



Jewish Community News

The Publication of the Jewish Federation of the Desert

www.jfedps.org

Adar/Nissan 5783 - March 2023

Community Events

March 1 or 2

JFS Music of Motown
At PS Underground

March 6-7

Purim

March 19

San Diego Jewish Men's Choir
Concert at Temple Isaiah

March 21

Jewish Federation Golf Tournament
Tamarisk Country Club

March 26-29

10th Annual Jewish Film Festival

March 27

Women's Philanthropy
Pomegranate Event
"Chai" Tea

April 5

First Seder, Pesach April 5-13

April 30

Yom Ha'atzmaut
Community Celebration



May 9

JMOGD Golf Tournament
Eagle Falls Course, Indio

May 25-27

Shavuot

Federation Day at Tamarisk: Non-Members of Tamarisk are Welcomed



Alan Potash

Jewish Federation
Chief Executive
Officer

I am excited for this year's Federation Day at Tamarisk on March 21st. Whether you golf, play cards, pickle ball or tennis there is something for everyone. The money raised has a positive impact in

our community. The Jewish Federation of the Desert is grateful for support and partnership of the Tamarisk Country Club and its members. A recent addition has been the opportunity for members of other clubs to participate expanding the overall benefits to the greater community.

This important event has taken place for the past 25 years and has financially contributed greatly to the needs of the Coachella Valley. Previous year's support has gone to needed repairs and improvements at Angel View (the campus not the stores) which included updating the kosher kitchens, a van and therapy pool. Also, support has gone

to the Hillel at UC Riverside to help combating Antisemitism on the campus, advocating for Israel, and bringing speakers to campus. Funds have gone towards, scholarships for Jewish Summer Camps, Holocaust education for area middle schools and high schools and to the Federation's Tzedakah Fund to help people in financial need covering, rent, utilities and other daily needs.

One of the Federation's values is collective responsibility, caring for those in need. We achieve this through our partnership with Tamarisk Country Club.

Contact the Jewish Federation or Tamarisk Country Club to register for this incredible day.

Announcing Israel at 75 - The Jewish Federation of the Desert's Mission to Israel in September

By Alan Potash, CEO

I am very excited to announce the Jewish Federation of the Desert's trip to Israel celebrating Israel at 75!

The dates are September 4-12, 2023. This trip will be a great opportunity for people who have been to Israel before as well as for first timers.

This experience has three goals: explore where and how our allocation dollars are used, meet with Israeli thought leaders, and experience the beauty of the country and people.

We will start in Southern Israel exploring the uniqueness and beauty of the Negev. We will meet up with our projects in Ramat HaNegev then head to Jerusalem to tour new discoveries of the old city, sample foods in Machne Yehuda, Yad Vashem and enjoy Shabbat in Jerusalem. After Jerusalem we will head to Tel Aviv, Old Jaffe, Haifa and one of my absolute favorite places in Israel, Caesarea.

This will be a full 8-day trip with 9 nights in hotels featuring delicious Israeli breakfasts and more. The cost not including air fare will be \$4350 double occupancy, single supplement will be an additional \$1600.

If you are interested in this amazing opportunity, please give me a call 760-

324-4737 or email me at alan.potash@jfedps.org.



Top - Jerusalem
Bottom Left - Caesarea
Bottom Right - Machne Yehuda

**everyone
counts**
can we count on you?

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**Jewish Federation
of the Desert 2023
Annual Campaign**

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PALM SPRINGS JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL - 10th Anniversary

* Festival opens Sunday, March 26 with a live concert featuring SVETLANA PORTNYANSKY, returning from 12 sold-out concerts in Israel
* 17 films * Q & A with 19 Actors, Producers, Directors & Writers

PLATINUM PASS (Concert & all films) \$150
Concert only \$35 * Individual tickets \$12.

SUNDAY, MARCH 26



2:00 pm
3:30 pm
7:00 pm

SVETLANA PORTNYANSKY CONCERT

* **Terezin: The Code to Life**
Q&A Live with Svetlana Portnyansky, producer
* **Our Almost Completely True Story**
Q&A Live with stars & writers Mariette Hartley & Jerry Sroka



MONDAY, MARCH 27



9:00 am
10:45 am
1:00 pm
4:00 pm
7:00 pm

* **Exodus 91**
* **Jews of the Wild West**
Q&A on Zoom with filmmaker Amanda Kinsey
* **America**
Q&A Live with director Ofir Raul Graizer
* **Farewell Mr. Haffmann**
* **I Mordecai**
Q&A Live: director Marvin Samel & co-star Azia Dinea Hale

TUESDAY, MARCH 28



9:30 am
10:30 am
1:00 pm

* **Space Torah**
Q&A on Zoom with director Rob Cooper
* **Karaoke**
* **The Trench** and * **Three Minutes: A Lengthening**
Q&A Live with *The Trench* director Gabriel Bologna and
Q&A Zoom: Glenn Kurtz, author of *Three Minutes: A Lengthening*

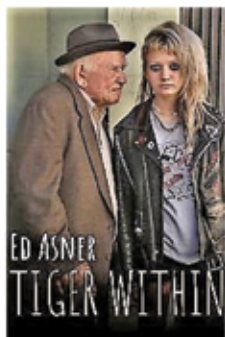
2:30 pm

SPECIAL LIVE Q&A with General George Patton's Granddaughter Helen Ayer Patton

4:00 pm
7:00 pm

* **Where Life Begins**
* **My Neighbor Adolf**
Q&A Live with Udo Kier, actor and star of the film

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29



10:30 am
1:00 pm
4:00 pm
7:00 pm
9:30 pm

* **Baltic Truth**
Q&A Live with Eugene Levin, producer and director of *Baltic Truth*
* **The Last Laugh**
Q&A on Zoom with Director Ferne Pearlstein;
Q&A Live with special guest Actor/Director Don Most ('Happy Days') and Producer/Writer/Actress Hanala Sagal
* **Simchas and Sorrows**
Q&A on Zoom with Genevieve Adams, Actress/star/director/writer
* **Tiger Within**
Q&A Live with writer Gina Wendkos and co-star Margot Josephson
After Party ... Everyone welcome!

The Concert & all films will be held at the Palm Springs Cultural Center (formerly Camelot Theatre), 2300 East Baristo Road, Palm Springs. For information about the Palm Springs Jewish Film Festival, and/or to become a sponsor, call 760-325-2281.

View trailers and purchase your Platinum Pass or individual tickets at www.PSJFF.com.

FEDERATION DAY AT TAMARISK

Call the Federation Office for more information & to sign up: 760-324-4737

Opportunity to Meet Druze Jewish Agency Senior Envoy over Lunch

By Alan Potash, CEO

On March 6th we will have a unique opportunity to hear from Gadeer Kamal-Mreeh, who is currently the Senior Envoy of The Jewish Agency for Israel to The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington.

In 2021, Kamal Mreeh became the Jewish Agency's first Druze emissary to the U.S., based in Washington D.C.. In April 2019, Kamal-Mreeh was elected to the Knesset as a member of the Blue and White party, making history as the first Druze woman to become a Member of

the Knesset. During her tenure, she chaired the Caucus for Planning, Zoning and Industrial Areas, and the Caucus for the Advancement of Druze Women. She was a member of the Interior and Environment Committee, the Advancement of Women's Status and Gender Equality Committee, and of the special committee for fighting crime



Gadeer Kamal-Mreeh

within the Arab sector.

Kamal Mreeh was born and lived in the Druze village, Daliyat al-Carmel. She is married to Shadi and a mother of two children, Tom and Liam. Gadeer enjoys cooking, art, nature, and quality time with her family which is the key for her pure happiness. Amira Ahronoviz, The Jewish Agency's Director General and CEO, said, "Gadeer Kamal-Mreeh's personal and professional journey makes her a powerful embodiment of Israeli society's diversity and complexity. We are thrilled

that this unprecedented appointment will bring greater awareness regarding that diverse landscape to the United States as part of our efforts to strengthen understanding of Israel worldwide."

Please join us for a light lunch and conversation with Ms Gadeer Kamal-Mreeh on March 6th at 12:00 at the Federation building 69-710 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage. Please call the office 760-324-4737 to RSVP by March 2, 2023.

Temple Sinai "Where Judaism Blooms in the Desert" Renews Rabbi David Novak

Nancy Singer, president of Temple Sinai, and the Temple Sinai Board of Directors, are pleased to announce that Rabbi David Novak will continue to lead the congregation for another five years.

"We are grateful to Rabbi Novak for his leadership in rebuilding Temple Sinai as the only full-service Reform congregation in our valley," Singer said. "We hope that many others will

discover what Sinai offers, whether it is prayer and learning, socializing, our Women of Sinai and Brotherhood or our religious school."

Temple Sinai will formally install Rabbi Novak at a celebratory Shabbat service on Friday,



Rabbi David Novak

March 3, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. with guest Rabbi Ruth Adar, a beloved colleague of Rabbi Novak who will do the installation. The community is invited to attend. Reservations are needed for the communal Shabbat dinner to be held following the installation.

"In the words of the prophet Jeremiah when I came to Sinai I shared that I was coming to build and to plant. I am pleased that the seeds are firmly in the

ground as Sinai continues its evolution." Rabbi Novak said, "and I hope that many people will find their way to our congregation where all of us make Judaism bloom in the desert."

More information on Temple Sinai and the installation is available at www.temple sinaipd.org or by calling 760-568-9699.

Artificial Intelligence

By Alberto Tejero, CFO, Jewish Federation of the Desert

As soon as I heard about the "wonders" of ChatGPT (a software application used to conduct an online chat conversation via text or text-to-speech, in lieu of providing direct contact with a live human agent), which I'm not promoting in any way or form, I decided to give it a try. After few attempts to sign up and waiting all morning – the site is usually busy, and you must wait "your turn" – I was able to get in!

The result is promising but far from the coherent article that I was expecting to obtain (good news for job security!). Below is what ChatGPT delivered in 5 seconds when instructed to write about "Jewish charitable giving in less than 200 words":

- The Tzedakah fund is a type of charity fund that is used to aid people in need. The word "Tzedakah" literally means "justice" or "righteousness" in Hebrew and the concept of Tzedakah is deeply rooted in Jewish tradition.
- Traditionally, Jews are expected to give a percentage of their income to charity and the Tzedakah fund is one way to

fulfill this obligation.

- The fund is often used to provide assistance to those in need, such as providing food and clothing, medical care, education, housing, and other basic needs.

- The Tzedakah fund is a self-sustaining system that is funded by donations from individuals, businesses, and other organizations. Donors can choose to give a one-time donation or set up a recurring donation.
- The Tzedakah fund helps to ensure that those who are in need can receive assistance. It also helps to create a sense of social responsibility among donors. By giving to the Tzedakah fund, donors are expressing their commitment to helping those in need and creating a better future for all.
- Tzedakah funds are an important part of Jewish life and can have a powerful



Alberto Tejero, CFO, Jewish Federation of the Desert

impact on those who are in need.

- By giving to a Tzedakah fund, donors can help to make a difference in the lives of those who are struggling.

Artificial Intelligence may be the way of the future and could be here faster than we think, but nothing will replace the human experience. As the "Artificial Intelligence" application conveys, through charitable giving, a donor

expresses his/her commitment to the community, improves everyone's lives with a rewarding positive self-esteem, self-worth, and optimistic outlook on life.

The Jewish Federation of the Desert's Tzedakah Fund has been helping people in need for the last 50 years. For more information, please feel free to contact our office at (760) 324-4737 or by email alberto.tejero@jfedps.org.



For a meaningful way to say thank you for a special occasion, send wishes for recovery from illness or extend condolences, there is no better way to send your thoughts than to purchase a Tzedakah card from the Jewish Federation.

Proceeds from the sale of the tribute cards benefit the Tzedakah Fund, which enables our Jewish Federation to respond to the emergency needs of Jews in our community.

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

Bill to Criminalize Egalitarian Prayer/Immodest Dress at the Western Wall Shelved

By Ben Sales, JTA

A proposed Israeli law that would sharply curtail the rights of women and non-Orthodox Jews at the Western Wall sparked alarm on February 9, leading Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to pledge that regulations at the holy site would “remain exactly the same” as they are now.

The bill was submitted by a lawmaker from Shas, the Sephardi haredi Orthodox party that is a member of Netanyahu’s governing coalition. It would have criminalized mixed-gender prayer at the site, as well as immodest dress and the playing of musical instruments. Women would also be forbidden from reading from a Torah scroll or blowing a shofar at the site. Women would also not be allowed to don prayer shawls or tefillin, the leather boxes and straps traditionally worn by Jews during morning prayers, and historically worn only by men.

