

Join us for a "Chai-brid" Season with Federation

It has been over one year since we began a season virtually. We are proud of this past season of highly successful virtual programming, and now hope to experience community engagements in person together.

As we reflect and look back, Jewish Federation of the Desert couldn't be happier with the success we had going virtual. We now look ahead to the coming season where we can be together in person more often.

This year will be a season of programs with purpose, aligning with our Federation's mission "to strengthen Jewish life and identity in our community, provide for Jewish people in need and promote support for Israel."

We continue to receive positive feedback from community members that our ability to provide a great variety of programs engaged folks of all ages and rich experiences, stimulation and education, has been a source of comfort.



As we all embark on a new Jewish year of learning and celebrating together with Federation, we will do so now in a "Chai-brid" way, one that is most comfortable to you and your choice – live and in person or virtually.

Our two major fundraising events will return to the "in person" format after a virtual 2021. On Monday, January 24, 2022, the Women's Philanthropy Lion of Judah Brunch

will be held at Tamarisk Country Club, featuring Lisa Friedman Clark. Three weeks later our Major Gifts Dinner will be held on Tuesday, February 15, with Ron Dermer, former Israel Ambassador to the United States as keynote speaker.

The Women's Cultural Alliance is offering the virtual book review with Michal Oshman of her book "What Would You Do If You Weren't Afraid" on October 10th (see article page 12), followed by a three-part virtual program coming in the fall, led by Rebbitzin Sussie Denebeim, on Jewish spirituality, philosophy, and mystical teachings.

A special virtual program on the torahs of the Holocaust is being offered Wednesday, October 20, three weeks before Kristallnacht (article below).

Plans are underway for a repeat of the well-received education series offered by our community rabbis. Individual programs by our clergy are

also being developed.

The women popular Card Day is returning after a year off due to COVID. It will be held at The Springs Country Club clubhouse on Monday, December 13 and is open to all women in our community. See page 12 for details.

Mark your calendars now for our community's Holocaust Remembrance Day observance Sunday, April 24, with keynote speaker. The program will be offered for in person attendance as well as online.

Be sure to check the Jewish Federation website www.jfedps.org or Jewish Community Newspaper (JCN) for up-to-date information. You can also be informed in real time about our programs and events via Federation weekly eblasts. If the Jewish Federation doesn't have your email address, we urge you to call the office (760-324-4737) and give it to us so that you can be kept informed.

Significance of the Scrolls Saved from the Holocaust

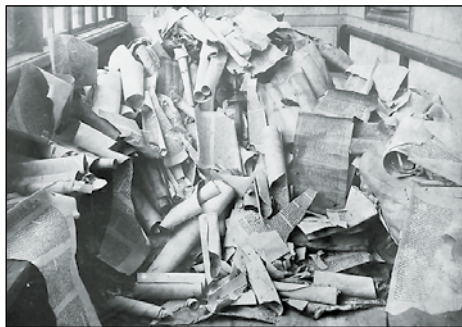
On Wednesday, October 20 at 1 PM Pacific time, Dr. Gary M. Levin will present the historical and spiritual significance of the scrolls saved from the Holocaust. The one-hour presentation, as part of the Jewish Federation's ongoing Holocaust series of programs, will have a brief introduction on how Torahs are made, the Torah Scrolls and Jewish life prior to 1939, the Scrolls during the Holocaust, Torah Scrolls from

Czechoslovakia that have been rescued and restored and how we honor the Scrolls.

Dr. Gary M. Levin is a retired teacher and administrator in the field of Special Education. Gary now virtually helps students to read Hebrew as well as reviewing prayers and blessings for their B'nai Mitzvah.



Dr. Gary M. Levin



Desecrated Torah scrolls from Holocaust

Dr. Levin has recently become a virtual docent for the Holocaust Museum of

LA where our Jewish Federation provides grants to let thousands of local middle and high school students virtually tour the Holocaust Museum of Los Angeles and meet survivors. For further information about this program and to receive the link to "attend," contact Leslie Pepper at 760-324-4737 or at leslie.pepper@jfedps.org.



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**2021-2022
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SAVE
THE
DATE

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 15
2022

RECEPTION 6 PM
DINNER 7 PM

at Tamarisk Country Club

Major
Gifts
Dinner
2022



Jewish Federation
OF THE DESERT

An evening with

Ron Dermer

Ron Dermer was born and raised in Miami Beach, Florida. He earned a degree in Finance and Management from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania and a degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) from Oxford University. For three years, he was a columnist for the Jerusalem Post.

In 2004, Ron co-authored with Natan Sharansky the best-selling book, *The Case For Democracy: The Power of Freedom to Overcome Tyranny and Terror*, which has been translated into ten languages. From 2005-2008, Ron served as Israel's Minister of Economic Affairs in the United States. From 2009-2013, he served as Senior Advisor to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. And from 2013-2021, he served as Israel's Ambassador to the United States.

Ron is married to Rhoda. They have five children and live in Jerusalem.



Jewish Federation
OF THE DESERT



Reflections as the New Year Begins



Bruce Landgarten

Jewish Federation
Chief Executive
Officer

It has only been a couple weeks since we gathered in person or virtually to observe Rosh Hashanah and then Yom Kippur, looking back at the past year and ahead to the new one for self-reflection and introspection, an effort important and healthy for our souls.

Year after year we assess what we've completed, while looking toward the possibilities of the future. This year is

our second High-Holiday impacted by COVID, and another impacted by a new wave of antisemitism. As I talk to colleagues and leadership about their plans and concerns looking at the days ahead, I assure them that Federation continues to keep a watchful and thoughtful eye on our community.

I've always liked Rosh Hashanah, but not for the reasons you might suspect. It's not the food or the clean slate that intrigue me about this holiday. I find meaning in Rosh Hashanah because we are confronted with the traits that make us uniquely human and we are asked to honor and celebrate them. We do this with humility as we stand vulnerable and exposed with our community. It is a

holiday that makes us understand our fragilities, but it doesn't let us wallow in them.

Hearing the Shofar blast was an ample catalyst for unity in our Jewish community. But despite our pressing need for solidarity, folks continue to find ways to divide our community based on many reasons. The inherent danger in this constant, and seemingly exponential division is that we run the risk of losing sight of the culture, customs, and history that binds us together.

I'm confident that the work we do together makes us stronger. I hope this year you are inspired to deepen a commitment to each other and community. It's not about "who" we are (i.e. orthodox, reform, immigrant,

gay, straight, etc.), but "what" we are... a link in the biblical and cultural chain.

And so, as we step into 5782, I hope we do so with a sense of optimism. We should continue holding ourselves to the highest possible standards. Our community must continue growing, evolving, and expanding our capacity for innovation and collaboration. But just as importantly, I also think that we can take stock of all the great work going on around us and feel proud of just how much we are accomplishing. The momentum toward change is in our favor. Now let's go build on it.

North American Aliyah in August Breaks Record Despite COVID-19

With the arrival of 1,000 olim in August, Nefesh B'Nefesh is on pace for a record-breaking year.

By David Hellerman, World Israel News

The arrival of 1,000 North American olim (immigrants) in August smashed Nefesh B'Nefesh's record for most new arrivals in a month. And the numbers point to a record-breaking year.

According to Nefesh B'Nefesh, which facilitates immigration for North American Jews, 1,912 new olim arrived in Israel on 40 group flights during the summer months. The organization has so far brought more than 3,000 new immigrants to Israel in 2021.

Nefesh B'Nefesh expects to hit its goal of 4,500-5,000 olim by the end of 2021. And that's despite the difficulties posed by the COVID outbreak.

"Despite the many challenges surrounding the pandemic, the resilience of our olim and dedication from our staff and partners, have



enabled us to celebrate our largest Aliyah month ever," said Rabbi Yehoshua Fass, the organization's co-founder and executive director.

This year's olim range in age from

four months to 96 years.

They include physicians, social workers, educators, lawyers, academics and young students planning to continue their studies in

Israeli institutions. This year's group of olim so far includes 362 families, 391 singles and 160 retirees.

Of the singles, 162 will become lone soldiers and 39 will become volunteers in *sherut leumi* (national service). Nefesh B'Nefesh expects 300 future soldiers by the end of the year.

Most of the organization's olim come from New York, New Jersey, California, Florida and Maryland. They tend to settle down in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Beit Shemesh, Modi'in and Ra'anana.

Founded in 2001, Nefesh B'Nefesh has helped more than 65,000 North American Jews make aliyah.

Overall, 18,520 olim from around the world immigrated to Israel.

Report from Ramat HaNegev

"We are inspired daily by our local leadership and enjoy witnessing how David Ben Gurion's vision for blooming the Negev is fulfilled. The Negev's importance to the state of Israel has been enhanced during the global pandemic of our time. Thankfully, we adapted to the dynamic reality and can respond to the new challenges, provide our communities with essential services, elevate the quality of life, and build for the future."

Eran Doron, Mayor of Ramat HaNegev

Led by a pioneering spirit, Ramat HaNegev is investing in its 15 communities and paving the road (literally) for the hundreds of young families to join during the next 20 years. We're not only thinking of tomorrow. We're planning for years ahead, realizing the Negev's potential, and emphasizing its importance as a strategic asset in responding to Israel's future population growth.

