



# Jewish Community News

The Publication of the Jewish Federation of the Desert

www.jfedps.org

Iyar/Sivan 5783 - May 2023

Jewish Federation of the Desert Presents

# YOM HA'ATZMAUT ISRAEL Independence Day

FREE EVENT



## Program

Sunday, April 30th

Palm Valley School Campus Rancho Mirage

- 10:00 AM Opening remarks and greetings from Chairs Debbie Orgen & Sheri Borax, Israeli Soldiers, and Alan Potash, CEO of the Jewish Federation of the Desert
- 10:10-10:20 AM Rabbi Richard Zions - "Israel Before, During and After Statehood"
- 10:20-10:40 AM Eran Vaisben (Hillel Director) - "BDS Turned into BS"
- 10:40-11:15 AM David Dassa - Israeli Folk Dancing
- 11:15-12:00 Noon RokDuo Violin Concert of Israeli and Jewish Music
- 12:00 -12:10 PM Rabbi Yaakov Rone - "The Israel Tourists Don't See"
- 12:10-12:20 PM Rabbi Steven Rosenberg – "Antisemitism"
- 12:20-12:55 PM David Dassa - Israeli Folk Dancing
- 1:00-1:45 PM RokDuo Violin Concert of Israeli and Jewish Music
- 1:45-2:00 PM Closing remarks: Debbie Orgen, Sheri Borax and Leslie Pepper, Director of Women's Philanthropy and Community Engagement



## RokDuo Program

התקווה

"Hatikva" - "The Hope"  
National anthem of the State of Israel

ירושלים של זהב

Yerushalaim Shel Zahav  
Jerusalem of Gold

שלום עליכם

Israel Goldfarb "Shalom Aleychem"

פל שרה

Fel Shara - Sephardic melody

תזיז את אסא

Flory Jagoda "Hamisha Asar"  
Sephardic melody

אויפן פריפטשיק

"Oyfen Pripetschik" - Ashkenazy melody

ביי קרידה

"Adio Kerida" - Sephardic melody

נושא מרשימת שינדלר

John Williams - "Theme from Schindler's List"

גיונגלרוס

Ewelina Nowicka "Jonglerous"

אין וריאציות של נגילה

Ewelina Nowicka "Hava Nagila Variations"

Schedule subject to change.

CLASSROOM

#1

KID ZONE

10:15 AM-12:15 PM

PJ Library Story Time  
Israeli Board Games  
Ben Gurion Escape Room  
Face Painting

CLASSROOM

#2

Cooling Center

PATIO AREA

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Kosher Food by Chabad of  
Rancho Mirage  
Vendors and Jewish  
Organizations Booths  
DJ – Israeli Music



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counts**  
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**Approaching Israel's 75th year of Independence**



**Alan  
Potash**

Jewish Federation  
Chief Executive  
Officer

If you have been reading my articles in the JCN, or my weekly posts, you know I am a strong supporter of Israel. I have been reading, living, dreaming about Israel since I was a child in Hebrew school. I can honestly say at least I enjoyed something out of Hebrew school—don't let any of my past teachers know this. Regardless, Israel will be observing, celebrating the 75th year of its independence at a time that most of the world is watching it struggling internally and externally.

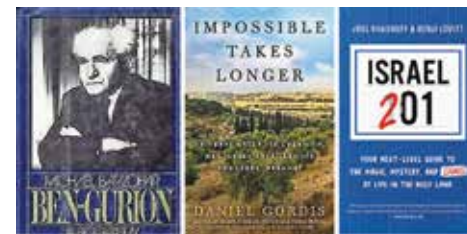
I remember a quote by former Prime Minister Naftali Bennett. He said, "The State of Israel is the third instance of a Jewish political entity in the Holy Land. During the time of the First and Second Temples, we managed to keep our nation together for only about 80 years, after which internal divisions tore us apart and we ultimately lost our independence. Israel is now in its 75th

year. This is our third chance, and we're determined that this time, we succeed!"

That quote has been ringing in my ears since I heard it the first time. As I watch the current political debate in Israel and see the protests, rallies and demonstrations, it is hard not imagine the work before us is daunting. Shortly after Bennett's comments about the length of time Israel has held onto power I started reading the biography of David Ben Gurion, to learn about how the State of Israel came in to existence and the struggles he had to keep the country on a track of success. I highly recommend the biography by Michael Bar-Zohar. If you join us on our mission to Israel in September, you will get a chance to visit the Ben Gurion museum.

After reading the biography of Ben Gurion I learned how difficult it was to bring opposing viewpoints together to create the Declaration of Independence ... and implement a democratic direction for Israel. The philosophical and ideological challenges that existed in the early days of Israel are not entirely different than today. The survival of the country brought the different sides to a common place in the early days. Today, the external threats are still there but they are not as imminent.

Some other books I have been reading as a lead up to Israel's 75th focus on different things. The two



books I am going to mention are worth reading and are very good: *Impossible takes Longer* by Daniel Gordis, and *Israel 201: Your Next-Level Guide to the Magic, Master, and Chaos of Life in the Holy Land* by Joel Chasnoff and Benji Lovitt. Both books take a long look at Israel today and how it got to be where it is. I have a longer list on general books about Israel if you are interested but these two books plus the biography of David Ben Gurion are worth reading as we look to the celebration of Israel's 75th and its future.

I will say that Daniel Gordis' book uses the Declaration of Independence as his guide post to determine how Israel is doing and the Chasnoff/Lovitt book addresses issues by people that have accomplished success in Israel—they also teach modern Hebrew along the way which is an added benefit.

You can find all of these books on-line or from your favorite bookseller. I do not receive anything in return from recommending them.

## Highlights at our "Israel is 75" Celebration April 30

Join us as our Jewish community celebrates Israel's 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM on the grounds of the Palm Valley School Campus, 35525 DaVall, Rancho Mirage. Experience exciting programs, important messages, vendors' products and Israeli cities-themed booths by our community's congregations and organizations. (Time breakdown of events listed on page one).

Join us for two RokDuo violin performances during the day and stroll through tables of Jewish organizations showcasing particular areas in Israel, listen to DJ Shasta (Vincent Corrales) spinning Israeli music, meet some Israeli soldiers who will be joining us, learn about "Volunteer for Israel" programs, listen to our rabbinic and leadership's mini "Ted



Alan Potash

Talks" on topics such as Israel 75 from Alan Potash, Federation CEO, who will be returning from Israel the day before our celebration, Rabbi Yaakov Rone speaking on "The Israel Tourists Don't See," Rabbi Richard Zions speaking on "Israel before and After Statehood" and Rabbi Steven Rosenberg speaking on "Antisemitism", and much more!

Come see Israeli folk dance by David Dassa, who is a world-renown Israeli dance teacher and choreographer, who has taught Israeli folk dance in Los Angeles for the past 45 years and has conducted hundreds of workshops throughout the United States



Rabbi Yaakov Rone



Rabbi Steven Rosenberg

and abroad. David led large dance evenings in Los Angeles for 35 years, with hundreds of dancers attending each weekly session. David, along with his first Israeli dance company, performed in the opening ceremonies of the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. He choreographed several biblical dance scenes for the DreamWorks film, The Prince of Egypt. David ran the famed Camp Rikud for over 20 years since taking it over from his father Dani Dassa in the early 1990s. David directed a Memorial Day Cultural Arts Weekend at Camp Hess Kramer in Malibu (open to the entire community) for several years. David



Rabbi Richard Zions



David Dasso

is also known for his work with children and taught dance at Milken Community Schools in Los Angeles from 1998 through 2021. In June 2004, David joined Wilshire Boulevard Temple as the Director of Dance for Camp Hess Kramer. David was the Director of Dance at Brandeis-Bardin Institute and at Camp Alonim for over 27 years. David also founded and directed the Los Angeles Israeli Dance Company in 2002, which ran until 2021 when David retired. The Company has performed tours throughout the United States, Israel, Canada, Mexico, as well as during half time for 15 NBA games (including the Clippers and the Golden State Warriors).

An enormous "thank you" to our event sponsors: David Morgan, Phyllis Eisenberg, Costco, Private Asset Management and Town Real Estate.

## OP-ED: The Real 'Palestinian Territory'? New York Times-Land

By Ira Stoll, *The Algemeiner*

A *New York Times* article labeled "news analysis," about tension between President Biden and Prime Minister Netanyahu, reports, "Mr. Netanyahu made no particular effort to hide his backing for President Donald J. Trump in the 2020 election, making clear his preference for an incumbent who gave him everything he asked for, including moving the United States Embassy to Jerusalem and paying little attention to the Palestinians while siding with Israel on its claims over Palestinian territory in the West Bank."

As is typical with *Times* articles about Israel, the article already carries one correction: "A correction was made on March 30, 2023: An earlier version of this article misstated where evacuated settlers would be allowed to return under a law passed by Israel's Parliament. They would be able to go to four areas of the West Bank, not the West Bank and the Gaza Strip."

That correction, though, doesn't do the full job of fixing the inaccuracies in the *Times* dispatch. To do that would require at least two additional corrections.

To start with, it's not accurate that Trump gave Netanyahu "everything he asked for." For example, as Jared Kushner disclosed in his book, the two leaders

clashed over the timing of Israel annexing parts of the West Bank.

Most egregious of all, though, is the phrase "siding with Israel on its claims over Palestinian territory in the West Bank." That makes it sound like the *Times* itself is taking sides in the territorial dispute, asserting that the land actually is "Palestinian territory."


The Israeli view was that it is Israeli territory. This is especially so because the land Israel was considering annexing wasn't the entire West Bank, but only selected portions of it that were either strategically crucial or that were already heavily populated by Jewish residents. For the *Times* to describe those lands as "Palestinian territory" rather than as disputed territory is to adopt the Palestine Liberation Organization negotiating position as *New York Times* news department editorial policy. These are lands to which the Jewish people has extensive religious and historical connections, lands that were controlled most recently by the Ottoman and British empires, then by the Kingdom of Jordan, and then, after the Six Day War of 1967, by Israel.

A newspaper editor I knew once banned the term "news analysis," mockingly suggesting that instead the

rest of the newspaper's columns be uniformly labeled as "analysis free." At the *Times*, even the "news analysis" columns seem, sadly, to be bereft of the genuinely analytical and independent thinking necessary to distinguish reality from Palestinian propaganda. For turf


more genuinely described as "Palestinian territory," look not to the Jerusalem suburbs, but rather, to the columns and newsrooms of the *New York Times* itself.

Ira Stoll was managing editor of *The Forward* and North American editor of *The Jerusalem Post*.



**HAR-EL**  
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**Har-El Zoom Book Review**  
**"The Letters Project"**  
By Eleanor Reissa



**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2023 - 3:30 PM**

The book explores a daughter's journey through the discovery and translation of her father's letters written to her mother in 1949. The unforeseen revelations that she encounters about her parents and events weave a fascinating story for the reader.

To receive a Zoom invite and participate in this unique discussion, email [harelurjpd@gmail.com](mailto:harelurjpd@gmail.com).

**All are welcome. NO FEE.**

Reviewed by **JOAN MOYER**, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). She is a certified therapist in EDMR, specializing in Trauma Therapy, working primarily with adults.

# FROM DESERT TO DESERT: EXPERIENCE ISRAEL CELEBRATING ISRAEL AT 75

SEPTEMBER 4-12, 2023



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## JEWISH COMMUNITY NEWS

A Publication of the  
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VOL. 49, No. 9

### EDITORIAL

**Alan Potash**, CEO  
**Miriam H. Bent**, Editor  
**Bailey Communications**,  
Layout & Design

### JCN STATEMENT

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

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

### ARTICLES & ADVERTISING,

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## American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee



**Alan Potash**

Jewish Federation  
Chief Executive  
Officer

In our allocation process we support several global organizations that care for Jews in other lands. We witnessed the impact of this during the early stages of the War in Ukraine. Many organizations already with the infrastructure in place led the relief and rescue efforts. The two

main organizations The Jewish Agency for Israel and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee have both been on the ground around the globe assisting Jewish communities and others as needed. To observe the work of these institutions is impressive and inspirational. Through my volunteer and professional work I have learned a great deal about these two institutions and admire how they approach their operations.

