

Jewish Community News

The Publication of the Jewish Federation of the Desert

www.jfedps.org

Cheshvan/Kislev 5782 - November 2021

Federation CEO Leaving the End of the Year

Dear Friends,

Being the CEO of our Jewish Federation for almost 12 years has been one of my life's biggest joys. I love the mission, the work, the people, and most of all, I love our diverse, dynamic Jewish community. So it's with much emotion that I share with you that I will be leaving my position at the end of the year.

Over these years, we've achieved many significant milestones in shaping our organization into one that is better equipped to meet the ever-changing needs of our Jewish community. We are leading with a deep commitment to diversity and inclusion. And we quickly adapted our work to respond substantially to a "once in a generation" crisis that is the coronavirus pandemic.

I'm extremely proud to be CEO of an organization that's accomplished so much. And today, the organization is in great shape, with a strategic direction and strong leadership at the Board level.

With a strong direction and leadership in place, I have decided that it's the right time to step down, so I will be leaving my position at the end of 2021 in order to recharge and consider my next chapter.

I want to thank our Board Co-Chairs, Jackie Cohen and Roberta Nyman and



Bruce Landgarten,
CEO

the entire board for their support of my decision. The Board will build a committee to lead an executive search for a new CEO. Together, we are committed to ensuring the smoothest transition possible and I am so grateful for their leadership.

I also want to thank our incredible staff, who continue to work hard to serve this community that they care about so much. Know that the work will go forward, and that our team continues to be here for you – whether you're looking for giving support from our philanthropy advisory team, opportunities for Jewish engagement, ways to support the needs of our Jewish community, or any other way we may be of help.

We will continue to keep you posted on developments related to this upcoming

transition.

While I have all the confidence that our Federation and our leadership will continue to be successful and the work will go on, this is still an incredibly difficult announcement to make. This work has been such a love of mine, due to the wonderful people I get to work with and serve, guided by the wisdom and values of Judaism that are so fundamental to my being. I'll be treasuring my remaining months of service and look forward to connecting with you.

With great appreciation,

Bruce Landgarten
Chief Executive Officer

The 'Spanish Schindler' Saved 5,200 Jews During the Holocaust.

Now Spain Wants to Find their Descendants.

By Orge Castellano, JTA

Using an expired Spanish law that extended citizenship to descendants of Sephardic Jews expelled from Spain in 1492, Ángel Sanz-Briz saved 5,200 Hungarian Jews from being deported to Auschwitz in 1944. (Centro Serafad-Israel).

In an unprecedented effort to find their relatives and raise awareness about their stories, Spanish authorities are releasing a list of the Hungarian

Jews protected from the Nazis by a diplomat nicknamed the "Spanish Schindler."

Ángel Sanz Briz was recognized as a Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem, the Israeli Holocaust memorial and museum, in 1966 for using an ingenious legal maneuver to save more



Ángel Sanz-Briz

than 5,200 Jews from being deported to Auschwitz in 1944.

But even though his efforts saved five times as many Jews as those of Oskar Schindler, his story is far less well known



Ángel Sanz Briz's diplomatic ID, issued in 1942

— in part because the staunchly anti-Israel Franco regime, which ruled Spain from 1939 to 1975, barred him from accepting Yad Vashem's honor.

Now, the Centro Sefarad-Israel — a Sephardic cultural institution that is part of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs — is working to change that. With the support of the Spanish government's archives, the group is publishing the

continued on page 4



Remembering Kristallnacht - November 9/10, 1938



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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



Future Secure As We Say Goodbye



Roberta Nyman

Jewish Federation
Board Chair

It was with profound surprise when I received the news that our Chief Executive Officer Bruce Landgarten was leaving. Bruce will depart at the end of 2021, during a time of organizational stability, strong leadership, and clear strategic direction.

As President of our Jewish Federation 12 years ago, I was pleased to hire Bruce as our new chief Executive Director. Now as co-chair with Jackie Cohen, our Board will conduct a search for a new Executive Director.

Having chaired the Federation Board three times during his tenure, I have worked closely with Bruce.

Bruce has been innovative, a terrific fundraiser, and an excellent community representative. His rapport with staff and donors is unparalleled. He is a tireless Chief Executive Officer who believes in the 24/7 job responsibility.

We thank Bruce for always pushing us to be better and for the impact that he has had on our community. Bruce has led our Federation as a partner with other non-profits and government agencies in the fight against antisemitism. He brought The Security Network to our community. He has laid the foundation for our Center Against Hate And Intolerance, with plans to commence this year.

Bruce has been a strong supporter of

our partnership with Ramat HaNegev in Israel. Over the years, as Bruce and I - along with Allan - traveled to Israel, we were pleased to see the results of Federation's efforts and the difference we made in the lives of the people.

Although we are sad, the Board and I fully support Bruce's decision, and we are incredibly grateful for all that Bruce has accomplished for our organization and community. He has steered us through significant change, and we are in an even stronger position now because of his leadership. We particularly acknowledge his tireless efforts during the challenging past 18 months, successfully meeting our community's needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bruce, we will miss you and understand and wish you good fortune

with the next stage of your life. As Jackie and I lead this Board, we are confident that moving forward we will find an Executive Director who will follow in the footprints that Bruce has set. Thanks to Bruce we have a great staff in place. Kevin Giser has been mentored by Bruce and as Associate Director will be spearheading our programs and fundraising.

I want to assure our Federation donors that we have a Board of Directors that is dedicated, capable, experienced and committed to the wellbeing of our 60-year-old Federation.

May we go from strength to strength. Thank You,

Roberta Nyman, Co-chair

Jewish Federation's Campaign 2022 Underway

By Bruce Landgarten, CEO

As our 2022 campaign gears up in earnest, we must begin with ...THANK YOU for your strong support last year for the health, welfare, security and sustainability of our beloved Jewish community. Together, we were able to make a powerful impact during the historic pandemic. Your generosity never meant more.

We committed to you last year that our Jewish Federation would lead our community through this crisis. Our work met that commitment. But we understand that we have a long year ahead. We continue to see increasing poverty and mental health issues in every corner of our community. We are deeply concerned about the long-term impact of this pandemic on our young people. In 2020, our treasured Jewish institutions were challenged and the longer this goes on those challenges deepen.

Sadly, we are seeing a serious rise in antisemitism throughout our country, so security remains at the top of our

priority list. Fortunately, we sensed this rising crisis several years ago and began augmenting our preparedness programs with institutions as The Security Network and increasing our engagement with local law enforcement.

As we launch our annual Campaign, with Cora Ginsberg as our Campaign Chair, we hope our community will do its utmost to ensure we can continue to support our agencies that do such excellent work in supporting those in need, in building Jewish identity, educating our children, and ensuring our community is inclusive, caring, and accessible.

Please do all that you can do to support the campaign and be as generous as you are able. We have a chance in this moment to demonstrate the strength of our Federation and the power of a community acting together. Together we are stronger. Together, we ARE a community.

We don't just place our faith in a better tomorrow – we build it!

Jewish Federation of the Desert
CAMPAIGN 2022
is happening now and your
participation is important.

DONATE NOW

You make the difference!



Israeli Philanthropist Help Dozens Flee Afghanistan for United Arab Emirates

By Cnaan Liphshiz, *The Forward*

Several Israeli philanthropists have helped bring to Abu Dhabi dozens of asylum seekers, including female athletes, fleeing Taliban rule in Afghanistan.

The rescue operation led by Aaron G. Frenkel, an aviation professional who had helped airlift thousands of Jews out of the Soviet Union, ended on Sept. 6, as 41 asylum seekers from Afghanistan reached Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. The Euro-Asian Jewish Congress detailed the operation in a statement September 19.

Frenkel, who is the chairman of the Congress, teamed up with the group's honorary president, Alexander Machkevich, and the Canadian-Israeli billionaire Sylvan Adams to extract the passengers from Afghanistan to



Asylum seekers from Afghanistan arrive in Abu Dhabi

neighboring Tajikistan.

Adams provided the funds for chartering a private jet from Tajikistan to Abu Dhabi, carrying on board members of Afghanistan's former women's cycling team, human rights activists and members of a robotics team, including women, the statement said. All were deemed at risk of reprisals from the Taliban, the statement said.

The Israeli international

humanitarian agency IsraAID and officials from several governments also were involved in the rescue operation.

"When troubling events such as the current situation in Afghanistan occur in the world, we have an obligation to act as leaders," Frenkel said. "If it is within our power to provide assistance then it is our duty to come to the rescue of any human being."

In the 1980s, Frenkel used his connections in the aviation industry to help the Jewish Agency airlift Jews out of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union prior to its collapse. Frenkel had served as Boeing's representative in Eastern Europe and later established his own aviation group.

continued from page 1

names of the people he protected, along with details about them, with the goal of tracing their descendants and making their stories known.

Between June and December 1944, Sanz Briz, then a 32-year-old Spanish diplomat stationed in Hungary, took the law into his own hands by creating fake Spanish passports for thousands of Jews. Despite the fact that Hungary's Jewish community was predominately Ashkenazi, Sanz Briz and his assistants granted Spanish citizenship to Hungarian Jews based on a long-expired 1924 Spanish law that extended citizenship to the descendants of Sephardic Jews expelled from Spain in 1492.

Sanz Briz went to extreme lengths to ensure hundreds of Hungarian families were put under Spain's protection. As the Nazis closed in on the city's Jews, the Spanish diplomat rented 11 apartment buildings to house approximately 5,000 people. He placed the Spanish flag on

the buildings, passing them off as official properties of the Spanish Legation, ensuring that the authorities would not seize them. He also hid some families in the Spanish embassy in Buda.

"For him, the principle of humanity prevailed over the principle of legality," Miguel de Lucas, director of Centro Sefarad-Israel, told the Spanish daily *El País* in a recent interview.

The release of the documents represents a historical milestone for Spain, as it is the first time the General Archive of the Administration has made all of its diplomatic files as well as official reports about the situation of concentration camp prisoners during World War II available to the public.

In addition to the list of the Jews rescued, the General Administration Archive has made available a report written by Slovak Jews Alfred Wetzler and Rudolf Vrba, two fugitives from Auschwitz who escaped on April 7, 1944, after spending almost two years in imprisonment. The

report, which was delivered to Sanz Briz and later sent to Madrid, includes a sketch of the concentration camp. It became one of the most significant pieces of evidence presented at the 1945 Nuremberg Trials.

When World War II ended, Sanz Briz resumed his diplomatic career. After leaving his post in Hungary in 1960, he was appointed ambassador to Guatemala. In 1962, he was appointed Consul General in New York. He later became Spain's Ambassador to the Holy See and died on June 11, 1980, while on diplomatic duty in Rome.

Hungary, whose Jews Sanz Briz helped, has honored him before. He was awarded the Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary in 1994, and in 2015, a Budapest street was renamed after him.

