

Community Update

By Roberta Nyman and Jackie Cohen,
Board Co-chairs

As we begin this New Year of 2022, we have many programs and campaign events underway. The Women's Philanthropy sixth annual Women's Card Day on December 13 had over 160 participants, including many women who had not participated in the past. We thank our chairwoman Michelle Coneybeare and her committee for a job well done.



Roberta Nyman
Board Co-chair



Jackie Cohen
Board Co-chair

The Lion of Judah Brunch on January 24 has had a great response and we look forward to a spectacular morning, featuring Lisa Friedman Clark as our keynote speaker. Plans are finalizing now under the capable hands of our Campaign Chair Cora Ginsberg and event co-chairs Carol Fragen and Phyllis Eisenberg.

The Women's Culture Alliance, chaired by Fran Kaufman, is planning a season of events to engage our women in lively discussions about art, literature, and other cultural happenings.

We are honored to bring Ron Dermer, who served as Israel's Ambassador to the United States from 2013-2021, to our Community for the Major Gifts

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'Distortion' and 'Trivialization' of Holocaust Poses Urgent Challenge, Says Newly Appointed Head of Yad Vashem

By Ben Cohen *The Algemeiner*

The newly appointed head of Israel's national memorial to the Holocaust has identified the "trivialization" and "distortion" of the Nazi persecution of the Jews as the most urgent challenge facing the faithful commemoration of Jewish history's nadir.

Speaking to *The Algemeiner* on a recent visit to New York, Dani Dayan — a former Israeli Consul-General to the city who was appointed as chairman of Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust memorial, in August — said that the exploitation and appropriation of the Holocaust for political ends was a growing problem across both civil societies and governments.

"We have two different problems, trivialization and distortion of the Holocaust," Dayan said. Demonstrations around the world against COVID-19 public health protocols and mass vaccinations have been littered with protestors displaying Holocaust-era symbols, in a bid to depict social contact restrictions on those who freely refuse the vaccine as analogous to the Nazi genocide of six million Jews. "With the coronavirus, you see the trivialization," said Dayan.



Dani Dayan, New head
of Yad Vashem



Inside Yad Vashem rotunda

Holocaust distortion, he continued, "is so problematic because in many cases we are dealing with governments."

As Dayan explained it, "the nature of today's distortion is to recognize that the Holocaust occurred, but to say as well, 'my fellow countrymen were okay.' We hear this from the Poles, from the Ukrainians, the French, the Dutch — but they were not okay. This is the kind of distortion that we are determined to combat."

Over the last four years, legislation passed in Poland has chilled historical research into the Holocaust by imposing potential legal penalties on those scholars who examine the issue of Polish civilian collaboration with the Nazis. Poland's nationalist government has also led a narrative offensive that rejects any talk of collusion with the occupying Germans while asserting that the Holocaust was primarily a Polish tragedy.

"The picture is not so straightforward," Dayan

commented. "Poles suffered at the hands of the Germans. Poles collaborated with the Nazis. Poles are included in the 'Righteous Among Nations'. All these things are true. So it's not black and white, there are many shades to Polish behavior during World War II and we have to recognize all of them."

Similar challenges exist in Ukraine too, said Dayan. Recalling a visit to Kiev in September to attend 80th anniversary commemorations of the Nazi massacre of 34,000 Jews at Babi Yar, he said he had told a seminar that "we warmly welcome Ukraine into the family of democratic nations, and Ukraine acknowledges the Holocaust perpetrated against the Jews. But I

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 Jewish Federation
OF THE DESERT | Women's
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USC Defends Response as 60 Faculty Members Call for 'Rebuke' Over Student's Violently Antisemitic Tweets

By Dion J. Pierre, *The Algemeiner*

The University of Southern California (USC) defended on December 3 its efforts to address antisemitism on campus, in a private letter addressed to a group of 60 faculty calling for the censure of an engineering student who had posted a series of violently antisemitic tweets.

The faculty group's Dec. 1 open letter described their "dismay about ongoing expressions of antisemitism and Zionophobia on our campus that go unrebuked." They cited statements by a USC Viterbi School of Engineering student who in mid-2021 tweeted, "I want to kill every motherf**king Zionist" and "Death to Israel and its b**ch the U.S.," among other comments.

"We urge you to condemn the hateful content of these statements and to reaffirm that such views are contrary to USC's values," the group of concerned faculty wrote. "Most importantly, Jewish, Zionist, and Israeli students, as well as those who support the right of the State of Israel to exist need to hear from our leaders that they are welcome on our campus."

Their letter also discussed the August 2020 online harassment of Rose Ritch, an undergraduate who resigned as vice president of the student government due to abuse faced for supporting Israel, as well as the USC Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies' posting of a May statement that accused Israel of ethnic cleansing and apartheid. Both incidents were the subject of previous faculty letters decrying antisemitism at USC.

Responding in a Friday letter seen by *The Algemeiner*, USC President Carol L. Folt said the administration

was "disturbed" by the offending tweets, but argued it could not discuss matters about specific students publicly.

"The fact that we do not respond to every objectionable post is most likely because we are unaware of them until they are brought to our attention, or because they are being dealt with privately," she wrote. "Just because an individual is associated with the university does not mean that they represent us or that we accept their views. Our mission is to educate our community to be more considerate and thoughtful, and to engage in open and civil discussion and debate."

President Folt also pointed to the university's work with Jewish campus groups and other programs and added that the student had been removed from her job as a paid peer mentor of USC first-years. In November, Viterbi School of Engineering tweeted that offending tweets were "legally protected" but "disturbing" nonetheless, and said it condemned hatred in all forms.

"Unfortunately, more incidents like these involving social media will likely arise in the future," Folt wrote. "We sincerely appreciate your concerns and agree completely that antisemitism has no place on our campuses now or in the future."

The response left some critics unsatisfied, with Miriam Elman — executive director of the Academic Engagement Network, a non-profit that counters antisemitism on campus — arguing that the administration needed to go public.

"The private condemnation of antisemitism on the USC campus in general and this student's deplorable social media commentary in particular is great, but the university needs to make sure the university at large gets the memo," she told *The Algemeiner*. "These private actions and messages to faculty can't take the place of a clear, unequivocal and forceful campus-wide statement."

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Women's Philanthropy ... What's in a Name?

Women philanthropists are change-makers and community-shapers. We are sisters and daughters, mothers and friends, compassionate and committed women at every stage of life and career.

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By staying on top of issues

affecting the Jewish community we are the informed leaders among our peers. We are Women's Philanthropy.

Fran Kaufman, chair of Women's Philanthropy, invites you to join us on Wednesday, January 12th at 10:00 am for coffee and schmoozing at the Jewish Federation to start off the year together. Bring your ideas, and enthusiasm. RSVP to Leslie Pepper at 760-324-4737 or leslie.pepper@jfedps.org.

Community Update continued from page 1

Dinner on February 15. Invitations will be in the mail shortly. Thank you to Campaign Chair Cora Ginsberg, Event Chairs Carol Fragen and Marjorie Kulp and their committee.

As Bruce Landgarten moves on to the next chapter of his life, our

Search Committee is in good hands, chaired by Lori Fritz and Ron Langus. We have begun a nation-wide search for a new Chief Executive Director who will serve our local community and our overseas partners in Israel with the leadership, passion and competency that has characterized

our community's professionals over the years.

Thank you to our Board of Directors for their support and for bringing our community together during this time of transition.

'Distortion' continued from page 1

also said that in a democracy, you have to look at your past with open eyes."

Ukraine had yet to admit that "there was extensive collaboration with the Nazis," Dayan said. He also pointed to the honoring in Ukraine of historical figures that railed against the Jews, among them Bogdan Chmielnicki, the Cossack leader who murdered thousands of Jews during an anti-Polish uprising in 1648. "In Kiev, you leave your hotel and cross the street, and you are facing a statue of Chmielnicki," Dayan said. "Until the Holocaust, he was the most deplorable symbol of antisemitism. Yet he's a national hero in Ukraine."

Born in Argentina, Dayan hails from a Ukrainian Jewish family that emigrated during the 1920s, meaning that most of his relatives were safe from the Nazis. "What

saved my family was antisemitism in Ukraine," he said with a wry smile, pointing out that their escape from the pogroms that followed the Bolshevik revolution in Russia meant that "most of my family were either in South America or Eretz Israel by the time the Nazis took power. Nevertheless, the awareness of the Holocaust was always very strong throughout my life."

Dayan said that his vision for Yad Vashem was to turn its focus to educational opportunities outside of its impressive, sprawling campus on Mt. Herzl in Jerusalem.

"I want to create a situation in which you don't necessarily have to come to Jerusalem to experience Yad Vashem," he said. "You shouldn't need to come to Jerusalem in order to browse our archives, our collections of artifacts, art and books."

Technology, and specifically the

interactive aspects of the next generation of internet applications, was "one component" of the strategy, Dayan said. "There are as well educational programs and exhibitions that we can bring to towns all over Israel, as well as New York, Los Angeles, Buenos Aires and Moscow."

In that regard, he spoke enthusiastically about Yad Vashem's newly-formed ties with institutions in Bahrain and Morocco, following Israel's historic peace agreements with those two Arab nations.

"That cooperation is an encouraging sign that there is realm interest in those countries in understanding the Holocaust," remarked Dayan. "Because they know that without this understanding, you cannot understand Israel."

JEWISH COMMUNITY NEWS

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EDITORIAL

Miriam H. Bent, Editor
Bailey Communications,
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JCN STATEMENT

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

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Fresno State University Will Consider Renaming Henry Madden Library After Learning he was a Nazi Sympathizer

By Maya Mirsky, J. The Jewish News of Northern California via JTA

The administrators at California State University, Fresno, announced they would consider renaming the school's Henry Madden Library, after a professor at the university shared with students that Madden, a longtime librarian at the school, was an antisemite and vocal Hitler supporter.

