, March 28: Second night, 6:00 pm. Conducted by Rabbi Ererita Malka Drucker and Song Leader Shiranda Zee. Open to anyone. No fee but donation appreciated.

• **OR HAMIDBAR:** (Rabbi David Lazar) <https://www.facebook.com/orhamidbarps>; RSVP: [info@orhamidbar.org](mailto:info@orhamidbar.org) Virtual Community Seder: Saturday, March 27: First night, 6:30 pm. Conducted by Rabbi David Lazar. Open to anyone. No fee, but donation appreciated. Services: First Day: Sunday, March 28/10:30 am, led by Rabbi David Lazar; 7th Day Morning Service and Yizkor Saturday, April 3, 10:30am

• **TEMPLE ISAIAH:** (Rabbi Steven Rosenberg) [templeisaiahps.com](http://templeisaiahps.com);

email: [temple@templeisaiahps.com](mailto:temple@templeisaiahps.com); 760-325-2281.

Virtual Community Seder: Saturday, March 27: First night, 7:00 pm. Conducted by Rabbi Steven Rosenberg. Open to all. No fee.

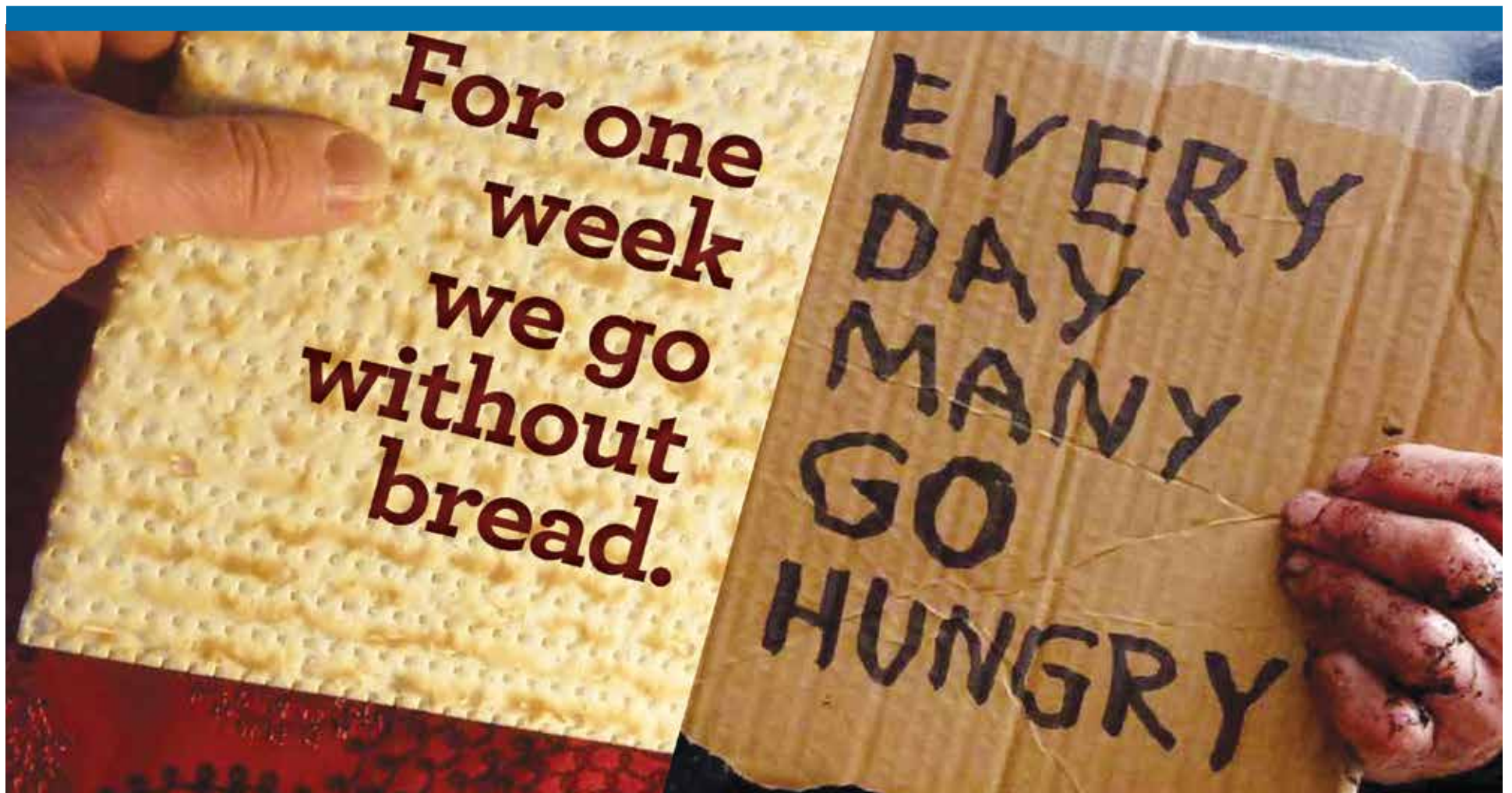
Services: First Day: Sunday, March 28/10 am, led by Rabbi Steven Rosenberg. Eighth day: Morning service and Yizkor 10 am.

• **TEMPLE SINAI:** (Rabbi David Novak). Link available at [templesinaipd.org](http://templesinaipd.org) 760-568-9699. Seders: Limited to members, Temple Sinai is matching up congregants for virtual seders. Services: Yizkor will be part of Temple Sinai's regular Shabbat morning worship on April 3, 2021. Service begins at 10 am; Yizkor should be at approximately 10:50 am.

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