Our most precious resource is our local leadership. Our R&D center, renewable energy experts, desert agricultures, educators, business owners, and tourist operators. Our population is a beautiful mosaic of Israeli society, comprised mostly of families who chose to move to the Negev driven by ideals and vision. Iris Sagiv Barazani, for example, moved to Kadesh Barnea in 2011, and, using her own words, was "reborn in the desert".



She is a tour guide who focuses on the connection of man and the desert during ancient eras. Like her, many local tourist operators received the council's support to successfully adapt to the changing reality, and find innovative solutions, whether through digital services, new collaborations, marketing, etc.

Now, in 2021 (5782), more and more Israelis are working from home or enjoying hybrid schedules. There is a growing desire to live close to nature, enjoy community life, and the outdoors. As the demand to move to the region is constantly on the rise, the council is figuring out ways to create new job opportunities and is building new projects non-stop! Whether it's the new high school, new health clinic, sports complex, kindergartens, community centers new neighborhoods and even establishing a new community village!

Since the pandemic social initiatives popped up like mushrooms after the rain. We are proud of our community's resilience, and thankful for our partnership with the Jewish Federation of the Desert in Palm Spring which has had a vital role in our success, providing us the ability to support hybrid education,



caring for children with Special Needs, and support the children living in the remote communities in Pitchat Nitzana. Our most exciting news is that the council is establishing a new village community, next to the Nitzana Eco Youth Village, which will absorb dozens of new families who wish to take part in this historical project.

As the council works around the clock to provide high-quality services, in education, health, commerce, and so on – to do away with challenges that stem from the geographic location, locals, tourists, and visitors, all fall in love with the calm desert rhythm and beautiful views.

Finally, and most importantly, our region and its 8,500 residences demonstrate Israel's secret sauce – that a small group of determined people, armed with a vision & a plan, can overcome any obstacles, and move mountains!

The Negev was and always will be a lively vibrant place.

It's a desert of opportunities. And with your help – we're seizing them.

Jewish Federation Welcomes New CFO

By Bruce Landgarten, Jewish Federation CEO

We are very pleased to announce that Alberto Tejero has joined our professional staff team as Chief Financial Officer on September 23rd. Alberto has been a Desert resident since 2019. He previously resided in Fort Lauderdale, FL where he worked as Director of Finance for Telemundo/NBC, as CFO for MediaPro US and

most recently as HitsbookUS CFO.

We're excited to see Alberto apply his experience and education to help grow our infrastructure. Since his first day



Alberto Tejero

he has been participating in the onboarding activities and has hit the ground running. We are delighted to welcome him to our Federation team. We believe that he will be an indispensable addition our staff family. Please join us in expressing a hearty welcome to our Jewish Federation team.

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EDITORIAL

Bruce Landgarten,

Chief Executive Officer

Miriam H. Bent, Editor

Bailey Communications,

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JCN STATEMENT

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

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ARTICLES & ADVERTISING,

Miriam H. Bent, Editor

760-323-0255

e-mail: mhbjcn@earthlink.net

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Trove of Jewish Artifacts Stolen During Holocaust Now in US Custody

Funeral scrolls, manuscripts, other historic records traced to Jewish communities in Romania, Hungary, Ukraine and Slovakia were to be auctioned off in New York City

By AP Today

A trove of religious artifacts stolen from Jewish synagogues and homes in Europe during the Holocaust are now in the hands of US authorities who plan to return them to their communities of origin.

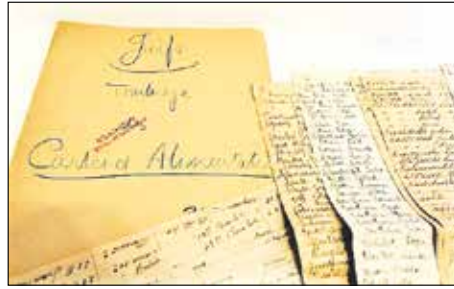
The authorities announced this week they had recovered 17 funeral scrolls, manuscripts and other historic records that were to go on auction in New York City. The items were traced to Jewish communities in Romania, Hungary, Ukraine and Slovakia that were ransacked during Nazi rule in World War II, federal prosecutors in Brooklyn said in a statement.

Acting US Attorney Jacquelin Kasulis said they “contain priceless historical information that belongs to the descendants of families that lived and flourished in Jewish communities before the Holocaust.”

The auction house, Kestenbaum & Company, said it had cooperated with authorities. The sale involved a private collector known for trying “to rescue and preserve Jewish historical documents that would otherwise have been lost,” it said in a statement.

When provenance claims were raised, the World Jewish Restitution Organization was consulted, “after which we withdrew the property from the proposed auction,” the statement added.

The case has its origins from an era when members of the Jewish communities were banished to ghettos, robbed of their belongings and deported to Nazi death camps, court papers say. When survivors returned, they found their homes emptied of anything of value, including records dating from the



Holocaust manuscripts

mid-19th century.

When the auction was scheduled, a researcher spotted that it included a forgotten relic from the city of Cluj-Napoca in Romania — a bound registry of burials between 1836 and 1899. It had an estimated value of up to \$7,000 and was described as a “manuscript written in Hebrew and Yiddish ... with elaborate, artistic title-page poetically extolling the three leaders of the Burial Society,” court papers said.

In an affidavit that was submitted to the court as part of an application for a search warrant, Megan Buckley, a special agent with the Department of Homeland Security, wrote that Kestenbaum & Company had offered 21 manuscripts, scrolls and other items for sale. She added that nearly all of those had disappeared or were believed to have been “confiscated by individuals or entities” who had no legal right to them, either during or just after the Holocaust.

“They represent invaluable cultural religious artifacts that should be properly returned to the survivors of their original Jewish communities,” Buckley wrote.

Buckley also wrote in the affidavit, dated July 20, that 17 of the 21 items were believed to be in the possession of an unnamed person

on the Upper East Side of Manhattan who had consigned them for sale.

Soon after Kestenbaum & Company listed items for sale, a genealogy researcher noticed one in particular, a burial register handwritten in Hebrew and Yiddish and known as the Pinkas Klali D’Chevra Kadisha.

The researcher told The New York Times earlier this year that it was a rare find worthy of proper preservation as a local museum exhibit. “Very little belonging to the community survived World War II,” Schwartz said. “It’s surprising that the book surfaced at auction, because no one knew anything about its existence.”

A historic register of Jewish burial records from the modern-day Romanian city of Cluj-Napoca is among artifacts that have been recovered as part of a seizure by authorities in New York who plan to return the objects to their communities of origin.

Federal prosecutors in Brooklyn announced the seizure, of 17 Jewish funeral scrolls, manuscripts and other records, which they describe



Bound Memorial Book from Romania



Illuminated page in Oradea memorial book

as having been taken from Jewish communities in Romania, Hungary, Ukraine and Slovakia during World War II.

“Absent any provenance or documentation of conveyance from any survivors of those communities, there is no legitimate means by which the manuscripts and scrolls could have been imported into the United States,” the U.S. attorney’s office in Brooklyn said in its announcement of the seizure.

Jacquelyn Kasulis, the acting U.S. attorney, said in a statement that the items were “illegally confiscated during the Holocaust” and contain “priceless historical information.”

All of the items had been offered for sale earlier this year by Kestenbaum & Company, an auction house in Brooklyn that specializes in Judaica, the authorities said. The New York Times reported in February that the auction house offered and then withdrew from sale 17 items, including the burial register. That withdrawal took place after requests from a restitution organization and Jewish community leadership in Romania.

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FBI Report Reinforces Trend That American Jews are 'Top Target' for Hate Crimes

By Faygie Holt, JNS.org

The latest FBI report on hate crimes shows that the number of incidents continues to rise year to year in the U.S., with 7,759 hate crimes reported in 2020 as compared to 7,517 in 2019, but with fewer crimes categorized as "religiously motivated."

"Preventing and responding to hate crimes and hate incidents is one of the Justice Department's highest priorities. The FBI Hate Crime Statistics for 2020 demonstrates the urgent need for a comprehensive response," said U.S. Attorney General Merrick B. Garland upon the report's publication Aug. 30. "Last year saw a 6.1 percent increase in hate crime reports, and in particular, hate crimes motivated by race, ethnicity and ancestry, and by gender identity.

"These numbers confirm what we have already seen and heard from communities, advocates and law enforcement agencies around the country," he continued, adding, "And these numbers do not account for the many hate crimes that go unreported."

Anti-Jewish bias accounted for 676 incidents — 57 percent of the

1,174 religiously motivated hate crimes in 2020 — aligning with the annual finding that the Jewish community is disproportionately targeted by religiously motivated crimes, given that Jews account for less than 2 percent of the U.S. population. The total number of incidents is down from the 953 anti-Jewish hate crimes reported in 2019, but also occurred a time of national lockdown due to the

"Despite our relatively small population, these attacks show no signs of slowing down as our community was targeted the most among religiously motivated crimes," said Michael Masters, National Director and CEO of the Secure Community Network.



COVID-19 pandemic.

"This report reminds us all that the Jewish community remains a top target for hate crimes," said Michael Masters, National Director and CEO of the Secure Community Network, which describes itself as the "official safety and security organization" of the Jewish community in North



America. "Despite our relatively small population, these attacks show no signs of slowing down as our community was targeted the most among religiously motivated crimes. We must continue to work to be as prepared and secure as possible so the Jewish community can continue to thrive."