"First and foremost, I want members of our Jewish community to know that we stand with you and against both the historic and ongoing antisemitism that remains all too present in our society," the university's interim president Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval said in a November 29 email sent to faculty, staff and students about the renaming.

"I'm very glad the university is quickly addressing this," said Rabbi Rick Winer of Fresno's Temple Beth Israel, who serves on an advisory council on Jewish life at the school.

The development comes amid a national reckoning on names and monuments honoring figures who expressed racist views, a movement that has seen the University of California-Berkeley law school renamed, highways in northern Virginia bearing the names of Confederate generals rededicated to honor abolitionists, and a proposal put forth to replace more than 40 San Francisco public school

names because of associations with racism.

Earlier this year a statue at St. Mary's College in Moraga, California, was removed from campus grounds following a student petition because the artist, Fritz von Graevenitz, was widely celebrated by Nazis and sculpted busts of Hitler.

The Madden issue at Fresno State came to light because of research by Bradley Hart, a professor in the school's Media, Communications and Journalism Department and the author of a book on American supporters of Hitler and fascism. He praised the administration for the announcement.

"I think they acted with great sense of purpose," he said. "Obviously they take it seriously."

Hart's book, "Hitler's American Friends: The Third Reich's Supporters in the United States," was published in 2018 but, according to university spokesperson Lisa Boyles Bell, the school was only made aware of Madden's views after Hart lectured on the material in a class on November 17, 2021. Bell told J. it was the first time, to the university's knowledge, that material from the book had been taught at the university.

"The topic only came up right at the end," Hart told J., describing the class. He said students caught



Henry Madden Library

the small reference to the school's librarian and asked Hart about it, which led to a discussion of his research — conducted at the Madden Library.

"There was quite a bit of shock," he said.

Madden was librarian at the school from 1949 to 1979, and the university's central library was named for him in 1981. He donated his papers to the library, including private correspondence, but they were sealed until 2007.

According to local news station ABC 30, in the book Hart quotes a letter from Madden: "Whenever I see one of those predatory noses, or those roving and leering eyes, or those slobbering lips, or those flat feet, or those nasal and whiny voices I tremble with rage and hatred. They are the oppressors. ... Whom do I hate more than the Jews?"

The university confirmed it had copies of Madden's antisemitic writings in its collections.

"The views attributed to Dr. Madden are more than allegations;

they are reflections of his beliefs as captured in his own words, and in documents he curated and donated to the Library before his passing," Jiménez-Sandoval's email said.

A task force has been announced to rename the building, but the university was not able to confirm a timeline.

"The Task Force understands the urgency of this matter and will convene soon to begin their review of the materials and documents, which we anticipate will take some time," Bell said.

Hart said that was appropriate, as scholars should examine the large collection of Madden's documents scrupulously.

"We don't know whether Madden's views changed over time," he said.

Rabbi Winer, who has been tapped to be a member of the task force, said the issues surrounding Madden's views reach beyond the small Jewish community in Fresno, a city of about 500,000 with three synagogues and a Jewish federation.

"While the Jewish community is extremely small, the community of people of color and the community of religious minorities is very substantial," he said. "White supremacists and neo-Nazis are a continuing issue."



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Bennett Meets New US Ambassador, Cheers Israel's Return to Being Bipartisan Issue

Though not mentioning Iran, PM appears to indirectly bring up issue via Chanukah reference

By Times of Israel Staff

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett met with new US Ambassador to Israel Thomas Nides on December 5, thanking the envoy for the Biden administration's efforts to restore Israel as a bipartisan issue in Washington.

Though there was no mention of Iran and its nuclear program in an official statement from Bennett's office featuring his remarks, the prime minister appeared to indirectly refer to the issue in his comments to Nides by linking it to the story of the eight-day Chanukah festival, the last night of which was marked as the two men met at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem.

As world powers met in Vienna to save an unraveling 2015 nuclear deal that curbed Iran's nuclear research in return for the lifting of sanctions, Israel has increased its rhetoric against the US reversing its exit from the pact while also threatening to strike Iranian nuclear facilities, even without help from other countries.

"I want to thank President Biden and the administration for the warm friendship, for the candidness, for



US ambassador to Israel Thomas Nides presents his credentials to President Isaac Herzog at Beit Hanasi in Jerusalem December 5, 2021

the approach of bringing Israel yet again to be a bipartisan issue, and not partisan," Bennett said, referring to ties under previous Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, which were seen as overly leaning toward the Republicans.

He praised the "good spirit" of the relationship between the two countries.

The prime minister mentioned the Hanukkah story, in which the ancient Maccabees defeated a larger Greek army to restore the Temple in Jerusalem.

"Chanukah is a symbol of light, and how light can prevail upon darkness," Bennett said. "And right over here, about 2,100 years ago, the



US Ambassador to Israel Thomas Nides meets with Prime Minister Naftali Bennett at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem

Maccabees were fighting a much bigger enemy, but we prevailed. We prevailed because we fought for good, we fought for freedom."

Israel's president, Isaac Herzog, generally a nonpolitical position, had delivered an uncharacteristically blunt message about Iran earlier Sunday as he welcomed Nides.

"If the international community does not take a vigorous stance on this issue, Israel will do so. Israel will protect itself," Herzog said.

On Sunday, Hebrew media reports said that Defense Minister Benny Gantz and Mossad chief David Barnea, during their meetings this week in Washington with senior Biden administration officials, will

push for the United States to carry out a military strike on Iranian targets.

According to reports from Israel's three main TV news, which did not cite sources, Gantz and Barnea will urge their American interlocutors to develop a 'Plan B' vis-à-vis Iran, seeing the stalled nuclear talks in Vienna as an opportunity to press the US to take a more aggressive stance toward the Islamic Republic.

The reports came after the nuclear talks were suspended after five days — with Iran digging in and its negotiating partners openly voicing frustration and pessimism.

After the talks in Vienna were halted the prior week, the United States said Iran did not appear to be serious. American and European officials accused Iran of backtracking on previous promises. Even Russia, which has stronger relations with Iran, questioned Iran's commitment to the process. Israel, an outside observer with a stake in the outcome of the talks, has ramped up its rhetoric.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

British Archbishop Apologizes for Comparing Climate Change to Nazi Genocide of Jews

Climate change "will allow a genocide on an infinitely greater scale" than the Holocaust, the archbishop said.

By Lauren Marcus, World Israel News

A British archbishop who came under fire for saying that the death toll that could potentially come from climate change will be worse than the Nazi genocide of Jews during the Holocaust apologized for his remarks.

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, who is the leader of the Anglican church with some 85 million

adherents, spoke to the *BBC* at the Cop26 climate change summit, warning that world leaders who do not immediately enter crisis mode will be "cursed."

When questioned about his use of the word, Welby said that history would harshly judge politicians who do not place climate change at the forefront of their agendas.

"People will speak of them in far stronger terms than we speak ... of the politicians who ignored what was happening in Nazi Germany because this will kill people all around the world for generations," he said.

"It will allow a genocide on an infinitely greater scale. I'm not sure there's grades of genocide, but

there's width of genocide, and this will be genocide indirectly, by negligence, recklessness."

"I unequivocally apologize for the words I used when trying to emphasize the gravity of the situation facing us at COP26," Welby wrote on Twitter. "It's never right to make comparisons with the atrocities brought by the Nazis."

'At Least a Dozen' Mezuzah Thefts Prompts New Antisemitism Task Force at Indiana U

By Dion J. Pierre, *The Algemeiner*

An Indiana University, Bloomington (IU) Jewish life group has formed an antisemitism task force following the repeated theft and desecration of Jewish religious symbols in university residence halls.

Since the Jewish High Holidays in September, at least a dozen mezuzahs have been stolen from Jewish students, shocking the community.

"It became obvious very quickly that it wasn't just vandalism, that it was much more than that, that it was targeted and directed specifically at the Jewish students," said IU Hillel Director Rabbi Sue Laikin Silberberg. "It's like somebody just taking what's so much a part of who you are and ripping it out. It is so important that we say we will not stand up for this."

Residences on at least three different quads have been targeted in recent months, with at least one

student also the subject of verbal harassment.

In response, IU Hillel recently formed the Indiana University Antisemitism Task Force. The Indiana University Dean of Students, Bias Response Team, and Office of Residential Programs and Services are supporting the initiative, which includes new training programs on the history of Judaism and antisemitism.

IU Hillel also launched the Mezuzah Project, a campaign to give away free ritual prayer scrolls to Jewish and non-Jewish students all over campus.

"We're offering Jewish students a mezuzah to put on their doors and then non-Jewish students a [red] mezuzah case, that says 'I stand with my Jewish friends,'" Rabbi Silberberg reported. "Someone said for every one mezuzah taken down, we want to put up 50 in its place. And that

kind of stuck with me."

The Mezuzah Project has already given away 150 red support Mezuzahs to non-Jewish students.

Sophomore Kaylee Werner said joining the task force heightened her awareness of antisemitism.

"I was pretty blind to the antisemitism that was going on until I really joined this task force and heard from other students about issues that they've been facing on campus," she said. "It's sort of a thing that where you walk into a room with a mezuzah, you like touch it and kiss it. It's almost a sense of security and togetherness. That's my Jewish neighbor. Like, we have each other's backs. They have a mezuzah. I have a mezuzah."

Reports of vandalized mezuzahs — encased prayers scrolls that are affixed to the doorposts of Jewish homes — have drawn outrage on

campus since the High Holidays, when four such incidents were seen within a span of weeks. One student said her dorm room mezuzah was stripped twice in several days.

