



# Jewish Community News

The Publication of the Jewish Federation of the Desert

www.jfedps.org

Kislev/Tevet 5783 - December 2022

## Event Highlights for 2022-2023 Season

**December 11-13**

*JFNA Lion of Judah Conference - Phoenix*

**December 14**

**An Evening with Rita Rudner**  
*(JBC Author)*

**December 18-26**

*Hanukkah*

**December 19**

*Bikur Cholim's Annual Chanukah at Boomers*

**January 11**

**Cantor Azi Schwartz Concert**  
*Sun City Palm Desert*

**January 16**

**Lion of Judah Brunch**  
*with JBC Author Letty Cottin Pogrebin*

**January 27**

*StandWithUs / Temple Isaiah*

**January 29**

**Holocaust Remembrance Commemoration**  
*featuring "The Braid"*

**February 5**

**Cantors on Broadway**  
*Temple Isaiah, PS*

**February 15**

**Major Gifts**  
*featuring JBC Author Ira Rosen*

**March 6-7**

**Purim**

**March 21**

**Jewish Federation Golf Tournament**  
**Tamarisk Country Club**

**March 26-29**

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual Jewish Film Festival**

**April 5**

**First Seder**  
**Pesach April 5-13**

**April 30**

**Yom Ha'atzmaut Community Celebration**

**May 9**

**JMOGD Golf Tournament**  
**Eagles Falls Course, Indio**

**May 25-27**

**Shavuot**

*JBC = Jewish Book Council*

## Recap on Israel's Recent Elections



**Alan Potash**

Jewish Federation  
Chief Executive  
Officer

As of the printing of this paper, the President of Israel Isaac Herzog will have asked the senior leader of Likud to form a coalition and establish a new government. Why will he ask Likud to form a government? Good question. In short, 71% of eligible voters cast their votes and Likud ended up with 32 seats and the next party got 24 seats. As I have shared, to form a government, a party must partner with other parties

to secure at least a 61-seat majority. This election, for the first time in almost four years a party has negotiated a coalition of likeminded parties. I will not go into the likeminded part yet.

If you remember, I wrote about the fragility of the previous government that was hampered by a small coalition that in the end could not keep the partners together. I expect Netanyahu's partners are aligned enough to find enough common ground to form a government and sustain it for a term.

The challenge I anticipate for Netanyahu is finding key roles for each of the partners. This will be where the real work takes place. When this article is read in the JCN, the new ministers and their portfolios will be in place. I will mention that the updates I am hearing are that the two individuals who helped Netanyahu win want key defense and

security positions—neither of them has considerable experience in these areas. This might create the first obstacle for Netanyahu.

The other area of interest comes from what kind of role the opposition decides to play. During the short reign of the Bennett/Lapid government we witnessed a complete lack of interest with the opposition led by Netanyahu, to do anything to support the broad agenda of the government. We even saw the opposition not support legislation they had introduced when they were in the government under Netanyahu's last government (I know this all might seem challenging to follow but it is an effective way to learn about how the "kosher sausage" of legislation works in Israel. More updates in future eblasts and JCNs.

## Constructive Dialogue Turns Yom Kippur into a Teachable Moment

*By Rabbi Steven Rosenberg, Spiritual Leader, Temple Isaiah Palm Springs*

Synagogues and rabbis are generally at their busiest right before the High Holidays. For Rabbi Steven Rosenberg, the spiritual leader of Palm Spring's Temple Isaiah, this year was no different. All this changed right before Rosh Hashanah, when the synagogue's executive administrator, Shawna Owens handed Rabbi Rosenberg a flyer that her grandson had brought home from school, inviting participation in the Palm Springs High School Homecoming Parade being held on Wednesday, October 5th, the afternoon of Yom Kippur. Rabbi Rosenberg's immediate concern was how could a public high school schedule such a large and important event on the holiest day of the year for Jews and which would certainly be problematic for some of their

Jewish students. A secondary concern: street closings included the street on which Temple Isaiah is located, clearly impacting congregants getting to services.

The solution to the problem was found in the Rabbi's over three decades of experience with interfaith and communal dialogue, which has earned him a national reputation as a positive force in ecumenical outreach and conversation. These skills were first honed as the coordinator Jewish Chaplaincy services at Yale-New Haven Hospital back in the early 1990's when such programs were still in their infancy and advocating for Jewish spiritual services were an uphill climb. When antisemitism took a terrible toll on Connecticut synagogue's including Rabbi Rosenberg's, he reached out

to community leaders for help such as Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, Senator Joe Lieberman. the late Governor Lowell Weicker.

Rabbi Rosenberg reached out to his network of political and civic leaders cultivated throughout his tenure at Temple Isaiah and with the help of several members of the city council and others, the issue got on the school's radar, resulting in a letter by Rabbi Rosenberg to the school principal, Michael Ventura. Rabbi wrote, "I am concerned when major school events are held on holy days of any faith, including Judaism. Yom Kippur is the holiest day on the Jewish calendar and if even one student cannot partake in the parade, because it falls on a Holy day, that

*continued on page 4*



## 2022-2023 JEWISH FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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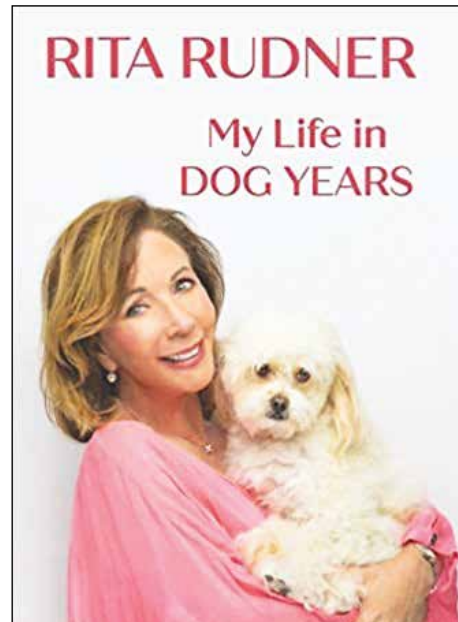
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## Rita Rudner Here December 14 for Geshher Event



Marcia Stein, chairperson of our newly formed Geshher level (minimum individual contribution to the 2023 campaign of \$365.00) is pleased to invite you to the Federation Offices on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm to hear Jewish comedienne and actress Rita Rudner, who will speak about her newest book "My Life in Dog Years" ("We're either going to get a dog or have a child. We can't decide whether we want to ruin our carpet or ruin our lives.").

Comedy legend Rita Rudner, known for her epigrammatic one-liners, has enjoyed a fifty-plus year career that has included dancing, singing, acting, creating award-winning TV specials,



novels, essay collections, screenplays, theater plays, a musical and a syndicated TV series. In the middle of all that, she has somehow enjoyed a successful marriage and raised a daughter. Rita started as a

dancer on Broadway in such shows as Follies, Mack & Mabel and Annie. In the early 1980s she decided to switch from chorus lines to punch lines and was soon a regular guest on both Late Night with David Letterman and The Tonight Show. Eponymous cable TV specials followed, as she performed in theaters all over the world – from the Palladium in London to Carnegie Hall in New York.

If you haven't seen Rita live in a theater, reading this book is the next best thing. And if you have seen her live, no doubt you'll want to know more about what makes this fascinating woman tick.

This Geshher event requires a minimum \$365 individual gift to the 2023 Jewish Federation Annual Campaign to attend. Tickets are \$18; \$50.00 for a meet and greet with Rita and a signed copy of her book. Seating is limited. For reservations call Leslie Pepper at 760-324-4737 or [leslie.pepper@jfedps.org](mailto:leslie.pepper@jfedps.org).

## Lion of Judah Keynote Speaker Comes with Profound Talents and Insights

**Letty Cottin Pogrebin**, keynote speaker at our January 16 Lion of Judah Annual Brunch, comes with extraordinary, impressive credentials. Author, journalist, lecturer, and social activist, she is a founding editor of *Ms.* magazine, the author of twelve books, and was an editorial consultant for the TV special *Free to Be... You and Me* (as well as for the album and book associated with it) for which she earned an Emmy.

As Ruth J. Abram, historian and founding president, Lower East Side Tenement Museum, writes, "In her revealing memoir, *Shanda*, Pogrebin, widely known for her intelligence, style, generosity, and boldness, admits the heavy burden of secrets including her own which she has long carried. *Shanda*, her clear-eyed look at one immigrant



Letty Cottin Pogrebin  
*Shanda*

family's habit of secrecy and fear of shame reveals why a lifetime of trying to uncover hidden truths has informed her insightful books and articles on topics many are afraid to tackle."

Actor, author and director Alan Alda writes: "Secrets are costly—



heavy weights to carry around. In *Shanda*, Letty Cottin Pogrebin takes aim at shame, the factory where the costliest secrets are made. She dismantles the machinery of

shame, and she does

it with stories that are vivid, emotional, and unforgettable."

Actor/author Mayim Bialik writes "The richness of Pogrebin's stories, the complexity and beauty of her storytelling, and her devastatingly honest soul-baring make *Shanda* a powerfully stunning piece of life and art.

Wishing You A Happy Chanukah



# Jewish Federations of North America 2022 General Assembly



**Alan Potash**

Jewish Federation  
Chief Executive  
Officer

Due to the COVID Pandemic, it has been several years since the Jewish Federations of North America hosted an in-person General Assembly for professionals and lay leaders. The last one I attended was in Israel four years ago. (There have been virtual ones during the intervening years). I have been attending the

GA both a professional and lay leader and believe it is one of the most informative and stimulating gatherings for Jewish leaders. This year's GA did not disappoint.

One of the goals of the GA is to address current issues impacting Jewish communities today. Unfortunately, antisemitism was front and center. It came on the four-year anniversary of the Tree of Life Massacre in Pittsburgh. A presentation by the Mayor of Highland Park spoke about this year's Fourth of July shooting and yes, we discussed the current onslaught of global antisemitism in the media.

The GA also explores politics, Jewish thought, the arts, trends, and this year a spotlight on streaming programs coming out of Israel—specifically the Beauty Queen of



**Michael Aloni**

Jerusalem with the lead actor Michael Aloni (famous for his role in Shtisel). This was a highlight for many people. On the other hand enjoyed hearing from great thinkers like Rabbi Yitz Greenberg, Bernard Heni-Levy and Hen Mazzig.

Another benefit of attending the GA is

meeting with colleagues and leaders from other communities to hear what they are working on. One session was on community studies. Many communities are trying to figure out the demographics and interests of their communities. Undertaking a community study is one way to accomplish that. LA and Chicago have both completed community studies and they presented their findings to the GA. The Jewish Federation of the Desert has not conducted a study since 2008 and it is time to do one. Not an easy undertaking but a necessary one to learn who is in the community.

I will share other highlights from the GA in my Friday updates.

## Youth Futures

By Alan Potash

Caring for the vulnerable is one of our main objectives for the Jewish Federation of the Desert. One way that we accomplish this is supporting programs for youth. We do that locally by supporting are youth programs and we do this in Israel and overseas as well. In Israel we support a great program called Youth Futures. The goal of Youth Futures is to provide an outlet and resources for kids and their families. By

fostering a positive, supportive environment for children to grow, the Youth Futures mentorship program is just one of the ways the Jewish Agency for Israel is helping the next generation learn by example.

One of Israel's leading positive-intervention programs, The Jewish Agency's Youth Futures program partners teen mentors with at-risk children for a long-term period of cooperative learning and growth. Mentors work with up to 16 children, focusing on personal, familial, social, and educational areas to give these kids the

tools to navigate challenges and celebrate achievements in a constructive way.

