

Jewish Community News

The Publication of the Jewish Federation of the Desert

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Israel Hopeful Bias May Shift as UAE, Other Nations Join UN Security Council

By Mike Wagenheim, JNS

The United Arab Emirates took its long-campaigned-for seat on the 15-member U.N. Security Council on Tuesday, and Israel is expected to look to its new friend to help tamp down the council's disproportionate focus on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. But according to a number of analysts and those familiar with the UAE's positions, the Jewish state shouldn't expect the Emiratis' full-throated support.

Still, the UAE replaces Tunisia, which has no diplomatic ties with Israel, as the council's traditional Arab voice and should bring a more balanced voice with it when it comes to the Jewish state.

"There is a degree of obligation to present the views of the Arab block when you sit on the Security Council. Additionally, we have always maintained, even in signing the Abraham Accords, that Israel needs to pull out of the West Bank," a source within the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation told JNS.

The UAE, essentially, will have to choose one of two paths.

"The Emiratis are going to feel pressure from the radicals inside the Arab League. They will need to choose between them and a more moderate path," Abdallah Imassi, U.N. Correspondent for the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, told JNS. "I see Abu Dhabi creating more open dialogue and more initiative towards Israel and the peace



The Emiratis join Albania, Brazil, Gabon and Ghana in installing their countries' flags outside the council chamber, replacing Estonia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia and Vietnam.

process."

"Don't expect anything revolutionary from Abu Dhabi on this front," he added. "But they can move the needle in certain situations, especially because they have good relations with all five of the permanent members of the Security Council."

The UAE served one prior term on the Security Council, from 1986 to 1987. It won the backing of the Arab League in 2012 for another term and sealed a seat with an unopposed run in the Asia-Pacific Group last year after winning the constituency's backing in 2020.

"What we can provide—to the extent that the council's balance of power allows—is to push for more of a regional voice for the Gulf states on the Iran file, which should benefit Israel," said the source, indicating to JNS that public positions that the UAE has staked out on any number

of regional and global issues will continue to be reflected in its actions on the Security Council.

That said, the UAE is one of several Gulf states that are pushing for the United States and Iran to reach an agreement on re-entering the largely abandoned Iran nuclear accord three years after cheering on America's withdrawal from the pact. Recent diplomatic warming between Tehran and Abu Dhabi doesn't make the UAE any less concerned about Iran's burgeoning

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Federation Update



Jewish Federation Board Co-chairs Roberta Nyman and Jackie Cohen, Search Committee Co-chairs Lori Fritz and Ron Langus.

As we undertake our search for a new CEO of our Federation, we must thank our donors, staff and board of directors for responding so positively during this transition period. While this search is underway, we have recognized the need to hire an interim director to facilitate the running of the Jewish Federation and the many community activities and programming taking place in the

coming weeks.

Our search committee, chaired by Lori Fritz and Ron Langus, are working with a professional search team and there are many highly qualified individuals for both positions.

Roberta Nyman

Roberta Nyman, Board Co-chair

Jackie A. Cohen

Jackie Cohen, Board Co-chair



HONOR ROLL PAGES 22-26

2021-2022

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Dear Lion of Judah Women,

Listen to our ROAR ... and hold onto your Lion pins! We have changed our in person Lion of Judah Brunch to Monday, March 28, 2022, at 10:30 AM at Tamarisk Country Club. Our speaker, Lisa Friedman Clark, will join us in person for the Brunch.

We will hold onto your previously returned RSVP Cards, but if you haven't sent yours in yet, you can use the same card.

For further information please contact leslie.pepper@jfedps.org or call 760-324-4737.

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An evening with

Ron Dermer

From 2013–2021 Ron Dermer served as Israel's Ambassador to the United States.

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(\$3,600 per out-of-town MG)

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Major
Gifts
Dinner
2022



Jewish Federation
OF THE DESERT

We are very excited to bring Ambassador Ron Dermer to our community to kick off our return to the fabulous evenings that have characterized Major Gifts events in our community over the years. ♦ We found a way to offer this very special evening and still be respectful of COVID: We shall hold our event outside at Tamarisk Country Club! ♦ Of course there will be space heaters if the evening is chilly, but Tamarisk's beautiful grounds will make the setting magical!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2022 at Tamarisk Country Club

Reception 6 PM
Dinner 7 PM

PROOF OF VACCINATION AGAINST COVID-19 IS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY IN-PERSON ACTIVITY SPONSORED BY THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE DESERT, WHETHER AT THE FEDERATION OFFICES OR HELD IN ANOTHER VENUE.

ATTENTION MAJOR GIVERS FROM OTHER COMMUNITIES:

If we do not know you're a Major Giver in your home community and you did not get an invitation to this exciting Major Gifts evening with Ambassador Ron Dermer and want to attend ... please call or email Leslie Pepper at our Jewish Federation of the Desert: 760-324-4737 or leslie.pepper@jfedps.org.

Yom HaShoah 2022 Essay Contest Needs Reviewers

The Jewish Federation will be holding our Community Yom Ha Shoah, Holocaust Memorial Day program on Sunday, April 24th at 3:00 pm.

In 1980, Congress enacted Public Law 96-388, establishing the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council and provided for appropriate ways to commemorate the Days of Remembrance as an annual national, and civic commemoration of the Holocaust. As part of our community's

ongoing commemoration and educational project with middle and high school students in the three local school districts, we will be holding our annual essay contest, with this year's theme: **"Remember the Past - Change the Future."**

These essays will originally be

reviewed by the students' teachers and pared down to under 100 before sending to us. We are looking for members of our Jewish community (perhaps retired



teachers?) to volunteer to read and rate the essays in one of the three age-related categories: grade 8; grades 9 & 10, and grades 11 & 12. If you are interested in volunteering for this project, please contact Leslie Pepper at leslie.pepper@jfedps.org or at 760-324-4737.

Continued from page 1

ballistic missile and drone programs or its other menacing activities throughout the region.

Good Ties with the Five New Nations

The UAE, which will serve a two-year term as a non-permanent member of the body, is represented by Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh, who recently received a promotion to the role of minister. Nusseibeh's family has ties to Jerusalem going back a millennium, and her father and grandfather are among her family members who have supported the cause of the Palestinians, though often disagreed with the motives and methods of its leadership. Nusseibeh has served as the UAE's voice in Turtle Bay in the aftermath of the Abraham Accords, repeatedly praising Israel's initiatives in pursuing a wider peace in its home region.

"The UAE's conduct on the council will reflect who we are as a country and a people: open, inclusive and bound by the belief that we are stronger united. We will seek a convergence of views and a unified council voice so that its decisions are met with the broadest possible support. Diplomacy is about dialogue, seeking out diverse views and charting a path towards consensus. On the council, we will seek to promote stability and to

move from the mindset of conflict management to conflict prevention and resolution," Nusseibeh told reporters and other new Security Council members gathered at U.N. headquarters on Tuesday.

The Emiratis joined Albania, Brazil, Gabon and Ghana in installing their countries' flags outside the U.N. Security Council Chamber, replacing Estonia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia and Vietnam. Israel has generally good ties with the five new nations.

Non-permanent members India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico and Norway will complete their terms at the end of this year. Ireland generally holds anti-Israel positions, and Mexico has shown little interest in Middle East affairs. Norway is the penholder on the Israeli-Palestinian file, while India and Kenya have become friendlier towards Israel in recent years.

The five permanent members—the United States, the United Kingdom, France, China and Russia—wield the all-important veto power on the council. Nusseibeh will sit between the Russian and British ambassadors in the Security Council Chamber.

While the Israeli mission to the United Nations did not offer comment when asked if it had sought clarification from the UAE on its intended positions on the council or had any discussions with the UAE mission about its priorities,

Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations Gilad Erdan tweeted his congratulations in June to all new members after their election and said he hoped they would work to end anti-Israel bias at the international body.

"I'm hopeful and optimistic you will work to redress the council's bias in order to become more relevant and effective as you address the world's conflicts," he wrote at the time.

'A Great Deal of Time on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict'

The Security Council regularly issues resolutions and other condemnations against Israel. However, the United States has regularly wielded its veto power to shield its ally from any potentially damaging binding resolutions. Back in October, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield admonished the Security Council for its disproportionate focus on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, for which there is at least one monthly meeting on the council's calendar.

"This council spends a great deal of time on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which is both understandable and consistent with the agenda. But far too often, the substance of these discussions is centered almost entirely around criticism of Israel and counterattacks.

I sincerely hope that going forward, council members will do their best to take a more balanced approach. Also, there are other countries and situations in the region that merit Security Council attention and should not be neglected," she said.

Still, the Security Council will hold its quarterly open debate on the Israeli-Palestinian file on Jan. 19, which should give an early indication as to how the UAE intends to play the issue.

Nusseibeh noted that the UAE will look to take leadership roles on some of the Security Council's broader files, like women, peace and security, terrorism, global health and climate change. The UAE diplomatic source said that its U.N. mission does not intend to pursue the penholder role on any of the country files, like North Korea or Afghanistan, but rather more thematic UNSC agenda items.

"We want to come across as a responsible player, fair and even-handed, technocratic and apolitical," said the source.