In a statement to the Indiana Student Daily at the time, IU Spokesperson Chuck Carney said the incidents do not reflect the university's values. "IU-Bloomington has received reports of bias incidents involving antisemitism in the residence halls that do not reflect IU's commitment to equitable and inclusive environment for people from all backgrounds," he said. "We ask the IU community to join us in shaping a campus where everyone feels welcome, respected and comfortable no matter their race, ethnicity, identity, political or religious beliefs."

Vandals Tear Through Chabad House in Kansas City, Mo.

By Faygie Holt, *Jewish News Syndicate*

Police in Kansas City, Mo., continue to search for the vandal or vandals responsible for destroying a Chabad center in the city. Chabad on the Plaza was vandalized on November 30, with electrical wires damaged, water lines broken, and items torn and strewn everywhere. The ark was found open, though the Torah was still inside. The space was deemed completely unusable.

According to the Kansas City Police Department, around 1:15 a.m., a caller reported a prowler around the building. The caller told police that he had seen an "unknown suspicious black SUV parked near the dispatched location and heard glass break in the immediate area." The caller then saw the vehicle leave.

Bottom of Form

While conducting a canvass of the area, police observed a black SUV driving in the area and attempted to conduct a "car check," but the SUV sped away. "This is an active investigation, and I do not have any updates at this time,"



Kansas City Chabad vandalized

the spokesperson told JNS.

"We have full faith in the local authorities to get to the bottom of this," said Rabbi Yitzchak "Itche" Itkin, director of Chabad on the Plaza. "We have had minor incidents in the past but nothing like this."

After notifying the police, Itkin spread the word about what had happened on social media, writing online: "There is nothing more disturbing than walking into the Chabad House for an early-morning Torah class and finding the place torn up. Papers and books everywhere, electric wires ripped out, plumbing cut with water pouring everywhere. That was my reality this week."

He also posted photos showing the extent of the damage and announced a

fundraising campaign to rebuild. Within hours, tens of thousands of dollars had been pledged with the campaign closing on Sunday having raised more than \$91,000, almost double the funds needed.

Though there has been no motive identified, the Anti-Defamation League Heartland branch said it was "deeply concerned by the shocking vandalism... The targeting of this house of worship, especially during the festive holiday of Hanukkah, is particularly disturbing and inflicts concern and fear in the larger community."

As for Chabad on the Plaza, it went ahead with its planned events, including Shabbat services in a temporary space and a large outdoor Hanukkah event on Sunday; all with the encouragement of the greater Kansas City community.

"It is extremely heartwarming to see the outpouring of love from all parts of the community," said Itkin. "It just shows how much good and light there is in the world."



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

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

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

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

Jerusalem's Train Theater Takes a Short Ride to a New Playhouse

The Karon Theater offers more space and facilities for the city's beloved children's theater, with its original train carriage still on site

By Jessica Steinberg, *The Times of Israel*

When Jerusalem's Train Theater opened in 1981, the puppet playhouse was held in a repurposed railroad carriage stationed in Liberty Bell Park, a nine-acre park named for its replica of the Philadelphia bell.

That same train car, slightly shorter now and freshly painted, has a new home inside the park: the Karon Theater complex was formally opened in August, and fully completed just before Chanukah.

Karon is the Hebrew word for a train carriage, which harkens back to the roots of this creative and imaginative children's theater. The new complex, situated next to the

park's skate area, basketball courts and playgrounds and funded by the British Davidson family, looks like children's building blocks tossed on the ground.

Once inside, theatergoers can head to one of several theaters, including a grassy outdoors amphitheater, a simple black box theater that seats about 50, and the largest theater, which is located downstairs, with rows of fold-up seating that can be closed and closeted with the push of a button.

Backstage are simple dressing and storage rooms for the theater's actors, with each small-scale tale folded into small trunks and suitcases placed neatly on the metal shelves.

The main building also houses a new exhibit created by the Karon Theater puppeteers and creators, with clever mobiles and dioramas equipped with moving parts and pieces that engage younger theatergoers, reminding them of the performances they've seen or could see in the future.

While this new space is a far more expansive and permanent space than the previous incarnation of the



The original train carriage that was the theater space of the new Karon Theater in Jerusalem's Liberty Bell Park

Karon Theater, it still retains its spirit of creativity and wonder.

For new CEO Kobi Frig, this new complex is just the start of his grand plans for the Karon.

He wants to foster greater connections between the theater and its surrounding park, as well as bridges — both virtual and real — between Karon and the nearby Khan and Jerusalem theaters, the Hansen House cultural center, and the wide-open spaces of the nearby Bloomfield Gardens and the First Station, all within easy walking distance of Liberty Bell Park.

"This is a theater that has grown with Jerusalem," said Frig, a cultural entrepreneur who has worked on Jerusalem events and productions


for over a decade. "It makes sense that we'd create something larger here."

Back in 1981, the original wheel-less theater train car cost a whopping NIS 3,000 — not a small sum of money at the time, said Hadass Ophrat, one of the original founders, in a video made in 2011 for the theater's 30th anniversary.

The theater was established as a collaboration of four independent puppeteers: Michael Schuster, Alina Ashbel, Ophrat and Mario Kotliar. It was the American-born Schuster who discovered the train carriage by chance and proposed using it for performances, doing most of the renovation work with his fellow puppeteers.

The theater became a source of innovative puppetry in Israel with plays that were created for children but with dialogue and concepts that were directed to the adults in the audience. By 1983, it was hosting the International Festival of Puppet Theater each summer, inviting global artists to perform on the homegrown stage.

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Britain to Criminalize Support for Hamas

By Cnaan Liphshiz, JTA

Anyone in the United Kingdom who expresses support for the Palestinian political party Hamas or its militant wing could soon be hit with a prison sentence of up to 14 years.

The U.K. already considers the group's military wing a terrorist group. British Interior Secretary Priti Patel said that parliament will add the designation to Hamas' political wing, erasing a distinction that the British Jewish community has criticized for over 20 years.

"Hamas has significant terrorist capability, including access to extensive and sophisticated weaponry, as well as

terrorist training facilities," Patel said in a statement. "That is why today I have acted to proscribe Hamas in its entirety."

The United States and the European Union both regard the entire Hamas movement as an illegal terror organization.

Hamas officials have been banned from entering the U.K., but the British government has until now maintained that Hamas' political and military wings are separate organizations — even though Hamas officials have often referred to the military wing, the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, as part

and parcel of the organization.

"In distinguishing between the political and military wings for the purposes of proscription, the Government's aim is to proscribe only those parts of Hamas which are directly concerned in terrorism," the ruling Conservative party in 2000 wrote in a statement.

Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid said about Patel's announcement: "This is an important and significant decision that gives British security bodies additional tools to prevent the continued buildup of the Hamas terror organization, including in Britain."

After Surfside Tragedy, US Team Visits Israel to Develop Joint Rescue Doctrine

By Lazar Berman, Times of Israel

After working closely together in the rubble of the residential building that collapsed in Florida in June, a delegation of American firefighters recently joined IDF rescuers for five days of training and learning in Israel.

Though the fifteen US firefighters and five Home Front Command officers spent days together searching for survivors and bodies in Surfside, they were not able to fully connect amid the tragedy and difficult work conditions.

"During the work in Surfside, we worked with gas masks and goggles on, and we couldn't see who we were working with on the other side," reflected the IDF's Lt. Yuval Klein. "Everyone was covered from head to toe. Only here in Israel did we finally have the opportunity to close the circle and get to know the heroic firefighters who worked shoulder to shoulder with us in Miami."

The US team — from Florida, Ohio and Virginia — spent three days studying and conducting a rescue exercise with their IDF hosts, and two days of travel to understand Israel and its people.

The June 24 building collapse killed 98 people, among them many members of the Jewish community.

The idea to bring the American responders to Israel arose when the Israelis were in Surfside, explained Col. Golan Vach, commander of the IDF National Rescue Unit, when both sides understood that they had much to learn from their partners.

"We brought with us a methodology that contributed greatly to them," Vach told The Times of Israel. "They were very interested in getting to know it. On the other hand, we have a lot to learn from them. They operate on a very high level technically — in my opinion, the best in the world."

For the IDF team, the orderly fashion in which the Americans operate, their logistical capabilities and their comprehensive written doctrine were



A delegation of US rescue workers visits Israel following joint work with IDF Home Front Command soldier on the Surfside condo collapse,

especially impressive. The Americans also have cutting-edge equipment that the Israelis could only dream of.

The US side, meanwhile, was particularly struck by the unique Israeli intelligence approach to rescue operations.

Brandon Webb, program manager for Florida Task Force One and battalion chief for Miami-Dade Fire and Rescue, said that the IDF's capacity for human intelligence is unique.

"They can very rapidly and accurately gain information on where everyone is at in the building," Webb explained, "and to pinpoint the searches not only for void spaces that we typically target for live victims, but as soon as that's over, they do targeted searches of the rubble pile to quickly and accurately locate the deceased."

"They use that time to not only locate the family members of folks that were listed as missing, but also they empower the family members to assist in compiling a record of each missing person. Where did they sleep? What does their furniture look like? What are their habits? What identifiable heirlooms would we find in their locale?"

"You empower that person to become part of the rescue effort," he said, adding that the approach "assists with their transition from grief to recovery."

"It can dramatically shorten the time it takes to find trapped individuals," Vach said of the Israeli methodology, noting that it is applicable for anything



IDF Home Front Command soldiers train with US firefighters who worked at the Surfside condo collapse with them.

from building collapses to flood zones. "Once you employ this very simple concept, you can simply find the people very quickly. When we demonstrated that ability in Surfside during the rescue, the operation was shortened ... by more than 50 percent."

A New Global Doctrine

The visit is meant to be the beginning of a process whose ultimate goal is a revision of rescue doctrine around the world.