The bill’s provisions would have also applied to the Wall’s non-Orthodox section, adjacent to the main plaza. Offenders would have faced a fine of approximately \$3,000, or six months in prison.

The legislation is the latest salvo in a decades-long battle over policy at Judaism’s holiest prayer site and who gets to determine it. Non-Orthodox groups, and American Jewish organizations, have long advocated for egalitarian and women-led prayer to be allowed at the wall. Orthodox groups have pushed for worship at the site to remain exclusively under their purview.



Women with torahs at the Western Wall

An agreement approved by the Israeli government in 2016 would have expanded a non-Orthodox prayer area adjacent to the main plaza. That deal, however, was suspended the following year after backlash from haredi parties. The Israeli Supreme Court, which the current government wants to disempower, is due to discuss whether the agreement must be implemented at an upcoming hearing.

The February 9 bill, however, appears to be a dead letter. In a video posted to Twitter, Netanyahu said the legislation “will not be brought up at present.”

“The status quo at the wall, which is dear to all of the Jewish people, will remain exactly as it is today,” he said, adding that the law’s provisions outlawing immodest dress or musical instruments “are not acceptable to anyone.”

Diaspora Minister Amichai Chikli,

a member of Netanyahu’s Likud Party and the son of a Conservative rabbi, tweeted that the Western Wall, known in Hebrew as the Kotel, “is a national and religious symbol that belongs to the whole Jewish people: secular and religious, left-wing and right-wing, women and men in Israel and abroad. The legislation that would change the status quo and threaten sanctions due to sleeves or instruments is unnecessary and damaging.”

Even haredi voices rose up against the proposed legislation. Kikar HaShabbat, a large Israeli haredi news site, published an editorial saying the bill “does not befit the sanctity of the Western Wall.”

The bill would have effectively outlawed the activities of Women of the Wall, a prayer group that meets monthly at the wall’s women’s section and that advocates for women’s rights

at the site. In the past, the group’s members have been harassed by haredi activists and detained by police for their activities. The group sent an email blast on with the subject line, “It’s off to jail we go?”

“If we have to sit in jail, we will sit in jail,” the email said. “Arrests did not stop us in the past, and they won’t stop us in the future. We will not give up our fight for women’s rights at the Kotel.”

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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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Strengthening our community together

Lion of Judah Brunch Brings Lettie Cottin Pogrebin to Desert

Over 100 women attended the 2023 Lion of Judah event that brought author, producer and women's activist Letty Cottin Pogrebin to our community on January 16, 2023. The brunch, held at Tamarisk Country Club, was chaired by Jackie Cohen and Cora Ginsberg, co-chairs of the Jewish Federation Board, and Fran Kaufman, Women's Philanthropy Chair. Joining the ladies at the event was Jewish Federation of the Desert CEO Alan Potash and 2023 Jewish Federation Campaign Chair Arnie Gillman.

The Lion of Judah brunch honors the generosity of the women of our community, full-time or part-time, who have committed their support of Israel, world Jewry and our local community as Lions of Judah. Photos

of the ladies who attended this year's event will be in next month's Jewish Community News.

Fran Kaufman's two daughters and three grandchildren attended the brunch to see Jackie Cohen present Fran with her Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award certificate for extraordinary philanthropy and community volunteerism. Co-chair Cora Ginsberg was unable to attend and was missed.

Featured speaker Letty Pogrebin shared stories from her latest book, *Shanda*, and



Lettie Cottin Pogrebin



Jackie Cohen presenting certificate to Fran Kaufman



Fran Kaufman, Alan Potash, Lettie Cottin Pogrebin, Arnie Gillman and Jackie Cohen

copies of the book were underwritten by a generous Lion so that everyone went home with a signed copy. Letty was obtained as the keynote speaker through our community's

support of the Jewish Book Council, the longest-running organization devoted exclusively to the support and celebration of Jewish literature.

Knesset to Pass Law to Revoke Citizenship of, Expel Terrorists

The prospective move comes after three Israelis were killed in a car-ramping attack in Jerusalem.

By Jewish News Syndicate

Israel's governing coalition will pass legislation in the Knesset to strip the citizenship of terrorists and expel them from the country, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said at the weekly Cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, February 12, 2023.

The prime minister's declaration comes after 6-year-old Yaakov Israel Paley and 20-year-old Alter Shlomo Lederman were killed two days earlier, when they were run over by an Arab Israeli driver in Jerusalem's Ramot neighborhood. Eight-year-old Asher Menachem Paley, Yaakov's brother, died over Shabbat from wounds sustained in the attack. Three others were injured and are currently being treated at hospitals.

"This week, we will pass in the Knesset the proposal of MK Ofir Katz to revoke the citizenship of terrorists and expel them. I say it again because this is our policy: A proper response to terrorism is to strike at it forcefully and further deepen our roots in our land," said Netanyahu at the weekly Cabinet meeting.

"Therefore, the Security Cabinet will convene today to prepare for a more wide-ranging operation [against] those who carry out terrorism, and their supporters, in eastern Jerusalem and in Judea and Samaria, while avoiding—as much as possible—harm to those who are not involved," he added.

Among the measures being considered are seizing assets belonging to the families of terrorists, erecting barriers against vehicles at bus stops and additional security

checkpoints between predominantly Arab and Jewish neighborhoods in the capital, and a general crackdown on online incitement.

Bottom of Form

Following the February 10 attack, National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir called for a major operation in eastern Jerusalem in the vein of the IDF's 2002 "Operation Defensive Shield," which was launched during the Second Intifada to uproot terrorist infrastructure in Palestinian urban areas across Judea and Samaria.

However, a senior government official said that Ben-Gvir lacked the authority to approve such a decision, which would need to be made by the Security Cabinet.

"In recent days we have once again seen the immense difference between the brutality of our enemies and the humanity of our people. Our enemies murder young children in Jerusalem and celebrate their murder while we are rescuing young children in Türkiye and praising their rescue," said Netanyahu in reference to the IDF's ongoing mission in Turkey that has saved the lives of 19 people so far following last week's devastating earthquakes.

"We all pray for the well-being of those who were wounded, including the father of Yaakov and Asher, who remains hospitalized. I commend the action of the police officers who eliminated the terrorist at the scene and thereby prevented an even worse attack," said the premier.

Terrorist Hussein Karaka, 31, a resident of the Issawiya neighborhood in eastern

Jerusalem, was shot and killed during the attack.

Karaka's social media accounts include posts hailing terrorism against Israelis, for example, a Facebook post last August praising Palestinian Islamic Jihad leader

Ziad Nakhaleh.

Police on Sunday morning sealed the home of Karaka's parents in eastern Jerusalem's A-Tur neighborhood on the Mount of Olives.

TEMPLE ISAIAH INVITES YOU TO OUR 60th ANNUAL

Community Seder

1ST NIGHT OF PASSOVER: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5th - 6:00 PM
led by Rabbi Steven Rosenberg, Dr. Sarah Sela & very special guests.

Join us for a joyous evening of friendship and lively participation, along with a delicious Seder meal, catered by Manhattan in the Desert



\$75 members / \$85 guests

Dinner includes choice of gefilte fish or chopped liver; matzah ball soup or salad; beef brisket, roasted chicken or salmon; matzah, charoset, tzimmes, potato kugel, assorted desserts, Manischewitz wine & kosher grape juice.

Reserve your seat at our table! Deadline: March 23. To RSVP and select meal options, go online to www.templeisaiahps.com or call the Temple Office Tuesday-Friday: 760-325-2281.



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Temple Isaiah Hosts Discussion on Antisemitism

By Brian Blueskye, Palm Springs Desert Sun

Before Shabbat services on January 27 at Temple Isaiah, during International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Rabbi Steven Rosenberg described antisemitism as “the tip of the spear” and discussed how it affects other minority groups.

“We have to understand that when we start putting people down because of their race, culture, religion or orientation, it diminishes everyone,” Rosenberg said.

Rosenberg also described what some Jews are calling “polite antisemitism.”

“When people say ‘I’m not anti-Jewish, I’m just anti-Zionist,’ that’s basically the same thing (as antisemitism),” Rosenberg said. “That is saying ‘Jews are fine as long as they don’t have their own homeland.’ Judaism and Zionism are connected and part of the heart of Judaism is a sense that Jews have been an indigenous people to (Israel) for over 3,000 years.”

Friday’s service featured Rosenberg in a discussion with two representatives from the international non-profit Israel education organization [StandWithUs](#) -- executive and development specialist Gary Ratner and director Carly Gammill.

According to a recent study by the Anti-Defamation League, the number of Americans who hold extensive antisemitic prejudice and believe in antisemitic tropes has doubled since 2019. The year 2021 saw a record 2,717 antisemitic incidents across the United States, up 34% from 2020 according to the ADL’s annual audit. Most of these were incidents of harassment against Jewish Americans, but assaults and antisemitic vandalism also spiked the previous year.

Gammill discussed the subject of Zionism and its relationship to Jewish identity, misconceptions and how StandWithUs makes it a focal point of its educational efforts.

“There is a political component for sure, but that is not all Zionism is,” Gammill said. “It’s part of what it means to be Jewish and to have not just a connection with Israel, but to believe as part of one’s Jewishness that Israel not only has a right to exist. Also, Jews have a right to self determination to thrive in their ancestral homeland. It comes with the understanding that Jews are

indigenous to the land of Israel.”

Most of the discussion with Ratner and Gammill was about antisemitism and anti-Israel activism on American college campuses led by groups such as by Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS), Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and others.

Ratner recalled visiting UC Irvine in 2002 during Israeli Apartheid Week, an annual series of lectures and events held on college campuses around the world. The series featured what Ratner described as “walls of



Rabbi Steven Rosenberg



Carly Gammill, StandWithUs



Gary Ratner, StandWithUs

misinformation about Israel,” displaying body bags laid out on the ground, controversial artwork and speakers who deny the existence of Israel.

“It’s a big problem that we face,” Ratner said. “One of the things we found is there are full time activists working with the SJP and other programs who were there for years. They claim to be students, take one course to maintain their student status, but they’re paid, full-time propaganda artists for the Palestinian cause.”

Rosenberg described Temple Isaiah as a “multicultural and multiethnic place” that also houses the Desert Winds Freedom Band and the chorus Modern Men. It also hosts quinceañera celebrations, weddings, funerals and other events.

“I am very proud we house a church, symphony and different activities,” Rosenberg said. “We serve a great swath of the community, and I feel good about the fact we have so many diverse groups as our tenants. We’re also a place that’s very eclectic and welcoming to everyone.”

Abraham Accords of Tennis Bring Together Israeli and Arab Youth

The game introduces Jewish Israeli tennis players to Arab Israeli and Bahraini colleagues.

By Howard Blas, JNS.org Accords of Tennis Arab

The Abraham Accords have made a major impact on international relations in the Middle East. They are also proving an ace for Israeli tennis.

Last month, young players and coaches from the Israel Tennis & Education Centers flew to Bahrain—the nonprofit’s second trip to the island kingdom, with which Israel normalized relations in September 2020.

The Abraham Accords impacted the centers (ITEC) both domestically and abroad. First, ITEC decided after the accords debuted that its vision ought to include all Israeli kids. That included Arabs in Israel, who also ought to have “the chance to be winners in life through tennis,” Erez Vider, the group’s CEO, told JNS.

ITEC enlisted Alam Ibrahim, a resident of the Druze village Sajur in northern Israel, as Arab society coordinator to launch tennis programs in Arab communities.



At first, Ibrahim was nervous about teaching tennis, but Vider assured him that other ITEC staff, including coach Ronen Morali, would handle the tennis. Ibrahim’s job was to teach the ITEC leadership and staff about Arab society. “It is win-win,” Vider told Ibrahim. “Ronen knows how to teach tennis and you know the Arab mentality.”

Working with Israeli-Arab communities builds upon ITEC’s nearly five decades of work trying to strengthen Israeli society and foster peace through the sport. The nonprofit’s approach blends tennis playing, education, mentorship and support services for more than 7,000 children each week.

Israeli coaches and players traveled to Bahrain last month to train with nine local coaches, native-born Bahraini players and tennis-playing immigrants to Bahrain from the Philippines, Romania, Tunisia and Yemen.

Ido Samimiyan, 17, remains in touch with some of the new Bahraini friends he made on the trip and is excited some may visit him in Israel soon.

“They were good players and nice kids. We really bonded,” he told JNS. “We played together, ate together and played Davis Cup-style tennis.” (They spoke in English, but not about politics. Samiyan was proud of winning “by a lot,” and in awe that his new friends lived in a kingdom.)