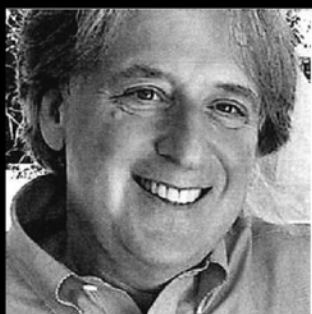
Youth Futures not only gives children tools to succeed and empowers teens to serve as role models, it also helps families to flourish. The program emphasizes full parental involvement and partnership—parents in participating communities receive help and guidance to access social services, manage their budgets, be more effective caregivers, and build emotionally supportive environments for their families.

The Jewish Federation of the Desert

has been providing support to the Youth Futures program in the southern part of the country in the city of Eilat. When speaking with the director there I learned just how meaningful the program is for kids. While learning about this program from the Jewish Agency I was informed that Jane Sherman has played a role in its development. In a conversation with Jane, she shared with me a new program called Baby Futures. I will share more about this program as I learn about it. Please feel free to contact me to learn more about the programs we support.

**MAJOR GIFTS • WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2023**

**Morningside Country Club, Rancho Mirage • Minimum Gift: \$10,000 per couple  
\$3600 per couple for out-of-town Major Gift contributors**



**SPEAKER: IRA ROSEN:**

**'Ticking Clock: Behind the Scenes at 60 Minutes'**

For nearly 25 years, Ira Rosen has produced some of the most memorable, important, and groundbreaking stories for 60 Minutes.

**Co-hosts: Ron Langus and Barry Kaiman**

# Kristallnacht Observed



**Left to right: JFS Executive Director Kraig Johnson, Nancy Rubin, Holocaust survivors Ruth Lindemann and Goldie Jacoby, Jewish Federation WP/Community Engagement Director Leslie Pepper, Talia Lizemer-Hawley and Sandi Danciger.**



**Participants attending Kristallnacht observance**

Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass November 9/10, 1938, in Germany – when synagogues, Jewish businesses and Jewish homes were vandalized, destroyed and set afire and 30,000 Jewish men were arrested and

incarcerated in what would become the brutal concentration camps -- was observed at the Jewish Federation on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Members of our Jewish community came together to remember and to hear from a local

survivor, Ruth Lindemann, as well as an online presentation by Michael Berenbaum, an American scholar and professor, who specializes in the study of the Holocaust.

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is one too many. I am not reaching out to blame or point fingers, however this is an opportunity for a teachable moment. As educators, I pray you will embrace this extended hand for dialogue and mutual cooperation." He added, "We are also concerned your parade may block some of our congregants from reaching Temple Isaiah on Yom Kippur."

Mr. Ventura called Rabbi the next day and assured the Rabbi that scheduling the parade on Yom Kippur was an overnight

and a mistake on their part. They mutually agreed that changing the date of the parade sent the right message to the students and to the community. The parade was subsequently moved to the next week which, according to the principal, was enthusiastically endorsed by the students because inclusion was important to them. The other positive part of this entire story will be happening in the next few weeks, when a number of PSHS students will be visiting Temple Isaiah for a tour of the iconic synagogue

and engage in conversation and dialogue with Rabbi Rosenberg.

Rabbi Rosenberg observed, "A potential problem turned into a wonderful teachable moment for everyone: Constructive dialogue, mutual respect and understanding can lead to great positive change, just by talking instead of blaming. Additionally, always being out in the greater community and staying engaged, being good neighbors and friends really does make a difference."



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## JEWISH COMMUNITY NEWS

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Jewish Federation of the Desert  
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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.

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# 'Hitler Truck' Inflames Tensions in Berkeley Amid 'Jew-free Zones' Accusation

By Andrew Lapin, JTA

A truck emblazoned with an image of Adolf Hitler and the phrase "All in favor of banning Jews, raise your right hand," drove through Berkeley, Calif., October 2022, in response to a controversy involving several UC Berkeley Law student groups resolving to bar "Zionist" speakers.

Three weeks after a prominent pro-Israel activist accused the University of California, Berkeley of creating "Jew-free zones," two trucks rolled into town to address the controversy.

One of them displayed a massive picture of Adolf Hitler. "All in favor of banning Jews, raise your right hand," read the billboard on the side of the truck.

The truck had been dispatched by a political advocacy group called Accuracy in Media, which has a history of finding ways to provoke liberals and progressives. The group's president Adam Guillette told J. The Jewish News of Northern California that the truck was part of a larger campaign to combat antisemitism on college campuses and was meant to oppose the nine Berkeley Law student groups that recently announced they had adopted a bylaw pledging to bar Zionist speakers from campus. (Since the initial story broke, five more student groups have adopted the bylaw, according to reports.)

"The amount of hatred, intolerance, and antisemitism is morally outrageous and it's time for us to (non-violently) fight back," Guillette, a former vice president at conservative media sting operation Project Veritas who last week told the conservative news channel Newsmax that he identifies as Jewish, told J. Weekly.

But whatever the truck's intended effect, its presence frightened students and drew condemnation from the local branch of the Anti-Defamation League, Berkeley Hillel and the local Jewish Community Relations Council, along with offers of emotional support from university administrators. Some passersby threw rocks at the vehicle.

"Saw this bus on my morning run," wrote Grace Stewart, a Berkeley student, on Instagram. "Very scary."

"The addition of more antisemitism, like



**Truck promoting "Jew-free Zones" seen on streets in Berkeley**

using Hitler imagery to score cheap rhetoric points, only trivializes the memories of the six million," ADL's San Francisco office tweeted, while Berkeley Hillel said on Instagram that it would be available to any students who felt "upset and disturbed" by the sight of the truck.

After meeting with Berkeley administrators last week, San Francisco's Jewish Community Relations Council issued a statement noting that "talk of 'Jew-free zones' is factually inaccurate and not productive" and that the Hitler truck is "unwelcome and unhelpful." But the Council also decried the law student groups' campaign against Zionist speakers as antisemitic.

While the Hitler truck offered particularly stark imagery, it was hardly the only visitor sent to Berkeley in response to the clubs' exclusion of Zionists. The Jewish group JewBelong, which uses billboard ads to spread awareness of antisemitism, sent a truck of its own — in the group's signature hot pink, with a message that also referenced the Holocaust. ("We're just 75 years since the gas chambers," the JewBelong truck's sign begins.)

Meanwhile, Noa Tishby, the Israeli actress and author who recently became Israel's first "Special Envoy for Combatting Antisemitism and Delegitimization," headed to campus to engage directly with students. Setting up a booth reading "Anti-Zionism is Antisemitism," Tishby debated Berkeley students on Israel.

The buzz of activity reflects the extent to which Berkeley has become the latest flashpoint in an ongoing, and contentious, debate over shifting campus attitudes on



**Jewish group counters with truck bearing pro-Jewish message**

Israel and Zionism, and the degree to which Jewish students feel comfortable expressing their identities.

Schools ranging from Berkeley to the University of Vermont and the University of Southern California have been the sites of recent campaigns, usually student-led, to root out or target "Zionists" — campaigns which, depending on who one asks, are either par-for-the-course student activism or harmful and antisemitic in nature.

Some of these schools have become the targets of federal civil rights investigations as a result of such activities. Many of the complaints that have triggered the

investigations were filed on behalf of Jewish students by the Louis Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law, a pro-Israel legal group. Kenneth Marcus, the group's founder, authored the initial Los Angeles Jewish Journal op-ed invoking the "Jew-Free Zones" image; it has since been shared by figures including Barbra Streisand and Sarah Silverman.

Opinions on the seriousness with which the Jewish community should treat such allegations can vary wildly, even within the same Jewish community. Berkeley Law's Jewish dean and members of the university's

*continued on next page*

**StandWithUs** A special program exclusively at **TEMPLE ISAIAH!**

**Shabbat Services Friday Night January 27, 2023 - 7:30 pm**

**AN EVENING OF CARLY GAMMILL & GARY RATNER IN CONVERSATION WITH RABBI STEVEN ROSENBERG**

**CARLY GAMMILL** is the founding Director of the StandWithUs Center for Combating Antisemitism and simultaneously serves as Counsel for Litigation Strategy in the StandWithUs Saidoff Legal Department. Carly is active in fighting antisemitism, including the anti-Israel, antisemitic BDS campaign, on campuses, in local communities, in court, and at the United Nations.



**GARY P. RATNER**, the Senior Executive for StandWithUs, has been with the organization since 2010, involved with development, strategic planning and outreach to ethnic and religious groups. Founded in 2001, today StandWithUs has 18 offices across the United States, Canada, the U.K, Brazil, the Netherlands, Australia, South Africa and Israel. This is an exciting opportunity to hear one of our most articulate speakers on behalf of Israel and World Jewry.



**Join us for this special evening. Mark your calendars now!**



# Journalism Award Stripped from Palestinian Journalist Over Antisemitic Facebook Posts

By Dion J. Pierre, *The Algemeiner*

The Thomson Reuters Foundation and Kurt Schork Memorial Fund stripped Palestinian journalist Shatha Hammad of a journalism award following its discovery that she quoted Adolf Hitler and used “extreme antisemitic language” on Facebook.

Hammad had received the Kurt Schork Award, an honor named after an American freelance reporter who died in Sierra Leone in 2000 while reporting on the country’s civil war. It recognizes “the courageous work of freelance journalists, local reporters, and news fixers.”

“The decision has been made following the discovery of a social media post on Hammad’s Facebook feed that appears to quote Hitler, which, in doing so, suggests an endorsement of his ideology,” the foundations said on October 18. “We have therefore taken this

unusual step in order to protect the integrity of the Kurt Schork Awards, established to recognize and celebrate the courageous and brilliant reporting of conflict, corruption and injustice from journalists around the world, who risk their lives daily to speak truth to power.”

The Reuters Foundation and Schork Memorial Fund confirmed that they identified two posts by the Hammad. She has claimed that one of them is falsely attributed.

“Me and Hitler are friends. We share the same ideology, especially regarding the extermination of the Jews,” Hammad wrote in a post from 2014. In another message she wrote, “Opinions are neither right nor wrong!! -Hitler,” attributing the quote to Adolf Hitler.

On Wednesday, the Jewish Chronicle reported that Jacki Alexander, CEO of



HonestReporting, a pro-Israel advocacy and media watchdog group, maintained that rescinding the honor given to Hammad “is not about denying a Palestinian journalist an award.”

“This is about relegating unrepentant antisemites to the fringes of society and

not rewarding them with international recognition,” she continued. “Antisemitism is on the rise globally, and Shatha Hammad’s language only serves to incite more violence against Jews.”

Hammad, the Jewish Chronicle continued, was also removed from an upcoming panel scheduled to be moderated by Christiane Amanpour at the Thomas Reuters Trust Conference in London on October 26 and 27.

In August, *The New York Times* terminated its relationship with a Gaza City “fixer” who has a social media history that includes a post that said, “I don’t accept a Jew, Israeli or Zionist, or anyone else who speaks Hebrew.” The Times also terminated its relationship with a freelance photographer who had expressed support for Palestinian terrorism.

## ‘Greatest Scientist of our Time’

### Israel to Spend \$18 Million to Build Albert Einstein Museum in Jerusalem

By Sharon Wrobel, *The Algemeiner*

The Israeli government on Sunday approved a \$18 million project to build a museum in Jerusalem which will display the entire archive of the world-renowned physicist Albert Einstein.