That is partially out of a sense of self-preservation, as the UAE looks to maintain its current good relations with Washington, Beijing, Moscow and Europe, all of whom come to the council with often divergent interests and all of whom wield enormous power in the council itself.

2022 FEDERATION DAY

of the Coachella Valley

Tuesday, March 15th

Tamarisk Country Club

All are welcome to participate in this special, event-filled day. Whether you play golf, cards, pickle ball or tennis, we encourage you to make your donation to the Federation of the Desert and enjoy a day of fun while supporting the most vulnerable in our community. Over the past 20 years this event has raised over 2.5 million dollars.

- Women's Shotgun 8:30 am
 - Federation Day Luncheon to follow golf at 12:00 pm
 - Men's Shotgun 1:00 pm
 - Federation Day Luncheon prior to golf at 12:00 pm
- (Choose your own foursome or we will pair you up for golf)

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| Women's Sponsor Level Gift: | \$500 | Men's Sponsor Level Gift: | \$750 |
| | | Men's Platinum Level Gift: | \$1000 |

Complete entry form and return to Tamarisk - 70240 Frank Sinatra Dr - Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

Donation Checks should be sent to:

Jewish Federation of the Desert - Attn: Alberto Tejero - 69710 Highway III - Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

To pay by credit card, contact the Jewish Federation of the Desert to process payment by phone (760) 324.4737

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



JEWISH COMMUNITY NEWS

A Publication of the
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EDITORIAL

Miriam H. Bent, Editor
Bailey Communications,
Layout & Design

JCN STATEMENT

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

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

ARTICLES & ADVERTISING

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Tel Aviv University Breakthrough Touted as Key to Reversing ALS

Times of Israel Staff

Israeli researchers announced Tuesday that they have uncovered a key mechanism that causes the neurodegenerative disease ALS, which may unlock a way to delay or reverse the condition which affects thousands of people annually.

The team from Tel Aviv University, along with researchers from Sheba Medical Center and from institutes in Germany, France, the UK and US, found that a buildup of a protein called TDP-43 near neuromuscular junctions, which translates neural signals into motor activity, causes motor neurons to degenerate and die by inhibiting mitochondrial production.

This in turn leads to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou

Gehrig's Disease, which causes sufferers to lose the ability to walk, talk or even breathe.

"The paralysis caused by the disease results from damage to the motor neurons, which leads to the degeneration nerve endings and to the loss of muscle innervation," Prof. Eran Perlson, who led the study with doctoral students Topaz Altman and Ariel Ionescu, said in a news release.

"This consequently leads to the degeneration of the nerve and the death of motor neurons in the spinal cord, however until now we could not understand the basic biological mechanism causing the initial damage behind this vicious cascade."

By using an experimental molecule



The late Professor Stephen Hawking

to break down TDP-43 in animals, the scientists were able to restore motor neuron activity, opening the door for possible drugs that can cure ALS in humans if found before the damage becomes too severe, the researchers said.

"This discovery can lead to the development of new therapies that could either dissolve the TDP-43 protein condensates or increase the

production of proteins essential to mitochondrial function, and thereby heal the nerve cells before the irreversible damage that occurs in the spinal cord," Perlson said.

ALS, which famously afflicted Stephen Hawking and was the subject of the Ice Bucket Challenge, has no approved drug treatment.

"We are tackling the problem on the other end — in the neuromuscular junction. And if in the future we could diagnose and intervene early enough, maybe it will be possible to inhibit the destructive degeneration in ALS patients' muscles," he said.

The peer-reviewed study was published in the journal Nature Communications.

Neo-Nazi Sentenced to Prison

By Algemeiner Staff

A member of a neo-Nazi group, Kaleb Cole, 25, was sentenced to 84 months in jail for a campaign to threaten and intimidate journalists and activists opposed to antisemitism, a federally protected activity on the basis of religion, mailing threatening communications, and conspiracy to commit offenses against the United States.

Cole and other members of a neo-Nazi group called the Atomwaffen Division sent threatening materials to Jewish journalists and journalists of color, among others. The materials included posters showing images such as a hooded figure about to throw a Molotov cocktail at a house with the text "you have been visited by your local Nazis."

At Cole's trial, victims spoke of

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Secrets of TV Legends
Sue Cameron • March 9, 2022
Hollywood Reporter columnist shares insider secrets!
Mary Pickford Theatre
 36850 Pickfair Street, Cathedral City, CA 92234

Honoring Phyllis Eisenberg with the JFS Humanitarian Award

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 For questions call Cheryl at 760-325-4088, extension 107 or email cscarlett@jfsdesert.org.

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Please let us know your choice by **February 23, 2022**

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Wednesday VIP Evening • March 9, 2022
5:00 pm • Doors open at 4:30 pm
 Enjoy popcorn, soda, and candy. After the show, you are invited to a VIP mix and mingle with Sue Cameron and Phyllis Eisenberg, while enjoying a casual dinner of movie theater concessions (hotdogs, nachos, pizza, salad, dessert, and more), wine, beer, and soft drinks. Cost \$225.

If you cannot attend either live event you will be provided a Zoom link to see the show.

Monday Zoom • March 14, 2022
12:00 pm and 5:00 pm
 Minimum donation \$65.

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What's Next? Embracing the Future

Congregation Beth Shalom's 11th Annual Scholars Program February 11-12, 2022

Rabbi Joshua Hoffman, President of the Board of Rabbis of Southern California, is the Scholar-in-Residence at Congregation Beth Shalom, Friday, February 11 through Saturday, February 12, 2022, made possible by a grant from Jewish Federation of the Desert. The Shabbaton's theme, "What's Next?

Embracing the Future," will be explored in a series of teachings and interactive conversations throughout Shabbat, open to the entire community, at the synagogue: 79733 Country Club Drive, Bermuda Dunes.

With the Jewish community and individuals having a changed mindset

from pre-pandemic times and seeking opportunities for growth and change as we continue to forge our way to a post-pandemic world, Rabbi Hoffman brings considerable talent and expertise.

Following ordination in 2003, he served at Valley Beth Shalom in Encino through last spring. He teaches in the greater Los Angeles Jewish community, including as a lecturer on Liturgy and Essential Jewish Texts at American Jewish University. He has served in leadership roles within the Rabbinical Assembly, the Sandra Caplan Community Bet Din, and the Rabbinic Cabinet of Jewish Federations of North America. He publishes widely, including a series of Torah commentaries for the Los Angeles Jewish Journal.

Rabbi Hoffman will speak on the topic "What's Next: Embracing CHANGE" during Friday evening services beginning at 7:45 pm. This session will help us recognize and assess changes we have experienced and might yet need to understand to enable us to thrive in a "new normal." This will be followed by a Festive Oneg Shabbat Dessert Reception generously sponsored by Benjamin & Heather Altman.

During Shabbat morning services beginning at 9:30 am., Rabbi Hoffman will teach on the topic "What's Next: EMBRACING

Change." As the shift in emphasis implies, this presentation will help us navigate from recognition of, and sometimes aversion to, changes that we face enabling us to manage our present and embrace the future. A Festive Kiddush Luncheon will follow generously sponsored by Joel & Marlene Wolf.

Finally, Rabbi Hoffman will be in an interactive conversation with Beth Shalom member Rabbi J.B. Sacks on the topic "What's Next: Embracing the FUTURE with Purpose" during a Se'udah Sh'lishit (lite meal), generously sponsored by Bill Singer & Dr. Caroline Yeager, that traditionally culminates the Shabbat experience. The meal and interactive conversation begin at 5:00 pm and conclude with Havdalah.

Rabbi Sacks, who resides locally, is the spiritual leader of Congregation Am HaYam in Ventura, CA and serves as Education Specialist for the Stories of Music project at UCLA's Herb Alpert School of Music.

All services and sessions are free of charge, and the entire community is welcome. Advanced registration is appreciated, and proof of vaccination is required. Registration and information are available on the website: www.CongregationBethShalom.net or by email (preferred) to BethShalom18@gmail.com or calling (760) 200-3636.

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MADE POSSIBLE BY A GRANT FROM JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE DESERT

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 11 AND 12, 2022

RABBI JOSHUA HOFFMAN
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FOLLOWED BY KIDDUSH LUNCH GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY JOEL & MARLENE WOLF

SATURDAY EVENING – 5:00 PM
"WHAT'S NEXT? EMBRACING THE FUTURE WITH PURPOSE"
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With our normal community activities on hold due to the pandemic, the Jewish Federation has been arranging for many interesting, compelling programs to offer to our community online. As we sent out notices for these programs we realized that we do not have email addresses for about half of our JCN readership. We'd love to add you to our list. You will not be overrun with emails (about half a dozen a month) and you'll get information about some terrific programs.

Email us your email to: info@jfedps.org

Jewish Groups Provide Relief, Physically and Emotionally, After Tornado Devastation in Kentucky

By Jewish News Syndicate

The last time Rabbi Shlomo Litvin, co-director of Chabad of the Bluegrass, had been in Hopkinsville, Ky., he was joined by thousands of other people to see a total eclipse.

He returned to the area December 13 to find a much-changed landscape after a massive tornado ripped through the western part of the state three days earlier, rendering much of it temporarily uninhabitable. The tornado was one of a series that struck six Midwestern states on December 10.