“Sport is different from politics. You bring kids on a court, and they don’t care about color or religion,” he said. “It is amazing how fast they forget who they are playing with.”

200 Ultra-Orthodox Women Help Develop IDF Drone

By Jewish News Syndicate.org

Some 200 Haredi women software engineers from the ultra-Orthodox city of Bnei Brak will take part in developing unmanned aerial vehicles used by the Israeli military, Israel Hayom reported on January 16.

The Hermes 900 unmanned aerial vehicle, made by Israeli defense firm Elbit Systems, is used to gather intelligence and conduct strikes on enemy targets. Dubbed "Star" in the Israel Defense Forces, it has been sold to 12 foreign militaries, including Singapore and Azerbaijan, as well as, according to international media reports, Canada, Switzerland, Mexico, Brazil, and the Philippines.

The engineers will be employed by



the ROX development company and by Elbit, and was unveiled by Elbit President Bezahel Machles.

During remarks made at the opening ceremony, Machles said that Elbit attaches great importance to integrating women from the Haredi sector into advanced work that is significant to national security.

"These are programmers at the highest level, who enjoy a good employment horizon and professional empowerment," he said. "We strive to copy the model of employing programmers from the Haredi sector to other communities in Israel in which we have production centers, or next to them, such as Arad," he added.

CIA Saved Mossad Agents Trapped Abroad, Pompeo Says in New Book

Former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo details how CIA helped Israeli agents escape operation on foreign soil.

By World Israel News Staff

The Central Intelligence Agency rescued a team of Israeli agents caught in a perilous situation during a mission overseas, former U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo revealed in his newly published book.

Pompeo, who also served as director of the CIA in the Trump administration before becoming Secretary of State in 2018, wrote in his newly published memoir, *Never Give an Inch: Fighting for the America I Love*, that during his tenure at the helm of America's top foreign intelligence agency, then-Mossad director Yossi Cohen made a personal overture, asking him to intervene on behalf of Mossad agents stuck abroad.

Without disclosing details to identify

the operation or the country where it took place, Pompeo called the Mossad operation "one of the most significant clandestine operations ever conducted."

"The call from Yossi Cohen, the head of the Mossad, arrived shortly after I had stepped off a plane in a European capital. I turned around and went back onboard, where we had communications equipment suitable for a classified conversation with the leader of Israel's intelligence agency."

"The voice on the other end was calm but serious: 'Mike, we just had a team complete a very important mission, and now I'm having a bit of trouble extracting some of them. Can I get your help?'"



Mike Pompeo

Thanks to the CIA's intervention, the Mossad team was successfully extracted. "Whenever Yossi called, I took it. He did the same for me," Pompeo wrote. "I was there to help our friends, no questions asked, no matter the risks."

"My people swung into action across the world. We connected with his team, and within 24 hours we had guided

them to safe houses," he continued.

"Within the next two days, they were back in their home countries without the world ever knowing that one of the most significant clandestine operations ever conducted was now complete."

Multiple Israeli intelligence sources told *The Jerusalem Post* that the operation in question was not the February 2018 Tehran nuclear document seizure, in which Israeli agents obtained some 55,000 documents exposing Iran's nuclear weapons aspirations. Mossad agents were nearly captured during the 2018 operation, *Hadashot News* reported in 2019.

Israeli Breakthrough: Spread of Breast Cancer Halted with New Treatment

Israeli researchers halt spread of breast cancer in mice with molecular blocker.

By Algemeiner Staff

Researchers from Bar-Ilan University in Israel have identified an amino acid peptide that may be able to block the spread of breast cancer in mice, the university announced Tuesday.

Some ninety percent of breast cancer deaths are estimated to be caused by complications stemming from metastasis, the researchers pointed

out, during which cancerous cells break off from the initial area where they developed and spread elsewhere in the body, leading to new malignant growths.

There is currently no effective way to stop this process, underscoring the need to target the metastatic potential of a primary tumor.

In a recent study published in the peer-reviewed journal *Oncogene*, the researchers expanded on earlier findings to show that an interaction between two proteins "is a prerequisite for metastasis formation of cancer cells," the university explained in a statement.

In addition to the decrease in lung metastasis, the peptide also "greatly

reduced the invasiveness of breast tumor cells"

The researchers are now seeking to convert the peptide into a drug candidate, with the hope that the advancement will lead to the inhibition of metastasis and help increase survival and quality of life in patients with breast and other metastatic cancers.

PALM DESERT PULPIT RABBI RECOGNIZED FOR TEACHING COLLEGE 25 PLUS YEARS

In late 1995, when Rabbi Richard Zions and his wife, Lynda, purchased a second home in Palm Springs, it did not take them long to realize that this Valley was where they needed to make their permanent residence. The driving force was family and the Desert blue sky.

During the transition period, Zions served 15 months as Interim Rabbi for Temple Sinai while the congregation was in their Synagogue location on Monterey Avenue, Palm Desert. It was during this time that he completed his Ph.D at Penn State University. By the Fall of 1997 Zions taught classes at C.O.D. and Cal Poly Pomona, where he continued for 13 years. This busy schedule left some hours during the day, so he started Har-El, Member, Union for Reform Judaism in Spring, 2004, where Rabbi Zions has continued as the Founding and Presiding Rabbi.

In January, Zions was recognized for his 25-plus years of service to C.O.D. in the Philosophy Department. He has taught over 7,000 students. The topics have included Ethics, World Religions, Perspectives on Death and Dying, History of Philosophy and Logic.

When asked what is the motivating force behind his long tenure of teaching, not only in California, but also in Pennsylvania at Penn State and Mt. Aloysius College, his answer is: "The students in class and seeing their success years later". He shared that on his last day at Cal Poly a young man ran after him calling his name. When the man caught up, he said: "I want to thank you, Professor. Your kindness, during a difficult time in my life, allowed me to graduate and today, I am on the faculty at Cal Poly." Zions fast forwarded to the present and shared that after he was recognized by C.O.D., two former students came over to him. They both told him how they still think about his classes and that they are now employed by C.O.D. Zions added, "Numerous times I am out and about and former students will come over to say hello and thank me. In this troubled world today, those gestures of gratitude are most touching."

When asked how many more years would he like to teach, his answer was quick with a smile: "At least five." He went on to say: "I am certified to teach on Zoom for five years. I will also teach live this Fall."

Zions has started the Spring Semester with 45 students in class. The topic is Logic.

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Five Rabbis Join Missouri Faith Leaders Challenging the State's Ban on Abortion.

By Jackie Hajdenberg, JTA

Five rabbis from multiple Jewish denominations are among more than a dozen Missouri faith leaders challenging the state's ban on abortion.

In a lawsuit filed January 19 in St. Louis Circuit Court, the faith leaders charge that lawmakers acted according to their personal religious beliefs and violated the

narrow beliefs," said Michelle Banker, the director of reproductive rights and health at the National Women's Law Center and the lead attorney in the case. "And that hurts us. That denies our basic human rights."

The lawsuit cites multiple specific instances of religious language used by

Jewish Activism

Jewish activists have been particularly active in contesting abortion restrictions imposed since the Supreme Court's rollback of Roe v. Wade last year.

In Florida, a synagogue sued the state over its abortion law in June, arguing that the 15-week ban on abortion "prohibits Jewish women from practicing their faith free of government intrusion and this violates their privacy rights and religious freedom." In September, three Jewish women were part of a lawsuit filed in Indiana claiming that the state's ban on abortion violates the state's Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

And in October, three Jewish women filed a lawsuit to block Kentucky's abortion restrictions on religious freedom grounds, arguing that the law violates their ability to practice Jewish understandings of when life begins and impedes the possibility of in-vitro fertilization, which is also permissible by Jewish law.

separation of church and state protected in Missouri's constitution.

"I was really proud to have the opportunity to join in this lawsuit because I've seen the ways in which religious views are being enshrined into laws in Missouri and across the country," Maharat Rori Picker Neiss, the executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis and a prominent activist in the St. Louis area, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

"That's fundamentally dangerous, I think, for our democracy, for all citizens, but especially for our Jewish community," she added.

In Missouri, the faith leaders partnered with the National Women's Law Center and Americans United for Separation of Church and State in drafting their lawsuit. They are seeking to overturn a blanket ban on abortions except in the case of a medical emergency. The law, which was written in 2019 but went into effect after the Supreme Court ruling because of a "trigger" provision, makes performing abortions a felony punishable by five to 15 years in prison and says providers can lose their medical licenses.

"What the lawsuit says is that when you legislate your religious beliefs into law, you impose your beliefs on everyone else and force all of us to live by your own

the bill's sponsors and supporters. The bill's lead sponsor, for example, is quoted in the lawsuit as having said, "As a Catholic I do believe life begins at conception and that is built into our legislative findings."

Jewish tradition does not include the same belief, which is one reason that Jewish activists have been heavily involved in resisting abortion restrictions. Picker Neiss, who trained in an Orthodox setting, is joined by three Reform rabbis and one nondenominational rabbi who work in Missouri synagogues: James Bennett, Susan Talve, Andrea Goldstein and Douglas Alpert. Together, they make up 40% of the religious leaders to sign onto the lawsuit.

After filing their suit in St. Louis, the Missouri plaintiffs held a press conference and then marched to the Civil Courts building.

"It was really empowering to stand alongside so many people of such a diverse range of faith traditions, who all wanted to come together to say that religion doesn't have any one answer to questions about abortion," Picker Neiss said. "There is no one religious view in America. And so I just felt so heartened and inspired to stand arm in arm with religious leaders from across the spectrum."

Wearing Tefillin May Prevent Damage from Heart Attacks

"This is a potential game changer for how we approach cardiovascular disease prevention."

Jewish News Syndicate

Wearing tefillin may have life-saving cardiovascular benefits for both men and women, according to University of Cincinnati researchers.

Tefillin, or phylacteries, are small leather boxes containing biblical passages on parchment scrolls. There are two in a set, one for the head and one for the arm. Both are secured via leather straps.

"Tefillin is used for morning prayers for Jewish men over the age of 13 on an almost daily basis. It is placed on the nondominant arm around the bicep and the forearm in a fairly tight manner," said Jack Rubinstein, MD, of the Division of Cardiovascular Health at the University of Cincinnati's College of Medicine.

However, he noted, it is never worn so tight that it occludes blood flow.

"[Tefillin are] traditionally worn for about 30 minutes continuously during prayers which involve sitting and standing, resulting in occasional retightening of the strap around your arm," he said. Top of Form

This binding of the arm, and the accompanying discomfort users



often report, may serve as a form of preconditioning, offering a substantial degree of protection against the damage that can be caused by a sudden loss of blood flow (acute ischemia) or after the blood supply is restored to a tissue or organ after an ischemic event (reperfusion), according to Rubenstein.

Such injuries occur during heart attacks, when parts of the heart are deprived of

oxygen and then damaged further when blood flow is reestablished.

For their study, researchers measured baseline information on 30 participants for 10 minutes in the morning, and then collected another round of data during and after 30 minutes of wearing the tefillin. The participants, all healthy individuals between the ages of 18 to 40, had their heart rate measured before,

during and after the wearing of tefillin.

"What we found is that wearing tefillin in both male and females caused changes to the heart rate associated with lowering of the metabolism as measured via heart rate variability," said Rubinstein, who explained that heart rate variability is the degree of variability between one heartbeat and the next.

"We can measure all kinds of different things from heart rate variability including probably the most important, which is parasympathetic tone. Does it relax you and does it cause your metabolism [to] come down?" he said.

The findings, he continued, were a potential "game changer" with regard to how cardiovascular disease prevention is approached.

"We are showing a path through which anyone can precondition themselves to decrease the amount of damage that they suffer from a heart attack by wearing a very simple device," he said. "Decreasing the amount of heart attack damage by even just two-fold is something that will change outcomes for millions of people."

Bipartisan Congressional Letter Calls for UN Official's Firing Over 'Outrageous' Antisemitic Remarks

By Andrew Bernard, The Algemeiner

11 Democratic and Republican members of Congress on January 23 called for the firing of the UN's special rapporteur on Palestine, Francesca Albanese, for her "outrageous" antisemitic statements.

"Enough is enough," the letter, led by Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA), reads. "Ms. Albanese's comments are only the latest in a pattern of antisemitic behavior and rhetoric at the UN, which is obsessively focused on the world's only Jewish state."

The letter, which was addressed to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, cites Albanese's comments and writings over the past 10 years, including a 2014 letter in which she claimed America was "subjugated by the Jewish lobby" and her 2022 remarks to a Hamas conference in Gaza where she told the terrorist group's attendees that they "have a right to resist this occupation." Albanese has repeatedly



UN Special Rapporteur on Palestine Francesca Albanese,

asserted a Palestinian "right to resist," including during the latest round of indiscriminate rocket fire from Gaza in August. "An unlawful act of resistance does not make the resistance unlawful," she said.