The JDC's work encompasses a wide range of programs and initiatives. Primary areas of focus include disaster relief, community development, education, and healthcare. The JDC supports vulnerable Jewish communities by providing essential



services such as food, medicine, and education. It also fosters Jewish cultural and educational programs, which help maintain a strong sense of identity and tradition. Additionally, the JDC works to develop long-term, sustainable solutions for communities in need, often partnering

with local organizations to enhance their capacity to address local challenges.

Recently I spent time with our regional, JDC representative Shaun Goldstone, who updated me on the work still being done in the Ukraine and other needs in the region. He also introduced me to the depth of stories that the JDC has put online to help tell the work that it does: [www.JDC.ORG](http://www.JDC.ORG). I recommend you take a look at it. Also, the JDC Annual report lays out their work, where the funds come from and where they allocate them. [www.jdc.org/annual-reports](http://www.jdc.org/annual-reports). For more information about the JDC and our support please email me [Alan.potash@jfedps.org](mailto:Alan.potash@jfedps.org).

## 'Jews Seek Life, Terrorists Seek Death,' Israeli Minister Tells CNN

**Economy Minister Nir Barkat notes that terror victim Lucy Dee's family decided to donate her organs, while the PA will pay her murderers \$1 million.**

By Ben Rappaport, United with Israel

Israeli Economy Minister Nir Barkat spoke to CNN about the terrorist murders of Lucy Dee and her daughters Maia and Rina.



**Israeli Economy Minister Nir Barkat**

The three were shot by terrorists as they drove in the Jordan Valley. Maia, 20, and Rina, 16, were killed at the scene, while Lucy was critically wounded. She was taken to the hospital and later succumbed to her wounds.

The bereaved husband and father of the family, Rabbi Leo Dee, later announced that the remaining family members had decided to donate Lucy's organs.

Speaking to CNN, Barkat noted how the decision of the Dee family to donate the organs further accentuated the difference between the values of the Jews and those of the terrorists who try to murder them.

"Unfortunately, when the mother died just a few hours ago, they [the Dee family] donated the organs to save other people's lives. And on the other side, the terrorists – do you know what they're going to get from the Palestinian Authority? A million dollars for the rest

of their lives – for killing innocent Jews," he said.

"That's the difference between living as Jews, seeking life and making a better life for other people, and the terrorists, who all they seek is death. That's all they seek," Barkat added.

Rabbi Dee explained to *Israel National News* that he and his three surviving children had jointly decided to donate his wife's organs after receiving news of her passing being notified that her condition was such that her organs could be donated.

He said the decision "was based on the following reasoning: Number one, my posek [rabbi] had checked out the halachot [Jewish law] and had explained to me that in her condition it is...acceptable, actually, a mitzvah."

"Only the [bones and tendons] ... should not be donated. Everything else that is [life-saving] should be given."

"Second, Lucy and I had discussed this in the past, and the only reason we didn't have [organ donor cards] was we were worried that if we were abroad and we had donation cards that a hospital in England or Switzerland might switch us off a little bit early and not in a halachic way in order to get the organs," Rabbi Dee added.

"Five lives were saved and two cornea donations will be made, which

is very good news for the family as much as a comfort as possible given the

circumstances," he concluded.

**HAR-EL**  
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**Wednesday, May 3, 2023, 3:30 PM**  
**Har-El Zoom Book Review**

**"Let's Ask Betka: A Story of Survival"**  
by Regina Betty Eber  
as told to Jacob Eber

We are very fortunate to have a family member of Betka review this book together with Diane Rubin. Lenny Eber is a retired CEO from San Francisco and the Bay Area and currently serves as a Trustee of the Palm Springs Art Museum. Diane Rubin is a CPA and retired audit partner who serves on the Board of the College of the Desert Foundation and the Palm Springs Art Museum. Both are members of Har-El and make their home in Rancho Mirage and Santa Fe, New Mexico.

"Let's Ask Betka" tells the story of Betty Eber, a Warsaw Ghetto survivor. When this story was told to her son, Jacob, she was ninety-six years old. Her vivid memory takes her "from the sound of Nazi boots pounding on cobblestone streets to the stomping feet at her granddaughter's wedding." It was her humor and intelligence that enabled her to survive. The book is a brilliant re-creation of all that contributed to her survival." Book is available on Amazon Prime. All welcome. NO FEE. Email [harelurjpd@gmail.com](mailto:harelurjpd@gmail.com)

## OPED: The 'Poor' Palestinians are Not So Poor

**Unlike people in 100 other countries, who never know what the next year's national income will look like, the Palestinians can always count on billions in aid, year after year.**

By Hugh Fitzgerald, *FrontPage Magazine*

Elder of Zion has a piece on the latest UN report on poverty in countries around the world. This "Multidimensional Poverty Index" is arrived at by studying health, education, and the standard of living, based on ten weighted indicators. It turns out that in the "State of Palestine," there is less poverty than in more than one hundred other countries.

We were once assured, just after 9/11/2001, that terrorism was a function of poverty. Alberto Abadie, a researcher for the National Bureau of Economic Research, in 2005 published the first detailed study of the relationship of poverty to terrorism, demonstrating that the incidence of terrorism was the same in poor as in rich countries.

Others then pointed out that the most famous terrorist in the world, Osama bin Laden, was the multi-millionaire son of a billionaire; that Al-Qaeda's second-in-command, Ayman Al-Zawahiri, was a well-off doctor from one of the most prominent Egyptian families; his mother was related to Azzam Pasha, the Secretary-General of the Arab League and his wife, Azza Nowair, was from one of the richest Egyptian families; that Mohamed Atta was from an upper middle-class family; that Nidal Hassan was a doctor in the American army earning \$90,000 a year; that Maher "Mike" Hawash had been earning \$300,000 a year as an Intel engineer; that Umar



**Palestinian President-for-Life Mahmoud Abbas**

Farouk Abdulmutallab, the so-called "underwear bomber," was the son of one of the richest men in Nigeria.

And there are many more examples of millionaire Muslim terrorists.

Now the UN Multidimensional Poverty Index makes clear that the incidence of terrorism by nation is unrelated to poverty. It turns out that there very little or no terrorism in the 100-odd countries whose people are poorer, and in some cases, much poorer (see Niger, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Chad) than the Palestinians.

There must be some other explanation for the Palestinians having the highest

incidence of terrorism in the world. More on this just-released UN study of "multidimensional poverty" can be found here: "'Palestine' ranks better than most countries in 'multidimensional poverty' and 'human development index,'" *Elder of Zion*, April 2, 2023:

The UN Human Development Reports of the UN Development Program defines a "Multidimensional Poverty Index" (MPI.)

The MPI looks beyond income to understand how people experience poverty in multiple and simultaneous ways. It identifies how people are being left behind across three key dimensions:

health, education and standard of living, comprising 10 indicators. People who experience deprivation in at least one third of these weighted indicators fall into the category of multidimensionally poor.

How do Palestinians do? Pretty good, actually.

Anti-Israel activists like to pretend that Palestinians have "no choice" but to turn to terror, and one of the reasons they like to trot out is how impoverished they are. If that was the case, then why are we not seeing the same support for terror in the 100 countries who have a higher poverty score than they do? Palestinians are shown to be in far better shape than over these 100 impoverished countries.

If the Palestinians are doing this well, think of how much better they would be doing if only they did not suffer from colossal corruption by their leaders.

Just two leaders of Hamas, Khaled Meshaal and Mousa bin Marzouk, have each managed to help themselves to \$2.5 billion from the aid donors intended to be provided to the people of Gaza. And in the West Bank, President-for-Life Mahmoud Abbas has, with his sons Tarek and Yasser, managed to accumulate a family fortune of \$400 million. And both in Gaza and in the Palestinian Authority, hundreds of loyalists of the top leaders have been allowed to help themselves as well to a few million dollars apiece.

It adds up. A billion here, and a billion there, and as Senator Everett Dirksen famously said, it begins to add up "to real money."

But say this for the Palestinians: they have managed to convince almost everyone that the world owes them a living. Though they are far richer than many others, they continue to receive billions of dollars in aid from donors who give both directly to the Palestinian Authority, and indirectly, through UNRWA.

Unlike people in 100 other countries, who never know what the next year's national income will look like, the Palestinians can always count on billions in aid, year after year.

Only the "State of Palestine" is in that position. Not Niger, not Chad, not Ethiopia or India or Jamaica. Only "Palestine."



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# Florida Bill Banning 'Ethnic Intimidation' Flyers Aims to Rein in Neo-Nazis

Proposed legislation would outlaw distributing hate material, targeting people who are visibly religious, as white supremacist activities proliferate in Sunshine State

By Andrew Lapin, JTA

Responding to a recent rise in neo-Nazi activity, a Jewish lawmaker in Florida is trying to outlaw displays of "religious or ethnic animus" on private property in his state.

The proposed bill, H.B. 269, takes aim at a variety of activities that neo-Nazi groups in the state have undertaken, from distributing flyers with hate speech to broadcasting intimidating messages in public places.

Those groups' activity has been rising in Florida for several years, according to a 2022 report by the Anti-Defamation League titled "Hate in the Sunshine State." The report was published before the founder of the Goyim Defense League, which distributes antisemitic messages in public places and to private homes, relocated to Florida.

"We have actual Nazis who have proudly taken up residence in Florida," the bill's co-author, Representative Randy Fine, recently told the *Algemeiner* news outlet. "The things that they are doing, all of which I find disgusting, are reprehensible, and we are going to make them felonies."

Fine, Florida's only Jewish Republican state legislator, did not respond to Jewish Telegraphic Agency requests for comment.

Over the last couple of years, antisemitic groups have rallied outside Walt Disney World and a Chabad house in Orlando; displayed messages of Jew-hatred on a Jacksonville stadium during a highly watched college football game; and visited Florida universities trying to provoke students with messaging including "Ye Is Right," referring to the rapper, formerly known as Kanye West, who went on an antisemitic tirade last year.

Many but not all of those activities have been fueled by members of the



Antisemitic flyer distributed in South Florida

Goyim Defense League, whose founder specifically said he expected Florida to be more hospitable to him and his worldview when he moved his operations there from California's Bay Area.

Now, the Goyim Defense League's signature tactic would become a felony under H.B. 269, which has bipartisan support and this week advanced to the legislature's Judiciary Committee, a crucial step in the passage of legislation.

The bill would prohibit Floridians "from distributing onto private residential property any material that evidences religious or ethnic animus for purpose of intimidating or threatening [the] owner or resident."

It would also prohibit harassing or intimidating people "wearing or displaying of any indicia relating to any religious or ethnic heritage," such as kippahs and other items of religious Jewish attire.

Other sections of the bill describe activities that the state's neo-Nazi groups have undertaken in recent months, including displaying messages of ethnic



intimidation on sports stadiums and other buildings, and entering college campuses in order to intimidate. The bill would classify such activities as third-degree felonies, with violations carrying prison terms of up to five years.

Some of the bill's targets appear to be mobilizing against it. A month-old online petition opposing H.B. 269 has attracted more than 2,500 signatures, and its comments are filled with antisemitic rhetoric.

One commenter decries "the Jewish assault on freedom of speech"; another, identifying themselves as the American airplane pilot and Nazi sympathizer

"Charles Lindbergh," wrote, "No group, no matter how small their hats are, has the right to tell us what we can or can't say," in an apparent reference to kippahs.

Fine himself has attracted attention in the past for comments that critics said have bordered on hate speech.

In 2021, the Florida chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations called for an ethics investigation into Fine after he made comments on social media calling Hamas militants "animals" and celebrating Israel's bombing of the Gaza Strip with the hashtag "#BombsAway."

Holding Nazi views is not illegal, Fine acknowledged in a press release last month, adding that his bill builds on existing criminal codes.