"The kindness they had shown to tourists during the eclipse was overwhelming, and to come back now and see the devastation was heartbreaking," said Litvin, who went to the region with his brother, Rabbi Chaim Litvin of Project Friendship, a social-service arm of Chabad of Kentucky, to deliver 10 pallets of bottled water along with boxes of winter clothing and shoes to the survivors of the tornado.

According to Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear, more than 70 people in his state, including six children, were killed and more than 100 remain unaccounted for as a result of the four tornados that pounded a swath of land some 200 miles wide. An estimated 30,000 people are without power, and more than 1,000 homes have been completely destroyed.

"Damage is in the hundreds of millions of dollars at least," said Beshear. "There is not a lens big enough to capture the devastation. You stand in the middle of Mayfield or Dawson Springs, and it's almost crushing how it feels."

While there are some Jewish families near the affected areas—Rabbi Shlomo Litvin has reached



Delivering water

out to those he knows—much of the Jewish communal life in Kentucky is centered in Louisville, about 200 miles from the hardest-hit areas. Despite the distance, Jewish organizations were quick to step up and help.

According to Stacy Gordon-Funk, senior vice president of philanthropy and chief development officer at the Jewish Federation of Louisville, as soon as they heard about the destruction, they got to work reaching out to the American Red Cross to see how they can be of help. The response led to the creation of a fundraising drive with 100 percent of the funds going to the Red Cross.

Gordon-Funk said the goal is to raise \$50,000, and with donations pouring in from local families and Jews across the country, they are getting closer. The community leader praised the "level of kindness and generosity," saying "our Jewish community knows how to mobilize and help so we have heard from a lot of people" who want to help.

Among them, she said, is a Jewish man from New York who called her offered housing to people who have lost their homes and a member of the local Louisville Jewish community who is mobilizing her friends and family in a grassroots effort to provide home-cooked



Project Friendship, a social-service arm of Chabad of Kentucky, getting water and staple items to tornado decimated communities

meals for those in need in time for the upcoming Christmas holiday.

Also stepping up to help is the Israel Consulate in Atlanta, which arranged for the pallets of water the Litvins delivered on Monday. The donation is part of an initiative by Project Friendship, which normally provides clothing and shoes to people in need, but also steps up during disasters. According to Rabbi Shlomo Litvin, another truck full of supplies will be sent to the hardest hit region.

'You Could See the Power of Kindness'

But, he said, it isn't just physical items that are needed.

"As much as material help is beneficial, being there and giving people someone to talk to is also helpful. I was on hand to help with Hurricane Harvey relief [which hit Texas and Louisiana in 2017], but when it's your own community—a community that I visit regularly—it's entirely different," he told JNS after visiting devastated areas in the aftermath, including Dawson Springs, which lost 75 percent of its homes. "It's a whole different world. I think our presence meant more than

anything else."

Litvin said he was inspired and "comforted" by how neighbors are helping neighbors.

"We would bring stuff to one person and they would say, 'I'm sure there's someone who needs it more than me,' and we would ask them who; this enabled them to be part of the rescue effort," he related. "Even as they were taking stock of their homes and everything they lost, they were saying their neighbor two doors down needs the water."

Rabbi Yitzy Mandel, head of school at the Louisville Montessori Torah Academy, was among the many in Louisville who reached out to the Litvins to see how he could help. The first thing he noticed was how quickly the Litvins had mobilized.

"[Rabbi Chaim Litvin] said what they needed most was water, so I got some water and went to drop it off at the warehouse he has for Project Friendship. It was full of clothing and supplies ready to go. I was amazed at the amount of things he was sending," said Mandel, adding that at the warehouse, "you could see the power of kindness and what it can do."

Also lending a hand will be the Israeli nongovernmental relief agency IsraAID, which is sending a disaster-relief team to the region. They will be working on the ground with Team Rubicon, an international disaster-response organization founded by U.S. military veterans, to provide whatever support they can.

Several Jewish-owned businesses from outside the region are also stepping up to help fellow business owners. Mendel Mangel, who

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Abraham Lincoln's Greatest Gift to the Jews

By Lenny Picker (Article originally published in *The Forward* in 2015)

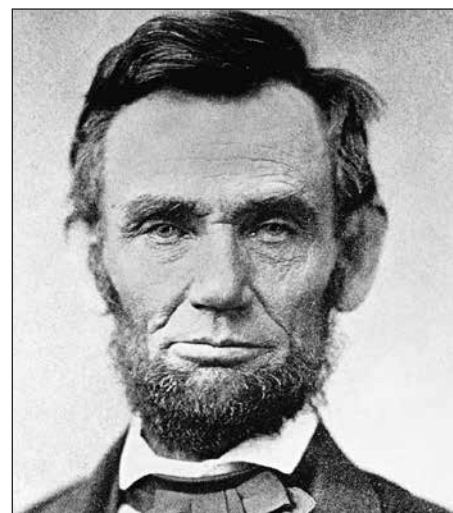
"In central Jerusalem, close by streets named for the medieval Jewish luminary Moses Maimonides and the modern Hebrew writer Peretz Smolenskin, and abutting the American consulate, lies a crooked street named for Abraham Lincoln. When questioned about what he did for the Jewish people to merit a street named for him in Jerusalem, even those Jerusalemites familiar with Lincoln's biography shake their heads and shrug." So writes Jonathan D. Sarna in the introduction of his latest book, "Lincoln and the Jews: A History," which he coauthored with Benjamin Shapell.

Those Israelis are not the only ones; even someone as knowledgeable as Sarna, the Joseph H. & Belle R. Braun professor of American Jewish history at Brandeis, was surprised to discover how much he had to learn about

Lincoln's relationship with Jews, as he and Shapell, who founded the Shapell Manuscript Foundation, an educational non-profit, prepared their book for publication.

"Nobody realized that Lincoln played such a crucial role in making Jews equal in America. Nobody paid attention to Lincoln's rhetorical shift away from 'Christian America' language, and toward inclusive language," Sarna states. In their comprehensive and readable narrative history, Sarna and Shapell try to remedy that ignorance among both Jewish and non-Jewish readers. "We make the case that this is a highly important aspect of Lincoln's life and legacy — that he, unlike many others at the time, viewed Jews as equals and befriended them," Sarna said in an interview with the *Forward*.

The roots of Abraham Lincoln's



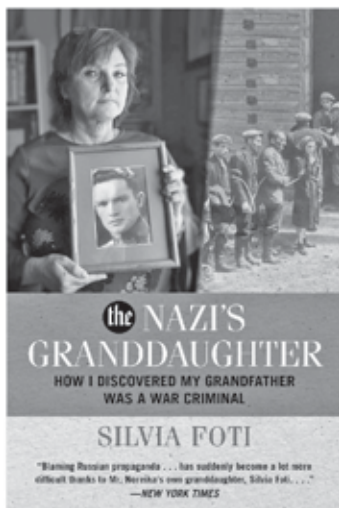
Judeophilia can be traced back to his childhood in Indiana. His parents, Thomas and Nancy Lincoln, were Protestants who belonged to a church that opposed the conversion of Jews. That's because they believed that missionaries were assuming responsibilities for the fate of others that properly belonged to God alone.

The future president first had actual contact with Jews when he moved to Springfield, Illinois in 1837, where he encountered Jewish neighbors, clients and political allies. Abraham Jonas, who, like Lincoln, was an attorney and state legislator, became the only person Lincoln is known to have dubbed "one of my most trusted friends." Jonas's support at a crucial moment may well have changed the course of history: In 1858, Lincoln lost the election for U.S. Senate. When Henry Asbury, Jonas's law partner, suggested that Lincoln be considered for the 1860 Republican presidential nomination in a meeting with Horace Greeley, the New-York Tribune editor, this idea was not warmly received — until Jonas reinforced Asbury's proposal. Jonas next worked strenuously to increase support for the Republican Party, and to secure the nomination for his friend at the party's convention in Chicago. Before Lincoln took office, Jonas received word from a relative of a conspiracy to prevent his inauguration, possibly with violent means, and urged his friend to take precautions. His warnings were taken seriously: Lincoln was smuggled into Washington at night.

Once Lincoln was in the White House, he displayed his empathy and tolerance for Jews on numerous occasions. The Fifth Pennsylvania Cavalry had a Jewish commander and over 30 Jewish members, and, in 1861, elected Michael M. Allen, a Jewish liquor dealer, as the regimental chaplain. The unit was unaware that Congress had just established a requirement that military chaplains must be ministers of "a Christian

Continued on page 9

MY GRANDFATHER ... HERO OR WAR CRIMINAL



Join us on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 5 PM, when the Mensch International Foundation and Temple Isaiah will host Silvia Foti at Temple Isaiah, 332 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs.

"I grew up hearing a lot about my grandfather being a World War II hero, that he fought against the Nazis and against the communists," said Foti, who grew up in a tight-knit Lithuanian family in Chicago. "I'm angry that he is held up as a hero. It's completely unclear how many Lithuanians he actually saved from the communists ... But of his role in killing Jews, there's so much evidence."