The US and IDF teams conducted a joint review of the Surfside rescue operation, participated in a joint exercise at a Home Front Command base in Zikim, toured the Gaza Border, visited an Iron Dome Battery and spoke to officials in the Gaza-border city Sderot.

The tour also helped the Americans understand the logic behind the Israeli doctrine. "Now they understand why we have to do everything very quickly," explained Vach. "They were at the Gaza border. They saw how close the border is, and how quickly our forces have to react all across the country. If we don't have a very advanced intelligence concept, we'll be lost."

The Home Front Command is sending an official request to US FEMA representatives, asking for further meetings in 2022 to continue developing the rescue doctrine.

"When I go back home," pledged Webb, "I will engage my leadership in fostering a continuation and

strengthening of the relationship to make sure it's something that becomes long term."

The Connection to the Living

During interviews with US television stations in June, Vach refused to speak about bodies, instead referring to individuals who were no longer living. "We give great value to people, even those who aren't among the living," he explained.

This ethic, especially as it relates to the coverage of the deceased, left an impression on the US team.

Vach said he told the US delegation the story of Lt. Yakir Naveh, the IAF pilot whose plane crashed into the Sea of Galilee in 1962. IDF divers finally found his remains 56 years later, diving in dangerous and difficult conditions to retrieve a fallen serviceman.

"I said, we value to this extent those who are not among the living, we fight for our POWs and missing, when we know with certainty that some are not still living."

"It's something I appreciate now," Webb reflected. "How Israel has come to become such a wonderful place to work and live [in], in the short time that the country has been established."

"We always look at the families," explained Vach. "And the families are still living... To treat someone who is not still living as a body is to not understand how that person is connected to the living."

The visit to Israel, which is slated to be the first of many, further bonded the rescuers together after the difficult experiences together in Surfside.

"We worked with them in very austere, very emotional, very demanding conditions over there, and they met us with just open arms," said Webb. "Great people, highly trained and dedicated to what they do. I haven't met any of them that I wouldn't consider a friend."

Romania Passes Bill Mandating Holocaust and Jewish History Education in All High Schools

By Shiryn Ghermezian, *The Algemeiner*

Romania's parliament passed a law in mid-November that makes Holocaust and Jewish history education mandatory in all high schools throughout the country.

The school subject will be called "History of the Holocaust and the Jewish people," with curricula, teaching materials and methodology developed by the Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania, in collaboration with Romania's Ministry of Education.

Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, chief rabbi of Moscow and president of the Conference of European Rabbis, welcomed the bill's passing and efforts to introduce the Holocaust and Jewish history into the education system.

"It is growing in Europe and helping us to build a more tolerant and inclusive European society for all religions," he said Friday.

The bill, which passed 107-13, was introduced by MP Silviu Vexler and MP Ovidiu Gant, and co-sponsored by bipartisan lawmakers from the Social Democratic Party and the National Minorities Parliamentary Group, among others.

"This is a historical moment not only for the memory of all the victims of the Holocaust but also for Romania," Vexler said during parliamentary discussions. "We are setting the foundation for our common future, a modern framework through which young people can learn and understand what happened in the past as a central part in their formation as citizens. Education and understanding are our best tools to cultivate democracy and freedom, to fight antisemitism, intolerance and extremism."

The law would ensure that "the history and identity of Romanian Jews



The Great Synagogue of Constanta in Romania.

is being recovered," calling it "a moral imperative for repairing the injustices of the dictatorial regimes that ruled Romania during the Holocaust."

Members from the Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania, Association of Romanian Jews Victims of the Holocaust, United States Holocaust Museum, the Mémorial de la Shoah in France, Yad Vashem, American Jewish Committee and B'nai B'rith International were also asked to be involved in developing the new school course.

The bill also establishes the Constantin Caragea National Prize, named after the Swedish-Romanian diplomat who saved thousands of Jews during the Holocaust and was recognized by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations. The prize will honor special achievements in protecting the memory of Holocaust victims; fighting antisemitism; developing Holocaust educational and research programs in Romania; promoting the history, culture and traditions of Romania's Jewish community; and presenting Jewish contributions to the evolution and modernization of Romanian society.

The Romanian Parliament has recently passed several bills expanding financial support for Holocaust survivors in the country and promotes the opening of the National Museum of Jewish History and the Holocaust in Romania, which will reportedly take a "few years" to establish. Another recent law considers all antisemitic incidents to be criminal offenses, punishable with prison sentences ranging from three months to 10 years.

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Tree That Survived the Holocaust Gains New Life in New York City

By Julia Gergely, *The Times of Israel*

In January of 1943, Irma Lauscher, a teacher at the Theresienstadt concentration camp in Czechoslovakia, smuggled a tree into the camp so that the Jewish children imprisoned by the Nazis could celebrate Tu B'Shevat in a secret ceremony. The children used their water rations to nurture the sapling.

Of the 15,000 children who were imprisoned in Theresienstadt during the Holocaust, fewer than 200 survived. But the tree was still standing when the camp was liberated in 1945, and a sign was placed at its base marking it as a symbol of resilience.

"As the branches of this tree, so the branches of our people!" said the sign under the tree, which survivors named "The Tree of Life." Lauscher, who survived the Holocaust, eventually was buried alongside the original tree in 1985.

In the 1980s, branch saplings were cut from the tree and planted in Jerusalem, as well as in San Francisco, Chicago and Philadelphia to accompany a traveling exhibit of treasures nearly lost in the Holocaust.

Now, New York City — home to the largest community of Holocaust survivors and their descendants of any city outside Israel — will also nurture a descendant of the original tree. Dr. Roger Pomerantz, a Jewish philanthropist who owns a farm in Pennsylvania that holds seven trees grown from cuttings of the original tree, has donated one to the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Battery Park City.

"The Children's Tree," as it will be known, will be unveiled to the public December 2nd during a

dedication ceremony held jointly by the Museum of Jewish Heritage and the Battery Park City Authority. Currently 15 feet tall, the silver maple tree will have a permanent home in Battery Park City, in front of the museum.

"We want everybody in Battery Park City to be able to walk by and see a piece of history," Jack Kliger, the president and CEO of the Museum of Jewish Heritage, told the New York Jewish Week. "To not only remember but to understand what resilience means in the face of tremendous odds."

Calling the project "a labor of love," Kliger said transporting the tree involved hiring a horticulturist to uproot the tree from Pennsylvania and working with Battery Park City Authority to find the right space for the tree.

As at Theresienstadt, the tree will



Students from Battery Park City School watch as the silver maple is planted in Battery Park outside the Museum of Jewish Heritage.

be cared for by children — in this case, students at PS/IS 276: The Battery Park City School, a public elementary and middle school located just across the street from the museum. In collaboration with the museum, the school will make the tree part of an ongoing curriculum in Holocaust education.

"They were planting a tree that would live in a world that they would not live in, as sort of a physical expression of belief in the future and

a form of spiritual resistance," said Michael Berenbaum, a Holocaust historian who was instrumental in the transplant of the tree to New York, of the imprisoned children who cared for the original Tree of Life. "Now their legacy can continue," he added.

"Resilience is represented by both humans as well as trees," Kliger said, comparing their abilities to survive as well as endure such a long, roundabout journey to New York.

Speakers at the ceremony included Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, the U.S. representative to the United Nations; Theresienstadt survivor Fred Terna; Czech Consul General Arnošt Kareš; and Battery Park City Authority President and CEO B.J. Jones. The student choir at PS/IS 276 performed.

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Hamas Terrorist Killed in Tunnel Collapse

IDF warned Gazans to avoid tunnels, which were weakened by recent rain and landslides.

By TPS, World Israel News

A Hamas terrorist died as a result of the collapse of a tunnel east of Gaza City on December 6, several sources reported. The terrorist was said to be Hani Sami Salah, 26, a resident of the Al-Tufah neighborhood in Gaza City.

This incident occurred just days

after Maj. Avichai Adraee, the IDF's spokesman in Arabic, issued a warning to the residents of the Gaza Strip to stay away from Hamas' tunnels following several landslides in the area caused by the tunnels themselves.

Adraee stated that in the last



A Hamas tunnel into Israel month, the Gaza Strip witnessed more than three such collapses. "According to estimates, the cause of these collapses is linked to the underground system of Hamas," he noted in Arabic.

"These events are a new example, but not the only one, of Hamas' absurd use of civilian areas. It is

unpredictable when the earth will shake again under the feet of the Gazans because of this blatant exploitation that the population pays for over and over again," he stated.

"Residents of Gaza, I suggest that you be aware of the activities of Hamas in your areas," he warned.

It appears that the recent rains have brought to the collapse of the tunnels, many of which are built in the sand, and with cheap and weak materials. Several Gazans working for Hamas and the Islamic Jihad have died in these tunnel collapses in recent years.

According to data collected by the IDF, in 2016, 25 tunnels collapsed in Gaza, killing 21 tunnel diggers from Hamas, the Islamic Jihad and other radical organizations. In 2017, nine tunnels collapsed and tens of tunnels were destroyed by the Egyptian army as part of their crackdown on terrorist activity in the Sinai. These incidents resulted in the deaths of 33 members of Hamas and other Islamist organizations in the Gaza Strip.

Hamas has built over the years an elaborate underground city running under Gaza. The system in the Strip is meant to conceal Hamas' military activities and serve as a system from which to fight the IDF.

The cross border tunnels penetrating into Israel territory were meant to be used as attack tunnels. This threat has been mostly neutralized by an advanced underground barrier the IDF has built around the Strip.

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UN Adopts Three Resolutions Condemning Israel, Ignores Jewish Ties to Temple Mount

Since 2015, the U.N. General Assembly has passed 115 resolutions condemning Israel and only 45 against other countries.