"It is illegal to trespass. It is illegal to litter. It is illegal to assault people," he said. "And we need to say that, when your stupid Nazism moves from words to action, we're going to hold you accountable."

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# With Rabbinic Dispensation, New York Jews Ship Emergency Supplies to Montreal on Passover

**Yossi Margaretten of Chaverim of Rockland, N.Y., tells how and why his second night of Passover was different from all his other second Passover nights.**

*By Faygie Holt, Jewish News Syndicate*

It was late Thursday evening, the second night of Passover, and Yossi Margaretten was sitting at his family's seder table when his phone rang.

Margaretten glanced at the screen to see who was calling on the holiday. As the director of Chaverim of Rockland, a volunteer emergency-safety organization for the suburban New York Jewish community, he was used to getting calls from the local police department and the Jewish volunteer ambulance service, Hatzalah.

This time, the call came from Chaverim of Montreal, hundreds of miles away.

Margaretten quickly picked up. Though he doesn't use electronics on Shabbat and holidays as an Orthodox Jew, he knew it had to be an emergency—and therefore an exception—if Canadian colleagues were calling.

A devastating ice storm that hit the city two days earlier toppled trees and electrical lines, and Montreal residents still didn't have power as temperatures dropped into the 20s. Chaverim of Montreal was fielding many requests for emergency assistance, and it needed to call in assistance from New York.

As Margaretten told JNS, the



**Acting on a rabbinic dispensation, members of Chaverim of Rockland in New York load up a truck with emergency supplies on the second night of Passover to ship to Jews in Montreal, hit by power outages amid an ice storm, April 6,**

Canadian said there were a lot of elderly people, sick people, and new mothers and babies who hadn't had power for 36 hours. "The situation is not getting better," Margaretten recalled being told. "I need generators. We are stuck. I tried finding some locally—nothing available here. They can't be found."

Chaverim of Rockland's warehouse was full of emergency supplies, including portable heaters and generators, and it was happy to help. But Margaretten couldn't spring into

action on the holiday as he normally would on a regular day.

Margaretten asked his Canadian colleague to ask the rabbi who provides religious consultation to the organization how to handle the necessary arrangements on Passover.

Chaverim of Rockland has its own rabbinic consultants, but Margaretten needed an expert on the ground in Montreal who could rule on how dire the local conditions were firsthand. The Montreal rabbi said the need was so

critical that lives were at stake.

Chaverim had the supplies but not a trailer, so Margaretten called the emergency services of New Square, a Chassidic village in Rockland County, N.Y. A trailer was indeed available.

One hour later, 40 generators, extension cords and many heaters were ready to go. Touched by what they saw, two non-Jewish members of the community's Shabbat security patrol offered to drive the truck.

Chaverim of Rockland representatives drove the trailer partly up the New York State Thruway, where they met the security officers who took over and drove the supplies to Montreal.

With the goods safely en route, Margaretten returned home around 2 a.m. to complete his seder.

During the intermediate days of the Passover, during which electronics are permitted, another phone call brought the situation home in a very personal way.

A family member of Margaretten's with elderly relatives, who was in Montreal for the holiday, was able to stay warm thanks to a portable heater and noticed a sticker on the unit bearing the Chaverim of Rockland name.

## UAE, ADL Launch Center for Regional Coexistence

**The center will support the Abrahamic Family House, a newly inaugurated religious complex in Abu Dhabi that includes a mosque, a church, and a synagogue.**

*By Andrew Bernard, The Algemeiner*

On March 14 the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and the United Arab Emirates announced the formation of a joint center for religious tolerance and regional coexistence in Abu Dhabi.

The Manara Center, from the Arabic word for "source of light," will support the UAE's Year of Tolerance initiative and the Abrahamic Family House, a religious complex in Abu Dhabi that includes a mosque, a church, and a synagogue.

The synagogue held its first Shabbat services on Feb. 17 while the complex as a whole opened to the public on March 1. Designed by award winning Ghanaian-British architect David Adjaye, the Abrahamic Family House "captures the values shared between

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and serves as a powerful platform for inspiring and nurturing understanding and acceptance between people of goodwill," according to its website.

The Manara Center announcement notes that the ADL's role as a partner with the center will be to support educational programming, including promoting coexistence in universities in the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

"ADL brings 100 years of expertise in combating the roots of antisemitism and hate of all forms," said ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt. "We are honored for ADL to be the key player in providing educational programming for this incredible effort. The Manara Center is a continuation of the progress



**ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt and Manara Center Chairman Dr. Ali Al Nuami**

towards peace and co-existence in the Middle East, building on the historic achievements in the region and we look forward to continuing our work

to bring people together in innovative ways in the years to come."

The creation of the organization is the latest example of UAE outreach to the Jewish community following the Abraham Accords, which normalized relations between the UAE and Israel. Manara Center Chairman Dr. Ali Al Nuami said that its creation would benefit the entire region.

"We are delighted to partner with ADL, one of the world's best organizations to promote peace, dispel stereotypes, and bring people from all backgrounds together," Al Nuami said.

The center's first educational programs are set to launch in August 2023.



## Nazi Collaborator Earns Honor in Ukraine

**Kyiv residents overwhelmingly vote to rename central street after creator of Nazi-affiliated Ukrainian volunteer brigade, which is believed to have slaughtered Jews and Poles during World War II.**

By Adina Katz, World Israel News

Officials in Ukraine's capital city are expected to name a street after a notorious Nazi collaborator, according to a Jewish watchdog group in the embattled Eastern European country.

The Kyiv city council recently passed a motion renaming a street after Volodymyr Kubiyovych, who was instrumental in the formation of the Waffen-SS Galizien, a Nazi military unit composed of Ukrainian volunteers.

Eduard Dolinsky, director of the Ukrainian Jewish Committee, told *The Jerusalem Post* that the council had put forth a vote for residents allowing them to choose from several options of national heroes, after whom a central street in Kyiv will be renamed.

Kubiyovych, who publicly advocated for a Ukrainian state free of Jewish and Polish residents, received the most number of votes – nearly double that of the other candidates.

The Waffen-SS, the umbrella Nazi group with which the Ukrainian division created by Kubiyovych was affiliated, was



Ukrainians carry emblems of the SS Galicia division in Kyiv, Ukraine, April 28, 2021

found to be responsible for numerous atrocities during the Nuremberg trials, with members having exterminated tens of thousands of Jewish and Polish civilians in its territories.

Although the Galizien division was never held officially to account for war crimes, senior SS official Heinrich Himmler praised the group for its efforts to murder Jews during a speech

in 1943.

"Your homeland has become so much more beautiful since you have lost – on our initiative, I must say – those residents who were so often a dirty blemish on Galicia's good name, namely the Jews," Himmler told soldiers from the Waffen-SS Galizien during a speech in 1943.

As recently as 2021, Ukrainian

nationals marched through the streets of Kyiv in parades honoring the Nazi-affiliated brigade.

Despite the fact that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is Jewish, the country has a long history of hostility towards Jews and rampant antisemitism.

Zelensky has repeatedly compared the Russian invasion to the Holocaust but has remained silent on the ongoing veneration of Nazi collaborators within the country.

The Babi Yar mass murder, in which 40,000 Jews from Kyiv and the surrounding areas were killed, is believed to be one of the largest massacres of the Holocaust. Nazi troops rounded up Ukrainian Jews, many of whom were turned in by their Ukrainian neighbors, shot them, and tossed their bodies in a large ravine.

## Former US Navy Intel Officer Plotted to 'Wipe out' Jews, Kidnap Jewish Leaders

**Former Navy officer with high security clearance told undercover FBI agents that he wanted to kidnap Jewish leaders, see the population of American Jews "wiped out" by Christians.**

By Adina Katz, World Israel News

An intelligence officer employed by a U.S. government defense contractor who participated in the January 2021 Capitol riot is an ardent neo-Nazi who wanted to see Christian militias murder the entirety of the Jewish population in the U.S., according to several American media reports.

Former U.S. Navy officer Hatchet Speed was found guilty in March of "obstructing an official proceeding" and "disorderly conduct in the Capitol and several other misdemeanors," *CNN* reported. He is due to be sentenced in early May.

"Speed saw the Jews as 'everywhere,' fighting to destroy Christians, and he was not willing to sit by," prosecutors wrote in his indictment, which was viewed by the *Washington Times*.

Speed, who held a Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information

clearance after leaving the Navy and worked for a Pentagon-affiliated defense company, reportedly told undercover FBI agents that he blamed Jews for the deterioration of American society.

He described Hitler as "one of the best people that's ever been on this earth," according to court documents obtained by the *Intercept*, and said that the U.S. needed "somebody like Hitler to stand up and say we're going to stand against this moral incineration."

According to the FBI, Speed blamed Jewish billionaire George Soros and the Anti-Defamation League for funding and promoting the Black Lives Matter movement and believed that Jewish



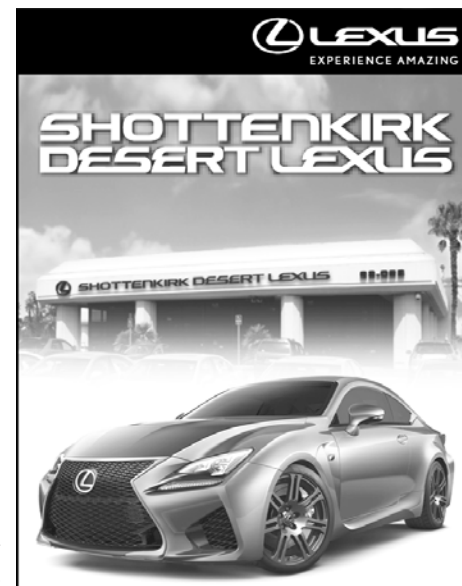
Hatchet Speed

leaders needed to be kidnapped in order to stop the push towards progressive causes in mainstream U.S. life.

Speed said he was planning to kidnap "people that are actually reachable by someone like me. People who don't have bodyguards."

The *Washington Times* reported that Speed told the FBI that he wanted to "enlist Christians to wipe out the country's entire Jewish population."

The judge said that the testimony and evidence regarding Speed's antisemitic beliefs had no impact on the verdict, but simply underscored that he was an extremist with nefarious intentions when he infiltrated the Capitol Building on the day of the riot.



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# Ben Ferencz, Nuremberg Prosecutor Who Devoted his Life to Preventing Genocide, Dies at 103

By Andrew Silow-Carroll, JTA

Benjamin Ferencz, the last surviving member of the prosecuting team at the Nuremberg trials that convicted Nazi ringleaders for crimes against humanity, died Friday in Florida. He was 103.

Ferencz was 27 and a graduate of Harvard Law School when he was named as the chief prosecutor at the Einsatzgruppen Trial, in which 20 members of the SS's mobile death squads were convicted of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Two others were convicted of membership in a criminal organization.

Slight and boyish-looking, he is seen in newsreel footage of the trials speaking deliberately and passionately in an accent shaped by his upbringing in Manhattan. "Vengeance is not our goal, nor do we seek merely a just retribution," he tells the tribunal. "We ask this court to affirm by international penal action, man's right to live in peace and dignity, regardless of his race or creed. The case we present is a plea of humanity to law."

Ferencz would go on to play a key role on the team that negotiated the watershed 1952 reparations agreements under which West Germany agreed to pay \$822 million to the State of Israel and to groups representing Holocaust survivors, as well as to direct the office seeking to recover assets of Jews who were murdered. Ferencz was featured in two recent documentaries about the Holocaust and its aftermath: Ken Burns' PBS series, "The U.S. and the



Prosecutor Benjamin Ferencz at the Einsatzgruppen Trial in Nuremberg,

Holocaust," and "Reckonings: The First Reparations," a 2022 film funded by the German government with support by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

In a statement about the latter film and his role in the reparations negotiations, Ferencz said: "At the time, we were just trying to do what was right. Looking back, I can see that it was this work, the legal work of negotiating agreements and finding justice, that led to peace. It is the indemnification that allowed both Israel and Germany to find a peaceful path forward and rebuild themselves on the world stage."

