



Jewish Community News

The Publication of the Jewish Federation of the Desert

www.jfedps.org

Elul 5783.Tishrei 5784 - September 2023

Event Highlights 2023-2024

October 16, 2023

JBC Eti Elboim:
"The Girl Who Survived Auschwitz"

November 5, 2023

Defiant Requiem

November 8, 2023

JBC Miriam Ruth Black: "Shayna"

November 29, 2023

Cabaret for a Cause

December 3, 2023

Feast of Jewish Learning
JBC 5 authors/6 books

December 11, 2023

Card/Game Day

January 8, 2024

JBC Fayne Frey: "The Skincare Hoax"

January 22, 2024

Lion of Judah Event

February 5, 2024

JBC Omer Bartov:
"The Butterfly and the Axe"

February 7, 2024

Federation Main Event

February 14, 2024

Deborah Applegate:
"Madam: The Biography of Polly Adler,
Icon of the Jazz Age"

March 6, 2024

Sarah Bimbach: "A Daughter's Kaddish"

March 18, 2024

Pomegranate Event

March 26, 2024

Federation Day at Tamarisk

April 3, 2024

Rachel Shteir: "Betty Friedan"

April 14, 2024

All Things Israel

May 5, 2024

Yom HaShoah;
Holocaust Remembrance

Message from the President: Arnie Gillman

My name is Arnie Gillman, and I am the new president to the Jewish Federation of the Desert. I would like to thank Cora Ginsberg, Jackie Cohen, and the outgoing board for their commitment and hard work for the Jewish community.

I am looking forward to working with the new board and our chief executive officer, Alan Potash. Alan and I have been meeting over the summer to plan our agenda for



Arnie Gillman,
President

next year. One of our goals is to develop personal relationships with the community. We also plan to meet the board of directors of the agencies that we support.

My time in the Coachella Valley has inspired me to support programs and people in need. Founding the Jewish Men's Outreach Group of the Desert (JMOGD) proved to me there are people here who need assistance and there are people here who want to provide help in many ways.

The Jewish Federation of the Desert is where I have found an outlet to help make an impact in the community as well. The Federation raises money to support needed efforts both locally and internationally.

Over 70% percent of the funds raised from the annual campaign stays locally here in the Valley. The more we raise the more we make an impact with those funds raised.

As the new President of the Jewish Federation of the Desert I want to build relationship, tell the story of the work the Federation does here in the community and to make the Federation financially sustainable into the future. Please join me in this meaningful and important work.

Please feel free to email me with any questions or to introduce yourself at hag33150@aol.com. Looking forward to a very successful year!

A Rosh Hashanah Message from the CEO



Alan Potash

Jewish Federation
Chief Executive
Officer

As we enter the High Holy Day season, I want to express my gratitude for the incredible year we have just ended. And to ask for forgiveness if I have offended you. As our tradition teaches us, on Yom Kippur we stand together as one. One community. Even though we come from different places, different ways of being Jewish and different backgrounds we stand together as one Jewish Community.

Over the past year I have gotten to know so many people. I also appreciate and understand why the desert is a location so many people come to (minus the summer heat). As I look to the coming year there are many things, I hope we can accomplish as the Federation with your participation.

Our calendar of events is almost finished. As you will see on other pages of this JCN we have a great line up of authors through the Jewish Book Council, the rescheduled Cabaret for A Cause event and many others.

As I mentioned in the last JCN, we will be expanding our weekly eblast and the

JCN into a new digital magazine to further tell the work and the stories of the Jewish community (if you have a story to tell let me know).

One thing I am trying to understand comes from the most frequently asked question I have gotten this year, hold on to your seats, "What is the Jewish population of the desert?" Do you know?

What I know is this, in 2008 the Federation did a comprehensive demographic and needs study which estimated the Jewish population to be about 22,000 people living in 11,500 households across 11 communities of the Coachella Valley. There isn't a clear breakdown of how many people are permanent residents or snowbirds. From an interview Jeff Hocker and I did with Rancho Mirage City Councilman Ted Weill, he estimates that 50% of the residents in Rancho Mirage are permanent residents. According to the 2008 study there were. If you are interested in reading the full 2008 study, you can find it under About Us on the Federation website www.jfedps.org.

As I try and break down the statistical population of our community, I am reminded of the teaching from the Rabbi Hillel, "If I am not for myself who will be for me, if I am only for myself what am I, if not now, when." Why is this teaching important in a population study? First of all, the more people that respond the more data we will have and if we don't do this now I don't think it will be done at all.

One of the components we are working on is cleaning up our databases. Our largest

database is for recipients of this newspaper (the JCN). We mail over 3700 issues of the JCN to household all of the United States and Canada. What we want to learn is of the 3700 households how many are snowbirds here or permanent residents? The other data point is our weekly eblast that goes to over 1600 unique email addresses. We know that on a weekly basis almost 50% of the emails are sent.

What I will be doing over the next several months is determine to the best of my ability what our current numbers are for both the permanent and snowbird populations. The surveys will be anonymous and will provide a great deal of additional information about each household.

On another topic, you should by now or will soon receive a letter from me asking you to support the JCN. If you are a current donor of the Jewish Federation of the Desert, you receive the JCN as part of your support. If you are not a current supporter of the Federation, we would like you to at least think about supporting the JCN so we can continue to publish and mail it to you.

As I close out this High Holy Day greeting, I want to thank you again for your support and involvement in the work we do, and I look forward to a your participation as we make our community and the world a better place.

L'shana Tova, U'metuka

May you have a sweet and healthy New Year,
Alan

everyone
counts
can we count on you?

DONATE

2023-2024 JEWISH FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Arnie Gillman
Vice President/Treasurer, Ron Langus
Secretary, Stephanie Ross
Immediate Past Co-Presidents
Jackie Cohen
Cora Ginsberg
Allocations Chair, Lori Fritz

BOARD:

Sheri Borax Robert Jacobs
Wendy Brooks Barry Kaiman
Barry Fisher Fran Kaufman
Carol Fragen Margie Kulp
Alan Gitlin Dan Weisberg
Bobbi Holland

Alan Potash
Chief Executive Officer

Table of Contents

Vol. 51 • No. 2

Community Calendar	20-21
Federation	1-3, 6, 26, 28
Womans Philanthropy	4
Have A Nosh	23
Holiday Greetings	22, 24-26
Jewish Family Service	16
School Listing	27
Simchas & Classifieds	27
Temples	20
Tributes	18

Exciting Array of JBC Authors Coming This Year

For the second year the Jewish Federation of the Desert in partnership with the Jewish Book Council are excited to share with you the lineup of author presentations. We have a full lineup of

both in person and virtual presentations. Unless otherwise noted all in person presentations will be held in the Jewish Federation building. Most of these books are currently in our library and

can be checked out to read.

Note: A few books/authors will be presented twice, appearing as part of our educational series/Holocaust programing and Women's Philanthropy events.



(VIRTUAL) Eti Elboim will present her book, **"The Girl Who Survived Auschwitz,"** on Monday, October 16, 2023, at 3:00 pm.

(IN PERSON) Miriam Ruth Black will discuss her book **"Shayna"** on Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 10:00 am in the Federation building.

(VIRTUAL) Jonathan Freedland will present his book, **"The Escape Artist"** on Monday, November 13, 2023 at 3:00 pm.

On Sunday, December 3, 2023, we have created a day we are calling a **FEAST OF JEWISH LEARNING** with five IN PERSON author presentations. These authors are some of most interesting and well respected writers today. All presentations will be in our building, starting at 10:00 am.

10:00 am: Andrew Lawler's presentation of **"Under Jerusalem: the Buried History of the World's Most Contested City;"**

1:30 pm Philip Slayton's presentation, **"Antisemitism: An Ancient Hatred in the Age of Identity Politics";**

3:00 pm, Michael Strassfeld's presentation of **"Judaism Disrupted";**

4:30 pm Benjamin Cohen's presentation of **"The Einstein Effect; How the World's Favorite Genius Got into Our Cars, Our Bathrooms, and our Minds;"**

5:30 pm Refreshments, followed by Joel Chasnoff, who will do two presentations, first on his book co-written with Benji Lovett, **"Israel 201,"** then a comedian's look at Israel today (more about Joel and his presentations in future JCNs).

Programming continues in the new year with...

(VIRTUAL) Fayne Frey will present her book, **The Skincare Hoax: How You're Being Tricked into Buy-in Lotions, and Wrinkle Cream"** on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 10:00 am.

(VIRTUAL) Omer Bartov will present his book, **The Butterfly and the Axe"** on Monday, February 5, 2024, at 3:30 pm.

(IN PERSON) Deborah Applegate will present her book, **"Madam: the**

Biography of Polly Adler, Icon of the Jazz Age," on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at 10:00 am.

(VIRTUAL) Sarah Bimbach will present her book, **A Daughter's Kaddish"** on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 10:00 am.

(IN PERSON) Rachel Shteir will present her book, **"Betty Friedan"** on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 10:00 am.

(VIRTUAL) Oren Kessler will present his book, **"Palestine 1936: The Great Revolt and the Roots of the Middle East Conflict"** on Sunday, April 14, 2024, at 10:00 am.

(IN PERSON) Joseph Posnanski will present his book, **"Why we Love Baseball: a History in 50 Moments,"** on Wednesday, April 18 at 12:00 noon.

(IN PERSON) B.A. Van Sise, will speak about his book, **"Invited to Life; Finding Hope After the Holocaust"** as part of our community's Yom HaShoah commemoration on Sunday, May 5, 2024, at 3:00 pm.



Jewish Federation
OF THE DESERT



Jewish Federation 2024 Grant Allocations

By Alberto Tejero, CFO



Nadine Brinhendler, President of Sun City Jewish Services receives check from CEO Alan Potash, with Board Member Barry Fisher.

On August 15, thirteen separate check presentation ceremonies took place to honor the first group of recipients of the Jewish Federation of the Desert's 2024 Allocations. The checks were presented by Alan Potash (CEO) and Arnie Gillman (Jewish Federation President). Board members Stephanie Ross (Secretary), Barry Fisher and Alan Gitlin were also present. The following organizations were awarded:

- Mizell Senior Center
- Har-El
- Jewish Family Center

- Operation Safehouse
- Boys & Girls Club
- Sun City Jewish Services
- Bikur Cholim
- Desert Arc
- Temple Sinai
- Joslyn Senior Center
- Or Hamidbar
- Beth Shalom
- Angel View

The check ceremonies were held at the Jewish Federation's Community Room. Another check ceremony will take place in September to honor the rest of our grant recipients.

Warmest wishes for a year of blessings!

The Jewish Federation of the Desert
Arnie Gillman, President
The Board of Directors
Alan Potash, CEO, & the Federation Staff

A Special Bar Mitzvah Project

On September 30th Max Margolis, a member of Desert Outreach Synagogue, will be fulfilling his special Bar Mitzvah project, which had been postponed due to Covid. Now 16 and beginning his junior year, Max is a high achieving student at Palm Desert High School ... and is passionate about golf. His project: to play 100 holes of golf from 7 AM to dusk to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



Max Margolis

Club in Rancho Mirage, California. Max will play non-stop until he can no longer see the ball due to the light, and while the temperature could easily be 100+ degrees, he is determined to achieve his goal and hopes that he will get the support of the large golfing community plus family and friends to reach his \$20,000 goal. Everyone is welcome to watch as he plays these rounds of golf, and any support will be greatly appreciated.

According to Max, "I'm fundraising for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital to give back to kids who have not been blessed with the good health I have been fortunate to experience so far. This is an opportunity for me to help improve other children's lives. When I was younger, I unfortunately lost a teenage cousin to Leukemia. I watched my cousin fight and suffer for too many years. I feel the least I can do is hold this fundraiser, which can hopefully go towards finding a cure or saving a child's life."

Starting at 7 AM, Max will play up to 100 holes of golf at Mission Hills Country

Sun City Jewish Services Welcomes You!



Sun City Jewish Services is located within the gated community of Sun City Del Webb in Palm Desert, off Washington Street, north of Highway 10. Services are held on the first & third Fridays of the month, beginning again September 1st, and for the holidays. Services are led by Rabbi Dr. Kenneth Emert and Cantorial Soloist Alan Scott.



Membership: \$125 per person and includes High Holiday tickets.

You are invited to join our Selichot Service on Saturday, September 9 in the Oasis Room in the Sunset View Clubhouse at 7:15 pm. Our High Holiday Services will be located in the Sierra Ballroom in the Mountain View Clubhouse. See article for service times. ● Break the fast offered by prior reservation and additional cost.

For more information please contact Nadine Brinhendler: 707-332-3947 ● brinhendlern@gmail.com.



WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY 2023- 2024

Fran Kaufman, Women's Philanthropy Chair, is pleased to give you a glimpse into this year's WP activities that are being planned. Many of our activities with the Jewish Book Council speakers will be open to the entire community.



Wednesday, November 8, 2023, will be the opening meeting of interested women in getting involved in the various activities being planned this year. Miriam Black, one of our Jewish Book Council authors, will join us in person at 10:00 am for a discussion of her latest book "**Shayna**," that is a rich novel steeped in the Yiddish culture of the shtetl and the lower East side of New York in the early 20th century.



Miriam Ruth Black is a storyteller, teacher, lecturer, and therapist and was the winner of a National Book Award in 2022, inspired by her family's history.

Monday, December 11, 2023 - CARD/GAME DAY for our Tzedakah Fund. Details coming shortly.

Monday, January 8, 2024 Dr. Fayne Frey "The Skincare Hoax: How You Are Being Tricked into Buying Lotions, Potions & Wrinkle Cream"

a virtual talk at 10:00 am on having young and healthy skin and pointing out all the beauty industry's mixed messages. She will explore the "Essential"



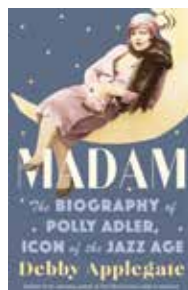
product categories that are entirely unnecessary and will expose how many well-known skincare ingredients have no specific basis and will recommend truly

effective skincare products that are easy and affordable.

Dr. Frey is a New York-based, Ivy league trained Board-certified dermatologist, a national skincare consultant and a nationally recognized expert in the effectiveness and formulation of over-the-counter skin care products. She has consulted numerous media outlets, including NBC, USA Today and Huffington Post.

Monday, January 22, 2024- LION OF JUDAH EVENT, Chaired by Carol Fragen and Margie Kulp.

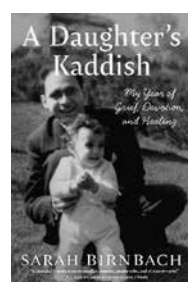
Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 10:00 am, **Deborah Applegate** will present an in person look at "**Madam: The Biography of Polly Adler, Icon of the Jazz Age**," her readable and often jaw dropping story of the life of Polly Adler, a notorious madam who played hostess to every gangster, politician, writer and sports star in the Roaring 20's. As a Jewish immigrant from Eastern Europe, her life was a classic American story success and assimilation.



Applegate holds a Ph.D. from Yale University and her first book, "The Most Famous Man in America; The Biography of Henry Ward Beecher", won the Pulitzer Prize. She researched the Book "Madame" for 13 years.

Wednesday, March 6, 2024- Sarah Birnbach "A Daughter's Kaddish"

will present at 10:00 am. The book: a women's break with Jewish tradition to honor her late father, in this moving memoir of faith, grief and transformation. To honor her father Sarah commits to saying Kaddish twice a day in Synagogue for 11 months as is stipulated by her religion. Birnbach is a motivational



speaker, a management consultant, and a family therapist.