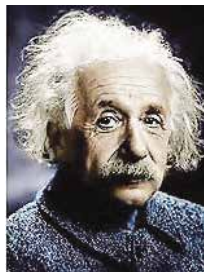
The Albert Einstein Museum will be built on the grounds of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem’s Safra Campus for visitors to study his archive, which will be accessible in a digital format. The museum will also serve as a center for scientific and technological education, including the use of scientific demonstrations and original documents, the Hebrew University said in a statement.

Einstein, known as the father of the theory of relativity and a major contributor to quantum theory, was among the founders of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a supporter of the Zionist movement. Back

in 1923, he visited Mount Scopus in Jerusalem where he delivered the university’s inaugural scientific lecture and edited its first collection of scientific papers.

Later in life, the physics Nobel laureate willed his personal archives and all of the rights to his works to the Hebrew University.

“The government of Israel approved building a one-of-a-kind museum dedicated to Einstein,” said alternate Prime Minister Naftali Bennett. “The Hebrew University owns all of Einstein’s manuscripts, original papers, the original note where he wrote  $E=mc^2$ .”



Albert Einstein

memo that the article’s “central claim was inflammatory, resulting in a distorted picture of both this incident and the overall climate for Jewish students on campus,” even as the AJC publicly signed onto a joint statement calling on Berkeley Law

The museum will include a reconstruction of Einstein’s library and office where visitors will be able to view several of his original papers. The museum will “present Einstein’s contributions to science, the impact of his discoveries on our lives today, his public activity and involvement in key historical moments during his lifetime,” according to the Hebrew University.

It will also document Einstein’s “deep connection with the destiny of the Jewish people, the State of Israel, and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem,” it was added.

“The establishment of the Albert Einstein Museum and the provision of a permanent home for the full Einstein archives will bolster the standing of Israeli academia in general, and of the Hebrew University in particular, in the international arena; will reinforce the international status

to take action against the student anti-Zionist resolution, according to a report in progressive magazine *Jewish Currents*.

At the same time, a group of Jewish law students at Berkeley published an op-ed in *The Daily Beast* in which they criticized what

of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital; and will bring tens of thousands of tourists to this unique site,” stated Jerusalem Affairs and Heritage Minister Ze’ev Elkin.

Hebrew University President Asher Cohen thanked the Israeli government for their support in establishing the museum, which he said will “preserve and cherish the legacy of the greatest scientist of our time.”

“Einstein was one of the most prominent supporters of the State of Israel and one of the founding fathers of Hebrew University,” Cohen added. “His legacy of excellence in academic research forms the very foundation of our university, whereas his scientific achievements, which changed the world of physics, continue to impact all of our lives, from lasers and nuclear energy to GPS and space travel.”

they said was the school’s “unacceptable tolerance for excluding and demonizing Zionist identities,” pointing to a student-hosted “Palestine 101” session that they said “fundamentally distorted Zionism.”

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Jewish faculty harshly criticized the “Jew-free zones” article, saying it was false and inflammatory.

A senior director at the American Jewish Committee also wrote in an internal

# Israel's Iron Dome Interceptor Used by US Marines

By Gil Tanenbaum, United With Israel

The US Marine Corps has completed the final of three air defense system interception tests that took place this year. The tests used technology from the Israeli-developed Iron Dome anti-missile defense system.

Israel and the US have been cooperating for some time now on the development of missile defense capabilities. Famously, during the Gulf War in Iraq in 1991, the IDF used the American-made Patriot missile batteries to try and shot down Iraqi Scud missiles that were launched against Israel.

However, the IDF made upgrades to the Patriots before using them. Today, the technology seems to be going in the other direction, and it's the US military developing upgrades for Israel-made anti-missile missiles.

The Marine Corps said that the final test included the system's successful interception of multiple targets in various trajectories. Additionally, the Iron Dome's continuous launch capability was tested using a mobile launcher developed by the US Marine Corps that it incorporated into the Israel-based tech.

The series of live-fire tests were conducted at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico and were part of the Marines Corps' development of their Medium-Rage Intercept Capability (MRIC) prototype.



The Marine Corps stated that the successful test proved the performance of the mobile launcher developed for the Marine Corps as well as the Iron Dome interceptor's performance, particularly regarding relevant and challenging interception scenarios.

"The three tests that took place this year proved that the performance of the MRIC system with Iron Dome interceptors is good and provides a dedicated launcher solution for the Marines," said Don Kelly, program manager for Joint Ground Based Air Defense Headquarters (GBAD) at PEO Land Systems, following the successful test.

Head of the Israel Missile Defense

Organization (IMDO) in the Ministry of Defense, Moshe Patel said, "This current test, which completes a series of three, is further proof that the Iron Dome Tamir Interceptor and associated ground components can be integrated quickly and efficiently in any relevant defense architecture and intercept various aerial threats successfully in complex and advanced scenarios. We welcome any cooperation in the field of defense with the branches of the US military."

Executive Vice President and Head of the Air and Missile Defense Directorate at Rafael Advanced Defense Systems – the company that developed the Iron

Dome tech – Brigadier General (Ret.) Pini Yungman said, "Once again, Rafael's systems have proven that they are able to integrate into existing systems and create synergy between systems, providing optimal performance. Rafael's advanced systems are developed with an 'open architecture' allowing seamless integration with other systems. In the latest test conducted by the Marines, a successful combination of the TAMIR interceptor launched from a new launcher developed under the leadership of the Marines, combined with the Marines' radar system and the battle management system, which are systems developed by American industries, was demonstrated!"

The Tamir Interceptor is a proven missile capable of intercepting Cruise Missiles, Unmanned Aerial Systems, Rockets, Artillery, and Mortar threats. The Interceptor was developed by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, contracted for the engineering and adaptation of Iron Dome to USMC requirements and associated testing support.

The IMDO in the Directorate of Defense Research and Development leads the development of the State of Israel's multi-tiered missile and air defense array, based on four operational defense layers: Iron Dome, David's Sling, Arrow 2, and Arrow 3.

## Detroit 14-Year-Old Arrested for Antisemitic Threat to Murder Jews

The incident is part of a concerning 56% spike in Michigan antisemitism from 2020 to 2021.

By Boaz Edidin, The Jerusalem Post

Metro Detroit Jewish advocacy groups fear that antisemitic sentiment in the city is rising after a teenager threatened to "kill all jews" on social media in mid-October.

The FBI notified the Oakland County Sheriff's Office that a 14-year-old male had posted pictures of three firearms on social media and warned that he would kill unspecified Jewish people. Sheriff's Deputies responded promptly, arresting the teenager in his home on Wednesday, October 13.

"We will fully investigate every threat

against any person, school or institution and seek to hold those that make threats accountable," said Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard, who has served as Sheriff of Oakland County since 1999, in response to the incident, as well as two unrelated threats directed towards local schools.

"If you make a threat, we're coming for you," Sheriff Bouchard continued. "And that's not a threat; it's a promise."

### Antisemitism in Michigan rises

In an interview with Detroit's WDIV Local

4 News network, Executive Director of the Jewish Relations Council Rabbi Asher Lopatin expressed deep concern for the teenager who made the antisemitic threat.

"I hope that we can educate the 14-year-old. I hope that we can take him to the Holocaust Center, which we have here," Lopatin told Local 4.

Lopatin described this event as a part of a recent rise in antisemitism. His statement is backed by the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) report of a 56% bump-up in Michigan antisemitic incidents from 2020

to 2021. According to the ADL, antisemitic harassment in Michigan has increased exponentially over the past four years, from 21 incidents in 2018 to 42 in 2019, 51 in 2020, and, most recently, 112 in 2021.

Carolyn Normandin, ADL Michigan's regional director, encourages people to stand up to the burgeoning antisemitism.

"We cannot let this become normalized behavior," said Normandin. "Let's make sure everyone holds public officials and civic leaders accountable. They must speak out against antisemitism."



# Rishi Sunak, Who is Pro-Israel, Nevertheless Caves to Pressure

## Reneges on Commitment to Move British Embassy to Jerusalem.

By United with Israel Staff

Britain's new prime minister has reneged on a commitment made by his predecessor, Liz Truss, to move the country's embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, the UK *Jewish News* reported.

"It has been looked at," Sunak's spokesperson stated on November 3. "There are no plans to move the British embassy."

Sunak is apparently caving in to pressure. He was reportedly warned

that the "entire governmental system" would be in an uproar if he carried out the promise to move the embassy, made by his predecessor Liz Truss during her mere 44 days in office.

"The PM was left in no doubt of the strength of opposition he would face if he continued to proceed to



the embassy proposal," a source told the *Jewish News*.

Truss, who touted herself as a "huge Zionist," had told outgoing Israeli prime minister Yair Lapid on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in September that she was reviewing an embassy move.

Sunak, a 42-year-old former hedge-fund manager of Indian descent, has good relations with Britain's Jewish community and has voiced support for

Israel on several occasions.

During his campaign to take over as head of the Conservative party, Sunak told the Conservative Friends of Israel that Jerusalem is "undisputedly the historic capital." He supported Truss's views on relocating Britain's embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, saying there was a "strong case" for the move.

"Clearly, there's a very strong case for it to be recognized ... so it is something I would like to do."

## Research, Facts and Dissemination Offered on December 12

By Lynda Zions, Congregation Har-El

The Desert Calendar offers us many opportunities throughout the season. There are always a few events that grab everyone's attention. That is because these events feel familiar. They are open to all

and allow us to broaden our understanding through intellectual engagement with a scholar of renown.

One such event is being offered to our community by Congregation Har-El and is

sponsored by the Jewish Federation.

Dr. Steven Windmueller, author, professor, scholar and friend of our Jewish Community, is well-known to us. He has presented at our synagogues, Hadassah, Jewish Federation


and our local ADL. He is currently serving as the Interim Director of the Zelikow School of Jewish Nonprofit Management for HUC-JIR, Los Angeles, California.

This time, he is returning to us directly from Phoenix, Arizona where he will have presented a program in advance of the National Lion of Judah Conference for the Milwaukee and Minneapolis-St. Paul Jewish Federations.


Dr. Windmueller's research and work focuses on three primary areas: Jewish communal trends, antisemitism and Jewish political behavior.

On Monday, December 12th, at 3:00 PM in the Federation Community Room, his topic is "Why Here? Why Now? The Rise of the New Antisemitism."

Seating is limited. To attend, registration is required. Please email [harelurjpd@gmail.com](mailto:harelurjpd@gmail.com). A confirmation will be sent to you. No fee, but at the event a contribution to the Federation Ukraine Fund would be appreciated.



**Rabbi Richard Zions, Ph.D.**



**Cantor Joseph Gole, D. Mus.**

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# Unprecedented: UN Member States Call Commission of Inquiry on Israel 'Antisemitic'

By Adina Katz, *World Israel News*

In a debate on October 27, 2022, at the United Nations, several countries, as well as the European Union, defended Israel against the biased Commission of Inquiry into Israel, including the Netherlands, Guatemala, Germany, Australia, Austria, the United Kingdom, the Marshall Islands, Albania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Canada, Liberia, Italy, Uruguay and Micronesia.

The commission was established to examine last year's 11-day Israel-Gaza conflict, but it was given an unprecedented open-ended mandate to monitor Israeli actions. No UN inquiry has ever been tasked with an ongoing investigation, and Israel has refused to cooperate with the commission.

"The United States remains deeply concerned about the creation of the Commission of Inquiry (COI) last May. We reiterate our position that this does nothing to advance peace between Israelis and Palestinians. The final report presented today includes

recommendations that reflect the unwieldy scope of the COI," U.S. Ambassador Lisa Carty stated on October 27.