In December 2022, the U.S. Congress awarded him the Congressional Gold Medal, its highest honor, thanks to lobbying by six House members led by



In 2012, Benjamin Ferencz poses in Courtroom 600 of the Palace of Justice, where the Nuremberg Trials were held 65 years earlier.

Rep. Lois Frankel, the Florida Democrat.

"Ben Ferencz was a giant," said Menachem Rosensaft, the general counsel and associate executive vice president of the World Jewish Congress, in a statement. "He devoted himself to the very end of his long and distinguished career to making sure that the lessons of Nuremberg would become engrained in both international law and the consciousness of society as a whole. He was also a fierce and tireless champion of providing at least a modicum of justice to Holocaust survivors."

Born in Transylvania in 1920, Ferencz immigrated to the United States with his Jewish family as an infant. They settled in Manhattan, where he attended City College of New York before heading to law school at Harvard. He joined the U.S. Army after graduation, where he was eventually assigned to the headquarters of Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army and a team tasked with collecting evidence for war crimes. At Buchenwald, he once recalled, "I saw crematoria still going. The bodies starved, lying dying, on the ground. I've seen the horrors of war more than can be adequately described."

Ferencz was a civilian by the time he led the team at the Einsatzgruppen

Trial, one of the "Subsequent" Nuremberg proceedings that followed the 1945-1946 International Military Tribunal. The Subsequent trials, held between 1946 and 1949, were held by U.S. military courts and dealt with cases of crimes against humanity, the use of slave labor and atrocities against prisoners of war and partisans. Of all the cases brought against Nazis, the Einsatzgruppen Trial, which lasted from September 1947 until April 1948, was the only one to have Holocaust crimes as its major focus.

After the trials Ferencz became director-general of the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization and fought for compensation for victims and survivors of the Holocaust and the return of stolen assets. He entered private law practice, and later worked for the institution of the International Criminal Court, which was established in 2002. He was fiercely critical of the decision by the United States not to ratify the treaty that established the court. "War-making itself is the supreme international crime against humanity and ... it should be deterred by punishment universally, wherever and whenever offenders are apprehended," he wrote in 2018.

From 1985 to 1996, he was an adjunct professor of international law at Pace University in Manhattan. He eventually retired to South Florida, but remained vocal in his opposition to war.

Ferencz is survived by a son and three daughters. His wife Gertrude died in 2019.

In 2017, the Municipality of The Hague honored Ferencz for his achievements by naming the footpath adjacent to the Peace Palace — which houses the International Court of Justice — after him. That same year, following a \$1 million renewable gift from Ferencz, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's Simon-Skjoldt Center for the Prevention of Genocide launched the Ferencz International Justice Initiative.

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# Five People Saved by Organ Donations from Lucy Dee

Dee was murdered alongside her daughters, Maia and Rina, in a shooting attack near Hamra in the Jordan Valley on April 7.

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Five patients received life-saving organ transplants from Lucy (Leah) Dee, who was murdered in the shooting attack in the Jordan Valley April 7, the National Transplant Center announced on April 11.

A 51-year-old woman received a heart transplant, a 58-year-old woman received a lung transplant, a 25-year-old man received a liver transplant and a 58-year-old and a 39-year-old received kidney transplants.

Dee's corneas will be transplanted in the future.

Dee was murdered alongside her daughters, Maia and Rina, in a shooting attack near Hamra in the

Jordan Valley last Friday. She initially survived the attack but succumbed in the hospital.

Lital Valenci, the heart transplant recipient had suffered from severe heart failure for a very long time. "A simple action like going up the stairs was impossible for me," she said.

"This is a second heart that we are transplanting in the past week following a terrible tragedy," said Prof. Dan Aravot, head of the cardiac and thoracic surgery department at Rabin Medical Center. "The act of the noble family is a point of light in the darkness and they saved the lives of many patients."

Dr. Evyatar Neshet, the director

of the transplant division at Rabin Medical Center, stated "This is the second transplant operation at Rabin, there was one on the Seder night and now the current one. I have been doing transplants for many years and am very moved by the strength of the donor family, the unimaginable nobility at a time of such a terrible tragedy."

Last month, the organs of Or Eshkar, who was murdered in a

shooting attack in Tel Aviv, were donated to a one-year-old baby, three men and a woman.

Also last month, the corneas of Yagel and Hallel Yaniv, who were murdered in a shooting attack in Huwara, were transplanted to four patients at Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tikva. The brothers had signed organ donor cards.

# Iran's Quds Force Coordinated Rocket Barrages at Israel from Gaza, Lebanon

By the Jerusalem Post Staff

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Quds Force coordinated with the Hamas and Hezbollah terrorist organizations to launch rockets at Israel from Lebanon during the Passover holiday, according to a report from the *Wall Street Journal*.

Quds Force commander Esmail Qaani began mobilizing allies across the Middle East to launch a new wave of attacks on Israeli targets and held secret meetings with military leaders throughout the region, the report noted.

34 rockets were launched into Israeli territory during the holiday in what was the heaviest barrage to northern Israel since the Second Lebanon War.

At the beginning of Ramadan, Kaani

held meetings in Syria with the heads of Palestinian terrorist organizations to discuss a possible coordinated attack on Israel. The commander of the Quds Force claimed that Iran obtained information about Israel's plans against Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Syria and Lebanon.

In early April, the Quds Force commander held a series of meetings in Lebanon, during which he met with the leaders of Hamas, Hezbollah and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad at the Iranian embassy in Beirut. At the same time as the meeting, according to the report, a barrage of rockets was fired at settlements in the Galilee.



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# 'Horrifying, Antisemitic, Campus-Sponsored' Programs at CUNY; Students Get Academic Credit for Participating

**"Students are actually offered official credit, which will appear on their BMCC transcripts, for participating in these anti-Israel events," a professor told United with Israel.**

By Atara Beck, United with Israel

Pro-Israel and Jewish students and faculty at the Borough of Manhattan Community College were appalled by a "horrifying, antisemitic, campus-sponsored display" featuring antisemitic, anti-Israel propaganda, including support for terrorism.

S.A.F.E. CUNY, a non-governmental and nonprofit organization that "advocates for Zionist Jews systemically discriminated against and excluded" at CUNY, announced Thursday morning on social media and in a press release that "yesterday, we were tipped off to a horrifying, antisemitic, campus-sponsored display at Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC-CUNY)."

"In addition to sympathizing with Intifada (a call to murder Israeli Jews), among the falsehoods and tropes leveled at Jews and Israel are that Israel 'targeted' journalist Shireen Abu Akleh for murder, that Israel is guilty of 'ethnic cleansing' and that Israel is a settler-colonial state, and more," the announcement read.

The display claims to document a "timeline of occupied Palestinian land" but is riddled with falsehoods and antisemitic tropes," the organization said.

Dr. Jenna Hirsch, Associate Professor of Mathematics at CUNY- BMCC, told United with Israel that the exhibit was up Wednesday morning at 9 a.m., "located prominently next to the vice office of student affairs."

"I went into the office and asked them if they were responsible for the exhibit. They said no, and when I asked them who was, they told me the women's resource center. I asked them if anyone else had complained, and they told me one student came in really distressed about it," Hirsch said.

"I then headed over there, which was about 20 feet away from the exhibit, I went inside and a girl behind the desk told me that they indeed sanctioned the exhibit under the auspices of the director of the program. I didn't believe her, so I asked her again – 'Are you sure

the director knows about this exhibit and allowed the students to put it up?' She assured me they did."

This vicious display is in fact only one example of the events included in the "Palestinian Solidarity Series," a major anti-Israel campaign organized by BMCC's Social Justice and Equity Center, which includes among its staff program coordinator Nadia Saleh, an anti-Israel activist.

On March 7, for instance, the Center sponsored an event titled "Let's Talk Palestine," featuring Palestinian activist Maryam Shuaib, who led a discussion on "all things Palestine from the structure of apartheid to the international impact of Israel's jurisdiction."

In December 2020, American novelist and philanthropist MacKenzie Scott donated \$30 million to BMCC to promote diversity, anti-racism, equity and inclusion. Some of those funds have been used to establish the Social Justice & Equity Centers at BMCC-CUNY.

According to Hirsch, it's "scary that this propaganda is being disseminated to students" who have limited knowledge about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

## Jews No Longer Feel Safe on Campus

United with Israel asked what action S.A.F.E. C.U.N.Y. might take to counter this dangerous propaganda.

"S.A.F.E. C.U.N.Y. has several directors, and I am only one of them. Thus, I cannot speak in the name of S.A.F.E. CUNY before we discuss it between ourselves and agree on some steps which the group as a whole will take," Dr. Avraham Goldstein, Assistant Professor of Mathematics at BMCC/CUNY, responded in an email.

"However, in my personal opinion, S.A.F.E. CUNY should bring to the public attention that this horrible anti-Israel activism, which includes libeling and bashing, is done in the name of an official department in the college, and not in the name of some private group or club (like 'Students for Palestine'). The students are actually offered official credit, which will appear on their BMCC transcript for participating in these anti-Israel events!

"The 'other side' (i.e. Jewish and Israeli

and even non-Jewish Zionist students and faculty) are not given any platform to 'defend themselves'. The libels and even praises of 'the armed resistance' are presented as an obvious fact, which cannot be doubted or discussed.

"S.A.F.E. CUNY should bring to the public attention that as a result of these systematic anti-Israel activities, visibly Jewish students and faculty, and especially orthodox Jews and Israelis and Zionist Jews, no longer feel safe on campus. We believe that the rise of the anti-Semitic assaults and attacks on the CUNY campuses in the recent year or two (as admitted even by the top CUNY officials themselves) is caused by this anti-Israel hysteria promoted by BMCC Social Justice & Equity Centers and their systemic campaigns of hate and libeling."

## Donors Should Be Contacted

"S.A.F.E. CUNY should bring it to the media, and to the local and national politicians and policy makers and organize a public campaign to make sure that the politicians look into this and take steps," Goldstein continued. "After all, CUNY is a public school, funded by the New York State and the New York City (i.e., by the taxpayer money), and CUNY's Board of Trustees is composed entirely of the people nominated by the State Government and the people nominated by the City Government.

"The Chancellor and all other top administrators and executives, including the President of BMCC, would have to explain themselves to this Board of Trustees and to the State and City Governments. If they fail to do so, they will be removed from their positions.

"S.A.F.E. CUNY also should contact all the donors of CUNY and inform them of what is going on at various campuses, and to what use their donations are being put. This should be done as publicly as possible – by sending open letters to these donors (which are also published in the media). I am sure that many of these donors may reconsider donating before the situation is straightened out.

" S.A.F.E. CUNY should check what legal action(s) can be taken, and consider pursuing them," Goldstein suggested.

## 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.

# We Can Fight Jew Hatred by Celebrating Our People's Story, Says Former Envoy

Jewish National Fund-USA's President of the Palm Springs Desert Region, Sheri Borax, addressed guests at the organization's Annual Legacy Luncheon with two words: "thank you," in recognition of the community's support for the land and people of Israel.

Almost 100 philanthropists attended the February 28 event at the Omni Rancho Las Palmas where keynote speaker former United States Special Envoy for Combating Antisemitism, Elan S. Carr, shared his determination to fight Jew-hatred.

Lamenting the current state of world affairs, Carr asked the audience rhetorically: "who would have imagined less than eight decades since the end of the most notorious crime ever committed in the history of the world, that took [the lives of] two thirds of European Jews, that antisemitism would be rising even in Europe, and yes, even here...in the United States."

Yet, Carr remained optimistic, saying: "when you're confronting something



Debbie Orgen, Elan Carr, Sheri Borax and Jim Borax

like Jew-hatred, you have to defend... yet [you also have to play] offense...and you do that by proactively, affirmatively driving a philosemitic narrative that brings an understanding of...the breathtaking, stunning story of the Jewish People... and the values of Judaism that have transformed civilization. We could not explain the existence of the United States without those values."