Albanese, whose formal title is "Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory

occupied since 1967" and who was appointed to a six-year term in May, has refused to apologize for any of her remarks, and says that her statement about the US being subjugated by Jews was "wrongly mischaracterized as antisemitic."

Monday's letter also criticizes the fact that Israel was subject to more UN

General Assembly resolutions in 2022 than all other nations combined, and that it is the only country subjected to two open-ended UN investigations.

The commissioner of one of those investigations, Miloon Kothari of the UN's Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, was forced to apologize in August after saying in an interview that social media was "controlled largely by the Jewish lobby."

Citing Secretary General Guterres' claim that "there is no room for antisemitism in the UN," the letter concludes with a call for Albanese's ouster.

"Failure to take meaningful action on repeated instances of antisemitism by UN officials undermines the UN's credibility," it reads. "We urge you to demonstrate that the UN is capable of genuinely addressing antisemitism by removing Ms. Albanese from her post."

Madrid Offers to Take Up Twinning Deal with Tel Aviv After Barcelona Suspends Ties

Spanish capital's mayor blasts counterpart's not-yet-approved move to put agreement on hold over 'systematic violation' of Palestinian rights, says it has 'stench' of antisemitism

By The Times of Israel Staff

A day after the mayor of Barcelona suspended institutional relations with Israel and a twinning with the city of Tel Aviv over what she claimed were systematic violations of Palestinian human rights, the mayor of Madrid offered to take up the twinning partnership.

In a letter addressed to Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on February 8, Barcelona's left-wing mayor Ada Colau explained the largely symbolic move to suspend twinning between the two Mediterranean cities, as demanded in a petition by pro-Palestinian groups from Barcelona.

"I have decided to temporarily suspend relations with the State of Israel and with the official institutions of this State and, in particular, the twinning agreements with the municipality of Tel Aviv, until the Israeli authorities end the systematic violation of human rights of the Palestinian population," wrote Colau, who has been mayor of the Catalan capital since 2015.

The next day, José Luis Martínez-Almeida, Madrid's conservative mayor, accused Colau of antisemitism and tweeted that he has written to Tel Aviv's Mayor Ron Huldai to share "Madrid's commitment to democracy and

freedom."

Martínez-Almeida said in the letter cited by the public broadcaster, Kan, that such a move "sends a message to all citizens of Israel that Madrid knows very well with whom to strengthen and develop ties, and that is with a democratic, law-abiding and rights-abiding country like the State of Israel."

Martínez-Almeida also blasted Colau's decision, saying it had a "significant stench of antisemitism," Spanish daily El País reported on Thursday. "I do not share those decisions... The culprit for the left is always Israel," he was quoted as saying.

Martínez-Almeida said "it would be an honor to be twinned with Tel Aviv," as both he and Barcelona Mayor Ada Colau jostle for front position on international issues and investment in an election year.

Spain's right-wing politicians have increasingly been making diplomatic and commercial outreach to Israel.

At a press conference announcing her move on Wednesday, Colau said that over 100 organizations and 4,000 citizens had asked her to "defend the human rights of Palestinians," according to a report in the UK's Jewish Chronicle newspaper.

Colau said that in her letter to Netanyahu, she'd noted that the petition called on her to "condemn the crime of apartheid against the Palestinian people, support Palestinian and Israeli organizations working for peace and break off the twinning agreement between Barcelona and Tel Aviv."

She added that Barcelona had recently discontinued its twinning with the Russian city of Saint Petersburg after the start of the war in Ukraine.

The initiative to end the twinning was put forward by the lobby group End Complicity with Israel, which says it has the support of 112 social entities, including pro-Palestinian, feminist, immigrant and LGBT+ organizations, the JC reported.

The measure is to be voted on at a city council session scheduled for February 24, but the group had pressed



Barcelona Mayor
Ada Colau



Madrid Mayor
Jose Luis Martinez-
Almeida

the mayor for an earlier response. It was supposed to have been brought for a vote at the previous city council meeting last month, but it was put off because it fell on International Holocaust Memorial Day.

According to the JC, the motion to end twinning does not have the support of mainstream left- and right-wing parties and is unlikely to be approved at the plenary council meeting. It was not clear if Colau can impose the suspension of ties by her own authority.

Barcelona has been twinned with Tel Aviv and the Gaza Strip since the signing of a friendship and collaboration agreement in 1998.

In a statement, Israel's Foreign Ministry responded that Colau's announcement does not have the backing of most Barcelona residents, "gives a boost to extremists, terrorist organizations and antisemitism, and harms the interests of the residents of Barcelona."

Barcelona Deputy Mayor Laia Bonet attacked the move as well, tweeting it was "a very serious mistake."

"We will work to restore relations and to strengthen the role of the city in the world, not to weaken it," Bonet wrote. "Barcelona does not break, Barcelona adds."

New York State Supreme Court Gets its First Female Hasidic Judge

By World Israel News Staff

The New York State Supreme Court welcomed its first female Hasidic justice. Rachel "Ruchie" Freier, a justice on the New York City Criminal Court, was tapped to join the New York State Supreme Court as an acting judge, filling a vacancy on the bench. As an acting Supreme Court judge, Freier will have to face an election this summer to retain her position.

The 57-year-old Borough Park native was raised in a haredi-Orthodox home in Brooklyn, and attended a Bais Ya'akov high school, where she studied legal stenography.

A married mother of six, Freier first worked in law as a paralegal at the age of 29, before starting her bachelor's degree at Touro College's Lander College two years later. In 2001, Freier

entered Brooklyn Law School, graduating four years later and passing the New York State Bar exam in 2006.

Initially working as an intern for then-Senator Hillary Clinton's Manhattan office, Freier also practiced real estate and business law, before throwing her hat in the ring for a civil court judgeship in 2016. Running as a Democrat, Freier defeated her Conservative Party opponent nearly three-to-one.

"My story is replete with naysayers every step of the way, whether it was going to college, then law school,



Justice Rachel Freier

opening up a law practice, running for the judgeship," Freier told *CBS News*. "Why shouldn't I try? That God created me as a woman in a Hasidic community with these ambitions and with these dreams, it means that I could make it happen."

"All the values that I learned growing up about judging everybody, giving someone benefit of the doubt, being patient with people, kindness, compassion, all those values is what I bring with me to the court."

"The first biggest secret is I live around the corner from my mother, so she was always there to help me. Second thing is my mother always taught us that time is like money. It's not how much you have, it's how you spend it."



For a meaningful way to express thanks or congratulations for a special occasion, extend condolences or wishes for recovery from illness, there is no better way than to purchase a Tzedakah card through the Jewish Federation of the Desert. Proceeds from the sale of the tribute cards benefit the TZEDAKAH FUND, which provides direct monetary intervention for the emergency needs of Jews in our community. To order your cards, call the Jewish Federation at 760-324-4737 or order online at jfedps.org. Thank you.

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OF THE DESERT

Online Anti-Israel Bias Has Real-World Antisemitic Consequences

by Zara Nybo, *HonestReporting* (reprinted in *The Algemeiner*)

Social media platforms are undoubtedly a safe space where anti-Israel activists can propagate antisemitic opinions and falsified facts about Israel, with little to no consequences. The effect of this proliferation of anti-Jewish views online has led to the alarming erosion of Israel's legitimacy on the world stage, in addition to having real-life consequences for Jewish communities worldwide.

But rather than examining the countless examples of anti-Israel bias and how they have spread online, it is more helpful to consider the ripple effect of this bias and how it potentially endangers the lives of Jews globally.

CyberWell, a recently launched non-profit initiative, is in the process of gathering data about antisemitic trends in its open database. CyberWell uses online research, media monitoring, and an alert center to track online Judeophobia across all social media platforms and in multiple languages.

Sadly, the organization's work has never

been more necessary: Data shows a 61 percent increase in hate speech directed at Jews on Twitter since Elon Musk purchased the platform, which has led to hashtags like "the Jews" becoming a trending topic.

For online platforms to combat antisemitism, there should be a framework that defines hate speech. For instance, the widely-adopted International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism, which CyberWell uses to judge whether content is antisemitic.

"Data must be the cornerstone of our fight for accountability on social media," CyberWell founder and Executive Director Tal-Or Cohen has explained, adding: "Anecdotes are powerful but using hard numbers to demonstrate skyrocketing digital Jew-hatred makes it impossible for platforms like Twitter to ignore the crisis."

With new initiatives such as CyberWell, the real-life impact that online anti-Israel media has on Jews worldwide can be tracked.

Dehumanization is defined as "the process of depriving a person or group of positive human qualities." The process of dehumanizing a person or a population means that they are no longer treated humanely.

The Anti-Defamation League states: "From 2018 to 2020, between seven and nine percent of antisemitic incidents reported to ADL have explicitly incorporated anti-Israel or anti-Zionist elements. This includes Jewish people being told they should 'go back to Israel' [and] synagogues being vandalized with pro-Palestinian graffiti."

Herd mentality is defined as "the tendency of the people in a group to think and behave in ways that conform with others in the group rather than as individuals." This mentality can be witnessed in group activities such as voting, international sporting events, and protests.

The feeling of anonymity that comes with being part of a collective can lead to acts of violence spontaneously being committed. Such behavior can also be seen online.

Indeed, many individual social media users may or may not be openly antisemitic when they are not behind the computer or smartphone. However, when hashtags such as "#jewishmedia" go viral, they will be shared by some of these users because they do not fear any consequences — perhaps there is a kind of safety in numbers.

Then-Israeli prime minister Yair Lapid addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations in September of last year and stated: "The second threat [to Israel] is the demise of truth. Our democracies are slowly being poisoned by lies and fake news. Reckless politicians, totalitarian states and radical organizations are undermining our perception of reality."

He added: "We should know, there is no country in the world that faces this phenomenon more than Israel. There is no country that has come under greater attack of lies, with such a vast amount of money and effort being invested in spreading disinformation about it."

Lapid used an example in his speech about the terrorist organization Hamas' use of disinformation. He told the story of "Malak al-Tanani" a three-year-old who Hamas claimed was Palestinian.

Hamas had alleged that the child was killed in an Israeli airstrike on Gaza alongside her family during the May 2021 conflict. In reality, the photo of "al-Tanani" was actually of a Russian girl and was stolen from her mother's Instagram page. Despite being completely untrue, the story was shared thousands of times online.

In essence, the libel that Israel murdered a young child went viral.

Lapid also discussed disinformation, commenting: "I can give you thousands more examples of similar fake news about Israel. The anti-Israel movement has been spreading these lies for years. In the media, college campuses, and on social media. The question is not why they do it, but why you are willing to listen."

But why are people so willing to share false information?

As seen with the al-Tanani tale, anti-Israel libels are used to delegitimize Israel and challenge the Jewish state's very right to exist. Moreover, I believe they aim to challenge the rights of the Jewish people to live in safety and security anywhere in the world.

Terrorist organizations who seek to destroy Israel will often spread fake news online. Terrorist groups rely on uninformed citizens to further spread these stories.

Patterns of herd mentality and dehumanization can be seen in the online anti-Israel agenda. The legitimacy of Israel and, therefore, the right of Jews to a safe homeland is being questioned.

Israel is facing a war that is being played out online — a virtual battlefield.

Zara Nybo is a university student living in British Columbia, Canada. She is currently studying for a degree in Anthropology & Political Science. Zara's passion for advocacy and education surrounding Israel started when she met her partner, who is Jewish and served in the IDF. Zara has focused on learning about the history of the Jewish people and the State of Israel. She plans to use her writing and academic work to educate others about Israel, the Jewish diaspora, and the rise of antisemitism. The author is a guest contributor to HonestReporting, a Jerusalem-based media watchdog with a focus on antisemitism and anti-Israel bias — where a version of this article first appeared.

The 10th Annual Jewish Film Festival
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Svetlana Portnyansky

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Svetlana's concert is included in the all-films Platinum Pass for \$150 or separately available for \$35 at www.PSJFF.com.

23 Percent of Dutch Millennials Believe Holocaust is Myth

New Survey Elicits Shock in Netherlands

By Shiryn Ghermezian, *The Algemeiner*

Dutch Justice Minister Dilan Yeşilgöz led a chorus of outrage over a just-released report showing widespread lack of awareness from Dutch citizens about the Nazi atrocities of World War II against Jews, especially among Millennials and Gen Z.

