



Jewish Community News

The Publication of the Jewish Federation of the Desert

www.jfedps.org
Av-Elul 5781 - August 2021

LAPD Statistics Show Serious Rise in Antisemitic Hate Crimes in the City

By Benjamin Kerstein, *The Algemeiner*

Antisemitic violence has risen precipitously in Los Angeles, with an increase of almost 60% over last year. The data-focused local news resource *Crosstown*, based at the USC Annenberg School of Communication and Journalism, cited LAPD statistics showing 43 reported hate crimes against Jews in the first six months of 2021.

That marked a 59.2% increase over the same period in 2020, and twice as much as in 2018.

The spike corresponded with a general rise in reported hate crimes, with the LAPD recording 62 in April — the highest for a single month in a decade. In total, 295 hate crimes were reported for the first half of



2021.

Jews constituted the third-largest victim group, with 14.6% of all hate crimes being antisemitic. Slightly over 5% of the city's population is Jewish.

Just over a quarter of attacks — the largest share — were recorded as "anti-Black or African American," with 16.3% of incidents targeting Hispanics, the second largest category.

In addition, a special report released in June by California's

attorney general showed a 107% rise in hate crimes against Asians in 2020, likely motivated by stereotypes and racism resulting from the coronavirus pandemic.

Besides the general trend, Los Angeles was not immune to the national rise in antisemitic hate crimes that took place during and after Israel's 11-day conflict with Hamas in May. In one highly publicized incident, members of a convoy waving Palestinian flags was filmed attacking Jewish diners at a Beverly Grove restaurant.

Rabbi Yonah Bookstein, of the Pico Shul synagogue, told *Crosstown* that incidents of vandalism in the past have not been seen as part of a trend, but "because of the increase

in hate crimes, now everyone is just on edge."

While he noted that "the good news is that crimes against Jews are investigated and taken seriously," Bookstein asked, "who wants to be in a situation where we're always thanking the police for arresting the guys killing us?"

Ariella Loewenstein, deputy regional manager at the Anti-Defamation League Los Angeles, agreed that the national atmosphere has grown increasingly toxic, saying, "Over the last four years, and leading into 2021, we have seen an emboldenment of extremists. A central part of conspiratorial views that fuel extremist violence is antisemitism."

UN Recognizes Antisemitism as Cause of Terrorism for First Time in Planning Review

The resolution also censured the use of Internet tools to encourage and recruit terrorists, calling for online companies to take responsibility for the misuse of their technology.

Jewish News Syndicate

The U.N. General Assembly acknowledged a link between terrorism and antisemitism in its recently passed Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) for the first time—a move that has been applauded by pro-Israel and Jewish organizations.

The GCTS, which lays out the world body's strategy for combating terrorism, is required to be reviewed and passed every two years.

The latest version, passed on June 30, "Recognizes with deep concern the overall rise in instances of discrimination, intolerance and violence, regardless of the actors, directed against members of religious and other communities in

various parts of the world, including cases motivated by Islamophobia, Antisemitism, Christianophobia and prejudice against persons of any other religion or belief."

Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations Gilad Erdan pointed out the condemnation of antisemitism in a speech to the General Assembly on July 6.

"For Israel, the adoption of the GCTS is, unfortunately, not a theoretical or academic exercise," he said. "During the weeks we sat

continued on page 4

Cora Ginsberg Appointed to Federation Board

Jewish Federation Board Co-chairs Roberta Nyman and Jackie Cohen are pleased to announce the appointment of Cora Ginsberg to the Board of the Jewish Federation of the Desert effective July 1, 2021.

Cora has a history of distinguished contributions to the Federation, including serving as a former

Federation President. Her appointment, along with our recent highly valued Board member additions of Carol Fragen and Michelle Coneybeare, comes at a time when the



Cora Ginsberg

Federation is taking a serious look at its strategic direction and plotting a new course for the future. Cora is a great strategic thinker whose skills are ideally suited to the dynamic changes we seek to continue implementing. We are also pleased to announce that Cora has agreed to serve as chair of the 2021-22 General Campaign.



Roberta Nyman

Jewish Federation
Board Chair

As we approach the tenth anniversary of being in our Federation building at Highway 111 and Frank Sinatra Drive in Rancho Mirage, we reflected on the good fortune that allowed us to buy the building we now call home.

2021-2022

JEWISH FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The building they had housed Northern Trust Bank. When they did not renew their lease, Federation's Building Chairman, Allan Nyman, made an appointment to talk to the owner. The owner indicated he wished to lease the property for \$10,000 a month, which was beyond what Federation could afford. However, a month later the owner called and asked Allan to join him for lunch. At that luncheon, where Federation President Roberta Nyman was also present, the owner stated that he believed there was a need for a Jewish facility in the community, and he was willing to make a donation – lowering the purchase price by \$1.4 million -- to allow Federation to afford to buy the building.

Shortly before that time Federation had sold the property we owned on Portola Drive, which had been purchased for an eventual Federation campus. The sale of that property gave us the needed funds



Official opening of new Federation Office November 1, 2011. Pictured (left to right) Jim Trew, Marvin Lewis, 2011 President Vernon Kozlen, Roberta Nyman, Allan Nyman, Carol Moses, Federation CEO Bruce Landgarten, Rancho Mirage City Councilman Gordon Moller and Colleen Charrette, President, Rancho Mirage Chamber of Commerce.

to buy our building.

A building committee chaired by Howard Levy began the task of converting the building to accommodate our needs. The committee included Roberta and Allan Nyman, Marvin Lewis, Carol Moses, Jim Trew, and Bruce Landgarten. On a tight budget, the work was successfully finished, made

possible by generous contributions from many donors from our Jewish community. When you are next in the building, please look at the many plaques which display their names. Their generosity has allowed us to enjoy our beautiful and functional building over the years.

Roberta Nyman

VIRTUAL MEGA CHALLAH Holiday BAKE

It is still too soon to make challah together, but we're offering the next best thing! Join us online for a one-of-a-kind Mega Challah experience. Since it will be 8 days before Erev Rosh Hashanah, we're going to learn to make round holiday challahs!

**Sunday, August 29th
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Valley Voice: How a Local Jewish Group is Working to Combat a Rise in Antisemitism

The Jewish Federation of the Desert is profoundly concerned by the dramatic rise of Antisemitism in our country and globally.

We are united in our determination to combat the rise of Antisemitism along with other manifestations of hate, as we believe that the toxic effects of all bigotry and prejudice pose a threat not only to targeted communities like the Jewish people, but to all.

Antisemitism continues to be a very real threat to the global community, having emerged in places we may have least expected it: in synagogues, on college campuses and all over our public and social media.

This year, Antisemitic attacks are breaking records following the latest conflict between Israel and Hamas. In the past few weeks, angry protesters assaulted Jewish diners in L.A., a mob beat up a young Jewish man in midtown Manhattan, and synagogues in Arizona, Illinois, New York and Utah were vandalized, among more than 200 incidents across the country.

Antisemitism today may look different than in generations past, but its sting is just as painful.

Communication and education are important elements in this effort. However, our top priority is



Bruce Landgarten

Jewish Federation
Chief Executive
Officer

Guest columnist

the physical safety of institutions. Antisemitism strikes fear across an entire community, fear that is amplified by the rampant anti-Semitism in social media, political discourse, and protest movements.

Our Federation's **Community Security Initiative** serves a unique role in its protection of Jewish organizations. Given the rising threat of domestic terrorism, every synagogue and Jewish organization is a potential target. Within all of these institutions are people including children— who we need to protect. We serve as a single point of contact for critical incident coordination, information, safety and security training, under the umbrella of our "Center Against Hate and Intolerance", launching in the fall.

Although in the past we've seen anti-Semitic activity in the Coachella Valley, we have fortunately not received any word of such assaults or vandalism recently.

We maintain that there is no place for hate and bigotry in our community. And we believe the only way to fight it is education through our new Center Against Hate and Intolerance.

The Federation and its constituents will never cede to hate, and we will never allow Antisemitism to diminish us. To help keep communities safe, we've taken steps to increase security and forged alliances and built bridges of greater understanding with our neighbors so we can stand united against hate. We're empowering college students to advocate against anti-Zionism, which often crosses the line into anti-Semitism.

We've helped provide safety reviews for nonprofit agencies in the Coachella Valley.

We're helping to create interfaith networks that keep people of all backgrounds across Palm Springs and the desert focused on issues of common cause.

We're strengthening community relations efforts, including building strategic partnerships and coalitions with non-Jewish groups, many of whom are also facing hatred. We're empowering college students and support programs to give students and leadership at UC Riverside tools to engage in healthy discourse about

Israel on campus.

This pivotal moment requires a renewed focus, one that begins with reactivating our community in the face of this resurgent historic challenge. We must hold others accountable, and we must hold ourselves accountable to fighting Antisemitism. Indeed, in this next chapter of history, I believe that two of the most effective measures we can take in combatting Antisemitism is to lower our tolerance for prejudice and raise our expectations of each other, our community, and our country.

Column ran in the Desert Sun on June 5, 2021.



