

Jewish Community News

The Publication of the Jewish Federation of the Desert

www.jfedps.org

Tishrei/Cheshvan 5783 - October 2022

Jewish Men's Outreach Group of the Desert



Alan Potash

Jewish Federation
Chief Executive
Officer

Our campaign theme this year is Gathering for Good. I want to highlight a group in the valley that has been

gathering for good since it was created several years ago. Arnie Gillman had the idea of bringing people together to do good things for the community. He wanted to create a group for two purposes, to develop a social group to network and have fun and make a positive contribution to the community through charitable work. They have food drives, book drives, backpack drives, any kind of effort to help people

The group he established is Jewish Men's Outreach Group of the Desert.

They have been very successful on both accounts. Each year more and more people join the group which means they raise more money for their projects. As of last count they have over 160 members.

Recently, they were featured in the Desert Sun after their successful book drive for "Scooters Bottomless Bookshelf" at the Loma Linda Clinic in Indio, plus, their drive to fill backpacks for students at Martin Van Buren Elementary School. I could go on and on with the list of their charitable contributions,

but I want to thank the JMOGD for two things: being a member of the Jewish Men's Outreach Group of the Desert supporting the meaningful work for the Jewish Federation of the Desert. The other thing I want to thank them for is welcoming me to the community. I have spoken at and attended several of their events. These events have been well organized and enjoyable. I can understand why their membership keeps growing! Thank you.

Jewish Federation of the Desert Presents

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CHAIRS::

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Cabaret for a Cause



Jewish Federation
OF THE DESERT



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Murals Honor Heroes Who Saved Jews During Holocaust

By Shiryn Ghermezian, *The Algemeiner*

Artists 4 Israel has launched a global mural project that spotlights individuals who were honored as "Righteous Among The Nations" by Yad Vashem in an effort by the non-profit organization to combat antisemitism and expand Holocaust awareness.

More than 10 large-scale portrait-style murals will be created in cities around the world including France, Greece, Portugal and beyond, to honor the heroic actions of non-Jews who helped save lives during the Holocaust.

A team of local and world-renowned graffiti, street, mural and multimedia artists have painted the murals in highly populous locations, each honoring a different local hero from the Holocaust.

In Portugal, Artists 4 Israel created a massive portrait of Aristides de Sousa Mendes, a Portuguese consul general in Bordeaux, France, during World War II who issued more than 10,000 transit permits for people escaping Nazi persecution. When word reaching Lisbon about his actions, the Portuguese government dismissed Sousa Mendes from his position in the Foreign Ministry, leaving him destitute. He died penniless in 1954.

In Greece, a mural was created honoring Greek Orthodox bishop Metropolitan Chrysostomos and former Mayor Lucas Carrer. They refused to give the Nazis the names and addresses of all the Jews living on the Greek island of Zakynthos, and warned the island's Jews to go into hiding, according to Yad Vashem. The Jewish community stayed in hiding until the island was liberated from Nazi forces and remained mostly unharmed.

Each completed mural will also feature a QR code that pedestrians can scan on their handheld device to watch a short documentary film about the "Righteous Hero" painted in front of them. The films will explain the hero's connection to the local community and will also feature archival footage, survivor testimonials, behind the scenes moments with the artists and the mural's painting process. The short films will together become a docu-series available online and later on a full-length documentary, according to Artists 4 Israel.

The "Righteous Among the Nations



A mural of Metropolitan Chrysostomos and former Mayor Lucas Carrer in Greece created by Artists 4 Israel

Global Mural Project" takes "Holocaust education out of the museums and textbooks and delivers it in the form that matters most – on the streets and on social media – artistically delivered by

global influencers," Artists 4 Israel said. "The images and stories told will inspire new heroes through civic pride and social influence."



Jewish Federation
OF THE DESERT



I am excited to announce that on October 12th at 4:00 PM we will be hosting a virtual presentation with Lana Melman on her recently released book, *Artists Under Fire: the BDS War against Celebrities*. In her book she guides pro-Israel supporters with the resources to stand up to the cultural boycott campaign targeting artists who want to perform and work in Israel.

In *Artists Under Fire*, industry insider and activist Lana Melman puts BDS on trial. She exposes its strategy of using celebrities like Scarlett Johansson, Alicia Keys, Rihanna, the Rolling Stones, and more as pawns in its destructive crusade.

She calls out a vocal group of artists, led by Pink Floyd co-founder Roger Waters, who has joined the attack and created a star-studded battle between themselves and the thousands of musicians, filmmakers, and authors who refuse to be cowed.

Melman sounds the alarm about antisemitism's newest weapon and provides Israel's supporters with a step-by-step action plan to take it on. She also prods BDS followers to question the motives of their leaders, the company they are keeping, and the consequences of their actions.

RSVP by calling the Federation office at 760.324.4737.

Alan Potash, CEO



Partnering with Israel



Alan Potash

Jewish Federation
Chief Executive
Officer

I recently was in Israel to visit, meet with, evaluate and learn from our partners in Israel. I have to say we, as the supporters of the Jewish Federation of the Desert, can be proud of the financial support we have made to Israel over the years. The projects we invest in Israel are some of the most important projects in the country.

Our mission to support Jews in Israel and around the world and especially vulnerable Jews can be seen every day. I was incredibly impressed by the work in the region of Ramat HaNegev where some of our funds support impressive projects. One project that impressed me greatly was an alternative grade school for students with emotional and behavioral issues. The school has a sign in classic Israeli style referencing the Jewish Federation of the Desert indicating our philanthropic support. We should look past the signage and look to the amazing work the teachers, volunteers and counselors put into the support, devotion and love to the students. The core curriculum of the school is to work with the strengths and interests of the students not their

challenges or problems. They utilize, art, yoga, mindfulness, fun, and animal therapy along with the other academic areas. As for the animal therapy it isn't so much about caring for the animals, it is first about learning and building trust. As one student shared, "If the animal doesn't trust me, how can I take care of it."

One other project I want to share is because of current events. We support a youth at risk program in Nitzana. Nitzana is a remote community in southern Israel along the Egyptian border. The overall program is to help high school graduates who need some extra skill building before they go into the army. It also works to acclimate Bedouin youth into Israeli society. In addition, if they want to go into the IDF it helps them build the necessary skills to be successful in the army. Bedouins are not required to enter the army, but it helps them pursue become part of the general Israeli society.

These are all incredible programs but the one that moved me the most is the absorption of students who decided to come to Israel as a result of the current war in Ukraine. The unique story here is their counselors are Israeli young adults who come from Russian or Ukrainian backgrounds and who speak the language. The counselors in this program left their jobs at the beginning of the war and went to Poland and Moldova to help with the people fleeing Ukraine. As a result of this work, they decided they needed to continue working with the



Animal classroom at Ramat HaNegev



Youth at risk program in Nitzana

students when they arrived in Israel and help them with the process of becoming Israelis. These counselors left their jobs in Tel Aviv and Haifa and decided to go to the ends of Israel

to help these new immigrants. And you, our community, supporters of the Federation, are making this happen!!! Thank you.

Jewish Boys' High School Students Buy Their Teacher a Car!

Julio Castro, who just entered his fourth year of teaching at YULA (Los Angeles Yeshiva High School) in Los Angeles, lives in Santa Clarita and gets up at 4:15 a.m. every day to take the bus to school. He returns home around 9 p.m., after his three kids have gone to bed. Castro works through lunch and stays late to

tutor his students, so he really only sees his family on the weekends.

His dedication made such an impression that over the summer, Castro's students, led by YULA senior Joshua Gerendash, 17, dedicated their summer to raising \$30k to buy him a car.

Gerendash attributes his philanthropic

nature to his Jewish upbringing.

"Personally, I find more joy in helping people than receiving things myself," Gerendash said. "Mr. Castro has given so much of his time to helping me [and other students], I figured the least I could do was give back."

"What my students have done for

me means the world to me," Castro said. "Being part of YULA makes me feel like I've been accepted into a new family. I feel special. I feel grateful. I am speechless... It's not just a car. They gave me more time with my family."

EU Foreign Affairs Committee Blasts UNRWA Chief Over Palestinian Textbooks

Jewish News Syndicate

Members of the European Union's Parliament's influential Foreign Affairs Committee slammed United Nations Relief and Works Agency Commissioner General Philippe Lazzarini over the content of textbooks used by UNRWA schools.

During a hearing on August 31, the Committee's members cited findings from the latest report by Israeli NGO IMPACT-se, which monitors Palestinian curricula to assess whether young people are being indoctrinated with hate. The report, published in July this year, examined UNRWA's self-produced educational materials, and found that they promoted hatred, anti-Semitism and the celebration of terrorism, bloodshed and martyrdom.

E.U. Parliament representatives from across a range of political parties criticized UNRWA in light of the findings.

According to a press release by IMPACT-se, left-wing German member

Reinhard Bütikofer of the European Green Party criticized Lazzarini's position on the recent problematic findings in UNRWA's educational materials and UNRWA's tactic of attacking IMPACT-se.