"We also reaffirm our condemnation of antisemitism and anti-Israel bias. We cannot ignore the fact that a current member of the commission made antisemitic comments in late August, referring disparagingly to the 'Jewish lobby' and questioning whether the State of Israel is meeting its obligations as a member of the United Nations. We categorically reject this statement, which we deem to be outrageous, inappropriate, and corrosive.

"We regret that senior UN leadership has still not publicly repudiated these repugnant statements or asked this commission member to step down. No country is above scrutiny, and we will continue to advocate that the UN system treat any concerns related to Israel the same way it treats concerns with other States," Carty's statement continued.

"We ask: Can you provide information on steps you are taking as chair of the COI to ensure related human rights monitoring and investigative mechanisms remain fully objective and impartial?"

The 28-page report, submitted a week earlier, cites "reasonable grounds" to conclude that the "occupation" of the Palestinians "is now unlawful under international law due to its permanence" as well as the Israeli government's "de-facto annexation policies."

Indeed, the panel included Miloon Kothari, who is on record as saying that social media is controlled by the "Jewish lobby" and that "a lot of money is being thrown into trying to discredit us" – for which he later apologized. He had also suggested that Israel be thrown out of the UN.

Israel's Foreign Ministry called Miloon's apology "hollow," describing it as a "pathetic and unconvincing maneuver" that does not compensate for his long record of anti-Semitic comments.

The other two COI members were South African jurist Navi Pillay, who has been a supporter of the anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement and backed Palestinian efforts to label Israel a criminal state, and Australian human rights lawyer Chris Sodati, who is closely associated with non-governmental organizations in Ramallah and Australia that advocate for BDS.

"Ms. Pillay, calling Israel an apartheid state and supporting the boycott of Israel are the only reasons why you were chosen to lead this Commission," Erdan charged.

"Could anyone honestly think you're impartial? Mr. Sidoti, not only do you ridicule antisemitism, you're also a strong supporter of numerous pro-Palestinian organizations. You're definitely not an objective member. According to Mr. Kothari, Israel doesn't even deserve to be a member of the UN, and that's just a taste of his venomous statements."

## Oral Arguments Begin in CUNY 'Antisemitic' Union Resolution Case

By Dion J. Pierre, *The Algemeiner*

A United States District Court on October 26 heard arguments for a case brought by six City University of New York (CUNY) professors seeking to dissociate from its professional faculty union over "anti-Jewish and anti-Israel activity."

Represented by the National Right to Work Foundation, the professors said that Professional Staff Congress' (PSC-CUNY) position on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is so one-sided as to be antisemitic and that continuing to be represented by it violates their First Amendment rights.

Lawyers for the professors said a court victory would prevent the university from requiring professors to recognize the union as their "exclusive representative without their consent."

"My co-plaintiffs and I are being

forced to accept the representation of a union that has made antisemitic statements and has created a hostile environment for CUNY's Jewish faculty," Jeffrey Lax told *The Algemeiner* on Thursday. "I look forward to our case advancing so that I can assert my right to refuse the services of a union that seems to hate Jews."

The suit traces back to May 2021, when, after Israel's war with Hamas, PSC CUNY passed a resolution accusing the Jewish state of ethnic cleansing, apartheid, and crimes against humanity. Since then, over 200 members have resigned from the union, charging that it "violated its mandate by diverting union time and resources to pursue political advocacy far outside of their mission to support CUNY faculty."

In court documents the professors, all

but one of whom are Jewish, declared that they "do not want to be associated with PSC in any way."

"Since the resolution, PSC has continued to advocate positions and take actions that plaintiffs believe to be antisemitic, anti-Jewish, and anti-Israel," the professors said in their complaint.

The suit is part of a slew of legal challenges against CUNY over alleged antisemitism over the past year.

In July, the American Center for Law & Justice filed a civil rights complaint against various colleges within the University system, citing nearly a decade's worth of alleged antisemitic incidents, claiming that antisemitism on campus "has become so commonplace as to be almost normalized."

The complaint followed a June New York City Council hearing on

rising antisemitism at CUNY, with city politicians pressing school officials on steps to support Jewish students and their position on efforts to boycott Israel.

Following the hearing, CUNY joined seventeen colleges and universities, including Yale University and San Francisco State University, in partnering with Hillel International's Campus Climate Initiative (CCI), a program that helps universities better understand, recognize, and combat anti-Jewish discrimination on campus.

"We have remained vigilant and unequivocal in our intolerance of antisemitism," said Chancellor Felix V. Matos Rodriguez. "Yet we know more needs to be done globally and locally to combat antisemitism and bigotry in all forms."



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## Annual Sun City Concert Launched as Tribute to Wife After Losing Her Cancer Battle

November 2022

In March 2020, when Covid began to sweep the country, Sun City resident Lew Rader was looking for online or streaming services so that he could still practice Judaism from home. Rader found a young cantor from New York's Park Avenue Synagogue named Azi Schwartz.

"His voice was absolutely exceptional, and his adaptation of popular songs into Jewish prayers was so enjoyable," said Rader, who has spent many years as a volunteer cantor for synagogues across Southern California. "His personality came through in every song. I quickly became a fan and discovered dozens of songs and videos of Azi Schwartz on YouTube. I was hooked."

Rader was quickly sharing Azi's voice with friends, family, and neighbors, but his wife Carol took a specific liking to his rendition of the prayer 'L'dor Va dor' done to the melody of 'We Are the Champions,' by Queen. Carol was a big fan of Queen and Freddie Mercury, so this song resonated with her and always made her smile.

In December 2021, Carol, who had been fighting her third bout of cancer in 20 years, suddenly took a turn for the worse. She was admitted to the hospital on Valentine's Day 2022 and was ultimately released to home hospice. Her decline was quick. Some days, she could not recognize her husband, Lew, or her children or even understand where she was. But on many evenings, Rader would lay in bed next to her, hold her hand and use his cell phone to play Azi Schwartz singing 'L'DOR VA DOR' to 'We Are the Champions.' "Every time, her beautiful blue eyes would light up, and she would smile," Rader remembers.

Carol, passed away on March 14th, 2022.

"When I think about my last days with my wife of 50 years, I think of lying in bed with her, holding her and watching her smile as we listened to Azi sing," Rader



Lew and Carol Rader

said, holding back tears. "I really wanted to do something in her memory. Something I could put her name on, something that would take me back to those moments holding her hand in bed."

After the funeral and after friends and family had all gone home and Rader was back alone in the home he shared with his wife, he continued to think of Azi Schwartz and Carol's infectious smile and bright blue eyes. He had an idea.

"It sounds crazy, but I felt compelled to get in touch with Azi Schwartz about a concert for Carol, which he achieved with the help of Cantor Joe Gole.

After Rader told Azi his story about his wife Carol, her battle with cancer, and their shared love of his voice in her last days, there were about 10 seconds of silence, and then Azi said, "Lew, I'm sorry for your loss, I'd like to do the concert. I will do everything I can to make this a success for you and for her. I'll be there."

Azi Schwartz will perform in Del Webb Sun City in memory of Carol Rader on January 11<sup>th</sup>, hosted and sponsored by Sun City Jewish Services with the support of the Jewish Federation of the Desert. For more information on how to attend or purchase tickets, please visit <https://bit.ly/aziconcert2023>.

**CALLING ALL SINGERS**

Calling all singers... we are putting together a community choir under the leadership of Cantorial soloist and musician extraordinaire Alan Scott, to perform Israeli music at our **Community Israel 75 Celebration** on April 30, 2023. This will involve several rehearsals, (times to be set later) and a lot of RUACH (enthusiasm) for Israel's big birthday party! If you are interested, please contact Leslie Pepper at 760-324-4737 or at [leslie.pepper@jfedps.org](mailto:leslie.pepper@jfedps.org). Young and old, we want to raise your voices in a musical salute to Israel.

HAPPINESS IS SINGING IN THE CHOIR!



## Women's Philanthropy Activities

Fran Kaufman, President of Women's Philanthropy welcomed everyone to the opening program of the year with Dr. Vlad Bragman, a local urologist from Ukraine, giving us an update to the situation going on in Ukraine and a brief historical overview of Jewish life in that region since the late 9th century. He touched on the work that the Jewish Agency and the Joint



**Fran Kaufman**

Distribution Committee (both of whom receive major funding from our Jewish Federation) have been involved with during the various waves of Soviet resettlement to our country.

In addition to our monthly meetings, Women's Philanthropy ladies participate in book reviews, movie viewings, friendly phone calling, community programs, fun and fundraising activities and so much more! If you are looking to get involved in our Jewish community, please contact Leslie Pepper at 760-324-4737 or [leslie.pepper@jfedps.org](mailto:leslie.pepper@jfedps.org).

## Israeli Woman Finishes Second in New York City Marathon

By The Algemeiner

Israeli Lonah Chemtai Salpeter has finished second place in Sunday's New York City Marathon. Salpeter finished seven seconds behind the winner, Sharon Lokedi of Kenya, who ran the 26.2 mile race through the city's five boroughs in a time of 2 hours 23 minutes and 23 seconds. Salpeter, 33, was born in Kenya and moved to Israel in 2008 to work as a nanny for the children of Kenya's Ambassador to Israel. She married Israeli running coach Dan Salpeter in 2014.

It is the best final result for an Israeli man or



**Lonah Chemtai Salpeter**

woman in the history of the race, which is in its 51st year. Salpeter set an Israeli national record in 2020 when she ran a marathon in 2:17:45.

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## NBA, NFL Stars Leave Kanye West's Sports Agency as Antisemitism Fallout Continues

By World Israel News

National Basketball Association and National Football League stars have left Donda Sports, an agency founded by Ye (formerly known as Kanye West), over the rapper's recent series of anti-Semitic remarks.

"I have always, and will always, continue to stand strongly against any antisemitism, hate speech, misrepresentation, and oppressive rhetoric of any kind," Boston Celtics forward Jaylen Brown stated. "In light of that, after sharing in conversations, I now recognize that there are times when my voice and my position can't coexist in spaces that don't correspond with my stance or my values. And, for that reason, I am terminating my association with Donda Sports."

Meanwhile, Los Angeles Rams defensive tackle Aaron Donald said Ye's remarks "are the exact opposite of how we choose to live our lives and raise our children."

"As parents and members of society, we felt a responsibility to send a clear message that hateful words and actions have consequences and that we must



do better as human beings," Donald said. "We do not feel our beliefs, voices and actions belong anywhere near a space that misrepresents and oppresses people of any background, ethnicity or race. We've had the pleasure of working with many incredible people along the way and hope to continue to use our platform to uplift and support other families, children and communities through positive outreach."

On Tuesday, the film and television studio MRC announced that it will halt plans to distribute its recently completed Kanye West-themed documentary.

Further, Forbes reported that Ye's net worth dropped from \$2 billion to \$400 million after Adidas ended its "Yeezy" brand partnership with the musician.

## US Backs IHRA Antisemitism Definition After UN Criticism

By Andrew Bernard, *The Algemeiner*

The Biden Administration on November 4 repeated its support for the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism after it was criticized by a top UN official.

Speaking at the UN's Third Committee on October 31, the last day of her term, E. Tendayi Achiume, the UN's outgoing Special Rapporteur on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, said that there was a "worrying trend" of the "instrumentalization" of antisemitism. "I highlight the controversial status, divisive effects, and negative human rights impacts of the IHRA working definition on antisemitism," she said, outlining the findings of her report to the committee on combating neo-Nazism.