Among the incidents against Jews last year, 56 percent targeted individuals directly. Fifty-three percent involved vandalism or property destruction; 33 percent involved intimidation; and 10 percent entailed either simple or aggravated assault.

In other notable findings, more than 120 incidents of anti-Jew hatred in New York State were categorized as destruction, damage or vandalism of property, while 37 incidents were "simple assault." Of 116 incidents in California, nine

were classified as "aggravated assault," eight as "simple assault" and 80 incidents were destruction, damage or vandalism. In New Jersey, 38 percent of anti-Jew incidents were classified as intimidation, and 8 percent of all bias incidents targeted Jews in the Garden State occurred at either a park or playground, with another 14 percent occurring at an elementary or secondary school.

"Every hate crime is heinous and unacceptable, no matter its target, and we must stand resolutely with any targeted group. Yet the fact that American Jews — who make up no more than 2 percent of the U.S. population — are the targets of nearly 60 percent of religious bias crimes should set off alarm bells," said David Harris, CEO of American Jewish Committee. "For decades, we have cautioned that anti-Semitism is a rising threat and that it comes from multiple sources, including the far right, the hard left, and Islamist extremists. Fighting Jew-hatred in America must become a national priority and it must be a bipartisan and cross-communal effort."

Think Tanks from Israel and Bahrain Plan Joint Ventures

By Abigail Klein Leichman ISRAEL 21C

The Abba Eban Institute for International Diplomacy at the IDC Herzliya private Israeli university signed a memorandum of understanding for cooperation with the Derasat Institute — The Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies.

The two think tanks plan cooperative ventures including a joint fellowship exchange program; joint research projects; sharing of

resources; and joint conferences, seminars and workshops.

The MoU was signed by former Israeli ambassador to the United Nations Ron Prosor, currently chairman of the Abba Eban Institute; and Derasat Institute Executive Director Hamad Ebrahim Al Abdulla.

The ceremony was attended by Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, undersecretary for political affairs at the Bahrain Ministry of Foreign

Affairs and deputy secretary general of the Supreme Defense Council, and IDC Herzliya President and Founder Prof. Uriel Reichman.

Al Khalifa said, "I remember sitting on the South Lawn of the White House last September and realizing that history was in the making, when the Kingdom of Bahrain decided to join the Abraham Accords and establish diplomatic relations with Israel. Back then there was nothing

between our countries. Today we've come a long way and we have a solid foundation. The values of peace, coexistence and religious tolerance are values that Bahrain has been upholding for centuries both our peoples share. Linking our faculties, our researchers, our analysts, our students and having them work together will do a lot for the development of bilateral relations between Bahrain and Israel."

Israeli Research Suggests New Path to Predict and Prevent Cancer Relapses

By Nathan Jeffay, The Times of Israel

Israeli scientists say they may have found a new way to predict when cancer patients are poised for a relapse and develop treatments to avert it.

Tel Aviv University researchers identified a specific pattern of changes in lung tissue that tends to appear before breast cancer patients in remission see the disease metastasize, or spread, to another part of the body.

"We've recorded the earliest changes ever seen in the body that enable breast cancer cells to bring about metastasis," lead researcher Prof. Neta Erez, head of pathology at Tel Aviv University, told The Times of Israel, explaining that she believes the changes set off a domino effect that causes the metastasis.

"We hope to use this research to pave the way for therapeutic interventions that may prevent the changes and therefore prevent metastasis."

She said that if her research pans out it will allow very early intervention, before metastasis, "which is akin to fighting a fire when it's just a small spark instead of big flames."

Erez said that while her study focused on breast cancer, she expects that the changes in the body would be found across cancers and plans to explore this.

Explaining the background to her research, which has been peer-reviewed and published in the journal eLife, Erez said: "When a woman has breast cancer, the primary tumor is removed and she's treated with radiotherapy or chemotherapy to remove cells

that may have been missed by the surgeon. She will come for follow-up, but it can happen that, say, a couple of years later, there is recurrent disease caused by cells that were in the body for two years.

"This time period is a 'black box,' in the sense that any cells that will cause harm are undetectable until they cause metastasis, which is already late for treatment," she said, "We're trying to open this black box and understand what happens between the removal of the tumor and the discovery of metastasis."

Erez and her colleagues Dr. Ophir Shani and Dr. Yael Raz have explored the topic using mice that were modified to mimic the body of recovered breast cancer patients. The mice that had a relapse of cancer experienced specific changes, discernible in the lungs, that take place in fibroblasts, a type of connective tissue.

The researchers validated the findings by analyzing lung tissue of human breast cancer patients who had metastasis.

Erez said that as she advances her research and achieves a detailed picture of what the changes look like in humans, doctors may be able to look for them and intervene earlier. "Identifying the preparatory processes for the reception of metastases at an early stage may save millions of



Professor
Neta Erez

lives," she said.

But her biggest hope is that the emerging insights into processes that take place in the body before metastasis will enable her to interfere with the cell changes that prompt these processes.

"We are starting to understand early changes that happen before metastasis, and our hope is that by doing so we can stop the changes from happening, with targeted therapies the likes of which

already exist, such as antibodies or small molecules," she said.

"If we find the protein that is very important in facilitating and enabling tumor cells in their forming of metastasis, the scientific community already has the capability to develop the right therapies. If we block these metastasis-supporting processes, we're hopefully going to stop the tumor cells from growing."

Temple Isaiah Sisterhood is Reviving a Delightful Tradition ... inviting the Sisterhoods of our Local Temples ... and Book Clubs too ... to come together for a nosh and fun afternoon!

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and its Book Club invite you to
BE OUR GUESTS FOR DESSERT**

Wednesday, October 20th • 2:30-4:30 pm

Program: AUTHOR TOD GOLDBERG



Tod Goldberg is the New York Times bestselling author of over a dozen books, including *The Low Desert*, *Gangsterland*, a finalist for the Hammett Prize, *Gangster Nation*, *The House of Secrets*, which he co-authored with Brad Meltzer, and *Living Dead Girl*, a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. His criticism and award-winning essays appear regularly in the Los Angeles Times, USA Today, and Alta and has been widely anthologized, including in *Best American Essays*. Tod holds an MFA in fiction and literature

from Bennington College and is a Professor of Creative Writing at the University of California, Riverside, where he founded and directs the Low Residency MFA in Creative Writing & Writing for the Performing Arts.

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Israeli Startup Lands Huge 3D Mapping Deal with Australia

GeoX will map 18 million buildings throughout the Australian continent using satellite imagery, AI and other patented technologies.

By Jon Schiller, Israel21c

Israeli 3D mapping startup **GeoX** has signed a deal with GeoSpace, an Australian government geo-mapping firm, where GeoX will map 18 million buildings throughout the Australian continent using satellite imagery, AI and other patented technologies.

The Petah Tikva-based company's data can be used for real-estate and insurance assessment and pricing, to identify new opportunities for cellular antennas and energy, and even to assess the potential of covering certain rooftops with solar



panels.

The cooperation with the Australian government aims to greatly reduce the amount of manpower needed for such an ambitious project, as it will not

require the government to send surveyors to each building.

The initial mapping, to begin in Sydney and Melbourne, is expected to take a few months. After that, the system will constantly be fed updated aerial images.

According to GeoX founder Izik Lavi, this is one of the world's largest and most advanced projects in the field of geo-mapping.

The prevalence of natural disasters around the world has led to an increase in demand for advanced mapping systems to help

insurance companies assess risk, Lavi said. Advanced mapping can help determine which buildings are at higher risk based on factors such as the structural integrity of the roof, or the house's proximity to forests or oceans.

"This is a very significant leap forward compared to other technologies employed in Australia thus far," said Lavi.

The newly signed deal is expected to earn the company \$15 million over the next five years.



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

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

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

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

EU Delays PA Funding; Salary Payment in Doubt as Crisis Deepens

By Khaled Abu Toameh, Tovah Lazaroff, The Jerusalem Post

The European Union has delayed by ten months this year's funding to the Palestinian Authority in a move that has deepened the PA's financial crisis and raised doubts about the payment of civil servant wages.

"The crisis is very serious, and at this stage we don't know if we will be able to pay this month's salaries," a Palestinian official cautiously told The Jerusalem Post.

The European Union has been the largest single donor to the PA, providing 150 million euros for social allowances, including salaries for employees such as teachers and health care workers.

This year, for the first time the EU has not provided its traditional 150 million euros for those salaries in a timely fashion, referencing technical reasons.

The EU might provide funds by October, leaving the PA scraping the barrel in an effort to fund August and September wages.

The payment of civil servant salaries for June and July were delayed by several days due to the crisis, the official

pointed out.

"The banks are saying that they can no longer give us loans because they have reached the maximum of what they are allowed to give," the official said.

The current crisis is directly linked to the sharp decline in foreign aid, he explained.

An EU spokesperson said that "the payments of social allowances to vulnerable Palestinian families and salaries to civil servants are the responsibility of the Palestinian Authority, not the European Union."

"The PA has been perfectly aware for months that EU funding in 2021 would be delayed for technical reasons," the spokesperson said.

"As per our communication with the PA, the delay in our annual support for Palestinians is expected to last until October 2021. The PA – like any responsible public authority – must plan on the basis of the revenue streams to which it has access, including when it knows donor generosity may be delayed," the spokesperson explained.