"And I think [that] when you say, and I quote, that 'these are baseless and shameless accusations'—end of quote—then you are probably falling victim [to] the emotional dimensions," said Bütikofer. "I do not agree that those criticisms are 'baseless and shameless,' and I'm weary of having to go back to the same conversation year after year. I think it is an easy task to make sure that no anti-Semitic material will ever be financed. So, please—work on the problem[s], instead of insulting those that raise them."

The chair of the E.U.'s Foreign Affairs Committee (AFET), MEP David McCAlister, also criticized UNRWA's continued misconduct as an "endless saga" while calling for "sustainable

improvements" and explanations on ensuring neutrality in education.

The vice chair of the committee, MEP Željana Zovko, from the European Peoples Party, had a similar message for the UNRWA chief, stating, "So if you are in denial that there was an issue with the educational books, and you are going to say that we are all stupid here when we understood that there was an issue with these books. If in your mind there is no issue, then the issue was clearly not resolved."

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EDITORIAL

Alan Potash, CEO

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,

Miriam H. Bent, Editor

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HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES IN OUR COMMUNITY

לשנה טובה

BETH SHALOM: Services led by Ken Hailpern.

Held at new location: 42600 Cook Street, 2nd floor, Palm Desert. Rosh Hashanah morning services: Monday, September 26 & Tuesday, September 27. Kol Nidre: Tuesday, October 4; Yom Kippur: Wednesday, October 5. Proof of vaccination required. Information: 760-200-3636.

CHABAD OF PALM SPRINGS: Rabbi Yonason Denebeim, Rabbi Arik Denebeim, Rabbi Moishe Witkes. 250 East Palm Canyon, Palm Springs. Check website for service times: www.chabadpalm Springs.com. Information: 760-325-0774.

CHABAD OF RANCHO MIRAGE: Rabbi Shimon Posner, Rabbi Benny Lew. Rosh Hashanah services held at shul, 72295 Via Marta, Rancho Mirage. Yom Kippur Services held at Westin Mission Hills. Information: 760-770-7785; ChabadRM.com. (See ad page 13)

CHABAD LA QUINTA: Rabbi Moshe Katz. 50620 Eisenhower Drive #G-3, La Quinta. Information: www.ChabadLQ.com; 760-709-2431.

CONGREGATION HAR-EL: Rabbi Richard A. Zionts, Ph.D., Cantor Joseph Gole, D. Mus.

Online and in-person services – Erev Rosh Hashanah and first day; Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur. Email harelurjpd@gmail.com for location information and/or Zoom invitation. (See ad page 12)

DESERT OUTREACH SYNAGOGUE: Rabbi Dr. Jules King, Cantor Lori Reisman.

Services held at Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert, 72425 Via Vail, Rancho Mirage. Rosh Hashanah service Monday, September 26. Kol Nidre/Yom Kippur Services October 4/5. Information: 760-449-0111.

OR HAMIDBAR: Rabbi David Lazar, Rabbi Debi Shoua-Haim. Services held at the United Methodist Church of Palm Springs, 1555 East Alejo, Palm Springs. Rosh Hashanah service Monday, September 26. Kol Nidre/Yom Kippur Services October 4/5. Information: orhamidbar.org.

SUN CITY JEWISH SERVICES: Rabbi Dr. Kenneth Emert, Cantorial Soloist Alan Scott. All services will be held in Sierra Ballroom Mountain View Clubhouse in Sun City Palm Desert other than second day Rosh Hashanah, with that service in the San Gorgonio Room of the clubhouse. Tickets required for all services. Proof of vaccination required. Information: Call Nadine Brinhendler, 707-332-3947.

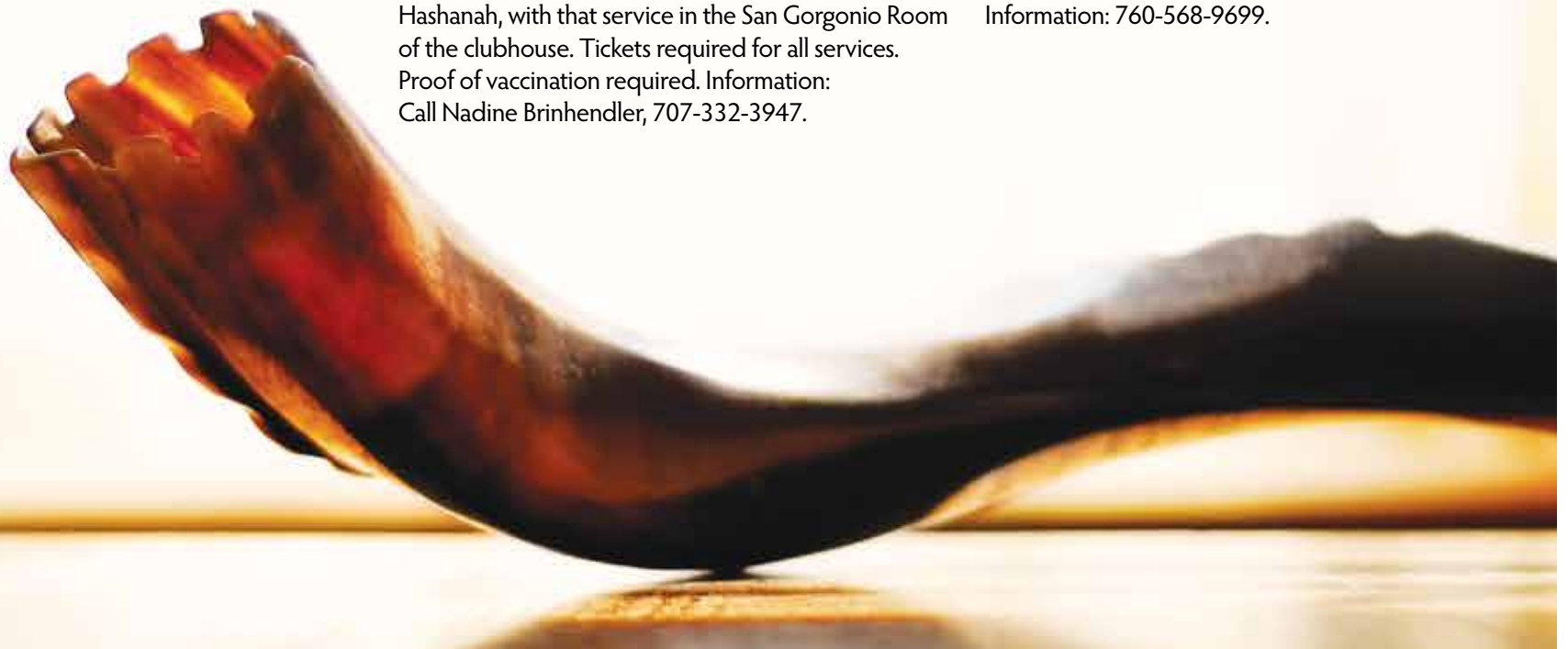
TEMPLE HAR SHALOM: Idyllwild: Rabbi Emeritus Jonathan Jaffe Bernhard. All services held at St. Hugh's, 25525 Tahquitz, Idyllwild. Erev Rosh Hashanah, first day Rosh Hashanah, Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur. No tickets required.

TEMPLE ISAIAH: Palm Springs. Rabbi Steven Rosenberg, Cantor Ken Cohen.

322 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs. In-person services (proof of vaccination required) and live-streamed. Erev Rosh Hashanah services Sunday, September 25. Rosh Hashanah morning services: Monday, September 26 & Tuesday, September 27. Kol Nidre: Tuesday, October 4; Yom Kippur: Wednesday, October 5. Information: Check website: Templeisiahps.com or call 760-325-2281.

TEMPLE SINAI: Palm Desert. Rabbi David Novak. Cantorial Soloist Wayne Abravanel.

73-251 Hovley Lane West, Palm Desert. Erev Rosh Hashanah services Sunday, September 25. First day Rosh Hashanah morning services: Monday, September 26. Kol Nidre: Tuesday, October 4; Yom Kippur: Wednesday, October 5. Information: 760-568-9699.



Department of Education Launches Investigation into Antisemitism Allegations at University of Vermont

By Dion J. Pierre, *The Algemeiner*

The US Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) has opened a formal civil rights investigation into allegations of antisemitism at the University of Vermont (UVM).

According to a complaint filed by the Brandeis Center and Jewish on Campus (JOC) in October 2021, UVM's Hillel Center was vandalized and Jewish students who embrace Zionism were harassed by a teaching assistant and expelled from student clubs, including UVM Empowering Survivors, a sexual assault awareness group. Hostility toward Jews, the groups said, was so severe that Jewish students concealed their identities and weighed leaving the university altogether.

"All of these incidents — the exclusion of Jewish Zionist students from UVM student groups, the targeting of the Hillel building, and the TA's social media posts — have been reported to the UVM administration," the complaint said. "To date, however, the university has taken no steps to rectify the situation."