Noreika is regarded as a national hero in Lithuania. He was executed in 1947 for his role in planning a revolt against the Soviet Union. In 1997, he was posthumously awarded the Cross of the Vytis, given for "heroic defense of Lithuania's freedom and independence."

Rabbi Steven Rosenberg and Steven Geiger will moderate the program.

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denomination." Once Allen learned his election violated that standard, he resigned. But the Fifth Pennsylvania was not daunted by this setback. The regiment promptly elected Arnold Fischel, a teacher and lecturer from New York's Congregation Shearith Israel, as their chaplain — only to have the choice nixed by the secretary of war.

This congressional declaration that amounted to second-class status for Jews became a rallying point for American Jewry. Fischel showed up at the White House on December 11, 1861, even though he had been told that Lincoln was too busy to meet. Amazingly, he was invited to speak with Lincoln. The president agreed that the legislation was unjust and crafted a compromise that allowed Jews to minister to their coreligionists in the army.

Lincoln again displayed his sensitivity and sense of justice about a year later, when General Ulysses S. Grant issued the infamous General Orders No. 11, dubbed by Sarna and Shapell as "the most notorious official act of anti-Semitism in American history." Grant's concern about smugglers in the areas under his command led to the order, after he decided that since some of the smugglers were Jewish, all were. His decree expelled all Jews from the Department [of the Tennessee] within 24 hours from the receipt of the order.

"Lincoln could have easily turned away," said Harold Holzer, the chief historian of the New-York Historical Society exhibit, in an interview with the Forward. American Jews numbered only a small percentage of the population and were in no way a significant political lobby at the time. Lincoln took a considerable risk in

telling Grant's commander to rescind General Orders No. 11: He did not want to alienate Grant, as he needed his military skills to win the Civil War and viewed the general as a potential political rival for the 1864 presidential election. Notwithstanding those concerns, Lincoln viewed the expulsion order as unjust, and overturned it. "I do not like to hear a class or nationality condemned on account of a few sinners," Lincoln told a Jewish delegation that had come to thank him in January 1865.

(Somewhat ironically, Grant went on to appoint a record number of Jews to office, and to become the first president known to have attended synagogue services — Kabbalat Shabbat at an Orthodox congregation in Washington, D.C.)

For Shapell, Lincoln's handling of General Orders No. 11 exemplifies what was special about him. "It shows us how different Lincoln was, how alone he was in standing for freedom and justice — while, at the same time, his revered general is punishing one group based on religion, Lincoln is freeing a race," he said, referring to Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.

As the 1864 presidential election neared, Lincoln worried about his prospects. One of the people he turned to for help was another Jewish friend, Issachar Zacharie, his foot doctor. Lincoln was concerned enough about his electoral support that he met with Jewish leaders to discuss the Jewish vote, and Zacharie labored in private to turn out Jewish voters for the president. Records do not indicate what percentage actually did so.

Lincoln's interest in things Jewish was not only expressed in his responses to discrimination or political challenges. As Sarna and Shapell note, he also admired Jewish

theater. He saw "Gamea, or the Jewish Mother," a play by creole writer Victor Séjour that was inspired by the abduction of Edgardo Mortara by the papal police in 1858, twice. The couple also watched a performance of "Leah, the Forsaken," a play by Augustin Daly about the persecution of Jews in 18th-century Austria. As did Séjour's, the play spoke to the evils of persecuting a minority and showed how Jews and African Americans faced similar biases at the time.

According to a letter by Mary Todd Lincoln, who frequently invited Jews to parties at the White House at a time when that would have been considered unthinkable to many, Lincoln said on the last day of his life that he planned to visit Palestine after his second term in office ended.

Lincoln's murder on April 14, 1865, which was both Good Friday and the evening of the fifth day of Passover, was devastating for much of American Jewry. The responses to his death in the Jewish community demonstrated the unique regard in which he was held. Holzer believes that Lincoln was the first non-Jew for whom Kaddish was said. Many Jewish eulogies compared his wish to visit Jerusalem with Moses, who died before seeing Israel.

After his passing, Lincoln was virtually transformed into the first Jewish president, a process vividly described by Gary Phillip Zola, a historian and rabbi, in his recent major study on Lincoln's place in American Jewish memory. His book, "We Called Him Rabbi Abraham," nicely complements "Lincoln and the Jews." Zola focuses on how the American Jewish community embraced Lincoln, "as if he was one of our own." That embrace crossed denominational lines: Major movement leaders

such as Solomon Schechter, who compared Lincoln to Hillel ("We may well be grateful to God for giving us such a great soul as Lincoln"), and Bernard Revel ("In Lincoln himself were fused all the essential elements of Judaism") praised the president in ceremonies marking the centennial of his birth in 1909.

This connection is still strong today, writes Zola: "[F]rom the moment Lincoln was assassinated, American Jews regarded the martyred president as a national icon who, though not a Jew by birth, was genuinely imbued with Jewish values and had a 'Jewish soul.'"

Lenny Picker is an attorney in New York City.

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Frustrated by Haredi Leaders, Orthodox Activists Push for Stronger Response to Sexual Abuse

By Shira Hanau, JTA

Nearly 350,000 flyers expressing support for victims of sexual abuse were distributed in Orthodox communities across Israel by a group of volunteers December 31. On Friday morning, most of the people bustling through Beit Shemesh, a town in central Israel with a large haredi Orthodox population, were getting ready for Shabbat. Shoshanna Keats-Jaskoll had a different mission.

Keats-Jaskoll was handing out flyers with messages of support for victims of sexual abuse, in a public display of solidarity at the end of a wrenching week in many Orthodox communities.

At the beginning of the week, Chaim Walder, a celebrated haredi Orthodox children's book author in Israel, died by suicide after being accused by numerous children and young women of sexual abuse. The Ashkenazi chief rabbi of Israel visited Walder's family. Then, on Thursday, one of Walder's alleged victims, Shifra Horovitz, also died by suicide, her friends saying she had been distraught by the response to his death.

For Keats-Jaskoll, a cofounder of the Israeli advocacy organization Chochmat Nashim, which fights extremism and sexism in the Orthodox community, and for many other Orthodox women, the litany called for a coordinated, public response. So she, who is Orthodox but not haredi, and a network of haredi activists and volunteers printed 350,000 flyers and passed them out in haredi areas before Shabbat.

Most of the reactions she got

were from mothers thanking her for sharing her message, she told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. But one man told her he didn't know anyone who had been hurt and questioned why she was giving out the flyers — keeping up the conversation for far longer than she expected.

"I think this is really hard for haredim, when you're told to trust leadership and there's a real cognitive dissonance: something is wrong, the leadership should be saying something, if they're not saying something maybe it's not true, but if it's not true what does that mean?" Keats-Jaskoll said. "So I think they're going through a real crisis of faith in a lot of places."

The flyers that Keats-Jaskoll and others handed out spoke directly to that crisis of faith, and to the religious values of those whose confidence in their leaders might be teetering. They offered information about the rabbinic court that heard testimony against Walder, quoted rabbinic sources about the seriousness of sexual abuse and answered questions about why allegations first reported in secular media should be trusted in religious communities.

Since the allegations against Walder first appeared in November, the case has taken an unusual trajectory in the Orthodox world. After Eichler's, a Jewish bookstore in Brooklyn, announced that it would stop selling Walder's books in response to the Haaretz investigation, many other repudiations of Walder followed, in a flood that advocates for survivors of sexual abuse said seemed to represent a watershed moment for the community.



But after Walder's suicide, it became immediately clear that any shift extended only so far. In a number of haredi schools, teachers reportedly spoke to students about Walder's suicide as an example of the dangerous effects of "lashon hara," or speaking negatively about another person, and parents were counseled not to discuss the issue in detail with their children.

At Walder's funeral, Dov Weinroth, a lawyer and friend of Walder, called out the journalists at Haaretz who first published the allegations against Walder as "murderers." And in the days after Walder's death, multiple haredi Orthodox publications published obituaries of Walder that ended with the phrase "may his memory be a blessing" while failing to mention the allegations against him.

Yet social media has given rise to a different kind of reaction: photos of Walder's books in the trash and poignant accounts of difficult conversations between parents and children about abuse and what constitutes inappropriate touching. A social media campaign Monday generated a flood of complaints to haredi magazines about their coverage. And the crowdfunding campaign to print a second run of flyers has raised nearly \$70,000 in just a few days.

"There's a dissonance between

how people are responding in their homes and the way the institutions are responding," Keats-Jaskoll said.

There are signs that the dissonance is having an effect on traditional institutions. After being criticized for visiting Walder's family, Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi David Lau called for victims of sexual abuse to come forward. Weinroth, too, made an about-face, apologizing for criticizing the reporters who broke the story in a Facebook post Thursday that urged readers to "believe the complainants."

"I picked up the phone and called Aaron Rabinowitz," Weinroth wrote, referring to one of the Haaretz reporters who broke the story about Walder. "Truthfully this was the first time, and for a simple reason: to apologize. At the end of the day, I had never spoken with him but I got up at the funeral and demeaned him."

Rabbi Natan Slifkin, author and director of the Biblical Museum of Natural History in Beit Shemesh who writes the blog Rationalist Judaism, compared the reaction to the Walder story to the haredi community's reaction to the stampede at Mount Meron in April last year where 45 men were killed during an annual religious gathering.