Jewish News Syndicate

The U.N. General Assembly passed three resolutions the first week of December that targeted Israel, which brings the total to 14 resolutions being adopted in the next month that single out the Jewish state.

"The U.N.'s assault on Israel with a torrent of one-sided resolutions is surreal," said UN Watch executive director Hillel Neuer after the three resolutions were adopted on December 1. "It's absurd that in the year 2021, out of some 20 U.N. General Assembly resolutions that criticize countries, 70 percent are focused on one single country—Israel. What drives these lopsided condemnations is a powerful political agenda to demonize the Jewish state."

One of the resolutions refers to the Temple Mount, Judaism's holiest site, only by its Muslim name, "Haram al-Sharif." Another resolution solely puts the blame on Israel for the lack of peace in the Middle East and makes no mention of terrorist attacks and human-rights violations by the Palestinian Authority, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

The resolutions were adopted two days after the United Nations

held its annual "International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People" on November 29.

Neuer said France, Germany, Sweden and other European Union states are expected to support almost all of the 14 resolutions against Israel.

He added that "the same European nations have failed to introduce a single UNGA resolution on the human-rights situation in China, Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, Cuba, Turkey, Pakistan, Vietnam, Algeria or on 170 other countries. Where's the supposed E.U. concern for international law and human rights?"

UN Watch recently launched a detailed database that documents

the U.N.'s bias against Israel. It revealed that since 2015, the General Assembly has passed 115 resolutions condemning Israel and only 45 against other countries.

The Conference of Presidents condemned the U.N. resolution omitting the Temple Mount designation.

"We are deeply disturbed by the deliberate and offensive omission of the 'Temple Mount' designation in the 'Jerusalem resolution,' passed by the United Nations General Assembly, which effectively denies both Jewish and Christian connection to one of the most sacred sites for all three faith communities," said Dianne Lob, chair;

William Daroff, CEO; and Malcolm Hoenlein, vice chair of the Conference of Presidents.

They emphasized that "the vote sets a dangerous moral precedent that is both historically inaccurate and detracts from critical efforts to promote inclusivity and peace in the region. We welcome the Biden administration and the governments of Australia, Canada, Hungary, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru and Palau for rejecting this shameful and false resolution and call upon other nations to oppose resolutions that unfairly single out and condemn Israel while needlessly exacerbate political tensions."



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Our community responded as it always does in times of crisis — with generosity and commitment. Federation's role has never been more vital. We mobilized community support from the early days of the pandemic to ensure the seamless continuation of programs, services, and funding. Despite the historic challenges, our work ethic and commitment to the community remained as steadfast as ever.

In many ways Federation lived up to its mission and fulfilled responsibilities as a community builder and convener, fundraiser and grantor, and sustainer of Jewish life and Jewish identity. The pandemic was a disruptor, forcing us to rethink how we execute our work. We responded with agility, resilience, creativity, and compassion. And through it all, the core of Federation's work remained constant, deeply rooted in caring for Jews here at home, in Israel, and around the world. We are proud of the work of our Board, volunteers, and staff, and that of our community partners/ agencies.

We are grateful to the donors whose generosity makes our work possible. כל ישראל ארבים זה בזה Kol Yisrael arevim zeh ba zeh - perhaps more than ever before, we were truly responsible for one another.

With great appreciation,




 Bruce Landgarten, CEO, ret. Roberta Nyman, Co-chairs, Board of Directors Jackie Cohen



Jewish Federation of the Desert - Income Statement

Fiscal Year Ending 06/30/21

Where our Dollars Come From

Regular Campaign	\$1,431,455
Men's & Women's Tamarisk Tournaments	\$24,850
Contributions & Other	\$140,634
Income from Endowments	\$100,000
Special Events	\$1,248
*Net Investment Income Operating Funds	\$471,792
*Net Investment Income Endowment Funds	\$26,258
*Net Investment Income Donor Advised Funds	\$277
*Net Investment Income Board Designated Funds	\$205,690
Release of Restrictions	(\$100,000)

Total Support & Revenues **\$2,302,204**

Where our Dollars Go

Local Allocations - Caring for the Vulnerable	\$318,500
Local Allocations - Community Inclusion & Engagement	\$104,000
Local Allocations - Jewish Education & Identity	\$219,500
Overseas Allocations - Israel & World Jewry	\$342,500
Donor Advised Fund Grants	\$62,151
Donor Directed Grants	\$64,231
Administration Cost	\$245,465
Fundraising Cost	\$258,661
Programs Cost	\$548,913
Depreciation Expense	\$51,077

Total Allocations & Expenses **\$2,214,999**

Total Net Increase in Funds **\$87,204.61**

Balance Sheet

Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$419,175
Donor Advised Fund	\$156,976
Endowments	\$2,287,508
Board Designated	\$1,393,458
Other Assets	\$2,851,958
Federation Building & Property Net	\$1,445,072

Total Assets **\$8,554,146**

Liabilities & Net Assets

Allocations Payable	\$1,171,357
Current Liabilities	\$182,670
Fund Balances	\$429,045

Total Liabilities **\$1,783,072**

Undesignated	\$2,909,764
Board Designated	\$1,416,826
With Donor Restrictions	\$2,444,483

Total Net Assets **\$6,771,074**

Total Liabilities & Net Assets **\$8,554,146**

JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE DESERT ALLOCATIONS

Year End 6/30/21 For Distribution 2021/2022

Angel View - Jewish Resident Homes (Tam Men)	\$20,000
Bikur Cholim - Mitzvah Mission & Programs	\$105,000
Jewish Family Service - Let's Do Lunch	\$5,000
Jewish Family Service - Mental Health Outpatient Treatment	\$35,000
Jewish Family Service - Café Europa	\$25,000
Jewish Family Service - Senior Care Management	\$35,000
Jewish Federation of the Desert - Special Tzedakah Fund (Tam Men)	\$20,000
Jewish Federation of the Desert - Special Tzedakah Fund	\$41,000
Mizell Senior Center - Meals on Wheels	\$15,000
Temple Sinai - Palm Desert - Mitzvah Food Deliver Project	\$10,000
The Joslyn Center - Meals on Wheels	\$7,500
Caring for the Vulnerable - 32%	\$318,500

Congregation Beth Shalom - Scholar in Residence Program	\$6,000
Congregation Har El - Interfaith Community Seder	\$1,000
Inland and Desert Hillel Council - Israel & Religious Cultural Program	\$55,000
Jewish Federation of the Desert - Desert Hot Springs, Jewish Services (Tam Men)	\$15,000
Jewish Federation of the Desert - Desert Hot Springs, Jewish Services	\$20,000
Jewish Federation of the Desert - Jewish Community Education Series	\$10,000
Jewish Federation of the Desert - Jewish Community Newspaper (JCN)	\$50,000
Jewish Federation of the Desert - Jewish Community Outreach	\$20,000
Jewish Federation of the Desert - PJ Library - Books for Children & Family Programs	\$5,000
Temple Har Shalom - DIY Judaism	\$2,000
Temple Har Shalom - Israelity Program	\$2,000
Temple Isaiah - Palm Springs - Jewish Film Festival	\$10,000
Temple Isaiah - Palm Springs - Twice Blessed - LGBTQ Outreach	\$2,000
Temple Sinai - Palm Desert - Hebrew School Scholarships	\$21,500
Jewish Education & Engagement - 22%	\$219,500

Boys & Girls Club of Palm Springs - Jewish Holidays Programming	\$4,000
Inland and Desert Hillel Council - Antisemitism, Anti-Zionism, Interfaith	\$18,000
Jewish Federation of the Desert - Center Against Hate & Intolerance (Tam Men)	\$5,000
Jewish Federation of the Desert & SCN - Active Threat Training Workshop (Tam Men)	\$12,000

Jewish Federation of the Desert - Center Against Hate & Intolerance	\$10,000
Community Security Initiatives - Secure Community Network (SCN)	\$15,000
SCN - Full Scale Exercise/Drill	\$20,000
Holocaust Museum (LA) - Museum Trips for Local Schools Or Hamidbar - Interfaith Programming	\$5,000
World of Difference Institute (ADL) Antbullying Programs	\$10,000
Community Inclusion, Security & Addressing Antisemitism - 11%	\$104,000

Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind - Guide Dog Training	\$2,000
Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) - Former Soviet Union (FSU) Camps	\$12,500
Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) Nativ	\$10,000
Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) Ofek Mechinot	\$15,000
Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) Reuniting Ethiopian Families	\$8,000
Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) Youth Futures - Eilat	\$25,000
Jewish Federations of North America - National Dues	\$70,000
Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) - Humanitarian Assistance to Former Soviet Union	\$80,000
Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) - Humanitarian Assistance to Venezuela	\$20,000
Ramat HaNegev - Center for Children with Special Needs (CCSN)	\$80,000
Ramat HaNegev - Pithat Nitzana - Children & Youth Programs	\$20,000
Israel, Overseas & World Jewry - 35%	\$342,500

Total Allocations \$984,500





Shabbat Schedule - January 2022

While more congregations are opening to in-person services if participants are fully vaccinated, it is wise to check with your chosen facility on Thursday or Friday to make sure there are no changes regarding attendance. Most continue to offer online services as well.

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. Visitors welcome with proof of vaccination. In-person Shabbat Morning Services: 9:45 am. Online services discontinued. Services followed by light Kiddush lunch.

Saturday, January 8, 9:45 am: "Recognition Shabbat" honoring **Noam & Heidi Arzt**.
Friday, January 28, 7:45 pm: "Celebrating the Diversity of Our Community" - First of Four Fridays at Beth Shalom. RSVP appreciated by Tuesday, January 25. See ad page 3. 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.chabadrm.com
760-770-7785
"Taste of Shul" available Fridays on Zoom and Facebook live. Fully open for services. 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 Palm Desert. Monthly dinners offered now. Contact Rebbetzin Sussie Denebeim to receive weekly "Chabad in Sun City Newsletter" with listing of all services and activities: sussiedenebeim@gmail.com.