Ultimately, the complaint continued, the exclusion of Jewish students based on the Zionist element of their identity has denied them "equal access to educational opportunities and services," violating Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Responding to The

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



The University of Vermont in Burlington

Algemeiner's request for comment on what is alleged, a University of Vermont spokesperson said, "The university is aware of the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights investigation and is looking forward to providing the agency with a full response to the underlying allegations, each of which was reported to the university in 2021 and investigated by campus officials."

"UVM seeks to foster a culture of inclusiveness for all students, faculty, and staff, including members of our Jewish community and does not tolerate acts of bias or discrimination related to religion, race, culture, gender, or sexual orientation on our campus," he continued.

The incidents OCR will review go back to 2021, when a teaching assistant wrote that she considered penalizing students who embraced Zionism and called on other students to desecrate the Israeli flag and cyberbully them.

"Is it unethical for me, a TA, to not give zionists credit for participation???", the teaching assistant wrote to an unnamed recipient.

Later, on Twitter, she said, "serotonin rush of bullying Zionists on the public domain...next step is to make zionism...worthy of public condemnation."

That same spring, administrators of UVM Empowering Survivors' Instagram page "blocked" Jewish students to, it said, "hold our peers accountable for their pro-Israel or Zionist stances."

The group's action triggered a cascade of bigoted events. The UVM Revolutionary Socialist Union (RSU) later announced that it would not accept Zionists and amended its constitution to require students to denounce Zionism as a condition of membership in the group. Just months later, a mob of students hurled stones and doused with a sticky substance the university's residence for students enrolled in the Exploring Jewish Culture Program, which is located in UVM's Burack Hillel Center.

"Are you Jewish?" one rock throwing student yelled at a Jewish student who peered out a window that had been struck to ask the group to end the attack.

"Jewish students were being told they're not welcome, and the university

just refused to listen, causing the students to feel ignored and shunted aside," Brandeis Center president Alyza D. Lewin told *The Algemeiner* on Tuesday. "It didn't matter how many times they tried to explain that Judaism is more than a religion and that the discrimination targeting them is based on their ancestry and ethnicity."

OCR's investigation, which started in August, is the latest high profile investigation of antisemitism at an American university. That same month, the Brandeis Center and Jewish on Campus requested another civil rights inquiry into SUNY New Paltz's handling of a case in which two Jewish women were kicked out of a sexual assault awareness group because they are Zionists.

"This investigation is going to go a very long way toward raising awareness and educating the public, and particular, university administrators, to see this kind of antisemitism and realize that they must take steps to address it," Lewin said.

Temple Sinai Events in October

Temple Sinai and Sabra Hadassah invite you to "A Musical Adventure of Broadway and Popular Tunes" featuring Wendy and Rik in the style of Randy z"l and Marilyn Tichauer on Sunday, October 23 at 3:00 p.m. at Temple Sinai. Marilyn Tichauer is our honorary chair. General admission is \$50.00 and \$60.00 after October 14, 2022. Sponsorships which include preferred admission and the VIP reception are available by contacting Temple Sinai at (760) 568-9699.

Temple Sinai's adult education kicks into high gear with two offerings. Tuesday afternoon October 25 at 4:00 p.m. is "Torah in Translation," a weekly



Children participating in Temple Sinai Religious School

class held on Zoom where participants join Rabbi David Novak in reading the Torah in various English translations.

No prior experience is necessary to join the class. Contact the rabbi for the Zoom information.

On Thursdays beginning October 27 at 11:45 in Temple Sinai's Goodman Chapel, Rabbi Novak will host a weekly "Lunch 'n Learn" where he will teach on various topics that he brings and that are brought to the class by the attendees.

Our Rabbi Avi Levine Communal Religious School, sponsored by the Jewish Federation of the Desert, continues to meet. Students from kindergarten through sixth grade are invited to enroll in a program that focuses on building Jewish knowledge and relationships.

Druze Students Outperform on Israeli Matriculation Exams

By Algemeiner Staff

Israeli students from Druze schools are among the most likely to successfully complete their high school matriculation exams, according to data released by the Education Ministry on September 13.

Data for the 2020-2021 school year found that the Druze towns of Buq'ata in the Golan Heights and Peki'in in the Upper Galilee had the highest rate — 100% — of students eligible to receive their high school matriculation certificates, known as teudat bagrut. The document, which is a prerequisite for students seeking higher education, is awarded to those who pass the Ministry of Education's matriculation exams.

Other towns on the list — which generally have relatively small class sizes — are the Druze town of Beit Jann on Mount Meron (99%), the Arab town of Kaukab Abu al-Hija in the Lower Galilee

(99%), and the Druze town of Hurfeish in the Upper Galilee (98%).

Also high performing were the settlements of Elkana and Ariel in the West Bank, with a 99% and 96% eligibility rate respectively, local media reported.

Cities with a higher population that also made an appearance at the top of the list include Givatayim (98%), Ramat Hasharon (97%), Givat Shmuel (97.5%), all within the Gush Dan metropolitan area, as well as Lev Hasharon (96%), just north of Tel Aviv.

On the other end of the spectrum, localities with a significantly lower eligibility rate include Hatzor HaGlilit in the northern district (53%) and Ofakim in the south (43%), as well as Arab and Haredi towns including Shaqib al-Salam, Beit Shemesh, Elad, Bnei Brak, and Modi'in Ilit.



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Have memories of the history of our Jewish community to share?

Who knows the history of the Jewish community of the Palm Springs and the Desert? In order to plan for the future needs of the Jewish community I am interested in learning more about the History of the Jewish community. Let me know if you have memories or stories about the early days of the Jewish community, the synagogues, the Federation, and other Jewish organizations.

Alan Potash, CEO

(alan.potash@jfedps.org - 760-324-4737)

Germany's Public Broadcaster Mandates that All Employees Support Israel's Right to Exist

By Toby Axelrod, JTA

Germany's public broadcaster, Deutsche Welle, has revised its code of conduct to require support for Israel's right to exist, and employees who fail to do so may now be fired.

The move announced September 1 preceded a court order a week later that DW reinstate a former employee fired who was fired after the company determined she had made comments about Israel that could be construed as antisemitic. In all, seven employees from the broadcaster's Arabic service were let go last year on similar grounds, and so far two have successfully sued DW for reinstatement.

The revised conduct code appears to be timed to strengthen the company's hand in such cases in the future. DW spokesperson Vera Tellmann told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in an email that the company "is awaiting the reasons for the verdict in one case and reserves the right to take further legal action."

DW is not the only German media company to expressly endorse Israel's right to exist. In 1967, the Axel Springer company, one of Germany's biggest media conglomerates that now owns Politico and Insider, established "corporate principles" that include "support [for] the Jewish people and the right of existence of the State of Israel."

The DW code made public on September 1 declares that "Germany's

historical responsibility for the Holocaust is also a reason for which we support the right of Israel to exist."

It also adds that "discrimination of any kind, such as sexism, racism and antisemitism... can have consequences in terms of labor law, including dismissal."

Tellmann told JTA that labor law consequences would be applied "depending on the severity of the violations." Denial of Israel's right to exist would be such a violation, she added.

Five years ago, Germany formally accepted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism, in a move designed to provide clarity for the prosecution of related crimes. The definition includes denial of Israel's right to exist as a form of antisemitic speech. Critics of the IHRA definition, including some Jewish progressives, say it has a chilling effect on free speech, although it does not categorize all criticism of Israel as antisemitic.

It is already illegal in Germany to disseminate Nazi propaganda and to deny the Holocaust. Violations are punishable by fines or prison terms.

In addition, Germany has barred calls for Israel's destruction in anti-Israel demonstrations, confiscating posters and prosecuting protesters based on the chanting of some slogans, noted Berlin-based attorney Nathan Gelbart, former chair of the United Jewish Appeal in Germany.

"There is only one people whose right of self-determination is being denied and questioned consistently," Gelbart, who represents various Jewish and pro-Israel organizations, wrote in an email to JTA. "Therefore it is adequate and justified to name support of the right of the State of Israel to exist in the code of conduct at DW."

He added that the IHRA definition addresses "modern antisemitism,

which is not only right-wing based hatred against Jews but is also dressed in political slogans disguised as Israel criticism."

The European Legal Support Center, which advocates for Palestinians across Europe and the United Kingdom, expressed a different view of the IHRA definition in responding to the situation surrounding Farah Maraqa, the Palestinian Deutsche Welle journalist who recently won her reinstatement case.

"This case is illustrative of a worrying trend in Germany of institutionalised silencing of Palestinian voices and narratives by employing malicious practices," the ELSC told Al Jazeera. "It depicts how the anti-Palestinian sentiment and the institutional use of the IHRA definition can lead to severe infringements upon the freedom of expression and freedom of the press."

Tellmann told JTA that the wording in the code of conduct is based on the IHRA working definition. "The IHRA is also explicitly cited (and linked) in the Chief Editor's Journalistic Guidelines, as are several examples that are part of the IHRA definition," she added, noting that DW also had consulted with the commissioner for Jewish life in Germany and various civil rights groups: the Fight Against Anti-Semitism, the Competence Center for Prevention and Empowerment, the Berlin-based anti-racism advocacy group Amadeu Antonio Foundation and the Anne Frank Educational Center.