Monday, March 18, 2024- Women's Philanthropy will be hosting our **POMERGRANATE** event for those who contribute \$1,800.00 a year or more to our annual campaign. Stay tuned for more exciting details from Paula Klein, chair of the event.

Wednesday, April 3, 2024 - Rachel Shteir- In Person- **10:00 am.** Shteir's book about the feminist writer and activist Betty Friedan (1921-2006), the pathbreaking author of "The Feminine Mystique", was powerful and polarizing. In this biography Shteir draws on Freidan's papers and on interviews with family, colleagues, friends, and rivals to create a nuanced portrait of her. As a wife and mother, she struggled to balance her work and homemaking. She co-founded the National Organization for Women, fought for the Equal Rights Amendment, universal childcare, and many other workplace protections for mothers. Shteir considers how Freidan's Judaism was essential to her feminism.



Rachel Shteir has authored 3 other books and has written for many magazines and newspapers including "The New York Times" and "The Wall Street Journal". She teaches at DePaul University in Chicago.

Women's Philanthropy will also be participating in our **Fest of Jewish Learning** on Sunday, December 3, 2023, **All Things Israel** on Sunday, April 14, 2024, and **Yom Ha Shoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day**, on Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 3:00 pm. Details will be coming soon!

For any questions or further information contact Leslie Pepper, Director of Women's Philanthropy and Community Engagement at 760-324-4737.

JEWISH COMMUNITY NEWS

A Publication of the
Jewish Federation of the Desert
VOL. 51, No. 2

EDITORIAL

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

JCN STATEMENT

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

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

ARTICLES & ADVERTISING

Miriam H. Bent, Editor
760-323-0255
e-mail: mh bentjcn@earthlink.net

ADVERTISING

The JCN does not endorse the goods or services advertised in its pages and makes no representation as to the kashrut of food products and services in such advertising. The publisher shall not be liable for damages if, for any reason whatsoever, it fails to publish an advertisement or for any error in an advertisement. Acceptance of advertisers and of advertising copy is subject to the publisher's approval.

The JCN is not responsible if ads violate applicable laws and the advertiser will indemnify, hold harmless and defend the JCN from all claims made by government agencies and consumers for any reason based on ads carried in the JCN.

Jewish Federation Holds Forum on Security

At the invitation of the Jewish Federation of the Desert, representatives from most of the Jewish entities in the desert came to the Jewish Federation office on August 8 to hear about current threats to Jewish communities around the country and the security measures undertaken by our local law enforcement to keep us safe on a daily basis and – specifically - in anticipation of the High Holidays.

Alan Potash, Jewish Federation CEO, chaired the discussion and raised



Alan Potash, Sgt. Fred Cryden, Jeffrey Abrams and Lt. Gustavo Araiza

questions for the three panelists: ADL Regional Director (Los Angeles) Jeffrey Abrams, Sgt. Fred Cryden of the Riverside Sheriff's Department, and Lt. Gustavo M. Araiza of the Palm Springs Police Department.

The recent arrest of the man who shot two men leaving synagogue services in Los Angeles, apprehended in Cathedral City, brought home the threat, tempered by learning of the latest law enforcement technologies that led to the arrest.

Jewish Groups Launch Relief Effort for Maui as Island's Jews are Among the Evacuated

By Ron Kampeas, JTA

Jewish groups in the United States and in Hawaii are launching relief efforts following the devastation caused by wildfires which have all but destroyed the town of Lahaina on the island of Maui. Hawaii's Jewish governor, Josh Green, toured the devastation with Brian Schatz, the state's Jewish senator. "What we saw today was likely the largest natural disaster in Hawaii state history," Green said in a statement. "Lahaina Town has been reduced to ashes," he said of the historic area. "It's absolutely heartbreaking. The recovery process will be long, but we're committed to these families and communities."

"It's with much gratitude and humility to share that the Jewish Congregation of Maui and its grounds are safe," the non-denominational synagogue wrote on its website. "However, many in our community have lost their homes, businesses and also a loved one from the devastation of the fires."

Experts say that higher temperatures and reduced rain as the result of climate change have made Hawaii more vulnerable to wildfires, while changes to agriculture in the state have contributed fuel.

There are 2,000 to 3,000 Jews in Maui, eJewishPhilanthropy reported, with two synagogues: the Jewish Congregation of Maui, which was not in the evacuation zone, and Chabad of Maui, which was.

The rabbis of both synagogues told eJewishPhilanthropy and the Forward

that congregants are among those evacuated. Rabbi Mendy Krasnjansky, the Chabad rabbi, told the Forward that volunteers were standing by to reach the synagogue and rescue Torah scrolls, if needed.

The Jewish Federations of North America on August 10 launched a Hawaii Wildfire Fund to bring to the evacuees toiletries, first-aid kits, non-perishable foods, baby supplies and other supplies.

"Not only is support needed in Maui, but people are fleeing to Honolulu where Jewish communal organizations will be working to support those in need," Alisa Bodner, the JFNA spokeswoman, said in an email.

Instead of just finding a place to go for the High Holidays, why not be part of a warm, welcoming and vibrant community for a lifetime?



Rabbi Steven Rosenberg President Mitchel Karp

Temple Isaiah wants to be your forever congregation, where you can find joyful inspiration and deep meaningful learning in an accepting and loving environment, where the opportunity for sacred and communal connections abound.

TEMPLE ISAIAH

332 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262
760-325-2281 • Email temple@templeisaiiahps.com
Website: templeisaiiahps.com



Palm Springs' iconic synagogue, proudly serving the Coachella Valley for 75 years.

Community Holocaust Programming 2023-2024

Stephanie Ross and Dr. Gary Levin are chairing our Holocaust programming this season. We are partnering with Jewish Family Service of the Desert on several events, with a special focus on our community's **Second Generation/Children of Survivors**.



Stephanie Ross



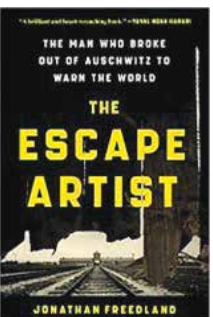
Dr. Gary Levin

Five of the books being presented through the Jewish Book Council (see page 2) are Holocaust related, and these books and their presenting authors will bring a unique perspective to our Holocaust programming this year.

• OCTOBER 16, 2023 – 3:00 pm: Virtual presentation: **Eti Elboim - "The Girl Who Survived Auschwitz."** This is the powerful true story of Sara Leibovits and the incredible pain and hardships she went through during her time in the death camp. Yet despite the horrors she faced, she always tried to maintain her family's values of courage, faith, and kindness to others. In this compelling memoir, Sara's story is intertwined with that of her daughter, Eti. Seventy years after the horrors of the Holocaust, Eti reveals the inherited trauma of the second generation and completes the Holocaust survivor's tale.



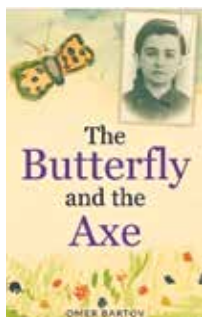
• NOVEMBER 13, 2023 – 3:00 pm: Virtual presentation: **Jonathan Freedland - "The Escape Artist."** Winner of the National Jewish Book Award - New York Times Bestseller "A brilliant and heart-wrenching book, with universal and timely lessons about the power of information--and misinformation. Award-winning



journalist and bestselling novelist Jonathan Freedland tells the astonishing true story of Rudolf Vrba, the man who broke out of Auschwitz to warn the world of a truth too few were willing to hear. In April 1944, Rudolf Vrba became one of the very first Jews to escape from Auschwitz and make his way to freedom--among only a tiny handful who ever pulled off that near-impossible feat. He did it to reveal the truth of the death camp to the world--and to warn the last Jews of Europe what fate awaited them. Against all odds, Vrba and his fellow escapee, Fred Wetzler, climbed mountains, crossed rivers, and narrowly missed German bullets until they had smuggled out the first full account of Auschwitz the world had ever seen--a forensically detailed report that eventually reached Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, and the Pope. And yet too few heeded the warning that Vrba had risked everything to deliver. Though Vrba helped save two hundred thousand Jewish lives, he never stopped believing it could have been so many more. This is the story of a brilliant yet troubled man--a gifted "escape artist" who, even as a teenager, understood that the difference between truth and lies can be the difference between life and death. Rudolf Vrba deserves to take his place alongside Anne Frank, Oskar Schindler, and Primo Levi as one of the handful of individuals whose stories define our understanding of the Holocaust.

Freedland is a columnist for The Guardian in London and presents BBC Radio in a contemporary history series, the long view. The Escape Artist is a 2023 National Jewish book Award Winner for biography and Holocaust.

• FEBRUARY 5, 2024 - 3:00 pm: Virtual presentation: **Omer Bartov - "The Butterfly and the Axe."** Spring 1944. A Jewish family is murdered in a remote Ukrainian village. Who were they? Who were the killers? Three generations later, an Israeli woman and a British man of Ukrainian origins set out to find out how their families were implicated in this crime. They also discover how this untold murder has warped their own

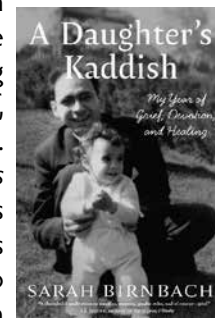


lives. Narrated by an unnamed historian, and based on fragments of memories, testimonies, diaries, letters and confessions, this novel seeks to fill a gap in the historical record of the Holocaust by reimagining those who were murdered and erased from memory, and to shed light on the transgenerational effects of trauma.

Omer Bartov was born in Israel and teaches history in the United States. His mother emigrated from Galicia to Palestine before World War II. Most of the rest of his family were murdered under unknown circumstances in the Holocaust.

Omar Bartov is a Holocaust historian and author of the acclaimed study Anatomy of Genocide, winner of the National Jewish Book Award. He was born in Israel and teaches History at brown University.

• MARCH 6, 2024 10:00 am: Virtual presentation: **Sarah Birnbach "A Daughter's Kaddish."** A woman breaks with Jewish tradition to honor her late father in this moving memoir of faith, grief, and transformation. *A Daughter's Kaddish* recounts Sarah Birnbach's year-long odyssey to persevere through an unfamiliar world of Jewish prayer and chart a course without a road map. A novice worshipper and single working mother, Sarah encountered many obstacles—including vehement objections to her recitation of the Mourner's Kaddish because of her gender, her own daughter's near-fatal car accident, an incident that tore her synagogue apart, and her mother's hostility and dismissiveness.

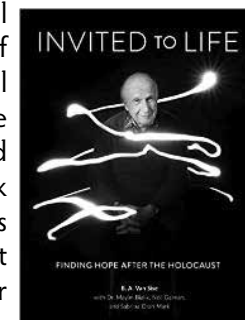


To honor her beloved father, Sarah commits to saying Kaddish twice a day in synagogue for eleven months, as is stipulated by her religion. Sarah attempts to incorporate these new religious and spiritual practices into her already hectic twenty-first-century life while struggling with the heavy emotional distress of grief. As she travels the country for work, Sarah must find a synagogue where she can pray in each city and town she visits, a challenge that brings many surprises—and upsets. Throughout her

year of devotion, Sarah takes comfort in the loving memories of her childhood while at the same time grappling with some very painful ones—ultimately discovering how the path of faith and grief can lead to true healing.

Birnbach is a motivational speaker, a management consultant, and a family therapist.

• The author of the fifth book will be part of our community's 2024 Yom HaShoah program on SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024, at 3:00 pm at the University of California Riverside/Palm Desert Campus auditorium. Appearing in person, **B.A. Van Sise** will give a presentation on his book, **"Invited to Life - Finding Hope After the Holocaust."** The book is a moving and joyful celebration of not only survival but also resilience and joy, expressed through 90 black and white portraits of Holocaust survivors and their families.



Van Sise, an award-winning 20-year veteran photojournalist spent four years working with Holocaust Museums to capture these images and textual vignettes. He is an author and photographic artist focused on the intersection between language and visual image. He has been featured in solo exhibitions at the center for creative Photography, the Center for Jewish History, and the Museum of Jewish heritage, as well as exhibitions at the Peabody Essex Museum, The Museum of Photographic Art, and the Smithsonian National portrait gallery.

In addition, our Yom HaShoah observance will include a Braid recorded program entitled **Remembrance of Things Present - On Stage in NYC** (recorded April 20, 2023). Braid created the moving theatrical performance "Stories from the Violins of Hope" presented at our community's January 2023 Yom HaShoah observance.

Also, as in past years, we will be promoting an Art and Poetry contest for all students in the Coachella Valley's three school districts, home schooled and private schooled children.

Simone Biles Performs to Israeli Star Noa Kirel's 'Unicorn' in Her Triumphant Gymnastics Return After Two-Year Hiatus

By Shiryn Ghermezian, *The Algemeiner*

Simone Biles made a triumphant return to competitive gymnastics on August 5, 2023, by winning the gold medal in women's all-around at the 2023 Core Hydration Classic after performing her floor exercise to the music of Noa Kirel's *Unicorn*, the song that represented Israel at this year's Eurovision Song Contest.

The four-time Olympic gold medalist, 26, dominated the Core Hydration Classic in Chicago, Illinois, having the best score in three of the four events — balance beam, floor exercise and vault. She came in third place in the uneven bars category.

Kirel performed *Unicorn* in May at the 2023 Eurovision Song Contest where she



Simone Biles

came in third place, which was Israel's best finish in the competition since 2018, when singer Netta Barzilai won the contest with



Noa Kirel

her song *Toy*. Kirel told Israeli media she was "so excited and shocked" that Biles chose *Unicorn* to perform to during her

comeback to gymnastics after a two-year hiatus.

"There is no doubt that she made history and she is amazing and that moved me so much," the Israeli singer said, referring to Biles. "She represents exactly the values that this song represents, and it's one of the craziest things that's happened to me. And how fun it is that she chose this song, my song, and really everything connects with everything she represents and shows to the world. It's fun to have such female power."

Noa Kirel's next scheduled show will be at New York's Madison Square Garden on June 30, 2024.

Bereavement Group Forms at Temple Sinai

A bereavement group is forming, meeting at Temple Sinai Thursday mornings at 10:00 AM. The group is facilitated by licensed clinical social worker Harriet Rossetto, best known as a founder of Beit T'shuvah, a Jewish recovery community in Los Angeles.

It is not necessary to be a Temple Sinai

congregant to participate in the group. Anyone who has suffered the pain of loss is welcome, whether the loss be of a spouse, job, pet, or something else that may have been important in one's life.

Harriet Rossetto, along with friends and benefactors, opened Beit T'shuvah in the

1980's, and has helped thousands through the years to break out of drug addiction and the prison revolving door. She and her husband, Rabbi Mark Borovitz are the subjects of the film "The Jewish Jail Lady and the Holy Thief", which chronologizes their story and that of the organization they built. The two have

since retired to the desert and are working to involve themselves in the community.

There is no charge to attend the group, but donations are gratefully accepted.

For more information, email Toni Robinson at Temple Sinai: trobenson@templesinaipd.org

Where Jewish Life Blooms in the Desert

Temple Sinai Palm Desert ☆ High Holy Days 5784

Rabbi David Novak and Cantorial Soloist Wayne Abravanel

<p>Erev Rosh Hashanah: Friday, September 15 7:00 PM Oneg following</p>	<p>Rosh Hashanah Morning: Saturday, September 16 10:00 AM</p>
<p>Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre: Sunday, September 24 7:00 PM Yom Kippur Day: Monday, September 25 10:00 AM Healing Service & 12-Step Service During the Break Afternoon Service/Yizkor: 4:00 PM. Break-the-Fast following.</p>	

Everyone can be a part of Temple Sinai. Our dues schedule is only a guide, we'll work with you.