The Centro Sefarad-Israel has set up an email address for anyone who recognizes their name or that of a family member on Sanz Briz's lists to get in touch.

JEWISH COMMUNITY NEWS

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EDITORIAL

Bruce Landgarten,
Chief Executive Officer
Miriam H. Bent, Editor
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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.

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After 80 years and Failed Attempts, Ukraine Inaugurates Memorial to Babi Yar

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky was joined by Israeli counterpart Isaac Herzog to open memorial to 33,771 Jews murdered in massacre; project will be completed in 2026

By Jacob Judah, JTA

Ukraine's government inaugurated a memorial complex to the victims of the Babi Yar massacre this week, 80 years after the tragedy that has long been a flashpoint in the country's collective Holocaust memory.

The memorial at the Babi Yar site, where Nazis and local collaborators killed some 33,000 Jews in a ravine near Kiev in September 1941, is still under construction. But it currently features a quartz crystal-studded "Wall of Crying," designed by the famed Serbian performance artist Marina Abramović, and a new wooden synagogue above the only portion of the ravine, into which victims were ordered to lie before they were shot, that remains visible.

By 2026, its organizers say, the center will also house museum space and additional monuments. It costs around \$100 million and is privately funded. A large portion of the funding has come from a group of billionaires, including Russian Mikhail Fridman and Ukraine-born Viktor Pinchuk, who are both Jewish.

Various initiatives to commemorate Babi Yar victims had previously failed to materialize and, for decades, the only reminders of the tragedy were a couple of small and neglected monuments.

"The time for memory has come," said Ukrainian President Volodymyr



President Isaac Herzog (left) and his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky shake hands in Kyiv, Ukraine, October 5, 2021.

Zelensky, who is Jewish, at the inauguration ceremony. "It's hard to breathe at this place — thousands of children took their last breath here," he added.

Israeli President Isaac Herzog spent three days in the country for the inauguration ceremony and other events, including a historic meeting of two Jewish presidents, when he met with Zelensky on at Kyiv's Mariinsky Palace. Herzog's father Chaim Herzog established diplomatic relations with the newly independent Ukraine in 1991 when he served as Israel's president.

"The Jewish people have a long and complicated history, interwoven with Ukraine," Herzog said at the center's inauguration. In Ukraine "there flourished one of the greatest and most important Jewish communities



Aftermath of the Babi Yar massacre in Kiev, Ukraine, September 29-30, 1941, when 33,771 Jews were murdered in two days.

in the world," including "leaders and statesmen, intellectuals, poets and great rabbis. They all lived, thought and wrote on the soil of Ukraine.

"A formative event and a chapter that must never be erased from the annals of the family of nations," he added. "An eternal scar on the surface of our planet."

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier also attended and spoke at the event. American and other Western leaders had been invited but chose not to attend. Israeli parliament members Moshe Arbel, Michael Malkieli and Evgeny Sova joined Herzog's delegation to the Ukrainian capital.

Between 1941 and 1943, around 100,000 Jews were murdered at Babi Yar in multiple killings. In another historic unveiling tied to the 80th anniversary of the initial massacre, the new center's researchers published a

list of names of some of the more than 150 Nazi perpetrators of the massacre.

Herzog praised the memorial center in a speech, which has been given strong support by the Ukrainian government, saying it "corrects the historic injustice of many years of denial and forgetting, and represents a lesson learned, and a study resource for future generations."

At their press conference, Herzog thanked Zelensky and the Ukrainian parliament for the recent passage of a bill outlawing antisemitism and invited the Ukrainian president to visit Israel. Zelensky said publicly that he expected that Israel's support for Ukrainian sovereignty to be maintained, particularly at the United Nations, in its ongoing territorial disputes with Russia.

Sources say that Zelensky pressed Herzog further on that issue behind closed doors, asking for stronger public support for Ukraine's efforts to secure the return of Russian-annexed Crimea and occupied territories in eastern Ukraine.

But Zelensky is also said to have recognized that Israel has an important bilateral relationship with Russia that it would not be expected to put at risk.

Herzog told his Ukrainian counterpart that "concerning the conflict between you and Russia, Israel believed "a diplomatic solution to the conflict is the correct solution."

Seattle Court Convicts Neo-Nazi Leader of Five Felonies for Threatening Journalists, ADL

Kaleb Cole, 25, of Montgomery, Texas, was convicted of conspiracy, three counts of mailing threatening material and one count of interfering with a federally protected activity.

Jewish News Syndicate

The leader of a neo-Nazi group called the Atomwaffen Division, also known as the National Socialist Order, was convicted in U.S. District Court in Seattle of five federal felonies for threatening journalists and Jewish people connected to the Anti-Defamation League, announced the U.S. Department of Justice.

Following a two-day trial, Kaleb Cole, 25, of Montgomery, Texas,

was convicted on September 29 of conspiracy, three counts of mailing threatening material and one count of interfering with a federally protected activity. Sentencing has been scheduled for January 11.

In January 2020, Cole and other Atomwaffen members intimidated victims by mailing them threatening posters that he created and/or gluing the signs to their homes. The group

targeted journalists of color and Jewish people, including two individuals associated with the ADL.

The posters featured threatening images and said, "You have been visited by your local Nazis" or "Death to Pigs," which is what followers of convicted cult leader Charles Manson wrote in the blood of victims during a home invasion and subsequent murders in California in the summer of 1969.

In the Seattle area posters were mailed to two individuals connected to the ADL; in Portland, Oregon, a poster was glued outside the home of the editor of a Jewish magazine.

"[Cole] was not simply sending a message of hate, he was sending a statement of terror," Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas Woods told the jury.

Three other co-conspirators have already been sentenced.

Command Center for Securing Jewish Community Unveiled in Chicago

As a result of the Gaza conflict in May, the ADL recorded a 98 percent increase in online antisemitism and antisemitic threats in the United States.

By Faygie Holt, JNS.org

A state-of-the-art security command center was unveiled the end of September by the Secure Community Network (SCN) to ensure that the Jewish community is prepared in the event of any violence or threats.

Dubbed the National Jewish Security Operations Command Center, JSOCC, was built with funding by private donors and gives the SCN—the security arm of the Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations—a high-tech, centralized location where its intelligence analysts and security professionals can monitor and track threats to the Jewish community and coordinate response



with its partners including local, state and federal law enforcement.

“The JSOCC will enhance our ability to provide greater protection and improved response time more effectively and efficiently, moving us into a more proactive position to address security concern and threats with key partners from law enforcement to Jewish communities,” Michael Masters, national director and CEO of SCN, told JNS.

According to Masters, the command

center, which is located in Chicago, will be staffed 16 hours a day, but can be increased to 24 hours a day if needed. It includes a 16-foot video wall to allow for “optimal incident track and response,” as well as individual workstations. JSOCC can seat eight people but has an overflow capacity to accommodate additional staff in the event of a major incident.

It is, he said, “a significant step forward in protecting our people.”

“We are in the most complex and dynamic threat environment we have seen. In many years, recent data from the FBI and DHS, along with our own assessment and that of partners like the ADL [Anti-Defamation League] confirms this,” he said. “Last week, the FBI Director [Christopher Wray] testified that the number of domestic terrorism

cases doubled in the last year—roughly three cases a day are being opened.”

According to SCN, it saw a 125 percent increase in reporting of incidents and issues related to the Jewish community in 2020.

That heightened trend appears to be continuing into 2021. As a result of the Gaza conflict in May, the ADL recorded a 98 percent increase in online antisemitism and antisemitic threats in the United States.

“While we are currently unaware of any specific attack planning, we constantly monitor the desire of many of our adversaries, domestic and international, to inflict harm and terrorize our community,” he stated. “The JSOCC is enhancing our ability to do this more effectively and efficiently moving into a more proactive position.”

“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

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US House Vote 420-9 For Iron Dome Funding

By Atara Beck, World Israel News

The House Democratic leadership on Tuesday nixed funding for the defense system from its government spending and debt ceiling hike bill after a group of progressive lawmakers threatened to block the legislation unless the military aid was withdrawn.

“It’s very important to point out that for the pro-Palestinian congress members, this victory is very Pyrrhic because while Iron Dome probably saves hundreds of Israeli lives, it saves thousands of Palestinian lives,” former Israeli ambassador to the U.S. Michael Oren stated to the press after the initial decision on Tuesday to block the funding. He – and other analysts – explained that without the Iron Dome to protect Israeli civilians from rocket barrages from Gaza, the IDF would be forced to enter the Strip, resulting in huge loss of life among the local Palestinians.

On Thursday, however, the U.S. House of Representatives voted



Iron Dome

overwhelmingly — 420 to nine — in favor of a stand-alone bill to send the \$1 billion in funding for the Iron Dome. The bill is now headed to the Senate.

The nine lawmakers opposed to the funding are: Rashida Tlaib, Ilhan Omar, Ayanna Pressley, Cori Bush, Andre Carson, Marie Newman, Jesus Garcia, Raul Grivalva and Tom Massie. All are Democrats except for Massie, a Republican.

“Iron Dome is a purely defensive system designed to safeguard all civilians living in Israel,” Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi stated ahead of Thursday’s vote.

“The system was co-developed by the United States and Israel and has saved thousands of lives. Passage of this bill reflects a great unity in Congress on a bipartisan and bicameral basis for Israel’s security.

“Assistance to Israel is vital because Israel’s security is imperative for America’s security. I urge a strong bipartisan vote for the security of the people of Israel and for this legislation,” she said.

“Thank you to the members of the US House of Representatives, Democrats and Republicans alike, for the overwhelming support for Israel and for the commitment to its security,” Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett stated after Thursday’s vote.

“Whoever tries to challenge this support received an unequivocal answer today. The people of Israel thank the American people and their representatives for their steadfast friendship.”

British Jewish Newspaper Launches Campaign for Spy to be Called Righteous Gentile

Col. Thomas Joseph Kendrick worked 15-hour days to process up to 175 applications daily to help Jews escape Austria.

Jewish News Syndicate

A new campaign by *The Jewish Chronicle* calls for a British spy who saved 10,000 Austrian Jews during World War II to be recognized by Yad Vashem as a Righteous Gentile.

"It is not about how many lives but this man has received no recognition for quite literally saving Austria's Jewish community—I think it is as simple as that," said historian Helen Fry, who wrote about Col. Thomas Joseph Kendrick in the new biography *Spymaster*. "That is why I think it is important that people know his story. It has not fully come out yet, and that is why it is marvelous that the *JC* is running this campaign to get him the recognition he deserves. It is long overdue."



Col. Thomas Joseph Kendrick

In late August, Fry submitted an application to Yad Vashem: The World Holocaust Remembrance Center for Kendrick's recognition as a Righteous Gentile. The application features written testimonies about his actions and documentary evidence about how he also helped 2,000 Jews flee to Rhodesia and Kenya.