On Sept. 7, DW also added a terse definition of antisemitism to its website: "Antisemitism is a hostility toward Jews based on nationalism, Social Darwinism and racism. It was a central idea of National Socialism and ultimately led to the Holocaust."

While the definition of antisemitism is narrow, the company's revised code of conduct introduced Sept. 1 does

include Israel. DW, it reads, rejects "all forms of discrimination including sexism, racism and antisemitism. Germany's historical responsibility for the Holocaust is also a reason for which we support the right of Israel to exist."

Tellmann, in her email to JTA, said the code had also added "a reference to DW's underlying rules and regulations" to ensure that they "also apply if they are not explicitly mentioned" in the code of conduct.

Maraqa was one of seven employees fired from the broadcaster's Arabic service in February 2021 after an external investigation commissioned by DW found they had crossed the line with statements made both on and off the job. According to the Bild newspaper, one of the terminated journalists had called Israel a "cancer that should be cut out." Another wrote in a 2018 guest essay that a "Jewish lobby controls many German institutions" in order to prevent criticism of Israel. In 2019, a freelancer and trainer at the DW Academy compared Jews to ants that had invaded "through our weak points." The specific journalists who made these statements were not named.

In response to the revelations, DW also announced in December 2021 the termination of its cooperation with the Jordanian broadcaster TV Roya. According to Tellmann, the relationship with Roya was "audited according to a newly introduced system. Based on the results, the management will soon decide on a possible continuation of the cooperation — provided that it does not violate DW values."

A new internal team on "Anti-Semitism, Jewish Life and Israel and the Palestinian Territories" was established, with seven editors, Tellmann said, adding that the broadcaster's office in Israel was also beefed up with additional staff.



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Unearthed Byzantine Mosaic Hailed as One of Gaza's Greatest Archaeological Treasures

Discovered and painstakingly excavated by an olive farmer planting a tree, find sparks excitement among archeologists, but also concern it could be damaged in conflict-ravaged zone

By Fares Akram, *The Times of Israel*

Last spring, a Palestinian farmer was planting a new olive tree when his shovel hit a hard object. He called his son, and for three months, the pair slowly excavated an ornate Byzantine-era mosaic that experts say is one of the greatest archaeological treasures ever found in Gaza.

The discovery has set off excitement among archaeologists, and the territory's Hamas rulers are planning a major announcement in the coming days.

But it is also drawing calls for better protection of Gaza's antiquities, a fragile collection of sites threatened by a lack of awareness and resources as well as the constant risk of conflict between Israel and local Palestinian



Byzantine-era mosaic floor that was uncovered by a farmer in Bureij in central Gaza Strip, September 5, 2022.



Details of parts of the Byzantine-era mosaic floor

militants.

The mosaic was uncovered just a kilometer (half a mile) from the Israeli border. The floor, boasting 17 iconographies of beasts and birds, is well-preserved and its colors are bright.

"These are the most beautiful mosaic floors discovered in Gaza, both in terms of the quality of the graphic representation and the

complexity of the geometry," said René Elter, an archaeologist from the French Biblical and Archaeological School of Jerusalem.

"Never have mosaic floors of this finesse, this precision in the graphics and richness of the colors been discovered in the Gaza Strip," he said.

Elter says the mosaic pavement dates back to a time between the

5th and the 7th centuries. But he said a proper excavation must be conducted to determine when exactly it was built and whether it was part of a religious or secular complex.

Elter, who has conducted research in Gaza in the past, has not been able to visit the site but viewed a series of photos and videos taken by local research partners.

The Gaza Strip, a Palestinian coastal enclave sandwiched between Israel and Egypt, was a bustling trade route between Egypt and the Levant in ancient times. The coastal strip is full of remains of ancient civilizations, from the Bronze Age to the Islamic and Ottoman eras.

However, the treasures are rarely protected. In the past, they were looted. In recent years, some were damaged or destroyed by development projects or fighting with Israel. An Israeli-Egyptian blockade imposed after the Hamas terror group took over Gaza in 2007 has ravaged the economy, leaving few resources for the protection of antiquities. Israel says the measure is necessary to prevent the smuggling of dual-use materials that can be used as weapons.

Hamas itself pays little attention to preserving the sites as it struggles to meet the needs of a rapidly growing population. More than 2.3 million people are squeezed in the strip's just 300 square kilometers (115 square miles). In 2017, Hamas bulldozers destroyed large parts of a site containing remains

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from a 4,500-year-old Bronze Age settlement to make housing projects for its employees.

Early this year, bulldozers digging for an Egyptian-funded housing project in northern Gaza unearthed a Roman-era tomb.

While these sites also have mosaics, Elter said the latest discovery, in the central Gaza town of Bureij, is "exceptional."

The Hamas-run department of antiquities described the mosaic as "a big archaeological discovery" but refused to comment further, saying there will be a formal announcement later.

The owner of the land, who refused to be identified before the

official announcement, has covered the unearthed portion of the mosaic floor with tin sheets. He said he hopes to receive compensation for protecting the unique discovery on his property.

The patch of land holding the mosaic is about 500 square meters (5,400 square feet) and three dug-out spots reveal glimpses of the mosaic.

The largest of the holes in the ground, about 2 meters by 3 meters (6 feet by 9 feet), has the 17 drawings of animals. The other two show intricate patterns of tiles. Roots of an old olive tree have damaged parts of the mosaic, which appears to be about 23 square meters (250 square feet) altogether in size.

Elter said the discovery is in "immediate danger" because it is so close to the Israeli separation fence. Such areas along the fence are often the scene of intermittent clashes or Israeli incursions. Just last month, Israel and Gaza's Islamic Jihad militant group fought a fierce three-day battle that included Israeli shelling of militant posts and the landing of

some misfired Palestinian rockets in the area.

Elter also worries that excavations by inexperienced people could damage the site. His hope is a professional team can properly excavate, restore and protect the mosaic. "It is imperative to quickly organize an emergency rescue intervention," Elter said.



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Israel to Measure Inequality Between Mizrahi and Ashkenazi Jews with New Statistics

By Asaf Elia-Shalev, JTA

Imagine if little was known about the extent of racial inequality in the United States because the government followed a policy of lumping together Blacks, whites, Hispanics, and Asians in official statistics.

In Israel, such a policy has been in place for decades, making it difficult to understand inequality among Jews of different ethnicities — but that is about to change.

After decades of withholding statistics on socioeconomic

differences between Jews of Ashkenazi or European origins, and those of Mizrahi or North Africa and Middle Eastern origin, Israel's national statistical bureau decided last month to begin publishing data that is expected to shed light on one of the most politically charged divisions in Israeli society.

It will become possible to learn far more than is currently known about gaps in wealth, education and other factors between Ashkenazi and Mizrahi Jews.

Historically, and to a significant extent still, Ashkenazi Jews have populated Israel's upper class while Mizrahi Jews have been poorer as a whole, with discriminatory policies from Israel's early years to blame for the inequality. This pattern maps onto Israel's electoral landscape, shaping the country's politics.

Last year, sociologist Sigal Nagar-

Ron wrote an academic article tracing how Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics helped enshrine the two categories of Jewish ethnicity during Israel's first few decades, and then, starting in the 1980s, largely abandoned such metrics, under the notion that differences among Jews of various background would disappear over time in the Israeli melting pot.

She argued, however, that the bureau's decisions have led to a "statistical blindness" about current-day inequality. Much more is known, for example, about gaps between Arabs and Jews because the bureau publishes extensive statistics comparing people based on those categories.

Ignorance, however, doesn't absolve the bureau of responsibility over the inequality among Jews of different backgrounds, Nagar-Ron told Israeli newspaper Haaretz last

year. She said Israeli policy "hampers the ability to examine the role of ethnicity in the mechanisms of inequality in Israel today and fix the situation." Other Mizrahi social justice advocates, such as members of the Mizrahi Democratic Rainbow and the feminist Ahoti movement, have made similar arguments in decades past.

Researchers have been able to estimate the level of inequality among Jews in Israel through proxies such as education, with findings that Ashkenazi Jews are vastly overrepresented in university faculties and among academic degree holders. These studies try to inform a public arena that becomes regularly when inflamed politicians and celebrities comment on Ashkenazi-Mizrahi relations.

When Nagar-Ron asked the bureau to make the data available last December, she was rebuffed by the bureau's head at the time, Danny Pfeffermann. "Mizrahim and Ashkenazim? That story is from 50 years ago. It's irrelevant today. Everyone is mixed," he said, according to Nagar-Ron.

Pfeffermann's impression about the rate of birth from intermarried couples, which is widely shared among Israelis, appears to be off. Recent research estimates that as of 2018 only about 15% of Israeli Jews ages 25-43 were of mixed heritage. The proportion of Israelis of mixed backgrounds appears to be rising but it could take decades for them to become a majority.

By July, when the Association for Civil Rights in Israel filed a formal petition on the issue, the bureau had someone else at the helm. The newly installed national statistician, Yoel Finkel, responded less than a month later with a letter announcing a policy

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change.