The Palestinian official noted that there were other factors at work. There was a significant drop in tax collection, increased debts to the banks and the economic crisis resulting from the spread of COVID-19 and its Delta variant.

The crisis is also caused by Israel's deduction of hundreds of millions of shekels from the amount paid by the PA to families of terrorists imprisoned or killed by Israel.

Another PA official said that the Ramallah-based government was hoping to receive more than \$200 million in foreign aid during the first six months of this year. In reality, however, the PA received less than \$35m during the period, further aggravating the financial crisis.

We have made urgent appeals to the donors to fulfill their obligations towards the Palestinian people," the official told The Jerusalem Post. "The Arab countries, as you know, have not given us one dollar in the past year. We are now relying on the Americans and Europeans."

Poway Synagogue Shooter Avoids Death Penalty with Guilty Plea

By Julie Watson, The Times of Israel

A 22-year-old former nursing student pleaded guilty to the murder of one person and the attempted murders of 53 others in connection with a 2019 deadly shooting at a Southern California synagogue on the last day of Passover, effectively ending the possibility of facing the death penalty.



John T. Earnest

John T. Earnest entered a similar guilty plea on July 20 on state charges in San Diego Superior Court and agreed then to serve the rest of his life in state prison without the possibility of parole. Sentencing is scheduled for Sept. 30.

In the federal case, sentencing has been set for Dec. 28. Defense

attorneys and prosecutors are also recommending a term of life in prison, plus 30 years, according to the plea.

Earnest opened fire with a semi-automatic rifle during the last day of Passover services in April 2019 at Chabad of Poway, northeast of San Diego. The attack killed 60-year-

old Lori Gilbert-Kaye and wounded three others, including an 8-year-old girl and the rabbi, who lost a finger.

After Earnest emptied his initial magazine, several congregants rushed at him. Earnest fled in his car and, shortly after, called 911 and confessed that he had "just shot up a synagogue." Earnest was apprehended by local law enforcement who found the rifle and additional ammunition in his car.

In his plea Friday he admitted that he set also had fire to an Escondido mosque on March 24 with seven people sleeping inside, though no one was hurt.

He said he carried out the attacks

because he wanted to kill Muslims and Jews.

A federal grand jury in May 2019 indicted Earnest on 113 charges, to which he pleaded guilty on September 17.

"This nation stands with Lori Gilbert Kaye's family and the survivors of these unspeakable acts of terror," Acting US Attorney Randy S. Grossman said in a statement. "We emphatically reject the defendant's hate, racism and prejudice, and we hope the conclusion of this case brings some measure of comfort to all those affected by his heinous crimes."

Four Alleged Neo-Nazis Charged with Conspiracy to Damage US Power Grid

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Four men who allegedly colluded through a neo-Nazi forum were charged in late August on suspicion of devising a terrorist attack on the power grid in Idaho and the US Northwest, the Department of Justice (DOJ) said.

Paul James Kryscuk, 35, Liam Collins, 21, Jordan Duncan, 26, and Joseph Maurino, 22, were indicted in North Carolina. According to the DOJ document, Collins and Duncan are former Marines previously assigned to Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, North Carolina. The defendants are charged with conspiracy to damage the property of an energy facility in the US, the document stated.

If convicted, Collins, Duncan, Kryscuk and Maurino could each face up to 40 years in prison.

According to the charges, the defendants researched, discussed, and reviewed in depth a previous attack on the power grid by an unknown group that used assault rifles in an attempt to

explode a power substation. Between 2017 and 2020, Kryscuk produced firearms while Collins stole military gear, including magazines for assault rifles, and had them delivered to the other defendants. During that time, Duncan collected information, some military owned, regarding firearms, explosives, and nerve agents.

The indictment also states that the group members discussed using homemade Thermite, a combination of metal powder and metal oxide which burns at over 2,200 degrees Celsius to destroy power transformers.

In mid-2020, Collins allegedly asked the group to each buy 50 pounds (about 23 kgs) of Tannerite, a binary explosive containing aluminum powder and oxidizers, and can be used to make Thermite. Later that year, a handwritten list of approximately one dozen intersections and places in Idaho and nearby states was found in

Kryscuk's possession, including places with components of the power grid for the northwest US. If the plot had succeeded, the damage caused could have amounted to more than \$100,000.

Court documents say that Collins and Kryscuk met each other on the now-defunct online neo-Nazi medium Iron March and used the forum to recruit the others. They also allege that Collins wrote on the forum that he hoped the group would be "a modern-day SS," referring to the infamous elite Nazi military force.

Training was held at a desert location near Boise, Idaho, Newsweek reported. A propaganda video the group recorded during training shows participants dressed in masks associated with the neo-Nazi group AtomWaffen Division firing assault rifles before displaying the "Heil Hitler" sign under a Nazi symbol. The video ends with a message stating "come home white man."

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In First, Israeli Avocado Farmers to Grow Superfood in Morocco to Meet Surge in Global Demand

by Sharon Wrobel, *The Algemeiner*

Israel's largest grower and exporter of citrus is for the first time venturing out of the country to grow avocados, in a move to meet the constantly rising global demand for the tasty superfood.

As ties between the Jewish state and the North African kingdom have continued to deepen since their normalization agreement last year, Mehadrin has entered into a joint venture to grow avocados in Morocco, looking to expand production to Africa and Latin America in the hopes of producing the fruit year-round and at lower costs.

"Planting the avocados in Morocco is part of a larger plan to be able to supply our European customers more easily than from Israel in terms of geography and in terms of more competitive costs," Shaul Shelach, CEO of Mehadrin, told *The Algemeiner*. "The strategy to grow avocados outside of Israel will be to have agricultural business in the Southern hemisphere like Africa, and some geographies in Latin America, which will be exactly the opposite part of the year to be harvesting avocados."

Mehadrin revenues come in large part from growing the profitable avocado crop and citrus, as well as Israel's prized medjool dates. Over the next decade, the avocado is expected to be the fastest growing commodity of among fresh tropical fruits like mango, pineapple and papaya, as demand continues to outstrip supply.

"Avocado is a superfood and the per capita consumption is growing very fast in the US and in Europe, while at the same time there are very large amounts of planting of avocado also in Israel, in Latin America, and in Africa," Shelach remarked. "What we

experience today is that everyone is running after the avocado, as most of the year, there are some low stocks or shortages of avocados — which is not what will be the case five years from now."

Avocado production is forecasted to more than triple by 2030, compared with 2010 levels, at 12 metric tons, according to the OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2021-2030 — becoming the most traded major tropical fruit.

In April, the Israeli grower struck an agreement with a Moroccan company, in which it will hold a 51% stake. The two partners plan to lease land stretching across an area of at least 5,000 dunams (1,235 acres) and jointly invest about \$9 million over a three-year period. The plantation will be leased from the Moroccan government and the maximum annual output is expected to be around 10,000 tons of avocados.

"In Morocco, which is close to us and close to Europe, we found the basic advantages needed for growing avocado, the needed type of land, water, weather, and lower labor costs. It's not a country with a long tradition of growing avocado, but we have all

the know-how and experience for that," Shelach explained. "Israel is a country with a very long tradition of growing them and optimal conditions, so we have a lot of advantages in the know-how of growing avocados."

The agreement comes after Israel and Morocco in late 2020 resumed diplomatic ties as part of a normalization agreement brokered by the US, joining other Arab countries, including the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

Shelach expects that the two partners will receive the land from the Moroccan government in the coming two weeks after, which they plan to start planting in March. It will then take two to three years to begin reaping fruit, and five years for all of the avocado trees to come to full harvest.

Shelach said that about 85% of the avocados would likely be sent to Europe, with the rest sold in the local market in Morocco.

"Our next step is to look for the right partners for two more businesses to grow avocados in Africa and Latin America in seasons that they don't grow in Israel," he said.

"To Compare is to Despair"



Harriet Rossetto,
LCSW

Do you compare yourself to others? Judging your insides by their outsides?

Do you need to be Perfect?

Validated by others? Do you look for love in all the wrong places?



Let's Talk

310.384.1417

harrietrossetto@gmail.com



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



Fran Kaufman Selected Our Community's 2022 Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Honoree

Since 2004, the Kipnis-Wilson Friedland Award honors extraordinary women who have set a high standard for philanthropy and volunteerism. Winners are chosen by peers as "women of valor" with a lifetime of commitment to the Jewish world. Each is recognized at the biennial International Lion of Judah Conference (ILOJC).

Recently the Jewish Federation of the Desert's past Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland honorees Barbara Platt [2004], Cora Ginsberg [2008], Celia Norian [2010], Roberta Nyman [2012], Libby Hoffman [2014], Nancy Ditlove [2016], and Stephanie Ross [2018] met to select the woman to be honored at the upcoming International Lion of Judah Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, originally scheduled for January 2022, but moved to December 11-13, 2022. For our local prior recipients, the decision was easy. With enthusiasm the woman unanimously selected long time community leader Frances D. (Fran) Kaufman. for her extraordinary involvement in our community.

Fran Kaufman is a native Californian who grew up in Downey, CA and graduated from the Annenberg School of Journalism at the University of Southern California. She grew up surrounded by strong Jewish women, in particular her mother and grandmother, whose commitment to their Jewish community served as role

models for Fran's own involvement, which she is proudly passing down to her three children and six grandchildren.