We welcome all community members to come join us. We also welcome children of non-congregants in our religious school.

To inquire about High Holy Day tickets, please email Toni Robinson at trobenson@templesinaipd.org

Never Feel Alone': Israel on Campus Coalition Hosts Student Conference Amidst Changing Climate for Zionist Students

By Dion J. Pierre, *The Algemeiner*

Over 400 Jewish and non-Jewish Zionist student leaders packed the Capitol Hilton in Washington DC the first week in August to attend Israel on Campus Coalition's (ICC) National Leadership Summit, a three day conference for reflecting on the triumphs of the pro-Israel movement on college campuses as well as the challenges it faces going forward.

As *The Algemeiner* has previously reported, such challenges are immense, ranging from the expulsion of Jewish students from school clubs to outright bans on Zionist speakers and more outward expressions of hatred, including the graffitiing of swastikas on or near Jewish institutions and adoption of the boycott, divestment, sanctions (BDS) movement. Within this context, ICC last year began holding an annual summit to create a space for pro-Israel students to share strategies, experiences, and contacts, and in the process forge an association of common goals spanning across the country.

Founded in 2002, the Israel on Campus Coalition is a nonprofit organization that describes its mission as inspiring college students to defend and be proud of Israel. One of its major initiatives is the "microgrants" programs, which helps pro-Israel campus groups organize events about Israeli culture and society. Another, the ICC Community Impact Fellowship, awards college students a \$1,000 stipend for completing a leadership seminar in which they are trained in civic engagement, coalition building, and rapidly responding to antisemitic and anti-Israel events on their campuses.

This year's leadership summit was, ICC chief executive officer Jacob Baime told *The Algemeiner* during an interview on Monday, the largest its history.

"We went in three years from 50 students to 400," Baime said. "Last summer, we had 200 attending, so it's an escalation reflecting that challenges are growing and there's a real thirst on the part of pro-Israel students across the country for community and camaraderie. While the conference does have some tangible goals, such as teaching students how to elect student government



Marty Geller, Lauren Schor Geller, Talia Segal, Issac Litchman, Morgan Ames, and Keron Campbell pictured during Israel on Campus Coalition's National Leadership Summit in Washington DC on August 8, 2023.

officials, how to build strong and diverse coalitions on campus, and respond to antisemitic and anti-Israel activity on campus—if you take a step back the larger purpose is ensuring that they never feel alone but part of a national network for the next generation."

Baime added that ICC's efforts address the importance of the college campus as a "critical" theater in the "battle in the information space" between pro-Zionists and anti-Zionists. College campuses, he explained, are receiving large investments from anti-Zionist groups hoping to transport their message from the classroom to the halls of Congress, newsrooms, social media, and corporate America. Parallel to these developments are changes in communication and technology that have made so-called "organic" grassroots methods of organization obsolete, ushering in a new era of "well funded, professional anti-Israel organizations that are pouring sophisticated political resources onto our campuses."

It's a mistake, he continued, to believe that modern political movements emerge spontaneously and fully-formed. Fostering interest and commitment is, he added, imperative, and social media is optimal for doing so. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the "digisphere" became the forum for anti-Israel students, who flocked to student government meetings held on Zoom to lobby for the boycott, divestment, sanctions (BDS)

movement and resolutions condemning Israel's existence. Since then, "the pro-Israel space, ICC included, has caught up, transitioning more fully to a digital-first world."

"It's really difficult to separate the campus conversation on Israel from the broader conversation because it is what is driving discussions on Instagram, TikTok, and SnapChat, making it crucial to provide students with campus specific support," Baime said. "Our adversaries are really smart and savvy. Communicating with our students online and then bringing them together for events like this conference, where we share with them the latest digital resources, is of the highest value."

The strength of this year's conference is proof that the Zionist movement on college campuses remains formidable, students told *The Algemeiner*.

"The pro-Israel community is resilient because we fought so hard for Israel to exist in the first place, so there's absolutely no way that we would allow anybody to wipe out its existence," said University of California-Santa Barbara rising senior Tessa Veksler, who is the first Shabbat-observant to lead the school's student government. "We have constantly had to fight for our right to exist in this world and defend ourselves, and we've seen what happens if we don't prevail. We are very determined. We are not willing to lose the battle of ideas to people who are just really loud."

The leadership summit also showcased the pro-Israel movement's growing racial diversity, with dozens of Black students representing Historically Black Colleges and Universities attending it and speaking on panels about their efforts to be ambassadors of ICC on their campuses.

Keron Campbell, a recent graduate of Morehouse College who is Catholic and was adamant that he is not politically conservative, told *The Algemeiner* that Israel is central to his identity too. Expressing that has sometimes triggered criticism from his peer group and community, but, he said, he is steadfast in his opposition to antisemitism, which, he noted, includes holding Israel to a double standard.

"One thing I noticed growing up is that the media was so biased towards Israel, and it clicked in my head that it was so one-sided, and I wondered what is the root of that," Campbell explained. "I started to figure out that it was antisemitism driving the narrative. How sharply Israel was criticized stood out, and it seemed curious that other countries committing obvious violations of human rights were barely mentioned."

He added, "The fact that Israel is a country receiving so much flack for being Jewish — being proud of it — causes me so much concern, and I just think that anyone who believes in basic human rights but can't extend those beliefs to Israel is being unfair and hateful."

An ICC spokesperson told *The Algemeiner* that the group's programming will continue improving and expanding, stretching beyond the borders of the US. In January, it will send a cohort of 40 Jewish and non-Jewish students participating in its Geller International Fellowship to the United Arab Emirates, a trip that is aimed showing students first hand how the relationship between that country and Israel has evolved since they normalized relations with the signing of the 2020 Abraham Accords.

Over 400 Jewish and non-Jewish Zionist student leaders packed the Capitol Hilton in Washington DC this week to attend Israel on Campus Coalition's (ICC) National Leadership Summit, a three day conference for reflecting on the triumphs

of the pro-Israel movement on college campuses as well as the challenges it faces going forward.

As *The Algemeiner* has previously reported, such challenges are immense, ranging from the expulsion of Jewish students from school clubs to outright bans on Zionists speakers and more outward expressions of hatred, including the graffitiiing of swastikas on or near Jewish institutions and adoption of the boycott, divestment, sanctions (BDS) movement. Within this context, ICC last year began holding an annual summit to create a space for pro-Israel students to share strategies, experiences, and contacts, and in the process forge an association of common goals spanning across the country.

Founded in 2002, the Israel on Campus Coalition is a nonprofit organization that describes its mission as inspiring college students to defend and be proud of Israel. One of its major initiatives is the “microgrants” programs, which helps pro-Israel campus groups organize events about Israeli culture and society. Another, the ICC Community Impact Fellowship, awards college students a \$1,000 stipend for completing a leadership seminar in which they are trained in civic engagement, coalition building, and rapidly responding to antisemitic and anti-Israel events on their campuses.

This year’s leadership summit was, ICC chief executive officer Jacob Baime told *The Algemeiner* during an interview on Monday, the largest its history.

“We went in three years from 50 students to 400,” Baime said. “Last summer, we had 200 attending, so it’s an escalation reflecting that challenges are growing

and there’s a real thirst on the part of pro-Israel students across the country for community and camaraderie. While the conference does have some tangible goals, such as teaching students how to elect student government officials, how to build strong and diverse coalitions on campus, and respond to antisemitic and anti-Israel activity on campus—if you take a step back the larger purpose is ensuring that they never feel alone but part of a national network for the next generation.”

Baime added that ICC’s efforts address the importance of the college campus as a “critical” theater in the “battle in the information space” between pro-Zionists and anti-Zionists. College campuses, he explained, are receiving large investments from anti-Zionist groups hoping to transport their message from the classroom to the halls of Congress, newsrooms, social media, and corporate America. Parallel to these developments are changes in communication and technology that have made so-called “organic” grassroots methods of organization obsolete, ushering in a new era of “well funded, professional anti-Israel organizations that are pouring sophisticated political resources onto our campuses.”

It’s a mistake, he continued, to believe that modern political movements emerge spontaneously and fully-formed. Fostering interest and commitment is, he added, imperative, and social media is optimal for doing so. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the “digisphere” became the forum for anti-Israel students, who flocked to student government meetings held on Zoom to lobby for the boycott, divestment, sanctions (BDS) movement and resolutions condemning Israel’s

existence. Since then, “the pro-Israel space, ICC included, has caught up, transitioning more fully to a digital-first world.”

“It’s really difficult to separate the campus conversation on Israel from the broader conversation because it is what is driving discussions on Instagram, TikTok, and SnapChat, making it crucial to provide students with campus specific support,” Baime said. “Our adversaries are really smart and savvy. Communicating with our students online and then bringing them together for events like this conference, where we share with them the latest digital resources, is of the highest value.”

The strength of this year’s conference is proof that the Zionist movement on college campuses remains formidable, students told *The Algemeiner*.

“The pro-Israel community is resilient because we fought so hard for Israel to exist in the first place, so there’s absolutely no way that we would allow anybody to wipe out its existence,” said University of California-Santa Barbara rising senior Tessa Veksler, who is the first Shabbat-observant to lead the school’s student government. “We have constantly had to fight for our right to exist in this world and defend ourselves, and we’ve seen what happens if we don’t prevail. We are very determined. We are not willing to lose the battle of ideas to people who are just really loud.”

The leadership summit also showcased the pro-Israel movement’s growing racial diversity, with dozens of Black students representing Historically Black Colleges and Universities attending it and speaking on panels about their efforts to be ambassadors of ICC on their campuses.

Keron Campbell, a recent graduate

of Morehouse College who is Catholic and was adamant that he is not politically conservative, told *The Algemeiner* that Israel is central to his identity too. Expressing that has sometimes triggered criticism from his peer group and community, but, he said, he is steadfast in his opposition to antisemitism, which, he noted, includes holding Israel to a double standard.

“One thing I noticed growing up is that the media was so biased towards Israel, and it clicked in my head that it was so one-sided, and I wondered what is the root of that,” Campbell explained. “I started to figure out that it was antisemitism driving the narrative. How sharply Israel was criticized stood out, and it seemed curious that other countries committing obvious violations of human rights were barely mentioned.”

He added, “The fact that Israel is a country receiving so much flack for being Jewish — being proud of it — causes me so much concern, and I just think that anyone who believes in basic human rights but can’t extend those beliefs to Israel is being unfair and hateful.”

An ICC spokesperson told *The Algemeiner* that the group’s programming will continue improving and expanding, stretching beyond the borders of the US. In January, it will send a cohort of 40 Jewish and non-Jewish students participating in its Geller International Fellowship to the United Arab Emirates, a trip that is aimed showing students first hand how the relationship between that country and Israel has evolved since they normalized relations with the signing of the 2020 Abraham Accords.

French Interior Minister Orders Dissolution of Catholic Association Over ‘Antisemitic’ Speech

By Ben Cohen, *The Algemeiner*

France’s Interior Minister on Monday announced the dissolution of a traditionalist Catholic association after one of its leaders called for Jews to be stripped of their political and civil rights.

“Antisemitism has no place in our country,” French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin tweeted. “I strongly condemn these ignominious remarks and direct them the Public Prosecutor.”

Darmanin added that he had issued instructions for “the dissolution of

Civitas,” the name of the association.

Darmanin was responding to a speech delivered to a Civitas meeting in the town of Pontmain on July 30 by Pierre Hillard, an essayist. Hillard argued that the situation of Jews in France prior to the French revolution of 1789 — when



French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin

they had no legal rights — should be restored.

“The naturalization of the Jews in September 1791 opens the door to immigration,” Hillard stated. “If we restore the laws of Catholicity and [make] traditional Catholicism a state religion, perhaps we should return to the situation before 1789.”

Demands for the dissolution of Civitas were voiced by several Jewish and anti-racist organizations, including the Union of Jewish Students in France

(UEJF) and the International League Against Racism and Antisemitism (LICRA).

Civitas was formed in 1999, when it split from a bigger Catholic traditionalist organization founded by Jean Ousset, an ideologist who collaborated with the pro-Nazi Vichy regime in France during World War II. The group advocates an “integralist” approach which holds that the Catholic faith should be the basis of a country’s law and public policy.

Canberra to Resume Use of Term 'Occupied Palestinian Territories'

By Jewish News Syndicate

Australia's Labor government will resume the use of the term "occupied Palestinian territories" in reference to eastern Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, reversing an unofficial policy stance that had been in place for almost 10 years.

"In adopting the term, we are clarifying that the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and Gaza [sic], were occupied by Israel following the 1967 war and that the occupation continues," Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong told lawmakers on August 8, *The Guardian* reported.

"[The move] reaffirms our commitment to negotiate a two-state solution in which Israel and a future Palestinian state coexist," said Wong, adding that Canberra had engaged with the Israeli ambassador on the issue as Australia remains "a committed friend of Israel."

Australia's top diplomat furthermore said the government would strengthen its opposition to Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria, calling them "illegal under international law and a significant obstacle to peace."

Sources cited by the *Guardian* said

ministers had broadly refrained from using the term "occupied" or "occupation" since 2014, beginning under the leadership of Prime Minister Tony Abbott (2013-15), once named a top Christian ally of the Jewish state.

"The description of East[ern] Jerusalem as 'occupied' East Jerusalem is a term freighted with pejorative implications, which is neither appropriate nor useful," then-Attorney General George Brandis said at the time.

The Palestinian Authority welcomed Tuesday's policy shift, calling it a "significant and important development in the Australian position," but said Canberra should go even further and "recognize the state of Palestine swiftly, in accordance with international law and international legitimacy."

The Zionist Federation of Australia and the Executive Council of Australian Jewry in a joint statement slammed the move as "inaccurate, ahistorical and counterproductive."

Canberra's decision "effectively denies any Jewish claim to the West Bank [known by its biblical names Judea and Samaria]

and Jerusalem. The most important Jewish holy sites of the Temple Mount and the Western Wall are in [eastern] Jerusalem, and there has been an unbroken Jewish presence in the West Bank for thousands of years," the two organizations said.

"The foreign minister has previously stated that Australia should not preempt the outcome of final-status issues. It is regrettable that the government has now done that," added the statement.

@ECAJewry and the @ZionistFedAus deeply concerned by the Government's statement and change in language about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. "The change in language is inaccurate, ahistorical and counterproductive."

Canberra's announcement came on top of earlier anti-Israel policy changes.

In October, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's Cabinet revoked the country's recognition of western Jerusalem as Israel's capital, walking back language adopted by former Liberal Party Prime Minister Scott Morrison.

Then-Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid described Canberra's announcement

as a "wretched move" during a meeting with the Australian ambassador to Israel, who had been summoned to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem for a diplomatic dressing-down.

In addition, two months ago, the Labor Party's branch in Victoria, the country's second-most-populous state, passed a resolution calling on the federal government to "move immediately to recognize Palestine."

"For some time now, there has been a sector of the Labor Party trying to push it away from its historic and principled support for the Jewish national home and social democratic principles and to turn it into a hard-left Corbynist party," Alex Ryvchin, co-chief executive officer of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, commented at the time.

"Ultimately, Labor will need to determine its course and live with the consequences. The Jewish community will not stand by and accept policies that pander to those who want to see Israel disappear, and we believe the vast majority of Australians are with us," said Ryvchin.

Hadassah Honors Nancy Singer at Woman of Valor Luncheon October 29

Sabra Hadassah of the Desert is honoring its long-time Treasurer and now Finance Vice President Nancy Singer at its Woman of Valor

Luncheon on Sunday, October 29, 2023, at Mission Hill Country Club in Rancho Mirage. Proceeds from the event benefit Hadassah's "360

Degrees of Healing" Campaign.