"We understand how significant this matter is to the analysis of Israeli society and related issues, and we are aware that ethnicity in Israeli society is a key variable in social stratification, and in the creation of gaps and their perpetuation," Finkel wrote.

In the next few months, a team of demographers and other experts at the bureau will come up with a plan for calculating and publishing data on ethnicity, according to Finkel's letter.

The plan centers on Israelis of the so-called third generation, those with grandparents who immigrated to Israel from different parts of the world. It's a group that makes up more than half of Israel's Jewish population and whose ethnic origin is invisible in national statistics.

One way to collect data on who is Mizrahi and who is Ashkenazi would be to ask people how they define their origin. But there's also an objective metric available: For 94% of Israelis, the government already knows not only where they were born but also the country of origin of their parents and grandparents. That's because Israel's Population Authority and Interior Ministry keep track of immigration, births, deaths and marriages. The statistical bureau would need to cross-reference the other agencies' data with its own to generate socioeconomic statistics.

Among Mizrahi social justice activists, the bureau's decision is being celebrated as an important victory, according to Lihi Yona, a University of Haifa scholar who writes about how the lack of governmental recognition for the identity of Mizrahi Jews affects their standing in the legal system.

"Knowing more accurately where exactly Mizrahi Jews are still facing barriers and discrimination can help activists in knowing where to direct

resources, and help to push the conversation to where it needs to be: how to fight discrimination rather than how to prove it exists," Yona said.

She said denial of the existence of anti-Mizrahi discrimination is so pervasive that courts tend to overlook it.

"Similarly, while Israeli law dictates that policies of affirmative action secure representation of women, Palestinian citizens of Israel, Ethiopian Jews, and other minority groups, Mizrahi Jews are not considered a relevant group for affirmative action," she said. "One of the reasons for this misguided belief is that data regarding discrimination against Mizrahim is scarce."

Patterns of discrimination could be hiding in unexpected places, according to Yona, who gave the example of a recent study finding that, following traffic accidents, Ashkenazi victims are awarded higher compensation by Israeli courts than Mizrahi victims.

"There are so many other obscure dynamics of discrimination that the lack of data has prevented us from recognizing," she said. "This [decision by the bureau] could lift the veil from these dynamics, shining a light on places that require our immediate attention."

At the same time, Yona acknowledged, the data might

also shed light on ways in which Mizrahi Israelis have advanced over the past few decades. Such data would add context to the rise of Mizrahi representation in the media and entertainment industries and among Israel's ultra-rich and highly visible billionaire class.

In the political arena, ethnic identity can be a potent factor in how people vote — and how politicians campaign. For example, Likud, the party of Benjamin Netanyahu, who served as the longest-tenured Israeli prime minister before being defeated at the ballot box last year, has long commanded the support of many Mizrahi voters. Netanyahu is seeking to return to power this fall.

But the electoral strength of Mizrahi voters doesn't translate directly into representation in government. A 2021 analysis by nonprofit newsroom Hashomrim

found that Mizrahi Jews are still underrepresented. For example, Ashkenazi Jews have served atop major government ministries at about twice the rate as Mizrahi Jews over the preceding 20 years.

The move by Israel's statistics bureau should be seen as a break from the country's historic insistence on the melting pot concept, according to which differences among Jews are supposed to be erased in Israel, said Tamar Hermann, a senior research fellow at the Israel Democracy Institute.

She said a movement of sociologists has labored to show how the theory fails in practice, putting pressure on the government to acknowledge inequality.

"The idea was to see the Jewish group as a whole and not encourage fragmentation, but now the reality of the situation has forced itself upon this political agenda," she said.



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Israeli 'Prediction Platform' Improves Cancer Treatment Outcomes

OncoHost's prediction platform is geared to help physicians choose the best chemo or immunotherapy for each patient, rather than the hit and miss "one size fits all."

By Brian Blum, Israel21c

Treating cancer has traditionally been "one size fits all." Oncologists cannot reliably predict which medications are most likely to work in each individual and which are liable to lead to resistance.

Binyamina-based OncoHost is developing a platform that can predict exactly who will respond to what treatment.

The company has raised \$50 million to launch its PROphet system which, if it works as promised, could significantly aid physicians, cut clinic costs and, most importantly, reduce unnecessary deaths due to picking the wrong pharma horse to bet on.

The American Society of Clinical Oncology has defined "the identification of strategies to better predict patient response" to treatment as a high priority area of research.

ISRAEL21c spoke with Dr. Ofer Sharon, cofounder and CEO of OncoHost. He describes PROphet

as "a personalized, real-time dynamic 'disease navigator.'"

"Look at a 45-year-old man with lung cancer and an 85-year-old woman with the same disease," Sharon says.

"Treatment today looks at these two as if they are the same person, but that's not the case. They have different response patterns and different resistance. We start treating and we don't know which patients will benefit and which will not. It sometimes takes a long time to realize what's going on with your patient; time is not something patients with advanced cancer have."

OncoHost's technology starts with a single blood test. PROphet uses machine learning and artificial intelligence to analyze "proteomic patterns" (changes in the approximately 7,000 proteins produced in an organism) in the blood sample to monitor how a patient will do on a particular drug.

It helps with early identification of non-responsiveness to cancer

treatments and can also advance the discovery of new drug targets to overcome treatment resistance.

"Our aim is to provide clinicians with answers to three questions," Sharon explains. "Will my patient respond to treatment? Why is he or she not responding? And what should my next step be? So much is based on trial and error. We don't want to do that for a stage 4 lung cancer patient."

Proof is in the Proteins

OncoHost's technology is based on research by Prof. Yuval Shaked, head of the Integrated Cancer Center at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa. Shaked is the chief scientific advisor to OncoHost.

Shaked realized that while most research into cancer resistance has looked at changes related to tumors, it's also important to look at how the patient's body "protects" the cancer from the treatment. He discovered that

sometimes cancer therapies can even hasten progression of the disease.

Shaked initially looked at this in the context of chemotherapy (which typically harms both cancerous and healthy cells), but subsequently discovered that the same process occurs in almost every type of anti-cancer medication, including the most exciting advance in cancer treatment today: immunotherapy.

Shaked determined that the answer to this deadly conundrum would not be found in the DNA, Sharon tells ISRAEL21c.

"But if we can learn the patterns of host response [in the patient's body], then we can go back to the pre-treatment phase to see if those patterns existed before we started therapy. The protein patterns found in the blood are what will tell us if a patient will respond or not."

Why are proteins so important? Traditional cancer treatment prompts the host to release proteins and other growth factors that too often wind up shielding the tumors and allowing them to flare up and potentially metastasize – the exact opposite of what clinicians

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In First, Israeli Diplomat Appointed to Cabinet of Incoming President of UN General Assembly

By Sharon Wrobel, *The Algemeiner*

Sarah Weiss Ma'udi is the first Israeli diplomat ever to be appointed to the Cabinet team of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

Weiss Ma'udi, a veteran Israeli diplomat and legal adviser, will serve as a senior adviser and deputy team leader of the legal, budget and reform team at the Cabinet of the UNGA President-elect.

The appointment comes as Hungarian diplomat Csaba Korosi took over the helm as the 77th President of the UNGA on September 13.

Before her UNGA appointment, Weiss Ma'udi served as a counter-



Sarah Weiss Ma'udi

terrorism expert of the permanent mission of Israel to the UN in New York.

During her 2018-2022 tenure, Weiss Ma'udi was elected as the UN Legal Committee's vice chair to represent the Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG) of countries on the Sixth Committee – the first Israeli to serve in this role in over 20 years, and the first Israeli female diplomat to fill the post.

Weiss Ma'udi joined Israel's foreign ministry in Jerusalem in 2007, where she served as the Director of the International Law Department advising on legal matters related to maritime, water, international borders, amongst others.

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seek.

That isn't a fatal indictment for all cancer treatments. It just shows that certain drugs may not be suitable for every patient. Discerning what works and what doesn't in advance, before the cancer can spread too widely, is OncoHost's mission. The goal is to enable truly personalized medicine on a patient-by-patient basis.

This is particularly critical for immunotherapy, where only 20% to 30% of patients with solid tumors respond.

Data for Greater Success

Sharon says that OncoHost's predictive algorithms can "provide clinicians with a 12-month trajectory before treatment starts with an accuracy level for prediction vs. observed response of 98% at three months, six months and 12 months."

Once OncoHost has analyzed the resistance probabilities in a patient, it checks the results against a database of drug targets organized by specific proteins. Drugs can be those that have already been approved or those in development and clinical trials.

"We provide clinicians information that doesn't exist at such an early stage," Sharon notes. "We're not promising you success, but we're giving you the data."

What happens after 12 months? "We're doing a two-year follow up right now," Sharon says, which is the amount of time the company has been studying responses. OncoHost will eventually monitor patients for five years.

The technology is currently being tested on non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and melanoma. Blood cancers are not on the current agenda, in part because they respond well to the latest generation of immunotherapy and thus the need is less acute than with solid tumors.