When her family moved to the Desert, her parents helped establish Temple Sinai, where she was an active volunteer for many years. In 2004 Fran and her late husband, Dr. Mark Kaufman, helped found Congregation Har El and she served as its President from 2015-2018.

Fran has been an active participant in many Jewish and general community philanthropic groups in the Coachella Valley. Her Jewish involvement includes having served as President and Campaign Chair for the Women's Philanthropy Board and, later, Secretary of the Jewish Federation of the Desert Board of Directors, in total serving nine years on the board. Her educational and civic involvement included serving as President of the Parents Council at her children's school, and Chair of the Indian Wells Planning Commission.

Fran has been a Travel Agent since 1985 and she loves to make dreams come true for her clients. She helped arrange and participated in several Federation Leadership Missions to Israel.



Fran has been a proud Lion of Judah for 15 years. She exemplifies the Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland woman by her demonstrated leadership roles in the Jewish Community and beyond and was an obvious selection for this prestigious honor.

"This award took me by surprise,"

Fran says, "I am truly honored to receive it. I do the work I do because it makes me feel good and proud to be Jewish. I'm motivated to make a difference in our community, Israel, and throughout the world, and to ensure a Jewish future for my children and grandchildren."

VISIT US ONLINE FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFO

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. Thank you.

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 and we will do our best to put together a game for you.

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Chair: Michelle Coneybeare

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 Federation of the Desert, 69-710 Hwy. 111,
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Lisa Friedman Clark

Our Lion of Judah Annual Brunch
 is at the Tamarisk Country Club on
 January 24th, 2022, 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.



Chairs:

Carol Fragen & Phyllis Eisenberg

Minimum gift to 2022 Jewish Federation Annual Campaign to attend event:
 Jewish Federation of the Desert Lions: \$5,000. Out-of-town Lions: \$1,200.

"What Would You Do If You Weren't Afraid"

Fascinating Book Review Rescheduled for Sunday, October 10 at 10 AM

Michal Oshman's book has
 engendered enthusiastic appeal,
 but the originally scheduled date
 just before Yom Kippur proved
 problematic, so is now being offered
 on Sunday, October 10th at 10:00 AM.

Join the Federation's Women's
 Cultural Alliance for this exciting Zoom
 book review and discussion on "What
 Would You Do If You Weren't Afraid"
 by Michal Oshman, Head of Culture,
 Tik Tok Europe & Former Leadership
 Expert, Facebook. Michal has been
 a mentor for leaders in top global
 companies and has given us tools
 to discover who we really are. By
 drawing on her own heritage and a
 wide range of "Histadrut" (Jewish
 teachings) she offers practical advice
 on many common concerns from

mending a broken
 heart, parenting,
 o v e r c o m i n g
 setback etc.

This book
 deals with Jewish
 learning, wisdom
 and a 3,000-year-
 old principle for
 living life fearlessly. Michal Oshman,
 an Israeli born and raised woman,
 served as a commanding officer in
 the IDF before marrying and moving
 to England. Oshman's book can be
 ordered at Amazon or your favorite
 bookstore or purchased at Costco.

Please contact Leslie Pepper at 760-
 324-4737 to register for this book
 review and discussion. Zoom links
 will be sent out prior to the program.



**The 2022 International Lion of Judah
 Conference has been moved from
 January to DECEMBER 11-13, 2022,
 at the Biltmore Hotel in Phoenix,
 Arizona.**



Connecting to your Inner Truth, by Discovering Who You Are at Your Core

Our Women's Cultural Alliance programming continues the theme of applying Jewish learning to our everyday life with a three-part program coming in the fall, led by Rebbitzin Sussie Denebeim on Jewish spirituality, philosophy, and mystical teachings. The three-part program will include:

Part 1: "Two Souls and One Me;" the two types of consciousness



Sussie Denebeim

within each person, what motivates them and how they operate.

Part 2: Intellect and Emotion; Navigating the relationship between thoughts and feelings; and

Part 3: Judaism, A Doctrine of Love; Transcending our differences from a soul perspective.

Dates for the series coming soon. Watch for information in the Jewish Community News and in Women's Cultural Alliance eblasts. For further information please contact Leslie Pepper at 760-324-4737.

Iconic Mossad Agent Yael Man Dies at 85

Intelligence gathered by the famed agent was crucial to a 1973 Israeli raid on Lebanon in which three top PLO leaders, as well as some 100 other terrorists, were eliminated.

By Neta Bar, Jewish News Syndicate



Israeli Mossad agent Yael Man

Famed Mossad agent Yael Man, whose contributions to the intelligence agency made her a national Israeli hero, passed away on August 29 at the age of 85.

Man served as an undercover agent in Lebanon, gathering intelligence on the Palestinian Liberation Organization under the guise of a British screenwriter.

Her work was crucial to a 1973 Israeli raid on Lebanon—also known as "Operation Spring of Youth"—in which the Israel Defense Forces eliminated three of the highest-

ranking PLO leaders as well as 100 more of its terrorists.

Born in Canada in 1936, Man immigrated to Israel in 1968 at the age of 31. She was drafted into the Mossad in 1971 and served in the agency for 15 years.

Former Israeli Prime Minister and IDF Chief of Staff Ehud Barak, who led the army forces during "Operation Spring of Youth," paid tribute to Man: "A walking legend of courage, composure and professionalism. She completed our intelligence for 'Operation Spring of Youth' to eliminate the terrorist leaders in Beirut. She was there while we were approaching to make sure they [the terrorists] were indeed in their apartments and stayed in the area so as not to leave a sign. Endless courage. May her memory be a blessing."

CVRep

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'Silent Mutations' Can Predict Development of Cancer, Say Israeli Researchers

By TPS

Israeli researchers from the Department of Biomedical Engineering and the Zimin Institute for Engineering Solutions Advancing Better Lives at Tel Aviv University have been able to predict both the type of cancer and patients' survival probability based on silent mutations in cancer genomes, a proof of concept that may well save lives in the future.

Silent mutations are defined as mutations that do not change the sequence of amino acids in proteins. In recent years it has been shown that silent mutations, both in and out of the cell's genetic coding region, can affect gene expression and may be associated with the development and spread of cancer cells.

However, the question of whether silent mutations can help identify cancer types or predict patients' chances of survival has never before been investigated with quantitative tools.

In the current study, based on about three million mutations from cancer genomes of 9,915 patients, the researchers attempted to identify the type of cancer and predict survival probability 10 years after the initial diagnosis – on the basis of silent mutations alone.

They found that the predictive power of silent mutations is often similar to that of 'ordinary', non-silent mutations. In addition, they discovered that combining information from silent and non-silent mutations classification could be improved for 68% of the cancer types, and best survival estimations could be obtained up to nine years after diagnosis.

In some types of cancer, classification was improved by up to

17%, while prognosis was improved by up to 5%.

"Our genome, like the genome of all other living things, contains mutations that can change the sequence of amino acids in the coded proteins," explained Prof. Tamir Tuller, the lead researcher. "Since these proteins are responsible for the various cell mechanisms, such mutations are involved in turning healthy cells into cancer cells. Other mutations, which don't affect the amino acids, have been called 'silent' and ignored for many years.

"In our study, about 10,000 cancer genomes of every type were analyzed, demonstrating for the first time that silent mutations do have diagnostic value – for identifying the type of cancer, as well as prognostic value – for predicting how long the patient is likely to survive."

According to Tuller, the cell's genetic material holds two types of information: first, the sequence of amino acids to be produced, and second, when and how much to produce of each protein – namely regulation of the production process.

"Even if they don't change the structure of the protein, silent mutations can influence the process of protein production (gene expression), which is just as important. If a cell produces much smaller quantities of a certain protein – it's almost as though the protein has been eliminated altogether.

"Another important aspect, which can also be affected by silent mutations, is the protein's 3D folding, which impacts its functions: Proteins are long molecules usually consisting of many hundreds of amino acids,

and their folding process begins when they are produced in the ribosome. Folding can be affected by the rate at which the protein is produced, which may in turn be affected by silent mutations.

"Also, in some cases, silent mutations can impact a process called splicing, in which pieces of the genetic material are cut and rearranged to create the final sequence in the protein. In short, it appears that silent mutations can actually make a lot of noise, and in this study, we were able to quantify their impact for the first time," said Tuller.

'There are real people behind these numbers'

To test their hypothesis and quantify the effect of the silent mutations, Prof. Tuller and his colleagues used public genetic information about cancer genomes from the NIH in the U.S. Applying machine learning techniques to this data, the researchers obtained predictions of the type of cancer and prognoses for patients' survival – based on silent mutations alone. Then they compared their results with real data from the database.

The results of our study have several important implications," says Prof. Tuller. "First of all, there is no doubt that by using silent mutations, we can improve existing diagnostic and prognostic models. It should be noted that even a 17% improvement is very significant because there are real people behind these numbers – sometimes even ourselves or our loved ones. Doctors discovering metastases want to know where they came from and how the disease has developed, in order to prescribe

the best treatment.

"If, hypothetically, instead of giving wrong diagnoses and prognostics to five of ten cancer patients, they only make mistakes in four out of ten cases, millions of lives may ultimately be saved. In addition, our results indicate that in many cases silent mutations can by themselves provide predictive power that is similar to that of non-silent mutations.