The survey revealed that 23 percent of Millennials and Gen Z, and 12 percent of all respondents, believe the Holocaust is a myth or that the number of Jews killed have been largely exaggerated — a figure that was higher in the Netherlands than in any country previously surveyed and asked the same question by The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference), which conducted the report.

"This is not only shocking, it is also very serious," Yeşilgöz said according to the *Het Patrool* newspaper. "As a society we have a lot of work to do. And soon too."

Among the survey's findings, 53 percent of all Dutch respondents and 60 percent of Millennials and Gen Z surveyed "did not cite" the Netherlands as a country where the Holocaust took place. There were several transit camps in the Netherlands used to deport Jews to Nazi concentration camps, such as Auschwitz-Birkenau, but more than half (59 percent of all respondents and 71 percent of Millennials and Gen Z) could not name a single transit camp that was located in their country.

"This country is broken," said Harm Beertema, a Dutch politician with the Party for Freedom.

More than half of those surveyed (54 percent of all respondents and 59 percent of Millennial and Gen Z) did not know that 6 million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust. Additionally, only 17 percent of Millennials and Gen Z said the Dutch were collaborators during the Holocaust, and over half of those surveyed believed that most Dutch people were only victims during World War II.

"Almost eight decades after the end of the Holocaust, we are in the midst of a generational shift," Richelle Budd Caplan, director of international relations

and projects at the International School of Studies at Yad Vashem, told *The Algemeiner*. "As the survivors pass away, who will transmit the torch of Holocaust remembrance and education to future generations? How will the world continue to commemorate and learn from this history? Will the Holocaust become an all too distant memory, a one-off lesson relegated to the pages of history? These questions are particularly pertinent in light of this new survey highlighting just how little is actually known about the Holocaust amongst Dutch Millennials and Gen Z. This worrisome ignorance feeds an alarming, dark and diverse trend crossing the globe, encompassing Holocaust denial, distortion and the whitewashing of history."

The survey also included questions about arguably one of the Holocaust's most famous victims — German teenage diarist Anne Frank, who hid with her family in Amsterdam for two years in a secret annex before they were discovered by the Nazis. While most Dutch respondents (89 percent) were familiar with Frank, 32 percent of Millennials and 27 percent of all adults surveyed do not know that she died in a concentration camp.

"This is a worrying development and underlines the importance of Holocaust education in Dutch education," The Anne Frank House said in a statement about the survey's findings.

A Bright Spot: Holocaust Education

The survey also showed that although many of the Dutch respondents lack in their own Holocaust knowledge, they support Holocaust education. Two-thirds (66 percent) of everyone surveyed and a majority of Dutch Millennials and Gen Z (57 percent) agreed that Holocaust education should be mandatory in school, and 77 percent of all respondents said it is important to continue to teach about the Holocaust.

"It does not come as a surprise that the Dutch in general and the younger generation in particular do not have sufficient knowledge of the history of the

Holocaust. But I am shocked, because the numbers are even higher than we thought they would be," Emile Schrijver, survey task force member



and general director of the Jewish Cultural Quarter in Amsterdam, told *The Algemeiner*. "What is also shocking is that, apparently, the way in which we teach Holocaust is totally insufficient."

"It is too easy to move the responsibility towards our teachers," Schrijver added. "We should equip them properly to teach Holocaust and we should

define the minimal parameters of what we feel our children should know." Schrijver pointed to the 2024 opening of the National Holocaust Museum in Amsterdam as a sorely-needed tool in Holocaust education.

Caplan told *The Algemeiner* she hopes more Dutch educators will take part in professional development trainings and apply to study in Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies to learn how to teach about the Holocaust and combat Holocaust distortion. She explained, "It is incumbent upon us to buttress our efforts worldwide to combat Holocaust denial and distortion."

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“Violins of Hope” Moves and Inspires Our Community’s 2023 Holocaust Remembrance Observance

In one of the most moving Holocaust Remembrance programs in many years, the Jewish Federation of the Desert brought the film “Violins of Hope” to our community’s annual program, held on January 29th to a capacity filled auditorium at UC Riverside/Palm Desert Campus. The preliminary program featured messages and prayers by our community’s spiritual leaders and symbolic lighting of memorial candles by the local Holocaust survivors. As is witnessed worldwide, the numbers of these survivors grow smaller each year and we were grateful for those who are still here.

“Violins of Hope” brings the story



Survivors participating in the candle lighting included (standing l-r) Rose Peppin, Suzanna Juhasz, Rickie Taras and Ruth Lindemann. Seated (l-r) Karen and Gertrude Chester, Nadine Bicher and Suzanna’s daughter Ildiko Mittelman.

of the Holocaust from a remarkable perspective. These stringed survivors were brought back to life – and to the world – by a family of violin restorers spanning three generations. Luthier

Amnon Weinstein took what might have become an exhibit of ruined instruments, restored them and put them into the hands of musicians all over the world so that a new generation can hear them.



Talia Lizemer brought ‘candle’ to survivor Jerry Moses.



Spiritual leaders participating included Rabbi Steven Rosenberg of Temple Isaiah, Ken Hailpern of Congregation Beth Shalom, Rabbi David Novak of Temple Sinai, Rabbi JB Sacks, Sun City Cantorial Soloist Alan Scott, Soloist Gerry Noriega and Rabbi Richard Zions of Congregation Har-El.



Abbas: Palestinians to Seek Full Membership at United Nations

Britain’s 1917 Balfour Declaration “was aimed at getting rid of the Jews in Europe and establishing the so-called Jewish national home in Palestine,” said the P.A. chief.

By Jewish News Syndicate

Palestinian Authority chief Mahmoud Abbas said on February 12 that Ramallah will seek the passage of a United Nations resolution granting “Palestine” full membership at the international body, according to the official Palestinian *Wafa* news agency.

Speaking at an Arab League summit in Cairo, Abbas emphasized that the Palestinians remain committed to confronting the “racist” and “extremist” Israeli government, which he claimed was “targeting Al-Aqsa Mosque and all our sanctities.”

“The battle raging over Jerusalem did not only begin on the day of its occupation in 1967, but several decades prior to that, and even before the Balfour Declaration which was issued by the colonial powers, led by Britain and America. The declaration was aimed at getting rid of the Jews in Europe and establishing the so-called Jewish national home in Palestine, to be an outpost to safeguard the interests of these colonial countries,” said the P.A. chief.

The 1917 Balfour Declaration spelled out London’s support for the establishment of a “Jewish national home” in what was then British-ruled Mandatory Palestine. Signed by then-British Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour, the declaration is considered the historic precursor to Israel’s creation in 1948.

“Supporting Jerusalem and strengthening the steadfastness of those staying there and in its environs is a religious duty and a humanitarian and national imperative,” said Abbas.

Bottom of Form

“Just as our people rejected the Balfour Declaration and its results, we also rejected all attempts to liquidate our cause or falsify the facts about it. We rejected [former U.S. President Donald Trump’s peace] deal of the century, and we refused—and we still refuse—to move the U.S. embassy or any other embassy to Jerusalem,” he added.

The U.N. General Assembly in late December approved a resolution, at the behest of the P.A., calling on the International Court of Justice to “render urgently an advisory opinion” on what it called Israel’s “prolonged occupation, settlement and annexation of Palestinian territory.”

The ICJ announced on February 8 a July 25 deadline for state bodies and organizations to submit documents pertaining to Israel’s presence in Judea and Samaria.

In response to the U.N. resolution, the Israeli Security Cabinet decided, among other measures, to withhold taxes and tariffs collected on behalf of the P.A., in an amount equal to that which Ramallah paid to terrorists and their families in



Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas

2022 under its “pay-for-slay” policy.

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich has since signed an order doubling that amount.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that his governing coalition will pass legislation in the Knesset to strip the citizenship of terrorists and expel them from the country.

The Security Cabinet would convene to prepare for a more wide-ranging operation against “those who carry out terrorism, and their supporters, in eastern Jerusalem and in Judea and Samaria, while avoiding—as much as possible—harm to those who are not involved,” he added.

The comments come after a deadly terrorist attack in Jerusalem claimed the lives of 6-year-old Yaakov Israel Paley, his 8-year-old brother, Asher Menachem Paley, as well as 20-year-old Alter Shlomo Lederman.

Among the measures being considered

by Israel are seizing assets belonging to the families of terrorists, erecting barriers against vehicles at bus stops and additional security checkpoints between predominantly Arab and Jewish neighborhoods in the capital, and a general crackdown on online incitement.

Following Friday’s attack, National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir called for a major operation in eastern Jerusalem in the vein of the IDF’s 2002 “Operation Defensive Shield,” which was launched during the Second Intifada to uproot terrorist infrastructure in Palestinian urban areas across Judea and Samaria.

However, a senior government official said that Ben-Gvir lacked the authority to approve such a decision, which would need to be made by the Security Cabinet.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken reportedly requested during his visit to Israel earlier this month that Netanyahu temporarily freeze construction in Judea and Samaria and halt demolition of illegal Arab structures in those territories as well as the eastern part of Jerusalem, in a bid to de-escalate tensions amid rampant Palestinian terrorism.

Washington also requested that the P.A. fully resume security coordination with Israel and postpone any additional steps against it at U.N. institutions and other international bodies.

'Israel is a Time-Tested Partner,' Declares Muslim-Majority Ally Nation

Azerbaijani lawmakers speak to JNS about enhancing bilateral cooperation between the Muslim country and Jewish state ahead of the opening of Baku's embassy in Israel.

By Etgar Lefkovits, JNS.org

The newly appointed ambassador of Azerbaijan to Israel is expected to arrive in Tel Aviv in February or early March, with Azerbaijan becoming the first Shiite Muslim country to open an embassy in Israel.

The landmark diplomatic event comes amid burgeoning relations between Israel and Azerbaijan, and escalating tensions and threats of violence against both countries by Iran.

It is the product of a three-decade-old covert and overt relationship, rooted in a centuries-long affinity between the two peoples, which has seen a robust security- and energy-related focus grow to include a diverse people-to-people relationship.

Ambassador Mukhtar Mammadov, the outgoing deputy education minister and a veteran of both the education and foreign ministries, is expected to begin working from the Azerbaijani trade office that already exists in Tel Aviv, officials said.

Israel has operated an embassy in Baku since 1993, the year after relations were established between the two countries. Indeed, Israel was one of the first countries in the world to recognize Azerbaijan's independence in 1991 after the breakup of the Soviet Union.

For Israel, ties with Muslim oil-rich Azerbaijan—which shares a 428-mile border with Iran—are of strategic importance, as a conduit for intelligence (25% of Iranians are in fact Azeris), because it supplies Israel an estimated 40% of its oils needs, and as a leading purchaser of Israeli military hardware, particularly drones.

Over a decade ago, then-Foreign Minister Avigdor Liberman quipped that "Azerbaijan is more important for Israel than France."

Congratulatory letters

The upcoming arrival of the ambassador and the opening of the embassy prompted congratulatory letters from the Knesset to the parliament in Azerbaijan and back, both of which were signed by parliamentarians across

the political spectrum.

"The opening of the embassy in Israel marks the beginning of a new phase in our bilateral relations and is a vivid testimony to our cooperation entering a new level," the Azeri letter reads.

It expresses appreciation for Israel's support for Azerbaijan in its 2020 conflict with arch-rival Armenia and calls out Iran for its threats and its global terrorism.

"The most recent exacerbated anti-Azerbaijan rhetoric of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its conduct of military exercises along the Iran-Azerbaijan borders are a clear manifestation of the jealousy of certain countries and it reveals Iran's true colors," the letter reads. "We are pleased and inspired to receive your message of support in light of these provocations and rising threats against Azerbaijan. And for that we express our gratitude."

Azerbaijan has been locked in a decades-old conflict with Armenia over the mountainous region of Nagorno-Karabakh—which is part of Azerbaijan but with a majority ethnic Armenian population who, backed by Armenia, had controlled the area for over a quarter century since a 1994 separatist conflict, aka the First Nagorno-Karabakh War.

In the 2020 Second Nagorno-Karabakh War, Azerbaijan, aided by arms, military experts and Syrian mercenaries provided by Turkey and drones from Israel—regained most of those territories, and a fragile if volatile truce brokered by Russia remains in place despite a renewed burst of violence this fall.

In the meantime, Armenia—which also borders Iran and has been feeling a cold shoulder from a Russia busy with the war in Ukraine—has been buttressing its trade with the Islamic Republic, which has reportedly gone up more than 40% in 2022 even as Yerevan seeks to maintain its good relations with Israel.

The earlier Knesset letter congratulates the Azeris on the embassy inauguration



Ambassador Mukhtar Mammadov and highlighted the threats of the Islamic Republic to destroy both countries.