"The fact that Walder, clearly emerging as a horrific predator, was glorified after his death by important charedi rabbis and politicians and newspapers, while those who attempted to scream about the dangers are being branded as evil gossipers who drove him to his death, is just too much for many

Continued on page 11

Naftali Bennett Becomes First Israeli Prime Minister to Visit the United Arab Emirates

By Shira Hanau, JTA

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett met with Mohammed bin Zayed al-ahyan, the Crown Prince and leader of the United Arab Emirates December 13, marking the first time an Israeli prime minister has visited the country.

The trip was announced by Bennett's office just a few hours before he flew to the Gulf country Sunday. Bennett was greeted upon his arrival by the UAE's Foreign

Minister Abdullah bin Zayed and stayed overnight before meeting with the Crown Prince at his Abu Dhabi palace Monday.

The two leaders were expected to discuss shared interests around Iran and economic cooperation among other issues. The visit comes as both Israel and the Emirates have expressed concerns about Iran's nuclear program, and over a year after the countries signed



the Abraham Accords and began diplomatic relations.

According to WAM, a state news agency in the UAE, Bennet said Israelis and Emiratis were "neighbors and cousins" and "the grandchildren

of Prophet Abraham."

"The relations between the two countries have strengthened in all fields, and I am very satisfied with that, as many cooperation agreements were concluded in the fields of trade, research and development, and cyber security, health, education, aviation and more, and I look forward to the continued development and consolidation of relations," Bennett told WAM.

Continued from page 10

people in the charedi community," Slifkin wrote.

While calling out those who blamed the victims for Walder's death and those who encouraged silence rather than shaming abusers, Slifkin noted the signs of change, including an editorial in Mishpacha magazine's Hebrew edition, which, in an unusual move, spoke directly about the topic of sexual abuse.

"They [the victims] are not the guilty ones. They are not the abusers," the magazine write. "To them we say in the name of the entire haredi community: our hearts are with you. We support you and we believe you, unconditionally. And we will do everything in our power as a community to build a safer and purer world for you."

For Keats-Jaskoll and other activists in the haredi Orthodox community, the fallout from the Walder case is indeed a watershed moment — and one that has to do with a broader phenomenon of people taking matters into their own hands after questioning their religious leaders.

"I see more and more and more people come to that realization of we have to do this, we

can't wait around," Keats-Jaskoll said.

"I think COVID helped with that, I think seeing what happened with COVID with leadership denying what was happening with COVID and watching people get sick and die, it kind of took a lot of people

and shook them up and say maybe our leadership doesn't know everything," she said.

She's doing everything she can to help activists within haredi communities speed the change — while fearing that it won't come fast

enough for victims of sexual abuse.

"We just can't wait for the next suicide," Keats-Jaskoll said. "We just can't wait for more people to kill themselves to know that this is a massive crisis."

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Brazilian Court Fines American Airlines for 'Emotional Suffering' to Passengers Denied Kosher Food

By Cnaan Liphshiz, JTA

A judge in Brazil fined American Airlines to the tune of \$1,759 for not providing kosher meals for two passengers who had been assured they would receive it on long-distance flights.

One of the passengers had gone without food for 10 hours from New York to São Paulo. The other fasted for a total of nine hours on two flights, first from Madrid to Philadelphia and then again from Chicago to London, the Brazilian law news site ConJur reported.

American Airlines "failed to provide the services" it had promised to render, the judge of the 23rd Chamber of Civil Court of the Justice Tribunal of Sao Paulo, José Marcos Marrone, wrote in his ruling.

The plaintiffs were not named in the report. Marrone also wrote that, beyond the failure to live up to the agreement, the firm caused the

plaintiffs "emotional suffering" by serving food to virtually everyone else on the flight.

Airlines are not legally obligated to provide food of any kind in the United States or Brazil. However, both countries have consumer protection laws that can lead to penal action against service providers once they commit in a transaction to deliver a certain product.

On its website, American Airlines offers 15 of what it calls "special meals," including kosher food.

In the fine print for the kosher food option, the airline stipulates that passengers from Brazil can only get kosher food if they're leaving from Sao Paulo or Rio de Janeiro. The only other stipulation is that the airline is unable to provide kosher meals to passengers leaving from India.

Continued from page 7

recently opened a fulfillment center in Cincinnati several hours away from the worst of the tornado damage, took to social media to get the word out about his offer: free warehouse

space for businesses impacted by the tornado damage, particularly businesses who had "goods in transit and needed to be rerouted quickly, our warehouse could be a great location for that."

"It's always been ingrained in us to help others, and it's something that I also try to pass to my employees. This provides a way for them to be involved and assist as well," he said.

After seeing Mangel's post, a Jewish business owner in New Jersey offered to help with shipping parcels and urged people to spread the word. "If you were affected, please reach out," said Zevi Wolff. "If you weren't, reach out to someone who was and let them know. This could save them 1000s of dollars. Have another service that may help?"

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British Publisher Scraps Book that Replaced Israel with 'Palestine' in Mideast Map

By Faygie Holt, Jewish News Syndicate

The British publisher of a children's book about strong Middle Eastern women that included a map of the region with "Palestine" in place of Israel has removed the title from its website after complaints from pro-Israel groups.

Author Wafa Tarnowski's *Amazing Women of the Middle East: 25 Stories From Ancient Times to Present Day*, released by Pikku Publishing in the United Kingdom, had also provided teacher resources.

"It is good news that the U.K. publisher has removed the book from sale," said Caroline Turner, director of UK Lawyers for Israel. "It is shocking that a book for children in the U.K. could have presented such a misleading picture of the Middle East. I hope the publishers will now amend the book so Israel will be back on the map and that Jewish Israeli women will be included in the profiles."

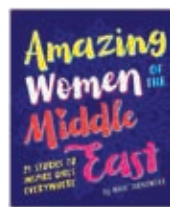
Turner said she first learned about the book when "we were approached by someone who had bought the book and was very shocked that the map of the Middle East excluded Israel, and that no Jewish or Israeli women were included in the profiles of Middle Eastern women. She asked if we could do anything about it."

UK Lawyers for Israel sent a letter to Pikku Publishing pointing out that the map was biased and inaccurate because it completely erased Israel. The group added that if the book was being utilized in schools, it would "likely be a breach" of "section 406 of the Education Act 1996," which deals with political indoctrination in U.K. classrooms.

Turner's group was not alone in contacting Pikku Publishing.

In a letter to the company in late December, Steve Winston, executive director of Zionist Federation of the

UK and Ireland, wrote, "When a modern map of the Middle East is published replacing Israel, an established United Nations member states, with Palestine, and when there is no mention of any famous women from Israel, it is difficult to draw any conclusion than there being an effort to push a partisan political view. ... It is a shame



that such a potentially excellent and engaging book should be marred by such glaringly obvious omissions."

The book's U.S. publisher, Massachusetts-based Interlink Publishing, describes itself as a "Palestinian-owned business" that "stands in solidarity with the oppressed, we stand with Palestine."

This is not the first time that a book aimed at young readers has removed Israel from its pages. Back

in November 2013, Scholastic Books released *Thea Stilton and the Blue Scarab Hunt*, which also included a map without Israel. The company, which is perhaps the largest children's book publisher in the world, said at the time that the omission of Israel was in the original version of the book that was published in Italy "and was translated by our company." Scholastic went on to reissue the book with a revised map.



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Israel Museum Appoints Denis Weil Director, Following Extensive Search

Swiss-born design professor, whose family has long supported the cultural institution, will take the reins in March

By Jessica Steinberg, *The Times of Israel*

The Israel Museum has announced the appointment of Prof. Denis Weil as the institution's new director.

Born in Switzerland, Weil is currently the dean and a professor of design at the Institute of Design at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. He was unanimously selected by the museum's board of directors after an extensive search.

He will be moving to Jerusalem and begin work at the museum on March 1, 2022.

Weil's parents, Ernst and Jacqueline

Weil - Bloch, were longtime supporters of the Israel Museum who founded the Swiss chapter of the Friends of the Israel Museum.

Weil's father was a business executive and banker, and Weil's brother Philippe Weil lives in Tel Aviv and is chairperson of the Israeli Friends of the Israel Museum.

Weil is replacing Prof. Ido Bruno,



Denis Weil

who led the museum for the last four years, helping to navigate the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, when the museum was closed for months at a time and had to furlough its staff.

Bruno succeeded James Snyder, a New York City museum professional who held the role for two decades and was revered for his fundraising prowess.

Weil has worked in both the public and philanthropic sectors, including Bloomberg Philanthropies,

Year Up, Mercy Corps, and Sanergy. He has held leadership positions in innovation, design, and digital technology at McDonald's, Interactive Media Group, Procter and Gamble and IDEO.

"It will truly be an honor to lead one of the most important museums in the world during this time to expand the cultural, educational, and civic roles it plays in Israel and internationally," said Weil.

US and Israel Ink Defense Agreements to Supply New Fleet of Helicopters, Refueling Aircraft

By Algemeiner Staff

The US and Israel signed a \$3 billion defense deal on December 30 that will supply the Jewish state with 12 helicopters and two refueling aircraft.