"These results are especially significant for a range of technologies currently under development, striving to diagnose cancer types based on DNA from malignant sources identified in simple blood tests. Since most of our DNA does not code for proteins, we may assume that most cancer DNA obtained from blood samples will contain silent mutations."

The new study has implications for all areas of oncological research and treatment. Following this proof of concept, the researchers intend to establish a startup with Sanara Ventures, focusing on silent mutations as a diagnostic and prognostic tool.

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Shabbat Schedule - October 2021

Due to the uncertainties from the COVID Pandemic and changing schedules, 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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www.chabadpd.com 760-969-2153 / 760-969-2158

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Plans underway to resume regular services and programs in Sun City. Check schedule.

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New website: harelurjpd.org.
Shabbat services offered online. Everyone welcome.
Zoom Shabbat Evening Services 5 pm with Rabbi Richard Zionts and Cantor Joseph Gole. Discussion with attendees before and after the Shabbat Services.
Saturday 11 am—Zoom Torah Study with Discussion conducted by Rabbi Zionts. For Zoom invite email harelurjpd@gmail.com.

CONGREGATION SHALOM BAYIT (Reform)

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

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Virtual services held the second Fridays at 7:00 pm on Zoom. For link and password contact rabbi@desert-outreach-synagogue.com.
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OR HAMIDBAR

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

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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. Shabbat services are in-person. 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 Programs - October 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.

Wednesday, October 6

Prof. Steven Windmueller, Ph.D., will speak on the recent Pew Study on American Jewry and Antisemitism followed by discussion. For Zoom invitation and confirmation of the time, email: harelurjpd@gmail.com.

Sunday, October 10

5:30 pm Jewish Federation Women's Alliance program: Zoom

book review and discussion with Michal Oshman, author of "**What Would You Do if You Weren't Afraid?**" To RSVP call Leslie Pepper, 760-324-4737. For more information see page 12.

Wednesday, October 20

1:00 pm Jewish Federation's Holocaust Education Series: Dr. Gary M. Levin of the Holocaust Museum of Los Angeles will speak on the historical and spiritual significance of the scrolls saved from the Holocaust. See article page 1.

Wednesday, October 20

2:30-4:30 pm Temple Isaiah Sisterhood and Book Club is hosting Sisterhoods and Book Clubs of the local Temples as their guests for dessert and to hear author **Tod Goldberg** review the stories behind his many mystery books. RSVP to 760-323-8025 or 760-219-2155. See ad page 7.

Wednesday, October 20

3:30 pm "Har-El Goes to the Movies." Film: "**The Interpreter;**" The confrontation between a Nazi and a Holocaust survivor. For Zoom invitation, contact harelurjpd@gmail.com.

Wednesday, October 20

7:00 pm Sabra Hadassah meeting at Sun City Palm Desert/Oasis Room. Program: Carole Krechman, President, Peacemakers Corps Association: How do we facilitate and support peace and tolerance education among the youth of the world? For more information call Debbie at 760-289-7987.

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

Norwegian Imam Suspended Indefinitely for Saying Jews Should Be Killed

By Cnaan Liphshiz, Jewish Telegraphic Agency

A Muslim imam in Norway who has led interfaith dialogue projects has made antisemitic statements on Facebook, including on how Jews are dangerous and "should be killed," for years.

The Norway branch of Minhaj-ul-Quran, an international Muslim organization that is considered moderate and geared toward outreach, suspended Noor Ahmad Noor indefinitely on August 9 following an expose published the week before by the Vartland



Imam Noor Ahmad Noor

newspaper on his antisemitic statements. Noor had served for years as the branch's director.

Police have launched an investigation into his remarks.

In one post from 2019, Noor wrote that Jews "put the world in danger"

and it is "necessary to kill them."

In a short statement to the Norwegian media, Noor said: "My posts were published in frustration over attacks in Gaza. Innocent children and women were killed. My criticism and frustration should have been directed at the regime. And not against a group of people. I apologize."

As director of Minhaj-ul-Quran, he has participated in meetings and projects with top government officials, including Cabinet ministers

and Ivar Flaten, head of the Church Dialogue Center in Drammen, the Norwegian city where Noor lives.

Flaten initially defended Noor to Vartland, arguing dialogue occurs amid disagreements, but has since called the remarks "unacceptable, shocking."

In statement, Minhaj-ul-Quran wrote: "These are attitudes and values we have zero tolerance for as a religious community. This is contrary to what we have been working for for decades."



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:

- **Nancy Fraiman**, Happy special birthday from Loreen Jacobson.
- **Joyce Freund**, Happy special birthday from Loreen Jacobson
- **Dorothy Friedlander**, Happy birthday from Arnie and Susan Gillman.
- **Gordon Hubbard**, In honor of your milestone birthday, from Debra and Dr. Mickey Star.
- **Loreen and Patty Jacobson**, Wishing you a Happy New Year, from Bob and Nancy Fraiman.
- **Alvin Kaplan**, Happy birthday from Eunice and Jerry Meister.
- **Mendy and Chaya Kreiman**, Mazel tov on the birth of your son, from Dr. Paul and Stephanie Ross.
- **Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman**, Mazel tov on the birth of your grandson, from Dr. Paul and Stephanie Ross.
- **Terry Lubar**, Happy birthday from Micki Goldner and Margot and Jerry Halperin.
- **Cathy Maslan**, Happy special birthday from Loreen Jacobson.
- **Lila Rauch**, Happy birthday from Cora Ginsberg.
- **Howard Schor**, Happy birthday from Cora Ginsberg.

Refuah Shleimah Get Well:

- **Sam Cohen**, Thinking of you and hoping for better days ahead, from Ed and Jackie Cohen.

- **Barbara Rosenfield**, Thinking of you, from Mimi and Howard Paley.
- **Leslie Usow**, Hoping you have a fast and easy recovery, from Margot and Jerry Halperin, Mimi and Harold Paley.

Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:

- **In memory of those who perished in 9/11**, Steve Cangeliosi, Joe Cappo, Jim Connor, Brooke Jackman, Bill Minardi, Bernie Patterson, Matt Picerno, Leo Roberts, Herman Sandler and Birff Wohlforth, from Alan J. Goldstein and Mary Levine.
- **Morris Beschloss**, In memory of your beloved wife Ruth, from Cass and Adrian Graff-Radford.
- **David Broude**, In memory of Jane Broude, from Ben Rinkey and Sandy Schwartz.
- **Yael Fahn and Family**, In memory of Mervin, from Gloria Snyder.
- **Arthur Friedman and Family**, In memory of your beloved wife Fran, from Bobby and Toni Garmisa, Cora Ginsberg, Cass and Adrian Graff-Radford, Ruth and Mal Kaufman, Eunice and Jerry Meister, Harold and Mimi Paley, Sherry and Howard Schor.
- **Trena Greitzer**, In memory of your beloved husband Stan, from Melinda Raphael Goodman, Ruth and Mal Kaufman.
- **Rosee Hertz**, In memory of your beloved sister, from Margot and Jerry Halperin.
- **Frances Horwich**, In memory of your beloved sister, Ruth Beschloss, from Bobby and Toni

Garmisa, Melinda Raphael Goodman.

- **Miriam Kieffer**, Sincere condolences from Lois Johnson.
- **Eileen Kriozere and Family**, In memory of your beloved husband Richard, from Cass and Adrian Graff-Radford, Marnie Miller, Gail and Bob Scadron, Debra and Dr. Mickey Star, Howard and Gail Stone.
- **Robin Langer and Family**, In memory of your beloved father Rudy, from Ruth and Mal Kaufman, Eunice and Jerry Meister.
- **Jim Levitas and Family**, In memory of your beloved wife Donna, from Cass and Adrian Graff-Radford, and Lois Johnson.
- **Lenore Lopaty**, In memory of your beloved husband Ronald, from Ruth and Mal Kaufman.
- **Joni Maltzman and Family**, In memory of your beloved husband Don, from Marnie Miller, Gail and Bob Scadron, Howard and Gail Stone.
- **Family of Mervin Morris**, In memory of Merv, from Sherry and Howard Schor.
- **Larry and Cathy Pitts**, In memory of your beloved mother, Barbara Pitts, from Cora Ginsberg, Phil and Ellen Glass and Margie and Stephen Kulp.
- **Nora Rado**, In memory of your beloved husband Don, from Cass and Adrian Graff-Radford, and Lois Johnson.
- **Wendy and David Scherl**, In memory of your mother and mother-in-law, from Cass and Adrian Graff-Radford.
- **Sue Zelickson**, Sincere condolences from Lois Johnson.



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Florida Makes Strides in Holocaust Education After New Standards Prioritize Source Material

By Sean Savage, Jewish News Syndicate

The Florida State Board of Education adopted new civics and Holocaust-education standards for Florida's public schools in July, which had been pushed by the state's governor, Ron DeSantis.

The new social-studies standards spell out what students should learn about civics and the Holocaust in their classes from kindergarten to 12th grade.

Florida has required that students be taught about the Holocaust since 1994, but there had been no standards detailing what specifically should be covered and in what grade. The new standards aim to provide that blueprint.

"We want to make sure our students understand the evils of the Holocaust. You see people throughout the world try to diminish or even reject that the Holocaust even happened," DeSantis said, reported the *Orlando Sentinel*.

The new standards come amid a growing push among U.S. states to address rising antisemitism and awareness about the Holocaust. Nearly two-dozen states now require Holocaust education as part of their secondary-school curricula, according to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Much of these new requirements have emerged in the last several years.