Kendrick, who has been dubbed "Austria's Oskar Schindler," was the station chief of the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) in Vienna in 1925. He sent intelligence back to the British Foreign Office under the guise of being the passport control officer at the British Consulate.

The Nazis annexed Austria on March 12, 1938; by April, more than 7,000 Jewish men were arrested and sent to concentration camps.

Kendrick and his team worked 15-hour days to process up to 175 applications daily to help Jews escape Austria, explained *The Jewish Chronicle*. He stamped 1,000 visas to Palestine for young men to "attend a sports

camp," added names of children to the passports of British businessmen traveling to the United Kingdom, issued false passports and handed out permits to Jews who received fake baptisms, said the publication.

After a double agent sold them out to the Gestapo, Kendrick and his wife, Norah, fled Austria and narrowly missed an assassination attempt on their lives. He was arrested by the Gestapo, but later freed and returned to Britain, where he continued his operations.

On May 23, 1945, he was awarded the Legion of Merit.

Kendrick settled in Surrey, England. He died in 1972 at the age of 90.

Two-Thirds of Jewish College Students Feel Unsafe, Half Hide Identity

By Dion J. Pierre, The Algemeiner

A new survey has found an alarming level of antisemitism experienced by Jewish students on college campuses, with students who claim a strong sense of Jewish identity and connection to Israel feeling unsafe and the need to actively hide their identity.

The survey, which polled 1,027 members of the predominately Jewish fraternity Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi) and the leading Jewish sorority Alpha Epsilon Phi (AEPHi), found that nearly 70 percent of the students surveyed personally experienced or were familiar with an anti-Semitic attack in the past 120 days, with more than 65 percent of these students feeling unsafe on campus and one-in-10 fearing physical attack. Furthermore, 50 percent of students said they have felt the need to hide their Jewish identity.

The poll was conducted between April 14-20, 2021, by the Cohen Research Group in conjunction with the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law. It was the first to specifically examine rates of antisemitism among college students

who claim a strong sense of Jewish identity, with more than 60 percent of the students surveyed belonging to Hillel and nearly half to Chabad on Campus, and more than 80 percent supportive of Israel and 60 percent having visited Israel.

The survey noted that campus antisemitism is most often experienced through words and offensive statements targeted at Jews as a community, including comments such as Jews are "greedy" or "cheap." Additionally, it found that Jews have a collective responsibility for Israel's military actions was "relatively common," noting that it was conducted before the May 2021 Gaza conflict, which saw a major spike in antisemitism across the United States.

"Students are experiencing traditional antisemitism in the form of anti-Semitic tropes and a newer form of antisemitism as it relates to Israel," according to the survey. "It is significant that the anti-Zionism and anti-Israelism reported in this survey was experienced before the recent Israel-Gaza hostilities. It is likely that had the survey taken place in May,

the number of anti-Semitic incidents relating to Israel would have been higher and the percentage of students expressing fear of being targeted would have been greater than reflected."

Kenneth L. Marcus, former assistant U.S. secretary of education for civil rights, and founder and chairman of the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law, said the findings ring some "consequential alarms" and more "closely resembling previous dark periods in our history, not the 21st century in the U.S."

"They reveal that students for whom being Jewish is a central or important aspect of their identity are feeling increasingly unsafe visibly expressing their Judaism for fear of harassment, social bullying and other antisemitic attacks," he said. "And they expose that increased antisemitic acts, which attempt to hold Jews responsible as a collective, for the actions of the Israeli government, are driving more and more students to hide their support for Israel."

Similarly, Jim Fleischer, CEO of AEPi,

called the results "staggering and alarming." He said more needs to be done not only to "push back against the rise of antisemitism on campuses but to make sure that every Jewish student who wants to express their pride in their heritage or religion can do so without fear of violence or harassment."

"In 2021, Jewish undergraduates should not have to hide their identity," said Sharon Raphael, national president of AEPHi. "We are in a time when college students are leading the way in equity and inclusion, Jewish students must be included in that activism."

**JEWIS IN AMERICA ARE THE
TARGET OF 58% OF ALL
RELIGIOUSLY MOTIVATED HATE
CRIMES IN THE U.S. DESPITE
CONSTITUTING A MERE 2%
OF THE POPULATION.**



EU Publishes 'Strategic Plan' for Countering Antisemitism

By Cnaan Liphshiz, JTA

The European Union has published what it called a strategic plan for combating antisemitism.

The 26-page document that the European Commission, the executive branch of the European Union, published lists and explains a number of strategies that have been advocated or implemented by various E.U. bodies in recent years.

This includes the recommendation for adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of antisemitism across the 27-state bloc. Published in 2016, it lists classic examples of antisemitic behavior along with demonization of Israel and denial of the Jewish people's right to



European Union flags flying above headquarters in Brussels

exist as potentially being antisemitic. Nine of the 27 states - Portugal, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Ireland, Denmark, Poland, Croatia and Malta - are among the European countries that have so far not adopted the definition.

The Commission will organize "an annual civil society forum on combating antisemitism," whereas member states are "encouraged to develop national

strategies by end of 2022 on combating antisemitism," the document says.

The Commission will also "increase knowledge and understanding about Jewish life among the general public through an awareness-raising campaign in close cooperation with Jewish communities," the document states. The various points and suggestions in the plan, which is not binding on member states, will be implemented by 2030, the document says.

The initiative will help police "combat online antisemitic terrorism and violent extremism," the document added. It also said that E.U. funding that was allocated in 2019 for security as Jewish community sites until 2022 will be

extended for the following four years to the tune of about \$27 million.

Various E.U. bodies have presented plans to curb the apparent spread of antisemitism in the continent's west, as it is reflected in rising statistics of antisemitic incidents in Germany, France, the United Kingdom and beyond.

The European Parliament, the Union's legislative branch, in 2017 passed a nonbinding resolution comprising many points included in the Commission's strategy paper, including the appointment of national E.U. rapporteurs, which exist only in a handful of member states, and the adoption of the IHRA definition.

Egypt-Israel Flights Take Off, Warming Relations that have been Stagnant for Years

By Josh Hasten, Jewish News Syndicate

The first commercial Egyptair flight touched down at Ben-Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv on October 3rd, potentially symbolizing a new chapter in the relationship between Israel and Egypt, which has been at peace, albeit a cold one, since the two nations signed a diplomatic agreement in 1979.

According to Israel's Foreign Ministry, Egyptair—the country's official national airline—will operate four nonstop roundtrip commercial flights a week between Cairo and Tel Aviv.

Former Ambassador Zvi Mazel, who served eight years at Israel's embassy in Cairo—from 1980 to 1982 during his first stint, and then as the ambassador for five years from 1996 to 2001 during his second—expressed cautious optimism that the new route could signify a thawing of relations.

Mazel, currently a Fellow at the



Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett meets with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on September 13, 2021.

Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, told JNS, "If this flight signals the warming of relations and is the opening of a new phase in normalization between the countries, then yes, absolutely, I am happy."

On the flip side, Mazel said that "after 42 years of peace, at the same time, it's a little bit sad that it took so long for an



Egyptair Airbus 320 lands for the first time in a commercial flight, at the Ben-Gurion Airport October 3, 2021.

official commercial flight from Egypt to land at Ben-Gurion Airport."

"Maybe now something is changing," said Mazel. "After all, the Abraham Accords are very important, and I'm sure many Egyptians are asking themselves why they waited this long to normalize relations."

He added that for economic reasons, in particular, the Egyptian community sees the financial rewards experienced by Israel and their new peace partners in the Gulf as a result of the agreements and wants a piece of the pie.

'This is a fantastic milestone'

Mark Feldman, director of Diesenhaus Jerusalem, a leading tourism brand in Israel, also praised the new route as a byproduct of the Abraham Accords and told JNS that he hopes the regularly

scheduled flights will encourage Egyptian tourists to visit while boosting ties between the two countries.

"One can hope that it will encourage Egyptians to visit Israel just as Israelis have been touring through Egypt for decades," continued Feldman. "This is a fantastic milestone in Israel being accepted as a nation in the Middle East. There really is no turning back; this strengthens ties tremendously."

There is also speculation that many Christians are interested in taking advantage of the new route to visit Israel along with Egypt; however, at this point due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and restrictions limiting the numbers of tourists allowed into Israel, Feldman said that "I'm sure we will see an influx of Christians combining a visit to the Holy Land with Egypt, but until we open up our country, nobody is making plans."

The groundbreaking Egyptair flight arrived less than a week after the first Gulf Air airlines commercial flights were launched between Bahrain and Israel as a direct result of the Abraham Accords. A festival ceremony was held at Ben-Gurion on September 30 celebrating the landing of the first Gulf Air flight, Bahrain's national carrier, from Manama.



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Human Rights Activist Sharansky Warns of 'Efforts to Erase Memory of the Holocaust' on 80th Anniversary of Babi Yar Massacre

By Sharon Wrobel, *The Algemeiner*

Ukrainian born Israeli human rights activist Natan Sharansky warned of "rising efforts to erase memory of the Holocaust" as the world commemorated the 80th anniversary of the Babi Yar massacre, in which over 33,000 Jews were slaughtered on the outskirts of the capital Kiev by the Nazis.

"The biggest mass grave of the Holocaust is in Babi Yar. It is the symbol of the Holocaust by Bullets, but it is also the symbol of another crime – the crime of the Soviet Regime that did everything to erase from our memory the Holocaust: the killing of the Jews of Ukraine, of Belarus, of Russia by bullets in the Soviet Union," Sharansky said Thursday. "We should also be very concerned by the efforts of some organizations and governments to distort the history for their immediate political aims today."

Babi Yar, also known as Babyn Yar,



The Babi Yar massacre of the Jews of Kyiv, Ukraine, September 1941

is the Ukrainian ravine where on Yom Kippur eve in late September of 1941, more than 33,000 Jewish men, women and children were shot dead during just two days by the Nazis.

Sharansky emphasized that commemoration to honor the victims was important as much as ensuring that the lessons of history are learned in the modern era.

Sharansky, who spent years in a Russian prison before finally being freed, has said he knew nothing about the Babi Yar massacre when he was growing up as a child, due to the Soviet policy of

suppressing information about the tragedy after the Second World War.

"It was clear that the antisemitic policy of the Soviet Union was closely connected with their efforts to erase the memory of the Holocaust. It was clear then and it is clear today: antisemitism is rising in many countries, in Europe and the United States, and together with it is a rise in the efforts to erase the memory of the Holocaust," Sharansky cautioned.

Sharansky also chairs the Babyn Yar



Natan Sharansky



Father Patrick Desbois

Holocaust Memorial Center (BYHMC), which is currently being built in memory of the stories of the 2.5 million Jews of Eastern Europe, including 1.5 million in Ukraine alone, who were murdered and buried in mass graves near their homes during the Holocaust.