Under the deal, the Israeli Air Force

(IAF) will purchase 12 Lockheed Martin-Sikorsky helicopters to replace the Yasur helicopters currently in operation at a cost of \$2 billion. A further \$1 billion will cover the purchase, under a separate agreement, of two Boeing KC-46 refueling aircraft. According to a statement from the Israeli Defense Ministry, the helicopters and aircraft will be adapted to meet the IAF's operational requirements and Israeli systems will be integrated



Lockheed Martin-Sikorsky helicopter

into aircraft.

The statement noted that the procurement of these platforms was part of a large-scale program undertaken by the Ministry of Defense together with the IDF over the last year and a half, with the aim of strengthening the IDF's capabilities, force buildup and preparedness to face existing and future threats, particularly from Iran. Future procurement plans include the purchase of a new fleet of F35 aircraft, refueling aircraft, CH-53K helicopters, advanced air munition, air defense systems, new marine and land platforms as well as cyber

systems, the Ministry of Defense said.

Israel's Defense Minister, Benny Gantz, described the agreements as "significant milestones in the IDF's force buildup processes." Said Gantz: "We continue to strengthen our capabilities and to change and adapt our Air Force to face future challenges both near and far."

The deal was announced just two weeks after the US reportedly declined an Israeli request to accelerate the delivery of eight new KC-46 Pegasus aerial refueling tankers through a purchase approved by the State Department last March. Such aircraft would likely be needed in the event of an Israeli strike on Iran's nuclear sites. However, according to the New York Times, US President Joe Biden's administration has said the planes will not be delivered until 2024.

Under the terms of the deal, the first of 12 helicopters purchased by Israel will not arrive in the country until 2026.

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Aguna (Chained Woman) Finally Freed from Marriage after Near 14-Year Struggle

Her ex-husband had managed to hide from law enforcement for seven years until a private investigations firm arrested him in a targeted manhunt.

By Rivka Hellendall, *The Jerusalem Post*

One of the most emotionally challenging and dramatic cases handled by the Rabbinical Courts in recent memory came to an end when Orly Vital was granted freedom from her husband on January 11.

Vital, a Beit Shemesh resident and mother of four, received her get (Jewish divorce document) after nearly 14 years of continuous halachic (Jewish legal) struggle. When Vital initially asked her ex-husband R. for a divorce, he told her that he would only give her this essential document if she fulfilled a series of financial demands.

After six years of begging him, Vital turned to Yad La'isha, (Women's Aid) a division of the Ohr Torah Stone network. Yad La'isha represents women whose recalcitrant husbands refuse to grant them a divorce. When the case appeared before the Jerusalem Rabbinical Court, Chief Rabbi David Lau ruled that R. would face immediate arrest if he refused to give his wife a get.

Upon hearing that Lau had ruled in Vital's favor, R. swiftly fled the building under the pretense of conferring with his attorney. The court put out an official warrant for his arrest as well as a series of sanctions designed to force him to relent, but R. managed to evade the court by remaining underground for the next seven years, during which he abandoned his estranged wife and their children.

After Yad La'isha received a donation of over NIS 100,000 in August 2021, a sum that was specifically earmarked to fund the expanded services of a private investigations firm, the firm spotted and arrested him in south Tel Aviv within days



(l-r) Yad La'isha Rabbinical Court Advocate and Attorney Tehilla Cohen, Orly Vital, and Pnina Omer, Director of Yad La'isha

of starting its targeted manhunt. R. spent his next several months in prison but ultimately relented and gave Vital a get on Tuesday, January 4, nearly 14 years after she had first asked R. for a divorce.

Vital expressed her deep thanks to all involved following the court decision.

"There's a well-known rule that you don't negotiate with terrorists and certainly not with those who are already behind bars – and this must be the case with get refusers," she said.

"I knew that this was a war that I needed to fight and to stand firm in the name of what is true and just, against the world of lies I've been suffering from for over 14 years," Vital said. "I am so deeply thankful to God for bringing me to this day and to the team at Yad La'isha who never gave up, not even for a moment."

Rabbi Kenneth Brander, president and rosh hayeshiva of Ohr Torah Stone said: "The fact that Orly lost 14 years of her life fighting for a release from chains is the height of injustice and abuse, but we are encouraged that the efforts of Yad La'isha allowed her to attain freedom today.

"We will continue to work tirelessly to advance justice and freedom for agunot [Jewish women 'chained' to their marriages].

"Orly has reached the end of a story defined by a struggle of many years that should never have needed to happen," said Yad La'isha director Pnina Omer. "We thank the judges led by Rabbi Lau who imposed the necessary pressures to bring this to a

close.

"We will continue to fight on behalf of every aguna – but we also recognize that we need to find a workable halachic solution that will bring an end to this deeply painful phenomenon that is harming so many women."

Fallout From Utah Tech Executive's Antisemitic Email Rant Continues

By Algemeiner Staff

The fallout resulting from an unhinged antisemitic email sent out on January 3 by a leading technology entrepreneur in Utah continue to roil business and political leaders in the state.

David Bateman — the founder of Utah-based software firm Entrata and a prominent Republican Party donor in the state — pulled no punches in advancing some of the most extreme and hateful of the antisemitic conspiracy theories that have mushroomed during the two-year COVID-19 pandemic.

Bateman blamed the spread of the coronavirus on “the Jews” as he warned of “a sadistic effort underway to euthanize the American people” through vaccinations. Among the bizarre falsehoods contained in the email were the claims that Pope Francis, the head of the Catholic Church, is secretly a Jew, that Hasidic Jews in the US are the beneficiaries of an unreported law that exempts

them from being vaccinated, and that vaccination against COVID-19 destroys women’s reproductive systems.

The next afternoon Entrata CEO Adam Edmunds said Bateman had stepped down from the company’s board of directors and resigned his position as chairman as a result of the email.

Shock and upset at Bateman’s antisemitic rant has meanwhile spilled over into Utah politics. Bateman’s record of donations to the GOP drew calls from Utah Democrats and the United Utah Party for the funds to be returned. And within the Republican Party, a challenger to incumbent Senator Mike Lee called on him to donate more than \$6,000 of funding received from Bateman to Jewish charities.

“Antisemitic rhetoric has absolutely no place in our community, especially at a time when antisemitic crime has increased,” Republican senatorial

candidate Ally Isom declared in a statement. “The incumbent may not have complete control over what money comes into his coffers, but he has complete control over where that money goes. I call upon Sen. Lee to make things right and donate Bateman’s contributions to Jewish charitable organizations.”

Bateman’s comments were widely condemned by business, religious and political leaders. Jonathan Johnson — CEO of e-commerce giant Overstock and one of the recipients of Bateman’s antisemitic rant — was reported by local outlet Deseret News to have told Bateman that he wanted nothing to do with the latter’s conspiracy theories.

The Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City strongly denounced Bateman’s antisemitism, pouring scorn on his claims about Pope Francis. “Antisemitism has no place in our society and we urge Utah Catholics who hear conspiracy theories

suggesting our Jewish brothers and sisters have somehow infiltrated our church or world in some nefarious plot to immediately block any sources that promote such nonsense as factual,” the Diocese stated.

Utah Tech Leads, a political action committee, said it had launched a pledge for local tech leaders to endorse. “We are creating a coalition of companies to help combat antisemitism, racism, and other discriminatory practices and beliefs within our community,” read the pledge, which had attracted the support of 40 companies in the tech sector within a day of its launch.



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Former Baltimore Mayor Sheila Dixon Baselessly Attacks Orthodox Jews

VIN News

Sheila Dixon, the former Mayor of Baltimore, is being sharply condemned after she made antisemitic remarks on a Youtube video. Her baseless claims are not only anti-Jewish, they are racially divisive.

The Maryland Republican Jewish Council (MRJC) and the Maryland Black Republican Council (MBRC) are jointly condemning Dixon's antisemitic and racist comments, in

which she claimed that Orthodox Jews had a school closed down near their community because it was attended by black students.

On the December 1st episode of "Pop and Politics LIVE" the former Baltimore Mayor said at the 33:07 minute mark, that politics closed her high school, Northwestern High school because, "The Orthodox Jews didn't want those Black kids up there in the Upper Park Heights

community."

The comments were not only antisemitic and race-baiting, but patently untrue.

A highly credible source told VIN News, "The school board closed Northwestern and many other schools in the city to combine schools with low enrollment numbers and move



Sheila Dixon

them into new 21st century school buildings. Northwestern is now Forest Park High School and is in a beautiful new building. This new school is located within the same city council district as Northwestern."

In 2010, Dixon resigned as Mayor, as part of a plea agreement with prosecutors, after she was found guilty of stealing gift cards from needy families.

Dutch Government Ends Donations to Terror-Linked Palestinian NGO

Jewish News Syndicate

The Union of Agricultural Work Committees, which Israel recently designated as a terrorist organization for its ties to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, will no longer receive millions of euros from Amsterdam.

The Netherlands has ended its donations to the Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC), following an external investigation into the Ramallah-based Palestinian NGO's links with a terrorist organization, UK Lawyers for Israel (UKLI) reported on Wednesday.