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

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

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

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here debating this resolution, Israeli civilians from our capital in Jerusalem to Tel Aviv and Ashkelon, sat in bomb shelters because of Hamas's relentless terror attacks."

The addition is the first time that GCTS has officially recognized the existence of anti-Semitic terrorism.

"We welcome the GCTS' acknowledgment of the upswing in hate speech and terrorist attacks targeting religious and ethnic communities, which included an explicit condemnation of anti-Semitism, in line with the findings of the Secretary General's report on global terrorism," he said. "We have all witnessed antisemitic attacks against Jewish communities around the world, including here in the streets of New York, in recent weeks. It is critical that the international community take a clear stance against these attacks and develop additional tools to combat such appalling assaults against Jewish and other groups."

The resolution also censured the use of Internet tools to encourage and recruit terrorists and called for online companies to take responsibility for the misuse of their technology—something, according to a news release, Erdan has worked for since his time as Israel's Minister of Public Security and at the United Nations.

It further condemned the failure by Hamas in Gaza to take feasible precautions to protect civilian populations and buildings, such as schools and hospitals, and using them for launching attacks and storing weapons. It also strongly condemned the use of civilians to shield military objectives from attacks.

"Israel was glad to see the important language condemning the use of human shields retained in the resolution. Terrorists must not be allowed to use schools, homes and hospitals to shield their murderous activities," said Erdan in

his speech. "The use of such horrific tactics epitomizes the flagrant disregard for international law and human life that characterizes groups like Hamas and Hezbollah. These tactics also pose great challenges for law-abiding states trying to defend their own citizens. The unambiguous stance on this issue adopted by the international community underlines the challenges posed by modern, asymmetric warfare in which democratic states face off against terrorist organizations."

The passage of the resolution was also commended by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, whose leaders issued a joint statement. "Amidst a dramatic rise in anti-Semitic attacks in the United States and around the world, it is imperative that the international community calls out this disturbing trend in the cause of terrorism," said chair Dianne Lob, CEO William Daroff and vice chair Malcolm Hoenlein.

JEWISH COMMUNITY NEWS

A Publication of the
Jewish Federation of the Desert
VOL. 48, No. 1

EDITORIAL

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Chief Executive Officer
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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.

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OR HAMIDBAR
SPIRITUAL JUDAISM IN THE DESERT



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OR HAMIDBAR AND THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE DESERT PRESENT

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Join Rabbi David Lazar and Father Andrew Green for a two-part Zoom mini series that will examine some of the New Testament texts that have challenged relations between Christians and Jews over the last 2,000 years.

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To participate, call the Jewish Federation -760-324-4737
and give your email address for the Zoom link.

Isaac Herzog Elected 11th President of the State of Israel by Wide Margin

Gil Hoffman, *The Jerusalem Post*

Jewish Agency chairman Isaac Herzog was elected the 11th president of the State of Israel, after he received 87 votes from MKs in a secret ballot vote in the Knesset plenum.

Herzog's opponent, Israel Prize-winning educator Miriam Peretz, received 27 votes and three MKs abstained. It was the largest victory in any presidential election in Israel's history. Herzog took over from President Reuven Rivlin when his term ended on July 9th.

A veteran politician, Herzog is a former head of the Labor Party, a former opposition leader, a former welfare and diaspora minister and is the son of Chaim Herzog, who served as Israel's president from 1983 to 1993.

"I will be the president of everyone," Herzog said, singling out Israelis across the political

spectrum and Diaspora Jewry.

Following the election, President Rivlin spoke with Herzog on the phone, and also called presidential candidate Miriam Peretz to thank her.

"I send you my warmest greetings, Mr. President," Rivlin said. "I can tell you that the responsibility of the role that you are about to assume is unlike anything you have done until now. The Jewish and democratic system we established here, in the land of our ancestors, has a body and soul. If the Knesset is a place of argument, as we have certainly seen recently, the President's Residence is a place of discourse, partnership and statehood."



Isaac Herzog

Rivlin said the title of 'first citizen' and the task of guarding the character of the State of Israel, particularly at this point in time, are heavy responsibilities.

"I have no doubt that you will bear these responsibilities superbly," Rivlin said. "I am proud to pass on the baton to you."

With his victory, Herzog becomes the first president whose father had been president. Chaim Herzog was Israel's sixth president.

Every Knesset faction granted its MKs the freedom to vote their conscience, rather than binding them by faction discipline. None of the factions endorsed a candidate.

This is the first presidential race in Israel in which neither of the two candidates is a current MK.

Peretz said she was thrilled that after coming to Israel from Morocco and going to a transit

camp, she was considered worthy to stand against someone of Herzog's caliber. She said she would continue in her mission to heal the rifts in the nation.

In her concession speech, alongside Netanyahu, Peretz said that by running, she accomplished what as a child she could not have even dreamed of.

"A fitting president who honors us was elected," Peretz said. "I will pray for his success, because his success is our success."

Michael Siegal, The Jewish Agency's Chairman of the Board of Governors, said Herzog's "unwavering dedication to the Jewish people and to serving the State of Israel is an inspiration, and we will all undoubtedly continue to benefit from his leadership."

Pennsylvania Man Sentenced to 18 Months in Jail for Online Threats Against Jews

Jewish News Syndicate

A man from Lehigh, Pa., was sentenced by a U.S. District Court judge to 18 months in prison for making Internet threats against Jews.

Corbin Kauffman, 32, received his sentencing on July 13 after pleading guilty to one count of criminal information. He admitted that on March 13, 2019, he posted on social media a digitally created image of his hand aiming an AR-15 rifle at a group of Jewish men praying in a synagogue.

On the same day, Kauffman shared a video of the October 2018 deadly shooting at the Tree of Life*Or L'Simcha Synagogue in Pittsburgh and uploaded a separate post in support of the

19-year-old gunman. He also posted a picture of vandalism he committed by defacing a display case at the Chabad Lubavitch Jewish Center in Ocean City, Md., with white supremacist and anti-Semitic stickers.

Kauffman used "various aliases online to post hundreds of anti-Semitic, anti-black and anti-Muslim messages, images and videos," according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

"Several of these posts ... included threats to various religious and racial groups. Other posts expressed a desire to commit genocide and 'hate crimes,' and called for or depicted images of

the killing of Jewish people, black people and Muslim people," it said.

U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania Bruce Brandler said, "Vulnerable communities are entitled to feel safe in living their lives and exercising their own rights. Under

federal law, when you target a person or a group because of their race, religion, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, disability or sexual orientation, that is a hate crime. And we take hate crimes very seriously in the Middle District of Pennsylvania."



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Gravestones Vandalized at Jewish Cemetery in Baltimore

More than a dozen headstones were discovered vandalized with swastikas over the July 4 weekend at a Jewish cemetery in the Baltimore suburb of Dundalk, Maryland.

The cluster of cemeteries are the final resting places for members of several local congregations, as well as for those buried through



the Hebrew Orthodox Free Burial Society.

Steven Venick, board president of the Jewish Cemetery Association of Greater Baltimore, said he was “disheartened” when he learned of the vandalism, and that once he was alerted to it, he had a caretaker clean all 13 of the desecrated graves

on Monday morning.

Venick said he also filed a police report on the incident and would temporarily be locking the gates to the cemetery. The association is also exploring an on-demand locking system for the gates that would only allow “permitted people” inside the cemetery grounds.

In First, Israeli Authorities Seize Digital Wallets Containing Bitcoin and Other Cryptocurrencies Destined for Hamas

By Ben Cohen, *The Alegemeiner*

The Israeli authorities have issued a seizure order targeting nearly \$8 million worth of cryptocurrency holdings controlled by the Islamist terror group Hamas.

The order, signed by Defense Minister Benny Gantz on June 30, stated that the assets would be used by Hamas to “perpetrate a severe terror crime.” A statement from Israel’s Defense Ministry said that the order “sets a precedent that will enable the defense establishment to seize the terrorist organization’s virtual assets.”

Israel’s National Bureau for Counter Terror Financing (NBCTF) published extensive details of the Hamas crypto assets, including the names, ages and Palestinian Authority ID numbers for seven individuals who hold the crypto wallets containing

the currencies, along with the various coins transacted.

The 84 wallets hold a total of \$7.7 million in cryptocurrencies, according to analysts. In June, several of the wallets were identified by Elliptic — a company that analyzes data on the blockchain, the decentralized electronic ledger used to record Bitcoin and other digital transactions — as belonging to the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas. According to Elliptic, the addresses were used for a Hamas fundraising campaign that raised over \$100,000 in Bitcoin between January 2019 and May this year.

“A number of them are deposit addresses at exchanges, while others belong to brokers,” Elliptic co-founder Tom Robinson told the

crypto website *CoinDesk*.

Bitcoin holdings account for just under half of the Hamas crypto assets targeted by the Israeli seizure order.

“Notably, this is the first terrorism financing-related cryptocurrency seizure to include such a wide variety of cryptocurrencies, as the NBCTF seized not just Bitcoin, but also Ether, XRP, Tether, and others, following an investigation focused largely on analysis of [open-source intelligence], including social media posts, as well as blockchain data,” the crypto website *Chainalysis* observed.