Tickets to the event are \$75 a person. In addition, six levels of Sponsorship opportunities are

being offered to honor Nancy and in support of Hadassah's lifesaving work. WOMAN OF VALOR is \$1800 and includes eight premier seats and a full screen ad in the video tribute journal. GOLD CIRCLE is \$1000 and includes six seats for the lunch, plus full screen ad. SILVER CIRCLE is \$500 and includes four seats for the lunch and full screen ad. BRONZE CIRCLE is \$360, includes two seats for the lunch and half screen ad. CHAI CIRCLE is \$180 and includes one seat for the lunch and quarter screen ad. FRIENDS OF NANCY is \$54 and name is listed in the video tribute journal.

Checks, payable to "Hadassah" should be mailed to Hadassah, 38180 Del Webb Blvd, PMB #315, Palm Desert, CA 92211. It is requested that Sponsorships be mailed by Thursday, October 5th and Ticket purchases by Sunday, October 15th. Please call Debbie Orgen with any questions: 760-289-7987. See ad on this page.

Sabra Hadassah of the Desert invites you to

Woman of Valor Luncheon

Honoring and Celebrating Nancy Singer

Sunday, October 29, 2023 at 11:30 AM
Mission Hills Country Club, Rancho Mirage

Tickets: \$75

Sponsorship Opportunities offered. See article for options.
Mail checks to "Hadassah" 38180 Del Webb Blvd, PMB 315, Palm Desert CA 92211

Chairs: Roni Spetalnick & Debbie Orgen
Fundraising Vice President: Carol Gross

HADASSAH
Southern California

ADL and Major Jewish Groups in 7 Countries Team Up to Fight Antisemitism Together

By Ben Sales, JTA

Large Jewish organizations in seven countries outside of Israel have formed a task force to collaborate on fighting antisemitism.

The task force, nicknamed the "J7", includes representatives from the United States, France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Canada, Argentina and Australia.

According to multiple recent estimates, those countries have the largest populations of Jews outside of Israel, excluding Russia, which was not included in the task force. Israel will also not have an official representative on the task force, though many if not all of the participating groups see combating anti-Zionism as part of their mandate.

"Antisemitism is rising around the world, especially in countries where there are large Jewish populations," Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO of the Anti-Defamation League, which is one of the group's members, said in a statement. "And threats to our communities are not contained by continents and borders."

The task force's activities will include



Police officers stand guard outside the European Jewish Center during its inauguration in Paris, October 29, 2019.

consultations between the member organizations' leaders, as well as the formation of working groups to address a range of issues, including tech policy, education, security and extremism, among others. The groups plan to meet at an ADL conference next year, in addition to holding virtual meetings.

The task force is not the first time Jewish organizations and activists have coordinated across borders.

Several groups — including the World Jewish Congress, the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency for Israel — have offices and staff in countries around the world, promoting connections to Israel, Jewish education, advocacy against antisemitism or other causes.

And Jewish groups have been coming together across borders to fight antisemitism for at least two

decades. As attacks against U.S. Jews have increased, some Jewish security specialists here have considered the approach of European Jewish security organizations as a model.

The groups in the new task force have also collaborated previously. The ADL regularly surveys antisemitic attitudes in countries around the world, and partnered with the Board of Deputies of British Jews last year on an initiative to educate students about Jews and antisemitism. The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, the task force's Canadian member, has also partnered with other task force members including the ADL, the Board of Deputies, the French Jewish umbrella group CRIF and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

The task force will also include the Central Council of Jews in Germany, the Executive Council of Australian Jewry and the DAIA, an Argentinian Jewish umbrella group.

Israel, India Launch Watertech Startup Program

Israel's Embassy in India will collaborate with a business accelerator based in Gurugram to help Indian startups with tech validation, market access and fundraising.

By Pesach Benson, JNS

In an effort to help Indian startups meet their country's water challenges, Israel and India recently launched a program aiming to empower Indian watertech startups.

The Israeli Embassy in India will collaborate with The Circle: Founders Club, a business accelerator based in Gurugram and backed by Hunch Ventures, to help Indian startups get tech validation, commercialization, market access and fundraising.

Selected founders will also be part of a comprehensive accelerator program that includes mentorship and networking opportunities from both Indian and Israeli specialists in water technology.

The program was officially launched with the signing on August 3 of a Memorandum of Understanding between Israeli Ambassador Naor Gilon and Karanpal Singh, founder of Hunch Ventures and The Circle.

India faces significant water issues arising from a combination of factors, including population growth, urbanization, industrialization, agricultural demands, climate change and inadequate water management practices. These challenges have far-reaching implications for the country's economy, environment and public health.

"Israel is the global leader in water technologies, and given India's large population we are thrilled to work together towards sustainability and water security. Through this collaboration we will bring leading technologies to work with Indian companies to find domestic solutions," said Singh.

Spearheading the initiative will be Doron Gidony, the embassy's innovation attaché, together with Nemesisa Ujjain, Circle FC's Vice President for Innovation.

"By incorporating expertise from



Israeli Ambassador to India Naor Gilon (center) and Israeli and Indian officials celebrate the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to help India's watertech startups on August 3, 2023, in Gurugram.

both Israel and India, we aim to address critical water challenges of our time," said Ambassador Gilon. "This initiative holds the potential to drive positive change, fostering sustainable solutions and shaping a brighter, water-secure future. Together, Israel and India are poised to lead the charge towards a more water-secure world."

LEXUS
EXPERIENCE AMAZING

**SHOTTENKIRK
DESERT LEXUS**



Let Us Earn Your Business

- Under New Ownership
- Over 300 Lexus Vehicles To Choose From
- A Pleasant And Convenient Shopping Experience

68-068 Kyle Rd. Cathedral City,
CA 92234
In The Cathedral City Auto Center
(760) 321-5750 • desertlexus.com

Michigan State Senator Apologizes for Visiting Israel

Sylvia Santana's recent trip stirred anger among her Arab Muslim constituents.

By Jewish News Syndicate

A state senator in Michigan has apologized to her Arab and Muslim constituents for a recent visit to Israel with fellow Lansing lawmakers.

Sylvia Santana, whose district includes part of Detroit as well as Dearborn and Dearborn Heights with a high concentration of Arab Muslims, posted

the apology to social media.

"I recognize my presence on this trip has sparked anger and disappointment by many in the Arab/Muslim community," Santana wrote.

"For this I truly apologize, seek your forgiveness and hope that you will understand that I had no malicious



State Senator Sylvia Santana at constituent event

intent. There is no perfect combination of words that I can offer that truly reflects the feelings in my heart. My only goal was to learn about this region of our world and to improve my understanding of matters related to Michigan."

Santana described the visit as an "annual trip offered to state lawmakers to learn more about Michigan's relationship with Israel."

An official with the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, David Kurzmann, confirmed in a statement to

the *Detroit Free Press* that the federation facilitated the trip for several lawmakers.

Osama Siblani, publisher and editor-in-chief of the Dearborn-based *Arab American News*, said in a Facebook post that the trip took place at the end of July. He reported that a meet-and-greet at the Arab American-owned Custard Company in Dearborn on August 7 was canceled after the trip became known.

"The news about Santana's visit to Israel shocked and angered the Arab American community, to say the least," Siblani wrote. "Santana's visit constitutes a slap in the face to the Arab American community who has been supportive and respectful to the Senator."

Santana's district overlaps with that of Democratic Rep. Rashida Tlaib, who has continued to come under fire for antisemitic and anti-Israel rhetoric, including recently speaking at an art show in Detroit advocating Israel's destruction.

US Okays \$3.5 Billion Sale of Israel's Arrow 3 System to Germany

The defense deal is Israel's largest ever.

By Jewish News Syndicate



The United States has approved Israel's sale of the Arrow 3 missile defense system to Germany, the Israeli Defense Ministry announced on August 17.

The \$3.5 billion military contract is Jerusalem's largest ever. Berlin wants the system, which is capable of intercepting exo-atmospheric ballistic threats, to defend against the threat of Russian missiles.

"The U.S. government's approval

of the delivery... is an expression of confidence in the excellent capabilities of Israel's defense industries. This is a significant decision, which will contribute to Israel's force buildup and economy," said Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant in a statement August 17.

The Arrow 3 was jointly developed by the Israeli Missile Defense Organization and the U.S. Missile Defense Agency, and is manufactured by Israel Aerospace Industries.

News Flash.... Read All About It Here....

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT THE HIGH HOLY DAYS?

Why?

YOU ARE INVITED AS A GUEST TO ENJOY COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS TO HAR-EL HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES.

Who?

Har-El, Member Union for Reform Judaism, welcomes you to all High Holy Day Services.

How?

EMAIL harelurjpd@gmail.com. You will receive a reservation confirmation and all the information. For security RSVP is required.

Why now?

Making plans early can make everything easier.

When?

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE FOLLOWING SERVICES AND REPLY AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE:

Erev Rosh HaShanah • Friday, September 15, 2023

Rosh HaShanah • Saturday, September 16, 2023

Erev Yom Kippur - Kol Nidre • Sunday, September 24, 2023

Yom Kippur • Monday, September 25, 2023

Shabbat of Sukkot • Friday, September 29, 2023:

Outdoor service followed by reception



Rabbi Richard A. Zions

Spiritual Leader and Founding Rabbi Har-El. University of Pittsburgh, Phi Beta Kappa; Ordained HUC, Cincinnati, OH - M.A.H.L. & D.D., Penn State University, Ph.D.. Served Member Congregations URJ. Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies in Colleges and Universities in California and Pennsylvania.



Cantor Joseph Gole

Cantor, Har-El Congregation. D.Mus (hon.caus.) Jewish Theological Seminary of America. Cantor Emeritus, Sinai Temple, Los Angeles. Served as Cantor, Mogen David Congregation, West Los Angeles. Past President, Cantors Assembly. Performed at Carnegie Hall, New York's Central Park; Warsaw Opera House, Rykestrasse Synagogue of Berlin. Featured in Film "100 Voices — A Journey Home"— Cantors Assembly Mission to Poland.



Phillip Smith

Guest Organist, Har-El Congregation. Master of Music Degree, MM, in Organ and Choral Work, University of Michigan, 1987. Conservator of the Organ, Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles, 2004 - 2021; Stephen Wise Temple, Los Angeles, High Holy Days Organist/Pianist; Temple Israel of Hollywood; Organist and Choir Director, Temple Judea, Tarzana, Organist and Choir Director.

HAR-EL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Barry Messinger, President

Emily Borns, Andy Gladstein, Fran Kaufman, Jeff Molever, Steve Moyer, Sherry Schor, Molly Thorpe, Samuel Trussell, Judy Wallis, Rosa Weinstein & Helene Galen (Hon.)



Phone: 760-779-1691 • Email: harelurjpd@gmail.com • Website: harelurjpd.org
Address: Har-El c/o L. Zions, 106 Piazza Perrone, Palm Desert, CA 92260

Israeli Women Claim Gold, Silver Medals at Windsurfing World Championships

By Michael Horovitz, *The Times of Israel*

Israeli windsurfers claimed the gold and silver medals for the women's iQFoil category at the Sailing World Championships in the Netherlands August 19, in a significant achievement for the Israeli national team.

Shahar Tibi, 25, took first place at the event hosted by The Hague, winning Israel's first world title at the contest in a decade. Katy Spychakov, 24, came second.

Tibi dedicated her win to Israeli windsurfer Lee Korzits, who claimed four world titles in 2003, 2011, 2012, and 2013. She suffers from Polycythemia vera, a rare blood cancer.

"Ten years have passed since she won her fourth and last world title. I was there with her as a 15-year-old teenager. Korzits is fighting for her life and inspired me and many others,"



Shahar Tibi (right) and Katy Spychakov, gold and silver medal winners at the women's iQFoil category at the Sailing World Championships in the Netherlands, August 19, 2023.

Tibi said.

Tibi represented Israel in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, where she was placed eighth overall, and Spychakov placed sixth.

Earlier that day the men's quarter-final took place, where Israel's Yoav Omar took third place behind the United Kingdom's Sam Sills and Italy's Luca Di Tomassi.

Hungary to Produce Combat Drones in Cooperation with Israel and Germany

By Associated Press

Hungary has signed an agreement to manufacture combat drones in cooperation with Israeli and German companies as part of an effort to grow and modernize its military and defense industry, Prime Minister Viktor Orban said August 18.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of a new combat vehicle factory in Zalaegerszeg in southwest Hungary, Orban said the drones will be produced in cooperation with Israeli defense technology company UVision, and with a German partner that he did not specify.

"If I heard about a country that produces and develops military technology together with Germans and Israelis, I would think twice about messing with them, and that's good news for every Hungarian," Orban said.

The combat vehicle factory that opened August 18 in Zalaegerszeg, in which the Hungarian government has a 49% stake, is majority-owned by German military technology company Rheinmetall. The investment is part of increasing efforts by Orban's government to enlarge its fighting forces and increase production of military equipment.

Orban said that operations would soon begin at another Rheinmetall investment in Central Hungary, which he said would be "one of Europe's most modern ammunition factories."

He also pointed to an Airbus factory in Hungary that opened last year which produces components for modern combat helicopters, and the acquisition by a Hungarian company in 2021 of Czech aircraft manufacturer Aero

Vodochody, which produces military and training aircraft.

The growth of Hungary's military industry comes as it has consistently advocated for an immediate cease-fire and peace talks between Russia and Ukraine. The Hungarian government has refused to provide Kyiv with weapons or to allow their transfer across the two

countries' shared border.

Orban has portrayed himself as being "on the side of peace" in the war, but said that "for peace, you must have strength."

"We have not given up building an independent Hungarian defense industry, nor have we given up on putting Hungarian innovation and

technology at the forefront of the world," he said, adding that the war in Ukraine had "only strengthened our determination."

Hungary, a NATO member, will this year achieve the alliance's expectations that member nations spend at least 2% of their GDP on defense, Orban said.

SHANAH TOVAH FROM
CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM
The Coachella Valley's Conservative Synagogue

JOIN US FOR
HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES

Schedule of Services

SELIHOT	
Saturday, September 9	Selihot 7:30 PM
ROSH HASHANAH	
Saturday, September 16	First Day 9:15 AM
Sunday, September 17	Second Day 9:15 AM
YOM KIPPUR	
Sunday, September 24	Kol Nidre 6:15 PM
Monday, September 25	Morning 9:15 AM
	Yizkor 4:30 PM
	Afternoon / Neilah 5:15 PM
	Sounding the Shofar 7:15 PM

קהילת בית שלום
PROUD MEMBER
USCJ

MEMBERSHIP AND HOLIDAY SEATING
INQUIRIES WELCOME!
CALL (760) 200-3636
 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.CONGREGATIONBETHSHALOM.NET
CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM
42600 COOK ST – SECOND FLOOR
PALM DESERT, CA 92211-5143
INFO@CONGREGATIONBETHSHALOM.NET

Jewish Illinois Governor Nixes Availability of Kosher, Halal Meals in Schools, Hospitals

By Batya Jerenberg, World Israel News

The Jewish governor of Illinois nixed a law that would have required state institutions to serve kosher and halal meals upon request.

Religious Jews and Muslims together had helped formulate the so-called Faith

by Plate bill, which would require state-run schools, prisons and hospitals that provide food services to do so for their religious populations "upon request provided with reasonable notice."

Upon issuing his veto on Friday,

Governor Jay B. Pritzker (D) focused on the school lunch issue while explaining that the law would overly expand the state's role.

"The bill would have amended the School Code to require the Illinois

State Board of Education to enter into a statewide master contract to provide religious dietary options to all Illinois school districts," he said.