The investigation followed UKLI questions and subsequent information submitted to the Dutch government and members of parliament as to why they were donating funds to the UAWC, given the group's close ties to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

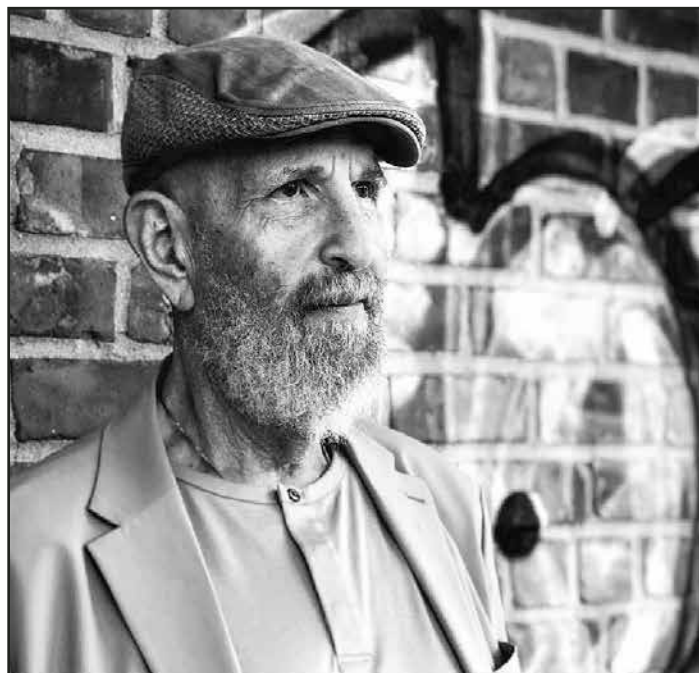
According to UKLI, which was provided information by the Jerusalem-based research organization NGO Monitor, some 21.5 million euros (\$24.3 million) had been donated to the UAWC before the funding was put on

hold after the issue was raised in parliament in August 2020.

The investigation found that 34 employees of UAWC had individual

ties with the PFLP, 12 of whom held overlapping positions in both, the Dutch daily De Telegraaf reported, adding that there are also links

between the two organizations "at an organizational level."



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Tribute Card Donations

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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:

- **Joanne Chunowitz**, Thank you for your good service from Margot Halperin.
- **Ed Cohen**, Best wishes on your milestone birthday, from Karel Roberts and Marvin Mandleman, Debra and Mickey Star.
- **Bill DeWoskin**, Best wishes for a special happy birthday, from Margot and Jerry Halperin.
- **Dennis Ditlove**, In honor of your special birthday, from Susie and Bobby Diamond.
- **Cora Ginsberg**, In honor of all you do, from Cass Graff-Radford.
- **Cora Ginsberg**, Thank you from Susie and Bob Diamond.
- **Cora Ginsberg**, Wishing you health and pleasure in your new home, from Barbara Platt and Norm Lewis.
- **Kevin Giser**, Thank you for your outstanding service to the Jewish community, from Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman.
- **Margot and Jerry Halperin**, In honor of you from The S Family.
- **Margot and Jerry Halperin**, In honor of your special anniversary, from Leslie and Barry Usow.
- **Libby and Buddy Hoffman**, In honor of your 70th anniversary, from Susie and Bobby

Diamond, Nancy and Dennis Ditlove, Barbara Fremont, Ann Hoffman and Brian Heltsley, Rich Hoffman and Debbie Levy, Sheila Keeshin, Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman.

- **Jaime Kabler and Helene Galen**, Thank you from Ed and Sande Fineman.
- **Eunice and Jerry Meister**, Happy Anniversary from Barbara Fremont.
- **Roberta and Allan Nyman**, In honor of your dedication to Federation, from Leslie and Steven Kurtz.
- **Jane and Larry Sherman**, Thank you from Eunice and Jerry Meister.
- **Leslie Usow**, Thank you for your good service from Margot Halperin.

Refuah Shleimah Get Well:

- **Joyce Freund**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Loreen Jacobson.
- **Libby Hoffman**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Cora Ginsberg and Margot and Jerry Halperin.
- **Cass Graff-Radford**, Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Loreen Jacobson.
- **Cydney Osterman**, Best wishes for a speedy recovery from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Alan Parsow**, Wishing you a speedy recovery from Debra and Mickey Star.

Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:

- **Barbara Appelman**, In memory of your beloved brother, from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Judith Appelbaum**, In memory of your beloved son Phil, from Libby and Buddy Hoffman, Loreen Jacobson, Ruth and Mal Kaufman, Marnie Miller and Joe Noren, Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Bruce and Sue Konheim**, In memory of your sister, from Susie and Bobby Diamond.
- **Norm Libman**, In memory of your beloved wife Doris, from Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.
- **Family of David Lieberman**, Wishing you peace during this time, from Howard and Gail Stone.
- **Richard Rosenfield**, In memory of your beloved wife Barbara, from Ed and Sande Fineman.
- **Shirley Shapiro and Family**, in memory of your beloved husband Lou OBM, from Rabbi Yankel and Rochel Kreiman.
- **Mr. and Mrs. Eric Spitzer**, In memory of your beloved brother Barry, from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Robin and Mark Thea**, In memory of your beloved mother, from Cora Ginsberg.
- **Peter Warhit**, In memory of Gladys Warhit, from Robert Schneider.



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We appreciate your support!



Shabbat Schedule - February 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. Friday, February 11/Saturday, February 12: Scholar in Residence weekend. See ad and article on page 6. 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. 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.

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.

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.temple sinaipd.org 760-568-9699. Go to templesinaipd.org for access information. Shabbat services are in-person and online on Livestream at www.temple sinaipd.org. Friday evening services 5:30 pm. Saturday morning Torah study 8:45 am; Shabbat morning services 10 am. 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 - February 2022

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.

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.

Tuesday, February 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1, 8

7:00-8:30 pm (following weekly community BBQ) Chabad of Rancho Mirage **Meditation from Sinai**, led by Rabbi Benny Lew.

Fee: \$99 (textbook included). Available in person and Zoom. Call 760-770-7785.

Wednesday, February 2

3:30 pm Har-El Galen Book Course will meet on Zoom. Lynda Weisbard will review **The Cellist**, the twenty-first and newest book by Daniel Silva, followed by discussion. Daniel Silva is the internationally acclaimed New York Times best-selling author of a timely and explosive new thriller featuring art restorer and legendary spy, Gabriel Allon. Email harelurjpd@gmail.com for a Zoom invitation.

Thursday, February 3

9:30 am Sabra Hadassah of the Desert speaker: **Bara Rosenheck**, award winning writer and author of "Justice for Julia" Proof of COVID vaccination required. \$20 members; \$25 non-members. Questions? Call Debbie at 760-289-7987.

Wednesday, February 9

3:30 pm Har-El Special **Book Review** of just released **Race Does Not Exist**, will be discussed by its author, Professor Philip Drucker, Dean of Academic Excellence, California Desert Trial Academy College of Law. He will

be joined by his co-author, Dr. Jaime Carlo-Casellas. Discussion will follow the presentations. Please invite family and friends. Email harelurjpd@gmail.com for a Zoom invitation.

Tuesday, February 15

6:00 pm Jewish Federation of the Desert **Major Gifts Dinner**. Held outside on the patio of Tamarisk Country Club. Keynote speaker: **Ron Dermer**, former Israeli Ambassador to the United States. Must be vaccinated to participate. See information on page 2.

Wednesday, February 16

3:30 pm "Har-El Goes to the Movies" Observing National Jewish Music Month, program is **"Broadway Musicals: A Jewish Legacy."** This informative and entertaining documentary is available on Amazon Prime. Cantor Joseph Gole, D.Mus., will discuss the film as well as present a musical program based on the documentary.

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



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:
Community observance of Yom HaShoah
SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2022

One in a million: Israeli woman with two wombs gives birth to healthy twins

By World Israel News Staff, December 30, 2021

An Israeli woman with two wombs beat all odds when she gave birth to healthy twins at the Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center, a statement released by the hospital read.

El Ladovic was born with a double uterus, a rare uterine malformation referred to in the medical community as Uterus didelphys.

Unlike common births, where twins share the same uterus and develop alongside each other throughout the

pregnancy, in rare instances of twins being born to a mother with two separate wombs, the twins develop and grow completely independently of each other.

Ladovic's newborns, a boy and a girl, met each other for the first time after birth.

Following the procedure, the relieved mother shared her concerns that came up during her pregnancy, but reassured herself, saying that "despite the fact that



The Ladovic couple and their newborn twins. (Credit: Sourasky Medical Center spokesperson) The newborns, a boy and a girl, met each other for the first time after birth.

they have never met before, I'm sure they will be best friends."

Ladovic said she first learned about her unusual condition when she was 20-years-old. "I was told that I have two wombs and spent my entire life worried that my future baby would grow in the smaller one," she said.

"During initial tests the doctor who examined me almost fainted. It took him 10 minutes to tell me that I have a fetus in both of my wombs."

Less than 15 cases of similar births have ever been reported.

Hezbollah Drone Terrorists Accidentally Launch Photos of Themselves into Israel

By World Israel News Staff

An intelligence-gathering drone launched by Hezbollah operatives in southern Lebanon shot down by the IDF contained a memory card replete with photos of the terror agents who manned it, the Israeli military revealed January 7.