While the dollar amounts specified in the seizure were fairly small, it will likely intensify concern that terrorist organizations are turning to cryptocurrencies as a new source of funding.

Yet some cryptocurrency analysts argue that the blockchain technology underlying Bitcoin — which transparently records transactions and duplicates them across multiple computers, rather than one central address — exposes terror funders to greater risk, as the Israeli operation suggests.

The recent Hamas-related transactions “represent a tiny proportion of the several billion dollars worth of bitcoin transactions that occur each day,” a post on Elliptic’s blog remarked. “In addition, the transparency of the Bitcoin blockchain means that this activity can be monitored and tracked in real-time — unlike many of the other payment mechanisms employed by terrorists.”

Australia Bans Far-Right Extremist Sonnenkrieg Division

The Times of Israel

The Britain-based neo-Nazi outfit Sonnenkrieg Division (SKD) became the first far-right organization to be listed as a terror group in Australia July 5. SKD joined a list of 27 proscribed organizations, which had so far been exclusively jihadist or separatist groups. The ruling allows authorities to imprison members of the UK-based neo-Nazi group. The classification follows a similar ruling made by British officials last year.

“SKD adheres to an abhorrent, violent ideology that encourages lone-wolf terrorist actors who would seek to cause significant harm to our way of life and our country,” Peter Dutton, Australia’s Minister for Home Affairs said in an emailed statement.

The head of Australia’s ASIO intelligence agency, Mike Burgess, said SKD and other right-wing groups accounted for 40% of

terror-related investigations carried out in the country over the past 12 months.

In 2019, a teenage neo-Nazi was jailed in Britain alongside another member of SKD for terrorism offenses. The individual had urged violence against Britain’s Prince Harry, branding him a “race traitor” after his marriage to US actress Meghan Markle.

In 2019, an Australian gunman

killed 51 worshippers at mosques in the New Zealand city of Christchurch. The Australian Security Intelligence Organisation has said the far-right threat has “increased” and become an “enduring threat.”

The SKD is an offshoot of the Atomwaffen Division, a leaderless movement that sprang from hate forums in the US that was based on neo-Nazi terror organizations from the 1970s and 1980s.

Anti-Israel Item Before Largest US Teacher's Union Overwhelmingly Defeated at Assembly

By Algemeiner Staff

An anti-Israel item placed before the National Education Association (NEA)'s Representative Assembly was overwhelmingly voted down, with only 23 percent of representatives supporting it, while another was sent back to committee.

The largest union in the United States, the NEA has more than three million members, and exercises considerable influence both in national Democratic politics as well as over curriculum and other educational activities.

New Business Item 29 brought before the 8,000-member assembly employed virulent anti-Israel language that referred to Palestinian terrorism as a "heroic struggle" against alleged Israeli "military repression" and "ethnic cleansing," and demanded the NEA "publicize its support for the Palestinian

struggle for justice and call on the United States government to stop arming and supporting Israel."

It cited a cost of \$71,500 in order to implement its stipulations.

Following strong opposition, including from Jewish members, the item was defeated by a margin of 77 percent to 23 percent.

The *Cleveland Jewish News* reported before the vote that the NEA's Jewish Affairs Caucus had mobilized strongly against the item, with chair Patrick Crabtree saying, "I'm almost positive 29 is so divisive, it will go down in flames."

The caucus also opposed NBI 51, which calls on the NEA to "use existing digital communication tools to educate members and the general public about the history, culture, and struggles of Palestinians."

Citing a budget request of \$5,500,

it would have the NEA "recognize the existence and sovereignty of Palestine and Palestinian children and families," including by placing an article in the union periodical *NEA Today* acknowledging members' work "fighting for the rights of Palestinian children and families."

The Representative Assembly adjourned before NBI 51 came to a vote, sending it back to committee.

These items, the Jewish Affairs Caucus leadership said in a letter, "could inadvertently exacerbate antisemitic sentiment, or anti-Arab sentiment, in the United States, and G-d forbid, lead to hate crimes of some sort."

The items could also cause Jewish students to "feel uncomfortable" and put the NEA "at odds with the larger Jewish community," the letter said.

Kate Chavez, National Associate

Director of High School Affairs at the pro-Israel advocacy group StandWithUs, said after the vote, "We applauded the NEA Jewish Affairs Caucus and all members who spoke out and persuaded their union representatives to defeat this harmful motion by such a large margin."

"NBI 29 promoted dehumanizing smears against Israel, while ignoring the crimes Hamas has committed against Israelis and Palestinians alike," she said.

She added, "We applauded the NEA for rejecting an approach that only fuels more division and hate, instead of justice and peace."

Anti-Semitic Activist Blasts IDF in Connection with Israeli Aid at the Disaster Site in Miami

By United With Israel Staff

Anti-Israel activist Linda Sarsour sparked fresh accusations of anti-Semitism after retweeting a thread that questioned Israeli rescue crews helping at the site of the collapsed building in Surfside, Florida.

The original tweet from a third party, which Sarsour spread to her 331,000 followers, said, "I really don't understand the IDF's involvement in rescue attempts of people tragically crushed under buildings in Miami. Their expertise is crushing buildings with people in them, not rescuing them."

Other tweets in the original thread labeled the Israeli rescue delegations as "propaganda" and "hypocrisy."



Linda Sarsour

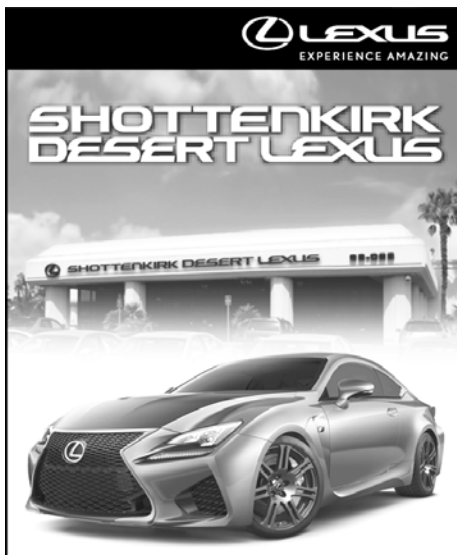
Facing a backlash, Sarsour deleted her retweet, though the original tweet remains.

Sarsour, who was born in Brooklyn to Palestinian parents, has a long history of anti-Semitic statements. She rose to prominence as one of the organizers of the first Women's March on Washington in 2017. She has argued

that it's impossible to be both a Zionist and a feminist, appeared in a video claiming that the Jewish King David was a Muslim, characterized Jesus as a Palestinian, accused Israel of ethnic cleansing, lauded the anti-Semitic leader of the Nation of Islam Louis Farrakhan, and insisted that Israel "is built on the idea that Jews are supreme to everyone else."

More recently, Sarsour defended Hamas rocket attacks on Israeli civilians during the 11-day Gaza war in May.

Israel dispatched IDF and United Hatzalah teams to Florida after the Champlain Tower collapsed without warning in June.



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Leading COVID-19 Conspiracy Theorist in Germany Loses Publisher Over Antisemitic Comments

By Ben Cohen, *The Algemeiner*

A Germany-based microbiologist whose profile surged during the COVID-19 pandemic as he spread various false accounts of the virus has been exposed as an antisemite who believes that Israel "is worse than Nazi Germany was."

Sucharit Bhakdi, a former professor of microbiology at the University of Mainz, made several antisemitic comments in an online video promoting his parliamentary candidacy for "Die Basis" — a political party founded during the pandemic by conspiracy theorists who charge that governments have deliberately misled their populations over both the nature of the virus and its cure.

In the video, Bhakdi — a German citizen born in the US to parents who were Thai diplomats — said that

Jews were a people who had "learned the evil" from their Nazi persecutors, according to the *Berliner Zeitung* news outlet.

"The people who fled this country, where there was arch evil, and founded their own country, they have turned their country into something that is even worse than [Nazi] Germany was," Bhakdi opined.

"That's the bad thing about Jews: They learn well," he continued. "There is no people that learns better than they do. But they have now learned the evil — and implemented it. That is why Israel is now ... a living hell."

The Austrian publisher Goldegg



Sucharit Bhakdi

Verlag, which has published three of Bhakdi's sensationalist books on the coronavirus pandemic, said that it was severing ties with the former scientist.

"Not only do we not understand the current statements by Prof. Bhakdi, they are beyond our understanding," a statement from the publisher declared. "As a publisher and as people, we clearly distance ourselves from right-wing ideas and antisemitism." It said that it had published Bhakdi's writings on the pandemic, with titles such as "Corona: False Alarm" and "Corona Unmasked," in order to "represent a broad spectrum of opinion with our books, and contribute to social discourse."

Bhakdi has been one of the most

prominent voices in Germany promoting the falsehoods that COVID-19 is a "fake," that preventive measures such as the wearing of masks and vaccinations are "nonsense," and that a mass vaccination program would "decimate" the global population.