OncoHost is currently conducting clinical trials at over 35 sites in Israel, Europe, the UK and the US, Sharon says. Some 700 lung cancer patients and 150 with melanoma have participated so far.

Individual Approach

Sharon joined the company in 2018, a year after it was founded. At the time, "The company was still debating whether it wanted to be a drug

development company or a diagnostic company. I took them in the diagnostic direction."

What prompted that decision?

"I was head of medical affairs for Merck in Israel when we launched Keytruda, a new immunotherapy drug," he tells ISRAEL21c. "It only worked for a minority of patients. That drove me crazy – that we cannot identify which patients will benefit from this treatment."

Also bothering Sharon: "We were looking at cancer by indication but not as human beings. So, we'd talk about lung cancer, not patient X who has a tumor in his lungs. There's a big difference between people."

After a patient's blood is drawn, it's sent to OncoHost's lab in North Carolina, which is due to start operating commercially later this summer. The company is working on a kit that can be used in-hospital, but that's still in trials, Sharon says.

Once the results are in, OncoHost sends a report as a PDF to the clinician. A more sophisticated interactive web product may come, but not yet. "We don't want to take any more time out of a busy doctor's schedule so that they

have to learn how to play with an app or a website. Doctors are very focused on seeing their patients," Sharon adds.

OncoHost hopes to launch in the US this fall, with the UK and Europe not far behind. A potential collaboration with the United Arab Emirates is also in early stages.

As a predictive platform, OncoHost is not limited to analyzing proteins. Sharon hints that PROphet will "look at many aspects of disease" and more types of cancer with breast, pancreatic and colorectal cancer coming next.

The kind of proteomic analysis OncoHost is doing is clearly on the cutting edge. "When we look at DNA, that's a potential biological process," Sharon says. "When we look at a protein, we're looking at actual biological processes."

It may seem like a niggling difference, but for people with stage 4 cancer, it could make all the difference in the world.





Shabbat Schedule - October 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

NOTE NEW LOCATION: 42600 Cook Street, Second Floor, Palm Desert, CA 92211, 760-200-3636.

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Mirage. On second Saturdays: 10:30-11:30 am Torah study on Zoom with Rabbi Axelrad. Check website for most current information: www.Desert-Outreach-Synagogue.com.

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A project of Chabad of Palm Springs & Desert Communities (Community Outreach) www.BikurCholimPS.com
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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**.

7:30-8:30 pm - "2B A Jew" - Or Hamidbar's introduction to Judaism. **Rabbi David Lazar** teaches about the holidays as they come up in the yearly calendar alongside foundations of Jewish practice and culture. Email info@orhamidbar.org for more information.

Tuesdays:

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

Wednesdays:

7:00 pm - Temple Isaiah "Reintroduction to Judaism" with **Rabbi Steven Rosenberg**. Online course on ZOOM. For those who want to learn more about their Jewish heritage or want to learn about Judaism for the first time. Email Rabbi at rabbisteven.rosenberg@gmail.com.

7:00 pm - Chabad of Palm Springs/Sun City: 'Ask the Rabbi': A Weekly Open Q & A with **Rabbi Yonason Denebeim**.

Thursdays:

10:00 am - noon: Or Hamidbar online course "Interfaith Study of the Acts of the Apostles" with **Rev. Dr. Stephen Kinney** and **Rabbi David Lazar**. For more information email info@orhamidbar.org.

8:00 pm - Chabad of Palm Springs - Virtual class: "JLI Torah Studies Course led by **Rabbi Baruch (Boz) Werdiger**. RSVP to [Boz Werdiger, boz@chabadps.com](mailto:boz@chabadps.com), or 760-550-5793.

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.

Saturday, October 8

9:45 am - noon: Desert Outreach Synagogue **Beit Sefer** religious school beginning session. Unitarian Church in Rancho Mirage's community room.

Wednesday, October 12

3:30 pm "Har-El Goes to the Movies" - A follow up on the Ken Burns documentary "The U.S. and

the Holocaust" on PBS. Presentation and discussion led by **Rabbi Hillel Cohn**. In person at the Jewish Federation community room and online. Sponsored in part by the Jewish Federation. No charge. For ZOOM invitation email harelurjpd@gmail.com.

Wednesday, October 12

4:00 pm Jewish Federation hosts Jewish Book Council virtual presentation with **Lisa Melman** on her recently released book *Artists Under Fire*. *RSVP by calling the Federation Office 760-324-4737. See information on page 2.*

Wednesday, October 19, 26, November 16, 30

3:30 pm Har-El Galen course: "The Middle East Today and Little Known History Behind the Present Situation." Taught by **Rabbi Richard Zions**, Ph.D. In person at the Jewish Federation community room and online. Sponsored in part by the Jewish Federation. No charge. For ZOOM invitation email harelurjpd@gmail.com.

Sunday, October 23

3:00 pm Sabra Hadassah and Temple Sinai present a **Musical Variety Performance by Wendy and Rik** at Temple Sinai. \$50

before October 14; \$60 thereafter. For information call Nancy Singer, 760-345-7647.

Monday, October 24

7:00 pm Chabad of Rancho Mirage **Women's Rosh Chodesh Society** upcoming course: "To Believe or Not to Believe in Yourself."

Tuesday, October 25

4:00 pm Temple Sinai begins weekly class on ZOOM, "Torah in Translation" where participants join **Rabbi David Novak** in reading the Torah in various English translations. Contact rabbi for ZOOM information.

Tuesday, October 25

5:00-7:00 pm Chabad Rancho Mirage's popular and weekly **BBQ** resumes for the season tonight. Reservations not required but helpful. Call 760-770-7785. Choose your own menu from steak to hot dogs to salmon, veggie burgers and salads.

Thursday, October 27

11:45 am **Rabbi David Novak** of Temple Sinai will host a weekly "Lunch 'n' Learn" held in Temple Sinai's Goodman Chapel.

Have you registered the Jewish Federation of the Desert with Amazon Smile as your nonprofit?



It couldn't be easier to register: 1. Go to smile.amazon.com 2. Register Jewish Federation of the Desert as your favorite charity 3. Shop! 4. Bookmark the smile.amazon.com page and don't forget to only shop through this link! We earn .5% of each purchase.

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Tribute Card Donations

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

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

Honorarium Tributes In Appreciation For:

- **Cora Ginsberg**, *Thank you from Jim and Peggy Greenbaum.*
- **Joyce Kaplan**, *Best wishes for a wonderful birthday, from Cora Ginsberg.*
- **Julian Levy**, *Happy birthday to a very special friend, from Eunice and Jerry Meister.*
- **Alan Potash**, *in your honor, from Eran Vaisben.*
- **Lila Rauch**, *In loving celebration of your birthday, from Cora Ginsberg and Pearle Rae Levey.*
- **Sherry and Howard Schor**, *Wishing you much happiness in your new home, from Nancy and Dennis Ditlove.*

Refuah Shleimah Get Well:

- **Linda and Rick Rumick**, *Wishing you a speedy and complete recovery, from Toni and Bobby Garmisa.*
- **Carole Sukman**, *Get well wishes from Eunice and Jerry Meister.*

Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:

- **Miriam and David Bent**, *In memory of your beloved husband and father Nat, from Judy and Elliott Bernstein.*
- **Miles Berger**, *In memory of your beloved wife Sally, from Susie and Bob Diamond, Ellen and Phil Glass, Leslie and Barry Usow.*
- **Cheryl Fey**, *In memory of your beloved husband Bob, from Linda Sage, and Leslie and Barry Usow.*
- **Jeanne Himy and Family**, *In memory of your beloved husband David, from Phil and Ellen*

Glass, Marnie Miller and Joe Noren, Gail and Bob Scadron, Phyllis and Gary Schahet, Sherry and Howard Schor.

- **Bobbi Holland**, *Heartfelt sympathies on the loss of your dear friend Sally Berger, from Leslie and Barry Usow.*
- **Levy Family**, *In memory of Don Levy, from Mark Krasne.*
- **Mrs. Richard Lewis**, *In memory of your beloved husband Dick, from Marnie Miller.*
- **Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Perlman and Family**, *Our deepest sympathy on the loss of your beloved sister Deedee, from Gail and Bob Scadron.*
- **Carole Sukman**, *In memory of your beloved sister Herma Altshule, from Toni and Bobby Garmisa, and Mark Krasne.*
- **Suzanne Weinstein and Family**, *In memory of your beloved husband and father Joel, from Ruth and Mal Kaufman.*

Top German Antisemitism Official Calls for Tighter Control of Documenta Art Show in Wake of Anti-Jewish Exhibits

By Allgemeiner Staff

The head of the German federal government's office for combating antisemitism has vociferously condemned the Documenta festival of contemporary art in the city of Kassel over a series of scandals involving antisemitic works of art.

"The Documenta shows how completely unchecked Israel-related antisemitism came to Germany from another country," Felix Klein — the federal government's antisemitism commissioner — observed in a newspaper interview on September 2.

Beset by widespread criticism of the antisemitic artworks that were either removed or haphazardly covered over at this year's festival — curated

by ruangrupa, an Indonesian artists collective — Documenta's management team has faced severe criticism of its approach to antisemitism since January, when revelations of ruangrupa's support for the so-called "Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions" (BDS) campaign targeting Israel first emerged.