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. See Community Calendar for Tu B'Shevat program Friday, January 14, before Shabbat Services.

CONGREGATION SHALOM BAYIT (Reform)

Rabbi Kenneth Milhandler, 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.
Desert Outreach Synagogue Services - In-person services on 2nd Friday of the month at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert, 72425 Via Vail, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270, with proof of vaccination or negative Covid test within 72 hours. Also, live-streamed on our DOS website: www.desert-outreach-synagogue.com.
Torah Study with Rabbi Rachel Axelrad - 2nd Saturday morning - 10:30 - 11:30 am - Lite nosh and learning together at the Unitarian Universalist Church.

The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago. The 2nd best time is now.

TU B'SHEVAT

2022/5782: Wednesday evening,
January 19/Thursday January 20



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 Dr. Kenneth Emert, Cantorial Soloist Alan Scott and Accompanist Brent Reynolds. In person services in Speaker's Hall in the Sunset View Clubhouse in Sun City Palm Desert have returned. Services are held the first and third Fridays at 7:15 pm. To attend participants must be fully vaccinated and wear a mask at services. Please bring your card. Information: Susan Katzman, 760-641-0411.

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 have returned. Friday evenings at 7:30 pm. Saturday morning begins with "Nosh and Drash" at 9:30 am, followed by Shabbat morning services at 10:30 am. To attend in person services requires being fully vaccinated and masks are required when in the building. Also being streamed online. 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.templeisinaipd.org 760-568-9699.
Go to templesinaipd.org for access information. Shabbat services are in-person and online on Livestream at www.templeisinaipd.org. Friday evening services 5:30 pm. Saturday morning Torah study 8:45 am; Shabbat morning services 10 am. 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 - January 2022

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.

Monday, January 3

7:00 pm Chabad of Rancho Mirage **Women's Rosh Chodesh Society**. Topic: "**Soul Food**." (Insight into the kosher lifestyle). Check out www.chabadrm.com/rcs for complete schedule and to register.

Wednesday, January 5

3:30 pm Har-El **Galen Book Course: Fran Kaufman** will review and lead a discussion on the book "**Israel: A Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood Country on Earth**" by Noa Tishby. Tishby makes a number of valid points. Israel is a worldwide leader in innovation, a nation that encourages dissent and is unfairly targeted by the international community. Email harelurjpd@gmail.com for a Zoom invitation.

Wednesday, January 5

7:00 pm Sabra Hadassah of the Desert presents **Jim Borax's California Cabaret**, featuring Great American Songbook Favorites. Sun City Palm Desert Mountain View Clubhouse Sierra Ballroom. Tickets purchased by December 28: \$30; afterward \$35. Call Debbie at 760-289-7987.

Thursday, January 6

7:00 pm Sabra Hadassah of the Desert nosh and **Winter Blitz of Glam and Glitz** Jewelry Extravaganza Auction of jewelry by Vivian Posen. Sun City Palm Desert Sunset View Clubhouse Oasis Room. (Enter building on east side). Proof of OVID vaccination required. \$20 members; \$25 non-members. Questions? Call Debbie at 760-289-7987.

Saturday, January 8

3:00-5:00 pm The Shalom Group, a Jewish LGBT social group serving the Coachella Valley, is holding its first event of 2022 at the home of Larry and Ed Sogolow in Palm Springs. Visit www.shalomgroup.com for details and to register.

Wednesday, January 12

10:00 am **Jewish Federation** Women's Philanthropy invites women to come to the Federation office for coffee, schmoozing and sharing ideas for 2022 activities. RSVP to Leslie Pepper at 760-324-4737 or leslie.pepper@jfedps.org. See article page 4 for more information.

Wednesday, January 12

3:30 pm Har-El. Past President of Har-El, former CNN Middle East Correspondent, Professor Penny Rivin will give a presentation "**Afghanistan: The Peril Remains-The U.S. is Gone...So What's Left? It's Not Over...**" Email harelurjpd@gmail.com for a Zoom invitation.

Friday, January 14

3:30 pm Interfaith Tu B'Shvat Seder With St. Margaret's Episcopal Church followed by Pre-Shabbat Oneg at 4:30 PM and Shabbat Eve services at 5 PM. This event will be held outside with social distancing and following the CDC Guidelines. Masks, vaccination and booster cards required. If necessary, due to COVID or the weather, the event will be cancelled. Contact harelurjpd@gmail.com to be on the confirmation list. Sponsored in part by the Jewish Federation of the Desert.

Saturday, January 15

7:00 pm Beth Shalom "**The Vision of Conservative Judaism**" A Conversation with **Rabbi Dr. J.B. Sacks** "Community: A Bridge with Others" Second in a Four-Part Series includes Havdalah and Wine & Cheese Reception. Community Welcome - No Charge. RSVP with Proof of Vaccination REQUIRED by Tuesday, January 11. Information and reservations: 760-200-3636. See ad page 13.

Tuesday, January 18

2:00 pm (new date, postponed from December) Jewish Federation in-person viewing of **Above and Beyond**, Nancy Spielberg's riveting movie about a group of Jewish American war pilots and their plans for smuggling planes out of the US to be flown for Israel's use during their War of Independence in 1948. Limited space. RSVP required. Call 760-324-4737. Proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test within 72 hours is required.

Monday, January 24

10:30 am Jewish Federation Women's Philanthropy annual **Lion of Judah Brunch** at Tamarisk Country Club. Minimum contribution to Federation annual campaign: \$5000 / out-of-town Lions \$1200. Speaker: **Lisa Friedman-Clark**. Must be vaccinated against COVID to attend. For information and reservations contact Leslie Pepper at 760-324-4737. See invitation on page 2.

Community Calendar of Programs Continued - January 2022

Thursday, January 27

4:15 pm Beth Shalom Book Club Discussion "The Orchard: A Novel" by David Hopen. Discussion led by **Gwen Schall**. Visitors welcome with proof of vaccination. Information: 760-200-3636.

Sunday, January 30

9:00 am through dinner First annual Chabad of Rancho Mirage **Golf Classic** at Desert Willow Golf Resort. Complete details available on the website: Chabadgolfclassic.com. (See ad page 10).

Monday, January 31

7:00 pm Chabad of Rancho Mirage **Women's Rosh Chodesh Society**. Topic: **"Endlessly Blessed!"** Check out www.chabadrm.com/rcs for complete schedule and to register.

Youth and Teens:

Chabad of Rancho Mirage offers programs for children 3 through High School. **Ckids Club** for children 3-13 offers monthly programs. **CTeen** is for teens in high school who meet weekly for events, discussion and participation in humanitarian projects. Contact Chaya at 760-272-1923 for more information.



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:

- **Dennis Ditlove**, To a special man on his special birthday, from Cora Ginsberg, Sondi and Bruce Green, Eunice and Jerry Meister.
- **Phyllis Eisenberg**, Thank you. Looking forward to seeing friends again, from Bonnie Carmell.
- **Cora Ginsberg**, Wishing you joy in your new home, from Barbara Platt and Norm Lewis.
- **Emma and Kevin Giser**, Mazel tov on your marriage, best wishes from Temple Har Shalom of Idyllwild.
- **Bruce Landgarten**, Thank you for your years of service and for all you've done for Federation. You will be surely missed, from Judy Cohn, Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman, Barbara Platt and Norm Lewis.
- **Rella and Monty Rifkin**, Happy Anniversary wishes from Sherry and Howard Schor.
- **Albert Silverman**, Best wishes on your 90th birthday, from Nancy and Dennis Ditlove, Sanford and Rosemary Hertz, Gary and Jo Ellen Leifer, Gail and Bobby Scadron.
- **Carrie Steinberger**, Happy 50th birthday from Elaine, Claude, Libby, Harlene and Ellie.
- **Libby Steinberger**, Happy 16th birthday to the girl we all love, from Grandpa Claude,

Grandmother Elaine, Mom, Uncle Harlan, Uncle David and all the rest of us.

Refuah Shleimah Get Well:

- **Susie Feinberg**, Thinking of you and sending our love and warm wishes, from Gail and Bobby Scadron.
- **Nate Metzger**, Our best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery, from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Cydney Osterman**, Best wishes for a speedy recovery, from Cora Ginsberg.
- **Elliott Solomon**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Robert and Barbara Paget, Gail and Howard Stone.
- **Carole Sukman**, Best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery, from Cora Ginsberg, Barbara Platt and Norm Lewis.

Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:

- **Gail Baron and Family**, In memory of your beloved husband Arnie, from Barbara Fremont, Libby and Buddy Hoffman, Ruth and Mal Kaufman, Eunice and Jerry Meister, Robert and Barbara Paget, Sherry and Howard Schor, Gail and Howard Stone.
- **Bobbie Cohn**, In memory of your beloved husband Dr. Perry Cohn, from Chickie and Claude Steinberger.

- **Family of Rina Eliashar** (Hurwitz), In memory of our dear friend, from Fran Kaufman and Barbara Platt.
- **Family of Rina Eliashar** (Hurwitz), In memory of a beautiful and wonderful soul, from Mark Krasne and the late Stephen G. Rieman.
- **Cass Graff-Radford**, In memory of your beloved brother Jonathan, from Lili and Ricky Zisook.
- **Bruce Konheim**, In memory of your beloved sister Teri, from Margot and Jerry Halperin, Sanford and Rosemary Hertz, and Libby and Buddy Hoffman.
- **Jim Levitas**, In memory of Donna Levitas, from Patricia M. Strumfeld.
- **Larry and Cathy Pitts**, In loving memory of your mother and my dear friend Barbara, from Barbara Platt.
- **Richard Rosenfield and family**, In memory of your beloved wife Barbara, from Jeanne and David Himy, Ruth and Mal Kaufman, Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman, Marnie Miller and Joe Noren, Nora Rado, Gail and Bob Scadron, Sherry and Howard Schor, Debra and Mickey Star.
- **Mrs. A. Sanders and Family**, In memory of your wonderful husband Nevel, from Chickie and Claude Steinberger.
- **David Sherman**, In memory of Dad, from Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.