State Department spokesman Ned Price said that Achiume had

"misrepresented" the IHRA definition. "In an era of rapidly rising global antisemitism, now is not the time to discard one of the most fundamental and critical tools in the arsenal to combat it," Price added.

Achiume, who was born in Zambia, was appointed to the special rapporteur role by the UN Human Rights Council in 2017 and is a law professor at UCLA.

Adopted in 2016, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance defined antisemitism as "a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities." IHRA also adopted illustrative examples of antisemitism to go along

with the definition, including that targeting the state of Israel as a Jewish collectivity was antisemitic, but that criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country was not.

Gilad Erdan, Israel's ambassador to the UN, called the report and the remarks by Achiume "a disgrace." "These ill-founded recommendations made by the rapporteur are not in line with and are not part of her mandate," he said, adding that the recommendation to suspend use of the definition would only give aid to antisemites.

Jewish groups also condemned the UN report and supported the Biden administration's commitment to the IHRA definition. The World Jewish Congress called Achiume's report "petty and ill-informed politics."



# Two Additional Acute Centers Open for Treatment of Victims of Rape, Sexual Assault

By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, The Jerusalem Post

The Health Ministry opened two new acute centers in Tel Aviv and Rehovot, to examine, treat and collect forensic data for police action in suspected rape cases. This will bring the total number of such centers in Israel to 10.

The new centers, at Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center and Kaplan Medical Center in Rehovot, join similar facilities at Hadassah-University Medical Center in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, Soroka in Beersheba, Wolfson in Holon, Josephthal Hospital in Eilat, Hillel Yaffe in Hadera, Bnai Zion in Haifa, Baruch Padeh Medical Center, Poriya, near Tiberias and the English Hospital in Nazareth.

"Victims of rape and victims of sexual assault encounter the health system in a vulnerable and fragile state, and it is our duty to provide them with respectful, safe, adequate and fast care," Health Minister Nitzan Horowitz said on November 3. "As minister, I doubled the budget for this purpose, and we upgraded the responses for helping victims [both female and male, adults and children] in hospitalization, rehabilitation, intensive care and accessibility to psychotherapeutic treatment in the community.

"The two new acute rooms that we are opening now, out of a total of four new rooms in the whole country that we opened since taking office, will provide primary medical, psychological and legal treatment to victims of sexual assault at a high level," he said. "Only by strengthening the

public system will we ensure access to appropriate and dedicated treatment for each and every patient throughout the country."

Ministry Director-General Prof. Nachman Ash added, "Victims of sexual violence go through a terrible ordeal, placing them in the most vulnerable situation one can imagine. The opening of the new acute centers will expand the response available to them and the ability of the teams to treat victims quickly, gently and professionally. This will help to reduce as much as possible the trauma accompanying the incident and allow those who wish to do so to obtain evidence for the legal process and to act against the sexual abuser. The Ministry of Health will continue to take action against the abuser."

The ministry recommends that victims contact an acute center as soon as possible after an assault – ideally within seven days – so an immediate response can be provided that includes medical and psychological treatment and a forensic medical examination. Acute centers can be contacted at any time of the day, 365 days a year.

Up to a week after the sexual assault, victims are entitled to receive treatment at the centers – also known as Room 4, Bat-Ami, Room 10, Tene or by other names in the general hospitals. The centers are staffed by dedicated teams that have been trained in the field of sexual trauma who provide sensitive care for all who seek it.

## 72 hours after the incident

The effectiveness of the preventive medical treatment and the collection of legal evidence are more effective when they are performed within 72 hours from the time of the attack. It is recommended not to shower before arriving at the acute centers and to bring the clothes (in a bag) worn at the time of incident. One must call to coordinate the arrival so the hospital will be prepared to provide an optimal response.

If the victim went to a hospital where there is no acute center, they are entitled to be taken immediately by a hospital staffer to the nearest one.

Signs that may indicate the use of a rape drug or obfuscating substance for sexual injury include a feeling of memory loss of several hours. In the case of drinking alcohol, the effect is not typical of that experienced following drinking unadulterated alcoholic beverages. When the drug wears off, victims usually wake up to a situation without knowing or remembering how they got there. In such cases, it is important to ask immediately upon arrival at the emergency room or acute center that they take blood and urine samples to test for rape drugs.

Ladies, Does this graphic look familiar? It was always part of the invitation of our community's annual Tri-Sisterhood luncheons hosted in turn by the Sisterhoods of Temples Isaiah, Sinai and Beth Shalom. In the spirit of bringing the ladies of our community together again after many years' hiatus, the Women of Sinai invite you to a wonderful Fashion Show and Luncheon on Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>.



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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)



# Israeli App That Teaches English via Music Inspired by Dyslexia

By Diana Bletter, Israel21c

One of the best ways to learn how to speak a foreign language is to sing it.

That's the philosophy behind Singit, a software program to teach English using the power of music.

The company is the brainchild of Michael Peled, who struggled with dyslexia from childhood.

When he told his father he couldn't learn English, his father, who was also dyslexic, told Peled that he learned English by listening to John Lennon and Bob Dylan songs.

Peled eventually channeled that helpful insight into a learning app to help Israeli students increase their confidence in speaking English.

Today, the Israeli Ministry of Education uses Singit to teach English to 60,000 students in grades 5-9 across 800 Israeli schools.

Israeli children are often bopping to the beat of music in English, sometimes mumbling the words, and not always understanding the lyrics. Singit uses the songs kids like to listen to, providing

questions for learning vocabulary and meaning. The students can follow the lyrics on a screen and click on words to see translations.

The app allows them to repeat a word, only moving on to the next word if they pronounce it correctly. Peled said it's a way for them to learn English while enjoying themselves.

In the classroom, teachers can use songs of their choosing for their curriculum. At home, students can follow their own musical tastes.

The company now has its sights on selling Singit via a monthly subscription plan to individuals as well, and in other countries.

## Audio version

While Singit is designed for all students, an all-audio version is geared especially to teach English to students with dyslexia or attention disorders.

Singit Customer Service Manager Adir Laebo has a tale similar to Peled's. He had ADHD and "couldn't sit tight and listen in class."

"I remember coming home and crying my eyes out," Laebo said.

He told his family that he couldn't learn English, and his grandfather started playing Led Zeppelin on the stereo.

"He gave me the vinyl record with the lyrics on the back and I started

listening and following the lyrics," Laebo said. "I still remember it was the song 'No Quarter,' and I fell in love with the music."

Despite Peled's early struggles in English, he graduated high school with honors and served in an Air Force cyber unit. At Weizmann Institute's Program for Gifted Students, Peled developed a platform that later became Singit.

Using seed money saved from his work in venture capital, Peled founded Singit in 2019 with Benny Rosner, his former commander in the army, who serves as the company's chief technology officer.

In 2020, the Ministry of Education adapted Singit's program. The company now has 13 employees.

Singit's two competitors are Duolingo, which is geared to adults, and Lingopie, an Israeli video-streaming platform that enables viewers to learn different languages while watching television shows and movies.

Peled said that the company's data shows that average students learn 200 new words through the app during the school year, and others can learn more than 1,000 words.

Haifa resident Yaron Menashe said his two sons, aged 10 and 12, use Singit in their English classroom. His younger son already knew some English from playing the game Minecraft.

"He learned a few words here and there but now he hears songs that he loves and speaks in sentences," Menashe said. "Both boys use the app in class to listen to the music and I see that they're using it at home, like a game."

While teachers might prefer teaching English to the songs of Adele, Menashe said his sons love the American rock band Imagine Dragons.

"I think for my older son, the app just makes him learn more English without realizing that he is learning," Menashe said.



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# Shabbat Schedule - December 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.

**IN-PERSON** Shabbat Morning Services: 9:45 am, followed by light Kiddush lunch.

Proof of vaccination required on first in-person return visit. Visitors welcome with proof of vaccination. For information, email [info@congregationbethshalom.net](mailto:info@congregationbethshalom.net) or call 760-200-3636. Website: [www.CongregationBethShalom.net](http://www.CongregationBethShalom.net)  
December 9-11: Second weekend of "Acts of Lovingkindness" programs, featuring Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine.

## **CHABAD OF PALM SPRINGS & DESERT COMMUNITIES**

*Rabbi Yonason Denebeim & Rabbi Arik Denebeim*

250 East Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92264  
[www.chabadpalm Springs.com](http://www.chabadpalm Springs.com)  
760-325-0774. Check website or call to confirm times Shabbat services are held.

## **CHABAD OF PALM DESERT**

*Rabbi Mendy Friedman*

Call for information: 760-651-2424.  
[www.chabadpd.com](http://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](http://www.chabadrm.com)  
760-770-7785

Friday night services:

Check website for times.

Shabbat morning services begin at 10 am, followed by Kiddush lunch.

Daily Minyan: Shacharit (morning) Services 7:00 am, Sundays 8:00 am.

Check web for updated times for Mincha & Maariv.

## **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](mailto:sussiedenebeim@gmail.com).

## **CHABAD OF LA QUINTA**

*Rabbi Moshe Katz*

50620 Eisenhower Drive, Ste. G103, La Quinta, CA 92253. 760-709-2431. Email: [chabadlaquinta@gmail.com](mailto:chabadlaquinta@gmail.com).

Chabad LQ offers weekly Torah studies, home visitations, Kosher meals, Shabbat Services, Women's Circle, youth activities, Holiday programs and more.

## **CONGREGATION HAR-EL**

(Member, Union for Reform Judaism)

*Rabbi Richard Zions, Ph.D.; Cantor Joseph Gole, D.Mus.* [harelurjpd@gmail.com](mailto:harelurjpd@gmail.com)  
com 760-779-1691.

New website: [harelurjpd.org](http://harelurjpd.org).

Weekly Zoom Shabbat services with Rabbi Richard Zions and Cantor Joseph Gold at 5:00 pm and Saturday mornings at 11:00 am Torah Study conducted by Rabbi Zions. Everyone welcome. For Zoom invite email [harelurjpd@gmail.com](mailto:harelurjpd@gmail.com).

## **DESERT OUTREACH SYNAGOGUE**

*Rabbi Dr. Jules King; Rabbi Rachel Axelrad, Rabbi Andrew Bentley, Cantor Lori Reisman Patterson.* 760-449-

0111. Mailing address: P.O. Box 982, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270. Shabbat services held on the second Fridays at Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert, 72425 Via Vail, Rancho Mirage.

On second Saturdays: 10:30-11:30 am Torah study on Zoom with Rabbi Axelrad. Beit Sefer Religious School Saturday mornings (from 9:45 AM to noon. B'nei Mitzvah classes for Children with Arava Talve. "Talkin' Torah": See listing on Community Calendar . Check website for most current information: [www.Desert-Outreach-Synagogue.com](http://www.Desert-Outreach-Synagogue.com).

## **OR HAMIDBAR**

Rabbi David Lazar [rabbid@orhamidbar.org](mailto:rabbid@orhamidbar.org). Virtual Kabbalat Services first, second and fourth Fridays of the month, at 6:30 pm and Shabbat morning services at 10:30 am. Join Zoom meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86202660636>. For more information email [info@orhamidbar.org](mailto:info@orhamidbar.org).

## **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 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: Nadine Brinhendler, 707-332-3947.