"Districts are already responsible for all their food service contracts and will continue to have the capability to enter into contracts with meal vendors based on the unique cultural needs of the students in their communities."

Objections in the state assembly to accommodating those with dietary restrictions due to their faith noted its expense and argued that it violated the American tenet of separation of church and state.

According to the *Halal Times*, the bill would have required facilities to provide meat, fish, and vegetarian options for main halal and kosher courses, as well as snacks and beverages.

The Orthodox Agudath Israel movement felt let down by the veto, because the bill "had the potential to demonstrate the state's commitment to embracing diversity and inclusion in all its forms."

"Agudath Israel of Illinois (AIOI) is disappointed with Governor Pritzker's veto of legislation that would have paved the way for students, hospital patients, and incarcerated individuals to access meals that comply with their dietary religious restrictions," the group continued. "AIOI has worked closely with stakeholders to ensure all faith-based communities have access to food that complies with their religious convictions and remains committed to achieving that goal."

Maaria Mozaffar, director of advocacy and policy at the Illinois Muslim Civic Coalition, had called the bill a "game changer" for parents who would no longer have to check their public school's menu every day to see if they would have to make food for their children that day or not.

If the bill had been signed, Illinois would have been the first state to mandate such accommodations for its Jewish and Muslim communities. It was supported by two major civil rights groups, the American Civil Liberties Union and Southern Poverty Law Center, the latter of which had called it "a victory for religious freedom in Illinois" when the state assembly passed the bill in May.



JOIN US



Defiant Requiem is a feature-length documentary film that tells the extraordinary, untold story of the brave acts of resistance by Jewish prisoners at Theresienstadt (Terezin) during World War II. The film highlights a dramatic example of intellectual and artistic courage: the remarkable story of Rafael Schächter, a brilliant young Czech conductor who demonstrated moral leadership under brutal circumstances by sustaining hope and courage for his fellow prisoners by creating a prisoner choir and "singing to the Nazis what they dared not say." This is a film about how a rare form of courage sparked compelling determination to survive by answering the worst of mankind with the best of mankind. **Defiant Requiem** was nominated for two Documentary Emmy Awards in 2014 for best writing and best feature length documentary. The film is the recipient of numerous awards and has been broadcast on PBS, BBC4, French TV and Globostat in Brazil.

Join Temple Sinai and the Jewish Federation on Sunday, November 5, 2023, for a special preview of the award-winning documentary **Defiant Requiem** at 9:30 AM.

For further details contact Leslie Pepper at 760-324-4737 or Temple Sinai at 760-568-9699

Israel, Vietnam to Launch Direct Flights in Follow-up to Free Trade Deal

By Pesach Benson, TPS

Israel and Vietnam signed an agreement in Hanoi on August 16 to launch the first direct flights between their countries.

According to the agreement signed by Israeli Minister of Economy Nir Barkat and his Vietnamese counterpart, Nguyen Hong Dien, flights between Hanoi and Tel Aviv are due to begin in October.

The agreement also allows Israelis to enter the country with an electronic visa. Barkat said this takes effect immediately and eliminates the need for visitors to first go to the Vietnamese embassy in Tel Aviv to obtain a visa. The use of electronic visas went into effect immediately.

"These are extremely significant achievements that will make it possible to increase trade and doing business between the countries," Barkat said. "Vietnam is our gateway to Asia and is becoming a key and growing country.

Tightening and strengthening our relations is important to Israel and Vietnam and I congratulate the Vietnamese government for their warm hospitality and willingness to strengthen the relationship between our peoples."

Israel and Vietnam signed a free trade agreement in July that is expected to streamline tourism, reduce tariffs, and provide a competitive advantage for Israeli exporters.

Einat Halevy Levin, president of the Israel-Vietnam Chamber of Commerce, told the Tazpit Press Service in July that the free trade agreement would also position Vietnam as a hub for Israeli business opportunities in Southeast Asia.

The free trade agreement requires final ratification from the Israeli Knesset and Vietnam's National Assembly before it can take effect.

HIGH HOLIDAYS
at Chabad of Rancho Mirage

Pre-Holiday Zoom • In Person Services
Family Holiday Dinner • Kids' Programming

SUNSET WATERSIDE SERVICE - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

New Beginnings. New Opportunities.
Check out all the options online

CHABADRM.COM • OFFICE@CHABADRM.COM • 760.770.7785

JEWISH TV CHANNEL NOW ON SPECTRUM



Spectrum CH 219
DirectTV CH 388
Apple TV, Fire TV, ROKU
the JBS Website - jbstv.org
and download the JBS App

Daily News from Israel & the JBS News Desk
Interviews & Analyses on Jewish Issues
Jewish Studies: Talmud & Hebrew Lessons
Jewish Movies, Music, Books & Cooking
Shabbat & Holiday Services

FBI Protecting Orthodox Jewish Florida Mayor After Antisemitic Death Threat

By Dion J. Pierre, *The Algemeiner*

The Orthodox Jewish mayor of Surfside, Florida, is being protected by the FBI following a death threat sent to him by an unknown person claiming to be a neo-Nazi, according to media reports.

"Essentially, the email said that perhaps it would be appropriate for the writer to come by my house and 'teach my family a lesson,'" Mayor Shlomo Danzinger (R) — the first member of the Orthodox community to serve in the office — told VINnews on August 9.

After receiving the note on August 4, Danzinger alerted the FBI, Florida's State Attorney's office, and the Joint Terrorism Task Force, as well as his wife and three children.

"I told [my family] that they weren't leaving the house unless someone comes with them and that if they see flashlights around the neighborhood, it is people who are protecting us, just

as a precaution," he said to VINnews, which noted that the threat was issued just days after a confrontation with Surfside town commissioner Nelly Velasquez, who is Latino.

Danzinger, 43, and a former businessman from Brooklyn, NY was elected mayor in 2022 after beating two other candidates. Since coming to office, he has undertaken an ambitious agenda, including, according to *The Miami Herald*, the construction of a memorial to commemorate the victims who died in the collapse of Champlain Towers in 2021.

Antisemitism in Florida, a state home to the United States' third-largest Jewish community, has reached concerning levels, the Anti-Defamation League's Center on Extremism (COE) said in a report published in September. According to COE's data, antisemitic incidents in the state have increased

300% since 2012 and that since 2020, 80% of all hate crimes based on religion have targeted Jews.

Conspiracy mongering and vast networks of white nationalist extremist groups are driving the trend, the ADL found.

The report also identified new white supremacist groups, including "White Lives Matter" and "NatSoc Florida," and revealed strategies that already established groups like Oath Keepers and Proud Boys are using to propagate their message. Some of these groups, the report continued, are "disrupting school board meetings and even running for political office.

Others, like the Black Hebrew Israelites, the Nation of Islam, and the New Black Panther Party for Self Defense, also have chapters in Florida. Differences in ideology distinguish them, but all promote conspiracy

theories and antisemitism. The Black Hebrew Israelites and Nation of Islam, for example, regularly describe Jews as the "Synagogue of Satan."

Nazis living in or visiting Florida are unwelcome, State Representative Randy Fine (R) told *The Algemeiner* in March while discussing the state lawmakers' efforts to pass "the strongest antisemitism bill in the United States," which was later signed by Governor Ron DeSantis during a trip to Israel. The legislation aimed to address "public nuisances" presented by neo-Nazis' littering private properties with antisemitic leaflets and other activities, including projecting antisemitic messages on buildings, and hanging banners on highway overpasses.

As *The Algemeiner* has previously reported, federal law enforcement authorities have been opening and resolving several cases involving neo-Nazis and white-supremacists in recent months.

In July, the Justice Department announced that a drug-dealing neo-Nazi from Anchorage, Alaska, will serve 18 months in prison for being convicted of property crimes motivated by antisemitism and white supremacy. Earlier this month, a New Jersey teenager pleaded guilty to communicating a threat to attack synagogues, and in June, a federal grand jury indicted 19-year-old Seann Pietila from Pickford, Michigan for allegedly threatening to commit a mass shooting and live stream it on social media.

SAVE THE DATES JFS DESERT 2023-2024

JFS Auxiliary Presents

MONICA PIPER'S "WELCOME TO MY LIFE"

Wednesday, November 15, 2023
4 pm: Pre-Event Reception

Join us at Temple Sinai, Palm Desert

Monica is an Emmy® Award-winning comedian and writer whose TV show, *The Rugrats*, won a Golden Globe® Award. The show starts at 5:00 pm.

There will be a VIP post-event dinner reception with Monica.

Become a JFS Benefactor Patron to attend all events as a VIP

21ST ANNUAL *Patron Party*

Sunday, December 10, 2023
6-8 pm

Please join us for "A Night in Paradise" for a private cocktail party.

At a fabulous home in BIGHORN Golf Club.

Mix, mingle, and enjoy music.
Catered by Eight4Nine.

A BLAST FROM THE PAST

March 13 or 14, 2024 • 6 pm
(date choice based on availability)

PS Join us at
UNDERGROUND

Join us for an amazing dining experience and show!

Honoring Aviva and Ron Snow with the JFS Humanitarian Award

Call JFS at 760.325.4088 ext. 107, scan the QR code above, or email cscarlett@jfsdesert.org

everyone counts

can we count on you?

DONATE

Jewish Federation Annual Campaign 2023

OpEd: Celebrating the First Jewish Superman

By Benjamin Kerstein / JNS.org

I am not a comic book fan. I am not a superhero fan. I think comic book films are slowly demolishing whatever remains of American cinema. But, if I may be slightly hypocritical, I am a huge Superman fan.

My love for the character goes back to my earliest childhood, when my family gathered before a black-and-white television to watch the first network broadcast of the classic 1978 film "Superman," starring the immortal Christopher Reeve as the title character.

Even without its vibrant colors, the film transported me to another world as soon as John Williams's extraordinary score began to pound and the "S" shield swooped onto the screen. Ever since, Superman has been the exception to my general distaste for the comic book aesthetic.

I did not realize until much later that there was likely another reason for my love of the iconic character: Superman is blatantly, quintessentially, obviously Jewish. To the core. I saw myself in him.

A recent Rolling Stone article by Jay Michaelson outlined the numerous ways Superman's Jewishness has been expressed, from his Hebrew-sounding name Kal-El to his sense of being other and different. And, of course, there is the inescapable fact that the character was created by two young Jewish men from Cleveland—Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster. Their very Jewish names still adorn every iteration of the character.

For me, however, Superman's Jewishness was summed up in a remark made by a friend of mine comparing Superman to his dark, cynical and pessimistic counterpart: Batman. "He's rich, he drives a cool car, he runs around with little boys—he's goyish," she said of the Dark Knight. Chauvinistic, perhaps, but certainly insightful.

The comparison is indeed telling because the most Jewish thing about Superman is that he represents hope and justice. Batman is brooding, violent and traumatized. Superman is, in his way, traumatized too—the last survivor of a destroyed planet and civilization—but he does not spend his time brutalizing criminals in order to purge his suffering: He seeks to do justice for the sake of it.

"Justice, justice, you shall pursue," is the goal, as the prophet said, or as the song goes, "Hatikvah" — the hope. At our best, the Jews pursue justice, the Jews persevere, the Jews are optimists because we have no choice in the matter. Neither does Kal-El.

However, Superman has almost always been played onscreen by unthreatening WASPs. Hollywood has long been incapable of believing that a Jew could comfortably portray a character of such strength and power.

That is, until now. Michaelson's tribute to Superman's Jewishness was prompted by the news that Superman will be played in an upcoming film by David Corenswet—the first Jewish actor to portray the character.

This is long overdue, to say the least, but it is important for another reason as well. Despite Hollywood's perennial obsession with diversity and inclusion, along with the effort to counter stereotypical portrayals of seemingly every identity group in the United States, an exception has long been made for the Jews. Almost universally, Jewish actors who portray Jewish characters onscreen are cast as comical buffoons: Neurotic, petulant, inept, farcical and inevitably played for laughs.

Indeed, a mini-controversy has recently erupted over the casting of the acclaimed new film "Oppenheimer." The picture contains numerous Jewish characters, which is not surprising, considering the immense achievements of Jewish physicists in the first half of the 20th century. In the film, they include everyone from Albert Einstein to J. Robert Oppenheimer himself. Yet all of the strong, dignified Jewish characters are played by non-Jews.

In contrast, the physicist Isidor Rabi—in real life a brilliant scientist and an extraordinary man—is played by a Jewish actor: David Krumholtz. But Rabi alone is portrayed as a ridiculous figure. Bulbous, bumbling and inexplicably clownish, he has none of the complexity and power of the Jewish characters played by non-Jews. Why, one wonders, could no Jewish actor be found to play the stentorian Oppenheimer or the gentle but knowing Einstein?



The latter is particularly ironic, as Einstein was always proud and defiant when it came to his Jewish identity, which he never denied and often celebrated. One would think that, if only in deference to his legacy, a Jewish actor could have been cast in the role. The fact that this apparently never even occurred to the filmmakers is telling. It is not necessarily antisemitic but it is disrespectful, above all to Einstein himself.

Corenswet's casting as Superman

suggests that this unfortunate situation may be changing. Indeed, Superman is, in many ways, the ultimate subversion of Jewish stereotypes. His bumbling alter ego Clark Kent personifies all those stereotypes, but Clark Kent is a fake, a mask that Superman's true self wears, and that true self is strong, powerful, confident and righteous.

Kent may be how many people like to see the Jews, but Superman is what all Jews—and all human beings—truly aspire to be and often are, however much the world might like to think otherwise.

To see a Jew finally portray what is perhaps the strongest of all Jewish characters in American pop culture will not mean much to most of the movie-going public. They will simply be happy to see a beloved character return to the screen. But for the Jews, it will have an added significance: We will be permitted, at long last in full, to see ourselves as a Superman.

Welcome the New Year with us as we join together in person and on-line with inspirational prayer and introspection led by Rabbi David Lazar
Musician Jefferey Lesser will accompany on piano

HIGH HOLIDAYS

5784/2023

Rosh Hashanah
Saturday, September 16
10:00am - 12:30pm

Erev Yom Kippur / Kol Nidre
Sunday, September 24
6:30pm - 8:30pm

Yom Kippur
Monday, September 25
Morning 10:00am - 12:30pm
Yizkor and Ne'ila
5:30pm - 7:30pm

OR HAMIDBAR
SPIRITUAL JUDAISM IN THE DESERT

All services at
United Methodist Church of Palm Springs
1555 E. Alejo, Palm Springs, CA 92262

Register at ORHAMIDBAR.ORG

There will be no tickets or charge for attending our service, though donations are most welcome



Tribute Card Donations

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

Honorarium Tributes In Appreciation For:

- **Miriam Bent**, Mazel tov on David and Jenny's marriage, from Harriet Goldberg and Michael Depper.
- **Suzanne and Jeff Feder**, Mazel tov on your 60th anniversary, from Ed and Nancy Last.
- **Arnie Gillman**, In honor of becoming Board President of the Jewish Federation of the Desert, from Carol and Bob Friedman.
- **Jim and Peggy Greenbaum**, In honor of your 90th birthdays, from Monroe and Rella Rifkin.
- **Howard Schor**, congratulations on your wonderful birthday, from Cora Ginsberg.

Refuah Shleimah Get Well:

- **Mike Erman**, In hopes for a complete and speedy recovery, from Marnie Miller and Joe Noren.

- **Karen Lee**, Best wishes for a speedy recovery, from Gail and Bob Scadron.