"We need to teach about Babi Yar because of the lesson of antisemitism," said Father Patrick Desbois, head of the BYHMC Academic Council. "Antisemitism is coming back. It is not only hate speech, now unfortunately in France we hear someone was attacked, or a synagogue is attacked."

"When the first Jew was killed for being Jewish 12 years ago, we were all in the streets — now no one is in the streets. We have to teach about the Holocaust to show the gravity of antisemitism, to show the connection between hatred and hate crimes," Desbois urged.

Auschwitz-Birkenau Site Vandalized with Antisemitic, Holocaust Denial Graffiti

By Sharon Wrobel, *The Algemeiner*

Wooden barracks at the Auschwitz II -Birkenau death camp memorial site in Poland were vandalized with antisemitic phrases as well as Holocaust denial slogans, staff operating the memorial grounds disclosed on October 5.

Signs of the act were discovered on nine wooden barracks at the Auschwitz-Birkenau memorial and museum site, the institution said in a statement. They included spray-painted inscriptions in English and German, some of them "antisemitic in nature." There were "two references to the Old Testament, often used by antisemites, and denial slogans," the statement read.

"Such incident is, above all, an outrageous attack on the symbol of one of the greatest tragedies in human history and an extremely painful blow to the memory of all the victims of the German Nazi Auschwitz-Birkenau camp," the museum stated.

The museum said that the



Main gate of Auschwitz-Birkenau

handwriting of the slogans would be analyzed, and that police have opened an investigation into the vandalism, with available video material now being examined.

"We hope that the person or persons who committed this outrageous act will be found and punished," the museum said.

Staff at the museum called on anyone who may have been in the vicinity of the death camp site that morning and witnessed the incident to come forward, particularly anyone with photos taken around the Gate of Death, at the entrance to Birkenau, and the

wooden barracks.

The institution said that while the security system of the Auschwitz Memorial, which includes the 420-acre site of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp, is in the process of being expanded, it is financed from the

museum budget, which it said was hit hard during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is estimated that about one million Jews were murdered at Auschwitz-Birkenau, built in occupied Poland by the Nazis, during the Second World War.

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.

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Lion of Judah Celebrates 50th Anniversary

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Co-chairs Carol Fragen and Phyllis Eisenberg
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 Judah are a symbol of the strength
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 and her financial commitment of
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 she lives. More than 16,000 women
 world-wide are Lions of Judah.

Created in Miami by Norma Kipnis-
 Wilson and Toby Friedland z"l, the
 Lion of Judah program has brought
 together women of all ages and from
 many walks of life in order to play an
 essential role in creating social justice,
 feeding the hungry, preserving
 human dignity and building Jewish
 identity.

Celebrating this 50th anniversary,
 our community's Annual Lion of
 Judah Brunch will be held on Monday,
 January 24th at Tamarisk Country
 Club at 10:30 am. Chair Carol Fragen,
 who refers to Lions of Judah as "the
 most dynamic philanthropic Jewish
 women in the world, who care deeply
 about the Jewish future," is excited to
 mark this milestone by bringing Lisa
 Friedman Clark as keynote speaker.

Being feted at the brunch, Fran
 Kaufman is our community's 2022
 Kipnis-Wilson Friedland honoree,
 the eighth woman selected by the
 Jewish Federation of the Desert
 Lions of Judah since 2004, the year
 when this prestigious award was
 created to recognize and honor
 women who have set an
 extraordinarily high bar in their
 community for volunteerism

Phyllis Eisenberg,
 co-chair of our Lion
 of Judah Brunch, is
 an Out-of-Town
 Lion of Judah and
 she enthusiastically
 encourages all

women who are
 Lions in other
 communities to
 attend this 50th
 Anniversary
 Brunch. "To those
 of us who support
 local Jewish
 Federation's
 across the county
 and Canada and
 who live here
 more than two
 months a year, I
 encourage you to
 join me and become
 an Out-of-Town
 Lion in the Desert.
 I hope to see you
 at the brunch and
 support the ongoing
 work of our Jewish
 Federation."



*Fran Kaufman,
 Honoree*



*Lisa Friedman Clark
 Keynote Speaker*

To attend the Brunch requires a
 \$5,000 commitment to the 2022
 Jewish Federation of the Desert
 annual campaign. Women who are
 Lions in their home communities
 can attend with a gift of \$1200
 to our local campaign. For more
 information contact Leslie Pepper
 at leslie.pepper@jfedps.org or call
 760-324-4737.

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, led by Rebbitzin Sussie Denebeim, on

Jewish spirituality and philosophy, and the mystical teachings of Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi, the founder of Chabad Hasidism.

The three-part program will be offered online via Zoom on three consecutive



Sussie Denebeim

Mondays in November at 5:30 pm:

Monday, November 1: Part 1: "Two Souls and One Me;" the two types of consciousness within each person, what motivates them and how they operate.

Monday, November 15: Part 2: Intellect and Emotion; Navigating the relationship between thoughts and feelings; and Monday, November 22:

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

To register please contact Leslie Pepper at 760-324-4737 or email her at leslie.pepper@jfedps.org.

Tel Aviv U: Good Bacteria May Eliminate Bad Bacteria Better Than Antibiotics

Experimental technology is like a microscopic poison arrow shot from a good bacterium to eliminate a bad bacterium under specific conditions.

By Brian Blum, Israel 21c

The bacteria wars are coming. Researchers at Tel Aviv University have pitted "good" bacteria against "bad" bacteria and the good guys, it appears, are winning.

If the system can be scaled, this new approach could potentially replace antibiotics, which are increasingly struggling against antibiotic-resistant "superbugs."

For the TAU study, the researchers used a toxin injection system known as a "Type 6 Secretion System." It's usually deployed by pathogenic ("bad") bacteria. They introduced the system into a "friendly" bacterium, *Vibrio natriegens*, which is not harmful to humans.

The researchers described their technology as similar to a microscopic poison arrow shot from a good bacterium to eliminate a bad bacterium under specific conditions.

"The system that we built allows us to engineer 'good' bacteria that can recognize pathogenic bacteria, attack them with toxins, and neutralize them," explains Dr. Dor Salomon, who co-led the study. "We know how to change and control every component in the system and create a bacterium that neutralizes different strains of bacteria. This is proof of feasibility, showing that we have the knowledge and ability to create bacteria that take advantage of this killing system and may serve as antibiotic treatments."

The current bacteria prototype is best suited for bugs that occur naturally in saltwater. This is a growing concern, as

fish and seafood constitute a major food source in many regions of the world. "Their productivity is severely impaired as a result of bacteria-borne diseases," Solomon notes, "and since we want to avoid pouring antibiotics into aquaculture farms, a biological solution such as the one we have developed is an effective

alternative."

The system will eventually be adapted to treat pathogenic bacteria in humans, farm animals and plants.

Tel Aviv University has filed a patent application through Ramot, the university's technology-transfer company.

In addition to Solomon, Dr. Biswanath

Jana and Kinga Kappel of the department of clinical microbiology and immunology at TAU's Sackler Faculty of Medicine participated in the research.

The results were published in September in the scientific journal *EMBO Reports*.



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Social Media Spreads Antisemitic Lies

By Algemeiner Staff

The spread of COVID-19 conspiracy theories on social media is exposing a new generation of users to antisemitic canards that they would otherwise be unlikely to encounter, a new report by a group of European anti-racist organizations has warned.

The report, published by the UK charity Hope Not Hate in partnership with the Amadeu Antonio Foundation

in Germany and the Expo Foundation in Sweden, analyzed antisemitic content on nine social media channels, including Instagram, Facebook, Telegram and 4chan/pol.

"The most worrying finding of this report is that we found antisemitism on every platform we explored," the introduction stated. "While the amount of different types of antisemitism varies

between platforms, it remains possible to locate all forms and extremes of antisemitism on all platforms."

Among the report's key findings were that 4chan/pol/ — shorthand for "politically incorrect," a sub-channel of the wider 4chan platform — features the most antisemitic slurs of all the platforms surveyed.

The channel could be likened "to a sewer overflowing with hate speech and bigotry, targeting every group imaginable but most usually women and minority groups, and especially Jews and people of color," the report stated.

It observed that "in accordance with the logic of antisemitic and white supremacist ideology, when Jews are mentioned on /pol/ they are typically painted as a threat and problem worse than any other; they are portrayed as the primary, most dangerous and most execrable of all groups, because they are understood, or explicitly said, to be the root cause of all evils."

One channel on Telegram promoting the "New World Order" conspiracy theory has grown by 90,000 followers

since its inception in Feb. 2021. "The longstanding New World Order (NWO) tradition and the relatively recent QAnon movement have received considerable boosts from the pandemic, introducing new audiences to the antisemitic themes embedded within them," the report observed.

Instagram and TikTok — two platforms where more than two-thirds of users are aged between 13 and 24 — are also hotbeds for antisemitic memes. In May this year, during renewed fighting between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, more than 11,300 posts tagged with either #DeathToIsrael or #Death_to_Israel appeared on Instagram. The platform more generally "plays host to forms of antisemitism that are framed as anti-Zionism and hostility to Israel," the report noted.

Among the report's conclusions for tech companies was the critical importance of an explicit ban on antisemitism in community guidelines, training moderators to deal with antisemitism, and the outright removal of accounts belonging to antisemitic propagandists.

The poster features the Desert Theatreworks logo at the top, with the tagline "LIVE THEATRE AT ITS BEST". Below this, two show posters are displayed. The left poster is for "MURDER AT THE HOWARD JOHNSON'S" running from NOV 5-21, featuring a yellow door hanger with the text "ALL IS FAIR IN LOVE AND MURDER". The right poster is for "Winter Wonderettes" running from DECEMBER 3-23, featuring four women in 1950s-style clothing. At the bottom, a pink banner reads "2021-22 SEASON TICKETS ON SALE NOW! BUY TICKETS NOW AND GET THE BEST SEATS TO ALL OF OUR SHOWS!". Contact information includes WWW.DTWORKS.ORG, 760-980-1455, and the address 45175 FARGO ST., INDIO, CA 92201, INDIO PERFORMING ARTS CENTER.

IDF Sees 7-year High in Motivation to Serve in Combat Units

By TPS

Israeli youth who were recruited into the IDF this past summer displayed a high motivation to serve in combat units, the highest in the past seven years, Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Aviv Kohavi stated. "Maneuverability has improved and motivation for service in combat units has improved, and in the last two years there has been a steady increase in the desire to serve in combat units."

"This increase was particularly pronounced in the desire for combat service last August — and these are the highest figures in the last seven years," he said. These figures "testify to the recruits' willingness and sense of mission and are an expression of the work of

the commanders and the Manpower Directorate who are working on the issue."

In August, 340 new immigrants joined the IDF, of whom 198 were men and 142 were women. Many recruits immigrated from countries from which only one immigrant enlisted, including the Netherlands, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ghana, the Dominican Republic, Greece, New Zealand, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Chile, Cuba, Costa Rica, New Caledonia and Sweden.