This comes as ignorance about the Holocaust is growing. A 2020 survey found "critical gaps" in young American's knowledge about the Holocaust.

According to the survey, commissioned by the Conference

on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and carried out by the firm Schoen Cooperman Research, there is a clear lack of knowledge, and many distortions, surrounding the Holocaust for millennials and Gen Z.

Nationally, 63 percent of respondents didn't know that 6 million Jews were killed during the years of World War II and the Holocaust, and 36 percent believed that 2 million Jews or fewer were



Florida Governor
Ron DeSantis

killed, the survey found.

'How does one man gain such popularity?'

Rachel Pignato, a history teacher at Palm Beach Gardens Community High School who was one of just a handful of teachers who helped write the Holocaust standards in Florida, told JNS that prior to the adoption of the new guidelines, Florida did not have much material for teachers on the Holocaust.

"I went on the CPalms website [Florida's resource page for teachers], and there were roughly 85 standards for the Holocaust listed but only six of them actually dealt with the Holocaust; the rest

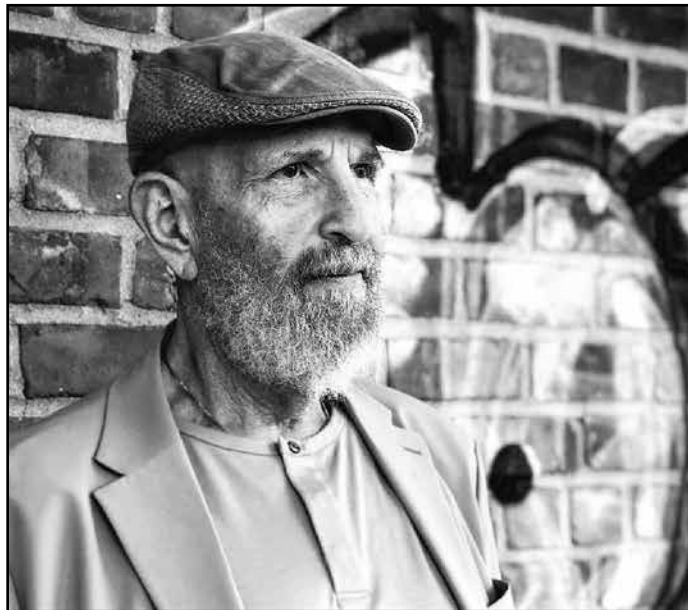
were completely irrelevant," she said.

"It wasn't surprising why there wasn't really quality education because these standards weren't built properly. So that became a two-year-long mission to figure out how we can get on to creating these standards," she noted.

Pignato, who wasn't originally on the task force, was added after outreach by Lauren Gross, director of the Gross Family Center for the Study of Antisemitism and the Holocaust.

"I'd like to thank the Department of Education for heeding my advice and making the critical last-minute

continued on next page



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THERAPIST FOR
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continued from page 19

change to the committee, which has resulted in an enormous victory for the Jewish community and the students all over the state who will now be instructed about the Holocaust with a brand new set of professional, well-written and well-thought-out standards that are specific to the Holocaust, not culled from all the other subject areas, as was the case up until now," Gross said in a statement.

According to Pignato, the new standards were essentially created from scratch by herself and her small team of educators. For her, several important aspects needed to be included for students, including examining the meaning behind terms related to the Holocaust; offering an understanding of what Judaism is; and providing a history

of antisemitism, as well as Zionism, and the founding of the modern-day State of Israel post-Holocaust.

"We go into the history of antisemitism and how antisemitism during the pagan times in Egypt, through the Middle Ages, Christian antisemitism, Muslim antisemitism and, of course, modern antisemitism," she said.

Pignato pointed out that the students also need to understand the historical timeline, starting with World War I and how the Nazis rose to power then continuing through the 1930s and 40s.

"We go from there; we talk about the rise of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party. How did that happen?" she posed. "That wasn't an overnight process. How does one man gain such popularity, and how does the blame for all of a country's problem

get laid on the shoulders of people who comprise less than 1 percent of the population?"

"We rely heavily on primary-source documents, firsthand accounts, survivor testimony, eyewitness reports at the time and photographs taken at the time," she said. "We don't want to really rely on some other person's perspective of what happened. We want to hear from the people who went through it. So that becomes a cornerstone of the course."

With the new standards, Pignato said that now they can work towards developing a Holocaust curriculum and training for teachers.

"You can do the best standards in the world, but if you don't train teachers on this history and on these standards, then it will never get to the kids because teachers cannot teach what they themselves do not understand," she stated.

'Revisionist history has no place in schools'

Along with the new Holocaust standards, Florida also adopted new civics standards for its school system, which has also been part of a larger pushback against the teaching of critical race theory and intersectionality that have been used by critics of Israel to also promote antisemitism.

The revised civics standards will require public-school students to "study primary-source documents to understand the philosophical underpinnings of the American Republic and the root cause of American exceptionalism."

DeSantis has made improving civics education a core priority since he took office.

"We've got to do a much better

job teaching people about the Constitution, the Bill of Rights—all these important things," he said. "I'm excited about what we're doing."

Laurie Cardoza-Moore, president of Proclaiming Justice to the Nations whose taskforce of experts advised on the new Holocaust Education and Civics Standards in Florida told JNS that the new standards will "now focus on our Constitutional Republic and the Judeo-Christian roots upon which it was founded."

"All Americans are equal under the law; this is the essence of our Republic. Revisionist history that pits Americans against each other has no place in our schools. We must teach our children the Golden Rule—to love each other like themselves, not to put salt in old wounds and make them critics of the very fabric that holds us together."

Cardoza-Moore also praised the new Holocaust standards. "With antisemitism on the rise, we must teach the perils of the past and ensure that the lesson of Never Again is learned," she said.

She sees the new standards in Florida as an opportunity for other states to follow suit. She noted that she is already working with other states, such as Tennessee, on improved guidelines.

"The Holocaust must be taught as a unique period in history unlike any other," she emphasized. "We cannot allow subversive forces to dilute and universalize the Holocaust so that it becomes a general tool to teach about the woes of racism and xenophobia. Manipulating Jewish history only empowers revisionists and antisemites. Florida now has the most comprehensive Holocaust-education standards in the country."

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.

Central America Unites in Show of Solidarity Against Antisemitism

The first Central America Forum for Israel also marked the third anniversary of Guatemala's Israel Friendship Law, which institutes that schoolchildren learn about Israel and its historical relations with their country.

By Eliana Rudee, Jewish News Syndicate

At the inaugural Central America Forum for Israel, the leaders issued a joint declaration calling for a united stance against surging global antisemitism, including support for the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism, expressing solidarity with the State of Israel following its recent conflict with Hamas in Gaza and urging for more decisive action against Hezbollah.

The forum also marked the third anniversary of the proclamation of Guatemala's Israel Friendship Law, which institutes that Guatemalan schoolchildren learn about Israel and its historical relations with the Republic of Guatemala.

Earlier this year, Guatemala's Congress adopted the IHRA definition, and the country's Parliament demonstrated strong support for Israel during the most recent conflict with Hamas in Gaza, passing Resolution 042021 condemning Hamas for its rocket attacks against Israel.

Ahead of the forum, president of the Israel-Guatemala Parliamentary Friendship League, Fidel Reyes Lee, told JNS, "This is a window of opportunity to present to the world the vision of this region, united by ties and a common history."

He underscored the particular importance of the Republic of Guatemala as the historical leader in matters of diplomatic relations with Israel, maintaining that "this relationship can be multiplied and reproduced at the Latin American level."

Parliaments, he further explained, are playing an increasingly important role in diplomacy. "This has been shown by the Guatemala Israel Parliamentary Friendship League, the largest of its kind, which has to date brought together 82 deputies and promoted the relationship between the two nations in Congress, such as instituting the Israel-Guatemala

Friendship Day.

Beyond diplomacy, added Reyes Lee, "Israel is a benchmark for development and industrialization, for democracy and freedom in this important region, despite resource limitations and scarcely 70 years of national independence. In contrast, Central America, which is characterized by its richness and biodiversity, as well as two centuries of independence, has not yet reached the level of human development enjoyed by the population of Israel. Therefore, there is still much to do so that Israel becomes the best commercial partner for this region, and so that we are able to reach development agreements that benefit both peoples economically, politically and culturally."

Organized by the Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM), the Center for Jewish Impact, the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala, the Guatemala-Israel Friendship League and the Jewish community of Guatemala, participants included senior parliamentarians, religious leaders and communal figures from Israel, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Nicaragua, the United States and Israel.

'Education a Crucial Tool in Fighting Antisemitism and Bigotry'

The forum occurred in the context of rising antisemitic hate crimes, including physical attacks and vandalizations of synagogues. Organizers reported an unprecedented rise in online racist abuse directed at the Jewish people and the State of Israel, with Israel's very existence being questioned.

Roberg Singer, chairman of the Center for Jewish Impact, maintained that in Central America, however, general antisemitism is "considerably low and almost non-existent, especially in the countries that participated in the forum."

"There is a genuine affinity for Judaism stemming from the evangelical [Christian] beliefs that have taken hold throughout the region," he told JNS. The few instances of antisemitism in the region "seem to be either remote or come from countries like Venezuela that provide material and political support to explicitly antisemitic and anti-Israeli organizations like Hezbollah."