Guests also heard from Jewish National Fund-USA's Director of Planned Giving, West Coast, Cynthia Hizami, Esq., who shared the many ways supporters of



Lance Karp, Elan Carr, Scot Karp



Ruthie Gassner, Nancy Polacheck, Sandra Borns, Marcia Stein

Israel can achieve their philanthropic goals while taking advantage of existing U.S. tax laws. Hizami spoke about the

effectiveness of Charitable Gift Annuities where individuals can receive a fixed income as high as 9.7%. She also discussed savvy ways people are utilizing Donor Advised Funds, IRAs, as well as traditional bequests.

Hizami lauded the work of the Jewish Future Pledge, an initiative that asks people who are leaving money to charity in their will to designate at least half of those dollars towards Jewish and Israel related causes. "I believe the true purpose of Jewish Future Pledge is not just to collect signatures, but to ask people to think about where their legacy dollars are going," said Hizami. "We as Jews should think about how we want to make this world a better place, especially in light of all that is going on in our world today."

To learn more about the many meaningful ways you can leave a legacy for Israel, contact Cynthia Hizami, Esq. at [chizami@jnf.org](mailto:chizami@jnf.org) or call 888.563.2008. For more information, visit [jnflegacy.org](http://jnflegacy.org).

## 'Say Yes to the Dress' – and Helping Others Always

By Ilyse Muser Shainbrown, *The Times of Israel*

When I was a toddler, my parents left Brooklyn for the nearby suburbs, but Brooklyn never really left them. As a child, my family would often venture back to the borough to visit older family members and roam around the neighborhoods of my parents' idyllic childhood. My brothers and I grew up riding the rides at Coney Island, eating Nathan's hot dogs and french fries, and spending hours at the Sheepshead Bay Diner, where my father would recount tales of his beloved Dodgers. My eyes marveled at the old apartment buildings with people outside on the stoops and I cherished those days of what to me, felt like visiting "the old country."

Besides tasting the foods and relishing in my parents' memories, many of those trips were for shopping, mostly for special clothes for the High Holy Days or family simchas (special events). Given all my memories of the old storefronts of Brooklyn and special occasion shopping there, I always knew that I would head with my mother and grandmother — to their cherished Brooklyn — to get my wedding dress. And in the spring of 2001, a year before my March 2002 wedding and prior to the show that made it a household name, I did just that, and "Said Yes to the Dress," at Kleinfeld on Flatbush Ave.

I returned several times that year for fittings, with one very long one just days before my wedding, as the seamstress tirelessly made it exactly perfect for me. I remember hearing

about the move to Manhattan only a few short years later and I was very grateful that I was able to have the experience in Brooklyn. I had not thought of Kleinfeld in years, until I was scrolling this morning and came across an article about the founder of the bridal empire, Hedda Kleinfeld Schacter. Hedda passed away last week at the age of 99. And to my amazement, Hedda was a Holocaust survivor.

Born in Vienna, Austria in 1924 to a Jewish family, Hedda and her family lived a comfortable life. Right after the annexation of Austria, Hedda's father, a furrier, was caught trying to cross over the Belgian border and imprisoned in Dachau. After he was released, the family, recognizing the danger they were in, decided to secure passage out of Nazi-occupied Europe. As we know, this was no easy decision or accessible to everyone. Even if, like the Kleinfelds, German and Austrian Jews had the desire to leave, they needed the means to do so, and most importantly a destination that would permit their entry.

Fortunately, Hedda and her family wound up seeking refuge in Havana, Cuba, where she and her sister spent part of their childhood before emigrating to the United States. Her father eventually started a fur store in the US, and it was Hedda who later expanded the store to evening dresses and designer wedding gowns. Over time, she decided to sell only the latter, and brought smiles to blushing brides for decades and

decades.

As I learned all of this, just a few days before Yom HaShoah, and as we approach the 78<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II and the Holocaust, so much struck me. First of course, sadly, another survivor has passed. The numbers are dwindling rapidly, as survivors are now well into their 80s and 90s. I try not to dwell on the few years that are left and focus instead on thinking of all the ways in which we can ensure that the stories are heard repeatedly for as long as we have survivors to share them.

Next, I thought, how remarkable that after such a tumultuous start in life, Hedda Kleinfeld dedicated her life to celebrations, joy, and simchas. Despite all of the hardships, we as Jews are always commanded to celebrate. Countless grooms, with brides dressed from Kleinfeld, stamped on the glass to shouts of "Mazel tov" — never knowing the history behind the famed name of the store.

Finally, though, I thought of the incredible stories I have heard over the years about others like the Kleinfelds who somehow managed to escape in time. How horrible it is that there were not more. What might the world have been if all of the Jews living under Nazi control had been able to flee Europe to build new lives, businesses, and families. It is these stories that are so important to continue to share, as we hope that future generations will seek to help and assist those that are in need, bringing true meaning to

"Never Again."

Many Holocaust survivors reestablished their lives on the same streets of Brooklyn as my parents in the 1950s. Several of the famed shopping spots of Brooklyn hailed from connections to the Holocaust and World War II. Martin Greenfield's tailor shop, which for years has outfitted grooms and others, began with a survivor and my own childhood stomping ground on Avenue U — Lester's was founded by Lester Greenfield, who fought in the US army and landed on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day. Today, I add Hedda Kleinfeld to that list and will always remember her and her family when I look at my wedding pictures.

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# Event in Berlin Marks One of Germany's Largest-Ever Gatherings for its Ex-Soviet Jewish Community

By Larry Luxner, JTA

It was hard to overlook the symbolism: the city that once was the epicenter of Nazi Germany hosting a massive celebration by Jews with roots in the Communist Soviet Union, which for decades tried to stamp out any hint of Jewish practice or identity.

Over three days, some 750 Jews with ties to the former Soviet Union gathered in Berlin to celebrate Jewish culture, play Yiddish music, take part in conversations about everything from current events to Jewish and Israeli history, and eat, sing and learn together.

The March 31-April 2 conference in Berlin organized by Limmud FSU marked the organization's first-ever event held in Germany — and its first pan-European conference since a February 2020 event in Vienna held on the eve of the global coronavirus pandemic.

For this weekend, participants from 24 countries converged on a hotel in the German capital, including 50 or so who made the difficult trip from war-ravaged Ukraine. Among them was Olena Kolpakova, 41, who had traveled nearly 48 hours by bus and train to Berlin with her 9-year-old daughter, Anastasia, from Dnipro in eastern Ukraine.

"Our house isn't destroyed, and our city isn't occupied. But we still have 10 to 12 air-raid sirens a day," said Kolpakova, a lawyer and Limmud FSU Ukraine volunteer since 2009. "These people are more than friends for me. I love Limmud and I know everyone."

The packed program was held mostly in Russian with a smattering of sessions in English.

"This first-ever Limmud FSU conference in Germany is an opportunity to celebrate our rich cultural heritage, learn from one another and strengthen our connections across borders," said Limmud FSU Founder Chaim Chesler.

Since its creation in 2005 to bolster Jewish connections and identity among Jews from the former Soviet Union, Limmud FSU has held dozens of conferences around the globe that collectively have drawn over 80,000 participants.

Holding a Jewish festival in Berlin was particularly significant, organizers noted. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, over 170,000 Soviet Jews emigrated to Germany. That wave of immigration more than doubled the size of the country's Jewish community, which is now comprised mostly of Jews with



**Celebrants in Berlin dance at a Havdalah ceremony at Limmud FSU conference April 1, 2023.**

roots in the Soviet Union.

Germany is the only country in Europe that has seen such significant Jewish population growth in the last half-century.

The conference in Berlin was a mixture of celebration, study and culture. Fo Sho, a hip-hop band comprised of three Jewish-Ethiopian-Ukrainian sisters, delivered a rousing performance. Israeli celebrity chef Gil Hovav talked about his famous great-grandfather, Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, the Yiddish-speaking yeshiva student who became the father of modern Hebrew. World Jewish Congress official Lena Bakman spoke of the 400-strong WJC Jewish Diplomatic Corps as the "unofficial foreign affairs ministry for the Jewish people."

For some participants, such as Dora Haina of Riga, Latvia, the weekend in Berlin marked their first exposure ever to Limmud FSU.

"It's an unbelievable feeling that everything here is in my language, and that all these people are Jews," said Haina, 24, who speaks Russian. "I came to socialize and meet new people."

That's the point, said Limmud FSU's longtime chairman, Matthew Bronfman.

"Our inaugural conference in Berlin is a momentous occasion for our organization and the entire community of FSU Jews in Europe," Bronfman said. "It serves as a symbol of our continued dedication to preserving and celebrating Jewish culture and heritage, while also promoting a sense of unity and connection among our community members across borders and generations."

Key supporters of Limmud FSU Europe include the Conference on Jewish Material

Claims Against Germany (the Claims Conference), Genesis Philanthropy Group, the World Zionist Organization, Nativ-Israeli Prime Minister's Office, the Jewish National Fund-Keren Kayemet Lelsrael, the Dutch Jewish Humanitarian Fund, the Jewish Agency for Israel, philanthropist Diane Wohl, Bill Hess and others.

"It was a major, successful and very important event for FSU Jews in Europe in general and in particular for the hundreds of refugees from Ukraine," Alex Mershon, director of Nativ's Department of Culture and Education, said of the conference in Berlin.

"The resilience and vitality of Jewish heritage were on full display, reminding us that when we come together with open minds and open hearts, there is much we can achieve," said Marina Yudborovsky, CEO of the Genesis Philanthropy Group. "Let the spirit of this event inspire us to continue to overcome challenges and create positive change in the world together."

One of the highlights of the Berlin conference was a lecture by Nazi hunter Efraim Zuroff, director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's office in Jerusalem. He spoke about his work catching Nazi war criminals in countries where locals often collaborated with their German occupiers and noted that even today nationalism and antisemitism impedes justice for the Holocaust's victims and their descendants.

"Without political will, there will never be any justice," Zuroff said.

There was also a lot of talk at the conference about the turmoil in Israel, where a government plan to overhaul

the judiciary has prompted protests by hundreds of thousands, including many leading national figures.

"I can't believe I'm demonstrating against my own government," said Justice Elyakim Rubinstein, a former Israeli attorney general and vice president of the Supreme Court. "It's very unusual and heartbreaking in a way, having been a public servant all these years."

One of the weekend's most riveting testimonies came from Sonia Tartakovskaya, an 84-year-old Holocaust survivor who last year witnessed the Russian bombardment of Irpin, on the outskirts of Kyiv.

"I don't remember the war, because I was born in 1939. And in 1941, I was sent to Tajikistan. But this war of 2022 I remember, because I saw the burning houses and I was completely alone," Tartakovskaya said through a translator.

"On March 17, my neighbor took me to her relatives in western Ukraine, and on March 31, I came to Berlin," she said. "Today marks one year I'm here, and I deeply appreciate everything the Jewish Agency, the Claims Conference and all other Jewish organizations have done for me."

Tartakovskaya is among 94 Holocaust survivors who were spirited out of Ukraine and brought to Germany via Poland since Russia launched its war 13 months ago, said Ruediger Mahlo, who heads the German office of the Claims Conference. Before the war Ukraine was home to some 10,000 Holocaust survivors; today, barely 6,500 remain, according to Mahlo.

"Imagine the paradox," Mahlo said. "Survivors who at a young age had to flee, and now at the end of their lives they have to flee again, from Russia — a country that liberated them — to a country that over 75 years ago wanted to annihilate them."

Limmud FSU's co-founder, Sandra F. Cahn, said the participation in the conference of Jews from Ukraine was inspiring.

"Despite the ongoing war in Ukraine, we are heartened to see so many participants from that country joining us for this historic event," Cahn said. "This conference serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of building bridges between communities and promoting cultural exchange, even in the face of hardships."