## **TEMPLE HAR SHALOM, Idyllwild**

(951) 468-0004. [www.templeharshalomidyllwild.org](http://www.templeharshalomidyllwild.org)

Email: [templeharshalomofidyllwild@gmail.com](mailto:templeharshalomofidyllwild@gmail.com). Erev Shabbat Services the third Friday of each month with Rabbi Ilana Grinblat at 6:00 pm and Shabbat teaching with Rabbi Grinblat the next morning at 9:30 am. Every other Friday of the month: Shabbat Candle Lighting with Rabbi Emerita Malka Drucker or Rabbi Grinblat at 5:45 pm. Check website [templeharshalomofidyllwild.org](http://templeharshalomofidyllwild.org) for Zoom Address.

## **TEMPLE ISAIAH**

*Rabbi Steven Rosenberg. Cantor Ken Cohen or Soloist Dr. Sarah Sela join Rabbi on the bima most weekends.*

332 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262, 760-325-2281. Email: [temple@templeisaiahps.com](mailto:temple@templeisaiahps.com); [www.templeisaiahps.com](http://www.templeisaiahps.com).

Weekly in-person Shabbat services Friday evenings at 7:30 pm, preceded by Wine and Cheese 'Happy Hour' from 7:00-7:30 pm. Saturday morning begins with "Nosh and Drash" at 10:00 am, followed by Shabbat morning services. To attend in person services requires being fully vaccinated. and masks are urged when in the building. All services also 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.templeisaiapd.org](http://www.templeisaiapd.org) 760-568-9699.

Go to [templeisaiapd.org](http://templeisaiapd.org) for access information. Shabbat services are in-person and online on Livestream at [www.templeisaiapd.org](http://www.templeisaiapd.org). Friday evening services 5:30 pm, preceded by pre-service Oneg at 5:00 pm. Saturday morning Torah study 8:45 am; Shabbat morning services 10 am. Schedule continues through Summer. Proof of vaccination or negative covid test within 72 hours required.

## **BIKUR CHOLIM**

A project of Chabad of Palm Springs & Desert Communities (Community Outreach) [www.BikurCholimPS.com](http://www.BikurCholimPS.com)  
Rabbi Yankel Kreiman - 760-325-8076, and Rabbi Mendy Kreiman - 760-567-6726.



# Community Calendar of Programs - December 2022

## **Mondays:**

**Har-El** offers three classes with Rabbi Zionts on Zoom on Mondays for residents and non-residents: 10:30 AM—Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class; 1:00 PM—Conversion to Judaism; 4:00 PM—Youth Bar/Bat Mitzvah Preparation. Individual Zoom Sessions will be offered for beginning students who require extra preparation for group study. For registration and additional information, email: harelurjpd@gmail.com or call Rabbi Zionts at (760) 668-9943.

**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:**

**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.

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

**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.

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

**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, or 760-550-5793.

**Saturdays: Talkin' Torah** with **Rabbi Andrew Bentley**. Hybrid class meeting both in person and during Shabbat school, with locations to be announced shortly, as well as online. Email Rabbi Andrew at rabbibentley@gmail.com for more information.

## **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.

## **Wednesday, November 30**

**3:30 pm** Har-El Galen Course Session 4: "The Middle East Today and the Little-Known History Behind the Present Situation." (Each session stands alone), led by **Rabbi Richard Zionts**. This class will address the topics "What Did the Peel Commission Accomplish and Why Was Palestine Considered So Important to Britain and, Later, to Nazi Germany." For Zoom invite contact harelurjpd.com.

## **Thursday, December 1**

**9:30 am** Schmoozing/**10:00 am** Program. Sabra Hadassah **Installation of Officers** and pre-Chanukah Auction. \$20 members; \$25 non-members. Sun City Shadow Hills Montecito Clubhouse/Main ballroom. For more information call Debbie at 760-289-7987.

## **Wednesday, December 7**

**3:30 pm** Har-El Galen Book Course (Zoom). **Steve Moyer**, Professor and Attorney-at-Law, will review **Gangsters Vs. Nazis: How Jewish Mobsters Battled Nazis in WW2 Era America**. This is the true story of the rise of Nazism in America in the years leading up to WWII and the Jewish gangsters who joined forces to fight the Nazi German-sponsored hate groups of the 1930s and early 1940s. To receive a Zoom invitation, email: harelurjpd@gmail.com

## **Sunday, December 11**

**6:00-8:00 pm** JFS of the Desert **Patron Party** at Saks Fifth Avenue. See ad page 14.

## **Monday, December 12**

**3:00 pm**, Har-El, sponsored by Jewish Federation: **Dr. Steven F. Windmueller**, Ph.D., Interim Director, HUC Zelikow: "Why Here? Why Now? The Rise of the New Antisemitism." Jewish Federation

Community Room. Seating Limited. Pre-registration required. Email harelurjpd@gmail.com. No fee. Please consider making a contribution to the Ukraine Fund when you attend. 3:00 pm Pre-Chanukah refreshments. 3:30 pm Presentation. See related article and ad on page 8.

## **Sunday, December 18**

**3:00-5:00 pm** Temple Isaiah "**Chanu-Que BBQ**" Chanukah Celebration as we begin the holiday, including lighting huge chanukiah at sundown. Reservations required. RSVP online at templeisaiahps.com or call the office 760-325-2281. See ad page 12.

## **Sunday, December 19**

**5:00 pm** Bikkur Cholim, Jewish Federation of the Desert and PJ Library invite the community to join in celebrating **Chanukah at Boomers**, 67,700 East Palm Canyon in Cathedral City. For more information call Bikkur Cholim at 760-325-8076 or Leslie Pepper at the Jewish Federation, 760-324-4737. See ad page 19.

## **Wednesday, December 21**

**3:30 pm** Har-El Galen Course Followed by Lighting of the 4th Hanukkah Candle. Topic: "Opening the Can of the Alphabet Soup of Jewish Life"--E.g., JDC, HIAS, JNF, HUC, CCAR, URJ, NFTY, ADL, AFHU, AIPAC, JTSA, RA, CA, USY, BBYO, WIZO and more. How do they interact? What are their goals? How do Jews, locally, nationally and internationally, benefit? Presenter: Rabbi Richard Zionts, Ph.D. To receive a Zoom invitation, email: harelurjpd@gmail.com.



# Surfside, Florida Becomes Sister-City to Samaria Regional Council

By Batya Jerenberg, World Israel News

The mayor of Surfside, Florida, signed a sister-city agreement with Yossi Dagan, the head of the Samaria Regional Council October 27, despite pressure by the anti-Israel BDS movement to prevent the official act of friendship.

Shlomo Danziger, a businessman who took office by beating two opponents in March by a combined 56 votes, is the town's first Orthodox Jewish mayor. During the signing ceremony at the Council's office in the Barkan Industrial Park near the Samaritan city of Ariel, he spoke of the reasons why the two areas should be twinned.

For one, "Israeli citizens in Samaria were victims of Palestinian attacks, and they remained strong because of their resilience and the place continues to flourish," he said. "This is something we can understand after the devastating collapse in Surfside," he said, referring to the sudden collapse of a 12-story condominium in June last year where 98 people lost their lives.

"I could have picked a tourist city in Israel, but this bond has a reality [to it]," Danziger said, adding that the residents of the region are the ones "fighting on the frontlines to make sure that Israel is safe."

A second reason was gratitude to Israel for immediately sending an IDF mission to the disaster site, where many Jews had lived. For two weeks, the army search and rescue team combed through the rubble, unfortunately finding only bodies and some precious family mementos but no survivors.



**Surfside, Fla. Mayor Shlomo Danziger (r.) with Samaria Regional Council head Yossi Dagan**

Still, Danziger said, the townspeople had breathed "a sigh of relief" when they saw the soldiers, who had given them "a lot of hope."

"With this [twinning] gesture Surfside

could show its support and admiration for the people of Israel and the State of Israel, who were at our side during our darkest hour," he said.

Dagan had raised the idea when he met

the new mayor on a fundraising trip to Miami in May. Danziger had enthusiastically agreed and stuck to the plan even though members of the antisemitic Boycott, Divest, Sanctions (BDS) group campaigned against the move because Samaria "is a controversial region that sits on occupied territory."

At the ceremony, Dagan hailed the agreement as "another victory over the obsessive attempts of BDS to hurt Judea and Samaria, the cradle of Jewish culture and history." The "intense industry of lies" was countered by "the truth and people who are not afraid to tell the truth."

According to Dagan, the agreement will "lead to educational, cultural and economic cooperation" between Surfside and Israel's heartland.

The town's burgeoning friendship with the Jewish state also manifested itself prior to Danziger's election. In February, Surfside's governing commission approved the adoption of International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism.



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### Honorarium Tributes In Appreciation For:

- **Ben Eisler**, *Wishing you a happy and healthy 80<sup>th</sup> birthday from Sande and Bob Chernett, Judy and Jack Feinberg.*
- **Bradley Martin**, *Wishing you a very happy milestone birthday, from Sande and Bob Chernett,*
- **Barbara Platt**, *In honor of your birthday. I love you. Normando.*
- **Mr. and Mrs. Howard Schor**, *Wishing you well in your new residence, from Barbara Platt and Norm Lewis.*
- **Ken Schoenfeld**, *Best wishes for a wonderful 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, from Cora Ginsberg.*
- **Iris Smotrich**, *Thank you for being a wonderful host, from Cathy Pitts.*

### Refuah Shleimah Get Well:

- **Phil Oxman**, *Wishing you a speedy recovery, from Dan Weisberg and David Klungenberger.*

### Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:

- **Judith Appelbaum**, *In memory of Bob Appelbaum, from Susie and Joel Cohen.*
- **Barbara Astrin**, *In memory of your beloved mother Helen Wohlfeiler, from Gail Stone.*
- **Gail Baron and Family**, *In memory of your beloved son-in-law, from Ruth and Mal Kaufman.*
- **Beverly Bell**, *Deepest sympathies on the loss of your sister, from Rhoda Brickell and Carol.*
- **Miles Berger and Family**, *In memory of Sally, from Susie and Joel Cohen, Barbara Schrayner and Cal Levin.*
- *In memory of **Peggy Cravens**, a beautiful and generous soul, from Mark Krasne.*
- **Nancy Cremo**, *In memory of your beloved father Henry Freund, from Robin and Jeff Fox.*
- **Helen Curtis**, *In fond memory of Pat Curtis, from Bob Friedman.*
- **Annette Feldman Family**, *In memory of your*

*beloved mother Annette, from Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.*

- **Joyce Freund**, *In memory of your beloved husband Henry, from Sandra Borns, Nichole O. Charfoos, Ruth and Mal Kaufman.*
- **Pat Hubbard**, *In memory of Gordon Hubbard, from Susie and Joel Cohen.*
- **Heather Kay and Family**, *In memory of your beloved husband Judge Laurence Kay, from Gail and Bob Scadron, Sherry and Howard Schor.*
- **Reva Levy**, *In memory of Don Levy, from Susie and Joel Cohen.*
- **Sherry Miller and Family**, *Deepest sympathies on the passing of your husband Marvin, from Marnie Miller.*
- **The Pearl Family**, *In memory of your beloved husband, father and grandfather, from Libby and Buddy Hoffman.*
- **Linda Sklar**, *Condolences on the passing of your beloved husband Steve, from Cora Ginsberg.*
- **Brenda Vaidman**, *In memory of your beloved sister-in-law, from Gail and Bobby Scadron.*

## Chicago Financial Firm Announces It Will Guard Against BDS

By Dion J. Pierre, *The Algemeiner*

Morningstar, Inc., a Chicago-based investment firm managing over \$250 billion in assets, has adopted measures preventing anti-Zionist bias from affecting ratings assigned to Israeli companies by one of its subsidiaries, the company announced October 31.