Subsequently, the Documenta festival featured a mural containing classic antisemitic caricatures, a triptych featuring a man wearing a kippah proffering large bags of money, a brochure featuring antisemitic drawings of Israeli soldiers and a row over the statements of Hamja Ahsan, a British artist exhibiting at the festival, who praised the BDS movement and

slammed German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who canceled a visit to the festival in protest at the presence of antisemitic works, as a "fascist pig."

According to Klein, some of the artworks "could also have been in the Nazi hate newspaper Der Stürmer." He urged due consideration of "criminal consequences" for the exhibition organizers. Antisemitic incitement and mocking or denying the Holocaust is illegal in Germany. In future, the federal government, which funds the festival, should have a greater role in organizing it, by appointing a supervisory board to review works proposed for exhibition, Klein said.

Klein also urged the full

implementation of the May 2019 resolution of the Bundestag, Germany's parliament, that classified the BDS campaign as antisemitic.

"We must take action against the BDS movement with all political and social means," he declared.

Klein further warned that antisemitic feeling could surge in Germany later this year, amid a growing economic crisis and shortages of heating fuel during the winter as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"Unfortunately, blaming Jews for crises is a pattern in Germany," Klein stated. "You can feel that something is brewing,"

Israel Gives Green Light to Nationwide Plan to Boost High-Tech Workforce

By Sharon Wrobel, *The Algemeiner*

On September 11th Israel approved a nationwide plan to develop and boost its high-tech workforce with a focus on the integration of underrepresented populations from the Arab to the Haredi communities as the country suffers from a shortage of skilled workers.

"Hi-tech education from a young age, as well as expanding representation and roles, are essential steps. This is right morally and it is right economically," Prime Minister Yair Lapid stated. "Our government is not talking about preserving the status quo, but about breakthroughs."

"Israel has the characteristics and the potential to be one of the ten most successful countries in the world; this plan is a good start," Lapid remarked.

Over the next five years, the supply of skilled high-tech workers is expected to outstrip demand and lead to a shortage of over 100,000 employees, according to a governmental report cited by Israeli business news portal Calcalist.

The approved government plan includes a high-tech education program, which will start from the current school year to improve technological, cognitive and digital proficiency to help the younger generation to adapt to the needs of the 21st century labor market. About 600 8th grade classrooms in around 120 schools and about 1,500 kindergartens will be part of this year's pilot plan. Next year, the pilot will be expanded to additional 8th and 9th grade classrooms with a focus

on the periphery before the plan will be spread to all schools around the country.

"Exposing kindergarten-age children to innovation, technology and spoken English, alongside a new plan for middle schools, is important in making the field more accessible to all Israeli children, and will assist in reducing gaps and creating equal opportunities," said Education Minister Dr. Yifat Shasha-Biton.

In addition, the government has set a goal to add 4,500 tech workers from the Arab sector, and 2,500 from the ultra-orthodox sector, with at least 45 percent of the Israel Innovation Authority trainees being women.

In 2022 to 2026, Israel seeks to recruit

at least 1,500 high-tech personnel with relevant education from abroad, including those who are eligible under the Law of Return.

"The plan will tangibly strengthen the Israeli high-tech industry, boost links with world Jewry and serve as positive diplomacy for the State of Israel," Israel's government said in a statement.

During the same period, the government has a goal to increase by 2,000 the number of foreign experts coming to Israel to work for high-tech companies. As part of the project, the Israel Innovation Authority will operate support centers to assist high-tech companies in removing bureaucratic barriers and bringing high-tech workers from abroad.

Israel Forum in Panama Draws 14 Nations

Jewish News Syndicate

The second annual Central America-Israel Forum concluded on Thursday in Panama City, Panama, with Latin American Jewish leaders and dignitaries celebrating Israel's relations with Central American countries.

The focus of this year's forum was strengthening ties between Christians and Jews.

A total of 14 countries in the region took part in the event from Sept. 6-8, according to B'nai B'rith International, which co-sponsored the forum. It was organized by the Combat Antisemitism

Movement (CAM), the Center for Jewish Impact and the Panama-Israel Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group.

Dozens of ministers, politicians, mayors, religious leaders and heads of NGOs participated in the forum. Guests included human-rights activist Natan Sharansky, chair of the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy; Panama's Minister of Education Maruja Gorday de Villalobos; Gerardo Amarilla, vice minister of environment in Uruguay; and Fernando Lottenberg, the commissioner to monitor and combat

anti-Semitism for the Organization of American States.

The participants discussed relations between Central America, Israel and the United States, and addressed the global issue of Jew-hatred and anti-Semitism.

In a virtual message, B'nai B'rith CEO Daniel Mariaschin thanked organizers and participants for helping to fight anti-Semitism and strengthening ties between Israel and Central America. He further thanked evangelical and non-Jewish leaders at the forum for their "friendship and support."

"It is comforting to know that we are not alone in the fight against anti-Semitism and in the sometimes-uphill battle against those who seek to delegitimize and demonize the State of Israel, the only true democracy in the Middle East," he said.

Also at the forum, CAM presented Guatemalan Foreign Minister Maric Bucaro with the first-ever "Diplomatic Advocate for Israel" award in honor of his efforts to improve ties between Guatemala and Israel over the course of his career.



The pandemic taught us to 'find what we are looking for' by going online, and many organizations developed programs to keep their members informed, as did we at the Jewish Federation. But now with restrictions easing, the need is lessened, and many of you have not shared your email addresses with us, so are not getting our once a week eblasts on Fridays, packed with important and interesting news. It's an easy fix. Email us your email to: info@jfedps.org



In First, Morocco's Military Chief Visits Israel

Lt.-Gen. Belkhir El Farouk joins chiefs of staff and commanders from 25 countries for a military conference.

By Aryeh Savir, TPS/World Israel News

For the first time in history, Inspector General of the Moroccan Armed Forces, Lt.-Gen. Belkhir El Farouk arrived in Israel, to participate in the IDF's International Operational Innovation Conference. IDF Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Aviv Kochavi led an honor guard as El Farouk arrived on September 13th.

Israel's Police Commissioner Yaakov Shabtai, Israel's Minister of Justice Gideon Sa'ar, Issawi Frej, Israel's Minister of Regional Cooperation, and IDF Chief of Staff Major General Aviv Kochavi were in Morocco for an official visit over the summer.

On September 12th the IDF launched



Inspector General of the Moroccan Armed Forces, Lt.-Gen. Belkhir El Farouk (L) and IDF Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Aviv Kochavi, September 13, 2022.

its first International Operational Innovation Conference, attended by nine Chiefs of Staff and commanders from 25 armies from all over the world

who came to Israel to discuss topics of innovation and future challenges on the modern battlefield in the week-long event.

The US, Greece, Germany, Italy, France, Cyprus, Finland, Poland, Morocco, the Czech Republic, India, Holland, the UK, NATO, Slovakia, Hungary, Canada, and Australia all sent delegations.

The US Central Command (CENTCOM) Commander General Michael Kurilla arrived for the conference, together with some 200 commanders and about 1,500 personnel from around the world.

Morocco was the fourth country to

join the Abraham Accords with Israel. The two countries announced the normalization of relations in December 2020.

The United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain shortly after it, announced in August 2020 the normalization of relations with Israel. Sudan was next to announce the normalization of relations with Israel in October, Israel's third peace treaty in two months.

The Abraham Accords, the first pact between an Arab country and Israel in 25 years, is expected to lead to similar agreements with other Arab countries, possibly Oman or Saudi Arabia.

In first, New Israeli Blood Test Could Detect Pancreatic, Colorectal Cancers

By Nathan Jeffay, The Times of Israel

Israeli scientists say they have invented a blood test will be able to detect colorectal cancer, which is normally found through an invasive test, and pancreatic cancer, which today has no single diagnostic test.

They claim that the test could also simplify screening for other cancers

and save lives by eliminating invasive colonoscopies for colorectal cancer, which many patients are afraid of and skip.

Dr. Efrat Shema developed a special technology for imaging a single molecule from blood samples and has successfully used the innovation

to screen for colorectal cancer — the cancer used for the proof-of-concept.

She detailed the breakthrough, achieved with her colleagues at the Weizmann Institute of Science, in a new peer-reviewed journal article published in Nature Biotechnology, revealing that her

test achieved 92 percent accuracy in detecting colorectal cancer.

She said initial testing was conducted on colorectal cancer, but the test has been designed to screen for pancreatic cancer as well and will be adapted to detect a wide range of cancers, and possibly other diseases too.

House Foreign Affairs Committee Unanimously Passes Bill to Examine Antisemitic Palestinian School Curricula

By Andrew Bernard, The Algemeiner

The House Foreign Affairs Committee on September 15 unanimously passed the Peace and Tolerance in Palestinian Education Act, setting the bill to

be considered by the full House of Representatives.

The bill requires that the Secretary of State publish a report on Palestinian

school curricula in the West Bank and Gaza that promote violence and intolerance and to determine whether US funds are being used to disseminate such curricula.