In common with several other conspiracy theorists who emerged during the pandemic, Bhakdi has been barred from a number of social media platforms, including YouTube, which shut down his channel in Nov. 2020. The University of Mainz, whose Institute of Medical Microbiology and Hygiene was formerly headed by Bhakdi, has also distanced itself from its former employee.

Dubai to Use Israeli Drone Technology to Boost Security at World Expo

The autonomous fleet will replace security personnel and reduce police response times from 4.4 minutes to 1 minute.

Jewish News Syndicate

Police in Dubai will use the Petach Tikvah-based drone company Airobotics to help increase security at the UAE's World Expo in October, reported *The Jerusalem Post*.

Airobotics said on Thursday that its system of drones, including a variety of automatic drones, will be deployed throughout the city to help secure the World Expo, which is expected to attract as many as 25 million visitors over the span of five

months. The autonomous fleet will replace security personnel and reduce police response times from 4.4 minutes to 1 minute.

Shortly after the signing of the Abraham Accords last year, Dubai chose to test run the Airobotics system for ordinary security monitoring. Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum gave his final approval for the use of Airobotics on Wednesday.



Drone quadcopter with digital camera.

"We are proud that millions of tourists, including scores of officials and heads of state who are expected to attend this year's World Expo

in Dubai, will benefit from the Airobotics system," said Jon Medved, CEO of OurCrowd, which invests in Airobotics. "This is truly the best stage on which to demonstrate the capabilities of the Drone Box, which can be applied in tens of thousands of cities around the world."

The World Expo, which Israel will also participate in, was delayed for a year because of the coronavirus pandemic.



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For These US Jews of Color, Encountering Israel's Diversity Was an Eye-opening and Affirming Experience

By Michele Chabin, JTA

Arel Moodie, the son of a white Jewish mother and a Black father, experienced a core identity struggle through most of his teenage years. "It was one of the biggest pieces of turmoil in my adolescence," said Moodie, who was raised in a predominantly African-American neighborhood in Brooklyn and attended Jewish camps every summer.

"I asked myself, 'Who am I? Where do I fit in?' I felt like I had to make a choice between the Jewish side, the white side, the Black side."

Moodie, now 37, began to find some answers during a Birthright Israel trip several years ago, where a chance encounter changed the way he thought about himself. Excited at seeing a Black Israeli soldier wearing a kippah, Moodie decided to approach him.

"I went up to him expecting that this incredible, long-lost brother would hug me," he said. "It was like, 'Omigosh there's more of us!' I sort of pantomimed, 'You're a Brown Jew, I'm a Brown Jew. That's amazing!' But he told me, 'No, we're just Jewish.'"

Moodie said the encounter led him to "own" his Jewishness, whereas previously he would elide the issue by telling himself and others that he was simply raised Jewish or that his mother was Jewish. "I had always put a qualifier to my Jewish identity," Moodie said. "I realized I can just be Jewish while honoring my African-American identity. I don't have to choose between my identities." Today he goes to synagogue regularly and his children attend Jewish day school.



Since its inception in 1999, Birthright has had a mission to ensure Jewish continuity by strengthening the Jewish identity of Jewish young adults as well as their connections to Israel and each other through an all-expenses-paid trip to Israel.

Birthright's open-tent approach to recruitment has meant that many of its participants have a hyphenated identity, either ethnically or religiously, or both. So being a Black Jew or Asian Jew or Latino Jew or Persian Jew has made their lives richer — but often more complicated.

"For some Jews of color, what seems to be society's insistence on choosing one identity over another — for example, you're Black in one space and Jewish in another — has led to internal identity struggles," said Tema Smith, a diversity advocate and Jewish community builder. "What is needed now is for the Jewish community to broadcast loudly that Jews can hold multiple identities and that there is no conflict between a Jewish identity and being from another group."

An encounter with an Israeli

soldier changed the way Arel Moodie, the son of a white Jewish mother and a Black father, viewed his Jewish identity

From its outset, Birthright enthusiastically welcomed Jewish young adults regardless of their racial or ethnic background, affiliation with Jewish institutions or religious observance.

Zohar Raviv, Birthright's vice president of educational strategy, described it this way: "We believe that whereas unity among Jews has always been a value, uniformity between Jews has never been a value."

Amy Albertson, a Chinese-Jewish resident of Sacramento, California, who came on Birthright in her early 20s and ultimately lived in Israel for several years, said the experience exposed her to a Jewish diversity she never knew existed. Ultimately that made her feel more comfortable in her own identity as both a Jewish and Chinese American. "I grew up around Jews who looked a certain way: Eastern European," Albertson said. "Until I went to Israel, I didn't know there were so many other

types of Jews. In Israel, there were Jewish people from everywhere: I was able to interact with Mizrahim, Russians, Ethiopians and so many others."

For Albertson, now 30, the opportunity to meet a diversity of Jews in Israel was a happy revelation. "I didn't grow up with a lot of Jewish tradition, and I would always get nervous in Jewish spaces because I didn't know how to do this or that" religious ritual, she said.

Although Albertson became very Jewishly active in college, it wasn't until she traveled to Israel for the first time with Birthright that she realized "to feel Jewish, all you have to do is exist. In Israel, Shabbat feels like Shabbat. It doesn't matter if you go to shul or light Shabbat candles."

Amy Albertson, a Chinese-American Jew from Sacramento, Calif., said she had an epiphany on her Birthright trip: "I realized that I don't need to do anything to be Jewish. I am Jewish."

Albertson recalled a Birthright activity with the Israel soldiers who accompanied the group. "We were asked to share a Jewish memory, but I was like, 'I don't have many Jewish memories,'" she said. "The soldier I was paired with said, 'I guess all my memories are Jewish, but I'm secular.' That's when I realized that I don't need to do anything to be Jewish. I am Jewish."

Benjamin Sklar, 29, visited Israel several years ago on Birthright Excel, a 10-week professional experience designed to foster economic and social partnerships between Jews from the Diaspora and Israel. An

continued on page 14



While our PJ Families are socially isolating and enjoying family time during these very extraordinary circumstances, reading PJ library books with our children and grandchildren and teaching them to be “balabusts” in the kitchen have filled many of our homes. If you or your friends raising the next generation of Jewish children are interested in this free Jewish book and music program, please contact Leslie Pepper at Leslie.pepper@jfedps.org or call 760-324-4737.



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Woman to Lead Local Religious Council for Only 2nd Time in Israeli History

Under minister Matan Kahana's new approach to include women in key positions, Haya Kliger selected to lead Sde Ya'akov-Jezreel Valley — the first such appointment in 17 years

By Times of Israel Staff

Religious Affairs Minister Matan Kahana on July 15 appointed a woman to head a local religious council for only the second time in Israel's history — the first such appointment in 17 years.

Haya Kliger, 71, will lead the Sde Ya'akov-Jezreel Valley Council, which she has served on since 2000.

Religious councils are bodies tasked with providing various religious services in local municipalities throughout the country. They deal with issues of marriage, kashrut, burial, mikvehs, cultural activities and more.

Kahana has made female representation on religious councils a central tenet of his leadership of the ministry and has said he will insist on “appropriate representation of women” on such panels.

“Appointing women and including them in key managerial positions in religious councils is of the utmost importance,” he said Thursday.

Religious councils are legally required to have at least 30 percent female representation, but in practice, the figures are much lower.

The new government, the first in years not to include Haredi parties, has sought to reform Israeli religious institutions.

Thursday, however, saw a bill that would have reformed the system



Religious Affairs Minister Matan Kahana, left, with Haya Kliger

for appointing rabbinical court judges fail to pass in its third and final parliamentary vote because the Knesset speaker accidentally voted against it.

The “no” vote by Yesh Atid's Mickey Levy gave the Knesset a 51-51 tie. Parliamentary procedure holds that a tie is tantamount to a defeat, killing the bill until it can be reintroduced again at a future Knesset session. Coalition sources said they would try again to get it approved next week.

Levy attempted to get special permission to change his vote after realizing his mistake, but the Knesset's legal adviser ruled that he could not cast another ballot and the vote stands.

The bill would have expanded the panel that chooses rabbinical judges to include more representatives from the government as well as more women.



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International Lawmakers Lay Out Roadmap to Tackle Antisemitism Online

By Faygie Holt, Jewish News Syndicate

Members of the Inter-Parliamentary Task Force to Combat Online Antisemitism released an interim report on Wednesday highlighting ideas to battle anti-Jewish hate online.

Members of the task force include lawmakers from the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Australia and Israel. At least one more country is expected to join the group in the coming weeks.

Speaking as part of an online press conference to introduce the report, Rep. Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (D-Fla.) said that anti-Semites took advantage of current events, including the global coronavirus pandemic, and

the war between Hamas and Israel in May—to attack Jews for just being Jews. That was especially “prevalent on the wild west of the Internet,” she said. “It is up to all of us to stand arm and arm” to fight hate online, she added.

Canadian Minister of Parliament Anthony Housefather told those at the press event, “I have never in my lifetime seen the levels of anti-Semitism as I have in recent weeks.” He noted that families have told him they were afraid to let their children play in a public park if they are wearing a *kipah* or put a *mezuzah* on their door.