The countries from which the most immigrants were recruited are Ethiopia, the United States, Russia, Ukraine and France.

Equal Among Equals: JNF-USA's Special in Uniform Program Changes Lives of People with Disabilities

Each year, 16-year-old Israelis wait anxiously to receive their first notice ('Tzav Rishon') letting them know they are considered candidates for service in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). However, for nearly 13% of Israeli citizens who have a disability, this excitement is replaced with disappointment when they receive an exemption from serving.

That is where Special in Uniform comes into the picture. Believing that everyone deserves a chance to reach their full potential, the Jewish National Fund-USA (JNF-USA) backed program integrates young adults with disabilities and special needs into the IDF, in turn providing them with valuable skills that help them enter the workforce following their service.

The project first started out in 2014 when Executive Director at Special in Uniform Lt. Col. (Res.) Tiran Attia and Chairman of Special in Uniform Col. Ariel Almog sought to incorporate 45 people with disabilities into the IDF. The program now has over 500 soldiers with disabilities and special needs serving in 38 bases in the Negev and Galilee, particularly in the Air Force and Home Front Command, with 250 hopefuls on the program's waiting list.

"Just consider what it's like for a 16-year-old with disabilities to get exempt from service and what that does

to their confidence level. We believe the best thing is to incorporate them into the IDF, where they will be able to serve according to their personal abilities," said Attia. "The IDF is very happy with the program, and we are constantly receiving requests from commanders who want to take part in the program as well. Most importantly, we're changing people's lives."

Please join JNF-USA in Palm Springs on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at 4:00 pm at the Ritz-Carlton for a major donor reception to meet Lt. Col. (Res.) Tiran Attia and learn more about this life-altering program. Register at RSVPPalmSprings@jnf.org or contact Donna Raider, Director, Palm Springs at draider@jnf.org or 760.864.6208 x989.



Jewish National Fund-USA Invites You to a MAJOR DONOR RECEPTION

Join fellow major donors to learn how Jewish National Fund-USA supports the inclusion of people with special needs in all of Israeli society. Hear first hand from our affiliate Special in Uniform, which integrates Israeli citizens with disabilities and autism into the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), giving them an opportunity to fulfill their national duty to serve.

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Lieutenant Colonel Tiran Attia, *Director, Special In Uniform*
Yossi Kahana, *Director, Task Force on Disabilities*

EVENT CO-CHAIRS

Sheri Borax & Norm Isaacs, *Co-Presidents, Palm Springs*

Register at RSVPPalmSprings@jnf.org

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

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German Jews Shocked by Israeli Singer's Treatment at Leipzig Hotel

Leipzig's Westin Hotel turned away German-Israeli singer Gil Ofarim over his Star of David pendant.

By Associated Press

A leading Jewish group in Germany said it was shocked by a German-Israeli singer's report of being turned away from a hotel in the eastern German city of Leipzig because he was wearing a Star of David pendant.

Singer Gil Ofarim, who lives in Germany, shared a video on Instagram October 5 showing him in front of the Westin hotel in Leipzig and saying a hotel employee asked him to put away his necklace in order to check into the hotel.

The head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, Josef Schuster, responded on Twitter, saying "the antisemitic hostility against Gil Ofarim is appalling."

"One hopes that the Westin will take consequences regarding their staff," Schuster tweeted. "I also hope that in the future we will encounter solidarity when we

get attacked."

The Westin Leipzig told The Associated Press in an email that it was "concerned and alarmed by the intolerable accusations by Mr. Ofarim."

General manager Andreas Hachmeister wrote that the hotel employee in question was put on leave while the hotel tries to reach Ofarim to shed light on the entire incident.

Ofarim's manager, Yvonne Probst, could not immediately be reached for comment. German news agency dpa quotes his management team as saying that Ofarim, 39, did not want to comment further publicly.



Gil Ofarim

Ofarim is the son of Israeli singer Abi Ofarim, who performed with his first wife, Esther, during the 1950s and 1960s. The couple were known internationally for their renditions of folksongs and chansons.

In his Instagram video, Ofarim says he was standing in line to register at the hotel and noticed that people standing behind him received service well ahead of him.

"I was standing there, with my necklace, and one person after the next was pulled out from behind me," Ofarim said.

He said that when he eventually got to the front of the line and asked why everybody else was getting preferential treatment, a hotel employee told him he, too, could check in if he put away his Star of David necklace first.

Ofarim, who was close to tears when he

talked about his experience on Instagram, did not say what happened next but added: "Really? Germany in 2021."

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FOREST LAWN MEMORIAL-PARKS & MORTUARIES

Four Charged in UK for Shrieking Antisemitic Rape Threats

By Benjamin Kerstein, *The Algemeiner*

Four men who drove through London screaming antisemitic threats of rape and violence earlier this year have been formally charged, according to the London Metropolitan Police.

The incident took place on May 16, when the cars were filmed on Finchley Road in London, bearing Palestinian flags and shouting, among other things, "F*** the Jews, rape their daughters," through loudspeakers.

Jewish News reported at the time that the cars were heading toward the heavily



Jewish neighborhood of Golders Green.

Someone could also be heard on the loudspeaker saying, "We have to send a message."

The incident took place during Israel's 11-day conflict with Hamas in May, amid a wave of antisemitism in the US and Europe.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan at the time called the incident "appalling," while Prime Minister Boris Johnson said, "There is no place for antisemitism in our society. ... I stand with Britain's Jews who should not have to endure the type of

shameful racism we have seen today."

Metropolitan Police arrested the four men shortly after.

In a statement released on September 20, the Met identified the four criminals, who are all from the community of Blackburn, as Mohammed Iftikhar Hanif, 27; Jawaad Hussain, 24; Asif Ali, 25; and Adil Mota, 26.

According to the Met, they were charged with "using threatening, abusive or insulting words, or behavior, with intent, likely to stir up racial hatred."

JFS Celebrates 40 Years of Impact in the Coachella Valley

By Kraig Johnson, *Executive Director*

Jewish Family Service of the Desert (JFS) turns 40 this year, and we invite you to celebrate with us ... safely. We also invite you to become a JFS Patron. (www.jfsdesert.org; 760-325-4088, ext. 107; or cscarlett@jfsdesert.org).

On Sunday, November 14th, long-time LA weatherman and comedian Fritz Coleman will provide a performance on "Aging Gracefully During a Pandemic" at Temple Sinai in Palm Desert at 2:00 pm PST. A "VIP" option including a post-event reception with Fritz is available,

and an option for participating remotely will also be available.

The 19th Annual JFS Patron Party will be hosted on Sunday, December 5th from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at the Ferrari Dealership in Rancho Mirage. Surrounded by breathtaking Ferraris, participants will have plenty of room to mix and mingle, enjoy catering provided by Eight4Nine Restaurant & Lounge as well as signature cocktails and other "surprises."

On Wednesday, March 9, 2022, JFS will honor Phyllis Eisenberg with the

JFS Humanitarian of the Year Award at an event at the Mary Pickford Theatre in Cathedral City featuring Hollywood reporter and columnist Sue Cameron who will present "Secrets of TV Legends." Sue will share stories of historic and contemporary stars...from Hope to the Kardashians...during a day that will feature matinee and evening performance options and a virtual option.

JFS has steadily increased access to its services by collaborating with partner

agencies and local municipalities. As leaders in mental health and case management services, JFS is working with the County Board of Supervisors, Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health, and the Desert Healthcare District & Foundation to map the future of behavioral health services here in the Valley. Last year, we provided nearly 16,000 services to over 3200 Coachella Valley residents in-need, and we're able to do so because of your support. Thank you!

SAVE THE DATES

JFS DESERT 2021-2022

JFS Auxiliary Presents
FRITZ COLEMAN

"Aging Gracefully During
the Pandemic"

November 14, 2021



Become a
JFS Benefactor
Patron to
attend all
events as a
VIP

19TH ANNUAL
Patron Party

In-person at a surprise location

December 5, 2021

SUE CAMERON

Secrets of TV Legends from a
Hollywood Reporter Columnist

March 9, 2022



For more information, call JFS at 760.325.4088 ext. 107 or email cscarlett@jfsdesert.org



Shabbat Schedule - November 2021

Below are the Service plans of our congregations as of the JCN going to press. However, due to the uncertainties from the COVID Pandemic, we urge you to check online or call any temple or shul you are interested in attending to find out if there are last minute changes.

BETH SHALOM (Member, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism)
Ken Hailpern, Spiritual Leader
79-733 Country Club Drive, Bermuda Dunes, CA 92203
www.congregationbethshalom.net
760-200-3636
Proof of vaccination required on first in-person return visit.
In-person Shabbat Morning Services: 9:45 am, with simultaneous broadcast on Zoom. Zoom link on website. CongregationBethShalom.net.
Services followed by individually-portioned light Kiddush lunch.
Visitors welcome with proof of vaccination.
For information, email BethShalom18@gmail.com or call 760-200-3636.

CHABAD OF PALM SPRINGS & DESERT COMMUNITIES

Rabbi Yonason Denebeim & Rabbi Arik Denebeim
250 East Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92264
www.chabadpalmsprings.com
760-325-0774. Check website or call to confirm when Shabbat services are held.

CHABAD OF PALM DESERT

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

CHABAD OF RANCHO MIRAGE

Rabbi Shimon Posner
72295 Via Marta, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270. www.chabadr.com 760-770-7785
"Taste of Shul" available Fridays on Zoom and Facebook live.
Shabbat morning services begin at 10 am, followed by Kiddush. We are gradually returning to our full pre-

covid kiddush lunch. Call for more information.

CHABAD OF SUN CITY PALM DESERT

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

CONGREGATION HAR-EL

(Member, Union for Reform Judaism)
Rabbi Richard Zions, Ph.D.; Cantor Joseph Gole, D.Mus. harelurjpd@gmail.com
760-779-1691. New website: harelurjpd.org.
Shabbat services offered online. Everyone welcome.

Zoom Shabbat Evening Services 5 pm with Rabbi Richard Zions and Cantor Joseph Gole. Discussion with attendees before and after the Shabbat Services.

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

CONGREGATION SHALOM BAYIT

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

DESERT OUTREACH SYNAGOGUE

Rabbi Dr. Jules King; Rabbi Rachel Axelrad, Associate Rabbi. Cantor Lori Reisman Patterson. 760-449-0111. Mailing address: P.O. Box 982, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270. www.Desert-Outreach-Synagogue.com. In person and virtual services held the second Fridays at 7:00 pm on Zoom. For link and password contact rabbi@desert-outreach-synagogue.com. Torah study 10:30 am second Saturday, followed by light nosh. Proof of

vaccination or negative COVID test. Must wear mask if not vaccinated.

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.
Friday, November 5th – 6:30 pm - In person and Facebook live 2021 Pride Interfaith Kabbalat Shabbat service at United Methodist Church of Palm Springs (1555 East Alejo). Must be fully vaccinated and wear mask in building.