The bipartisan bill, introduced by Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA-30), was prompted by textbooks used by the Palestinian Authority that, among other issues cited in the legislation, "include graphics portraying violence against Israeli soldiers, positive portrayals of individuals who have committed attacks against citizens of Israel, and references to Palestinian efforts to target the 'Zionists.'"

These textbooks were then used at schools sponsored by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

"For decades, the United States and the American people have been the top donor to the Palestinian people, including to the Palestinian Authority and UNRWA – but this is not a blank check," Sherman said. "American dollars must be spent in a way that reflect American values of tolerance and peacebuilding. Unfortunately, the current Palestinian Authority curriculum, used by both Palestinian Authority and UNRWA schools, falls short of reflecting those values."

In January, the Biden administration announced \$99 million in funding for UNRWA. The Trump administration had cut all US funding to UNRWA in 2018.

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Call 760-324-4737 to order your cards, or go online to jfedps.org.

2,700-year-old Papyrus Returns to Jerusalem from Montana

By Marion Fischel, Israel 21c

A rare Kingdom of Judah document fragment, hanging on a wall in a private home in Montana since 1965, has been donated to Dead Sea Scrolls collection.

The fragment, dated to the late seventh or early sixth century BCE, is one of the three oldest known papyrus fragments in the world. It now joins the other two in the Dead Sea Scrolls collection. These fragments can be traced to Judean Desert caves used to store and preserve papyri thanks to the area's dry climate. Most of the other 25,000 fragments in the collection date from the end of the Second Temple period, around the year 70 CE.

Written in the ancient Hebrew script used in the times of the Judean kings, the truncated message on the fragment is addressed to or from "Ishmael" and reads "Don't send to ..." and "of no help."

According to Prof. Shmuel Ahituv of



Rare Kingdom of Judah document fragment

Ben-Gurion University's Department of Bible Studies, Archaeology and the Ancient Near East, the name Ishmael (meaning "God will hear") was common. It even appears on a late Judean monarchy clay bulla – stamp for sealing documents – that reads "Belonging to Ishmael, the king's son."

"Each new document [discovered] sheds further light on the literacy and the administration of the First Temple period," said Joe Uziel, IAA Judean Desert Scrolls Unit director.



The papyrus under treatment in the IAA Scrolls Conservation Laboratory

Ahituv discovered a photograph of the as-yet-unknown fragment in 2018, while preparing the posthumous publication of his colleague Ada Yardeni. He then joined forces with the Antiquities Theft Prevention Unit of the IAA, the Jerusalem and Heritage Ministry, and the Culture and Sport Ministry, to locate and repatriate the original.

The Montana woman received it as a gift from Joseph Sa'ad, then-curator of Jerusalem's Rockefeller Museum, and

Halil Iskander Kandu, an antiquities dealer from Bethlehem who sold thousands of Dead Sea scroll fragments. The donor's mother had acquired the document on a visit to Jerusalem in 1965 and hung it on her wall.

Her son visited the conservation lab in Jerusalem to see how rare documents are preserved and studied in climate-controlled conditions and agreed to donate the fragile document.

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Save the Dates!



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- **Lion of Judah Brunch at Tamarisk Country Club: Monday, January 16, 2023 ~ Guest Speaker: Letty Cottin Pogrebin**
- **Pomegranate Event at Le Vallauris: Monday, March 27, 2023**

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DESERT HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL



The Desert Holocaust Memorial is located in the Palm Desert Civic Center Park at San Pablo Avenue & Fred Waring Drive. Residents and visitors are encouraged to visit this moving memorial, a place of remembrance and monument of hope.

Parve Kugels for Sukkot



Sukkot begins October 9th and for those who eat some or all of your meals in your sukkah, you know it is helpful to prepare dishes that can be easily transported from kitchen to sukkah. Unlike the milchig kugels I've given you for Shavuot, here are three parve kugels (one savory, two sweet) to serve alongside your meat or chicken main courses. B'tay avon, Happy Sukkot! MHB



Miriam's Jerusalem Kugel

16-19 oz. Vermicelli (thin spaghetti)
2/3 cup vegetable oil
2 cups sugar
8 eggs, beaten
2 teaspoons kosher salt (just a little more than 1½ teaspoons table salt)

1½ - 2 teaspoons finely ground black pepper (more or less, according to your preference, but this kugel is supposed to have a bit of a peppery "bite.")

Preheat oven to 350°F. Cook noodles in salted water according to package directions; rinse and drain well. Put in large bowl.

In a heavy skillet, combine oil and sugar over medium heat. Cook, stirring regularly in the beginning and constantly in the last stages, until sugar is very dark but not burnt. When you think you've got your sugar dark enough, cook it a minute longer--you'll see and taste the difference in the results, but watch carefully and stir constantly at the end. If you burn the caramel, start over. As long as the sugar is transformed into caramel, don't worry if the oil and sugar do not incorporate completely; everything is absorbed at the end, when it bakes. Will take from 12 to 20 minutes. Remove from heat. In a large bowl, quickly combine drained noodles and caramelized sugar. Stir to incorporate. Let cool at least 10 minutes, then add eggs, salt, and pepper and stir to combine. Can be baked in a 9" X 13" pan, but making it in a Dutch oven or - as I did - in a half foil pan (about 8" X 10") makes a taller kugel. In any case, grease the bottom and sides of the container, pour the kugel in, do not cover it, and bake for 70-75 minutes. The top should be crusty. Serves 12-16.

Salt & Pepper Kugel with Roasted Garlic

Cooking spray
10 cloves garlic, peeled
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
1 (16-ounce) package fine egg noodles
½ cup extra virgin olive oil

4 eggs
½ teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon black pepper
Pinch cayenne pepper (optional)

Preheat oven to 250°F. Lightly grease a 9 x 13 inch baking dish. Place garlic in the baking dish in a single layer and drizzle with olive oil. Bake for 15 minutes, until garlic is soft. Remove garlic from the oven, mash and set aside. Raise the oven temperature 350°F. Meanwhile boil egg noodles until just tender. Drain and toss with oil and set aside. In a large bowl lightly beat eggs with salt, black pepper, and cayenne if desired. Stir in garlic, followed by noodle mixture until well combined. Spoon into prepared pan and bake for 1 hour.

ASHKENAZI CARROT KUGEL

1½ cup all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon table salt or
2 teaspoons kosher salt
1 teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
¼ teaspoon grated nutmeg or
ground ginger

½ cup (1 stick) parve margarine, softened
½ cup brown sugar
1 large egg
3 tablespoon lemon or orange juice
1 to 2 teaspoon grated lemon or orange zest
2 cups (about 12 ounces) grated carrots
½ to ¾ cup raisins, snipped dried figs, or
chopped nuts (optional)

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Grease a 2-quart baking pan or ring mold. Sift together flour, salt, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, and nutmeg. In a large bowl, beat butter and sugar until light and creamy, about 5 minutes. Beat in egg. Add flour mixture, lemon juice, and zest. Stir in carrots and, if using, raisins/figs/chopped nuts. Spoon into prepared dish. Bake until golden, about 45 minutes. Serve warm or at room temperature.



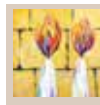
Simchas

Mazel tov mazel tov to **Chaya and Rabbi Shimon Posner** on the birth of their grandson, **Shneur Zalman Kesselman**, born to **Musie and Laibel Kesselman** on September 5 in Greenville, South Carolina, weighing an impressive 11 lbs. 4 oz.! ... **Jack Olshansky** shared the happy news that his granddaughter, **Dr. Lindsey Brucker**, wife of his grandson **Dr. Richard Brucker**, gave

birth to their son on September 9th at Cedar Sinai Hospital in LA: **Zane Alden**, weighing in at 7 lb. 13 oz. Mazel tov! mazel tov to Jack and Mitzie and the whole Olshansky clan! ... Share your simchas with us. Email **Miriam Bent** at mhbentjcn@earthlink.net or call her at 760-323-0255.



Zane Alden Brucker



Candle Lighting Times

Tuesday, October 4	Kol Nidre	5:45 pm
Friday, October 7	Shabbat Ha'azinu	5:40 pm
Sunday, October 9	Erev Sukkot	5:38 pm
Friday, October 14	Shabbat Sukkot	5:31 pm
Sunday, October 16	Erev Shemini Atzeret	5:29 pm
Monday, October 17	Erev Simchat Torah	After 6:54 pm
Friday, October 21	Shabbat Bereshit	5:23 pm
Friday, October 28	Shabbat Noach	5:15 pm



We Mourn the Passing of...

Eileen Starkstein Fine, Stephen Finger, Jay Frank, Henry Freund, Minna Maryanov and Evelyn Rodell. Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing.



Classifieds

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23 - 3 PM - Sabra Hadassah of the Desert and Temple Sinai major fundraising event! Musical presentation by Los Angeles based performers **Wendy and Rik!** Talented, versatile, a powerhouse of entertainment, combining great musical talent, sharp humor and precise timing, with a genuine connection with each other and the audience.

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