Morningstar said the subsidiary, Sustainalytics, will issue guidance clarifying that business activity “linked to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict or related to Israel’s defense, against terrorism, do not give rise to a presumption that there is a human rights concern.”

It will also no longer refer to the West Bank and East Jerusalem as ‘Occupied Palestinian Territory’ or ‘occupied territory,’ educate its employees about antisemitism, and procure information about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from “independent, recognized experts.”

“We believe constructive criticism can

make our research better,” Morningstar CEO Kunal Kapoor said in a statement. “We entered the engagement process with the intention of being transparent, listening, learning, and taking appropriate action. These improvements, coupled with the actions we have taken to date, underscore the spirit of purpose and good faith we have brought to this dialogue.”

Since 2020, Morningstar has faced allegations that Sustainalytics, which assigns environmental, social, and governance (ESG) ratings to encourage socially conscious investment strategies, engages in the boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) movement by placing Israeli companies and those that do business with Israel on a “watchlist.” In 2021, JLens, a group that offers financial advice to Jewish investors, reviewed Sustainalytics’ practices and concluded that the firm used “BDS blacklists” and described Israeli companies

with “politicized anti-Israel language” in its reports.

Morningstar has consistently denied that it ever supported BDS.

Monday’s announcement follows months of cooperation between Morningstar, the ADL and several other leading Jewish rights groups, including the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations and the American Jewish Committee. Jewish groups across the US commended Morningstar’s new policies for responding to the Jewish community’s concerns about rising antisemitism.

“We are pleased that Morningstar has made significant progress to date in resolving the many issues identified by the Jewish community and other stakeholders,” said ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt. “Still, much remains to be done. We look forward to working with Morningstar and Sustainalytics to help with implementation

and oversight of their blueprint for change.”

“Biased ESG ratings are a sign that the anti-Zionism and antisemitism that have grown up on the campus are increasingly having influence in the boardroom as well,” Kenneth Marcus, founder and chairman of the Brandeis Center, said. “Although today we are making only a first step, it is an important step along a continuing path in which we look forward to helping Morningstar implement its anti-bias goals.”

In August, 17 state attorneys general wrote a letter to Morningstar asking it to verify that it was not participating in BDS. A spokesperson for Morningstar told *The Algemeiner* that the firm “does not support the BDS movement.”

18 states have now joined a Missouri probe into the firm. In June, Illinois concluded in its investigation of Morningstar that the firm had not violated state law.



# UN Committee Demands Israel Destroy its Alleged Nuclear Arsenal

**It also called for a nuclear-free Middle East while ignoring the immediate threat of the Iranian nuclear weapons program.**

By Batya Jerenberg, World Israel News

With an overwhelming 152-5 majority, a UN committee devoted to world security called on Israel Friday to renounce its nuclear arsenal and put all its nuclear-related sites under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC, or First Committee) resolution, submitted annually by Egypt for years, demands that Israel join the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), even though Jerusalem never acknowledged possession of nuclear weapons.

It is "important" that Israel sign onto the NPT "without delay," agree "not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons," and accede to IAEA oversight in order to "realiz[e] the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East," and "as a step toward enhancing peace and security," the resolution stated.

Iran, a member of the NPT, has openly said it is enriching uranium to near-weapon's purity, and according to the IAEA, the Islamic Republic began producing uranium metal last year



Israel's nuclear reactor in Dimona.

although it has no civilian purpose. This was not mentioned in the resolution.

Arab countries at peace with Israel besides Egypt sponsored the resolution, including Jordan, Bahrain, the UAE and Morocco, as did the Palestinian ambassador, Riyad Mansour. The "State of Palestine" was granted non-member observer State status in the UN in 2012.

**The five countries that voted against it were Israel, the United States, Canada, Micronesia and Palau. There were 24 abstentions, including all member states of the European Union.**

Iran was also one of 170 nations that approved a sister-resolution calling for a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East.

When the international body held a debate on the issue earlier in October, Israel's Deputy Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Michal Maayan, noted a built-in flaw of the NPT – that it was only as pertinent as the level of compliance with its dictates.

The Islamic Republic would be a prime example of the problem, as she noted that "for decades now, Iran has been rapidly

advancing its illicit nuclear programs and currently possesses large quantities of highly enriched nuclear material."

Jerusalem has always maintained a policy of deliberate ambiguity on the subject of its nuclear status for strategic reasons, while saying that Israel would never be the first to introduce such weapons in the region.

Foreign estimates have put Israel's stockpile between 80 and 400 nuclear warheads. It is believed that the IDF can conduct a nuclear strike via its air force, the ground-based launch of intercontinental missiles, and sea-based missile launch from its submarines.

The latter is crucial to the country's deterrence, as it theoretically gives Israel a second, or retaliatory, strike opportunity if its land mass comes under catastrophic attack.

## Historic: Israeli Athlete Competes in Saudi Arabia for First Time

By Pesach Benson, United with Israel

In a sign of further thawing Israeli-Saudi relations, Olympic triathlete Shachar Sagiv became the first Israeli to compete in a Saudi sporting event. He was competing in the Saudi NEOM leg of the Super League Triathlon on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

The head of Israel's Olympic committee, Yael Arad, called Sagiv's participation "a very significant breakthrough."

"In the past year we've seen many Arab states come to terms with the fact that hosting an international tournament means hosting Israelis," Arad said in a statement. "This is a growing trend and the true force in normalization between nations, and especially people."

Sagiv's coach, Lior Cohen noted on



Olympic triathlete Shachar Sagiv

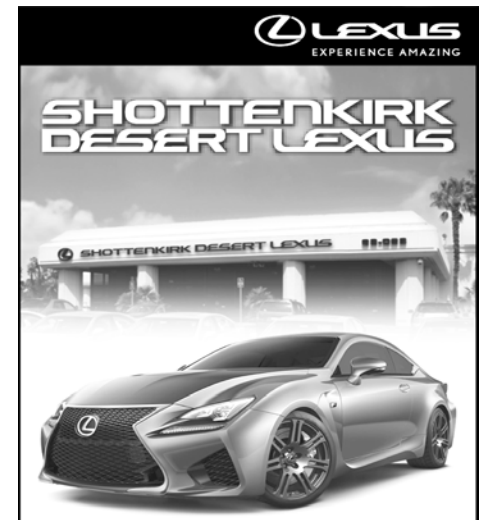
social media that he and Sagiv had no problems entering Saudi Arabia with their Israeli passports. Cohen added that that several weeks ago, they were prevented from competing in Jordan

even though Israel and Jordan signed a peace agreement 28 years ago.

The triathlon is a multi-sport endurance competition in which athletes swim, run and bicycle.

Sagiv had high hopes for a podium finish, having taken second place at the Super League Triathlon Malibu in September, but faced challenges during the race. According to Sport1, the 28-year-old fell from his bicycle and was forced to sprint with it to the transition stage, costing time. Sagiv was eliminated after not getting on his bike within 90 seconds of the leading competitor.

The Saudi competition was won by Hayden Wilde of New Zealand.



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# Israeli Artist's Vast, Colorful Murals Bring City Buildings to Life

Moti Shemesh uses large, bold patterns to transform otherwise uninspiring public spaces across the country

By Danielle Nagler, *The Times of Israel*

Israeli artist Moti Shemesh started painting and drawing on walls at age 11. Today, he spends much of his time using older buildings across Israel as a canvas and giving them a new life with his designs.

Shemesh's murals are considered an alternative form of urban renewal, which the government has recognized as both popular and necessary in Israel as municipalities up and down the country contend with aging city centers and the demand for more housing.

Murals as a visual art form can transform public and private spaces. Shemesh says city centers in Israel can often feel grey or beige, and he gets commissioned by building owners and municipalities to use his talent to breathe new life into areas that look neglected and uninspiring. Often these areas have little aesthetic, a result of previous building booms where function prevailed and rectangular residential buildings were set up at scale to accommodate waves of new immigrants.

Murals, he told *The Times of Israel* in a recent interview, can give a sense of place in urban areas.

"Murals influence the atmosphere," said Shemesh. "They change the building's surroundings. Sometimes my work is seen by tens of thousands of people each day as they drive past. From time to time a car will stop while I am working on something, and the driver will tell me how much they like it. Or after I have finished a job people will get in touch to say thank you — it makes me so happy."

"These artistic projects in the public space bring urban renewal, upgrading the city and have a positive influence on residents and visitors. The main goal is to bring art and color to life, for everyone," he explained.

He also believes that what he offers is "cut-price urban renewal" at a time when breathing life and identity back into older city centers is a major priority for municipalities.

Shemesh said he was drawn to murals at a young age out of inspiration. "I was short as a child, and when I stood against the wall it was as if it was superior to me. I didn't want that. When you draw on paper it is still. When you draw on a wall it is a statement, it has a life — it's really different," Shemesh said.

Known for his big, bold patterns,



*Histadrut Street, Petah Tikva*



*Residential buildings near the Sirkin junction in Petah Tikva*



*A mural on the Neve Raya nursing home in Petah Tikva*

Shemesh has been creating murals across the country for over 30 years. He's done work for both public and commercial clients, including Coca-Cola, Bezeq, Goldstar beer, amusement parks, restaurants, private

homes, sports grounds, and multiple municipalities and business owners.

A Rosh Ha'ayin resident, Shemesh said he draws from a large pool of inspirations and particularly likes to bring flowers and nature

back into the dry concrete centers of many Israeli cities.

The overall process of creating a mural can be long and involved, he said. The most important factor is "understanding the budget we are working [with] and after that the shape and the individual characteristics of the building [such as] windows, trees planted against it, all the elements that will have to be blended with a final mural."

The creative process considers "what is right for this area or for the people that live or will pass through here," he said.

"For a living space, I want the design to bring calm and joy. In an industrial space, there can be more movement and energy. One of my other important parameters is whether people will like the work. When I can, I ask them at the design stage, talking to clients, or using social media to reach out," he explained.

Shemesh says it is possible to get a design up on a wall in two days. But a more complex design and building — like the work he did on a nursing home in Petah Tikva — takes much longer. That work took around five months, he said.

Shemesh said that unlike graffiti, which delivers a statement or expression by the artist, his murals target an identified audience to transform or enhance their surroundings. His artistic expression is part of the work, but the end result is driven by the needs of a given community.

In the past few years, Shemesh established the Israeli Airbrush Center together with his partner Hay-li Shemesh. The organization was set up to help other artists develop the skills needed for this kind of work and build a creative community where members inspire each other and work together on different projects.

Shemesh is hoping to work on bigger projects like taking a whole group of buildings and transforming them simultaneously to refocus the feel of the entire area.

His grand vision is for "an open museum all across Israel."

"I want another 100,000 tourists from across the world to visit Israel each year to see my art...I want through my art to connect people from different communities. I have a dream of peace and I believe that art — my art — can play a role in that," Shemesh said.



# Nancy Pelosi Quotes Israeli Poem in First Appearance Since Husband Assaulted

By Times of Israel Staff and AP Today

US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on November 4 quoted an Israeli poem that she has cited publicly before, in her first public appearance since the brutal attack on her husband.

Pelosi thanked those on a video call for the outpouring of support for Paul Pelosi, 82, who suffered a fractured skull and other injuries after an intruder broke into their San Francisco home late last week and bludgeoned him with a hammer in what authorities say was an intentional and political attack.

"I have no other country. Although my land is burning, my veins, my soul with an aching body and with a hungry heart, here is my home," Pelosi said as she read from Ehud Manor's "I Have No Other Land."

"I will not be silent. For my country has changed her face. I will not give up on her, I shall remind her and sing into her ears, until she opens her eyes."