“I used to think that hate online was just another form of hate,” he continued. “I’ve learned through this task force it’s not just a form of hate,

but a form of disinformation—a unique type of disinformation we need to combat.”

Housefather added that while 80 percent of anti-Semitic hate originates online, it doesn’t end there.

“We have seen and understood the imperative to transcend boundaries to combat online anti-Semitism in the face of a global challenge, whereby the digital platforms function globally while our legislatures function nationally,” said former Knesset member Michal Cotler-Wunsh. “Antisemitism serves as a predictive example for online disinformation with real-world manifestations that threaten the foundations of democracy.”

Noting that this is a global problem,

the report listed several universal ideas to help combat antisemitism online. Among them:

Universal acceptance of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of anti-Semitism.

Make social-media platforms be transparent regarding how algorithms are used on their sites.

Create legislation to make online spaces safer for all users.

Save all reported antisemitic content.

“At the end of the day,” said Alex Sobel, a member of parliament in the United Kingdom, “we need global action on this.”

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Harriet Rossetto,
LCSW

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Diplomatic Warfare? UK Writes 'Occupied Palestinian Territories' on Israeli's

British Passport

Jerusalem-born Ayelet Balaban, a dual Israeli-British citizen who has held a British passport all her life, was shocked upon receiving the new document.

By JNS

Israel's Foreign Ministry is investigating a report that an Israeli woman had her birthplace changed from "Jerusalem" to "Occupied Palestinian Territories" upon renewing her U.K. passport.

Ayelet Balaban, a dual Israeli-British citizen who has held a U.K. passport all her life, said she was shocked upon receiving the new



Changed passport

document, according to Israel's *Kan*.

According to Balaban, she sent her old passport to England and

received the new one two weeks later. Upon discovering the change, Balaban checked with her brother, who renewed his British passport two years ago and which still listed "Jerusalem" as his place of birth.

Her brother, who works at Nefesh B'Nefesh, an organization helping Jews from English-speaking countries immigrate to Israel, said

it's the first time the organization has encountered the change, according to the report.

Balaban sent a letter to Israel's Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Tzipi Hotovely, but said she hasn't yet heard back.

Inquiries have also been sent to the British Embassy in Israel.

Montreal to Name a Park After Elie Wiesel

By Dan Verbin, Arutz Sheva

A park in the city of Montreal will be named after Nobel Peace Prize winning author and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, reported the Canadian Jewish News.

Montreal city council unanimously passed a resolution on April 19 that endorsed naming a public place in honor of the fifth anniversary of Wiesel's death, July 2, 2021. The



Elie Wiesel

park is located in Côte des Neiges-

NDG not far from Jewish community institutions, according to The Suburban newspaper.

The resolution was initially put forward by Councillor Marvin Rotrand two years ago. Rotrand, the son of Holocaust survivors, in a constituent letter remarked that his motion to name a public space after Wiesel by the summer of 2021 was unanimously

adopted in 2019.

"The debate highlighted the exemplary life of Elie Wiesel and recognized the importance of his work in fighting hate and building tolerance and cooperation between peoples," Rotrand said. "The debate was a solemn and heartfelt moment at city council. The horror of the Holocaust was recalled, as was Elie Wiesel's appeal to humanity that it is our duty to speak up when human life and dignity is threatened."

Six councillors seconded his motion. "They joined me in speaking of Elie Wiesel's life as a writer, an academic, an advocate for human rights and brotherhood and as a proud Jew," he said.

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Yom Kippur Day:

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California is Home to the Most Israeli-Founded Unicorns

With 22 Israeli-founded unicorns, California has more than any other state, with New York a close second.

By Abigail Klein Leichman, Israeli 21c

In the business world, “unicorn” refers to privately owned startup companies in the tech sector that have achieved a valuation of more than \$1 billion.

Five privately held Israeli-founded companies in California have reached or surpassed a \$1 billion valuation in 2021, boosting the state’s nation-leading unicorn count to 22, according to the United States – Israel Business Alliance (USIBA).

Each of these companies has at least one Israeli founder and maintains its global or US headquarters in California.

“California continues to attract many of the best and brightest innovators in the world,” USIBA president Aaron Kaplowitz said. “We’re seeing today a new generation of Israeli entrepreneurs contribute to northern California’s innovation ecosystem and benefit from a deep bench of venture capitalists.”

On April 20, ISRAEL21c reported that New York hosts 21 Israeli-founded unicorns.

The Israeli unicorns in California are all located in Silicon Valley except for Orca Security, a cybersecurity firm for cloud-based assets. In March, the Los Angeles-based company, with R&D in Tel Aviv, closed a \$210 million round at a \$1.2 billion valuation.

Eight Israeli-founded unicorns headquarter in San Francisco, the most of any US city aside from New York.

Deel, with its office just beyond Oracle Park’s leftfield foul pole, is the most recent addition to the prestigious group. Recently, the payroll and compliance fintech startup announced the completion of a \$156 million funding round, driving its valuation to \$1.25 billion.

Deel has raised \$206 million total in the past 11 months.

Less than a mile away, ironSource, an app monetization and distribution pioneer, recently revealed its plans to go public through a special purpose acquisition company (SPAC). The agreement with Thoma Bravo Advantage surges the company’s value to \$11.1 billion.

Palo Alto, also in Silicon Valley, now has seven Israeli-founded unicorns. These include insurance disrupters Hippo (\$5 billion) and Next Insurance (\$4 billion) as well as Wiz, which closed a \$130 million round on March 22 and claims to be the fastest-growing cloud security startup ever, having achieved a \$1.7 billion valuation

only three months since emerging from stealth.

Mountain View is on the letterhead of Rapyd (\$2.5 billion), SentinelOne (\$3.1 billion) and Redis Labs (\$2 billion).

San Mateo-based Tipalti (the Hebrew word for “I took care of it”) has grown its accounts payable and global remittance automation solutions into an enterprise valued at \$2 billion.

Dremio, a big-data curating engine (\$1 billion), and Innoviz (\$1.4 billion), a LiDAR manufacturer, maintain headquarters in Santa Clara.

“Silicon Valley lives by the ‘move fast and break things’ mantra,” Kaplowitz said. “The Israelis, of course, have a word for that: *chutzpah*.”

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Lisa Friedman Clark

Lion of Judah Annual Brunch will be held at Tamarisk Country Club on January 24th, 2022. This marvelous event will be featuring Lisa Friedman Clark, a New York Lion of Judah, who found herself in need of support when she lost her husband on 9/11. Her story is infused with resiliency and legacy as her sons join the conversation to share what philanthropy means to them.

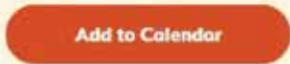


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More Information Coming Soon



continued from page 9

experience on the trip inspired him to decide to move to Israel and join the Israeli army (he later moved back to the United States and become a lawyer).

The group met with the Arab-Israeli CEO of Jerusalem's YMCA and learned about how the Y builds bridges between Palestinians and Israelis in Jerusalem. "It was valuable to be exposed to an Arab living in Jerusalem and not just Ashkenazi Jews," said Sklar, who is Mexican American and was raised in an interfaith home in Houston by his Catholic mother and Jewish father. "I felt the organizers made an effort to expose us to Reform, ultra-Orthodox, Sephardim, Ashkenazim. We experienced all the different angles of Israel."

Even as he decided to join the army, Sklar said he wanted to devote his career to helping the Palestinian-Israeli relationship. "I just had a feeling on Birthright that I wanted to be an Israeli soldier; I felt they were superheroes," Sklar said. "I wanted to serve the country and be part of the team. I thought to

myself, 'Are they more Jewish than me?' I served in the paratroopers."

For Emily Nassir, whose mother is an American-born Ashkenazi Jew and her father a Persian Israeli, growing up in a diverse home helped her appreciate the various customs and rituals practiced by different communities. "It taught me to respect other people's ways of living," said Nassir, 25, of New York. Nassir's trip to Israel with Birthright in March 2019 exposed her to an even wider swath of Israeli culture.

"My favorite part of the trip was sleeping overnight in a Bedouin tent, engaging with Arab culture," she recalled. "It was the most eye-opening experience, immersing for a time in another culture, watching someone in their own space. I realized that so many peoples and cultures exist in this one small country." At a time when antisemitism is rampant, Nassir said that engaging with Israelis with different viewpoints, as she did during her Birthright experience, "is the only way to understand" Israel as a living, breathing place.

Albertson said experiencing Israel and Israelis firsthand has enabled her to fight antisemitism and anti-Zionism with facts. "When people are yelling lies about Israel, I can feel more confident that I know they aren't true," she said. "Israel as a Jewish country and homeland is not just a story or an idea. I've seen it, tasted it, touched it. I've witnessed and felt the Jewish connection to the land, and that is a powerful feeling. "When I face antisemitism," Albertson said, "I know that I am part of this legacy and this nation. And I know that in the worst possible case scenario, I always have a home as a Jewish person."

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Breakthrough in Advancement of Reconstructive Surgery

Technion scientists introduce stem-cell tissue regeneration technology to rebuild bone with fewer complications.