"Our congratulations to you our friends, the speaker and the members of the Azeri parliament, on the occasion of the decision to open the Azerbaijani embassy in Israel. This is a significant step in upgrading the courageous cooperation between the two countries and a natural continuation of centuries of friendship between the Azeri and the Jewish people and the Jewish community on the soil of Azerbaijan," the letter states.

"We are facing a joint and dangerous enemy—the Iranian regime which seeks the destruction of our two nations and uses antisemitic propaganda in order to incite Azeris against their government. Yet these attempts have failed and Azerbaijan has proven over and over again that it will not be blackmailed by threats, and specifically at this time chose to open their embassy. Israel and the Jewish people thank you."

Restoring a historic brotherhood

Sevinj Fataliyeva, deputy chairman of the Azerbaijani National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee, told JNS in a text from Baku, "Today Israel is a time-tested and reliable strategic partner for Azerbaijan."

She cited as ties that bind the strong Jewish community living in Azerbaijan—one of the largest Jewish communities in the Muslim world—and the immigrants from Azerbaijan to Israel who remain connected to their country of birth.

"The opening of the embassy will bring cooperation to a completely new level," Fataliyeva said.

National Assembly deputy Asim Mollazade, one of the signatories of the

Azeri parliamentary letter, told JNS in an interview from Baku, "For thousands of years we have lived together as a family in peace, brotherhood and mutual respect. Our friendship, brotherhood and values helped us both survive in a very difficult region with evil and international terror threatening both Israel and Azerbaijan."

He noted that over centuries of pogroms in Europe, Jews settled peacefully in Azerbaijan and maintained those ties to the present day, when antisemitism is again rising throughout the world.


Mollazade pledged, in the wake of the 2020 Abraham Accords that saw Israel normalize relations with four Arab countries, to work to further additional relationships between Israel and additional Arab countries. He also noted how Israelis were at home visiting Baku alongside Turkish and Pakistani tourists.

The good relations between governments have completely filtered down to people-to-people diplomacy, Mollazade said, noting the consensus among Azerbaijan's government and opposition regarding Israel ties. "It is restoring a historic brotherhood," he said.

DID YOU KNOW?

All monies donated to the TZEDAKAH FUND enables the Jewish Federation of the Desert to respond to emergency needs of Jews living in our community.

Donating to the TZEDAKAH FUND is a wonderful way to thank, extend good wishes, offer condolences or recognize an occasion.



Call the Jewish Federation at 760-324-4737 or go online to jfedps.org/donate.

What Muhammad Aliwat Learned in School

Palestinian curricula continue to glorify religious martyrdom and spread hatred even as educational reform is underway elsewhere in the Arab world

By Marcus Sheff is CEO at IMPACT-se (The Institute for Monitoring Peace and Cultural Tolerance in School Textbooks).

Muhammad Aliwat, the 13-year-old Palestinian attacker who ambushed and seriously wounded a father and his son at the entrance to the City of David on January 27, used his school notebook to leave a message for his mother that reads: “God, or victory, or martyrdom. Forgive me, mother, you’re going to be proud of me.”

The 8th-grader, reportedly a student at the Al-Furqan Islamic School for Boys in the Shuafat refugee camp, which uses the Palestinian Authority’s curriculum, has had quite an education in martyrdom, *jihad*, and antisemitism this school year and last. For example, he studied comprehension through a story promoting suicide bombings, in which Palestinians “cut the necks of enemy soldiers.” In Islamic education, a textbook devotes an entire chapter to teaching that martyrdom is “obligatory,” that it brings honor, glory, and promises entrance to paradise. Those who do not sacrifice themselves are weak.

Jews are depicted as conspiratorial, powerful, evil, and impure, posing a threat to the sanctity of Islam. A teacher guide for the 7th grade teaches that Jews crushed children’s heads, set them on fire, and threw them into wells. Even the science classes Aliwat attended take advantage of the opportunity to teach hate. He learned Newton’s Second Law through the action of a slingshot aimed at soldiers, and biology through a violent clash

with the IDF that asks about its effects on one’s bodily organs.

This is a small sample of some of the violent and inciteful material Aliwat was presumably exposed to in the Palestinian Authority (PA) curriculum this year and last; material taught by teachers whose salaries are supported by the European Union, Germany, and other nations. It is the curriculum taught by UNRWA, whose biggest financial supporter is the United States.

UNRWA has been caught twice in the last two years by the Institute for Monitoring Peace and Cultural Education (IMPACT-se) teaching its self-produced hate material. Its response was a half-apology followed by outright denial.

Education is the imparting of a society’s common knowledge and traditions to the next generation – it is the most important task adults have, it is a core task of government, and it is strategic.

So while the PA and UNRWA pursue a strategy of teaching Palestinian schoolchildren that one state – Palestine – will be gained through violence, *jihad*, and their personal sacrifice, others in the region are taking a different path.

Teaching Tolerance

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a trailblazer, leading the way under the leadership of Crown Prince

Mohamed Bin Zayed al-Nahan, who ordered widescale rewrites of the country’s textbooks alongside sweeping post-9/11 state reforms. The result is outstanding. Emiratis are taught to embrace the Other and that national pride and prosperity are connected to peace and tolerance, an attitude that has undoubtedly helped pave the way to harmonizing relations between the UAE and Israel. Combating radicalism is inherent to the Emirati mentality, and tolerance toward other faiths and teaching conflict resolution are cornerstones of the education system. What’s more, the UAE will be teaching about the Holocaust in future iterations of its curriculum.

Our 2022 Saudi Arabia annual report revealed a continuing overall trend of significant improvement. This follows the gradual removal of problematic content from Saudi textbooks since IMPACT-se’s 2020 report, with dozens of lessons demonizing Jews, Christians, and non-believers removed or edited in 2021. Antisemitism based on modern European tropes has largely been removed.

Even in the case of Qatar, our 2022 report shows a continued trend of reform. Since IMPACT-se’s two reports in 2020 and 2021, which identified content that did not meet UNESCO standards, improvements were made in removing antisemitic tropes and conspiracies, and

violent *jihad*. Problematic examples remain and there is still a disproportionate focus on Israel, but the hostile tone is being lessened, and the trajectory is positive. Our 2019 review of Jordan’s revamped curriculum shows that, overall, it teaches students to show respect and tolerance toward minorities at home and throughout the world. While displaying no respect for Israel, it features explanations of Jewish history.

Outside of the Middle East, our review of the Indonesian curriculum, the largest Muslim-majority country in the world, points to teaching that is largely tolerant, promoting peace and coexistence with other religions.

All of this is suggestive of positive progress in relation to how Jews are depicted in textbooks in the region. Education remains an essential tool to promote the open-mindedness needed for religious tolerance; MENA countries continue to reform their education systems, taking a different direction from the kind of education that previous generations in these states were taught.

The Palestinian Authority and UNRWA, however, continue to glorify religious martyrdom and spread antisemitism and hatred against Israel in their schools. It is a national strategy, one the Palestinian leadership refuses to change and which inevitably, continues to result in bloodshed.

‘Jihad Drug’ Bound for Gaza Seized in Smuggling Bust

Amphetamine pills often used by ISIS terrorists seized by Israeli police; 21 pounds of the drug found hidden in refrigerators.

By World Israel News Staff

Israeli authorities seized tens of thousands of amphetamine pills from a truck bound for the Gaza Strip on January 29 and detained the driver of the vehicle for further questioning.

Police officers from the city of Kiryat Gat were called to the Tarkomia Border Crossing, near Hebron, to inspect a truck that border agents found to be suspicious.

At first glance, the truck appeared to be transporting refrigerators for consumers and commercial use,

but police found that much of the appliances’ internal insulation had been removed.

Bags containing Fenethylline stimulant pills, which are classified as a controlled substance in the U.S. and are illegal in most countries in the world, were found hidden inside the refrigerators.

The drugs weighed a total of 9.6 kilograms (about 21 pounds) and have a street value estimated at tens of thousand of shekels.

The pills, known as Captagon in the

Middle East, are popular in the region for their stimulant effect.

The ISIS terror group is believed to have frequently given the drug to its fighters due to the pills’ ability to boost operatives’ energy, along with its appetite-reduction properties.

Captagon has earned the nickname the “jihad drug,” and is widely manufactured in Syria by terror groups.

In December 2022, Jordanian customs authorities seized 9 million Captagon pills at the Al-Karamah

border crossing between Iraq and the Hashemite Kingdom.

A Tunisian-French terrorist who drove a cargo truck through a crowd on Bastille Day in 2016, killing 86 people and wounding 434 others, was believed to have been under the influence of Captagon at the time of the attack.

Cypriot think tank COAR estimated that “Captagon exports from Syria reached a market value of at least \$3.46 billion” in a 2021 report.

Finding a Community on Campus

By Natalie Halpern, UCR Student and Hillel Member

College is difficult, there's no doubt about it. Thousands of new people in a brand new setting can be extremely overwhelming, especially at a university of over 20,000 students! All a student needs to do is find their niche: a small pocket of people with something in common. UC Riverside Hillel provides that sort of welcoming niche that every student is looking for. When first entering a new university, who knows where to start? Well, Hillel has got your back. An instant batch of new friends is waiting to be made right when you walk through the open doors. Whether a breakfast during our weekly bagel Wednesdays, or a Friday evening Shabbat dinner to close out the week, we have something for everyone. Hillel activities enable students to embrace Jewish culture while enhancing



awareness of Judaism around our region and the world. Each quarter, there are a variety of events to choose from, including our amazing Shabbat dinners, "Dinner and Learn" with an engaging speaker, and a festive celebration of Jewish holidays. Additionally, we have just started a series of classes in collaboration with the local Chabad,



called "Jewish Why?" during which students of any background can participate in the discussion of asking why we partake in particular Jewish rituals and ideas, all over a delicious dinner.

Along with our campus-wide events, we also have collaborative events with the University of Redlands Hillel and local congregations. From bowling and pizza in Redlands, to Passover seders with the greater Riverside community, Hillel provides meaningful resources for the Jewish population on campus.

All of these activities are sponsored by the Jewish Federation of the Desert and supported by many donors from our community.

One of Hillel's main missions is also to advocate for Israel and address antisemitism on campus. Subsidies are available to help students attend Jewish-oriented conferences and to travel abroad to Israel, helping promote awareness of what's currently happening and what we can do to both learn and support.

University of Redlands and UC Riverside's chapters of Hillel are not just another club, but a center where students can feel comfortable with their diverse Jewish identities and their community. It is a place that students can call their own.

Civilians Told to Bring Firearms to Synagogue on Shabbat

Rabbi Rami Brachyahu said the measure was necessary following the January 27 Palestinian terrorist attack that killed seven people at a synagogue in Jerusalem.

By Jewish News Syndicate

The chief rabbi of the Israel Police penned an open letter to rabbis throughout Israel urging them to advise congregants to carry firearms on Shabbat, *Arutz 7* reported.

In his letter, Rabbi Rami Brachyahu said the measure was necessary following the January 27 Palestinian terrorist attack that killed seven people at a synagogue in Jerusalem's Neve Yaakov neighborhood.

History has proven that religious neighborhoods and synagogues were a target for terrorists, wrote Brachyahu, according to the report.

"In deliberation with prominent rabbis and on the recommendation of relevant police authorities, I appeal to the rabbis of Israel to instruct their communities that everyone who has a license to carry a firearm should carry that firearm with them on Shabbat, especially during prayer times in the synagogues," he said.

He also said that synagogues should maintain the ability to call

authorities at any time in the event of an emergency.

"It is appropriate that every synagogue have a kosher cell phone [on the premises] that can be used to call the police if, God forbid, an emergency occurs. Halachically, in any event of concern for 'risk to life,' the police must be called, even on Shabbat," he said.

Jewish law, or halacha, generally prohibits the use of electronic devices on the Jewish day of rest, which occurs weekly from sundown on Friday to sundown of Saturday.

Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir vowed to push through a fivefold increase in weapon permits in the wake of last month's deadly attack.

Ben-Gvir has directed the Firearms Licensing Department to increase the number of new permits issued from roughly 2,000 to 10,000 per month, according to a statement from his Otzma Yehudit Party.



Jewish Federation of the Desert

Welcomes you

APRIL 30, 2023 10am—2pm
AT PALM VALLEY SCHOOL CAMPUS

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YOM HA'ATZMAUT
ISRAEL
Independence Day

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For further information
Contact Leslie.pepper@jfedps.org
760-324-4737



Shabbat Schedule - March 2023

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, Palm Desert

(Member, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism)

Ken Hailpern, Spiritual Leader
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. Visitors welcome with proof of vaccination.