SUN CITY JEWISH SERVICES

Rabbi Kenneth Emert; Cantor Alan Scott. It is hoped in person services will begin Friday, November 5 in Speaker's Hall in Sun City Palm Desert. Services held the first and third Fridays at 7:15 pm. To attend participants must be fully vaccinated and wear a mask at services. Information: Contact Susan Katzman, 760-641-0411 or email SusanK92253@gmail.com.

TEMPLE HAR SHALOM, Idyllwild

(951) 468-0004.
www.templeharshalomidyllwild.org
Email: templeharshalomofidyllwild@gmail.com.
Virtual holiday services led by Rabbi David Lazar.
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.
Weekly in-person Shabbat services begin again November 5th. Friday evenings at 7:30 pm and Saturday morning at 10:00 am. To attend in person services requires being fully vaccinated and masks are required when in the building. To access any activity, go to Temple Isaiah's website and click on link to desired service or program. "Jewish University" Saturdays from 1:30-3 PM on Zoom. No charge. RSVP requested.

TEMPLE SINAI

(Member, Union for Reform Judaism)
Rabbi David Novak
73-251 Hovley Lane West, Palm Desert, CA 92260. www.temple sinaipd.org 760-568-9699.
Go to templesinaipd.org for access information. Shabbat services are in-person and online on Livestream at www.temple sinaipd.org. Friday evening services 5:30 pm. Saturday morning Torah study 8:45 am; Shabbat morning services 10 am. Family Shabbat Friday, November 5 at 5:30 pm. Abbreviated service followed by light supper. Services open to all but advance registration required for dinner. Check website. Proof of vaccination or negative covid test within 72 hours required. Masks must be worn in the building.

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 - November 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:

5:00-6:45 pm Chabad of Rancho
Mirage **Weekly Community BBQ**
is back offered in person. Place
order by 2 PM Monday and save
15%. Pickup/drive through also
available.

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

Wednesdays:

2:00-4:00 pm Temple Sinai
Mah Jongg

7:30 pm - Temple Isaiah
"Bereavement Group" with **Rabbi
Steven Rosenberg**. Contact Rabbi
directly for more information:
rabbisteven.rosenberg@gmail.com.

Thursdays:

1:00-2:00 pm Temple Sinai Tai Chi.
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](mailto:info@havurahofthedesert.org).

Monday, November 1, 15, 22

5:30 pm Jewish Federation
Women's Cultural Alliance ZOOM
three part program: "Connecting
Your Inner Truth, by Discovering
Who You Are at Your Core" led
by **Rebbitzin Sussie Denebeim**.
See article page 11. Register by
contacting Leslie Pepper at 760-
324-4737 or leslie.pepper@jfedps.org.

Sunday, November 7

3:00 pm Beth Shalom "The
Vision of Conservative Judaism,"
a Conversation with Rabbi Dr.
J.B. Sacks "Living: A Bridge with
G-d." First in Four-Part Series. See
ad page 11. Includes Afternoon
High Tea. Community Welcome
- no charge. RSVP with proof of
vaccination required.
760-200-3636.

Tuesday, November 9

3:00 pm Jewish Federation CHAI-
brid program: ZOOM screening
of Nancy Speilberg's **Above
and Beyond**, the story of Jewish
American war pilots who fought
in Israel's war of independence;
a true-life wartime adventure
story. See article page 18 for more
details. Call the office (760-324-
4737) or email reception@jfedps.org
to RSVP.

Wednesday, November 10

3:30 pm Har-El: **Prof. Alvin
Rosenfeld**, Borns Jewish Studies
Program, Indiana University, will
lead Q & A on the presentation
by Dr. Dina Porat, "Defining and
Monitoring Anti-Semitism: Current
Challenges." Contact [harelurjpd@
gmail.com](mailto:harelurjpd@gmail.com) for Zoom invitation.

Thursday, November 11

9:30 am (doors open) / **10:00
am** program: Sabra Hadassah
in the clubhouse of Sun City
Shadow Hills. Program: "**Women
Behaving Badly ... for Good**",
with **Dr. Phyllis Porter** of the
Coachella Valley History Museum
portraying three women - Dr. June
Roberston, Zaddie Bunker and
Jacqueline Cochran - complete with
costumes that are changed before
the audience. Information? Call
Debbie Orgen, 760-289-7987.

Sunday, November 14

3:00 pm Jewish Family Service
Auxiliary present LIVE **Fritz
Coleman** Comedy Show "**Aging
Gracefully During the Pandemic**"
at Temple Sinai. General admission
and streaming tickets \$50. VIP
Tickets \$125. See ad page 14.

Wednesday, November 17

3:30 pm "Har-El Goes to the
Movies" Galen Series. Film to be
discussed: "**The Other Son;**" Israeli
and Palestinian babies are switched
at birth. How the families reconcile
this delivers a powerful message.
View on Kanopy. For Zoom
invitation, contact [harelurjpd@
gmail.com](mailto:harelurjpd@gmail.com).

Wednesday, November 17

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.

Sunday, November 21

4:00 pm Beth Shalom Barbecue
Dinner and Movie "**Return of
the Violin.**" Members \$20; non-
member \$25. RSVP with proof of
vaccination required.
RSVP deadline: November 15.
760-200-3636.

Sunday, November 28

5:00 pm Chabad of Rancho Mirage
welcomes the community to
celebrate at their annual **Chanukah
at The River** event.

Monday, November 29

5:00 pm Bikkur Cholim, Jewish
Federation of the Desert and PJ
Library invite the community to
join in celebrating **Chanukah
at Boomers**, 67,700 East Palm
Canyon in Cathedral City. For more
information call Rabbi Kreiman of
Bikkur Cholim at 760-325-8076
or Leslie Pepper at the Jewish
Federation, 760-324-4737.

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



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:

- **Cora Ginsberg**, Wishing you much happiness in your new home, from Margot and Jerry Halperin, and Bertel Lewis.
- **Fran Kaufman**, Mazel tov on receiving the Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award, from Linda Gubman and Fred Cherniack, Edward and Rachel Gubman, Laurie and Bruce Wilcox.
- **Loreen Jacobson**, In honor of your birthday, from Lila Rauch.
- **Barbara Platt**, Happy birthday to a great friend, from Loreen Jacobson.
- **Sandy Schwartz**, In honor of your special birthday, from Margot and Jerry Halperin, Jan and Barry Godes.
- **Cecile Silverman**, Wishing you a very special happy birthday, from Libby and Buddy Hoffman, Margot and Jerry Halperin, and Loreen Jacobson.
- **Dr. Joseph Tauber**, Happy 65th birthday, from Loreen Jacobson.

- **Michael Thea**, Happy wonderful milestone birthday, from Cora Ginsberg.
- **Jim Trew**, Thank you for your service and devotion to the Jewish Federation all these years, from Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman.

Refuah Shleimah Get Well:

- **Norm Lewis**, Sending you best wishes for a speedy recovery, from Loreen Jacobson.
- **Lester Morris**, Sending you best wishes for a speedy recovery, from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Leslie Usow**, Sending you best wishes for a speedy recovery, from Gail and Bob Scadron.

Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:

- **Morris Beschloss**, Our sincere condolences on the loss of your beloved wife Ruth, from Joyce and Henry Freund.
- **Katie and Peter Ginsberg**, Condolences on the passing of your beloved mother and my dear friend, from Cora Ginsberg.

- **Gusky Family**, In fond memory of Henry Gusky from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, from Carol and Bob Friedman.
- **Rosie Hertz**, In memory of your beloved sister, from Joyce and Henry Freund.
- **Frances Horwich and Family**, Our condolences of the passing of your sister and aunt, Ruth Beschloss, from Joyce and Henry Freund, Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman.
- **Eileen Kriozere and Family**, In memory of dear Richard, from Barbara and Robert Paget and Family.
- **Joni Maltzman and Family**, In memory of your beloved husband, Don, from Eunice and Jerry Meister, Barbara and Robert Paget.
- **Larry and Cathy Pitts and Family**, In memory of your beloved mother, Barbara Pitts, from Joyce and Henry Freund, Alan Goldstein and Mary Levine, Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman, William and Elizabeth Wickham.

Above and Beyond

The story of Jewish American War Pilots Who Fought in Israel's War of Independence

We will show the film on Tuesday, November 9th at 3 pm in honor of Veteran's Day that week. Call the office – 760-324-4737 - or email reception@jfedps.org to RSVP. It will be shown over Zoom.

This gripping documentary unfolds like *The Great Escape*, a true-life wartime adventure story. In 1948, as the British withdrew from Palestine, and five Arab nations prepared to invade



Israel, a ragtag group of young men from around the globe volunteered to defend the new country. Called Machal, or volunteers from abroad, many were World War II veterans from the US. Because of an embargo imposed by the Truman administration, Americans risked losing their citizenship by joining the fight.

Produced by Nancy Spielberg, younger sister to Steven, this film celebrates the pilots who laid the foundation for the Israeli Air Force. It combines extraordinary archival footage and interviews with scholars, survivors and their descendants. Interviewees range from Shimon Perez to Paul Reubens (aka Pee Wee Herman), whose father Milton Rubinfeld flew combat missions. The bravery of these volunteers was incredible. The only aircraft available to them were American and German jets junked after the war, constantly liable to deadly mechanical failure. Amenities were equally scarce (many had to make do with discarded Nazi flight suits.)

Despite their shoddy equipment, they exercised enough skill and trickery to persuade the invaders that their small squadron posed a far bigger threat than it really did, helping turn the tide of the war.

We will start advertising this program in the next couple of E-Newsletters. A film screening of Nancy Spielberg's *Above and Beyond*, the story of Jewish American war pilots who fought in Israel's war of independence. We will show it November 9th at 3 pm in honor of Veteran's Day that week, and you can call the office or email reception@jfedps.org to RSVP. It will be shown over Zoom.

UK Labour Party Announces New Review Process for Antisemitism Complaints, and End of 'A Dark Chapter' for Jews

By Cnaan Lipshiz, JTA

Labour members attending the British party's annual conference passed a rule on how they will handle antisemitism complaints, leading the party's leader to declare that they had "closed the door this evening to antisemitism in the Labour Party."

"We've turned our back on the dark chapter. Having closed that door, that door will never be opened again in our Labour Party to antisemitism," Labour leader Keir Starmer said.

The change stipulates that complaints about antisemitism will be reviewed by an independent committee. During his years at the helm of the party, former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn was accused of allowing antisemitism to fester among some of the party's left-wing supporters.

Jewish Labour supporters who spoke at the conference supported the

change.

The party is "turning the page on the blight of anti-Semitism," said Jewish former Labour lawmaker Ruth Smeeth, who was bombarded with antisemitic death threats in 2019. "You failed," she said to those behind the antisemitic abuse. "We're still here."