By Jon Shiller, Israel 21c

While modern medicine has made leaps and bounds in the field of tissue and organ reconstruction over the years, it is still limited by one major drawback: Human beings don't have spare parts.

If a car-accident survivor needs a reconstructed jaw, for instance, surgeons must build it from a piece of the patient's fibula bone and the surrounding soft tissue and blood vessels, in a procedure known as autografting.

Autografting takes a heavy toll on the body and can often lead to medical complications.



Professor Shulamit Levenberg.

Prof. Shulamit Levenberg's bioengineering team at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology has introduced a better way.

Using stem cells derived from dental pulp (the soft tissue inside the tooth), along with capillary-forming

endothelial cells, they generated blood vessels for enhanced tissue remodeling and repair.

Working with Prof. Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic of Columbia University, Levenberg's team took the concept of implantable bone tissue to a new level - reducing the need to harvest soft tissue and blood vessels to support organ reconstruction.

The study was published in the journal *Advanced Functional Materials*.

One day, these methods could make it possible for patients to

receive a lab-grown bone perfectly matching the shape of their face, surrounded by lab-grown soft tissues based on their own cells cultivated using 3D biomaterials. No major damage to the patient's other body parts would be necessary.

Also taking part in this research were Idan Redenski, Shaowei Guo, Majd Machour, Ariel Szklanny, Shira Landau, Ben Kaplan, Roberta I. Lock, Yankel Gabet and Dana Egozi. Bruker-Skyscan assisted with the microCT studies, allowing noninvasive and precise observation of the healing process.

Quebec Court Upholds Law Banning Yarmulkes and Other Religious Symbols in the Workplace

JTA

A top Quebec court mostly upheld a provincial law banning Jews and other religious minorities who work in public from wearing religious symbols such as yarmulkes, crucifixes and hijabs in their places of employ.

The Quebec Superior Court ruled April 20 that Bill 21 — also known as the "secularism" or "laicity" law — does not abrogate Canadian human rights charters. At the same time, the court agreed that the controversial law on religious symbols does



not apply to the English-language school board that brought the case to court.

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, a Jewish advocacy organization, said in a statement Tuesday that it was "deeply

disappointed" by the ruling.

"The provisions of Bill 21 ... severely restrict religious freedom and the ability of Jewish Quebecers and other faith-based communities to freely pursue careers in the public sector," the Toronto-based center said.

Bill 21 was passed by the province's Coalition Avenir Québec government in June 2019 ostensibly to promote state neutrality, and the law remains popular among Quebec citizens. But critics say the real aim

of the law is to discourage Muslim women who are state employees from wearing hijabs to work.

The 242-page ruling by Justice Marc-Andre Blanchard was expected to be appealed to the province's highest court, the Quebec Court of Appeal. The Quebec government has promised to invoke the province's "notwithstanding clause" allowing it to override court rulings — a move the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs also vowed to oppose.

Jewish Student Forced to Eat Pork After Missing Football Training Session

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Eight football coaches have been placed on administrative leave after allegedly forcing a Jewish athlete, who keeps kosher, to eat pork as punishment for missing a weight training session, according to CW news affiliate Cleveland 19.

According to the report, McKinley High School's Coach Wattlely Marcus

and seven of his assistant coaches are being accused of ordering the 17-year-old student into the gym, sitting him down and forcing him to eat a pepperoni pizza sitting on the floor.

If the student refused, he would have been kicked off the team, and the entirety of the squad would have

been forced to run extra exercise drills for his defiant behavior.

A lawyer representing the family said they might consider filing a first amendment lawsuit against the school district.

Cleveland 19 further notes that the student is a prominent athlete who has been offered several scholarships

to play football in college, although being just a junior.

The family is debating if the student will return to McKinley High — located in Canton, as is the NFL Hall of Fame — from which multiple students have gone on to play professionally following successful college careers.



Shabbat Schedule - August 2021

Due to the uncertainties from the COVID Pandemic and changing schedules as we reach the hot, summer months, we urge you to check online or call any temple or shul you are interested in attending to find out what is currently being offered.

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Cantor Joseph Gole, D.Mus.

harelurjpd@gmail.com

760-779-1691.

New website: harelurjpd.org.

Zoom Shabbat Evening Services

5 pm with Rabbi Richard Zions,

Cantor Joseph Gole 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.

Check website for summer schedule.

CONGREGATION SHALOM

BAYIT (Reform)

Rabbi Kenneth Milhander, 1320 W.

Williams Ave., Banning, CA 92220.

Contact 951-392-5380.

DESERT OUTREACH SYNAGOGUE

Rabbi Jules King; Cantor Lori

Reisman Patterson. 760-449-0111.

Mailing address: P.O. Box 982,

Rancho Mirage, CA 92270. www.

Desert-Outreach-Synagogue.com.

Virtual services held the second

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:templeharshalomofidyllwil

d@gmail.com.

Erev Shabbat Services via Zoom

the third Friday of each month

with Rabbi David Lazar at 6:00

pm and Shabbat teaching with

Rabbi Lazar the next morning

at 9:30 am. Every other Friday

of the month: Shabbat Candle

Lighting with Rabbi Emerita Malka

Drucker at 5:45 pm. 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.

All services in August will be

online.

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.

templesinaipd.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 - August 2021

Email (preferred) Miriam Bent at 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:

7:30 pm - Temple Isaiah
"Bereavement Group" with Rabbi
Steven Rosenberg. Contact Rabbi

directly for more information:
rabbisteven.rosenberg@gmail.com.

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.

Saturdays:

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

Thursdays, August 5 and 26

1:00 pm Or Hamidbar/Jewish
Federation program: "From
Holiness to Hatred and Back:
Challenging Texts in the New
Testament. Facilitators: Rabbi
David Lazar and Father Andrew
Green. See ad page 4.

Thursday, August 19

4:00-5:00 pm Sabra Hadassah
"Happy Hour" program on Zoom.
Join Cindy Halpern for "Jewish
Genealogy: What do you know
and how can you find it?" No
charge but RSVP needed to
receive Zoom link. For more
information call Debbie at
760-289-7987.

Sunday, August 22

3:00 pm Beth Shalom IN PERSON
Sunday at the Movies: "Komediant"
- Documentary on the Yiddish
Stage's glory days. Open to all;
free of charge! Individualized light
refreshments. Proof of vaccination
required on first in-person return
visit. Information: (760) 200-3636.

Thursday, August 26

4:00 pm Beth Shalom VIRTUAL
Book Club Discussion: "The
Third Daughter" by Talia Carner.
Discussion led by Bob and
Dmaxine Greenstein. Zoom link on
website: CongregationBethShalom.net. New members and visitors
welcome! Information:
760-200-3636.



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encouraged to visit this
moving memorial, a place of
remembrance and
monument of hope.



Tribute Card Donations

Sending tributes and memorials is a meaningful way to honor loved ones.

All contributions received by the Jewish Federation for Tribute Cards are placed in our special Tzedakah Fund, which provides direct monetary intervention for needy Jews living in the Coachella Valley. Call 760-324-4737.

Honorarium Tributes In Appreciation For:

- **Merle Arson**, Wishing you a happy, special birthday, from Nancy and Dennis Ditlove, Dolly and Julian Levy.
- **Merle Arson**, Thank you from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Ellen Bakst**, Happy special birthday, from Cora Ginsberg, and Loreen Jacobson.
- **Samantha and Lee Betagole**, Congratulations on your marriage, from Eunice and Jerry Meister.
- **Bob Borns**, Congratulations on your Honorary Doctorate from Indiana University, from Roberta and Allan Nyman.
- **Bill and Joanne Chunowitz**, Thank you from Frances Horwich.
- **Phyllis Eisenberg**, Congratulations on your recognition as a "Woman of Impact" from Joanne and Bill Chunowitz, and Jim Miringoff.
- **Barbara Fromm**, Happy Mother's Day (donation to Fromm Youth Enrichment Fund) from Rhona and Lou Fromm.
- **Helene Galen and Jamie Kabler**, Thank you from Cora Ginsberg, Libby and Buddy Hoffman.
- **Adrienne Garland**, Congratulations and best wishes for your great granddaughter, Miller Jo, from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Cora Ginsberg**, Happy birthday from Lila Rauch.
- **Shelly Goldman**, Happy birthday from Sherry and Howard Schor.
- **Helen Greene**, Happy birthday from Cora Ginsberg.
- **Amy Gu and Jonah Myers**, Congratulations on your engagement, from Kevin and Emma Giser.