# Holocaust Denial is Proliferating on Gaming and Social Media Platforms

By Dion J. Pierre, *The Algemeiner*

On April 3 the Anti-Defamation Leagues (ADL) Center for Technology and Society released a "Holocaust Denial Report Card" indicating that major social media and online gaming platforms such as Twitter, Activision Blizzard, and Epic Games, which developed the highly popular game "Fortnite," have not been successful in eliminating content that denies the reality and severity of the Holocaust.

"Tech companies claim to be addressing hate on their platforms. But when it comes to Holocaust denial they aren't," ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt said in a press release. "The consequence is that Holocaust deniers take advantage of this lax enforcement to spread their noxious antisemitic ideas and garner support for their hateful views."

No company was given higher than a C, with YouTube and Twitch, a website where individuals stream themselves playing video games in real time, receiving a C+. TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, Reddit, and Discord each earned a C-. Twitter and Activision Blizzard earned a D- while Epic Games received the lowest grade, an F.

The ADL noted that online players of Epic Games' Fortnite franchise, which is accessed by over 25 million people a day, create usernames based on different themes promoted by Holocaust deniers. Many usernames, for example, contained variations of "Holohoax" while others included "6 Gorillion," which the ADL described as "a hateful phrase" implying that the Jewish community inflates the



"Fortnite," a game accessed by over 25 million users a day, being played on a mobile phone.

number of people who died during the Holocaust. A similar trend was identified among players of Call of Duty, developed by Activision Blizzard, and League of Legends, a Riot Games production.

While nearly half of the companies surveyed by ADL forbid any content promoting Holocaust denial, it is seldom removed when reported by the "average user." Other content the group identified includes "documentary-style videos" on YouTube claiming the Holocaust never happened, Facebook posts disputing the number of Jews who perished, and entire threads on Reddit, some reaching thousands of users, devoted to discussing Holocaust conspiracy theories.

The report recommended that the companies "ban Holocaust denial" and encourage seamless reporting of it.

"At a time when antisemitism is rising in the US and globally, tech platforms bear considerable responsibility for serving as megaphones for Holocaust deniers," ADL Center for Technology and Society Yael Eisenstat said. "Jewish users face real threats but the response from social platforms has been lackluster at best. We call on tech companies to stop being complacent when confronted with anti-Jewish hatred and to enforce their policies against Holocaust denial consistently and at scale."

The Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC), a Jewish human rights organization, issued a similar report in March, titled "Digital Terrorism and Hate Report Card," explaining that TikTok, one of the fastest growing and most controversial social media platforms in the world, does not actively monitor or remove antisemitic content from its

platform.

Memes on TikTok incorporating derogatory language towards Jews and making light of the Holocaust, as well as an illustration depicting the "Happy Merchant," a drawing of a man caricatured as stereotypically Jewish and rubbing his palms together, were shared with *The Algemeiner* in April by Rick Eaton, Director of Research at SWC, during a virtual presentation of the group's findings. Eaton explained that TikTok's recent arrival to the social media scene is one reason why it does not yet have a robust content moderation team.

Content moderation on Twitter is also poor, Eaton said.

As previously reported by *The Algemeiner*, Elon Musk's takeover of the platform, which has over 500 million users, has brought droves of neo-Nazis and extremists to the platform, according to a report published by Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM) in February.

Data compiled by Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM) with support from the Network Contagion Research Institute (NCRI) shows that antisemitic tweets mentioning George Soros and 'globalists' have doubled since he first offered to buy it in April. Additionally, "Groyper accounts," i.e. those operated by neo-Nazis, grew by roughly 2,000 percent on the day Musk announced that he would join Twitter's board and by 1,000 percent since his acquisition of it was completed.

# A Palestinian Gunman Chose the Wrong Target When He Shot at David Stern

By World Israel News Staff

American-Israeli David Stern was traveling on March 19 with his family on a road near the Palestinian town of Huwara in Samaria when a terrorist shot him in the head.

Stern was fortunate. Although seriously wounded, his condition is improving and is not life-threatening. The bullet scathed the top of his head.

His wife was only lightly injured, and his three children, who were sitting in the back seat, were not hit.

But that was because Stern, a former US Marine, is one of a small number of Israelis to own a gun – and he used it, despite his injury. He shot at the terrorist's leg and wounded him, forcing him to abandon his weapon while fleeing the scene. Israeli

security forces caught up with him and took him for questioning.

Stern is also a trained EMT, and he managed to bandage his wound before being sent to Rabin Center-Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tikvah.

MK Tzvi Suktot (Religious Zionism) tweeted about his "dear friend," saying that "after sustaining a direct volley [of gunfire], he managed to return fire and wound the terrorist – and then treat himself. A miracle happened here!"

Two days after the attack, Stern recounted his experience, *Israel National News* reported.

"On Sunday, I was driving with my wife in Huwara towards Jerusalem. I arrived at the square, and the terrorist was crossing



David Stern and Family

the road, I stopped for him to cross the road," he said.

After noticing that the terrorist was hiding one of his hands in a suspicious fashion, "I immediately started reaching for my gun.

"The terrorist turned towards me, and we started shooting at each other at almost the same time. From the side

window I saw that he ran away after firing 10 or so bullets...

"I moved the car a few hundred meters and stopped. I started putting on a tourniquet and a bandage, and after a few minutes, the ambulance arrived, and they took me to the hospital."

The attack on Stern and his family occurred near the scene of a deadly shooting in February that claimed the lives of two brothers – Hillel Menachem Yaniv, 22, and Yigal Yaakov Yaniv, 20. Palestinians in Huwara, Nablus, Jenin and elsewhere in the Palestinian-run territories, as well as in Gaza, celebrated the murder. According to a new poll, 71% of the residents of Huwara approved of the attack on the Yaniv brothers.



# Man Pleads Guilty to Hate Crime in 2021 Arson That Damaged Austin, Texas, Synagogue

By Philissa Cramer, JTA

The man charged with setting fire to a synagogue in Austin, Texas, in 2021 has pleaded guilty to two federal charges, including the destruction of religious property, a hate crime.

The board of directors at Congregation Beth Israel endorsed the plea deal, telling members that the agreement had no bearing on Franklin Barrett Sechriest's ultimate sentence and noting that a trial could deepen their trauma.

The sanctuary, historic front doors and stained glass windows at the Reform synagogue were damaged in the October 2021 fire that Sechriest, during a plea hearing on Thursday, admitted to setting. The fire was extinguished after a passing motorist alerted authorities; Sechriest, then 18, was arrested 10 days after the fire after being identified in surveillance footage.

Investigators found antisemitic and

racist material as well as bomb-making supplies in Sechriest's car, according to details revealed when he was indicted and recounted in a Department of Justice press release. They also discovered a journal in which he had written, "I set fire to a synagogue."

Under the terms of the plea deal, Sechriest pleaded guilty to arson and to the hate crime, but prosecutors dropped a third charge, use of a fire to commit a felony. He faces up to 20 years in prison when he is sentenced at a separate hearing, scheduled for June 23.

Congregation Beth Israel's board of directors had voted to support the plea deal after being consulted by prosecutors, according to a message sent to all members Thursday by the synagogue's rabbi, president and executive director.

"A plea agreement means the defendant must admit his guilt in open



**Damaged the sanctuary, historic front doors and stained glass windows of Congregation Beth Israel in Austin, TX**

court and allows us to begin to heal without the trauma of being put through what would most likely be a difficult trial," they wrote. They also noted that members of the synagogue would

have the opportunity to submit letters explaining "how the defendant's actions and the arson impacted us" before Sechriest is sentenced.

The fire came amid a spate of antisemitic incidents in Austin organized by the Goyim Defense League, a white supremacist group that holds antisemitic rallies and distributes literature promoting hatred of Jews. The group, which the Anti-Defamation League said was responsible for nearly 500 antisemitic incidents in 2022, had hung a banner reading "Vax the Jews" from an Austin bridge in the days before the synagogue fire and streamed a swastika-burning event shortly afterwards. The group's founder told the Daily Beast that Sechriest was not associated with the Goyim Defense League.

## 'Why is Hillel Here?' SFU Denounces Antisemitism After Jewish Group Blasted

San Francisco State University student slams Jewish campus group Hillel as "an extremist organization," prompting Hillel staff member to leave campus meeting.

By Dion J. Pierre, *The Algemeiner* & *World Israel News*

San Francisco State University (SFSU) issued a statement denouncing antisemitism earlier this month after a student criticized the participation of a Jewish nonprofit member in a virtual campus meeting.

"Why is Hillel here?" the student, whose identity remains unknown, said on March 9, *The Jewish News of Northern California* reported. "They're an extremist organization."

The outburst prompted the Hillel staff member to whom the remark was directed to leave the meeting immediately, *Jewish News* continued. Later, Roger Feigelson, the group's executive director, received "within an hour" a communication from the university's vice president, Jamillah Moore, who assured him that the university would denounce the student's actions.

"It was reported that during the meeting, a member of a student organization articulated they did not want SF Hillel members collaborating on the event and made anti-Zionist statements," Moore later wrote in a letter to the campus community. "We want to make clear that San Francisco State University, Associate Students, and the campus



community denounce antisemitism in any form. The words go against our values and our mission of creating a safe and inclusive campus community in which we all feel safe and welcomed."

In response to the incident, on March 30, the university will hold an event titled "Responding to Antisemitism," which will feature the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) assistant regional director Alystar Sacks. Feigelson told *Jewish News* that he is "super impressed" with the steps the university has taken to heal any lingering wounds.

"The partnership between SF Hillel and

SF State is so strong now," he continued. "We're on top of this and addressing it together."

SFSU has been accused of excluding Hillel before. In 2018, two Jewish students sued San Francisco State University, accusing it of harboring "institutionalized antisemitism." The suit cited a time when Hillel was allegedly prohibited from participating in a "Know Your Rights" information fair in February 2017.

Nearly three months later, in May, Ollie Ben, Hillel's former director, complained in an op-ed that the university "keeps the organized Jewish community at

arm's length, excludes our students from participating in campus events, allows speakers we invite to be shouted down and refuses to publicly stand against intolerance when it's directed at the Jewish community."

SFSU in 2019 settled the suit out of court before it went to trial, agreeing to hire a coordinator of Jewish student life and spend \$200,000 on "educational efforts to promote viewpoint diversity (including but not limited to pro-Israel and Zionist viewpoints)."

In 2020, during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, the university's Department of Arab and Muslim Ethnicities and Diasporas Studies invited notorious Palestinian terrorist Leila Khaled — who twice hijacked planes carrying Israeli passengers as a leading member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) — to speak during a virtual event. Several internet media companies eventually prevented the event's streaming on their platforms, which led to a row between the university and the professor, Rabab Abdulhadi, who invited Khaled.



## Shabbat Schedule - May 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.

Friday, May 26, First Day of Shavu'ot,  
9:45 am; Saturday, May 27, Second Day  
of Shavu'ot, including Yizkor Memorial  
Service, 9:45 am.

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.  
chabadpalmsprings.com 760-325-  
0774. Check website or call to confirm  
times Shabbat and holiday 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, and Shavuot Services.

### 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.

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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.



## SHAVUOT

Erev Shavuot: Thursday, May 25 At nightfall

First day Shavuot:

Friday, May 26

2<sup>nd</sup> day Shavuot: YIZKOR

Saturday, May 27

Check website for most current  
information: www.Desert-Outreach-  
Synagogue.com.

### OR HAMIDBAR

Rabbi David Lazar rabbi@orhamidbar.

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

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/](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. Please bring your  
card. Information: Nadine Brinhendler,  
707- 332-3947.

### TEMPLE HAR SHALOM, Idyllwild

(951) 468-0004. www.

templeharshalomidyllwild.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.

From April 14 until the High Holidays,  
services are being held in the Liberman  
Chapel. 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. 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" and an online Bereavement  
Group are alternating Saturday  
afternoons from 1:30-3 PM on Zoom.

No charge. Contact Rabbi for schedule.

**SHAVUOT:** Erev Shavuot study

Thursday, May 26, followed by

cheesecake extravaganza. Shavuot

services Friday, May 27 at 10:30 am.