During the conference, Starmer — who has sought to rehabilitate Labour's reputation since his election to replace Corbyn in 2020 — reiterated an apology to Jews for the proliferation of antisemitism in Labour's ranks in recent years.

The change to the complaint review process, which Starmer vowed to implement in his 2020 victory speech,



British Labour Leader Keir Starmer

was recommended by the Equality and Human Rights Commission, the British government's watchdog on racism. The Commission recommended the move in a 2020 report in which it accused Corbyn of being responsible for "unlawful acts of harassment and discrimination" against Jews.

Corbyn, a far-left politician who has advocated a blanket boycott of Israel, laid wreaths at monuments for Palestinian terrorists and once called the militant groups Hamas and Hezbollah his "friends." In 2014, one year before his election to head Labour, he also said that Hamas, labeled a terrorist organization by Israel and the United States, was devoted to justice and peace.

Corbyn's critics said his anti-Israel rhetoric emboldened antisemites, and a Labour ethics panel found that

Corbyn failed to punish offenders, the Commission found.

The conference also featured a vote that criticized Israel, demonstrating that there is still antagonism towards the Jewish state in the party.

At a panel on foreign relations, a majority of members attending passed a resolution that "condemns the ongoing Nakba in Palestine, Israel's militarized violence attacking the Al Aqsa mosque, the forced displacements from Sheikh Jarrah and the deadly assault on Gaza."

"Nakba" is Arabic for disaster and is used to describe the destruction of Arab communities during Israel's War of Independence. Israel's planned displacement of residents from the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah led to protests that helped kickstart the latest Israeli-Gaza armed conflict in May.

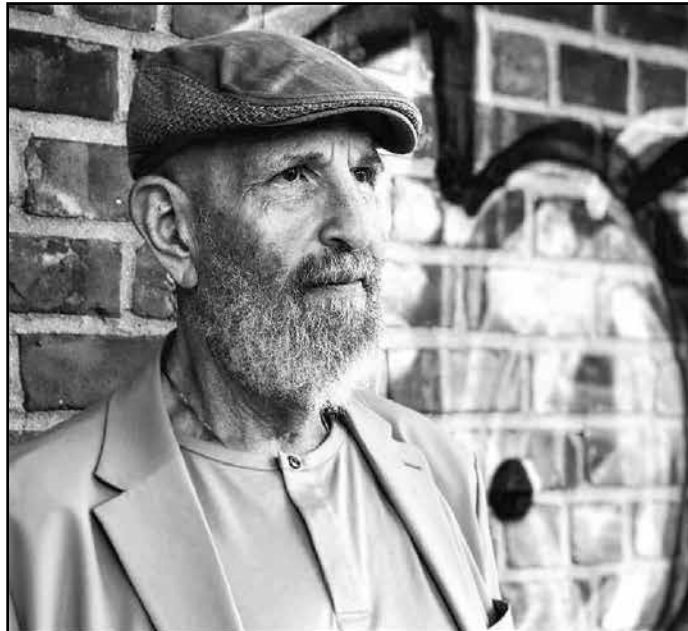
A Hamsa Emoji is Coming

The Emoji 14.0 release was just announced, and a new hamsa emoji will be out sometime in late 2021 or early 2022 (a date hasn't been set). The newest emoji will be a little blue hamsa, featuring an eye in its palm intended to ward off the evil eye, known in Hebrew as ayin ha'ra.



The hamsa is not exclusively a Jewish symbol. Sometimes referred to as Miriam's hand or Fatima's hand (referencing Moses's sister and Mohammed's daughter, respectively), the hamsa "has been variously interpreted by scholars as a Jewish, Christian or Islamic amulet, and as a pagan fertility symbol," according to *My Jewish Learning*.

The symbol dates back to at least 14th-century Spain and is popular among Sephardi Jews, who have used it as a symbol to invoke the hand of God or to counteract the evil eye. You can find hamsas on Jewish wall hangings, jewelry and even hamsa mezuzahs.



**"MOST PEOPLE GO TO
THERAPIST FOR
SPIRITUAL ISSUES"**

Rabbi Jonathan Omer-man

Are you experiencing the malaise of life without the joy? Do you have insecurities that are keeping you trapped? Are you searching for purpose, meaning and passion in life, in relationships, etc?

I CAN HELP!

Call me, **Mark Borovitz**, Advocate for the Soul, Living Well Coach, Spiritual Counselor, LifeCoach, Rabbi

818-730-7405

rabbimark@rabbimark.com

This Startup Will Make Sure Drones Don't Land Where They Shouldn't

Wonder Robotics plans on turning drones into truly autonomous machines that can fly and land by themselves, no operator needed to avoid obstacles.

By Naama Barak, Israel 32c

"The word 'autonomous' is thrown about with intolerable ease," laments Idan Shimon.

"If you buy a simple drone, it will be autonomous in the sense that it will fly where you want it to and even land there," he explains. "You'll definitely be able to tell the drone to go somewhere, but if you tell it to land and there's a child in its way, it will land on the kid."

This is the sort of incident that Shimon, the CEO and cofounder of Israeli startup *Wonder Robotics*, wants to prevent.

"We're developing a system that supplies drones with situational awareness – an understanding of their surroundings, a sense of the world around them and underneath them, an ability to analyze the world, as well as the ability to fly while understanding their surroundings without crashing into anything," he says.

Shimon has decades of experience and passion for all things aviation. He flew model aircraft as a child and served as a drone operator in the army before starting work at Aeronautics, a military-use UAV company, and later on as a consultant in the field.

The idea for Wonder Robotics, he says, came up following an inquiry from a client in the defense establishment.

Drones can't spend prolonged periods of time in the air, and always take off and land at the same spot. The client inquired why drones don't stop in the vicinity of their destination to cut down flying times.

"That's what sparked the idea," he notes. "The main reason for this is that drones aren't truly autonomous. They can't see the world by themselves, navigate themselves or land safely, if need be, without getting stuck in something."

Instead, drones still rely on operators to help them overcome obstacles such as powerlines, rocks, difficult ground angles and the like.

But as the world moves toward commercial drones set to deliver our shopping and transport items at a large scale, this mode of operation will no longer be viable.

"It's clear that as a prerequisite for large-scale operations, you can't afford to have a person in place for each drone," Shimon notes.

"We're developing a solution that's meant to be generic. It will be possible to place it atop any kind of drone," he explains. "Not for the consumer world but for the commercial world, for drones weighing over 20 kilos and even the big monsters that weigh a ton or two."

Shimon says the company's unique approach is in combining algorithms from different worlds.

"In the world of computerized vision there's two-dimensional analysis and AI like in the case of Tesla and Mobileye,



Wonder Robotics
Co-Founder Idan
Shimon



Drone given situational awareness

or 3D companies that analyze the world in 3D."

2D vision, he explains, allows the drone to see far away as it's flying, while 3D vision is imperative for landing and seeing things such as obstacles and terrain up close. They haven't been combined before.

"The lower you go the bigger the 3D element of it becomes," Shimon explains. "You look down with a stereo camera that looks at the world from two angles like the human eye and gets an in-depth picture. That way I can understand not only the semantics – whether it's water or solid ground – but also the geometry of it, such as rocks and cables. I get to autonomously decide the right place to land or to place a package."

In the commercial world, he says, "everyone's working only on solutions for landings that are known and have been investigated, in which you decide ahead of time where you'd like to land and mark the spot. Our system knows how to do that, but it also knows how to do it in places that are unfamiliar or haven't been investigated, for examples in instances of emergency landings in

which the system needs to decide by itself."

This could be key for regulation. "The regulator wants to know that this thing can land on the ground without killing anyone and without getting stuck in anything."

Vertical World of Drones

Wonder Robotics was founded two years ago and funded by Shimon and his business partner. It is now entering its seed round and has five full-time and two part-time employees. Aside from that, it received support from the Israel Innovation Authority and already has customers.

"We have a number of projects in the defense field, with both the Defense Ministry and a large defense company," he notes.

"There's an existing product and it works. The goal of the upcoming round is to commercialize it, make it smaller and carry out the optimization necessary for the civilian market."

At the moment, the Wonder Robotics solution works in what's called the vertical world of drones, i.e., everything that has to do with looking down for landing purposes. Eventually, the company plans on mastering its horizontal world and enabling drones to travel to their destination in a completely autonomous manner.

"The idea is not to crash into things while flying, to have a 360° view from the drone and not only to look downward," Shimon concludes.

Czech Republic Inks \$630 Million Deal for Israeli Air Defense

By Associated Press

The Czech Republic signed a deal to buy a new air defense system for its military from the Israeli government, the Defense Ministry said October 5.

The SPYDER system, which is made by the Israeli state-run company Rafael

Advanced Defense Systems Ltd., is capable of providing protection against aircraft, helicopters, bombers, cruise missiles and other weapons.

The defense ministry said the deal to get four short-range air defense

batteries is worth 13.7 billion Czech koruna (\$630 million), with the delivery to be completed by 2026.

Czech Defense Minister Lubomir Metnar said the Israeli system would be key in the ongoing modernization of

the Czech armed forces.

It would replace an obsolete anti-aircraft Soviet-era 2K12 KUB system to defend military and civilian centers such as industrial hubs, nuclear power plants, airports and other important facilities.

Israeli Diplomatic Success: Antisemitic Durban Conference Fails

By Aryeh Savir, TPS

Israel celebrated its diplomatic achievements that brought about the withdrawal of 34 countries from a United Nations event marking the 20th anniversary of the infamous Durban Conference.

In commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA), the UN General Assembly held a high-level meeting on the theme, "Reparations, racial justice and equality for people of African descent."

However, because the first conference in 2001 turned into an anti-Semitic Israel-bashing festival, Israel waged a diplomatic campaign to ensure the event failed. (Durban II and Durban III were held in 2009 and 2011, respectively).

No head of state spoke at this year's event, dubbed Durban IV, except for the South African president who sponsored the rally. Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian addressed the audience as well. He was involved in Iran's death committees of the 1980s that were responsible for the extra judiciary executions of thousands and other human rights violations.

"The halls of the UNGA are empty, and



Anti-Israel protesters march through the streets during the World Conference Against Racism in Durban, Aug. 31, 2001.

with good cause. Honorable men and women will not dignify this anti-Semitic event with their presence," the Israeli Foreign Ministry stated September 22.

Israel thanked Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, the UK, the United States, Honduras, Albania, Uruguay, Poland, Montenegro, Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, Serbia, Macedonia, Estonia, Lithuania, and the Dominican Republic for their withdrawal from the 20th anniversary event of the UN's Durban Conference.

The original Durban Conference, an UN-hosted event, "became the worst

international manifestation of antisemitism since World War II," the Foreign Ministry said, including "inflammatory speeches, discriminatory texts, and a pro-Hitler march that took place outside the halls" that were "only part of the ugliness displayed in 2001."