New Hampshire Legislature Leaders Condemn Antisemitism Among State Representatives

Statement comes after Democrat Rep. Maria Perez calls Israel an apartheid state and tweets 'from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free'

By Jordyn Haime, JTA

Leaders of the New Hampshire House of Representatives released a statement condemning antisemitism after a New Hampshire lawmaker tweeted in support of Palestinians using a slogan many deem to be antisemitic.

Speaker of the House Sherman Packard, a Republican, and House Democratic leader Renny Cushing wrote in a joint statement December 2 that "any form of bigotry — anti-Semitism, racism, bigotry — has no place in our society" and "it is unacceptable that any member of this historic legislative body is involved in perpetuating hate in any form."

The statement came after the third incident in the past year in which a member of the state's House of Representatives was accused of sharing an antisemitic post to social media.

Less than one percent of New Hampshire's residents are Jewish, according to a study conducted in 2019, and officials estimate that there are around 10,000 Jews in the state.

In December of 2020, local leaders called for Republican Rep. Dawn Johnson of Laconia to resign after she shared a link to a Daily Stormer article on Twitter. The article included an antisemitic cartoon that Rabbi Dan Danson, a Reform rabbi in Laconia, New Hampshire, described as "literally a copy of the kind of art that was used in Nazi Germany in the 1930s." Johnson later apologized and removed the post.

In January, Republican Rep. James Spillaine posted a meme to his official social media that depicted a mural that appeared in London in 2012 under text that read "IF WE ALL STAND UP, THEIR LITTLE GAME IS OVER."

The mural, which showed a group of

bankers seated around a Monopoly-like board held up by the backs of Black men, was removed after complaints that the depiction of the bankers was antisemitic.

New Hampshire's Legislative Ethics Committee formally admonished Spillaine in September. The resolution includes an apology from Spillaine, in which he claims he did not know the meme he shared was depicting Jews.

In the most recent incident in November that prompted the joint statement from the State House leaders, Rep. Maria Perez, a Democrat, tweeted the phrase "from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free." The phrase refers to the Jordan River which separates

the West Bank from Jordan, and the Mediterranean Sea, which borders Israel to the west. It is widely understood to constitute a call to eliminate Israel and was included in a 2017 statement of principles by the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas, which openly seeks Israel's destruction.

While many believe the phrase to be antisemitic, it is also frequently used as a slogan by Palestinian activists. Perez also called Israel an apartheid state and later said that she supports a one-state solution in which Israelis and Palestinians would share a binational state.

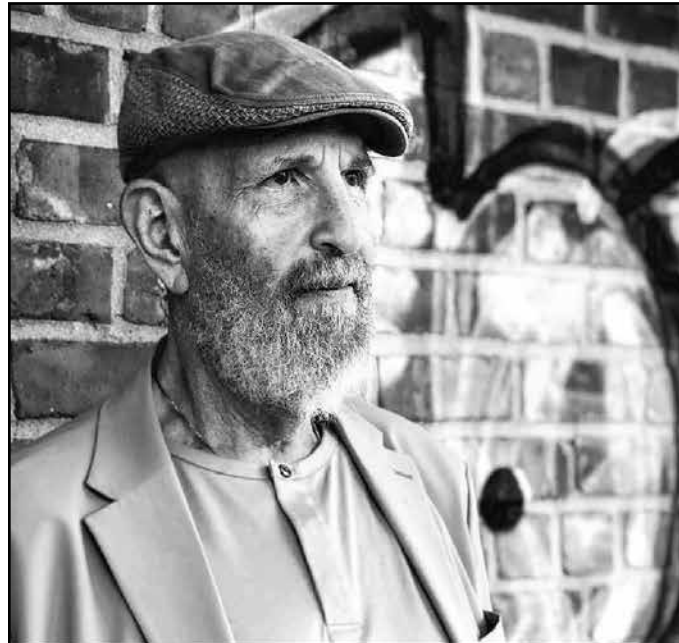
Some activists in New Hampshire criticized the House leaders for releasing their joint statement condemning

antisemitism in response to the actions of a Democrat rather than in response to the previous incidents involving Republicans.

"So when did the NHGOP reach out to make a joint statement when members of their own party were making actual antisemitic statements? Just wondering," Ronelle Tshiela, a Black Lives Matter organizer in New Hampshire, wrote on Twitter.

Cushing and Packard asked House members in their statement on Thursday to "act with dignity and respect on social media and in their daily actions with each other and their constituents."

Times of Israel staff contributed to this report.



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THERAPIST FOR
SPIRITUAL ISSUES"**

Rabbi Jonathan Omer-man

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German Public Broadcaster Breaks Ties with Arabic Station Over Inflammatory Israel Reporting

By Ben Cohen, *The Algemeiner*

As it continues to deal with an internal antisemitism scandal, the German public broadcaster Deutsche Welle (DW) has separately ended a cooperation agreement with a Jordanian TV station, citing the presence of antisemitic and virulently anti-Zionist language and images in its social media feeds.

In a statement on Sunday, DW announced that it would no longer cooperate with Roya TV, a privately-owned satellite channel based in Amman, because it was spreading antisemitic comments and caricatures.

A senior DW executive promised that the taxpayer-funded German broadcaster would “now even more critically review our partner selection

internally, especially with regard to antisemitism and racism.”

“We are truly sorry that we did not notice these disgusting images,” DW’s managing director in charge of distribution, Guido Baumhauer, said, in reference to the antisemitic content pushed by Roya TV.

Following revelations in the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* (SZ) that several employees of DW’s Arabic department had made antisemitic remarks or had affiliations with antisemitic organizations, a separate *Vice* investigation into Roya TV — which co-produces an Arabic talk show with DW — discovered that the Jordanian station had “been spreading propaganda against Israel for years.”

Israel is never referred to by its internationally-recognized legal name on the station, *Vice* reported, and is instead dismissed as “the occupier.”

Additionally, Israelis killed in rockets attacks launched by Hamas and other Islamist groups are referred to as “settlers of the occupation,” while Palestinian dead are always described as “martyrs.”

The severing of relations with Roya TV marks a 180-degree turn for DW, which only last year was embracing the broadcaster as a valued partner in the Arab world.

In May 2020, the director-general of DW, Peter Limbourg, flew to Amman



A graphic shared by Jordanian broadcaster Roya TV shows a fist smashing through a Star of David to promote the boycott of Israel.

to sign a new cooperation agreement with Roya TV CEO Fares Sayegh and to present the channel with DW’s Freedom of Speech Award.

Asked by *Vice* how this close relationship squared with Roya TV’s inflammatory reporting on Israel, a spokesperson for DW said that the German broadcaster’s “distribution and program managers” would “definitely not consider Roya TV hostile to Israel.” However, managing director Baumhauer emphasized in his comments his “regret” that DW had reached this conclusion.

Responding on Monday to DW’s announcement, Roya TV CEO Sayegh insisted that the station was not antisemitic, only opposed to Israel.

“Fighting racism in all of its forms, including antisemitism, is a core value that we cherish, and therefore we strongly condemn the false accusations that have sprung and which led to DW issuing its statement,” Sayegh said.

He called “upon all media

organizations to differentiate in clear terms the difference between the criticism of illegal, inhumane or racist actions by Israel as a state and antisemitism, which is racism against Jews.”

In a separate piece, the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* claimed that the atmosphere in DW’s editorial offices in Berlin and Bonn “was tense even before the *Vice* report.”

Journalists working in DW’s Arabic department were said to be anxious at the appointment of Ahmad Mansour, an Israeli Arab psychologist resident in Berlin, to jointly head the external inquiry into allegations of antisemitic rhetoric and behavior. Mansour will work alongside a former federal justice minister, Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger.

Born in the Arab village of Tira in northern Israel, Mansour flirted with Islamist ideology as a teenager before studying at Tel Aviv University. Since 2017, he has run a state-funded initiative to counter extremism and antisemitism among Muslim immigrants in Germany.

One Arabic service staff member who spoke to the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* anonymously said they feared that Mansour would act as an “inquisitor ... including against those who have uttered justifiable criticism of Israel.”

Meta Removes Social-media Accounts Linked to Hamas

Jewish News Syndicate

On December 1 Meta, the parent company of Facebook, announced that it took action against Facebook and Instagram accounts for links to Hamas.

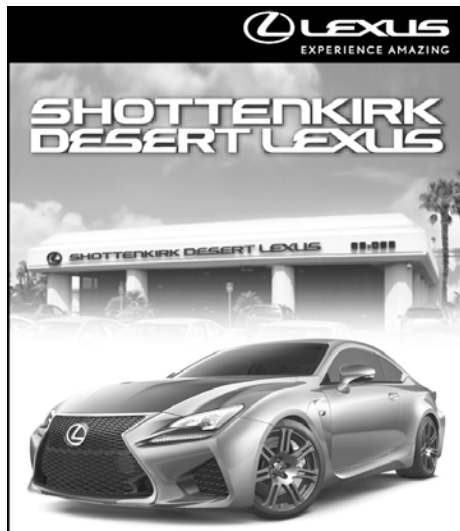
“We removed 141 Facebook accounts, 79 Pages, 13 Groups and 21

Instagram accounts from the Gaza Strip in Palestine that primarily targeted people in Palestine, and to a much lesser extent in Egypt and Israel,” said the statement by Nathaniel Gleicher, the head of security policy at Meta.