Second day Shavuot services /Shabbat  
services at 10:30 am Saturday, May 27;  
Yizkor.

### TEMPLE SINAI, Palm Desert

(Member, Union for Reform Judaism)

Rabbi David Novak

73-251 Hovley Lane West, Palm Desert,  
CA 92260. www.templeisainpd.org

760-568-9699. Go to templeisainpd.  
org for access information. Shabbat

services are in-person and online on  
Livestream at www.templeisainpd.  
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. Check website for Shavuot

services.

### 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 - May-July 2023

## **Mondays:**

**Har-El programs continue through the summer.** 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**.

## **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. Note: Program stops around Shavuot until after the High Holidays.

**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.

**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.

**8:00 pm** - Temple Isaiah "Judaism 2.0 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.

## **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:**

**1:30 pm** Temple Isaiah: Bereavement Group held every other week at this time, alternating with Jewish University. Bereavement Group will begin, Saturday, April 29th at 1:30pm. Please email me at rabbisteven.rosenberg@gmail.com if you would like to participate.

This group is anyone who has experienced loss of any kind.

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

## **Youth and Teens:**

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

## **Wednesday, April 26**

**4:00 pm** Beth Shalom **Yom Ha-atzma'ut Sing-Along** led by Rabbi J.B. Sacks, with Israeli-style 'nosh.' Community welcome! RSVP appreciated by Friday, April 21. For information or to RSVP email info@congregationbethshalom.net or call 760-200-3636.

## **Sunday, April 30**

**10:00 am – 2:00 pm** Community celebration of Yom Ha-atzmaut, Israel's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday, held at Palm Valley School's campus, 25525 DaVall, Rancho Mirage. See pages 1 and 3 for more information.

## **Wednesday, May 3**

**3:30 pm**, Har-El Zoom Book Review - "**Let's Ask Betka: A Story of Survival**" by Regina Betty Eber as told to Jacob Eber. We are very fortunate to have a family member of Betka, Lenny Eber, review this book together with Diane Rubin; both are members of Har-El. Everyone welcome. Email harelurjpd@gmail.com for link to Zoom program. See ad page 5.

## **Thursday, May 4**

**4:15 pm** Beth Shalom Book Club: "An Affair of Spies" by Ronald H. Balson. Discussion led by Ken Hailpern Visitors welcome. Information: (760) 200-3636.

## **Wednesday, May 17**

**12:15 pm** Har-El Galen "Books to Movies" Series: See **Remains of the Day**, followed with discussion led by Judy Wallis. For details of this event email harelurjpd@gmail.com. See ad page 11.

## **Wednesday, June 7**

**3:30 pm**, Har-El Zoom Book Review - "**The Letters Project**" by Eleanor Reissa, reviewed by Joan Moyer (Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)/Certified therapist specializing in Trauma Therapy. The book explores a daughter's journey through the discovery and translation of her father's letters written to her mother in 1949. The unforeseen revelations that she encounters about her parents and events weave a fascinating story for the reader. To receive a Zoom invite and participate in this unique discussion, email harelurjpd@gmail.com. All are welcome. NO FEE. See ad page 3.

## **Wednesday, June 21**

**12:15 pm** Har-El Galen "Books to Movies" Series: See **Gentlemen's Agreement**, followed with discussion led by Rosa Weinstein. For details of this event email harelurjpd@gmail.com. See ad page 11.

## **Wednesday, July 19**

**12:15 pm** Har-El Galen "Books to Movies" Series: **The Jazz Singer**, with background and presented by Cantor Joseph Gole, D.Mus. For details of this event email harelurjpd@gmail.com. See ad page 11.



## Tribute Card Donations

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

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

### Honorarium Tributes In Appreciation For:

- **Robin Berman**, Thank you from Cass Graff-Radford.
- **Audrey Bernstein**, Happy birthday from Barbara Platt.
- **Loren Friend**, Thank you from Cass Graff-Radford.
- **Barbara and Bernie Fromm**, Dear Mom and Dad, thrilled to celebrate you and your 66 years of love and marriage, from Davida Fromm and Reid Simmons.
- **Jeannette Galante**, Thank you from Bertel Lewis.
- **Myra Gordon**, Happy birthday from Barbara Platt.
- **Rosee Hertz**, Wishing you a happy special birthday, from Harriet Bernstein, Wendy Gross and Bill DeWoskin, Ruth and Mal Kaufman, Eunice and Jerry Meister, and Barbara Platt.
- **Frances Horwich**, Happy 95<sup>th</sup> birthday from Cora Ginsberg, Ellen Glass, Adrian and Cass Graff-Radford, Wendy Gross and Billy DeWoskin, Margot Halperin, Pat Hubbard, Marnie Miller, Mary Jo Pomorantz, Gail and Bob Scadron, Judy Sontag and Michael Pollak, and Shelly Zucker.
- **Nora Kaufman**, In honor of you finding the afekoman at the seder, from Sandy Hertz.

- **Dr. and Mrs. Richard Pluss**, Mazel tov on your grandson's Bar Mitzvah, from Bobby and Toni Garmisa.
- **Larry and Jane Sherman**, Happy Passover. With many thanks, Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Leslie Usow**, Thank you from Cass Graff-Radford.
- **Barbara Weisberg**, Happy birthday from Barbara Platt.

### Refuah Shleimah Get Well:

- **Mrs. Lilo Cooper**, Wishing you a speedy and complete recovery, from Ruth and Mal Kaufman.
- **Perry Green**, Our very best wishes for a speedy recovery, from Gail and Bob Scadron
- **Lester Morris**, Best wishes for a speedy recovery, from Gail and Bob Scadron.

### Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:

- **Ron Abel**, Condolences on the loss of your Chuck, from Barbara and Bernie Fromm.
- **Susy Block**, In memory of Steve Block, from Joellen Leifer.
- **Mrs. David Brenner**, In memory of your beloved mother Vivian, from Marnie Miller.
- In memory of my dear friend **Deanna Carnick** from Priscilla Moya.

- **Judy Jacobson**, So sorry for your loss, from Stuart Goldfine.
- **The Lappen Family**, Condolences on Gilbert's passing, from Barbara and Bernie Fromm.
- **Annette Lerner**, In memory of your beloved husband Ted, from Rabbi Charna Klein.
- **Mr. And Mrs. L. Marshak**, In memory of Susan Reuban, from Chickie, Claude and Harlene Steinberger.
- **Pearl Rader Meltzer**, In memory of your beloved brother, Dr. Dan Rader, from cousins Stephanie and Paul Ross.
- **Mrs. Jerry Morgan**, In memory of your beloved husband Jerry, from Mark Krasne.
- **Lola Powar and Family**, In loving memory of your son Howard, from Corinne Bronfeld.
- **The Lila Rauch Family**, Our deepest sympathies, from Cora Ginsberg, Loreen Jacobson and Bertel Lewis.
- **The Sinykin and Habush Families**, In memory of Susan Reuban, from Chickie, Claude and Harlene Steinberger.
- **Mrs. Harold Shulman**, In memory of your beloved husband Hal, from Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.
- **Etta Wendrow Family**, In memory of your beloved mother Etta, from Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.

## European Fighter Jets Scramble to Intercept El Al Passenger Plane

The Austrian fighters scrambled when air controllers could not reach the Tel Aviv-bound flight on radio.

By Batya Jerenberg, World Israel News

European fighter jets were scrambled to check on an El Al plane when air communications were briefly lost over Austria Monday, the *Aviation Herald* website reported Tuesday.

After taking off at 12:09 from Amsterdam in the Netherlands, Flight LY-338 reached its cruising altitude of 37,000 feet and headed to Tel Aviv. However, when air controllers in Rhein, Germany tried transferring their Israeli charge to their Austrian counterparts almost an hour later, the pilots of the commercial flight did not respond to the routine radio call acknowledging the

handover.

Although flying normally, the cockpit remained silent during several attempts at contact on various frequencies, including the "guard" frequency, said the *Herald*. This is a very high frequency that is reserved exclusively for emergency communications and notifications, and it is recommended but not required that pilots constantly monitor it.

The plane also did not respond to calls by other aircraft in its vicinity.

The radio silence was enough to send out an alarm to a military base, even without any other indication of a



El Al plane

problem, such as the pilots setting the aircraft's transponder to the 7700, a code that automatically tells everyone in the vicinity that some kind of emergency has occurred.

The alarm was received at 1:08, said

the Austrian Defense Ministry. Two of the country's Eurofighters were sent to intercept the plane. Twelve minutes later, said the ministry, visual contact was made and radio contact was re-established.

The fighters went back to base and the plane went on to Tel Aviv with no other issues, landing routinely three hours later.

Neither El Al nor Israeli's aviation authority has commented on the incident.

# Florida High School Pulls Graphic Novel Adaptation of Anne Frank's Diary, Saying It Is 'Not Age Appropriate'

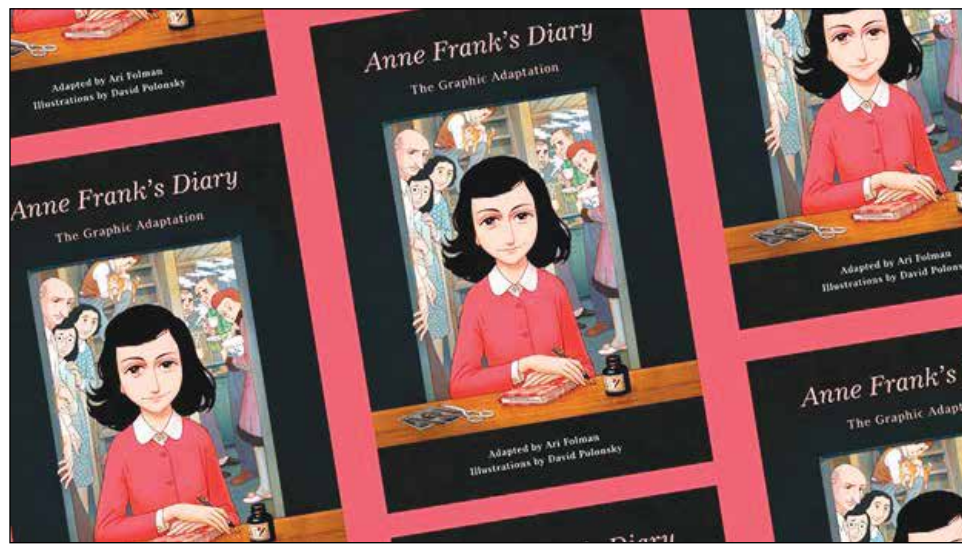
By Andrew Lapin, JTA

A public high school in Florida has removed an illustrated adaptation of Anne Frank's diary from its library. It is the second known instance of this particular edition of the famous Holocaust book being swept up by conservatives seeking to purge schools of literature they deem inappropriate.

The principal's office of Vero Beach High School, which is located in a community on Florida's east coast, recently decided to remove "Anne Frank's Diary: The Graphic Adaptation" from its school library, according to Cristen Maddux, a spokesperson for the Indian River County school district. Maddux told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency the book was determined to be "not age appropriate."

Last year, a school district in Texas ordered its librarians to remove the same book before reversing course a week later following public outcry. Other books about the Holocaust recently removed by public schools include Art Spiegelman's "Maus," which a Tennessee district pulled from its middle school curriculum last year, and Jodi Picoult's "The Storyteller," which was removed from another Florida district last month following a parental challenge.

The removal at Vero Beach High School was spurred by at least one challenge from a parent in the district affiliated with the conservative activist group Moms For Liberty, according to the Treasure Coast



"Anne Frank's Diary: The Graphic Adaptation"

News, a local publication. In the challenge, the parent had reportedly written that the book was "not a true adaptation of the Holocaust."

The district backed up that sentiment, Maddux told JTA. "That's not the actual diary of Anne Frank," she said. "It's a fictional novel that has some inappropriate content in it." Maddux added that the book "was removed due to minimization of the Holocaust," and said, "Library spaces in the district currently have factual accounts of The Diary of Anne Frank."