- **Margot and Jerry Halperin**, Thank you from Frances Horwich.
- **Judy Handelman**, Happy birthday from Ellen, Joyce and Diane Simon.
- **Fylis Herst**, Happy special birthday from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Libby Hoffman**, In honor of you from Ann Hoffman.
- **Claire Kaplan**, Happy birthday and 68th anniversary from Eunice and Jerry Meister.
- **Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman**, Thank you for your loving work and visits to the ill in the Coachella Valley, from Stanley Stone.
- **Anastasia Levey**, Congratulations on your Bat Mitzvah, from Roberta and Allan Nyman.
- **Julian and Dolly Levy**, Thank you from Frances Horwich.
- **Bertel Lewis**, Thank you from Frances Horwich.
- **Dr. Paul Lubar**, Wishing you a very happy 80th birthday, from Bobby and Toni Garmisa, Margot and Jerry Halperin, Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Joe Noren**, Happy 90th birthday, from Barbara and Bernie Fromm (Fromm Youth Enrichment Fund), Harold and Mimi Paley, Gail and Bob Scadron, Sherry and Howard Schor.
- **Larry Peerce**, Happy birthday from Frances Horwich.
- **Mr. and Mrs. Mickey Sanderman**, Congratulations on the birth of your great grandson, from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Gail and Bob Scadron**, Thank you from Frances Horwich.
- **Marcia and Rick Stein**, Congratulations on your granddaughter's marriage, from Barbara Platt and Norm Lewis.
- **Judy Wallis**, Mazel tov on your big birthday from Barbara Platt.

Refuah Shleimah Get Well:

- **Miriam Bent**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman.
- **Herb Emmerman**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Frances Horwich**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Margot and Jerry Halperin, Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Annette Novack**, Thinking of you and sending our love, from Barbara Platt and Norm Lewis.
- **Allan Nyman**, Refuah Shleimah from Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman.
- **Arlene Volk**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Harold and Mimi Paley.
- **Eileen Zoll**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Margot and Jerry Halperin, Libby and Buddy Hoffman, Harold and Mimi Paley, Gail and Bob Scadron.

Memorial Tributes Condolences Sent To:

- **Becker and Schechner Families**, In memory of Aunt Tilly, from Barbara and Bernie Fromm (From Youth Enrichment Fund).
- **Dr. Paul Biskar and Family**, In memory of your beloved mother, from Frances Horwich, Ruth and Mal Kaufman.
- **Dr. David Conney and Family**, In memory of your beloved father Marvin, from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Lois Davidson and Family**, In memory of your beloved husband Tom, from Ruth and Mal Kaufman.
- **Jim Eisenberg**, In memory of your beloved sister June, from Frances Horwich.
- **Nancy Glick and Family**, Always in my memories, from Frances Horwich.



Tribute Card Donations Continued

- **Wendy and Bob Goodfriend**, In memory of your mother, Peggy Sachs, from Kathi Balaban and Phil, and Frances Horwich.
- **Stephen and Marjorie Kulp and Family**, In memory of your beloved father Franklin Kulp, from Bunni and Richard Benaron, Robin and Bob Berman, Bobby and Toni Garmisa, Cora Ginsberg, Ellen and Phil Glass, Cass and Dr. Adrian Graff-Radford, Margot and Jerry Halperin, Sanford and Rosemary Hertz, Libby and Buddy Hoffman, Ruth and Mal Kaufman, Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman, Marilyn Malkin, Eunice and Jerry Meister, Marnie Miller and Joe Noren, Larry and Cathy Pitts, Sherry and Howard Schor, Jane and Larry Sherman.
- **Pearle Rae Levey**, In memory of Mark Levey, from Sanford and Rosemary Hertz.
- **Jim Levitas and Family**, In memory of your beloved wife Donna, from Bunni and Richard Benaron, Nat and Miriam Bent, Ron and Dani Cukier, Deirdre and Alan Coit, Dana's Colleagues at P.B.S., William and Wendy Dewoskin, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Ehrlichman, Barbara Fremont, Barbara and Bernie Fromm (Fromm Fund), Bobby and Toni Garmisa, Cora Ginsberg, Ellen and Phil Glass, Scott and Ella Goldstein, Cass and Dr. Adrian Graff-Radford, Samantha and Kathy Hakim, Sanford

and Rosemary Hertz, David and Jeanne Himy, Libby and Buddy Hoffman, Frances Horwich, Carol Horwich-Luber, Deborah and Arthur Jacobson, Lily Kanter, Susan and Larry Katzen, Ruth and Mal Kaufman, Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman, Marjorie and Stephen Kulp, Gary and Joellen Leifer, Carol and Steven Levinson, Chris Libby, Paul and Terry Lubar, Marilyn Malkin, Cathy and Mark Maslan, Mark and Barbara Mehlman, Eunice and Jerry Meister, Marnie Miller and Joe Noren, Roberta and Allan Nyman, Cydney Osterman, Harold and Mimi Paley, Larry and Cathy Pitts, Barbara Platt, Dr. Paul and Stephanie Ross, Ken Schoenfeld, Sherry and Howard Schor, Elaine and Ted Stein, Marsha and David Veit, Meryl and Chuck Witmer.

- **Annette Lew**, In memory of Herman Lew, your granddaughter Madeliene and her friends raised money in his memory for the Jewish Federation's COVID-19 Relief Fund.
- **Joyce Meitus**, In memory of your beloved Jim, from Bobby and Toni Garmisa, Frances Horwich, Ruth and Mal Kaufman, Eunice and Jerry Meister, and Marnie Miller.
- **Fern Miller**, In memory of your beloved son Jeffrey, from Roberta and Allan Nyman.
- **Lila Rauch**, Mark will be missed by many, from Frances Horwich.

- **Nora Rado**, In memory of your beloved husband Don, from Bobby and Toni Garmisa, David and Jeanne Himy, Frances Horwich, Ruth and Mal Kaufman, Eunice and Jerry Meister, Marnie Miller and Joe Noren, Sherry and Howard Schor.
- **Marcy Rieger and Family**, in memory of your beloved mother Madeline, from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rieger and Family**, In memory of your beloved mother Madeline, from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Mrs. Jack Rosen**, in memory of your beloved husband Jack, from Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.
- **Cheryl Scarlett**, In memory of your beloved Kevin, from Eddie and Jackie Cohen, Leslie Pepper, Dr. Paul and Stephanie Ross.
- In memory of **Natalie and Samuel Fischell** and the life they lived, from Denise and Bob Sherman.
- **Arava Talve and Thomas Hill**, In memory of your beloved son Garrett, from Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman, and Leslie Pepper.
- **Family of William Tarnopol**, Our heartfelt condolences from Sherry and Howard Schor.

Arizona Law Says Questioning Israel's Right to Exist is Officially 'Anti-Semitic'

By JNS.org

Legislation approved on June 29, 2021, by the Arizona Senate requires local schools to teach that any claim about Israel not having the right to exist is anti-Semitic, KAWC News reported.

The 16-14 vote came after every Democratic lawmaker in the Senate reportedly objected Resolution HB 2282, arguing that it would hinder discussions about Israel's treatment of Palestinians. However, Sen. Paul Boyer (R-Glendale) said there's

nothing in the measure that prevents criticizing the policies of the Israeli government.

"If you've spent any time in Israel, you know that criticizing the state of Israel and the government is really an Israeli pastime," he said, explaining that the legislation is aimed at addressing the issue of blood libels, such as holding all Jews responsible for the decisions of the Israeli government.

The resolution addressed Israeli

sovereignty in Judea and Samaria, saying the area was granted to Israel "through the oldest recorded deed, as recorded in the Old Testament," and explained that the "claim and presence" of the Jewish people in Israel, including the West Bank, has "remained constant throughout the past 4,000 years of history."

It stated that Israel is not an "occupier of the lands of others," and peace in the region can be accomplished "only through a whole

and united Israel."

The resolution also included the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of anti-Semitism. Boyer said that if the IHRA definition is not implemented in schools, Holocaust education in Arizona "could be corrupted in ways that could ironically boost contemporary anti-Semitism rather than combat it."

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Reveals Secrets of Dead Sea Scrolls

Computers analyzing tiny details of famous Isaiah Scroll spot different styles indicating 2 scribes, and opening new avenues into understanding origins of ancient documents

By Stuart Winer, *The Times of Israel*

New research has revealed tantalizing evidence in the mystery of who wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls, identifying that two scribes were apparently behind one of the most famous of the manuscripts, and not just a single workman as had been largely assumed.

Harnessing the keen attention to detail of computer-assisted pattern recognition boosted by artificial intelligence, biblical and computer researchers from the University of Groningen in The Netherlands analyzed the Great Isaiah Scroll, one of the first of a trove of ancient scrolls discovered in the caves in the Qumran region near the Dead Sea in 1947.

The study focused on examining minute differences in the way letters were written. It uncovered evidence that there are two distinct halves to the scroll, with the break at columns

27-29, written by two scribes who were apparently trying to match their styles.

That there were two scribes “sheds new light on the production of biblical manuscripts in ancient Judea,” the authors of the study wrote.

The results of the study by Mladen Popovic, a professor of Hebrew Bible and Ancient Judaism, Lambert Schomaker, professor of Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence, and PhD candidate in Artificial Intelligence Maruf Dhali, all from Groningen, was published in the PLOS ONE archaeological journal.

“Demonstrating that two main scribes, each showing different writing patterns, were responsible for the Great Isaiah Scroll, this study sheds new light on the Bible’s ancient scribal culture by providing new, tangible evidence that ancient biblical texts were not copied by a single scribe only but that multiple scribes, while carefully mirroring another scribe’s writing style, could closely collaborate on one particular manuscript,” they said.