Friday, March 3: Shabbat Eve Service, 7:45 pm, celebrating Shabbat Across America with Sabra Hadassah of the Desert. Guest speaker Cindy Hailpern: "Hadassah's 100th National Convention" followed by Oneg Shabbat Dessert Reception. Proof of Vaccination required. For information, email info@congregationbethshalom.net or call (760) 200-3636. www.CongregationBethShalom.net

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
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 760-969-2153 / 760-969-2158

CHABAD OF RANCHO MIRAGE

Rabbi Shimon Posner; Rabbi Benny Lew.
72295 Via Marta, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270. www.chabadrm.com
760-770-7785
Friday night services: Check website for times.
Shabbat morning services begin at 10 am, followed by a sit-down Kiddush lunch. Children's program/service.
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 and some classes offered now. Contact Rebbetzin Sussie Denebeim to receive weekly "Chabad

in Sun City Newsletter" with listing of all services and activities: 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.
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 Zionts, Ph.D.; Cantor Joseph Gole, D.Mus. harelurjpd@gmail.com 760-779-1691.
Website: harelurjpd.org

Shabbat Eve Zoom Services are conducted weekly at 5 PM. Rabbi Richard Zionts shares a D'var Torah on a timely topic based on our timeless tradition. Cantor Joseph Gole provides inspiring melodies and insights from our Shabbat Eve liturgy. Attendees are encouraged to click on the Zoom presentation early for a conversation with clergy and congregants. Har-El welcomes visitors from out of state as well as those in California and the Coachella Valley.

Rabbi Zionts holds Torah Study on Zoom every Saturday morning at 11 AM. For a Zoom link, contact harelurjpd@gmail.com.

DESERT OUTREACH SYNAGOGUE, Rancho Mirage

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.

OR HAMIDBAR

Rabbi David Lazar rabbid@orhamidbar.org. Virtual Kabbalat Services first, second and fourth Fridays of the month,



CELEBRATE PURIM March 6 (Erev) & March 7

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.
February 3 & 4: Or Hamidbar presents a Shabbat Experience with Rabbi Sam Feldman. Limited seating. RSVP to <https://orhamidbar.org/shabbat-experience-with-rabbi-sam-feldman/>

SUN CITY JEWISH SERVICES, Palm Desert

Rabbi Dr. Kenneth Emert, Cantorial Soloist Alan Scott and Accompanist Brent Reynolds. In person services in Speaker's Hall in the Sunset View Clubhouse (second clubhouse) in Sun City Palm Desert the first and third Fridays at 7:15 pm. To attend participants must be fully vaccinated. Please bring your card. Information: Nadine Brinhendler, 707-332-3947.

TEMPLE HAR SHALOM, Idyllwild

(951) 468-0004. www.templeharshalomofidyllwild.org Email: templeharshalomofidyllwild@gmail.com.
Erev Shabbat Services the 4th Friday of each month with Rabbi Ilana Grinblat at 6:00 pm with dinner to follow. Shabbat teaching with Rabbi Ilana the next morning at 9:30 am with bagels and coffee. On all other Fridays of the month Shabbat Candle Lighting at 6:00 pm on Zoom.
1st Friday with Rabbi Malka Drucker; 2nd Friday with Rabbi Ilana Grinblat; 3rd Friday with Board host. Check website templeharshalomofidyllwild.org for Zoom address.

TEMPLE ISAIAH, Palm Springs

Rabbi Steven Rosenberg. (rabbisteven.rosenberg@gmail.com). Cantor Ken Cohen or Soloist Dr. Sarah Sela join Rabbi on the bima most weeks.
332 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262, 760-325-2281. Email: temple@templeisiahps.com; www.templeisiahps.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 and Oneg following. Saturday morning Torah study, "Nosh and Drash," begins at 10:30 am. To attend in person services requires being fully vaccinated. Masks not required at this time, subject to change if mandated by city of Palm Springs or State of California directive. 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.

PURIM: Erev Purim service and celebration Monday, March 6 at 7:00 pm. Costumes optional!

TEMPLE SINAI, Palm Desert (Member, Union for Reform Judaism)

Rabbi David Novak
73-251 Hovley Lane West, Palm Desert, CA 92260. www.templeisiahps.org 760-568-9699. Go to templeisiahps.org for access information. Shabbat services are in-person and online on Livestream at www.templeisiahps.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. Proof of vaccination or negative covid test within 72 hours required.
Friday, March 3: Rabbi David Novak's formal installation as Temple Sinai's spiritual leader will take place at Shabbat services at 5:30 pm. He will be installed by Rabbi Ruth Adar. Community welcomed. Reservations required to attend dinner following service. Call 760-568-9699.

BIKUR CHOLIM

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



Community Calendar of Programs - March 2023

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.

5:00-6:45 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. Orders can be placed online in advance.

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

Wednesdays:

1:30 pm Temple Isaiah Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class with **Rabbi Steven**

Rosenberg. Interested in joining? Contact Rabbi at rabbisteven.rosenberg@gmail.com.

8:00 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**.

7:00 pm Chabad of Rancho Mirage Tanya Class led by **Rabbi Shimon Posner**. For men and women. Hosted each week in Rancho Mirage and also available on Zoom.

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.

Thursday, March 2

9:30 am Sabra Hadassah of the Desert morning meeting at the clubhouse at Sun City Shadow Hills. Doors open at 9:30 for nosh and socializing. Program begins at 10:00 am. Speaker: Hadassah Southern California President **Audrey Levine**

Monday, March 6

12:00 noon Jewish Federation luncheon to meet Druze Jewish Agency Envoy **Gadeer Kamal-Mreeh**. RSVP by March 1 to 760-324-4737. See article page 3.

Tuesday, March 7

4:00 pm Beth Shalom "Se'udat Purim" Purim celebration including reading from the Megillah, followed by a festive meal (Se'udah) celebrating Phyllis Pepper's 90th birthday. Community welcome with paid reservations and proof of vaccination. Members: \$30 / Non-Members: \$36. Paid reservations REQUIRED by Wednesday, March 1. For information and reservations, email info@congregationbethshalom.net or call (760) 200-3636.

Wednesday, March 8

3:30 pm *Har-El Galen Book Course on Zoom. Attend and plan to learn as we review the book **The World That We Knew** by Alice Hoffman, «a Holocaust story spun with golems, magical herons and other fantastical elements.» Presenter: Rabbi Richard A. Zionts, Ph.D. For Zoom invite contact harelurjpd@gmail.com.*

Thursday, March 9

4:15 pm Beth Shalom Book Club "**The Only Woman in the Room: A Novel**" by Marie Benedict. Discussion led by Sandra Rosenbloom. Visitors welcome with proof of vaccination. Information: (760) 200-3636

Saturday, March 18

7:30 pm Beth Shalom **Kosher Wine**

Tasting Event, featuring wine expert, Robert Kretzmer. Community Welcome with paid reservations and proof of vaccination.

Members: \$38 / Non-Members: \$45 Paid reservations REQUIRED by Monday, March 13. For information and reservations, email info@congregationbethshalom.net or call (760) 200-3636.

Sunday, March 19

3:00 pm Temple Isaiah **San Diego Jewish Men's Choir Concert**. Suggested donation: \$15. See ad page 13.

Monday, March 20

7:00 pm Chabad of Rancho Mirage Women's Rosh Chodesh Society: **TO BELIEVE OR NOT TO BELIEVE IN YOURSELF**, introduces the students to Tanya, a 225-year-old text whose portrayal of human psychology and of our inner spiritual composition: This session: Soul Secret: From Potential to Perpetual Positivity.

Tuesday, March 21

All day. Jewish Federation Day at Tamarisk. Golf, tennis, pickle ball or cards, a full day at Tamarisk Country Club in support of the Jewish Federation of the Desert. See article on page one and call the Jewish Federation Office for details: 760-324-4737.

Sunday, March 26 through Wednesday, March 29

Temple Isaiah presents the 10th Annual **Jewish Film Festival** at the Palm Springs Cultural Center (formerly the Camelot Theatre), beginning this year with a concert with **Svetlana Portnyansky**, followed by the film "Terezin: The Code to Life," produced by Ms. Portnyansky. See ad page 2 & 12.

Monday, March 27

2:00-4:00 pm Jewish Federation Women's Philanthropy's **Pomegranate Event**, "An Affair to Remember" Chai Tea at Le Vallauris Restaurant, Palm Springs. Call Leslie Pepper at the Jewish Federation, 760-324-4737, for more information and reservations. See ad page 11.

Christie's Auction House Honors Nazi-Looted Art Restitution Efforts

Yearlong, Worldwide Series of Events Being Held

by Shiryn Ghermezian, *The Algemeiner*

The world-renowned auction house Christie's recently announced that its restitution department will host a series of events throughout the year and around the world in recognition of efforts to return Nazi-stolen art to its rightful owners.

"During 2023, scholars, legal experts, researchers and interested parties

will meet in Paris, Amsterdam, Vienna, Berlin, London, New York as well as throughout the United States, and Tel Aviv, to share and discuss important stories, ideas and perspectives" about art restitution, Christie's said in a press release about their new initiative.

"Global audiences will be invited to engage with the program through

other in-person opportunities as well as Christie's dedicated website, featuring recordings of selected events, stories of important restitutions, as well as a virtual walking tour of historic sites throughout Berlin."

On January 16 Christie's announced its first event would be an exhibition by French contemporary artist Raphaël Denis opening on Jan. 27 at Christie's galleries on Avenue Matignon in Paris, featuring installations that will form "an extremely precise fragmentary reconstitution" of art that was confiscated, looted or forced to be sold by their French Jewish owners, Christie's said.

The year-long series of events will conclude in December with a conference at The Tel Aviv Museum of Art about restitution and provenance research.

Christie's series of events, called Reflecting on Restitution, will honor the 25th anniversary of the Washington Conference Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art, an international agreement that helps with locating, identifying and returning art looted by the Nazis during World War II. The agreement was established

at the Washington Conference on Holocaust-Era Assets, which was hosted by the US Department of State and the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, from Nov. 30-Dec. 3, 1998. Representatives from 44 countries as well as 13 non-governmental organizations attended the conference.

"The Washington Principles are the very bedrock of the work that Christie's restitution team has done for many years: research into the 1933-1945 ownership history of artworks that Christie's plans to offer for sale," said Richard Aronowitz, global head of restitution at Christie's. "When we discover a loss, or a malign change of ownership, or a forced sale that was not addressed and remedied after World War II, the Washington Principles gives parties the framework to address these issues, even many decades after they occurred."

Marc Porter, chairman of Christie's Americas, explained: "The Washington Principles bent the arc of the art world toward ensuring that family histories and the provenance of objects would be unearthed and preserved, and new paths to the resolution of ownership questions could be opened and pursued. As someone who was there when The Washington Principles were created, and who has been proud to help create and strengthen Christie's restitution department, I look forward to continuing our work."

DESERT HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL



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



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Israeli Heart Disease Breakthrough: New Microclimate Suit Evaporates Fluids

Wearable causes excess fluids to be sweated out and evaporated on the skin without discomfort, using very low humidity and fast flowing air.

By Abigail Klein Leichman, Israel21c

For more than 14 years, Yuval Markel has taken daily diuretics to drain his body of fluid buildup due to chronic heart disease. Three daily pills and periodic six-hour infusions cause unpleasant side effects and leave him exhausted and uncomfortable.

Markel happily agreed to test a noninvasive, drug-free solution – the Microclimate Suit – at Rambam Health Care Campus in Haifa.

Looking a bit like a spacesuit, the Microclimate Suit harnesses the body's natural sweating mechanism to expel excess fluids and instantly evaporates them so the patient doesn't feel sweaty.

Studies found this wearable alleviates symptoms of heart failure without side effects and without changes in blood pressure or kidney function as can happen with current methods. And after three days of use, patients' stress hormone levels decreased 30 to 50 percent.

"This is due to a reduced level of pressure in the heart and better fluid balance," explained Prof. Doron Aronson, director of Rambam's Inpatient Cardiology Unit.

Trial findings were presented at a recent international cardiology conference at Rambam's Eyal Ofer Heart Hospital and Research Center.

Markel said he was relieved to find a noninvasive treatment that doesn't exhaust him like the infusions do.

"Wearing the Microclimate Suit, I felt much more comfortable, much freer," he says.

"It circulates warm air around the body, so you don't feel as if you are perspiring."

During six sessions of around seven hours each, Markel shed several pounds of fluids per session. He could easily remove the suit for bathroom breaks.

"The day following each session, I was less tired, and I felt lighter for several weeks after that. I could leave the house and enjoy many activities."

The Microclimate Suit is the debut product of AquaPass Medical.