“We found this activity as part of our

internal investigation into suspected coordinated inauthentic behavior in the region and linked it to Hamas,” he said.

The company also took action against networks in Poland, Belarus and China.



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A Dozen US Attorneys General to Unilever: Stop Ben & Jerry's West Bank Boycott, Don't 'Deflect Accountability'

By Shiryn Ghermezian, *The Algemeiner*

A dozen of America's state attorneys general on November 23 urged Unilever to face up to its "legal and moral responsibility" and reverse a controversial Israel boycott launched by its subsidiary, the Ben & Jerry's ice cream company.

In a letter to Unilever CEO Alan Jope, the chief legal officers of 12 states called Ben & Jerry's decision to stop selling its products in the West Bank and eastern Jerusalem "economic warfare." The letter was spearheaded by Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt and signed by his fellow Republican counterparts from Arkansas, Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Kansas, Mississippi, Indiana, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, and West Virginia.

Thirty-three US states currently have laws, resolutions, or executive orders prohibiting the investment of public pension funds or the signing of government contacts with companies that boycott Israel.

"Unilever has embarked on an unfortunate and financially misguided path of testing our States' resolve by refusing to stop Ben & Jerry's from boycotting selected regions within the State of Israel," the attorneys general stated.

They dismissed efforts by the British conglomerate to "deflect accountability" and pin the blame on Ben & Jerry's, saying, "This assertion that the 'tail' wags the multi-billion dollar corporate 'dog' stretches credulity."

"As a corporate parent with complete ownership and control, Unilever cannot escape legal and

moral responsibility for Ben & Jerry's ill-conceived boycott," they added.

The letter pointed out that

Thirty-three US states currently have laws, resolutions, or executive orders prohibiting the investment of public pension funds or the signing of government contacts with companies that boycott Israel.

Unilever's "corporate scruples do not extend to boycotts of nations such as China, Russia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela," and even Iran, a US-designated state sponsor of terrorism and "a sworn enemy" of Israel.

"We count it a high honor to stand with Israel," the attorneys general noted. "In keeping with the fiduciary duties required of Unilever under the laws of the United States and under the laws of the individual States represented by this letter, we respectfully urge you to reconsider the decision by you and your subsidiary to boycott Israel."

Unilever's CEO previously said that the British conglomerate remains "fully committed" to doing business in Israel, despite Ben & Jerry's boycott.

Several states have so far taken steps to begin divesting from Unilever over the affair, including New Jersey, New York, Texas, Arizona, and Florida.



Have A Nosh With Miriam

The holiday of Tu B'Shevat (this year falling on Sunday night January 16) is often just thought of as the "birthday of the trees" but - additionally - the holiday celebrates the bounty of the land of Israel, divided into the seven species: barley (shuirah), dates (tamar), figs (te'anim), grapes (anavim), olives (zayit), pomegranates (rimonim) and wheat (chita). I am giving you four



"nosh" recipes to enjoy when celebrating. The first (date-nut truffles) is incredibly easy to make and such a delicious treat. Enjoy! MHB

DATE-NUT TRUFFLES

1 cup dates
1 cup almonds

2 tbsp. chocolate chips
1-2 tbsp. honey

Put all ingredients in a food processor and pulse until combined. Remove dough and roll into balls. Refrigerate until ready to eat.

COCONUT BALLS

½ C. raisins
¾ C. walnuts
½ C. dried dates, pitted
½ C. dried apricots

2 T. orange juice
1 tsp. zest of one orange
1 small bag unsweetened shredded coconut

In a food processor, process raisins, walnuts, dates and apricots for 1-2 minutes or until finely chopped. Add juice and zest and blend for 1-2 minutes more. Chill mixture in refrigerator for 15 minutes. Dampen hands, form mixture into balls, and roll them in coconut. Store balls in refrigerator.

FIG-GINGER BALLS

2 cups dried black mission figs*
(about 8 oz)
1/4 cup crystallized ginger (about 2 oz)

½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 Tablespoon honey.

Remove the stems from the figs and discard. Coarsely chunk the figs and put in a food processor with the crystallized ginger, cinnamon and honey. Pulse until ingredients are finely chopped but not processed into a paste. Roll the fig mixture into heaping teaspoon sized balls. Makes about 18. *I prefer the Mission figs but other figs will be equally delicious.

TU B'SHEVAT CHOCOLATE BARK

8 oz good quality dark chocolate
8 oz white chocolate*
Assorted dried fruit and nuts
(approximately half cup each) Suggestions:
dates, dried figs, raisins, dried apricots,

dried cranberries, assorted nuts (your preference: walnuts, pecans, almonds, pine nuts)
Sea salt (optional)

Line a 11" x 17" cookie sheet pan with parchment paper. Choose which dried fruit and nuts you want and chop them into medium-small pieces. Set aside. Melt the dark chocolate over a double boiler. When the chocolate is fully melted, spread it over the parchment paper. Freeze for approximately 10 minutes, until chocolate is firm. Melt the white chocolate over a double boiler. Spread the white chocolate over the dark chocolate and immediately sprinkle the fruit and nuts over it, before the chocolate sets. (*Note: recipe doesn't call for best quality white chocolate because it often doesn't melt as well, so buy "good" not "best"!)

Optional: sprinkle some sea salt over the bark to provide a contrasting flavor. Freeze for 1-2 hours, then break into jagged pieces. Store in an airtight container in a cool, dry place. Option: Can be wrapped and kept in refrigerator or freezer.



Simchas

Mazel tov to **Avigail Friedman**, daughter of **Rabbi Mendy** and **Shaindy Friedman** on celebrating her Bat Mitzvah on December 29. Delighted grandparents are **Rabbi Yonason** and **Sussie Denebeim** ... Mazel tov to **Mendel** and **Chana Posner** on the birth of their daughter, **Mushka**, born November 21 in Connecticut. Thrilled grandparents are **Rabbi Shimon** and **Chaya Posner** of Chabad of Rancho Mirage ... More lovely news from the Denebeims: **Rabbi Yonason** and **Sussie Denebeim** shared the happy news of the birth of granddaughter **Zelah Risya Flinkman**, born to **Elkie (Denebeim)** and **Noah Flinkman** in Los Angeles on November 24 ... We're thrilled with the news

that **Chloe Gershenson**, daughter of **Mark** and **Elaine Gershenson**, became engaged to **Jacob Bernstein**, son of **Jim** and **Bonnie Bernstein**, just before Thanksgiving. Mazel tov! Mazel tov! ... Congratulations to **Bill Singer** on being elected president of Congregation Beth Shalom, following the five years (!) of exceptional leadership of **David Baellow** ... It was nice to hear that earlier this month Havurah of the Desert



Jacob Bernstein and Chloe Gershenson



Bill Singer



Jewish Men's Outreach Group of the Desert

celebrated the efforts of **Tom Stansbury** and **Larry Fechter** with a brunch for their three years of providing educational and social programming for their membership ... Yasher koach to the **Jewish Men's Outreach Group of the Desert** for raising \$1600 for holiday meals at the two Jewish homes operated by

Angelview. Pictured (left to right): **Hal Stone**, Jewish Federation CFO **Alberto Tejero**, **Michael Zaifert**, **Ben Weissbach**, **Matt Fisher**, **Alan Gitlin** and Federation Associate Director **Kevin Giser**. Share your simchas with us. Email Miriam Bent at mhbentjcn@earthlink.net or call 760-323-0255.



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Friday, January 7	Shabbat Bo	4:10 pm
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Friday, January 21	Shabbat Yitro	4:23 pm
Friday, January 28	Shabbat Mishpatim	4:30 pm



We Mourn the Passing of...

Bayla Adelman, Barbara Rosenfield, Lou Shapiro, Leonard Sherman and Alice Sturmer. *Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing.*

Gabrielle Giffords Just Celebrated her Bat Mitzvah at Age 51

By Shira Hanau, JTA

After former House Rep. Gabrielle Giffords was shot in the head outside a supermarket in Tucson in 2011, it wasn't clear if she'd survive, let alone be able to speak. Giffords' injuries, which led her to resign from office, left her with partial paralysis and aphasia, which makes it difficult for her to speak.

But November 27, Giffords chanted her Torah portion, becoming a bat mitzvah at Temple Chaverim in Tucson at the age of 51, the Forward reported.

The milestone was the culmination of 20 years of study with Rabbi Stephanie Aaron, as well as two close friends. Aaron delivered a speech that Giffords wrote and Giffords performed the song "Amazing Grace" on the French horn.

"My Torah portion is from Genesis, from the story of Joseph," Giffords told the Forward in an email. "If you know Vayeshev you know it begins 'And he lived.' Any story that begins 'and he lived' is good with me. I lived. Everything afterwards is a gift."

Giffords and Aaron first began studying together when Giffords was a member of the Arizona legislature in the early 2000s. While the two discussed Giffords becoming a bat mitzvah multiple times, it wasn't until two years ago when Giffords recruited

two friends to study with her that they began preparing for the moment in earnest. The four women studied the weekly Torah portion together before beginning to study Gifford's portion, which Giffords chanted along with Aaron.

"I am a person who is always looking for ways to grow, to keep moving and find new paths," Giffords wrote to the Forward. "I am proud and honored to



Gabrielle Giffords speaks during a demonstration with victims of gun violence in front of the Supreme Court, November 3, 2021

become a bat mitzvah as an adult. It is

never too late to explore faith, to learn the stories of the past and reflect on their meaning today."

Giffords' grandfather changed his surname from Hornstein in the 1940s to avoid antisemitism. She was raised by a Jewish father and Christian Scientist mother in Tucson but has practiced only Judaism since the early 2000s.

Giffords represented Arizona's 8th District in Congress from 2007 to 2012.



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