The Isaiah Scroll is a 7.34-meter long manuscript that contains almost the entire Book of Isaiah and that has been dated to around 300-100 BCE. Though debated, the accepted



Part of the Dead Sea scrolls at the Israel Museum, Jerusalem

opinion was that the entire scroll was copied by a single scribe.

Over the decades, thousands of fragments of scrolls have been found in the Dead Sea area, the most recent in March this year, but the author — or authors — did not sign their work or leave clues as to their identities.

“The next best thing to scribes identified by name is scribes identified by their handwriting,” the study said.

Traditional paleography, the study of ancient writing methods, is challenged by the difficulty in identifying the difference between variations in a single scribe’s writing and that of text written by others in writing in a similar style.

“On the one hand, scribes may show a range in a variety of forms of individual letters in one or more manuscripts,” the study said. “On the other hand, different scribes might write in almost the same way, making it a challenge to identify the individual scribe beyond general stylistic

similarities.

However, by training artificial neural networks to identify patterns in the way characters were written, researchers could let computers compare a large range of letters in ways that are beyond the capabilities of the human eye.

The researchers used digital images of the scrolls and were able to identify distinctive ink traces, unique to each scribe.

“This is important because the ancient ink traces relate directly to a person’s muscle movement and are person-specific,” they wrote.

By identifying individual scribes from the differences in their penmanship, archaeologists may be able to piece together the links between fragments of other scrolls and gain a better insight into their origins. The same process could also be applied to other ancient manuscripts in the future.

“The change of scribal hands in a literary manuscript or the identification of one and the same scribe in multiple manuscripts can be used as evidence to understand various forms of scribal collaboration that otherwise remain unknown to us,” the study said.

DID YOU KNOW?
All monies donated to the TZEKAKAH FUND enables the Jewish Federation of the Desert to respond to emergency needs of Jews living in our community.
Donating to the TZEKAKAH FUND is a wonderful way to thank, extend good wishes, offer condolences or recognize an occasion.
Call the Jewish Federation at 760-324-4737 or go online to jfedps.org/donate.

Germany Bans Hamas Flag Following Anti-Semitic Incidents

By JNS

The German government agreed to ban the Hamas flag following a number of anti-Semitic incidents at anti-Israel rallies in the country in May 2021, *Deutsche Welle* reported on June 21.

The proposal was an initiative of German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s Christian Democratic Union (CDU),

according to the report. The center-left Social Democratic Party (SPD) had initially raised constitutional concerns regarding the proposal, but later backed the initiative.

Deputy parliamentary spokesman for the CDU Thorsten Frei called the move “a clear signal to our Jewish citizens.”

During the Israel Defense Forces’ “Operation Guardian of the Walls,” the 11 days of fighting in May with terrorist groups in the Gaza Strip, demonstrations throughout Germany were marred by anti-Semitic slurs and attacks on synagogues.



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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.

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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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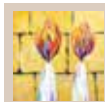
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Candle Lighting Times

Friday, August 6

Shabbat Re'ah

6:58 pm

Friday, August 13

Shabbat Shoftim

6:51 pm

Friday, August 20

Shabbat Ki Teitzei

6:43 pm

Friday, August 27

Shabbat Ki Tavo

6:34 pm



We Mourn the Passing of...

Solomon (Sol) Amram, Annette Bloch, Marcia Bloch, Abe Duban, Arlene Harris, Garrett Hill, Marvin Louis Klapper, Franklin Kulp, Donna Levitas, Ralph Lewin, Thomas J. McDermott, Jr., Bobbie McFarlane, Steven Morris, Don Rado, Marvin Sholl and Michael Spitz. Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing.



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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.

Community Schools

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Director: Dina Pinson

73-550 Santa Rosa Way, Palm Desert

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Alephschoolhouse.org

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EMAIL: jewishfederationps@jfedps.org

WEBSITE: www.jfedps.org



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



San Diego State University Reacts to Swastikas Found on Student Housing

By Jewish News Syndicate

Officials at the San Diego State University are expressing their solidarity with the school's Jewish community after reports that swastikas were painted on a student housing building.

"Speech and use of symbols that are anti-Semitic or encourages hatred of a particular group are reprehensible and counter to the environment we support at SDSU," said school officials in a statement on Thursday. "Such base acts are full of cowardice. Anti-Semitism and other hate-motivated actions have no place at or near or home at SDSU, or anywhere."

The statement was signed by J. Luke

Wood, vice president of student affairs and campus diversity; Jessica Nare, assistant vice president for community and belonging; and Christian J. Holt, Associated Students president.

The Daily Aztec, a university newspaper, reported that the swastikas were found on South Campus Plaza North Tower and that university police were investigating. According to information on the school's website, the building has retail outlets on the bottom floors with student housing above.

"Acts of hate like this are disgraceful and cowardly; that swastikas vandalized a home of Jewish students is especially



Swastikas found on student housing at San Diego State University

reprehensible. This demonstration of hate, bigotry and intolerance will not be tolerated," SDSU's Jewish leaders wrote in a joint statement. "We stand

in solidarity with our Jewish students and the entire Jewish community and will continue to strive for a more inclusive and positive climate for all SDSU students."

It was signed by Karen Parry, executive director of Hillel of San Diego; Rabbi Chalom Boudjnah, director of Chabad-Jewish Student Life of San Diego; Ofek Suchard, president of Alpha Epsilon Pi; and Lee Abed, Jewish campus leader.

According to Hillel International's College Guide, SDSU has approximately 30,000 undergraduate students with the Jewish student population ranging from 850 to 1,000.

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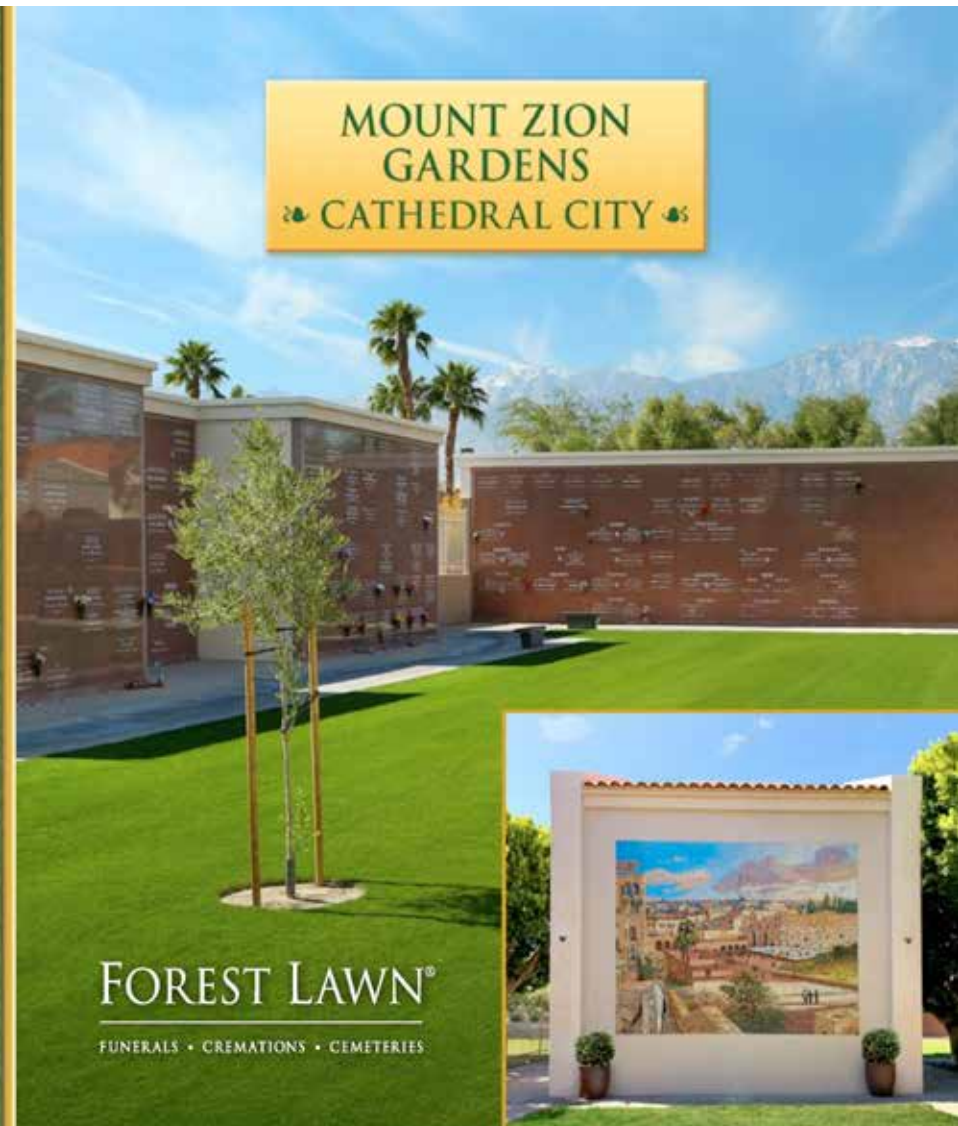
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