Founder and CTO Yaacov Nitzan has been working in cardiovascular R&D since 2000, first with companies including Johnson & Johnson and then as an independent entrepreneur.

"This is the third company I've founded," he tells ISRAEL21c.

"V-Wave [maker of an implantable shunt system for chronic heart failure] and WhiteSwell [a catheter-based approach to removing excess tissue fluid] were successful but I think AquaPass could be the best."

The power of sweating Nitzan explains that the problem of fluid overload is huge, because it affects people with three common conditions: heart failure, kidney failure and lymphedema.

Normally, the body balances fluids through a system of compartments. When disease causes excessive fluids to build up, they pool inside the interstitial compartment, a space between the blood vessels and cells.

Diuretic medications work to remove the fluids through the kidneys, but "relying on kidney function is like rubbing a wound," says Nitzan, since many patients have compromised kidneys.

So he searched for a way to drain the fluid "not invasively, not with drugs and not dependent on kidney function."

He found his answer in the body's millions of sweat glands.

"It's natural and healthy to sweat," Nitzan says, "and we don't become resistant to sweating as we do to medications. Actually, the more we sweat the more we become acclimated to sweating."

Even better, he discovered that sweat glands naturally draw fluids

from the interstitial compartment. This was a known fact, but nobody thought to take advantage of the connection to remove excess fluids.

"Now we had to make an environment that a patient would be willing to be in," says Nitzan.

Creating a microclimate The Microclimate Suit is engineered to cause perspiration without discomfort, using very low humidity and fast-flowing air generated by a control console using personalized parameters.

"When you go swimming, you can sweat and not feel hot," says Nitzan. "We left the upper body out of the suit for that reason, and focused on the back, chest and legs. As soon as the fluid comes out through the skin, it is immediately evaporated so the patient feels cool and dry."

Markel describes the air flow sensation as "nice and warm, not like you are sweating."

The suit can remove about a liter of fluid in four hours. Throughout treatment, the amount is measured and displayed on a monitor. In the future, says Nitzan, this information could be transmitted remotely to the physician.

"Enhancing fluids and sodium loss via the skin can change the paradigm of treating fluid overload in heart and renal failure," says Aronson, who serves on the company's scientific advisory board along with Prof. William Abraham of Ohio State University and Prof. Daniel Burkhoff of the Cardiovascular Research Foundation in New York.

"At Rambam, we used the Microclimate Suit for hospitalized patients with severe heart failure," says Aronson. "When our patients report enhanced quality of life, and we see a significant decrease in heart failure-related hospitalizations and mortality, we know we are on the right track."

The experimental Microclimate Suit has delivered about 150 treatments to more than 30 heart-failure patients, starting in the hospital and continuing

for a month or two after discharge.

"We started with Prof. Aronson at Rambam and expanded to Rabin Medical Center, which has the biggest cardiology unit in Israel," says Nitzan.

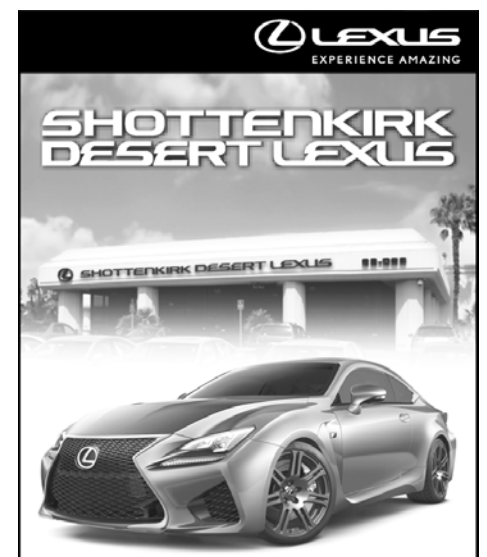
In the future, the suit may also be tested with dialysis patients, who often accumulate a large amount of fluid between treatments.

AquaPass already has Breakthrough Device Designation from the US Food and Drug Administration and plans to submit the Microclimate Suit to the FDA for approval in a few months.

Development of the device started in 2019 and has been funded by the same investors who supported Nitzan's previous companies.

Based in a kibbutz north of Herzliya, AquaPass employs 12 people in-house in addition to outside consultants.

"AquaPass has more products in the pipeline but will commercialize the Microclimate Suit first," says Nitzan.



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Michael Twitty's 'Koshersoul,' Named Jewish Book of the Year

By Andrew Silow-Carroll, JTA

"Koshersoul," chef Michael W. Twitty's memoir about his career fusing Jewish and

African-American culinary histories, was named the Jewish book of 2022 by the Jewish Book Council.

Subtitled "The Faith and Food Journey of an African American Jew," Twitty's book provides "deep dives into theology, identity, and, of course, food — giving readers the impetus to reflect on their heritage and religion in a new way," the council said in naming "Koshersoul" the Everett Family Foundation Book of the Year.

The winners of the 72nd National Jewish Book Awards were announced Wednesday at the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan as part of its inaugural Books That Changed My Life festival.

Dani Shapiro won her second National Jewish Book Award, and her first JJ Greenberg Memorial Award for Fiction, for her novel "Signal Fires." Her first novel in 15 years traces the effects of a fatal car crash on a family over a 50-year time span.

Ashley Goldberg won the Goldberg Prize for Debut Fiction with his novel "Abomination," about a scandal at a Jewish day school and the paths taken in its aftermath by two of its students, one secular and one religious. Miriam Ruth Black won The Miller Family Book Club Award for her novel "Shayna," a novel of early 20th-century immigrants set in a shtetl and New York's Lower East Side.

In other nonfiction categories, Michael Frank was the winner in both the new Holocaust Memoir category and the Sephardic Culture category for his book "One Hundred Saturdays: Stella Levi and the Search for a Lost World." The book is based on his conversations with Levi, a Holocaust survivor who remembers the once-vibrant Sephardic Jewish community that had thrived on Rhodes, an island in the Aegean Sea.

"American Shtetl: The Making of Kiryas Joel, a Hasidic Village in Upstate New York," by Nomi M. Stolzenberg and David N. Myers, won for best book in American Jewish studies.

Jonathan Freedland won the Biography Award and Holocaust Award for "The Escape Artist: The Man Who Broke Out of



Auschwitz to Warn the World," about Rudolf Vrba, whose eyewitness report of the death camp was largely ignored by the various allied government officials who read it. Kenneth B. Moss' "An Unchosen People: Jewish Political Reckoning in Interwar Poland," won the Gerrard and Ella Berman Memorial Award in history.

Danya Ruttenberg's "On Repentance and Repair," a rabbi's rumination on apologies and forgiveness in contemporary culture, won the Contemporary Jewish Life and Practice Award.

The council also honored Ellen Frankel, who served as the editor in chief and CEO of the Jewish Publication Society for 18 years, with its Mentorship Award in Honor of Carolyn Starman Hessel — given in honor of the council's longtime director, who retired in 2014. Frankel, who herself stepped down in 2009, was cited for mentoring authors, staff and students at the Philadelphia-based publisher, as well as championing women scholars.

Other winners include:

The inaugural Hebrew Fiction in Translation Jane Weitzman Award: Mayan Eitan, "Love" (self-translated)

Children's Picture Book Tracy and Larry Brown Family Award: Shoshana Nambi, "The Very Best Sukkah: A Story from Uganda," illustrated by Moran Yogeve

Young Adult Literature Award: Susan Wider, "It's My Whole Life: Charlotte Salomon: An Artist in Hiding During World War II"

Middle Grade Literature Award: Stacy Nockowitz, "The Prince of Steel Pier"

Jane and Stuart Weitzman Family Award for Food Writing and Cookbooks: Benedetta Jasmine Guetta, "Cooking alla Giudia"

Berru Poetry Award in Memory of Ruth and Bernie Weinfeld: Sean Singer, "Today in the Taxi."



Have A Nosh

... and nosh some hamantashen!

Erev Purim is Monday, March 6th and Purim means hamantashen! If you have been afraid to make hamantashen because the thought of

working with dough was daunting, please try this recipe! It's from my mother-in-law and it is so delicious and easy to use that I give it to you every year. Chag Purim Sameyach ... Happy Purim! MHB



GOLDIE'S HONEY DOUGH

1/3 cup Crisco	2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 cup sugar	1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup honey	1 Tablespoon lemon juice
2 eggs, beaten	1/2 teaspoon grated lemon rind
2 1/2 cups flour	

Preheat oven to 350°. Thoroughly cream the Crisco and sugar together. Add honey. Beat in eggs, lemon juice and lemon rind. Sift together the flour, baking powder and salt, then stir into the egg mixture and form into a soft dough. Toss lightly on a floured board. Roll out to 1/4 inch thickness and cut into circles. Fill with desired filling, pinch into triangles and bake for 18 to 20 minutes at 350° F. until lightly browned.

FIG WALNUT FILLING (Pareve)

9 ounces dried figs, stems discarded	1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
1/2 cup raisins	1 teaspoon grated lemon zest
3/4 cup honey	1 cup walnuts, chopped
1/3 cup orange juice	

Finely chop the figs and raisins in a food processor. Add the honey, orange juice, cinnamon, and lemon zest, and pulse just to blend. Scrape the fig mixture into a medium bowl. Stir in the walnuts.

DATE AND ORANGE FILLING (Pareve)

1 1/4 cups packed pitted dates (about 10 oz.)	1/3 cup fresh orange juice
1 teaspoon packed finely grated fresh orange zest	3/4 teaspoon cinnamon
	1/4 teaspoon almond extract
	1 to 2 Tablespoons water, if needed

In a food processor blend together all filling ingredients except water until an almost smooth, jamlike consistency. If date mixture is very dry blend in water, 1 tablespoon at a time. Filling may be made 2 days ahead and chilled, covered. Makes 1 1/2 cups filling.

RASPBERRY FILLING (Pareve)

2 cups raspberries (fresh or frozen)	The juice of 1 lemon
1 cup honey or agave syrup	

Wash raspberries (if using fresh). Put in saucepan over medium heat for about 15 minutes – it will come to a soft boil. Stir often to make sure it doesn't burn. Add 1 cup of honey or agave syrup. Stir well and bring back to a boil while stirring. Cook for another 8 to 10 minutes until mixture starts to thicken. Add lemon juice and stir. Let cool. Mixture will thicken as it cools. (If your mixture is too loose you can thicken with a mixture of 2 tablespoons of cold water and 1 tablespoon corn starch and then bring back to a boil and boil for 1 minute). Use about 2 teaspoons filling per hamantaschen.

WHITE CHOCOLATE AND BRANDIED CHERRY FILLING (Milchig)

1 cup white chocolate chips, coarsely chopped	1/4 cup dried cherries, plumped in
1/4 cup pecans, finely chopped	2 Tbsp brandy, then chopped
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon	2 Tbsp. sugar

Plump the dried cherries in the brandy for at least 10 minutes. Drain, chop and combine cherries with the white chocolate chips, pecans, sugar and cinnamon. Mix together and use about 2 teaspoons for each hamantaschen.



Simchas

Congratulations to **Rabbi David Novak** of Temple Sinai on his March 2 formal installation as Temple Sinai's rabbi, officiated by his good friend Rabbi Ruth Adar. Congratulations, too, on the news that Rabbi Novak just received a five year contract from Temple Sinai ... In last month's paper **Fran Kaufman** wrote an article about the recent International Lion

of Judah Conference, and listed the local attendees (Fran, joined by **Carol Fragan, Lori Fritz, Margie Kulp, Barbara Platt** and **Toni Victor**). In fact, three ladies who winter here - their primary residence being elsewhere - were at the conference and Fran asked that they be acknowledged: **Lisa Roth** of Chicago, and **Katie Small** and **Jane Sherman** of Detroit ... *Share your Simchas with us. Email or call Miriam Bent at mh bentjcn@earthlink.net or 760-323-0255.*



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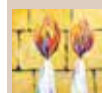
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Candle Lighting Times

Friday, March 3	Shabbat Tetzaveh	5:01 pm
Friday, March 10	Shabbat Ki Tisa	5:06 pm
Friday, March 17	Shabbat Vayakhel/Pekudei	6:12 pm *
Friday, March 24	Shabbat Vaiyikra	6:17 pm
Friday, March 31	Shabbat Tsav	6:23 pm

* Daylight savings time begins Sunday, March 12



We Mourn the Passing of...

Anne Altman, Elana Angel, Marvin Richard Breslau, Brenda Carl, Melvin Freedman, Jerome "Jerry" Solomon, Don Turner, and Joseph Weiss. Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing.



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. Young and old, we want to raise your voices in a musical salute to Israel.



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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)

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