Memoriam Tributes Condolences Sent To:

- **Leslie Behar and Sons**, in loving memory of Jerome Behar, from Dan Weisberg and David Kligenberger.
- **Family of Arthur Friedman**, Our sincere condolences, from Elaine and Ted Stein.
- **Dr. Elliott Garber**, In memory of your beloved mother, grandmother Betty Garber, from Lita Widran and Deborah Levin.
- **Mr. And Mrs. Howard Goss**, in memory of your beloved sister Lois, from Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Mr. and Mrs. Mel Hecktman**, In memory of your beloved brother Jerold, from Eunice and Jerry Meister, Marnie Miller and Joe Noren, and Gail and Bob Scadron.

- **Family of Anne Holland**, Our sincere condolences, from Elaine and Ted Stein.

- **Helen Lewis and Family**, In memory of your beloved husband Jim, from Ruth and Mal Kaufman, Gail and Bob Scadron.
- **Edwrd Schwartz**, In memory of your beloved Irma, from Ruth and Mal Kaufman.
- **Marlene Tuch and Family**, in memory of my cousin Gerald Tuch, from David and Sandy Silberstein.
- **Lynn Williams**, Our thoughts are with you at this time, from Suzanne and Jeff Feder.
- **Mr. And Mrs. Anatoly Zaborenko**, In memory of your beloved father, grandfather and great-grandfather Mikhail Salganik, from Lita Widran and Deborah Levin.

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.

TikTok Endorsement of Iowa's Sole Kosher Deli Piles on the Orders

Maccabee's has seen hundreds of new customers from a single one-minute video.

By JNS

Sarah Booz, a recent transplant to the Midwest from New York, found a familiar taste of home more than 1,100 miles away.

In a video that has now received more than 275,000 views (and counting), the TikTok creator praises the food and overall experience at Maccabee's Kosher Deli in the capital city of Iowa. Wearing brightly colored glasses, Booz starts the video by saying: "I found a New Yorker-owned Jewish deli in Des Moines, and I am so happy."

She describes how the deli's owner, Rabbi Yossi Jacobson, "immediately clocked me as both not from Iowa and vaguely Jewish, like as soon as I walked in." Jacobson, from the Crown Heights neighborhood of Brooklyn, N.Y., is the director of Lubavitch of Iowa.

Booz reports choosing a pastrami sandwich "to split with my fiancé."



Lubavitch of Iowa Torah Center and Maccabee's Kosher Deli in Des Moines, Iowa.

The video then turns humorous as Booz details the ordering experience, saying a man "who is not a New York Jew" asked her to choose her bread

and condiments. Jacobson jumped in, yelling from the back that she wanted rye, "which was correct," Booz confirms. Then when asked about toppings,

the Chabad rabbi, who has lived in Des Moines for 30-plus years, raising seven children with his wife, said: "She's from New York. She wants deli mustard and onions." Again, correct.

The video concludes with Booz blowing a chef's kiss and reassuring anyone who needs a reminder of New York's kosher offerings smack-dab in the center of the United States that "it's perfect."

The result of this short, simple and sincere recommendation? Hundreds of new customers and coverage on the local ABC-affiliate news station, which reported that demand had grown so large that Maccabee's ran out of challah and rye bread in the wake of the video.

Jacobson said: "I'm telling you, it's booming. I have to go up and get more meat to feed the community. We never saw this before!"

As It Rebuilds Karabakh, Azerbaijan Eyes Israeli Investment

Bilateral trade is up 85% over 2021, according to Azerbaijan's Economy Ministry, and more than 90 Israeli firms are currently operating in the country.

By Etgar Lefkovits, Jewish News Syndicate

Israel is among Azerbaijan's top 10 trading partners, with trade between the two countries reaching \$1.7 billion last year, according to figures from the Azerbaijani Economy Ministry.

The ever-growing commercial ties come amid burgeoning relations between the Jewish state and the predominantly Shi'ite secular Muslim nation, that have developed from a centuries-long affinity into an unprecedented strategic partnership.

The trade figures for last year, the majority of which come from the oil sector, represent an 85% increase in trade turnover compared to 2021, according to ministry officials.

For Israel, ties with Azerbaijan—which shares a 428-mile border with Iran, a country home to tens of millions of Azerbaijanis—are of strategic importance, both as a conduit for reconnaissance and because it supplies an estimated 30% of the Jewish state's oil. At the same time, Azerbaijan is a leading purchaser of Israeli military hardware, which helped Baku win its 2020 war with archrival Armenia.

More than 90 Israeli companies are currently operating in Azerbaijan, including in the agriculture and economic industries, with their investment totaling \$30 million, according to the ministry.

"Our priority is to promote [trade in] the non-oil sector as part of an economic diversification plan," said Guntakin Mirzayeva, head of the ministry's Division of Intergovernmental Commissions and Bilateral Documents, in an interview with JNS.

Azerbaijan is especially interested in Israeli know-how in hi-tech, green energy and agriculture, officials said.

Rebuilding Karabakh

About a dozen Israeli companies have also expressed interest in undertaking projects in the mountainous Karabakh region, which Azerbaijan won back from Armenia in the war, although agreements are still pending Azerbaijani approval, according to the ministry official.

The vast construction work underway in the region—which requires a special permit to enter—is currently being carried out by Azerbaijan and its



Baku, Azerbaijan's capital, at night

historical ally Turkey.

The Azerbaijani government has allocated over \$2 billion from the state budget for reconstruction in the area, which is slowly being demined and repopulated after more than three decades of conflict, the ministry official said. Two airports have already been constructed in the region over the last two years, although they are currently not in service. Construction cranes and bulldozers—as well multiple police checkpoints—are omnipresent in the region.

Decades of conflict and lingering tensions

Karabakh and seven surrounding districts, which are a six-hour drive from the capital Baku and snake around the border with Iran and Armenia on still unpaved roads, was the venue of three decades of conflict between the two former Soviet Republics, which have fought two wars since the end of Soviet rule. Three years after the 2020 war ended, a small mountain road that is the only route from Armenia to the territory remains the most immediate flashpoint of the unresolved conflict.

An Azerbaijani checkpoint on the route, which Baku set up this spring, citing security considerations on its sovereign territory, including the transport of weapons, has impeded food supplies to the region and aggravated



Israel cultural center to be built in Azerbaijan

still-simmering tensions between the archrivals, drawing international condemnation. Azerbaijan rejects the criticism, and says that the situation at the border is being used as a PR exercise to divert public opinion from what is happening on the road. On-and-off European-, Russian- and American-brokered talks aim to resolve the latest dispute—whose underpinnings are based on the decades of mistrust, bitterness and rivalry.

Demining and rebuilding

In the meantime, Azerbaijani officials are busy at work in the area, removing the estimated one million mines left in the area from the three decades when Armenia held the territory. Only about 20% percent of the mines have been removed to date, with officials estimating

that it will take decades to remove them all.

"The biggest obstacle for us is the demining," said Mirzayeva. According to Azerbaijani officials, approximately 2,000 landmines are being uncovered per square mile.

Once each area is cleared, building is permitted in the area. While only 1,000 Azerbaijanis are now back in the region—which was once home to hundreds of thousands of people—the government plans to repopulate it with some 140,000 in the next three years, including many whose families once lived there three decades ago, officials said. Tens of thousands of Armenians live in the area as well. In all, about 10 million people live in Azerbaijan.

Cooperation broadening

Israel's Ambassador to Azerbaijan George Deek told JNS that cooperation between the two countries, once limited to the energy and defense sectors, is vastly broadening to economic and agricultural fields amid the flourishing ties, including what is expected to be the first Israeli desalination plant on the shorelines of the Caspian Sea, near Baku, which would be the second such plant in the country.

"We are certainly very willing and interested to further the presence of Israeli companies in Azerbaijan, and we are in constant dialogue with local officials to advance such cooperation," said Deek.

Best Quality! Best Price Guaranteed!

RELIABLE ROOFING

NO BULL!
Just 1st Class Roofing!
Commercial • Residential
ALL TYPES • NEW ROOFS
RE-ROOFS • REPAIRS
Shingles • Foam
Torch Down • Tile



Todd Gregory Young
Owner

VOTED #1 IN QUALITY
SINCE 1987

www.reliableroofingbytgy.com

760-568-1673

Bonded • Insured • Lic #764608



Shabbat/Holiday Schedule - September 2023

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.
Saturday, September 9: Selichot at
7:30 pm. Instrumental music program
featuring Jewish and classical favorites,
followed by dessert reception and
Selihot service.

See ad page 13 for High Holiday
service times. Sukkot service:
Saturday, September 30 at 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 of
Shabbat and holiday services.

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.chabardm.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 Services.

"Taste of Shul" available Fridays on
Zoom and Facebook live. Send an e-mail
to info@chabardm.com to be added
to mailing list or for specific virtual

programs online. 760-770-7785.

CHABAD OF SUN CITY PALM DESERT

Rabbi Yonason Denebeim.
Call 760-848-8250 or e-mail: info@
chabadsuncity.com for schedule. Contact
Rebbetzin Sussie Denebeim to receive
weekly "Chabad in Sun City Newsletter"
with listing of all services and activities:
sussiedenebeim@gmail.com.

CHABAD OF LA QUINTA

Rabbi Moshe Katz
50620 Eisenhower Drive, Ste. G103, La
Quinta, CA 92253. 760-709-2431. Email:
chabadlaquinta@gmail.com.
Chabad LQ offers weekly Torah studies,
home visitations, Kosher meals, Shabbat
Services, Women's Circle, Youth activities,
Holiday programs and more.

CONGREGATION HAR-EL, a

Contemporary Reform Congregation
(Member, Union for Reform Judaism),
offering year-round services, Torah
study, youth and adult classes and events.
Membership open for residents and
non-residents.

Rabbi Richard Zions, Ph.D.; Cantor
Joseph Gole, D.Mus. harelurjpd@gmail.
com

760-779-1691. Website: harelurjpd.org.
Shabbat Eve Zoom Services are
conducted weekly at 5 PM. Rabbi
Richard Zions 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 Zions 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 begins again on October
8th and is held Saturday mornings (from
9:45 AM to noon. B'nei Mitzvah classes
for Children with Arava Talve. "Talkin'
Torah": See listing on Community
Calendar. Check website for most current
information: www.Desert-Outreach-
Synagogue.com or www.my-dos.org
High Holidays: Saturday, September
16th (10a) - Rosh Hashanah; Sunday,
September 24th (7p) - Kol Nidre;
Monday, September 25th (10a) -
Yom Kippur with Yizkor following
immediately.

OR HAMIDBAR

Rabbi David Lazar rabbi@orhamidbar.
org
Kabbalat Shabbat Service - Fridays
6:30 pm; Shabbat prayer and study -
Saturdays 10:30 am. ToraTeachings on
Zoom - Wednesdays at 11 am. For more
information of in-person dates and Zoom
links visit orhamidbar.org

SUN CITY JEWISH SERVICES, Palm Desert

Rabbi Dr. Kenneth Emert, Cantorial
Soloist Alan Scott and Accompanist
Brent Reynolds. Services on hiatus
until September 1st. 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. Information: Nadine
Brinhendler, 707-332-3947.

TEMPLE HAR SHALOM, Idyllwild

www.templeharshalomidyllwild.org
Email: templeharshalomofidyllwild@
gmail.com. Shabbat Candle Lighting on
Fridays at 6:00 pm on Zoom. 1st Friday
with Rabbi Malka Drucker; 2nd Friday
with Rabbi Ilana Grinblat; 3rd Friday with
Kerry Abram; 4th Friday with Rabbi Ilana
Grinblat. Shabbat Book Study with Rabbi
Malka Drucker on Zoom Saturdays 4:00-
5:00 pm. Check our website for current
info including Torah Study with Rabbi
Ilana one Saturday morning per month.

For more information and for Zoom link
call 951-468-0004.

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@templeisaihps.com; www.
templeisaihps.com.

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.

Shabbat afternoon Bereavement Group
on hiatus until after High Holidays;
however Rabbi Rosenberg is available by
phone whenever his support is needed.

TEMPLE SINAI, Palm Desert

(Member, Union for Reform Judaism)
Rabbi David Novak
rabbi@templesinai.org
73-251 Hovley Lane West, Palm Desert,
CA 92260. www.templesinai.org 760-
568-9699. Go to templesinai.org for
access information. Shabbat services are
in-person and online on Livestream at
www.templesinai.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.

Temple Sinai's Avi Levine Religious School

9:30 - 12:00 AM on designated Sundays
throughout the school year. Contact Talia
Lizemer-Hawley, Community Educator,
for more information, educator@
templesinai.org

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



Community Calendar of Programs - September 2023

Note: Normally held programs will not be held if they coincide with Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Simchat Torah services.

Mondays:

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

Tuesdays:

4:00 pm Temple Sinai 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** begins again October 8th

7:00 pm – Chabad of Palm Springs/ Sun City: Tanya, a class for women, with **Sussie Denebeim**. Call 760-848-8250 for more information.

Wednesdays:

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:

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

Saturdays:

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

YOUTH AND TEENS:

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

CKids

Our popular Ckids club will be

meeting on Sunday mornings. Ages 3-12 from 10:00-12:30. Trips, Art, Cooking and our amazing curriculum, integrating Jewish heritage with STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math).

Looking ahead: Special Kickoff event is *The Rosh Hashana Street Fair* on Sunday, September 10, open to **all** kids, even if they are not regular members of our Ckids

Get ready for the new year by hopping from stand to stand while you taste, cook, design, and learn. Bake challah at the Round Kitchen, whip up a pomegranate salsa at Cafe Rimon and design a Shana Tovah card at the Apple Studio. Pick up a keepsake at each spot and take home a Rosh Hashanah snack box to usher in the sweetest new year.

For more information on this and other kids' club events, or to register, visit us on the web www.chabadrm.com/ckids or contact Chaya at 760-272-1923 or email chaya@chabadrm.com.

CTeen

CTeen, the Chabad Teen Network, is the fastest growing network of Jewish teens, with over 500 chapters in 37 countries and 6 continents. CTeen offers dynamic and exciting classes, trips, shabbatons, community service opportunities and more. Teens will learn about their Jewish heritage, gain leadership skills, and give back to the community, all within a warm, Jewish atmosphere. CTeen is open to all Jewish teens in the community regardless of affiliation, and meets on

a regular basis once or twice weekly. Our Cteen Lounge, provides a unique and teen friendly place for our teens to meet, plan and have a good time. Find out more about it!

CTeen Jr

Cteen Jr is for pre/teens in Grades 7-8. Based on the popular Cteen model, we have a special group to accommodate our middle school teens on their own level. Amazing educational and social activities together with the humanitarian component - all with the Cteen fun signature. Cteen Jr meets twice monthly, and joins the Cteen group for social and humanitarian programs.

CTeen U

Cteen International and Yeshiva University of NY are once again offering a college course for Jewish high school student based on Israel. Students taking the course will earn 2 private college credits. But more importantly, they will learn the basic tenets of our land and heritage. To register or for more information visit www.cteenu.com Scholarships available. For more info contact Chaya Posner 760-272-1923.

Thursday, September 7

4:00 pm Beth Shalom **Book Club** "The Finkler Question" by Howard Jacobson. Discussion led by Dr. Robert & Maxine Greenstein. Visitors welcome! Information: 760-200-3636

ADL Briefing on "Swat" Calls

In an article posted in the New York Times on August 16, 2023, the ADL (*Anti-Defamation League*) reported it had tracked 26 calls threatening violence at synagogues from New York to California over the last month.

The hoax calls to police departments or suicide hotlines around the country say that a man is considering killing himself and others or that a bomb has been placed in a building.

The address given on the phone

belongs to a synagogue that is livestreaming its services. In some cases, the callers watch in real time as police interrupt frightened worshipers. Later, clips of the incidents are posted online."