After reading from the poem, Pelosi



Paul Pelosi, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi with President Isaac Herzog and Michal Herzog in Jerusalem on February 16, 2022.

said "we need to bring our country together."

"So when we are fighting this fight, getting out this vote, let's do so with the

greatest respect for everyone," she said.

Pelosi has quoted Manor's poem several times over the past few years — including in response to the US

Supreme Court's overturning of a federally-guaranteed right to abortion and after the storming of the Capitol by supporters of then-president Donald Trump on January 6, 2021.

Written in 1982 when a right-wing Likud government was waging a controversial war in Lebanon, the song speaks of Manor's love for Hebrew but features a pledge to "not remain silent and sing" to a country that "has changed her face."

Manor's widow, Ofra Fuchs, said in 2015 that it was intended as a left-wing protest song.

While visiting Israel in February, Pelosi was hosted by President Isaac Herzog for a meeting also attended by Fuchs.

Herzog said he had quoted Manor's "I Have No Other Land" to Pelosi in 2016 when they were both experiencing political troubles. She wrote it down on a napkin and eventually quoted it in Congress.

## Reform Rabbi to be Knighted by Pope Francis for His Work on Jewish-Catholic Relations

By Jackie Hajdenberg, Jewish Telegraphic Agency

A. James Rudin, a leading Reform rabbi and educator and the longtime director of interreligious affairs at the American Jewish Committee, will be knighted under the Papal Order of St. Gregory for his work on Catholic-Jewish relations.

He will become the ninth Jewish person to receive the honor in the Order's nearly 200-year history. Other Jews so knighted include Walter Annenberg, the philanthropist and creator of TV Guide; the prominent Conservative rabbi Mordecai Waxman; Argentine interfaith advocate Rabbi León Klenicki; Rabbi David Rosen of the AJC; and various philanthropists, businesspeople and musicians with Jewish ancestry.

The honor recognizes people whose work has supported the Catholic Church, which can include Jews

focused on interfaith projects.

Earlier this year, Rudin, 88, published a memoir, "The People in the Room: Rabbis, Nuns, Pastors, Popes, and Presidents," which recounts his many trips abroad during his time working at the AJC as part of his work to improve Jewish-Christian relations in the years after the Holocaust.

"For more than 50 years, Rabbi James Rudin has worked to advance Catholic-Jewish relations, and interfaith relations on a wider scale, with extraordinary skill, dedication, and success," Cardinal Sean O'Malley, archbishop of Boston, said in a statement. "The impact of this work continues to grow as successive



Rabbi A. James Rudin

generations build on the foundation Rabbi Rudin has established."

In his memoir, Rudin recounts how growing up in Alexandria, Virginia, among Southern Baptists, he and his Catholic classmates were singled out during a class reading on the New Testament and asked to leave the room. After graduating from rabbinical school at Hebrew Union College, Rudin served as an Air Force chaplain in Japan and Korea, where he befriended a Catholic priest with whom he partnered to lead Catholic-Jewish programming. When he finished his service in the Air Force, Rudin served as a pulpit rabbi at multiple midwestern synagogues before joining the American Jewish Committee in 1968. He eventually became the AJC's director of interreligious affairs and continued his work in the Jewish-

Catholic interfaith space.

Rudin also founded the Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies at Saint Leo University, a Catholic liberal arts university in western Florida, where he is currently listed as a visiting professor and serves on the advisory board. The investiture ceremony honoring him will take place on Nov. 20 on the Saint Leo campus.

Rabbi Eric J. Greenberg, director of the United Nations relations and strategic partnerships for the Simon Wiesenthal Center, helped nominate Rudin for the honor. "This knighthood clearly demonstrates the evolving positive relations between Catholics and Jews," Greenberg said. "Rabbi Rudin well deserves this historic, international honor."



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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.

## Have A Nosh



hodge podge of choices. The bottom line ... latkes are delicious and not hard to make!  
Happy Chanukah. MHB

This year Chanukah begins Sunday evening December 18 ... and there are so many delicious recipes for latkes it is hard to choose which to include this year. Traditional toppings are applesauce (to go with meat meals) and sour cream (dairy meals), but there are many other choices, from a good onion marmalade to guacamole. This year's column will be a



### Crispy Traditional Potato Latkes (Pareve)

2 lbs. Russet or Yukon Gold potatoes  
1 medium onion  
½ cup chopped scallions (green onions)  
2 large eggs, beaten  
Salt & pepper to taste  
Vegetable oil for frying

Peel potatoes and drop in cold water until all are peeled. Using a grater or food processor, coarsely grate the potatoes and onion. Place together in a fine-mesh strainer and press out all the water over a bowl. The potato starch will settle to the bottom. Carefully pour off the water and retain the potato starch, adding it to the potato/onion mixture in a bowl. Add the scallions, eggs, salt and pepper. Mix well.

Heat a thin film of oil in a non-stick frying pan. Use about 2 tablespoons of the potato mixture per latke and add to pan, flattening the mixture out with the back of the spoon or spatula. Fry until golden then flip and brown second side. Drain on paper towels. Serve immediately. Makes 24-28 latkes.

### Cajun Sweet Potato Latkes

2 lbs. (about 3 large) sweet potatoes, peeled  
3 large eggs  
2 Tbsp plus 1 teaspoon Cajun spice blend  
1/3 cup chopped cilantro  
peanut oil  
Sour cream or non-dairy sour cream

Coarsely grate the sweet potatoes into a large bowl. In a small bowl whisk the eggs, sprinkle the Cajun spices into the eggs and whisk together. Stir in the cilantro. Add mixture to the grated potatoes. Heat oil in a large skillet until very hot but not smoking. Use a quarter cup of batter per latke and fry until golden. Flip and fry second side. Drain on paper towels. Serve with a dollop of sour cream. (Makes 14-18 latkes)

### Sweet Potato/Ginger Latkes

1 lb. sweet potatoes, peeled  
1 2" x 1" piece fresh ginger  
2 eggs  
½ cup apple juice  
½ cup all-purpose flour  
1 Tablespoon sugar  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
½ teaspoon salt  
Vegetable oil

Grate sweet potatoes with grating disk of food processor or by hand. Place in large bowl. Cut ginger into small chunks. Put in food processor with steel blade and mince. Measure two tablespoons of the ginger and add to potatoes. Combine remaining ingredients (except oil) then add to potatoes and toss together until mixed. Heat ½ inch vegetable oil in large skillet over medium-high heat to 365. Drop ¼ cup batter into hot oil. Cook for 3-4 minutes per side, until crisp. Drain on paper toweling before serving. Can be frozen. To reheat, do not defrost, but put in 400 degree oven for 10 minutes, or until hot and crisp. Makes about 15 latkes.

### Onion Marmalade Topping

2 Tbsp. olive oil  
2-1/2 lbs red or sweet onions, halved and sliced thin  
Salt and fresh ground pepper to taste  
1 to 2 Tbsp. brown sugar  
1/3 cup red wine vinegar  
2/3 cup dry red wine  
1/4 cup cranberry or cranberry apple juice

Heat oil in saute pan over medium heat. Add onions and cook, stirring often, for five minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Cover and cook at medium-low heat for another five minutes, until golden brown, stirring often. Lower heat if onions are browning too quickly. Add 1 Tbsp. sugar. Stir until dissolved. Add vinegar and bring to boil, stirring. Add wine and again bring to boil. Cook over medium-high heat until most the liquid has evaporated, stirring often. Add cranberry juice, stirring, until it is absorbed and onions are soft. Taste for seasoning and add last tablespoon of brown sugar, if needed, cooking for an additional minute for sugar to dissolve. May be served warm or cold.





## Simchas

Congratulations to **Debbie Orgen** on returning as president of Sabra Hadassah of the Desert after six years, albeit she took on vice presidencies during the interim so that Hadassah has continued to benefit from her extensive talents throughout ... It is hard to realize **Jordana Pepper**, who came



Debbie Orgen

to our community as a 3 year old, now has her Ph.D. and is a practicing clinical psychologist in the Federal Prison system in Lompoc, CA. Mazel tov on passing the examination for Professional Practice in Psychology boards, allowing her "independent and unrestricted practice in clinic psychology." Beaming with delight are Mom **Leslie Pepper** (Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy and Community Engagement



Jordana Pepper

Director), father **Lenny Pepper**, who, we just learned, is relocating to Sweden soon with his wife **Suzanne**, and very proud grandma **Phyllis Pepper** ... Congratulations to **Cteen Coachella**, Chabad of Rancho Mirage's program for Jewish teens in our community, for hosting a Cteen Shabbaton for teens from the greater LA area who came to our desert for a weekend of workshops, activities and camaraderie November 11-13.... *Share your simchas with us. Share your simchas with us. Email Miriam Bent at mh bentjcn@earthlink.net or call 760-323-0255.*

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## Harriet Orren

Harriet Orren, age 92, passed away on Saturday, November 5, 2022. She was preceded in death by her dear husband Bud Orren; parents Harriet Fitkin and Glenn Fitkin, and brother Harold Fitkin.

She is survived by her brother Glenn Fitkin, Jr., her daughters Sarah Webb, Judy (Ralph) Blakeney, and Carol (Bill) Mohr; grandchildren Hank Blakeney, Maya Blakeney, Maggie (Mark) Wells and Nick (Jeannie) Limohr, and great-

grandchildren Kaiden, David, Gabriel, and Catherine.

Harriet was born in Toledo and studied at the Museum of Fine Arts School in Boston. She returned to Toledo to marry John Webb and together they had three daughters. After their divorce, Harriet moved with their daughters to Los Angeles in 1973, where she earned her BFA and her MFA in sculpture at CalArts. After retiring, she moved to Palm Desert, CA, where she was a member of Temple Sinai for 20 years, before moving to Columbus in 2021 to be near her family.

Funeral services were held on Monday, November 7 at Congregation Beth Tikvah in Worthington, Ohio. Interment at Historic Woodlawn Cemetery in Toledo, Ohio.



## Candle Lighting Times

Friday, December 2	Shabbat Vayeitzei	3:53 pm
Friday, December 9	Shabbat Vayishlach	3:54 pm
Friday, December 16	Shabbat Vayeshev	3:56 pm
Friday, December 23	Shabbat Miketz	3:59 pm
Friday, December 30	Shabbat Vayigash	4:04 pm



## We Mourn the Passing of...

**Stephen Grossman, Eva Liebrose, Harriet Orren, and Dr. Lawrence "Larry" Rosenberg.** Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing.

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### IRA ROLLOVER TO CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

While you're planning for the remainder of this year, we want to remind you that the IRA Charitable Rollover provision permits individuals 70 1/2 or older to donate up to \$100,000 annually from their IRAs to charities without having to count the distribution as taxable income. The donation counts toward the donor's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). The provision allows for rollover directly to charitable organizations such as The Jewish Federation of the Desert, but NOT to "Donor Advised Funds".

The SECURE Act allows people 72 and over to abstain taking a required minimum distribution (RMD) from their IRAs in 2021. Therefore, your RMD for this year may be more than you expect. Rather than taking the entire RMD and paying income tax on the distribution, you can maximize your tax savings and support Federation's mission driven work for "Tikkun Olam", repairing the world.

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Because of the tax advantages of contributing from your IRA, this retirement bucket is the optimal account to be considered for your charitable donations. When you make a contribution to Federation from your IRA, you should not take those distributions personally. Inform your IRA administrator to donate directly to Jewish Federation of the Desert on your behalf.

For IRA rollover contributions, please mail to:  
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Thank you in advance for your consideration,

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