During the forum, Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid emphasized, "We stand shoulder to shoulder in the fight against global terrorism. One key step is banning Hezbollah, all of Hezbollah, and I am thankful for those who have taken the step and call on every country to follow suit."

Lapid thanked Guatemala for its historic support for Israel, as well as the forum's participants from across Southern, Central and North America, noting, "We are grateful for the recognition of Jerusalem as our eternal capital. It was an honor to open the embassy of Honduras in Jerusalem alongside President Juan Orlando Hernández."

He also spoke of the deep cooperation between Israel and countries of Latin America, and of his pride that Israel had been able to share its innovations in agriculture, water, health care and education, training thousands of people from South America through the Foreign Ministry's MASHAV program.

Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei echoed, "We declare Hezbollah to be an enemy of the State of Guatemala and hope we never receive any investment which might come from groups or countries aligned with Hezbollah."

He also spoke of the historic friendship between the Jewish and Guatemalan peoples, and of the strong bilateral ties that date back to Israel's earliest days. He expressed appreciation to Israel for the aid it provided to Guatemala

after the Eta and Iota hurricanes last year, as well as the vaccines the country received from Israel that have been used to inoculate medical staff against COVID-19. He reaffirmed his commitment to remembering and educating about the Holocaust.

Further reflecting on Guatemalan support for Israel, Singer noted, "As someone who has dedicated much of [my] professional life to Jewish education, it brings me great joy to know that the Guatemalan educational curriculum will incorporate such a pivotal moment in Jewish history. Education is a crucial tool in fighting anti-Semitism and bigotry, both of which we see growing exponentially in Europe and North America. We believe that many other countries in the region recognize the threat of antisemitism and will likely follow Guatemala's example."

Other speakers highlighted the shared values of self-determination, freedom and democracy underpinning Israel's relationships in Central America and reinforced alliances in the region.

"This forum is a celebration of the strong relations between Israel and Central America and of how far we've come," said Singer. "Central American countries supported the establishment of the State of Israel, a bond between peoples that lasts until today. For Jews, this is a reminder that even with everything that is happening, we are not alone, we have allies who unequivocally stand for Israel and fight against antisemitism. For Central American countries, it is an affirmation of a special relationship centered around shared Judeo-Christian values and a chance to solidify a relationship that has produced tangible humanitarian and economic benefits. But, most importantly, they know that they are in the right by being firm allies of Israel."

JCN: Informing - Inspiring - Connecting our Community

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On behalf of the Federation Board of Directors, we wish you a sweet and healthy New Year. Thank you for being a loyal reader and subscriber of JCN. We are grateful you recognize the importance and value in our community newspaper.

This year, we ask you to consider donating to the JCN as well. Given the state of the newspaper and its budgetary challenges, JCN can't survive on advertisements sales alone. Donor support not only fuels deeper and more diverse coverage, but also ensures our viability as a treasured community asset.

When you give to JCN, you not only are supporting our local Jewish journalism, you also are uplifting our community. Donations enables us to publish new perspectives and allows us to feature stories you can't find easily.

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Simchas

Babies highlight Simchas this month!

Mazel tov to **Gail** and **Saul Jacobs**, who emailed the happy news of the birth of their newest great grandchild. **Brucha Naomi Muller** was



Brucha Naomi Miller

born August 19, 2021, in Pikesville, Maryland, to **Pesach** and **Shoshana Muller** ... Last month we announced the arrival of **Rabbi Shimon and Chaya Posner's** grandson on August 9 but we went to press before his Brit Milah, so we promised to share his name this month.



Gedalya Kessler

He is **Gedalya**, born to **Fraydee** and **Rabbi Mendel Kessler** in Sedona, Arizona and named after his paternal great grandfather. Happy news from the Posners continues this month, with the announcement of the arrival of their newest granddaughter, **Rivka Posner**, born to **Rabbi Dovid** and **Chayah Mushka Posner** on August 23 in Kyoto, Japan! ... Baby

news continues with the arrival of **Levi Yitzhak Kreiman**, son of **Rabbi Mendy** and **Chaya Kreiman** born on September 1. Delighted

grandparents are **Rabbi Yankel** and **Rochel Kreiman** and **Rabbi Yisroel** and **Rochel Dinerman**



Levi Yitzhak Kreiman

... Oops, we slipped up last issue, leaving out Elliott and Judy Bernstein's holiday greetings, which they include in the JCN every year. Their greeting is included here, late but just as warmly extended to our community ... *Share your Simchas with us. Email Miriam Bent at mhbentjcn@earthlink.net or call 760-323-0255.*



We Mourn the Passing of...

Raymond Barlavi, Harold Fishbein, Elenor Germic, Arnold Kane, Milton Kaplan, Judy Malachowsky, Don Maltzman, Bea Pinsker, Barbara Pitts and Andrew Lewis Sheldon. *Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing.*



Candle Lighting Times

Friday, October 1	Shabbat Bereshit	5:47 pm
Friday, October 8	Shabbat Noah	5:38 pm
Friday, October 15	Shabbat Lech Lecha	5:29 pm
Friday, October 22	Shabbat Vayeira	5:20 pm
Friday, October 29	Shabbat Chaya Sarah	5:11 pm



Classifieds

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE SUPPORTERS welcomed.

JFS has rewarding **volunteer opportunities** in its community programs and is now accepting applications for several positions.

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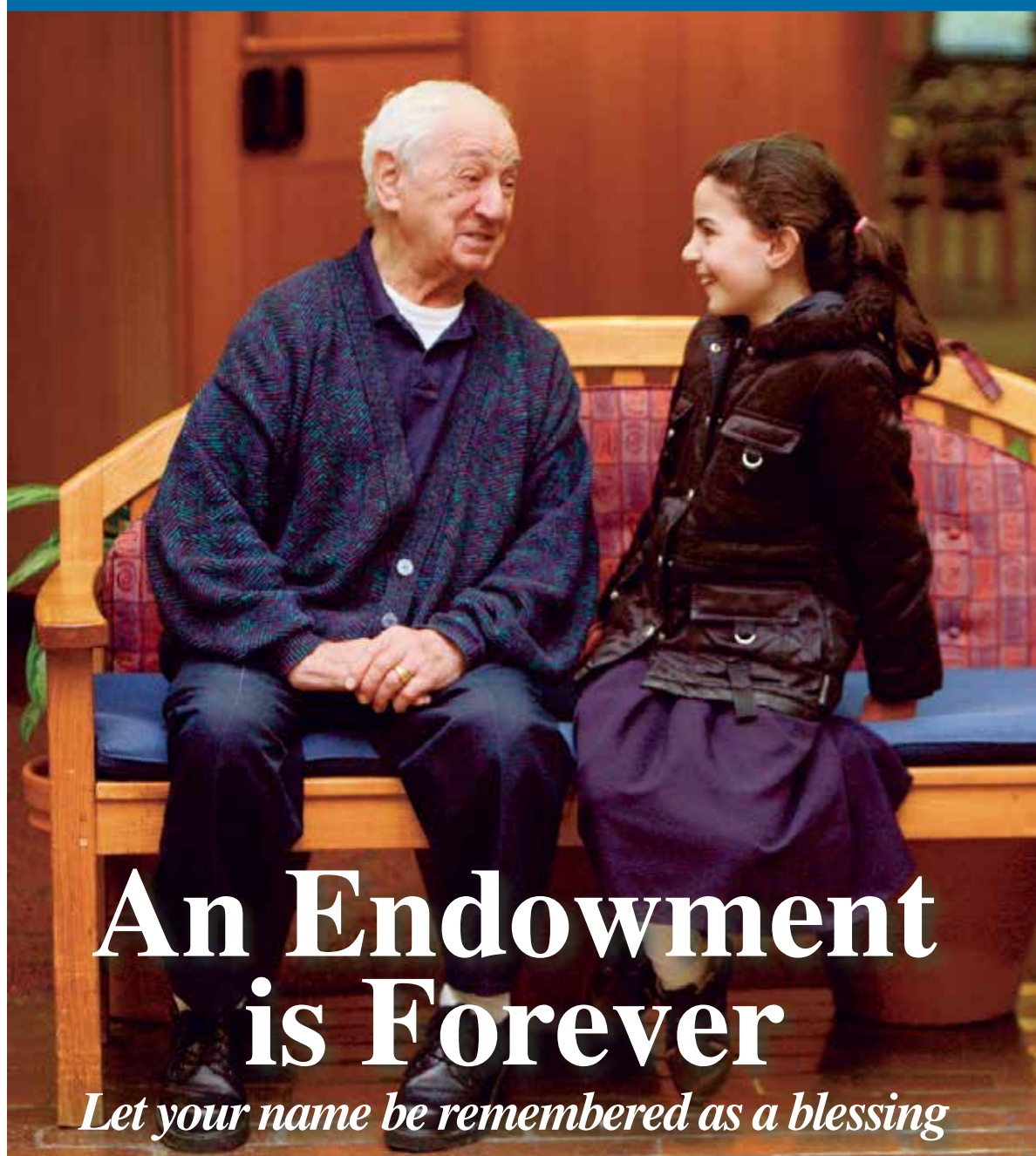
New Year's Greetings
to family & friends

Judy and Elliott Bernstein

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

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