ADL is working with law enforcement and community partners to mitigate the disruption by a group of online trolls who swat and call in fake bomb threats. Swatting is deliberately reporting a false crime or emergency with the goal of evoking an aggressive response (often

a SWAT team) from law enforcement to a target's residence or place of work to harass and intimidate them.

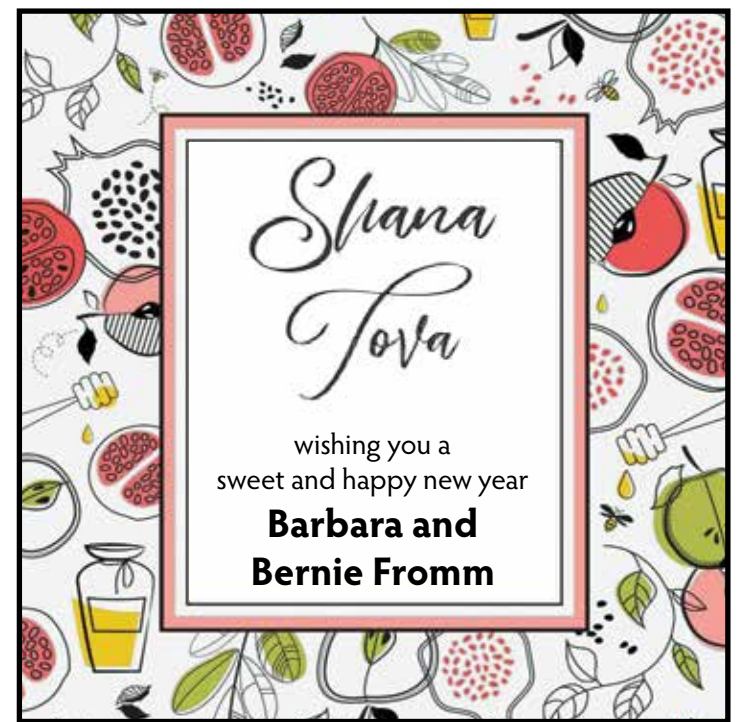
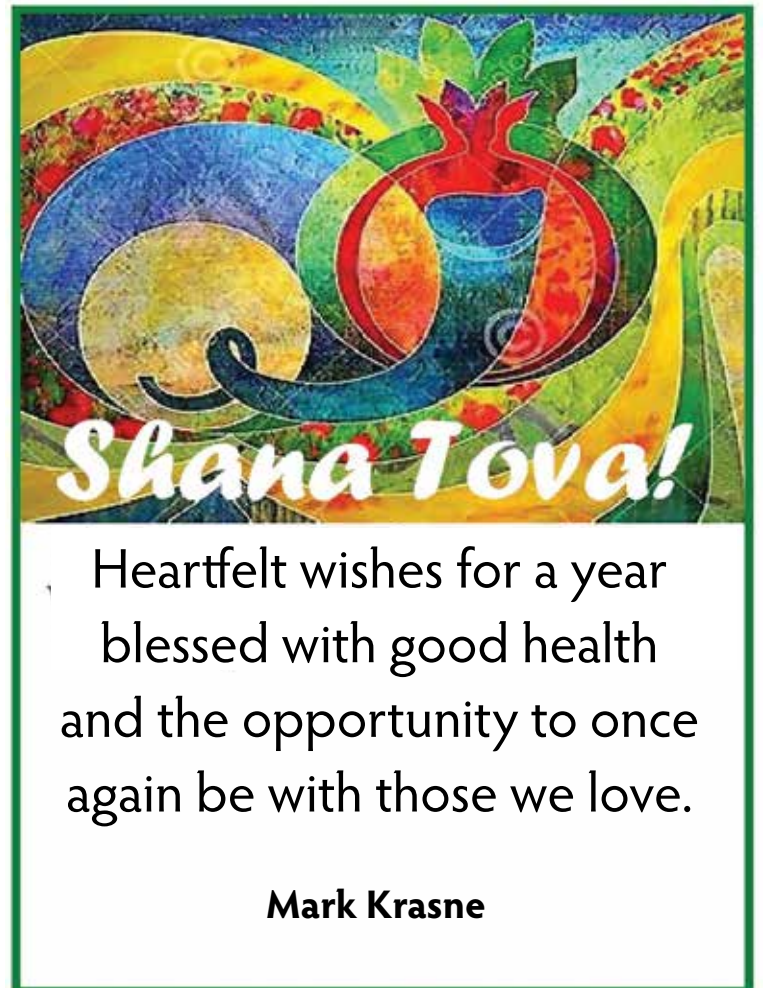
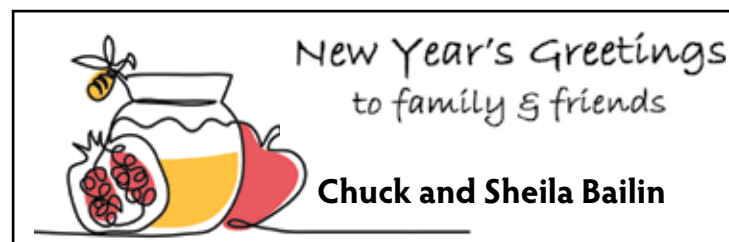
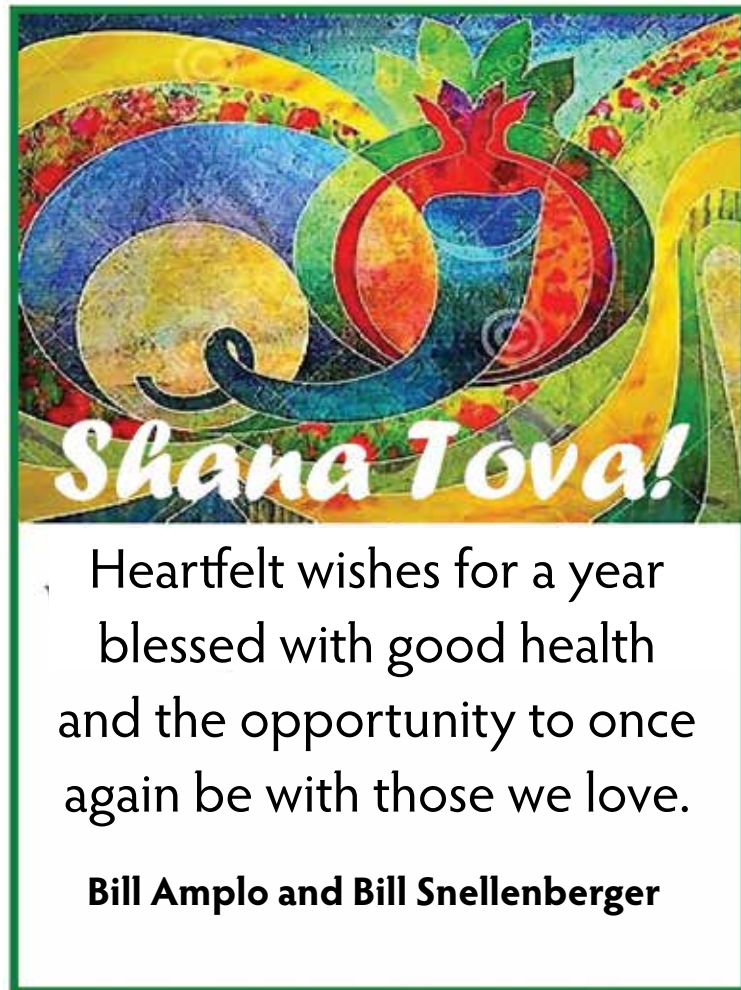
These trolls, who employ highly antisemitic language during their calls, have targeted over two dozen synagogues and two ADL offices. They also appear to have expanded their targets to include several Black churches and a news organization.

The swatting calls posed a different type of threat than graffiti, slurs and

other common antisemitic acts, noted Oren Segal, VP of the ADL Center on Extremism.

"It's the people that are anonymous, that are watching, that are getting excited by what they're seeing and that may be animated to take it to the next level. This is so dangerous because we don't know who else is watching and what they might do based on what they're seeing."

L'Shanah Tovah Tikateivun
Happy New Year



New York University Denounces Academic Boycott of Israel

By Dion J. Pierre, *The Algemeiner*

New York University (NYU) on August 4 denounced the American Anthropological Association's (AAA) endorsement last month of a full academic boycott of Israeli academic institutions.

"It is regrettable that the AAA, a scholarly organization meant to promote the advancement of knowledge throughout the discipline, an organization that has reaffirmed its commitment to academic freedom, has taken a step seemingly at odds with those objectives," said a statement issued by NYU president Linda G. Mills and interim provost Georgina Dopico. "We urge them to reconsider."

This isn't the first time that the school has disavowed academic boycotts of Israeli institutions of higher education. It did so in March 2022, when the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) passed a boycott resolution, and nearly ten years ago in December 2013, when the American Studies Association did as well, an action against which NYU expressed its "disappointment, disagreement, and opposition."

Just 37 percent of AAA's approximately 10,000 members participated in the referendum on the resolution via electronic ballot, with 71 percent voting in favor and 29 percent voting against. In announcing the results the organization said Israeli institutions will be barred from being listed in the organizations "published materials," advertising in its publications, attending the AAA graduate school fair, participating in AAA conferences, and republishing and reprinting AAA written works from its journals.

AAA's decision was criticized across academia, with AMCHA Initiative executive director Tammi Rossman-Benjamin saying it represented "a dark day for higher

education and, far worse even, a truly dangerous day for all students, especially Jews."

Miriam Elman, executive director of Academic Engagement Network (AEN), said in a statement shared with *The Algemeiner*, "Throughout the voting period, supporters of the resolution continued to push the absurd claim that its application is limited to 'institutions' — as if it's possible to boycott universities and colleges without harming the actual people who work and study in them. In fact, as we all know, there are many ways that individuals will be negatively impacted."

With the resolution's approval, AAA, established in 1902 and based in Arlington, Virginia, became the second major academic professional association to endorse the boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) movement in just over a year. It considered boycotting Israeli universities before, but the idea was rejected in Nov. 2015, when a measure similar to this year's was defeated by razor thin margin of 39 votes, with 4,807 votes cast.

Launched in 2005, the BDS campaign opposes Zionism — a movement supporting the Jewish people's right to self-determination — and rejects Israel's right to exist as a Jewish nation-state. It seeks to isolate the country comprehensively with economic, political, and cultural boycotts. Official guidelines issued for the campaign's academic boycott state that "projects with all Israeli academic institutions should come to an end," and delineate specific restrictions that adherents should abide by — for instance, denying letters of recommendation to students who seek to study in Israel.



Have A Nosh

Apples and honey "for a good and sweet year" are traditional fare for Rosh Hashanah, so I am focusing on these delicious items for my holiday-focused column this month: one honey (plus chocolate to cut the cloying sweetness of the honey), two apple and one combination. May you all be blessed with a good and sweet year. Miriam Bent



CHOCOLATE VELVET HONEY CAKE

2-3/4 cups all-purpose flour	1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup cocoa	3 eggs
1 tablespoon baking powder	2 teaspoons pure vanilla
3/4 teaspoon baking soda	1 cup Coca Cola
1/2 teaspoon salt	1/2 cup chocolate chips or coarsely chopped semi-sweet chocolate
1-2 teaspoons cinnamon	1/3 cup slivered almonds
1/2 teaspoon cloves	Garnish: confectioner's sugar, cocoa, or drizzled melted semi-sweet chocolate.
1 cup vegetable oil	
1 cup honey	
1 cup white sugar	

Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Generously spray a nine- or 10-inch tube pan or angel food cake pan with cooking spray. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside. In a large bowl, whisk together flour, cocoa, baking powder, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, and cloves. In a food processor, add in the oil, honey, white sugar, brown sugar. Blend well about 30 seconds. Add in the eggs, vanilla, and Coca-Cola. Blend well for another minute. Fold in the dry ingredients and blend for about two minutes, until smooth, stopping the machine once or twice to ensure that ingredients are all blended and not stuck at the bottom. Fold in chocolate chips. Spoon or pour batter into prepared pan. Sprinkle with almonds. Place cake on baking sheet and bake until done, about 60-75 minutes, until cake springs back when gently pressed with fingertips. Cool 10 minutes before unmolding from pan. Dust cake with confectioner's sugar, or cocoa. Or, drizzle on melted, semi-sweet chocolate.

APPLE BURST BUNDT CAKE

No-stick vegetable spray	3 tsp. baking powder
3 cups baking apples (3-4 apples) peeled, cored and sliced thin (1/8 inch).	1/2 teasp. salt
5 Tbsp. sugar, plus 2 cups	1 cup vegetable oil
1/8 teasp. ginger	4 eggs
1/8 teasp. cloves	1/4 cup orange juice
3 cups flour	1 Tbsp. vanilla

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.. Generously coat a 9-inch bundt pan with no-stick vegetable spray. In a bowl, combine apples with 5 tablespoons sugar, ginger and cloves until coated. Apples will appear muddy. Set aside. Into a large bowl, sift flour, remaining 1 cup sugar and baking powder. Add oil, eggs, orange juice and vanilla. Beat until smooth, for at least two minutes. Spoon 1/3 of the batter into the prepared bundt pan. Drain apples in a colander. Spread half the apples over batter, keeping apples away from sides of pan. Spoon another 1/3 of batter over apples. Spread remaining apples over batter and top second layer of apples with last batch of batter. Bake 15 minutes. Tent pan with aluminum foil and bake another hour, or until top of cake is firm and toothpick inserted inside returns clean. Cool completely before removing pan. (Cake tastes better the next day).

APPLE PUDDING CAKE

1 cup sugar	1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 cup Crisco	1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
1 egg, beaten	1/4 teaspoon salt
1 cup flour	2-3 apples, grated
1/2 teaspoon baking powder	1/2 cup nuts, chopped (optional)
1 teaspoon baking soda	

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Combine sugar and Crisco. Stir in egg. Sift dry ingredients together and add. Combine into smooth batter. Add apples and nuts. Stir well. Bake in a 9" X 9" cake pan for 30 minutes. *Cake cannot be doubled.*

APPLE-HONEY TART

1/4 cup golden raisins	6 Tbsp. pareve margarine, softened
2 Tbsp. Calvados or Brandy	1 teasp. vanilla
1/3 cup honey	2 large eggs
2 Tbsp. lemon juice	1 teasp. grated lemon peel
3 apples, peeled, cored & cut into 8 wedges each	1 cup all-purpose flour
3/4 cup sugar	1 teasp. baking powder
1/3 cup brown sugar	1/4 teasp. salt
	1 Tbsp. cinnamon sugar

Preheat oven to 350. Plump raisins in warmed Calvados or brandy. Spray a 9-inch spring form pan with Pam and set aside. Combine honey and lemon juice in a large non-stick skillet over medium heat and add apple slices, cooking until almost tender, but still holding their shapes, about 10-12 minutes, basting occasionally. Combine white and brown sugars with margarine and vanilla, beating until well mixed. Beat in eggs, then lemon peel. Combine flour, baking powder and salt, then slowly add to batter. Beat at low speed until blended. Drain raisins and add to batter. Pour batter into prepared pan. Drain apples well and arrange in a concentric pattern over the batter. Sprinkle cinnamon sugar over top. Bake for one hour. Cool completely before releasing the sides of the spring form pan.