"The World Conference on Racism actually ended up encouraging it, including through the parallel NGO forum, which displayed caricatures of Jews with hooked noses and fangs dripping with blood, clutching money," the Foreign Ministry charged.

"Twenty years later, some of the same organizations have waged a BDS campaign against the only democracy in the Middle East, but they have FAILED. Israel is a thriving state that is increasing its cooperation with countries in the region and will continue to do so," the Foreign Ministry stated.

The Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated earlier this month that it "strongly objected on behalf of the State of Palestine to what it describes as the 'inimical statements and tendentious' attacks against the Durban Conference."

"Such iniquitous calls to boycott the Conference display an alarming level of

deficit in morality and expose a hypocritical approach to entrench attitudes of exceptionalism that have long aggravated the endemic racism, particularly against people of African descent," the PA Ministry asserted.

It also called on the international community to "unite together to end racism and discrimination in all its forms and not dissect its many layers of pain and injustice."

Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations Gilad Erdan stated that there were more than 50 empty tables and many dozens of countries absent from the hall during the conference.

"While the UN is marking the 20th anniversary of the antisemitic Durban conference, the General Assembly is almost empty. Our struggle has permeated the international community and the world has realized that it is impossible to fight racism by spreading hatred to Israel and the Jewish people," he said.

U of Bristol Fires Professor, Accused of Antisemitic Comments

By Dion J. Pierre, *The Algemeiner*

The University of Bristol has fired David Miller, a sociology professor who called for "the end of Zionism" and spread conspiracies about British Jewish students, in a decision October 1 that drew cheers from campus Jewish groups who had long raised complaints about his conduct.

The decision, the university said, ends "with immediate effect" its employment of Miller, concluding a months-long investigation of his activity — which began making news in November 2018, when he mocked Jewish students for feeling unsafe on campus, blaming their fears on "propaganda which they have been schooled with."

Said University of Bristol in a statement, "We have a duty of care to all students and the wider University community, in addition to a need to apply our own codes of conduct consistently and with integrity."

"Balancing those important considerations, and after careful deliberation, a disciplinary hearing

found Professor Miller did not meet the standards of behavior we expect from our staff, and the University has concluded that Professor Miller's employment should be terminated with immediate effect."

The Board of Deputies of British Jews (BoD) called Miller's firing "long overdue." "This announcement sends a clear message to any academics who use their positions at respectable institutions in order to spread conspiracy theories and make Jewish students feel unsafe," said BoD President Marie van der Zyl. "Free speech should not include hate speech."

The European Union of Jewish Students (UJS) and Bristol Jewish Society (Bristol JSoc), which had criticized the university for not reprimanding Miller sooner, responded to the news in a joint statement, saying, "We warmly welcome the choice of Bristol University to finally take action against Professor Miller."

"It has been 2 years since UJS, CST (Community Security Trust), and

the Jewish community raised their heads and their voices in protest at the harassment, targeting, and vicious diatribe shared by Professor Miller with his students," the groups said.

"This announcement concludes months and years of tireless campaigns and actions by students to try and get the university and authorities to listen, and we are pleased that action has finally been taken."

Miller said he would appeal the university's decision, *The Guardian* reported, and accused the university of bowing to outside influence.

"It has run a shambolic process that seems to have been vetted by external actors," Miller said. "Israel's assets in the UK have been emboldened by the university collaborating with them to shut down teaching about Islamophobia. The University of Bristol is no longer safe for Muslim, Arab or Palestinian students."



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Israelis Secretly Evacuated 167 Afghans

By Lahav Harkov, Jerusalem Post

The humanitarian aid group IsraAID coordinated the evacuation of 125 vulnerable Afghans via Albania earlier month, the NGO said on October 13.

The group of evacuees included judges, professional cyclists, journalists, TV presenters, human rights activists, relatives of Afghan diplomats, artists, law enforcement officers, scientists and more. They arrived in Albania after being evacuated from Afghanistan after the US left the country in August and the Taliban took Kabul.

In September, IsraAID took part in the evacuation of 42 Afghan women and girls to the United Arab Emirates.

The refugees are expected to be resettled in the long term in countries like Canada, France and Switzerland, IsraAID said. In the interim, IsraAID has been working to provide necessities to the 125 refugees in Albania, as well as over 1,000 already in the country.

IsraAID CEO Yotam Politzer said that "after an intense and difficult process over the past several weeks, with the situation constantly changing and new plans being built on an almost-daily basis, we are delighted to be able to say that our main focus right now is on ensuring the evacuees have everything they need while they begin the process of building lives for themselves."

The organization plans to support the 167

Afghans it helped in the long term, as well.

IsraAID worked with journalist Danna Harman, who said that the "bright spot in the story of Afghanistan's latest crisis...[is] how many regular people, Afghans and those who care about Afghanistan alike, came together to respond to calls to help."

"It behooves us all to listen to and respect anyone's cry for help, and, moreover, if we can, reach out our hands to assist," Harman stated.

Philanthropist Sylvan Adams, said the extraction operation, in which he was involved, was "simply practicing the ancient Jewish cultural imperative of 'Tikkun Olam,' which means improving our world.

Adams, who brought the Giro d'Italia bicycle race to Israel in 2018, said that he is "gratified to have helped change the fate of our group of Afghan women cyclists and to offer them a chance at a normal, productive, happy life."

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Let's Talk

Harriet Rossetto,
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Have A Nosh With Miriam



Chanukah begins the evening of November 28 ... and while this is our November issue of the JCN, the December issue will most likely arrive in your homes before November 28th, so it was a dilemma to decide when to give you my Chanukah recipes. My solution: Sufganiyot this month and selection of latkes next month! I like making the traditional sufganiyot with the yeast dough (and who doesn't



like chocolate, as given in the second recipe) but the quick version - with baking powder - is a great alternative when your time is limited. Hag samayach! Happy Chanukah! MHB

TRADITIONAL YEAST SUFGANIYOT (PAREVE)

3/4 cup orange juice (or water)

1/4 lb. margarine

4 Tbsp. sugar

2 pkg. dry yeast

3 cups flour

2 eggs, beaten

dash of salt

1/3 cup powdered sugar, mixed with 1 teaspoon cinnamon

Vegetable oil for deep frying

Combine orange juice, margarine and sugar. Heat until margarine melts. Cook to lukewarm and add yeast. Stir until dissolved. Add flour, eggs and dash of salt and mix well. Remove from bowl onto a floured board and knead until smooth. You may need to add a little more flour. Place dough in a greased bowl and cover. Let rise in a warm spot for 30 minutes. Punch down. Break dough into pieces and shape into small balls. Cover with a light kitchen towel and let rise another 30 minutes. Deep fry in 375-degree oil until golden brown. Drain on paper towels. Dust with cinnamon sugar.

CHOCOLATE FILLED SUFGANIYOT (MILCHIG)

3/4 cup warm water (about 100 degrees)

1 envelop active dry yeast

2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for work surface

1/4 cup sugar plus 1/2 cup for coating

1/2 teaspoon salt

2 large eggs, separated

2 Tablespoons unsalted butter, room temperature

Frying oil

Chocolate bars, (better quality chocolates work best) cut in to approximately one-inch squares.

In a large metal bowl, stir together warm water and yeast. Let stand until foamy, about 5 minutes. Add 3/4 cup flour, 1/4 cup sugar, and salt; mix until well combined. Add egg yolks and remaining 1 3/4 cups flour. Mix until combined, then knead dough in bowl until all flour is incorporated. Turn out dough onto a lightly floured work surface; knead a few minutes until smooth. Knead in margarine until incorporated. Transfer dough to a well-oiled bowl; turn dough several times to coat entirely with oil. Cover tightly with plastic wrap, and refrigerate overnight.

About 30 minutes before you're ready to form doughnuts, remove dough from refrigerator to let come to room temperature. On a lightly floured work surface, roll out dough into an 1/8 inch thick. Using a 2 inch cookie cutter (or a glass), cut out about 24 rounds, dipping cutter in flour as needed to prevent sticking. Re-roll scraps and cut out about 16 more rounds.

Line a baking sheet with a clean kitchen towel. In a small bowl, lightly beat egg whites. Brush edge of a dough round with egg white, then put chocolate bar pieces in center. Top with another round and press edges to seal. Repeat process with remaining rounds. Transfer to prepared baking sheet; let doughnuts rise until puffy, 20 to 30 minutes.

Heat a few inches of oil in a large (4-5 quart) heavy pot until it registers 360 degrees on a deep-fry thermometer or a scrap of dough sizzles upon contact. Working in batches of 4 to 5, carefully slip doughnuts into hot oil. Fry, turning once until golden brown, about 1 minute. Using a slotted spoon, transfer doughnuts to paper towels to drain.

Place remaining 1/2 cup sugar in a medium bowl. While doughnuts are still hot, toss them in sugar, turning to coat. Serve immediately. Makes 20 sufganiyot.

BAKING POWDER SUFGANIYOT (MILCHIG)

3 cups flour

1/4 cup sugar

3 tsp. baking powder

1 teaspoon nutmeg or mace

1/2 teaspoon salt

1 egg

1/4 cup salad oil

3/4 cup milk

1/2 cup sugar, mixed with 1 teaspoon cinnamon

Vegetable oil for deep frying

Combine flour, 1/4 cup sugar, baking powder, nutmeg (or mace) and salt. Add egg, oil and milk. Mix thoroughly. Drop by small teaspoonfuls into 375 degree oil and fry until golden brown. Drain on paper towels and sprinkle with cinnamon sugar. Makes about 4 dozen.



Simchas

Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman are blessed with the birth of a second grandson in 41 days! **Esther Pearl Kreiman** gave birth in Los Angeles on October 11. Proud papa is **Baruch Kreiman**. We go to press before the Bris, so we'll give his name next month. Meanwhile, a hearty mazel tov to parents **Baruch** and **Esther**



Baby Kreiman

Pearl Kreiman, and grandparents **Rabbi Yankel** and **Rochel Kreiman** and **Leeba Marks** ... Congratulations to Temple Isaiah Sisterhood's newly elected President, **Linda Lewensohn**. She and her husband Burt are relatively recent transplants from Agoura Hills ... Share your Simchas with us. Email mhbentjcn@earthlink.net or call **Miriam Bent** at 760-323-0255.



Linda Lewensohn



We Mourn the Passing of...

William Dubinsky, Francine Lubens. Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing.

Remembering Dear Friends



- ◆ Susan Goldfine
- ◆ Judy Torodor
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- ◆ Joe Bernstein

Ed & Jackie Cohen



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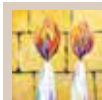
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Candle Lighting Times

Friday, November 5th 2021	5:07 pm	Shabbat Toldot
Friday, November 12th 2021	4:01 pm	Shabbat Vayeitzei
Friday, November 19th 2021	3:58 pm	Shabbat Vayishlach
Friday, November 26th 2021	3:55 pm	Shabbat Vayeshev



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