After shooting down the drone once it entered Israeli airspace, military investigators discovered that the drone had recorded images of the men who launched it – members of a Hezbollah unit focusing on UAVs, and whose identities are meant to be a closely guarded secret.

The images, which appeared to have been captured by accident, include close-up depictions of the faces of the men who launched

the drone, along with one of them leaning on his car with his license plate number clearly visible.

"The IDF will continue to operate against any attempt by terrorists to violate Israeli sovereignty," the military wrote on Twitter, alongside a photo of the downed drone.

In 2021, Hezbollah sent some 74 drones into Israeli airspace, an IDF spokesman said in a statement.

Israel also regularly launches drones into Lebanon, some of which have crashed.

Hezbollah has claimed it fired upon the drones and brought them down, but the IDF says the crashes are due to technical malfunctions.

The IDF maintains that the drones that are downed in Lebanon do not



contain information or data that could potentially damage national security.

In August 2021, the IDF announced it had shot down a Hezbollah drone that entered Israeli airspace.

Also in August 2021, Hezbollah terror group claimed responsibility for firing 19 rockets toward Israel. That was preceded by a rocket attack launched from Lebanese territory, though it remained unclear by whom. Israel responded with artillery and rare airstrikes.

Continued from page 5

various security measures they took in response, including leaving their homes, installing security systems, purchasing weapons, and quitting their jobs.

Miri Cypers, Regional Director of the Anti-Defamation League Pacific Northwest, was among those threatened by Cole, and read a victim impact statement at his sentencing.

"I saw a terrifying image of a skeleton throwing a Molotov cocktail inside my home with the intent to burn it to the ground. The letter said my first and last name and said the sender's 'patience had its limits' and I had been visited by my local neo-Nazis. This felt deeply personal. As a Jewish leader with family members who survived the Holocaust, I know what it meant to be visited by your local Nazis," she said.

"Although this threat instilled me with fear, it will not silence me. I will continue to shine a bright light on hate and speak out against the normalization of threats and violence," Cypers continued.

On Tuesday, Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division called Cole's activities "antithetical to American values."

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said he holds the Lebanese government responsible for attacks launched from Lebanon toward Israel, no matter by whom.

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The Jewish Federation of the Desert and its beneficiary agencies thank our devoted and loyal donors who gave so generously to the 2021 Annual Campaign, despite the challenges of this exceedingly difficult year. Thank you for helping to secure the present and fortify the future with your support

of our Campaign.

Federation's Annual Campaign fills a gap as our community's needs expand and our needy grow in number. We take seriously our responsibility to ensure that needs are met whilst staying committed to creating a stronger, more vibrant Jewish community and strengthening

our connection with Jews in Israel and around the world. Your generosity has breathed life into the words that define and guide our efforts. "The Strength of a People. The Power of Community." On behalf of those who cannot say thank you themselves, thank you.

Roberta Nyman Jackie A. Cohen

Roberta Nyman and Jackie Cohen,
Board Co-chairs

We have endeavored to honor every special request that we received, including those individuals who wish not to be listed on the Honor Roll, and apologize in advance for any mistakes. *deceased



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Israel's Population Stands at Nearly 9.5 Million Closing Out 2021

Jewish News Syndicate

Israel's population stands at 9.449 million, according to estimates released by the Central Bureau of Statistics at the end of 2021.

The Bureau shared the numbers on December 30 and also noted that roughly 74 percent of Israel's inhabitants are Jewish, 21 percent Arab and five percent are neither, i24News reported.

There were 9.3 million people living in Israel at the end of 2020, the Bureau stated. The population increased in 2021 by a little less than

two percent. Seventeen percent was due to immigration.

A total of about 25,000 people made aliyah to Israel in 2021, a record-breaking increase of 30 percent from 2020. This year also saw the highest number of new immigrants move from the U.S. to Israel since 1973.

An estimated 184,000 babies were born in Israel this year, with 74 percent of the mothers being Jewish mothers and 23 percent Arab.

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For more information, or to make a donation, please contact the Jewish Federation at 760-324-4737.

Please Remember the Jewish Federation in Your Will and Estate Planning.



Have A Nosh With Miriam

There aren't any Jewish holidays falling in February this year for which I can select special dishes to share, so I looked through my collection of recipes for reliable favorites ... and realized I had two versions of a dish that I acquired about 30 years apart, with the first



one a super easy reliable cheese souffle for a brunch or lunch ... and the second one (from the same source) which was upgraded to more sophisticated fare, but still easy to make and fabulous! Best of all, both require you to assemble the dish the night before and refrigerate for 12 hours, so you have less to do the day of your brunch/lunch. The third recipe is one of my go-to appetizers as it is easy to assemble, always enjoyed ... and makes 77 bites! *Hope you enjoy them as much as I have over the years! MHB*

EASY CHEESE SOUFFLE

| | |
|---|--------------|
| ¼ lb. (one stick) margarine | 6 eggs |
| 1 8-oz. jar sharp cheddar cheese spread | 2½ cups milk |
| 8-10 slices white bread, crusts removed | |

Grease a 9" X 13" baking dish. Fit the bread slices in a single layer in the baking dish, cutting to fit the last pieces. Cream margarine and cheese spread until thoroughly blended. Spread half the cheese mixture on one side of the bread slices, turn over and spread balance on second side. With a sharp knife, cut coated bread slices into 1 inch squares. Beat eggs slightly in a medium bowl. Add milk and mix well. Pour over bread slices. Cover baking dish with foil and refrigerate overnight. Before baking, let souffle stand at room temperature for 30 minutes. Preheat oven to 325 degrees F. Uncover souffle and bake for 1 hour, or until top is puffed and brown. Serve immediately. Serves 8.

ARTICHOKE AND MUSHROOM STRATA

| | |
|---|--|
| 6 whole eggs | ½ teaspoon dried oregano |
| 2 egg whites | ½ teaspoon salt |
| 2½ cups milk (regular or low-fat) | Freshly grated black pepper, to taste |
| 1 cup sliced mushrooms | 6-10 slices of sour dough, white or egg bread, sliced ½-inch thick |
| 1 6-oz. jar marinated artichoke hearts, well drained and coarsely chopped | 1½ cups (6 oz.) shredded jalapeno Jack cheese |
| 4 green onions, sliced | |
| 1 teaspoon drained basil | |

Grease a 9 X 13-inch baking dish or spray with nonstick spray; set aside. In a medium bowl lightly mix eggs, egg whites and milk. Stir in mushrooms, artichokes, green onions, basil, oregano, salt and pepper.

Remove crusts from bread. Place in baking dish, cutting to fit. Sprinkle with cheese. Pour egg mixture over bread. Cover with foil and refrigerate at least 12 hours or overnight. Before baking, let strata stand at room temperature for 30 minutes. Place rack in center of oven and preheat to 325 degrees F. Uncover and bake for 70 to 75 minutes, or until top is puffed and brown. Serve immediately. Serves 8-10.

ARTICHOKE NIBBLE

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 2 6-oz. jars artichoke hearts, coarsely chopped | ¼ teaspoon salt |
| 1 small onion, chopped | ⅛ teaspoon pepper and dried oregano |
| 1 garlic clove, minced | ½ lb. sharp cheddar cheese, grated |
| 5 eggs | ¼ cup fine, dry breadcrumbs |

Drain marinade from one jar into pan and sauté the onion and garlic. Discard other marinade. Beat eggs with fork, then combine all ingredients. Pour into a greased 7" X 11" baking pan and bake at 325° degrees for 30-40 minutes. Cool to room temperature and cut into one inch squares. Makes 77 appetizer bites.

Simchas

Congratulations to **Nancy Singer** on her election as president of Temple Sinai ... Yahser koach to **Mitch Karp** and his entire board for all taking



Nancy Singer

on the leadership of Temple Isaiah for another year ... Delighted to welcome **Yaacov Moshe**, son of **Rabbi Arik** and **Chaya Denebeim** of Chabad of Palm Springs, born December 20. Thrilled grandparents are **Rabbi**



Mitch Karp

Yonason and **Sussie Denebeim** and **Rabbi Shloimy** and **Bracha Friedman** ... Mazel tov to **Libby** and **Buddy Hoffman** on their amazing milestone of 70 years of marriage!



Libby and Buddy Hoffman

... Heard that one of the stars of "Tango Shalom," the opening film of this year's Jewish Film Festival, will be giving a concert at Temple Isaiah the night before the film festival begins! Watch for details ... Share your simchas with us. Email Miriam Bent at mhbentjcn@earthlink.net or call 760-323-0255.

Candle Lighting Times

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------|---------|
| Friday, February 4 | Shabbat Teruma | 4:37 pm |
| Friday, February 11 | Shabbat Tetzaveh | 4:44 pm |
| Friday, February 18 | Shabbat Ki Tisa | 4:50 pm |
| Friday, February 25 | Shabbat Vayakhel | 4:56 pm |

We Mourn the Passing of...

Nita Brasch, Jerome A. Corngold, Irwin James Greenfield, Faye Katlin and Jay Rosenthal. Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing.

Classifieds

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