Maddux said that she herself had not read the book and did not immediately know what the "inappropriate content" in question was.

In a statement to JTA about various

challenges to the graphic adaptation, the Anne Frank Fonds, the Switzerland-based foundation that controls the copyright to her diary, said it was "generally concerned that ignorance about the Shoah, relativization or denial of history are on the rise, especially in the United States."

The foundation also defended the inclusion of Frank's original writing by saying, "We consider the book of a 12-year-old girl to be appropriate reading for her peers."

The graphic novel adaptation of the diary was released in 2018 with the full authorization of the Anne Frank Fonds. Adapted by Israeli filmmaker Ari Folman and illustrator David Polonsky

and intended for young readers, the book compresses Frank's actual diary entries into a condensed version of her true story. While it does contain some invented dialogue and surrealist scenes, reproductions of Frank's actual diary in the book hew to her exact words.

The graphic novel has attracted some scrutiny for reproducing passages of Frank's diary that had been edited out of its original Dutch publication in 1947. (The diary was first published in English in 1952.)

Those passages relate Frank's latent feelings of attractiveness toward another girl and her description of her own genitalia. Anne's father Otto Frank restored the former passage for the book's 1952 English edition, while the latter was not restored to the diary until the 1980s. Another Florida parent in a different school district has told JTA they filed a request to remove the graphic adaptation because of objections to these passages.

Florida in particular has seen a number of book removals as Gov. Ron DeSantis, a Republican, signed legislation giving parents power to challenge classroom materials, and holding educators liable for making inappropriate content accessible to students.

DeSantis has also signed legislation mandating teaching about the Holocaust and antisemitism in the state.

## Famed Israeli Actor Chaim Topol's Family Say He Worked for Mossad

Topol's wife and kids said that Topol helped the Mossad with minor tasks like transferring documents and installing surveillance during the 70s and 80s.

By the Jerusalem Post Staff

Actor Chaim Topol used his status as a VIP to work for the Mossad in countries that Israelis generally had a hard time accessing in the 1970s and 80s, according to a report by Haaretz.

Topol's wife, Galia, and his children, Adi and Omer, told the newspaper about missions their father carried out for Israel's spy agency – including installing surveillance on an Arab nation's embassy in a European capital.

They said the Mossad utilized Topol, who died in March, because of the fame he received from *The Fiddler on the Roof* musical, in which he starred in

as Tevye.

Adi Topol told *Haaretz* that her father used to take a miniature Minox camera and a tape recorder with him every time he went abroad. She and her siblings believe they were devices that Topol used on his various assignments.

Topol's liaison for his missions, according to his children, was Mossad



Topol, dressed in role in 'Fiddler on the Roof'

agent Zvi Malkin, who was one of the members of the team that abducted Adolf Eichmann in Argentina in 1960.

"Zvika always showed up in disguise, came through the backyard, so he wouldn't be seen, and then came into our apartment," Adi told *Haaretz*. "You don't have a key, so how did you get in?" I asked him once, and he replied in his nasal tone: "You call that a lock?"

"They were both actors," Malkin's son Omer told *Haaretz*. "One acted on the stage and in films, the other did so clandestinely using false identities under cover. So, in that odd and

peculiar way, they had a lot in common."

Galia added that Malkin would stay with them when they lived in London, using a visit to his friend as a cover, and Topol would help him plan his missions, joining him on some.

Omer Topol told *Ynet* that his father's contributions were more minor.

"I know he helped to transfer documents and similar tasks, but we're not talking about daring actions like James Bond or anything like that," he said.

# ROSH HASHANAH GREETINGS



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Call 760-324-4737 to order your cards, or go online to [jfedps.org](http://jfedps.org).



## Have A Nosh

**If It's Shavuot It's Gotta Be Cheesecake**

Just days before Pesach I had a request for chocolate cheesecake and I was determined to find a quick, easy recipe to make before my Pesach cooking marathon. I went online and, to my delight, I found an absolutely delicious, super-easy,



super-quick non-bake chocolate cheesecake recipe, which I am happily sharing with you. The funfetti cheesecake is another easy, quick-to-make recipe which was a hit at Temple Isaiah potlucks. A third non-bake recipe is for bite-size chocolate-covered squares of cheesecake, always a treat. Wishing you a wonderful, delicious Shavuot! MHB

### No-Bake Chocolate Cheesecake

1½ cups semi sweet chocolate chips  
11 ounces cream cheese, softened  
½ cup sugar  
¼ cup butter or margarine, softened (½ stick)

2 cups whipped topping non-dairy, thawed  
1 packaged graham cracker crust (I used a packaged chocolate crust that I found at Ralphs, and it was perfect)

Place chocolate chips in small microwave-safe bowl. Microwave at medium (50%) for 1 minute; stir. If necessary, microwave at MEDIUM an additional 15 seconds at a time, stirring after each heating, just until chips are melted when stirred. Set aside to cool. Beat cream cheese, sugar and butter in large bowl on medium speed of mixer until creamy. Gradually add melted chips, beating on low speed until blended. Fold in whipped topping until blended; spoon into crust. Refrigerate until firm. Garnish as desired. Cover; refrigerate leftover cheesecake.

### Non-Bake Funfetti Cheesecake

**Crust:**  
1 ½ cups graham cracker crumbs (about 10 graham cracker sheets)  
6 Tbsp butter, melted  
1/3 cup sugar

24 oz cream cheese, room temperature  
½ cup + 2 Tbsp sugar  
2 Tbsp flour  
2 tsp vanilla extract  
4 Tbsp sprinkles, plus more for topping  
12 oz Cool Whip, divided

**Filling:**

Cheesecake:

To make graham cracker crumbs, add graham cracker sheets to a large Ziploc bag and crush with a rolling pin. Alternatively, crush with a food processor. In a medium bowl, mix the graham cracker crumbs, melted butter, and sugar until combined. Pour the mixture into a 9 inch springform pan and press tightly into the bottom of the pan and slightly up the sides. Set in freezer for 10-15 minutes to firm. In a large bowl, mix cream cheese, sugar, flour, and vanilla until smooth and well combined. Gently stir in 8 ounces of Cool Whip and sprinkles. Pour filling into the chilled graham cracker crust, smoothing the top. Refrigerate for 4-6 hours or until firm. Remove cheesecake from springform pan and top with sprinkles and remaining Cool Whip (optional). Refrigerate until ready to serve. Enjoy!

### No-Bake Chocolate Covered Cheesecake Bites

**For the crust:**  
10 full graham crackers  
10 Tbsp unsalted butter, melted  
Pinch salt

**For the filling:**  
3 8 oz packages cream cheese, at room temperature  
2 Tbsp granulated sugar  
1 14 oz can condensed milk  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
Juice of ½ lemon plus zest

**For the topping:**

2 cups dark or semi-sweet chocolate chips  
2 tsp vegetable oil

**Sprinkles (optional)**

1 cup white chocolate chips + 1 tsp vegetable oil (optional)

Line an 8x8 square baking pan with parchment paper. Place graham crackers in a food processor fitted with blade attachment. Pulse until crumbs form. Add crumbs, melted butter and pinch of salt in a mixing bowl. Combine well. Spread crumbs in bottom of pan and press down evenly. In a large bowl mix cream cheese using hand mixer until smooth. Add sugar and beat. Add vanilla and lemon juice and beat again. Add condensed milk. Spread evenly on top of crust. Chill covered for 6 hours or overnight. You can also freeze for 2 hours. After cheesecake has set, remove from pan and cut into even squares. Melt chocolate and oil in a microwave safe bowl in 30 second intervals until completely smooth. Dip each square of cheesecake in chocolate. Top with sprinkles or drizzle melted white chocolate on top.



## Simchas

"Brechet Ha-baot" to five precious baby girls!



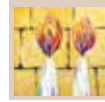
Welcome Chana Witkes, Esther Aviva Werdiger, Raizel Sasonkin, & Guinevere Mirah and Paige Felicity Evans!

**Rabbi Yonason and Sussie Denebeim** had double blessings this month, with two of their daughters giving birth to daughters here in our community! Mazel tov to **Rabbi Moishe and Mussie Witkes** on the birth of their daughter, **Chana**, born March 27<sup>th</sup>. Delighted grandparents are the **Denebeims** and **Gary and Tammi Witkes** ... and mazel tov to **Rabbi Boz and Chaya Werdiger** on the birth of their daughter, **Esther Aviva** ... and mazel tov to **Rabbi Mendy and Riki Sasonkin** of Chabad of Indio on the birth of their daughter **Raizel** on March 28 ... More babies, this time twins: Mazel tov mazel tov to **Elyshea and James Evans** on the birth of daughters

**Guinevere Mirah and Paige Felicity** on April 4. Proud grandmother is **Lynn Schwimmer** ... Most of us didn't see it because we were in the midst of our own seders or in attendance at another synagogue's seder, but **NBC Palm Springs'** news staff came to **Temple Isaiah's seder** on the first night of Pesach and live-streamed a portion of the seder on their nightly news (pictured: **Rabbi Steven Rosenberg** and his wife **Dr.**



**Sarah Sela**, who regularly participates as cantorial soloist at Isaiah's Shabbat services). ... *Share your Simchas with us. Email or call Miriam Bent at [mhbentjcn@earthlink.net](mailto:mhbentjcn@earthlink.net) or 760-323-0255.*



## Candle Lighting Times

Friday, May 5	Shabbat Emor	6:49 pm
Friday, May 12	Shabbat Behar/Bechukotai	6:54 pm
Friday, May 19	Shabbat Bamidbar	7:00 pm
Thursday, May 25	Shavuot 1 <sup>st</sup> day	7:04 pm
Friday, May 26	Shabbat/Shavuot 2 <sup>nd</sup> day	7:04 pm
Friday, June 2	Shabbat Naso	7:09 pm
Friday, June 9	Shabbat Behaalotecha	7:12 pm
Friday, June 16	Shabbat Shlach Lecha	7:15 pm
Friday, June 23	Shabbat Korach	7:17 pm
Friday, June 30	Shabbat Chukat/Balak	7:17 pm
Friday, July 7	Shabbat Pinchas	7:17 pm
Friday, July 14	Shabbat Matot-Masei	7:14 pm
Friday, July 21	Shabbat Devarim	7:11 pm
Friday, July 28	Shabbat Va'etchanan	7:06 pm



## We Mourn the Passing of...

**Stanley Heller, Herman Sassower, and Reva Hirshfield Wolk.**  
*Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing.*



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## J's Deli

By Alberto Tejero, CFO, Jewish Federation of the Desert



the years has managed many "white tablecloth" restaurants. Before moving to the Desert, Jay managed the Lovi Deli in Los Angeles.

J's Deli offers an extensive menu featuring entrees, homemade sandwiches, salads, superb deserts, and of course, their famous fresh bagels made on site. They make approximately 600 bagels a day, the most popular being their "everything bagel". It took Jay four months and some "Divine intervention" (make sure to ask him about it) to figure out a way to make the bagels and another two months of experimentation to perfect them.

J's Deli, One El Paseo, Highway 111, opened their doors in April 2022 after an estimated one million-dollar investment in equipment and remodeling. The result of the 8-month remodeling project is a modern open-kitchen "old school" New York style deli serving breakfast, lunch and dinner daily from 9AM to 8PM.

Jay and Vanessa Rubinstein partnering with Ron and Shelley Tamkin own J's Deli, which is run as a family business. Jay started his career as an actor on Broadway but soon traded the stage for the hospitality industry and through

J's Deli offers full restaurant service including wine and cocktails. You can choose indoor or outdoor seating or just purchase food to go. They also prepare dinner packages for the holidays or special occasions.

Next time you get the urge for a delicious deli sandwich (Reuben, pastrami, corned beef, etc) for lunch or to enjoy a nice dining experience be sure to visit J's Deli in Palm Desert . . . and don't leave without trying their bagel chips and crunchy pickles!

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