Enroll your Child or Grandchildren in PJ Library for Free Jewish Books

PJ Library
Bring Jewish stories home

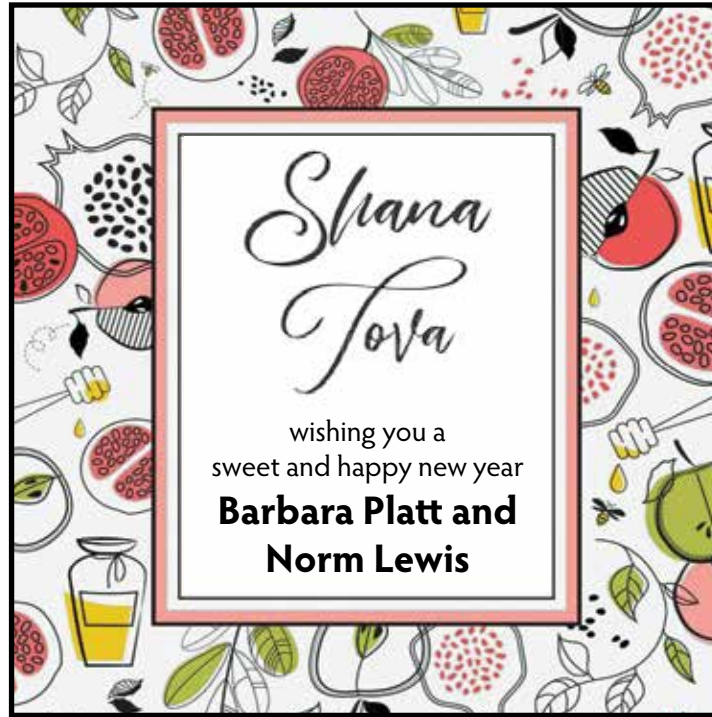
www.pjlibrary.org

Powered by the Jewish Federation of the Desert

Strengthening our community together



Wishing all a
Sweet New Year!
לשנה טובה
Arnie and Sue
Gillman



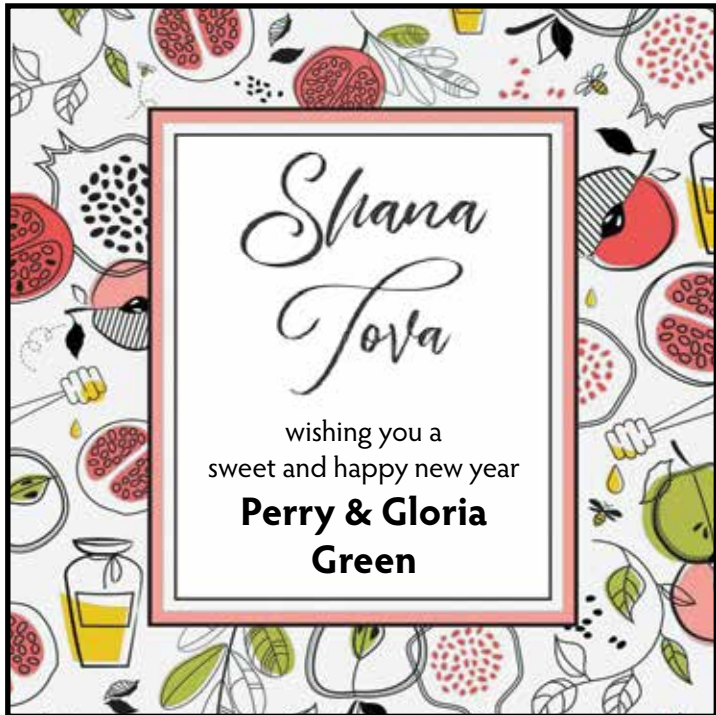
Shana
Tova

wishing you a
sweet and happy new year
Barbara Platt and
Norm Lewis



shana
tova

Judy and Elliott Bernstein



Shana
Tova

wishing you a
sweet and happy new year
Perry & Gloria
Green



Wishing all a
Sweet New Year!
לשנה טובה
Gloria and Ed
Rudetsky



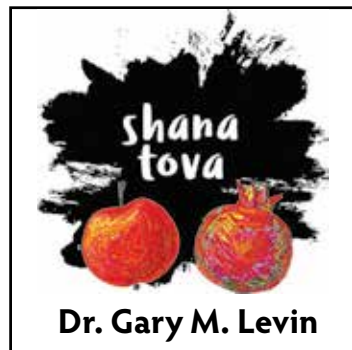
L'Shanah
Tovah

Happy New Year!
לשנה טובה
Frank Kron / Alex
Wender



L'Shanah
Tovah

Happy New Year!
לשנה טובה
Helena Galper /
Lou Galper



shana
tova

Dr. Gary M. Levin



Wishing all a
Sweet New Year!
לשנה טובה
Jewish Family Service
of the Desert



shana
tova

Marilyn and Bob Yassin



shana
tova

Cheryl Scarlett, Jaclyn
Scarlett, Rachel Scarlett-
Sloate & Evan Sloate



L'Shanah
Tovah

Happy New Year!
לשנה טובה
Bernie Steinberg
& Mike Mailhot



Wishing all a
Sweet New Year!
לשנה טובה
Rabbi Yankel and Rochel
Kreiman and Family



L'Shanah
Tovah

Happy New Year!
לשנה טובה
Nancy Singer



New Year's Greetings
to family & friends
Miriam Bent



shana
tova

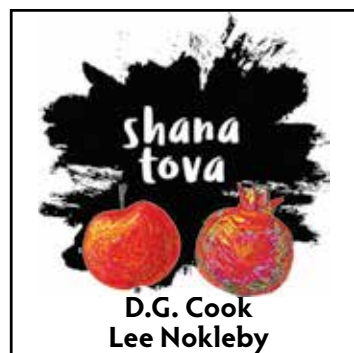
Trevor and
Lynda Bailey

L'Shanah Tovah Tikateivun
Happy New Year



Heartfelt wishes for a year
blessed with good health
and the opportunity to once
again be with those we love.

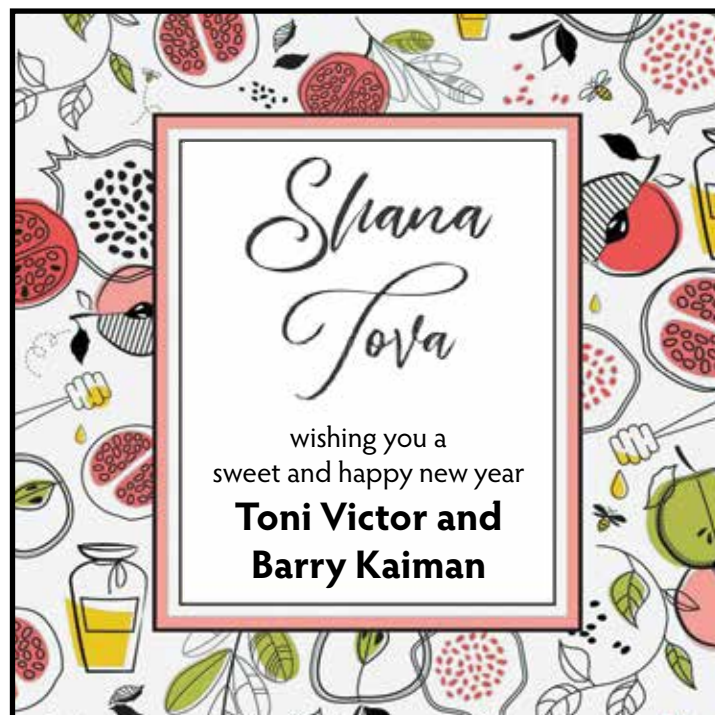
Scot and Lance Karp



**D.G. Cook
Lee Nokleby**

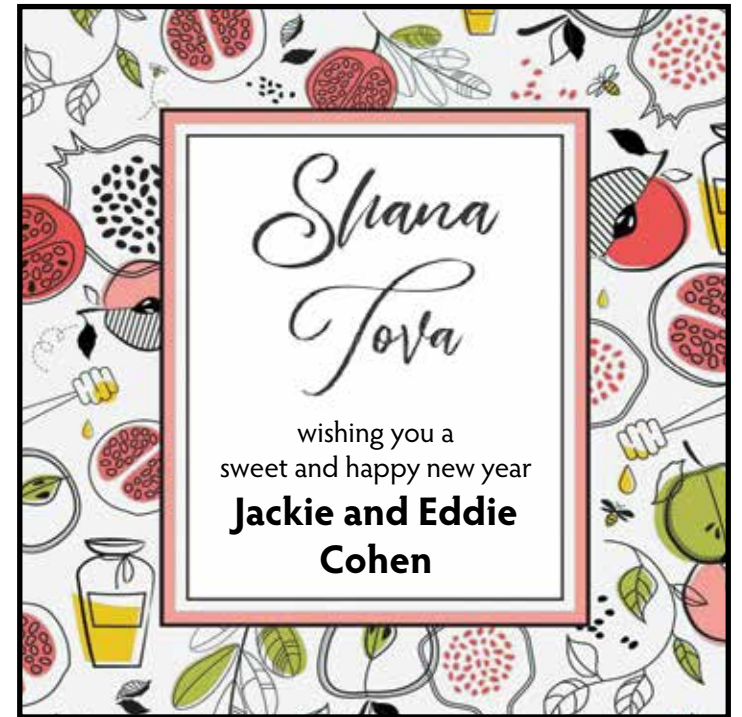
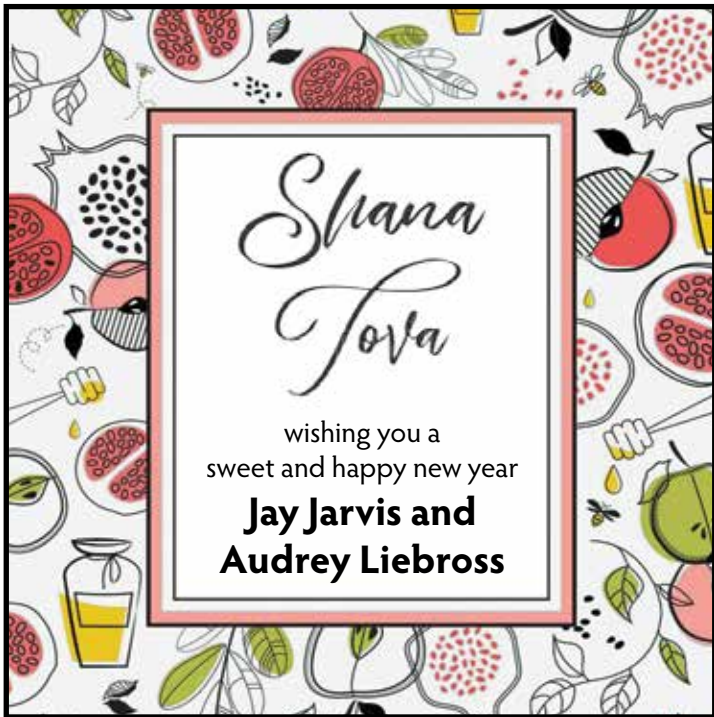


Laurel and Ken Warner



Heartfelt wishes for a year
blessed with good health
and the opportunity to once
again be with those we love.

Fern Miller and Family



CREATING a Jewish legacy empowers you to support the Jewish causes you care about. Because all of us, regardless of age, wealth, or affiliation, have the ability to secure our people's traditions, promote Jewish values, and create a strong future for generations to come.

To learn more about Legacy Giving, contact Alan Potash, Jewish Federation Chief Executive Officer, at 760-324-4737.



**The Strength of a People.
The Power of Community.**

69-710 Highway 111
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
760-324-4737 • www.jfedps.org



Simchas



David and Jenny Bent, Lance and Bentley
Congratulations to **Miriam Bent**

on the marriage of her son **David** to **Jenny Ibanez** in Houston Texas on July 30, at a magically beautiful ceremony which included David's spiritual adoption of Jenny's sons **Lance** and **Bentley**. Temple Isaiah's **Rabbi Steven Rosenberg** flew to Houston to officiate at the ceremony, joined under the chupah by Miriam's two brothers, **Rabbi David Zucker** and **Rabbi Daniel Zucker**. ... *Share your simchas with us. Email Miriam Bent at mhbentjcn@earthlink.net or call her at 760-323-0255.*



Candle Lighting Times

Friday, September 1	Shabbat Ki Tavo	6:28 pm
Friday, September 8	Shabbat Nitzavim/Vayelech	6:19 pm
Friday, September 15	Erev Rosh Hashanah	6:09 pm
Saturday, September 16	2 nd night Rosh Hashanah	After 7:28 pm
Friday, September 22	Shabbat Hazinu	6:00 pm
Sunday, September 24	Kol Nidre	5:57 pm
Friday, September 29	Erev Sukkot	5:50 pm
Saturday, September 30	2 nd night Sukkot	After 7:08 pm



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



We Mourn the Passing of...

Doree Goldstein, Dr. Roger Harris, and Milton Weiss. *Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May their memories endure as a blessing.*



Classifieds

DENEBEIM LAW FIRM - Estate Planning, Wills, & Trusts: To schedule a free consultation with Attorney Mendy Denebeim, visit denebeimlawfirm.com or call (760) 405-8484.

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE
Swedish, deep tissue and foot reflexology modalities. Treat yourself or someone you love to a wonderful therapeutic massage. Jewish Massage Therapist with over 35 years experience, fourteen in the desert. Will come to your home or at my location. Call Leora at 760-778-0068.

DAVID'S CONSTRUCTION
Conscientious licensed, insured, bonded general contractor. Catering to all your home repair needs. No job too small or big. Room additions, remodeling, patio covers, decks, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, masonry, drywall, cement, wood floors, tile, fences, painting, sprinklers, landscaping, swamp coolers, custom homes and more. License #506-370. Davidconstruction@gmail.com. 760-671-4476.

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE SUPPORTERS welcomed. JFS has rewarding **volunteer opportunities** in its community programs and is now accepting applications for several positions. **Tribute cards** provide a unique

way to celebrate a special occasion or honor a loved one, all while supporting JFS programs. If you're interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities or supporting JFS through the purchase of tribute cards, please contact 760-325-4088 ext. 101.

SINGLE NICHE CRYPT (last one available) for sale in Cathedral City Forest Lawn's Jewish "Courts of Jerusalem" Mausoleum. Call 760-770-8790.

DOUBLE NICHE IN TOWER OF DAVID at Forest Lawn, Cathedral City for sale. (Note: double niches no longer available). \$5600. Call 760-325-6497.

HOME HEALTHCARE AIDE/COMPANION. Hygiene assistance, medication reminder, meal preparation, light housekeeping, drive for appointments, shopping, errands. Reliable. Experienced. References. 760-668-6764.

TEMPLE SINAI'S RELIGIOUS SCHOOL Begins September 10. We welcome all Jewish children regardless of affiliation. Students experience the joy of Jewish life through prayer, music, art, drama, and story. Dedicated teachers impart Jewish practice and values to the students with love and enthusiasm. Contact Educator Talia Lizemer (760-568-9699) or by email: educator@templesinaipd.org.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Personal Ads
\$7.00 for 20 words
& 20¢ for each additional word

Business Ads
\$9.00 for 20 words
& 25¢ for each additional word

Call 323-0255

Community Schools

Aleph Schoolhouse

Director: Dina Pinson
73-550 Santa Rosa Way,
Palm Desert

Children 18 months through
Elementary School
Alephschoolhouse.org
347-721-8782



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.

JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE DESERT

69-710 Highway 111

Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

(760) 324-4737

WAKE UP TO A SOUND THAT CAN CHANGE LIVES.

This New Year, bring hope to people in despair. Nurture and sustain our Jewish community. Your gift to the Jewish Federation of the Desert makes it possible all year long. Mail your gift or contribute via our secure website: www.jfedps.org.



Jewish Federation
OF THE DESERT

69-710 Highway 111,
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
760-324-4737

**The Strength of a People.
The Power of Community.**